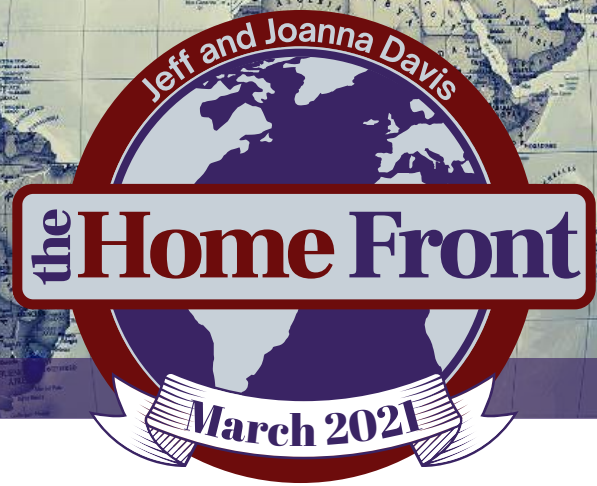


**10** Countries  
**38** US Missionaries  
**59** National Missionaries  
**1** Great Commission



- Works of Evangelism
- Establishing Churches
- Equipping Nationals



EXHORT EQUIP

ENLIST ENGAGE

I am about to head out the door to a Preachers' Conference in the Atlanta, area, but wanted to take a quick moment and express my gratitude on behalf of our home office and each of our EMU missionaries and thank you for your **"partnership"** in this ministry. I am using the word **"partnership"** deliberately. The primary Greek word translated as **"partnership"** in the New Testament is **koinonia**. It sometimes is also translated as participation, sharing, association, and fellowship. Each one of those words points to a **relationship** or sharing something in common. **Koinonia** also speaks of **reciprocity** or giving someone a share in something. Just as the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest (**1 Corinthians 9:10-12**). Paul uses similar language in **2 Corinthians 9:13-15** and **Romans 15:27-33** when he states that the obedience of the sowers, through their sharing in prayers and generous gifts, will enlarge the harvest. When expressing his gratitude to the Philippian believers, he states, *"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account."* **Philippians 4:17**. We truly treasure your partnership.

We spent two and a half hours hearing from Kris and challenging him on his doctrinal positions and his statement on issues that are currently facing our ministries. When Kris and Bethany first started dating, he was terrified of public speaking. They served as counselors together at **The Wilds Christian Camp**. My son Caleb, who was one of the team leaders didn't ask but told Kris that he would be sharing a testimony at the Summer Partner Banquet. When Kris heard that he was going to be speaking to over 800 people, he couldn't finish his meal. Mrs. Hay, the camp founder's wife, who was Kris's summer partner, leaned over to him and whispered that God would give him the words to say and He would speak through him. That night was the first night that I heard him speak in front of a crowd and God did amazingly use Kris that evening. That began a journey in a call to preach that confirmed what Paul said when he declared that God chooses to use weak vessels. There was no doubt in any of our minds that God had called Kris, and we as an ordination council simply confirmed God's work in Kris's heart and life.



I returned home last night around midnight, following a whirlwind trip to Raleigh, NC, for the ordination of my son-in-law, **Kris Wilder**. Saturday afternoon, Kris, his father Mike who is also a pastor, and I gathered at their home for a video conference with five of the pastors on the pastoral staff of **Friendship Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC**. This church is the home of Ruth Bixby, and they are faithful supporters of the Bixbys and the Coles.

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Sunday night's service was unusual. Because of a recent COVID breakout in their church, the only ones in attendance were the tech crew, the pastors, and Kris's family. The rest of the congregation tuned in via YouTube and were blessed as we worshiped together, prayed together, and Kris shared his testimony and call. He then challenged us from **1 Corinthians 2:1-5** *And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.* Kris is passionate about the gospel and wants everyone to experience what he has experienced in Christ. He then sat in a chair in front of the pulpit and each of the pastors prayed behind the pulpit. Kris had given a good profession and I was reminded of Paul's closing words to Timothy in **1 Timothy 6:11-12** *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

As I drove home last night, I was reflecting on the evening and thought about our missionaries and each of you as our partners, I was challenged to make those verses that I prayed for Kris, a regular prayer for our missionaries and our ministry partners. You may want to do like I did and write those verses on a card that you will see and be reminded of often. Thank you for your prayers for EMU and our missionaries. I am also praying for YOU!

If you are not receiving our EMU International Monthly Newsletter then you are missing a blessing. Highlights from this month's newsletter: **Along the Way:** Brief updates from our missionaries. **Building Physically & Spiritually:** by Jeremy & Bonnie Ruth Farmer, church planters in Stung Treng, Cambodia. **Walking in the Dark:** by Marcos & Tali Gomez, Assistant to Pedro Donze - Uruguay office & Camp Emmanuel

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## ACROSS THE LANDS



Please pray as I assist Billy Judson, missionary to India as we put together a virtual conference called Good News 360 which will include ten speakers from the USA. The logistics of this are very demanding, but the potential is incredible. I look forward to sharing an update next month.



I will be traveling to Mexico to visit Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez. I will be speaking at the First Fundamental Baptist Church of Cancun for their Good Friday and Easter services. The following week, I will be teaching six of the pastors that Marco has trained. The dates are March 31 - April 9.



I am excited to represent EMU at a Pastors' Fellowship in Atlanta in March. I also have scheduled several lunch and coffee meetings with pastors and ministry leaders. Joanna will be with our new grandson in Salt Lake City from March 7-27. I have been asked to speak at Appalachian Bible College next month. God has opened the door for me to also preach in Beckley, WV.

