



buy your own
present

Several years ago, I read about a 90-year-old lady who one Christmas found buying presents a bit much, so she wrote out checks for her family and friends and decided she would put them in with her Christmas cards. She addressed her Christmas card envelopes to each of her children, grandchildren, and a few close friends. Then she simply wrote on the cards, "Buy your own present" after her name and sent them off. Shortly after the Christmas festivities were over, she found the checks in her desk! Everyone had received a Christmas card from her, but none of them received a check, only her Christmas message, "Buy your own present."

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family update 2021 & YEAR in REVIEW



We began **January**, having enjoyed a wonderful time with family over the holidays. We were optimistic about our opportunities, but also keenly aware that there would be challenges, mainly due to the pandemic and political unrest. We were excited to host a couple of EMU missionary families (**Espinels** and **Steels**) from Uruguay at different times during the month.

God blessed our family with the addition of another grandson. **Callen James Davis** was born in Murray, UT, on January 14, weighing in at 8 lbs. 10 oz. For the past several years, I have participated in the **ARCH Pastor's Conference** in Bradenton, FL. This year's conference was a special blessing and a great opportunity to

introduce our ministry to pastors from across the USA. I enjoyed a great time with Pastor **Mike Betancourt** and his church **Foster Creek Baptist** in Hanahan, SC. January was also a busy month as we began intensively planning for the **Good News 360 Virtual Conference** for India which would be held in August.

Normally, I would spend a couple of weeks in **Uruguay** in **February**, but due to COVID restrictions, we had to cancel our camps. It worked out fine as we had a visit from **COVID** at our house, with **Hannah**, my mom **Elaine**, **Joanna** and me, all having relatively mild cases. The annual meeting for our Uruguayan workers was held virtually. *continued on next page*



Callen



Cal & Dax



ARCH Conference



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We visited **Cleveland Park Bible Church** in Spartanburg and heard EMU missionary to **France, Michael Cole** preach. We also visited **Hampton Park Baptist Church** to hear **Cambodian** missionary **Brian Kane**. I traveled to **Raleigh, NC**, to work with several men from **Shepherds Seminary** who helped record messages for the virtual conference for India. It worked out perfectly as I was a part of the ordination council for our son-in-law **Kris Wilder** who was ordained on February 28.

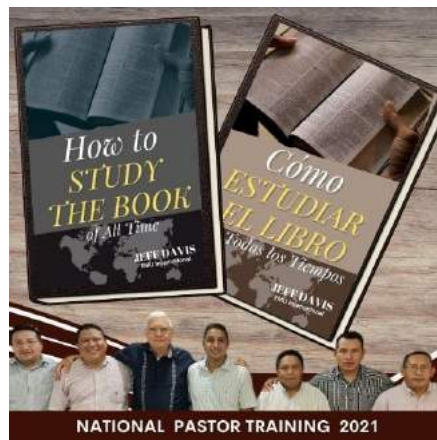
As **March** began, I was privileged to speak in a video conference to pastors all across **India** on the subject, "Praying your church to its fullest potential." **Joanna** spent most of the month in Utah helping **Caleb and Jamie** with our grandsons **Dax and Cal**.



I used the Fremont Chapel at the **Wilds Christian Camp** as the background for my recordings for the India virtual conference. I represented **EMU** at the **FBFI South Regional** meeting in **Lilburn, GA**, at **Berean Baptist Church**. I, along with my friend **Mike Manor**, stayed with our precious friends **Rick and Angie Brinson**. It was a busy month preparing lessons for my upcoming international trip.



As we began **April**, praise the Lord, I finally was allowed to travel internationally. **Mexico** lifted most of their COVID restrictions, so I spent Easter with **Marco & Gwendolyn Nuñez**. I preached on the Wednesdays before and after Easter, Good Friday, all of the services on Easter Sunday, and then on Monday through Wednesday, I led three sessions per day of training seven pastors.

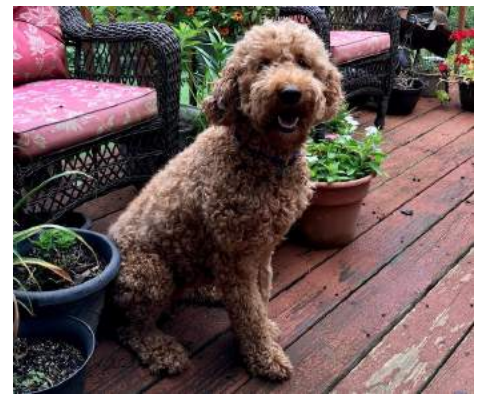


My return flight took me through Raleigh, NC, and then I drove to **Beckley, WV**, to be with my friend Pastor **Steve Beverly** and his church, **Beckley Regular Baptist**. Little did we know at the time that Steve would be in Heaven six months later due to complications from COVID-19. He was two-days older than me. He was saved as a nine-year-old boy, exactly one week before I was born again.

It was a joy to be back on the campus of **Appalachian Bible College** and preach in chapel on "No Fear," from **Psalm 46**.



Our Goldendoodle **Ollie** had her fourth and final litter of puppies. We have bred her and sold the puppies to help pay for our daughter Hannah's college tuition.



I made my first trip to **Wisconsin** to share the ministry of **EMU International**. I spent the week with our daughter **Abby's** father-in-law, **Chad Prigge**, and four of his children. I preached for my old college buddy **Rob Stroup** at **Rock Lake Baptist**. I visited friends at **Maranatha Baptist University** and was given the privilege of preaching in chapel.



The following Sunday, I preached a Missions Emphasis Sunday for **Chad** at **Fellowship Baptist**.

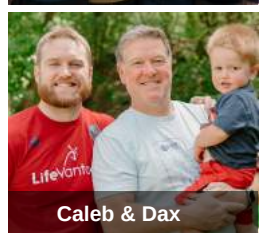
May presented a great opportunity for me to spend some time with our daughter Hannah. The day after her semester ended we traveled out West. First, we visited our dear friend **Kent and Tabitha Woods** in **Colorado**, and visited **Front Range Baptist**. We then spent a week with **Caleb's** family in the **Salt Lake City** area. I was able to connect with other ministry friends including a visit to **Gospel Hope Baptist** and my friend Pastor **Danny Brooks**.



Cal, Hannah, & Dax



Kent and Tabitha Woods



Caleb & Dax

It was a privilege to preach for my brother-in-law, **Patrick Miller** and his church **Norris Hill PC** in **Anderson, SC**. Over the next three weeks, I would spend my weekends in **Nashville, TN**. My brother-in-law, **Mark Goins**, lives in Nashville where he serves as the Tennessee Coordinator of Elections. We met and drove to **Terre Haute, IN**, to prepare Joanna's parents' house to be sold. They both are now with the Lord. We rented a U-Haul that I drove back to Nashville. We unpacked about half of the load and then I rented another smaller U-Haul to drive back to SC, leaving my car in Nashville.

Our son-in-law **Kris Wilder**, who serves as Youth Pastor at **Friendship Baptist Church** in **Raleigh, NC**, received his Masters in Theological Studies from **Shepherds Seminary** in Cary, NC.



Son-in-law Kris Wilder

The following weekend, I took a one-way flight back to Nashville to pick up my car, and drive to my father's home town of **Mobile, AL**. It had been years since I visited. It was good to meet my Aunt **Debra** and cousin **Amy** for lunch. I also visited with **Tim and Angie Riggs**, dear ministry friends from our **Wilson** days. That weekend, I served with Pastor **David Walton** at **Meadowlake Baptist Church**.



Tim & Angie Riggs



Aunt Debra & Cousin Amy

I drove back home for a few important meetings. I had to visit **the Wilds Christian Camp** to meet with **Rick Jensen** about the upcoming October Work Trip to **Uruguay**. We had a great

planning meeting through Zoom with **Pedro Donzé**, our Camp Director at **Camp Emmanuel**. Joanna and I hosted **Cambodian** missionaries **JD and Kim Crowley** for breakfast. We visited with **Steve and Charity Erkens**, missionaries to China, who have returned from the field. The following weekend, as I mentioned, I was back in Nashville, as I spoke for my good friend **Pastor Tom Gabbard** at **Grace Baptist** in **Verona**. I drove that afternoon up to **Indianapolis** where I would spend the next few days with my old college buddy, **Tim Paul**, and his family. I represented **EMU International** at the **FBFI National Meeting** at **Colonial Hills Baptist Church**. Our daughter **Abby** and her husband **Caleb** served on staff at the **Wilds Christian Camp** in **Brevard, NC**. The camp was gracious to let us spend a couple of nights at the camp. Our daughter **Bethany** and her husband **Kris** came and we celebrated their daughter **Karis's** one-year birthday.



We had an excellent meeting with the **Board of Directors** of **EMU International** at **Hampton Park Baptist Church** in **Greenville, SC**. The following Wednesday, I had the privilege of speaking at **Westgate Baptist Church**, in **Spartanburg, SC**, on "The Blueprint for a Biblical Marriage," for their Summer Family Conference.



What a tremendous blessing to have **Caleb and Jamie** visit us in **July**. Caleb preached at **Christ Fellowship**. **Bethany and Kris** came down from Raleigh. We all spent a couple of nights in **Charleston** in a beach house rental. Because of international travel requirements, even though I had COVID back in February, I went ahead and got the **vaccine**. On July 22, I left for my first visit to **Alaska**. I have a detailed travel journal of that trip on my blog. I preached at the **Alaska Regional Fellowship of the FBFI**. It was great to connect with pastors, several of whom support the **Steels**. I also preached at **Soldotna Baptist** and **Sterling Baptist**.



In **August**, we worked feverishly to pull off the first **Good News 360** Virtual Conference for **India**. We had over 1,000 registered participants.



We visited the **Wilds** to see missionaries **Tim and Cheryl Chapman** as they spoke at the **Born to Be Global MK (Missionary Kid) Camp**.



We received sad news on August 31 that Joanna's 60 year-old brother **Steve Jeffers** passed away suddenly from a heart attack in his sleep.



As we began **September**, **Abby and Caleb** left the **Wilds** and moved in with us. He is working at **FedEx** while also pursuing his **MDiv.** degree at **BJU**. Abby started a small business, selling clay earrings. She is putting her culinary degree to good use and catering for some weddings. I was back at **Norris Hill PC** in Anderson, followed by a trip to **Boston**. I spoke at the annual meeting of the **Fellowship of Missions**. I was elected to serve on the **Executive Board**. When I arrived back home, our family traveled to **Nashville** for Joanna's brother's memorial service. I represented **EMU** at **Bob Jones University's Global Opportunities Conference**. At the end of that week, I attended the **Greenville Shepherds Fellowship**, the **National Conference on Hispanic Outreach**, and **astor's Think Tank** at **BJU**.



October began with a trip to **Greenville, MS**, to serve at **Greenville Bible Church** for a **Missions Emphasis Sunday**. I flew into **Monroe, LA**, and visited the **Swanners**, my dad's sister and her son's families. I returned on Tuesday and turned around and left on Wednesday with **Joanna** to fly to **Boston**. We connected with several ministry leaders including the **Clouses** from **IBM Global** who hosted us for lunch. We spent the night at the **Wilds of New England** and enjoyed a meal with **Rand and Amber Hummel**. **Doug Gorsline** was visiting from **SC** and joined us. We drove across **New Hampshire** to **Vermont** where we spent the weekend with **Billy and Rhonda Gotcher**. I spoke for a **Missions Sunday** at **Trinity Baptist** in **Williston, VT**. The **Gotchers** showed us the beautiful leaves and Fall colors of **New England** on Saturday. We left and took our time driving to **Maine**, where we would spend a night. We visited a couple of lighthouses and enjoyed some delicious **New England seafood**. After we returned, I left for **Iowa**, where I represented **EMU** at **Faith Baptist Bible College**. It was great to make some new connections. I flew from **Des Moines** to **Washington D.C.** and spent the weekend with **Pastor Ben Smith** and his family. I spoke at **Engleside Baptist** in the morning, and at **Keystone Baptist** in the evening. I had rented a car in **D.C.** I drove to **Appalachian Bible College** that night. I spent the next week representing **EMU** on the campus. On Thursday, I started back towards **D.C.** where I would return the car rental and then fly back to **Greenville**.



Larry & Josefina Clouse



The Wilds of New England



Rand Hummel



New Hampshire



Vermont in the Fall



Billy & Rhonda Gotcher



Portland Head Lighthouse, Maine

November began with a great opportunity for **Joanna** and me to travel together again. I had been invited by **Ron Ehmann** to speak at **Mountain View Baptist Church** in **Grantsville, Utah**. Ron's wife **Kathy** recently passed away due to COVID complications. It was great to see him and his encourage his church. I also connected with **Richard and Ginny Hartman**. This gave us a great excuse to visit with **Caleb** and **Jamie** who live in **Sandy, Utah**. We visited their church, **Hope Church**, where Caleb serves as Youth Pastor.

For about twenty years, our family has spent **Thanksgiving** in **Pigeon Forge/Sevierville** with Joanna's sisters and brother and their families. Her parents who lived in **Terre Haute**, always looked forward to these brief reunions. Joanna's **dad** passed away in 2018, and her **mom** passed away in 2019, and **Steve** wasn't with us this year. It was good though to be together with **Rebecca's** and **Susie's** families. We had all of our children with us except Caleb. I left my family on Friday and drove to **Southern Indiana**.

I preached a Missions Emphasis weekend at **Calvary Baptist Church** in **Huntingburg**. It was a whirlwind trip, but a special time connecting with some new friends.

As we began **December**, I again attended the annual Christmas meeting of the **Shepherd's Fellowship**, pastors and wives from the Greenville area. I even played the trumpet for special music. We then were with **Pastor Ken Casillas** and the **Cleveland Park Bible Church** in **Spartanburg** for Missions Emphasis Sunday.



The Hartmans & Ron Ehmann



Cal loves to kiss Nana



Callen & Daxton



Caleb & Jamie, Dax & Cal



With Dax on one of our walks



Snow in Alta, Utah

2021 YEAR in REVIEW



Buy Your Own Presents Continued

For our financial partners, thank you for not forgetting to enclose your check this month or forgetting to make your online donation. We are grateful that when it comes to gifts, you have allowed us to be recipients of your generosity. There are other good causes, but you have prioritized EMU International and our missionaries, and for that, we are truly blessed.

During this Christmas season, may each one of us echo the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable (inexpressible) gift. What a privilege we have, to not only hear the good news but to proclaim it to all people. Take a moment right now and join me in praising God for the Gospel, the good tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people. Praise God for the Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

For many of us, we have a tradition of gathering with our family around the Christmas tree and reading the Christmas story. I'm not talking about, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," but the story of Christ's birth in Luke 2:1-19. As we take time to celebrate Christ's birth around our families, may we consider those around the corner, and those around the world, who still need to hear the good news of great joy!

From all of us here at EMU International, we want to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas! Thank you for your partnership in this ministry. Let us know if there is any way that we can better serve you.

I was in twenty-five different states and Mexico. I was in forty different churches and preached sixty times. I had the privilege of visiting and serving in four different Christian colleges.

There is no way that I could list every meeting and every mile traveled, but I hope that these highlights are an encouragement. More than just a busy schedule, these notes represent God's blessing in providing opportunities for serving Him and promoting not only the Biblical basis of missions but really the missions basis of the Bible. As we read His Word, we discover that the thread that runs through every page is that God is on a mission to redeem a people for Himself and for His glory. Have you ever considered how God's heart for the nations shines through every book of the Bible? His passion should drive our own. Let me challenge you to take seven days and explore this on your own. It might just change your life.

7-Day Missions Experiment

Day 1: Biblical Basis for Mission

Genesis 12:1-3, 1 Chronicles 16:23-24, Psalm 67:1-3, Isaiah 49:6, Daniel 7:13-14

Day 2: Biblical Basis for Mission

Habakkuk 2:14, Malachi 1:11, Matthew 24:14, Romans 1:5, Revelation 7:9-10

Day 3: Go

Acts 1:8, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:27, Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 15:20-21, Psalm 96:3

Day 4: Pray

John 17:20-21, Matthew 9:36-37, 2 Kings 19:19, Psalm 2:8, Isaiah 59:1

Day 5: Send

3 John 1:5-8, Romans 10:14-15, John 20:21, Philippians 4:17-19, Acts 13:2-3

Day 6: Welcome

Leviticus 19:33-34, Deuteronomy 10:19, Isaiah 56:6-8, Mark 11:17, 2 Chronicles 6:32-33, 1 Kings 8:41-43

Day 7: Mobilize

Habakkuk 2:2, Deuteronomy 4:5-6, Matthew 4:19, John 4:35-36, Isaiah 66:18-19, Luke 24:45-47

Center for Mission Mobilization
<https://mobilization.org/challenges>

INVEST in ETERNITY



Join our team as a Partner
pastorjeffdavis.com/partner

