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Great Commision

Jeff and Joanna Davis

- Works of Evangelism
- Establishing Churches
- Equipping Nationals



Uruguay

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February 2023

Another day, another opportunity to praise God for His steadfast love and His daily mercies that are as sure as the sun rising on the eastern horizon. As you read this brief note, please know that we have thanked God for your partnership in our ministry today. Your faithful prayers and financial support are a daily cause for joy for those of us who serve in missions.

I joined the EMU International family in January of 2016, and the next month on February 3, Ken Jensen and I traveled to Uruguay, for my first official trip with our mission. EMU began in 1946 as Evangelical Mission to Uruguay and for seventy-seven years this small South American country has been a focal point of our missionary efforts. On February 17, 2023, I will board an early morning flight from Greenville, SC, which will be my eighth trip to visit our missionary family in Uruguay. I am looking forward to staying at Campamento Emanuel, located in Guazuvirá, about an hour east of Montevideo. As you read this letter, the summer camps are in full swing. It is summer in the southern hemisphere. Our theme for each of the camps is "The Infallible Word of God," Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. Pedro Donzé is putting together a schedule for me to preach in area churches each of the three weekends that I am in Uruguay. I have the privilege of preaching again for the Family Camp (February 20-25), for six sessions on the theme, "Can I Trust My Bible?" Ovidio Acevedo, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Cerro de Montevideo, will speak the other four sessions on "The Family." Dr. Kevin Oberlin, Dean of the School of Religion at Bob Jones University will join me the following week for our Workers' Conference (February 27-March 2) and speak on the subject of leadership. One of the main focuses of my time in Uruguay will be to interview our different missionaries.

It is always a joy to learn about the ups and downs of their ministries and for a brief time share in their lives. I will also spend time with the Junta, our leadership team in Uruguay.

As I prepare for my upcoming trip, I cannot help but reminisce about that first visit. In looking through my journal notes which I used for my first newsletter article with EMU, I read these words dated Tuesday, February 9, 2016: I began the day in prayer asking God to bless our efforts during those three weeks with my precious new friends. I woke early and opened my Bible and read in Acts, chapters 14-16. One of my favorite chapters in the book of Acts is chapter 16, where we read of Paul's Macedonian call and the birth of the church at Philippi. One of the key statements about Paul's ministry was his desire to be an encouragement to the churches. That was my desire, to be an encouragement to my new friends. My main link to my family and friends who were praying for me back home was my Facebook account. My post that morning read, "I awoke early to the sound of rain falling on the metal roof of the casita. Yesterday was hot and humid. Last night the rain finally arrived. I was encouraged to read this morning in Acts of the growth of the New Testament church. It is evident that God wants His gospel to spread to all nations. It is thrilling to visit the 'uttermost parts of the earth' and see that the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, is still at work. Listening to the parrots chirping and the doves cooing as the sun rises, smelling the freshness of a night of rain, and sipping a cup of coffee, I cannot help but praise God for His mercies that are new every day."

In addition to your regular prayers for our missionaries, please pray that God will bless this upcoming trip. I hope to share regular updates on my Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/pastorjd>.



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