

**10**

Countries

**38**US  
Missionaries**51**National  
Missionaries**1**Great  
Commission

Jeff and Joanna Davis

- Works of Evangelism
- Establishing Churches
- Equipping Nationals

ACROSS  
THE  
LANDSEMU  
INTERNATIONALEXHORT  EQUIPENLIST  ENGAGE

October 2023

# Pastor

## APPRECIATION

Many churches around the world will honor their pastors again this October for "Pastor Appreciation Month," a special opportunity for congregations to recognize and honor their leaders for their faithful dedication and sacrificial labor. The monthly observation began in 1994 when Focus on the Family encouraged congregations to set aside October as "Pastor Appreciation Month," with the goal that every pastor, including staff members and their families, would feel appreciated by those they serve.

This is certainly biblical and not something that began in 1994. The Bible talks specifically about honoring our leaders. 1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.

I would like to personally thank those of you who serve in pastoral ministry. For twenty-five years, I sat on your side of the desk, and I understand something about the weight of the ministry you carry. I know what is to be on call 24 hours a day. I know what is to carry burdens that you cannot share with others. I know that preaching

the whole counsel of God accurately doesn't just happen; it takes hours of work. I also know that there is no greater privilege than finding yourself in the center of God's will as God's under-shepherd. One of the greatest joys I have in my current ministry of ministering in different churches is the opportunity to connect with pastors, to hear their stories, to listen, to encourage, and to pray with them. We need strong pastors who humbly handle the Word of God, but unashamedly declare, "thus saith the Lord." Thank you for your faithfulness. And thank you for letting us be a part of your ministry.

I would like to encourage our churches to intentionally plan on honoring their pastors this month. Each church is unique and so is each pastor. Take time to consider how best to honor your pastor. Next, how can you individually honor your pastor? Take a moment right now to think about this and then follow through. As a former pastor, I loved the handwritten notes, especially from the elementary school children. I loved receiving gift cards and invitations to coffee or to play golf. Probably the most encouraging gift was when a church member stated, "Pastor, we love you and we pray for you every day." This was like a gust of wind in my sails.

Each of our missionaries is serving in pastoral ministry or in the role of supporting pastors. Please pray for them and consider sending a note of encouragement. Here is a link to add to your prayer list: <https://emuinternational.org/missionaries/>

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Talking to students at Bob Jones University

# We NEED PARTNERS



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Mail checks to EMU International, 209 Roberts Rd., Taylors, SC 29687

**Jeff & Joanna Davis**  
 119 Oak Wind Circle  
 Greer, SC 29651



## looking ahead

### OCTOBER 2023

- 1 Open Door Baptist Church, Bamberg, SC
- 8 Open Door Baptist Church, Bamberg, SC
- 15 Calvary Baptist Church, Westminster, MD
- 21-22 Grace Baptist, East Flat Rock, NC
- 23-27 Global Reach Conference,  
 – Faith Baptist Bible College, Ankeny, IA
- 29 West Millford Baptist Church, West Millford, WV

### NOVEMBER 2023

- 5 AM First Baptist, Gunnison, CO
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 \_\_\_\_\_

### DECEMBER 2023

- 1-13 Paris, France and Coprivnica, Croatia
- 3 Paris, France with Bixby Family
- 10 Coprivnica, Croatia with Crnkovic Family
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 24 \_\_\_\_\_



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