

- Works of Evangelism
- Establishing Churches
- Equipping Nationals



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Director, EMU International

It is a privilege to write this letter to you today from my desk in my own home in Greer, SC. October was a busy month and for much of the time, I was away from home. It was a blessing to have my wife Joanna with me for the first week as we visited **Colorado**. EMU International has a few partner churches in the Western USA, but we would love to see our ministry family grow in that area. I hope to make a couple of trips out West this coming year and would love to visit your church. Please contact me if there is any way that I can be a blessing.

It was a joy to visit **Engleside Baptist Church** in Alexandria, VA, on October 12, for a Missions Emphasis Sunday. The following Friday, I drove five hours from home to the **Anchorage Christian Camp** at Lake Waccamaw, NC. I'm grateful to David Ulrich and David Bradshaw for hosting me that night. Early the next morning, I flew from Wilmington to Des Moines, IA, for a week in Ankeny at **Faith Baptist Bible College** for their Missions Conference. Jeff and RaeAnn Hilla not only provided lodging, but let me drive their car all week. I returned the next weekend to Wilmington and met the **Espinell** family, missionaries to Uruguay, as we both spoke at **Grace Baptist Church** for their Missions Conference. That afternoon, I drove another six hours to **Appalachian Baptist Bible College**, where I would be for the next three days for their Missions Conference. On Wednesday, I traveled to **Keystone Baptist** in Berryville, VA, where I spoke for their midweek service and at their Christian School chapel.

This past Sunday morning, I spoke on the subject of Biblical stewardship on the last Sunday of Missions Emphasis Month at **Central Baptist Church** in Rockville, MD. I began with a sermon



illustration that captures God's heart when it comes to Biblical stewardship. In the illustration the dad, we will call him William wanted to treat little Billy, his five-year-old son, to something special. "Hey, Billy, what would you want to do if you could do anything in the world right now?" It didn't take little Billy much time to respond. "I want to go to McDonalds and get some French fries." Dad replied, "Go get in the truck." Billy jumped up and down and ran out the door, his feet barely touching the ground. As they drove out of the neighborhood, little Billy was squirming with excitement. Upon arrival, William sat Billy down at one of the tables and placed the order. As William returned to the table holding the tray, Billy's eyes widened, and he couldn't help but clap as he realized his dad had ordered a super-size fry. The prayer over the food was incredibly quick and Billy began to savor those crisp, delicious, salty strips of delight. William smiled thinking, "Wow! Something this simple can bring him so much joy." William decided to join in the fun and reached over to grab a couple of the fries. Billy's joy turned to consternation as he reached his hand around the fries and said, "No, mine." William was astonished. What just happened?

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THANKFUL

As he sat there contemplating the moment, several thoughts crossed his mind. "Who paid for and provided these fries?" It was William that freely opened up his wallet and not only did he order something that Billy wanted, but he also made it a super-size order. "I could take the fries back." Billy was only five years old. William was in his early 30s. That little fort he had built around those fries would mean nothing. "I don't need his French fries." In fact, William wasn't hungry. He just wanted to participate in the fun. One or two fries wouldn't make a difference to William or even Billy. As Dad, he just wanted his son to invite him into his exciting little world... a world made possible by Dad. And here is the kicker, "I could walk back up to the counter and buy as many fries as I wanted."

I wonder how many of us realize that God takes us to McDonalds every day. His blessings are abundant. Yesterday, it may have been a small order, tomorrow a medium, but more often than not, we are given Super-size orders. Like William, God wants to sit down with us and enjoy those blessings together. On behalf of all of us here at EMU International, I want to thank you for sharing your fries. As we count our blessings this month, may we all reflect on how God is the source of all of our blessings, even French fries, and that it is an honor to give back to Him. May we also, look for ways that we can continue to share knowing that His supply is endless.



Exciting Ministry Opportunity

Many of you may recall that two summers ago, I had the privilege of assisting **Trinity Baptist Church** in Muncie, Indiana, for six five weeks, six Sundays, as their pastor was away for Navy Chaplain training. A couple of months ago, I was approached again by the leadership of that church. Their pastor recently resigned and they were looking for some guidance as they begin the transition process. Over the past several years, I have helped several churches that were going through pastoral transitions. Having pastored for twenty-five years, and now visiting with pastors and churches nearly every week, God has used my experience and network of ministry contacts to help. I have agreed to help Trinity for six Sundays and three Wednesdays. I will have to travel back and forth to South Carolina for part of the time. The plan is to travel to Indiana for one solid week, two Sundays, and then return to South Carolina. I have an important mission leaders' meeting in Atlanta the following week. I will make a whirlwind flight up and back so I can be home the week of Thanksgiving. I will then drive up for the first two weeks, three Sundays in December.

Jeff's November Schedule

- 1 Keystone Christian School
- 3 Central Baptist Church, Rockville, MD
- 6 Palmetto Baptist Missions Emphasis
- 10 Trinity Baptist Church, Muncie, IN
- Waterman Baptist Church, Kingman, IN
- 12 Illiana Pastors' Fellowship
- 13 Trinity Baptist Church, Muncie, IN
- 17 Trinity Baptist Church, Muncie, IN
- 21-22 Missions Roundtable, Atlanta, GA
- 24 Trinity Baptist Church, Muncie, IN
- 28 Thanksgiving Day

Joanna will join me for part of the time. We served for four years at Grace Baptist Church across town in Muncie. We are excited to have this opportunity to connect with friends and ministry leaders from Joanna's home state. Pray for me as I use this opportunity to introduce several new pastors to the ministry of EMU International.