



March 2026  
family update

JEFF & JOANNA DAVIS

EMU International, Director

URUGUAY  
NATIONAL  
WORKERS

# A Church with a Global Impact

I arrived home from Uruguay last night after nearly twenty-four hours of travel. I don't sleep well on planes, and this trip didn't help my record. I had chosen a window seat so I could lean against the side, but the gentleman in the middle seat leaned on me most of the night. Plus, he smelled like he needed a shower. By the time Dan and I reached Miami for our eight-hour layover, I was running on fumes. I spent the time at the airport tending to the work that never really pauses. When I finally walked through the doors at GSP and saw Joanna waiting for me, the fatigue faded for a moment. There's nothing quite like coming home.

Earlier, as we were making our way through the airport, I turned to Dan and asked, "Did that just happen?" We both laughed, because the past couple of weeks felt like a whirlwind—full, intense, exhausting, and deeply encouraging. As we replayed all the Lord allowed us to do in Uruguay—the camps, the church services, and the connections with ministry friends—our hearts were full.

On our last day in Uruguay, I had the privilege of preaching at **Calvary Temple** in **Montevideo**, the first church founded by EMU missionaries.

It was there that our threefold purpose was born:

- 1) Works of Evangelism
- 2) Establishing Churches
- 3) Equipping Nationals

Everything EMU has become has grown from the seeds planted in that congregation. My message, "**A Church with Global Impact**" from **Acts 13:1-3**, reminded us that Antioch was not a large church, but a sending church that held the rope for those God called to go.

I closed the sermon with this story:

In a small fishing village near the mouth of a dangerous river, a child was pulled under by the current. Someone brought a rope, and the strongest swimmer came forward. They tied the rope around his waist, and he plunged into the water. Stroke by stroke, he fought the current until he reached the boy. But when he shouted, "Pull the rope!" the crowd realized in horror that no one had held on. The rope had slipped into the water, and both the rescuer and the boy were swept away. Two lives were lost—not because no one went into the water, but because no one stayed on shore to hold the rope.



Pastor Gustavo de Oliveira of Calvary Temple, Montevideo, Uruguay, with Alexis Rodriguez and Luis Carlos Rios, recent Bible Institute graduates.

That image stayed with me throughout our trip. In Uruguay, faithful servants, pastors, missionaries, camp workers, and national leaders go into the water to rescue the lost, disciple believers, and strengthen the church. But none of them can do it alone. You empower these faithful workers. Your support enables them to step out, persevere, and reach those in need. They need people on the shore holding the rope, and that person is you. Without those who faithfully hold the rope, entire communities remain unreached, and lives remain untouched by the hope of the gospel. Dan and I were able to minister at the Workers' Retreat and Family Camps because you held the rope.

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Pedro Donzé and the team at Camp Emmanuel continue reaching children, teens, and families because you hold the rope. The gospel advances in Uruguay and across ten countries because God uses partners like you who make the work possible. Thank you for holding the rope.

As we move into March, would you pray for the seeds planted during our time in Uruguay? Pray for our missionaries serving all over the world. Pray that each of us will continue to be faithful, sending, supporting, and strengthening those who go.



Glad to be back on American soil, but Dan and I are exhausted after our flight through the night to Miami, following an exciting and full trip to Uruguay.



**February 13**  
**Wesley James Wilder**  
**9 lbs 1 oz, 21 inches**

As I was on my flight to Uruguay on February 13, Bethany gave birth to our ninth grandchild. Joanna was with her for the birth and spent two weeks in Raleigh helping and enjoying time with Bethany's family.

Scheduling Meetings for  
**2026**  
Contact for more information  
jeff@emuinternational.org

# EMU INTERNATIONAL

# March Newsletter



In March's EMU newsletter, Jeff Davis writes from Campamento Emanuel in Uruguay, sharing a vibrant snapshot of ministry across several continents. From family camps and workers' retreats in South America to major transitions in Croatia and Cambodia, this edition highlights how God is strengthening His servants "across the lands."

Inside this issue, you'll find:

- A New Dawn in Croatia — Kornel and Tanja Crnković step into pastoral leadership in Virovitica, guiding a small, faithful group through a season of renewal.
- Mercy in the Detour — JD & Kim Crowley share encouraging cancer news and reflect on their transition after 31 years in Cambodia.
- Uruguay Ministry Updates — Reports from Family Camp, the upcoming Workers' Retreat, and prayer needs from Camp Bethel after severe wind damage.
- Global Highlights — Updates from the Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, and news of newly engaged missionary kids.

A rich issue full of God's faithfulness and open doors for the Gospel.

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## missions conference - March 8-11

Please pray for Joanna and me as we travel to Minnesota to speak at the Mission Conference at Fourth Baptist Church. This is our daughter Abby's church, where her husband Caleb serves as Music & Youth Pastor.