

May 2026
family update

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EMU International, Director



APRIL SHOWERS... BRING WHAT?

We all know the saying, “April showers bring May flowers.” But in April, we saw very little rain in Greenville. Our area received only **1.98 inches**, about half of what we normally expect. Greenville County is now more than **8.6 inches** below normal for the year, and the dry ground shows it. The flowers are slow to bloom, and everything seems to be a little thirsty. This season has reminded me that even when we don’t see results right away, far more is happening than we realize.

That waiting brought to mind a special kind of bamboo grown in Asia. After it’s planted and faithfully tended, nothing appears above the ground for years. Day after day, the one caring for it could easily assume nothing is happening. But beneath the surface, a deep, strong root system is forming. When the bamboo finally breaks through, it grows rapidly, supported by what was long unseen.

Paul summarizes this in **1 Corinthians 3:6** “I have planted, Apollos watered,” (that is our responsibility), *but God gave the increase.*” (that is His responsibility). We are called to plant and water faithfully and leave the results with Him, knowing that He is at work, even when we can’t see.

In pastoral and missionary work, it often feels like we are in a drought. We do everything we are commanded to do, yet we still experience little fruit. In times like these, our responsibility is simply to persevere in planting and watering, trusting that roots are growing below the surface. God brings enduring fruit in His perfect timing.



Baptism service of the Primera Iglesia Bautista Fundamental de Cancun with Pastor Marco Nuñez

At **EMU International**, we are reminded of the many opportunities God has given us—Bible translation, leadership development, church planting, and local outreach—where much of His work happens out of sight. Seeds are planted, fields are watered, and roots are growing, preparing for fruit that will remain.

Thank you for your partnership in our ministry. We could not do what we do without your faithful prayers and financial gifts.

Together, we trust the Lord of the harvest to bring lasting fruit, and we invite you to keep laboring with us as He gives the increase.



Inside this month’s EMU International Newsletter:

- Honoring Missionary Mothers — A heartfelt reflection on the courage, sacrifice, and joy of moms serving far from home.
- Cross-Cultural Collaboration (Part 2) — EMU and BVI partner in Cambodia, France, and Uruguay. gospel resources.
- Training Nationals in Mongolia — A meaningful trip for Ted Allston and Tim Chevalier.

A full, encouraging look at how God is working through families, partnerships, and faithful servants across the lands

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April was a wonderful month of ministry opportunities. I began the month in **Mexico** with **Marco and Gwendolyn Nuñez**. I preached at six different churches, and had an encouraging time visiting with the national pastors. More details will be shared in next month's EMU International newsletter.



Marco translated for me seven different times as we visited six different churches

I returned home on Wednesday, April 8. I had the privilege of sharing a missionary update at the **Together for Missions Meeting** at my home church, **Palmetto Baptist Church**, the following Sunday. The next week was busy finishing my taxes and preparing for the **annual meeting of the EMU International board of directors** which was held on Saturday, April 18, at **Hampton Park Baptist Church**. Joanna and I were able to make several visits to ministry friends and partner churches over the next couple of weeks. We also dealt with a couple of troublesome situations as you can read in the next column.

I am working hard on my **upcoming calendar**, and would love to visit you and your church to share our ministry if the Lord would allow. Please reach out to me at jeff@emuinternational.org.

I still have openings for **May 25**, before I head to **Chile, June 2-12**. It is a terrible travel schedule from Greenville to Antofagasta, but I am really looking forward to being with **Tom and Connie Chapman**. I also have the privilege of preaching for a **Pastors' Conference**.

In **July**, I hope to be in the **Midwest**, near our daughter **Abby** and her family. Abby is expecting her second little boy sometime in early July. Joanna will be with her family to help out. It would be great to work in that area and make many connections, so pray with us that the Lord opens up opportunities to share our ministry.

PRAYERS APPRECIATED

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Ephesians 5:16

Some days, life seems determined to keep me humble. Today was one of those days.

It began with a cold shower. Sure enough, when I checked the garage, I discovered water all over the floor. Our thirteen-year-old water heater had finally failed. We booked a technician, but the wait dragged into the afternoon.

While waiting on the plumber and before I could get any work done, I had to deal with an identity theft issue. Someone opened an account in my name. Resolving it took longer than I expected and meant more transfers than I care to count. That time gave me more opportunity to pray and trust God. I'm thankful it was resolved, I'm cleared of responsibility, and I've now locked down my credit reports with extra protection.

I then sent out the EMU International newsletter via Mailchimp and then uploaded several Facebook posts from this month's issue.

The plumber finally arrived. As I followed him around, it became apparent that this wasn't going to be a minor repair job. We discovered several issues that should have been addressed years ago. When it was all said and done, we were the "proud" owners of a brand-new water heater... and a **\$5,500 bill. Ouch.** Last month it was **\$1,500** for termites.

Yes, today was one of those days. As I write this, it is getting dark. They have been here for hours, and still aren't finished.

I also have a couple of prayer requests: Our four-year-old granddaughter, Khloe, had a hard day. Her severe juvenile arthritis stopped responding to the shots she's been taking. Today, she had to begin IV infusion treatment. When I FaceTimed to pray with her this morning, she cried the whole time. Please pray that this new approach brings real relief. She's a tough little girl and was smiling this evening. But she shouldn't have to be this tough at her age.



Our sweet little four-year-old granddaughter Khloe needs your prayers.

And on a much smaller note, pray my push mower starts. While the plumbers worked, I followed a YouTube video, took apart the carburetor, and replaced the fuel jet. Tomorrow, I'll try fresh gas and see what happens. If it works, I may add "small-engine repairman" to my résumé. It will go right under "water-heater observer."

Update: Yay! It started on the third pull.

It's been a tough day from several angles, but my heart is steady. God is in control, and His peace is real.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee."

Isaiah 26:3

Has anyone else ever had a sanctifying day like mine today?