



July 2026  
family update

EMU International, Director

As our nation celebrates its **250th anniversary**, I find myself remembering another milestone, a memory that has stayed with me for 50 years: America's Bicentennial in 1976. I was eight years old when my third-grade class took a field trip to see **the American Freedom Train** in Greenville. At the time, I was mostly excited about getting out of schoolwork for the day. But what I saw made a lasting impression. The Freedom Train was a rolling museum filled with treasures from our nation's story. A conveyor walkway carried us past remarkable pieces of history: George Washington's personal copy of the Constitution, the Louisiana Purchase, Judy Garland's dress from The Wizard of Oz, and even a lunar rover and moon rock. History had come right to our doorstep.



As we approach **July 4** and **America's 250th anniversary**, I am grateful for the blessings God has given our nation. But those blessings also remind me that God's purposes have always reached far beyond any one nation. **Psalm 67** teaches us to pray, *"That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations"* (Psalm 67:2). Gratitude for God's kindness to us should deepen our burden for Christ's mission to the world.



**June** was a full and encouraging ministry month. God blessed me with a wonderful trip to Chile, at the beginning of the month, where I spent eight encouraging days with missionaries **Tom and Connie Chapman**. It was a joy to reunite with **Pastor Daniel Salvatierra**, and preach at **Emanuel Bible Church**. I also lead an area-wide men's conference.



- View **Facebook album of photos**. (<https://facebook.com/pastorjd> - then click photos / albums / Chile 2026)

After returning from Chile, I traveled to **Indiana** and spent several days at The **Wilds Christian Camp**. I met with **Rick Jensen** about the August work trip to Uruguay. You can see the priority projects in the **June EMU Newsletter**. While at camp, I also saw **Ken Martin**, Vice Chairman of the EMU Board, who was helping with the annual financial audit.

**Joanna** and I then joined **Pastor Greg Mazak**, another EMU board member, at **Trinity Bible Church**, where I gave a missionary update. His wife, **Nancy**, remains an invaluable part of the EMU financial team.

This weekend, I'll be in **Raleigh** for the Fourth of July, preaching **"America at 250: Celebrating God's Heart for the Nations"** at **Community Baptist Church in Garner**. The message gives thanks for God's kindness to our nation while calling the church to keep Christ's global mission at the center.

Next, I head to **Michigan** to preach for **Tim Chapman** in **Bay City**. Tim has concluded his full-time mission work in **Peru** and now pastors **Cornerstone Baptist Church**. He is our newest board member. He will return to Peru at the end of the month to lead a Theology Retreat on the vital doctrine of **Biblical Anthropology**. Please pray for wisdom as he reconnects with **Pastors Ruben and Daniel** and ministers to a growing church family.

I will stay with my good friends at **Calvary Baptist Church** in **Midland**, a dear church where I have preached a couple of Missions Conferences. They support our family.

The following Sunday, I will be with **Pastor John Isham** at **Childs Bible Church** in **Onondaga**. They are a long time supporter of our work in Uruguay.



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I will next meet Joanna in **Minneapolis** as we welcome our newest grandson. She flew up a week ago to help **Abby and Caleb**, especially with our energetic three-year-old **Jud**. Joanna is certainly in her happy place, but being away from home for a full month is no small thing.



Joanna & Jud

I have several meetings scheduled with pastors in the **Twin Cities** area, and then I'll preach at **Chisago Lakes Baptist Church** for **Ben Gunderson**. If the Lord allows, Joanna and I plan to travel home the last week of July and be back by my birthday on July 31.

Please pray for safety, for God's provision, and for the strengthening of churches this month.

Thank you for your faithful support. Your prayers and financial partnership continue to strengthen the hands of God's servants around the world. As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, would you prayerfully consider a special gift in one of two areas?

**Missionary Support.** Many of our missionaries are feeling the same economic pressures that families everywhere are facing. Joanna and I feel that pressure as well, yet God has always met our needs right on time. We are praying for additional monthly partners, and special offerings (designated love gifts) are a tremendous help, especially during seasons of heavy travel.

**Vehicle Needs.** Our faithful 2011 Toyota Camry has served us well through 266,000+ miles, but it is showing clear signs that it's time to consider a safer, more reliable travel vehicle. We are grateful for the van Joanna now drives, a provision made possible through the generosity of many and purchased from one of our missionary families.

If the Lord leads you to give, your gift will directly advance gospel work among the nations and provide timely help to our ministry partners. Your partnership truly makes a difference.



## EMU INTERNATIONAL JULY Newsletter

This month's issue celebrates America's 250th anniversary while lifting our eyes to God's global heart for the nations. It also marks meaningful transitions, encouraging ministry reports, and urgent prayer needs across EMU fields.



[emuinternational.org/newsletters](http://emuinternational.org/newsletters)

## Attention Pastors

In addition to traveling and visiting the EMU International missionaries on their various fields of service, I have had the privilege of preaching in Christian School chapels, Pastors' Fellowships, at Christian Camps, Missions Conferences, Revival Meetings, and Family Conferences. I am also available for individual meetings to promote EMU's work.

Contact me if you are interested in me visiting your church.

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<https://pastorjeffdavis.com/schedule>

[emuinternational.org/give-now/jeff-joanna](http://emuinternational.org/give-now/jeff-joanna)

Inside this issue:

- **America at 250** — Jeff Davis shares a July preaching series on God's worldwide mission and our heavenly citizenship.
- **Brooke Illsley's Benediction** — A heartfelt farewell as Brooke reflects on 12 years in Cambodia and prepares for her July 18 wedding. She shares an update on the Farmer children's graduations, new seasons of life, and the family's upcoming return to Cambodia.
- **Chile Ministry** — A first-ever men's conference in Antofagasta with strong attendance and life-changing testimonies, plus God's provision of a grand piano after a theft.
- **Uruguay Storm Recovery** — Chicha Rodriguez updates us on Camp Bethel's continued rebuilding of the women's dorm after major damage; funds are still needed.
- **Mexico Security Incident** — Armed men robbed the Cancun church, yet the congregation responded with unity, prayer, and increased attendance.

A full, encouraging look at God's faithful hand as He builds His church across the lands.

## SCHEDULE



## JULY 2026

- 5 Community Baptist, Garner, NC
- 12 Cornerstone Baptist, Bay City, MI
- 19 Childs Bible, Onondaga, MI
- 26 Chisago Lakes Baptist, Chisago City, MN

## AUGUST 2026

- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16 Sumter Bible Church, Sumter, SC
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_
- 29-2 Fellowship of Missions, OH