

THE KOTVAS FAMILY

Missionaries to the Deaf and Hearing— Peru, South America & Beyond

Sending Church: Emmanuel Baptist Church – 1819 Hill Ave. Ft. Myers, FL 33901 – (239) 936-4252 – Pastor Bob Ossewaarde



December – January 2024 Prayer Letter

Dear Friends and Family,

The new year is upon us. We look forward to what 2024 will bring. In spite of the political challenges that the entire world is facing, the wars, the persecutions and the lawlessness of the day, our hope is in the Lord. The Psalmist encourages us to this hope in Psalm 42:5.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Ministry News

We ended 2023 with some amazing events. First, we had a wonderful Christmas meal for those who live at Efata who wished to participate and for those of the church who did not have a family to celebrate with. We were able to give gifts to all the children that were present and had a wonderful time. We also had several events for children and their families at Efata and at some of our mission works. Many trusted Christ.

In addition, we were able to help a few families in need through the generous donations of you, our supporters.



One dear elderly member was given a new wheelchair which she desperately needed, and she is so excited coming to church in it. Another young girl was given a nice keyboard so she could learn to play the piano, which was one of her dreams.

We baptized six people in the last two weeks of 2023. Lord willing we have three baptisms this first week of January as well.

We know it is the Lord who gives the increase as our church is going and telling. We praise Him for the increase of souls saved and baptisms. Many souls have come to know Christ throughout 2023.

Family News

In March of this year our family will be coming to the States for a short three-month furlough. Though it will not be long enough to visit everyone, we have too much going on to be gone longer.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Pastor, if you would like to have us come and give an update, PLEASE contact me so I can see if we can come to you. I am prioritizing churches we have not been to for a long time and ones in the areas we will be in.

Here is our contact information:

Phone: 813-675-4879 – Voice Only
(use Mobile after March)

Mobile: 813-406-2838 – Voice, WhatsApp, Text

Email: jkotvas@efata.org, jfkotvas@gmail.com

In March our daughter Julianne is expecting her seventh child. In April, Valeria, Judson's wife, is expecting their first child, and in May, Joy will be graduating from Bible College. We have coordinated our visit around these events.

We will probably do a longer, more robust furlough of reporting in 2026 or 2027, the Lord willing, as Joseph, our son who works with us, is planning his furlough for 2025.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe & Lisa'.

Joe & Lisa
Joel, Jessica, Jennifer