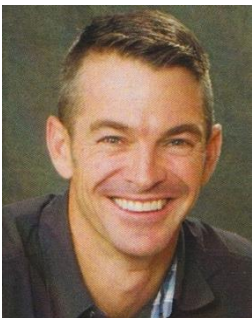




February 2019

*“We exalt God above all by evangelizing, equipping  
and embracing all nations.”*



### **PERSPECTIVE**

Mark 2:1-12

“Son, your sins are forgiven.”

These five simple words spoken to a sick man in a small, over-crowded Capernaum home some two thousand years ago immediately set mouths to murmuring. “Why does this fellow talk like that?” was the question on many minds. For in this statement, the speaker was proclaiming an ability that God possessed and people desired, particularly the religious.

Of the many packed into Jesus’ presence that day, the teachers of the law were front and center. A select group of scribes schooled in the written law of God, these men immediately reacted to Christ’s claim as they sensed in Jesus’ declaration an affront to the majesty and authority of God, which is the essence of blasphemy. As the spiritual leaders of Israel, these men longed for the arrival of God’s Messiah, the promised Savior, who they believed would exterminate the godless, crush demonic power, and protect his people from the reign of sin. For these individuals, God’s salvation would be evidenced exclusively in the temporal realm, a belief shared by others in the room that day.

And Jesus knew all of this. He knew how sin blinds eyes to spiritual realities, leading people to fixate on the here and now. Jesus could see the hearts of his listeners, and how many viewed the paralytic’s condition as resulting from the man’s sin and God’s justice. He knew the darkness and desperation that

marked the lives of all those packed around Him. And He loved them. So He spoke again, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” In that moment, Jesus revealed both His power to save and the holistic nature of His salvation.

For Jesus didn’t come to give us our best life now. His principal concern isn’t that we live healthy, wealthy, and wise. Christ came to set us free from the power of sin because sin is the problem. Sin is what separates us from God, not sickness. Sadly, many in the room that day could not see past the moment. Oh, they celebrated the man’s healing, but they missed the significance of his salvation. These men and women followed Jesus to be fed. In their fixation with life and bread, they missed the Bread of Life (John 6:35).

Immanuel, Jesus hasn’t commissioned us to eliminate world hunger or homelessness. He has called us to make disciples. And as we engage in this ministry of God’s Word, teaching others to obey everything that Christ commanded, our world will experience true healing and God will be glorified!

Rejoice!  
Andrew Morgan



Coffee Fellowship

Coffee is available in the Fellowship Hall before Sunday School every Sunday. Please join us!



The deadline for submitting items of interest for the **March newsletter** is February 20. Please observe this deadline.

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

Faye Brittingham (east)

JoAn Vollkommer (west)

Faye Parker (south)

NOTE: Feel free to change doors assigned. This way you meet your old friends!!

### WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Our Adult Discipleship Class, Youth, RAs, GAs and Mission Friends continue meeting at 6:15. For those planning to attend, dinner is served at 5:30. Please sign up for these dinners so that we can prepare the appropriate portions. Also, sign up to take a turn at providing a dessert. Following are the menus for February:

- 6 - Chicken stir-fry, rice, Asian vegetables
- 13 - Beef Stroganoff, green beans
- 20 - Pork tenderloin, greens, potatoes
- 27 - Beef stew, salad

### DISCIPLESHIP and BIBLE READING PLAN

The ladies participating in the Bible Reading Plan will meet on February 3 here at the church at 4:00 p.m. Don't miss this meeting. It will be brief but full of helpful and important information. Please contact Paula Law if you have any questions.

### IMMANUEL'S WOMEN'S RETREAT

Save the date of Saturday, March 30!!!

The Retreat will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch being served. The speaker will be Lisa Law with the topic, "Redeeming Fear." Invite a friend.



All men are invited to a breakfast on Saturday, February 23, at 8:00, followed by a discussion of the Discipline of Friendship.

### \*\*\*IMMANUEL ON MISSION\*\*\*

#### GAs

Sunday, February 17, is "Pure Water, Pure Love" day. The Girls in Action group will present a program that will explain the need for clean water for our missionaries and the people they serve. You will have the opportunity to contribute to this program at the end of the worship time.

#### WMU

The January collection for the **Global Hunger** mission was \$115.93. Thanks to all who participated in this mission to help those in need.

The amount given to date for the **Lottie Moon** Christmas Offering is \$7,131.36. This will help the missionaries around the world with training, equipment and support.

Please continue to pray for our church-adopted **Mali** people group. Pray that they may have ears, eyes, and hearts open to the missionaries trying to reach them.

#### Our Mission Partners

Paul and Laurel Morgan

They ask that we pray for peace in the DRC after the election December 31 and for wisdom to know when it's the right time to return to Isiro. Many Congolese are now questioning God because they prayed and the results did not turn out as they hoped for change. Please pray that they would turn to God and be strengthened in their faith. Paul and Laurel are planning an exploratory trip to Gisenyi Rwanda to find a less remote location more suitable for families coming to support the many Wycliffe projects. They are thankful for interim housing while displaced from Congo and appreciation for the Christmas gathering in Cape Town with his parents, brother and sister-in-law.

James and Sarah Morgan

They are training believers to reach more of the Maithili-speaking people on both sides of the border. They are thankful for the support of IMB. They ask for prayer as leader S meets with a man wanting to believe but first seeks counsel with his brother. Pray that he will put Jesus as Lord before his family.

Redemption City, NAMB, Baltimore  
The church asks us to pray for 50 committed members in their first year as they meet in the heart of Southeast Baltimore.

Ocean City Baptist, International students

Free English Salisbury  
Free English Salisbury was featured on WBOC and as a result many more students have come out for classes.

Our Members on Mission

Lincoln family in Morocco  
They ask that we pray for encouragement for believers during the upcoming Ramadan season. After four years in Morocco, the Lincolns will leave at the end of the school year and relocate to Connecticut where Joey has an engineering job. They are thankful for God’s provision of work in the US that allows them to be together. Suzanne asks for prayer that they finish well!

Jessica and Will at Southern Seminary

Emely Martin  
Pray for Emely as she continues serving as a CRU Student Leader with Spring classes resuming and meetings throughout the week to disciple young women new to faith.

East Salisbury Elementary School

Mission Giving

Lottie Moon IMB Christmas Offering  
Bread Banks for World Hunger  
Annie Armstrong NAMB Offering

Mission Opportunities

Thursday night child care workers for ESL

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**NEW PRAYER DIRECTORIES**

Please check your mailbox in the back of the church. We hope these directories will be helpful as you join us by praying for the names on page 1 on the first day of the month, page 2 on the second day, etc.

**HEALTHY CHURCH COURSE SCHEDULED**

What are the characteristics of a healthy church? It is important for Christians to recognize them, and the next discipleship course will explore the topic in great detail.

Set to begin on February 20, “Marks of a Healthy Church” will serve as a natural follow-up to the current series on church basics. Fifteen areas will be examined: the gospel, conversion, preaching, evangelism, discipleship and growth, leadership, missions, corporate prayer, Biblical Theology, the Great Commission, and more.

The video-driven series features teaching by Dr. Mark Dever and Dr. Jonathan Leeman, who note that the church was Jesus’ idea, not ours, and it is “where we are called to display God’s glorious character in unity, holiness, and love.” Sessions will continue throughout the Winter/Spring semester, beginning at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Dr. Dever is senior pastor at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. and is president of 9Marks, a ministry designed to help churches become healthy. He has written multiple books on the church. Dr. Leeman is editorial director for 9Marks, has written books and articles, and is an elder at Capitol Hill Baptist Church.



**FEBRUARY**

- 2 James Moyer
- 6 Lyle Jarrett
- 14 Walter Agnor
- 19 Connie Banks  
Emely Martin
- 21 Sue Duncan  
Caleb Morgan  
Johanne Nibblett
- 23 Jesse Baranowski
- 25 Paul Ferrier
- 26 William Nibblett, Jr.
- 28 Erma Sheats

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

By Confession of Faith



Amy Bounds  
1404 Home Place  
Salisbury, MD 21804

Amy was born in Salisbury, the daughter of Don and Cindy Bennett. She has three sons, Kirk, Ryan and Zachary. Her medical condition limits her activities, but she enjoys her S.S. class and being part of our church family.



Aracelia Monds  
622 Hammond St.  
Salisbury, MD 21804

Aracelia was born in the Philippines. She has two daughters in the Philippines and a son in the USA. She and her husband are celebrating their 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Much of her spare time is spent with her two adorable puppies, and she has worked a night shift for many years.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Medical Needs

- Bounds, Amy
- Baker, Penny
- Davis, Pat – Leukemia
- Hamula, Tina – (B. Nibblett)
- Jordan, Kevin – Liver
- Jordan, Maryanne – Sciatic nerve
- Simpson, Joyce

Long-Term Needs

- Brandt, John – Chron’s disease
- Cheek, Virginia – Genesis
- Duncan, Sue
- Henderson, Jeff – MS
- Merritt, Joan
- Muenster, Cindy
- Powell, Missy
- Schneider, Irving – Genesis (Centreville)
- Tarr, Joann – Stage 1
- Straub, Marge – Wicomico N. H.

*(Please let the office know when someone should be added or removed from these lists.)*

**THE BIBLE AS A LETTER**

Soren Kierkegaard, a brilliant 19<sup>th</sup>-century philosopher, said this about the Bible: “The Bible should be read as a letter from God with our personal address on it.” How true! The Bible tells us who’s behind our amazing lives. The Bible makes clear the source of our existence and explains how we’re to live out our years on Earth. The Bible gives us the best rules for living with others and for living in our own skin.



Scripture tells us of the wisdom of saints and the foolishness of scoundrels. It explains how God tries to relate to us. It guides us and provides strength and courage through our daily lives. It tells how God walked among us on Earth in the person of Christ. Most importantly, it details how Christ revealed God’s immeasurable love for all humankind.

Finally, the Bible assures us that God not only cares for us here and now but will care for us in the hereafter. Forever and forever!

