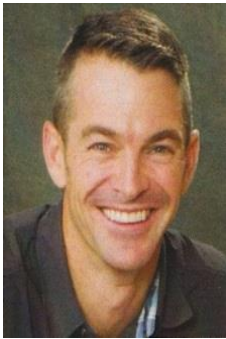




AUGUST 2020

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



“The authorities that exist
have been established by God.”

Romans 13:1b

As a child growing up in a Marxist-Socialist country, Paul’s words (quoted above) to the Roman church were hard to swallow. Certainly, as a youth, I was less concerned with the shortages, censorship, and dictatorial leadership that marked our nation than were my parents. But I still felt the heavy hand of our, so-called, liberation government.

Traveling between cities, I recall the roadblocks and police checks where we sat quietly as Dad was asked several empty questions simply to establish dominance and ensure civilian submission. I remember the soldiers who frequented our city streets and the sound of sirens as the president’s armed cavalcade would fly through town.

Surrounded by increasing evidence of corruption and deception, it was hard to square Paul’s exhortation about authorities existing by God’s establishment with the Scripture’s depiction of God’s holy character. And yet, short of excising the first seven verses from Romans chapter thirteen, I had to square them.

Wrestling with the reality of God ordaining less than ideal human governments, I came to realize several things. First, His principal concern is not with the temporal wellbeing of His creation but His glory. Second, my understanding of what serves God’s principal concern is often vastly different from His. And third, the fact that God can and does use corrupt and sinful governments to serve His ultimate end means that I have no reason to fear or feel disappointment when the government serving my country of residence displays values at odds with those detailed in Scripture.

Immanuel, while there may have been a day when our government’s morality sharply contrasted that which Paul had in mind when he first composed Romans 13:1, I fear that those days are long in the past. Our present leaders share more in common with those who featured in first-century Rome than we would care to admit. And yet, as discouraging as this is, we may take heart in the knowledge that whoever wins this year’s election will be God’s leader. They may or may not acknowledge His presence and work knowingly for His purposes, but they will serve at and for His glorious pleasure.

May this truth of God’s sovereignty comfort our hearts as we enter a season filled with political campaigning. May it drive us to pray for the one God ordains. And may God give us the eyes to distinguish His ultimate ends from those that will color the presidential candidates’ promises.

Rejoice!
Pastor Andrew



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are still unable to meet in person for Sunday School. Classes are available using Zoom. The classes are going well and we'd love for you to join a class. It's a great way to study God's word and to keep in touch with your family at Immanuel.

Classes:

Quinn Morgan - Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Mike Law - Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Paula Law - Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

Just contact the teacher and he/she will help you get set up!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

August 5 Family Bible Study

August 12. Family Bible Study

August 19 No church activities

August 26 Business Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

September 2 No church activities

Melinda will be in touch with the Youth on planned activities for the summer.

CANCELLATIONS

We want to inform you that we have officially decided not to have Vacation Bible School this summer. Likewise, we are not needed for the O.C. International Dinner this year because of the limited number of international students.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Due to the virus, it has been decided that all current members and directors of committees will serve another year. If you cannot or would rather not serve, please let the office know.



We extend our deepest sympathy to Jerry and Pat Christiana in the death of her brother, Peter Kelly. He passed away on July 6 after a lengthy illness. Our prayers are with the family.

Who is this Immanuelite?



You will find the answer as you continue reading.

IMMANUEL ON MISSION

Mission Director

It's been so long since we last met together with smiling faces, handshakes and hugs, I do miss seeing everyone. Visiting with my Mom regularly means that our activities must be limited while the virus is still circulating so we participate online and stay connected over the phone. Thank you for praying faithfully for Maryln. She has someone there every day now and that's been a great blessing.

I've been spending much more time in prayer for each and every one of you and your families, especially the occasional need published. And I've been greatly encouraged by joining the many others praying for our missionaries as they humbly and confidently share their needs and appreciation for God's great faithfulness to answer prayer in often unexpected ways. When I read about folks serving through the North American Missions Board and International Missions Board during this time of pandemic and so many natural disasters, I am reminded that God is still at work fulfilling every

promise He has spoken. It renews my determination and fuels my enthusiasm to read God's word and pray those same words for my family, our neighbors, friends and coworkers, for health care workers, first responders, law enforcement, our pastors, chaplains and military families, for internationals among us and refugees in hard to reach places. Every day that we are given breath is one more that we can respond with believers across the country and around the world in asking God that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Each day that we pray for hearts made ready for good news, encourage one another to be thankful and live by faith, truly hastens the day of our Savior's return.

I lost a very dear friend when the Lord took Virginia Cheek home this Summer but I learned so much from my many visits with her about prayer and abiding in God's presence. So I hope as we have the opportunity that we will share words that encourage our tender hearts not to grow weary in these challenging days but to persevere in prayer and doing good trusting that God is up to much !

God bless you,
Heather van Brackel

WMU World Hunger

Our church has received \$649.90 so far this year for the World Hunger Mission. If you would like to turn in your bread bank, we will be sure to get it counted and sent on to this important mission to help people starving in these desperate times. You may also give to this mission by putting your donation in the offering plate with the designation of "World Hunger" on your offering envelope or your check.



Mali People Group

The Mali people are our church adopted unreached people. Please pray for them to come to salvation through Jesus Christ!!

Paul and Laurel

Pray for Paul, working remote with the Mba translation project. They are just beginning work on several New Testament books and are not very

familiar with the Wycliffe software. The pace is slow as they develop good communication amidst internet disruptions, but very encouraging as the community is quite remote.

Pray for the translators creating a series of videos in several languages to help Congolese pastors and church leaders with reading and application lessons for the Bible recently translated into the heart language of their people. This discipleship training online will make it possible to continue relationships despite restrictions imposed because of the virus.

Jennings plans to return to Congo from the US on a costly repatriation flight but still needs to obtain exceptions from travel restrictions between provinces to get back to her husband and their translation project. Pray for provision and protection in her journey back as Paul and Laurel hope to follow later this year.

James and Sarah

Where they live, things have started to open up a little more. Because other places have gone back to a full lock-down, there is a struggle with knowing just what they can do. Many are very cautious of any outsiders and are stand-offish. Please continue to pray for open doors and hearts for the Good News. Also, continue to pray for physical needs due to the virus and flooding.

The discipleship of new believers is critical. It aids as they begin to grow to maturity in Christ. The one thing they always stress is that the one who brought the new believer to Christ is the one who should start discipling that new believer. They need your prayers during these crazy times.

James and Sarah are in the process of trying to plan their upcoming Stateside! They are planning to land October/November and stay through April/May, 2021. Pray for them as they seek the Lord's guidance.

HOMEBOUND

We have many during this pandemic that are unable to attend services. The homebound list is on page 26 of the directory. There are many active members who are not on this list that cannot be with us yet. Please

pray for these brothers and sisters and send a card, note, or call. Lift someone's spirit today!

The members listed below do not have access to a phone:

Marge Straub	Cindy Muenster
Wicomico N. H.	105 S. Saratoga St.
Rm. 300	Salisbury, MD 21804
900 Booth St.	
Salisbury, MD 21801	



AUGUST

- 5 Mike Cox
- 7 Charles (Corky) Simpson
- 8 Ron McKelvey
- 12 Wanda Ferrier
- 13 Owen Shockley
- 14 Nancy J. Price
- 18 Joyce Simpson
Lucy Webster
Kristin Shockley
- 22 Judah Shockley
- 23 Jacob Baranowski
- 26 Jimmy Cathell
Eden Schofield
- 27 Connie Jones
Donald Terry
- 28 Betsy Jarrett
- 29 Laurel Morgan
Cheryl McKelvey
- 31 Dawn Moyer
- Sept. 1 Alaine Shockley



Immanuel's website can be found at www.immanuelshby.org. Sermons since 2015 can be found there in audio format. Previous issues of the **Voice** can be found under the "Events" tab.

Immanuel also has a Facebook page where you can watch the sermon each week. All previous sermons are still there since the pastor began recording them.

MYSTERY MEMBER

The young man in the picture is our highly respected and multi-talented Charles (Corky) Simpson. He was born in Wilmington, NC, at the beginning of World War II and moved to Maryland when seven years old to be closer to his dad's work. Corky was an active member of First Baptist Church, Princess Anne, made a profession of faith and was baptized when he was 11 years old.

He was graduated from Washington High School and four years later from Salisbury State College (now Salisbury University). He was also a graduate of Appalachian State

University, NC, with a masters in Administration and Supervision. While in college, he was an active member of the Baptist Student Union. His employment began as a sixth grade teacher and later became a principal and county administrator.

Corky is married to Joyce Ann Hamner and they have two children and six grandchildren. He has been involved in church music ministry, teaching Sunday School, and serving as deacon/elder for many years. His hobbies include reading and watching (on TV) historically based drama, yard work, repairing things around the house, listening to and playing music, and activities with the family.

Immanuel is fortunate in being able to use his talents and dedication to the work of the Lord. God bless him and his family.

