



SEPTEMBER 2020

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



“Light is sweet, and it
pleases the eyes to see
the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 11:7

As the fall approaches, it seems that the season’s fun has been all but canceled. Sports are out, school is virtual, and the only thing on tv is politics. While autumn’s worst, the leaves, the flu, the leaves, the encroaching darkness, did I mention the leaves? All of these remain, promising a period marked by illness, raking, politics, and more raking.

It is easy to feel down in the face of this future, isn’t it? It is easy to fixate on the past and long for a return to what we now consider “the good ole days.” Although, if we’re honest, those “ole” days are only good comparatively and were our future brighter, few of us would desire to revisit them. In a difficult present, with the prospect of a gloomy future, Immanuel, what should be our response? And I believe Scripture provides us with the answer.

In Ecclesiastes, the Preacher calls for “the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun” (Ecc 8:15). Familiar with life’s hardships, the Preacher didn’t offer empty platitudes. He wrestled with God’s

Eternal purposes in the face of sin’s effects like we do. He wasn’t an idealist, but a realist, who rather than giving up in despair, called his readers to remember the light, where this light pictured God’s goodness. For the Preacher, no matter how many “years a man may live, let him enjoy them all. But let him remember the days of darkness for they will be many” (Ecc 11:8). In other words, the reality of suffering, of accidents, cancer, racism, and surgeries, couldn’t be ignored; for they fell upon all who dwelt under the sun (Ecc 1:3). And yet, the light, which pleases the eyes, enables us to look forward in joy as we know that “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven” (Ecc 3:1).

Immanuel, as we look forward to a fall unlike any we have ever experienced, may we do so joyfully. Let us remember the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (2 Cor 4:6) by which we have been brought to life. And may we live in this light so that a watching world may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (Matt 5:16).

Rejoice!
Pastor Andrew





The deadline for submitting items of interest for the October **newsletter** is **September 19**. 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

September 2 -- No church activities

September 9 - RAs, GAs and the Adult Bible Study will begin at 6:30 p.m.

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The church voted at the meeting on August 26 to approve the recommendation of the committee to have members retain their current positions with a few exceptions. Copies of the 2020-2021 committees are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Thank You!

We wish to thank our church family for the beautiful flowers, cards, phone calls and prayers during the hospitalization and death of our dear brother "Pete." That was so kind of you and was greatly appreciated. We are blessed to have you.

God bless.

Patricia and Jerry Christiana



Jake Baranowski

401 South Duncan St.
 Stillwater, OK 74074

IMMANUEL ON MISSION

Mission Director

offering that benefits the work of our convention throughout Maryland and Delaware. Pray for internationals that have been more isolated during this pandemic and for God to be at work through social media while public schools are closed and ESL classes suspended. Also, thank you to Sara for nurturing your youngest Scout, Jesse, to be a part of local mission to our "I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. His power at work in us can do far more than we dare ask or imagine. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21 CEV) It seems whenever I get even a little discouraged that God graciously reminds me through devotions online, Bible study, small group reading material or music that together as the church in prayer, fellowship, teaching and celebration we allow the very Spirit of God to work in and through and among us to accomplish His plan and fulfill His purpose. I'm so excited when I recognize God directing various people and publications in a number of places to join together for the Gospel mission inviting us to participate in prayer with thanksgiving and giving generously. God is indeed sovereign over all so we come to Him humble yet confident because of His great love for us in Christ Jesus.

Please continue to pray for our missionaries James and Sarah staying at home again as Covid numbers increase in their community and for Paul and Laurel and the children still living in Ohio until Wycliffe lifts travel restrictions and Uganda allows travel through from the US. "Particularly during the pandemic, missionaries are waiting for God to provide and open doors for ministry or travel. Pray that missionaries who are waiting on God will be faithful to reach out to people around them even while they wait. Pray that God will be glorified." from IMB August Prayer Points

Please pray for other churches in our area collecting Bibles at this time and consider donating gently used Bibles and Christian study materials this autumn. Eden and Mike Schofield are filling the van again for an excursion to Mission Cry in Flowerville, Michigan, sometime in October. 🙏 Please continue to support the State Mission near neighbor, The Christian Shelter. We look forward to learning more!

God bless you,
Heather van Brackel

WMU

Mali People Group

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

Bible Collection

Mike Schofield reports that the Union Baptist Church in Chincoteague is conducting a Bible Drive. He has been in communication with the pastor and prays daily for him and his church as they collect Bibles.

MD/DE State Missions Offering

Every year in September our convention unites to pray for and financially support ministries that reach people in unique ways. One hundred percent of funds collected support local evangelism projects such as collegiate outreach, disaster relief, church planting, and disabled outreach, to name a few.

Watch for further information on how we too can join in prayer for ministries and find out through our prayer guide how our contributions are supporting God's work in our bi-state ministries. The Week of Prayer will be September 13-20. The theme this year is "The Nations for Christ's Glory." Our goal set by the WMU of Immanuel for the 2020 offering is \$2,600.

Paul and Laurel

Praise God for progress on preparing teaching materials for a preaching course to equip rural Congolese pastors to more effectively teach.

Praise God for good collaborating with the newly formed Scripture Engagement department of our team in Congo. We have been working together to

formalize procedures and to coordinate our activities of the different team members. This team will help language communities use their translated Scriptures and help them decide on which media formats are most effective for their needs.

Pray for wisdom about the timing of our return to Congo. In early September, we are watching three team members who are traveling back to Congo via Goma. After we get feedback from how it goes for them, we will be planning with our director. Pray for God to send us in his perfect timing!

Pray for the kids as they get back in the swing of homeschool after a great summer of swimming, sun, and family. We love you all and are so grateful for you!

James and Sarah



They had fun celebrating James' birthday last month and have also enjoyed making favorite foods they never had the energy to make before, pizza rolls and egg rolls being among them. They have had another full lockdown of their city. Pray for the people here as community Covid transmission has started growing.

“Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem.” *Luke 24:46-47*



The result of heavy rains and overflowing rivers seems to be worse than previous years. Friends and partners have sent pictures of houses and whole villages completely under water. Through partnering with BGR we have already been able to send some relief packages to families who have lost food due to the floods. Many have lost houses, food and crops. Please pray for these people who are still battling the impact of covid-19 and now are dealing with the effects of monsoon season and heavy flooding as well.

They appreciate our prayers and partnership very much and hope to see us in October or November.

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
Wicomico N. H.
Rm. 300
900 Booth St.
Salisbury, MD 21801

Cindy Muenster
105 S. Saratoga St.
Salisbury, MD 21804

BIRTHDAYS

September

- 1 Alaine Shockley
- 3 Emily Van Zandt
- 4 Chloe Marshall
- 9 Jim Aurelio
- 10 Melissa Powell
- 16 Heather van Brackel,
- 18 Paul Braungart
- 21 Walter Scarborough
- 22 Jeff Lang
Emma Marshall
- 25 Mike Schofield
- 28 Faye Brittingham

MORE MISSION NEWS

Two miles from Immanuel Baptist Church, there is a place called The Christian Shelter. Many of you have heard of it, but what do you know about this ministry that is right in our neighborhood?

The Christian Shelter opened in December 1980 as a temporary, emergency shelter providing safe housing and meals and up to 72 homeless people. The shelter points hurting people to resources for employment, counseling, financial assistance and stable housing which offers the possibility of a more lasting change. Even more important, however, is the opportunity to receive the life changing power of Jesus Christ offered to Shelter guests daily through staff prayer and spiritual direction and the ministry of volunteer clergy and church leaders in evening devotions and Sunday worship.

Jesse Baranowski has been volunteering there for several months. He chose to work with the Shelter with his Eagle Project. They asked if he would help clean up their clothing ministry building. There were many unwanted items and loads of clothing to be taken away which were donated to Habitat for Humanity and HALO. He repaired the ceiling, installed lighting and added accordion doors for their indoor closets. He then constructed hanging rods for clothing and shoe racks and

installed a countertop and a shelf providing them tools for better organization.

The Christian Shelter is a wonderful mission right in our back yard that is a tax-exempt, charitable organization, provided for through the generosity of God's people. The shelter receives no governmental financial support. While not affiliated with any particular denomination, it receives a large portion of its support from local churches and Christian groups and individuals. Businesses and civic organizations also provide significant support.

There are individuals in our church who have supported the Shelter with donations of food, clothing and cleaning supplies. Our mission team is considering how we, as a church, can partner with them to be intentional about how best to support them. Look for more information in next month's Voice.



LIGHTEN YOUR BURDEN

Did you ever stop to ask what a yoke is really for? Is it to be a burden to the animal which wears it? It is just the opposite. It is to make its burden light. Attached to the oxen in any other way than by a yoke, the plow would be intolerable; worked by means of a yoke, it is light.

Christ knew the difference between a smooth yoke and a rough one, a bad fit and a good one. The rough yoke galled, and the burden was heavy; the smooth yoke caused no pain, and the load was lightly drawn.

Christ saw that men took life painfully. To some it was a weariness, to others failure, to many a tragedy, to all a struggle and a pain. How to carry this burden of life had been whole world's problem. And here is Christ's solution: "Carry it as I do. Take life as I take it. Look at it from my point of view. Interpret it upon my principles. Take my yoke and learn of me, and you will find it easy. For my yoke is easy, sits right upon the shoulders, and therefore my burden is light."

--Henry Drummond

BIBLE QUIZ

The Bible mentions mountains, numerous times. Three mountains are listed in the first column below. In the second column are the names of three people, each of whom was on a mountain. Draw a line from the mountain to the man associated with it.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mount Sinai | A. Elijah |
| 2. Horeb | B. Jesus |
| 3. Mount of Olives | C. Moses |



