



February 2021

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



“We wait in hope for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.”

Psalm 33:20

This past week, Joe Biden took the oath of office becoming the forty-sixth president of the United States of America. His inauguration comes at a volatile time for our country and our world. The virus known as COVID-19 continues to evolve creating more virulent strains. Death tolls continue to rise and despite the best efforts of experts the world over to chart a course out of this storm, it appears our current crisis will be our foreseeable future.

Many had hoped a change in office would bring relief from this present struggle and restore past prosperity. Others viewed such hope with skepticism and no little fear that change would only annul the gains of the previous four years. All agreed that times were dire and our world in desperate need of aid.

Our outgoing and incoming leaders claimed to know the way forward; whether it was by opening our souls or closing our borders. However, neither acknowledged their powerlessness in the face of this pandemic. Both promised us hope, but a hope rooted in humanity.

For one, this hope’s source is standing together, unified by a spirit of tolerance. For the other, hope lies in our strength and power as people with unlimited potential. Neither displayed humility in the face of this disease or directed their constituents to

petition the God under whom our nation, per our pledge, supposedly stands. Neither called for divine aid in the face of this current adversary. And neither recognized the real limits of their proposed plans.

Church, as Scripture attests and history has recorded, our lasting hope does not lie in elected leaders and their plans for their first one-hundred days in office. Nor is it found in the discoveries of science and the potential protection offered by vaccines. Our hope, the world’s hope, is in the gospel of Jesus Christ. “He is our help and our shield. In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name” (Ps 33:20–21).

Immanuel, may we not succumb to the siren song of politicians be they red or blue. They are not our hope, and this is not our home (Phil 3:20). Let us wait in hope for the LORD and “May [His] unfailing love rest upon us...even as we put our hope in [Him]” (Ps 33:22).

Rejoice!

Pastor Andrew



NEW office hours for this year

MON: 9:00 to 1:00

WED: 9:30 to 1:30

THUR: 9:30 to 1:30



Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Worship

The 11:00 service will be available online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelBaptistChurchSalisbury>

COFFEE AVAILABLE

Coffee is available in the Fellowship Hall before Sunday School every Sunday. Please help yourself!

Tuesday Morning

Everyone is invited to join us in prayer Tuesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Immanuel's prayer room. If you would like to join by zoom, contact the pastor for an invitation e-mail.



WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

6:30 – Youth Group, RAs, GA's & Bible Study

Walt Scarborough is facilitating Sinclair Ferguson's "Who is the Holy Spirit?" If you miss a session you can watch this series on Right Now Media.



discipleship c

rightnow MEDIA

Have you taken advantage of RightNow Media? If your first thought is, "I don't even know what that is," then let me walk you through it. RightNow Media is an online video streaming service that our church subscribes to that has Biblical content for you to view. It has Bible studies, devotionals, videos etc. You will find content for children, youth, college, men, women, parenting, marriage and so on. Immanuel even has a tab where the pastor has put some of his favorites and our current Bible studies. How do you get it? Our church pays for the service, so it is free to you. This service is available on several devices: computer, iPhone, iPad, Android, Fire TV, Apple TV, Roku and Chromecast. You just need an

e-mail invitation from the church so you can log on to your device. Ask the office to send you an e-mail invitation, create your account and start watching!!

Women in the Word: Discipleship and Daily Reading Plan

We welcome back the ladies who participated in 2020 and any ladies who want to join us in the upcoming year. Our focus continues to be a careful study of God's Word with time for meditation. There will also be a strong focus on accountability. We will begin on **February 1st**. There will be a Zoom meeting available once a month to get together and review.

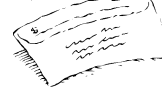
If you want to join in or if you have questions, please talk to Paula Law or Kristin Shockley.



The GA's will be collecting after the service Sunday **February 21** for Pure Water Pure Love.

Have you picked up your envelopes for 2021? If you would like a box and didn't receive one, see Judy Harris or call the office. If you received a box and no longer use them, please notify the office.

Offering Envelopes



*****IMMANUEL ON MISSION*****



Men's Cold Weather Shelter

We have the opportunity to provide lunches for 30 homeless men at the cold weather shelter this month and next. The youth will be making homemade dessert items and writing cards for the recipients. Donations for the purchase of food should be marked "local missions" and anyone interested in packing lunches should contact the church to participate. Teams will meet at the church on **Wednesday, February 24th and Sunday, March 14th** to make sandwiches and pack fruit etc. since lunches need to be delivered by 5pm. Thank you for praying for this project as we reach out to those in great need during the coldest winter months.

Mali People Group

A few years ago, Immanuel Baptist Church voted to adopt the Mali people group to pray for. We agreed to pray for missionaries, believers, and unbelievers there.

A people group is defined as a group of people with the same language, culture, and geography. The Mali people we adopted live in Rajasthan, India where James & Sarah used to live. Traditionally, they are the people who sell flowers for pooja (idol worship) at the temples. There are pockets of Mali people all throughout India and even up into the tarai in Nepal.

There are over 15,000 Mali people that live in the tarai of Nepal. We know of one believer and have heard reports of a few others. Pray for these few believers to grow strong in their faith. Pray for boldness in sharing the Gospel to their family and friends. Pray for the Holy Spirit to do miracles in the hearts of those that are living and dying with no hope.



LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

Offerings for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supporting International Missions will be collected through the end of February. The amount given as of this writing is \$6,916.93. Please pray about your part in reaching our goal of \$7,800.

World Hunger

Thanks to all who brought their bread banks for the January collection! Our collection totaled \$357.50. The next collection will be in April. Please consider joining this mission. It's so easy to just clean out your coin purse periodically and drop them in the bank. And remember that every cent goes to this gospel mission. Empty bread banks are available in the back of the sanctuary.

FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

As we pray for missions this year, I'm still awed by the 175 years that Southern Baptists have been sending international missionaries and by God's kindness to give us that to celebrate in 2020. This January, the IMB began sending a brief prayer for personnel abroad highlighting a chapter in Genesis each day a great compliment to reading through the Bible from the beginning this new year. Find more at <https://www.imb.org/pray/> You may also join with

the South Asia IMB team as they pursue a vision for local ownership of the core missionary task for every people and place there. I'm learning to pray strategically for entry, evangelism, discipleship, healthy church formation, leadership training, partnership, and exit that national partners may take the Gospel to the many unengaged unreached people of South Asia. We have an opportunity to labor with them with a reminder to pray daily for the work there. Get the app at <https://prayasap.org/> and make a difference.

Payer Connect from NAMB posts prayer requests from our North American missionaries and chaplains every Wednesday. I so appreciate the varied opportunities and challenges for those serving in our military, correctional facilities, and health care institutions as well as pastors and church planters thankful for our prayers this last year. These folks share needs and answered prayer providing their email address so you may pray for them and send an encouraging word too. I've been so encouraged to read about God working among many faiths leading our missionaries to persons of peace within the Hindu and Muslim communities here. As a military family ourselves, I'm so grateful for chaplains deployed with our troops around the world and many faithfully praying for them and their families at home. Many of our frontline healthcare workers are laboring without chaplains on site because of the pandemic so we continue to ask God for protection and stamina until the vaccine has an impact. Find more at <https://www.namb.net/pray/> to sign up for weekly reminders!

Baptist Life Magazine is now posting articles online regularly with the much God has been doing through the churches in our region as part of Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. For good news look to <https://bcmd.org/baptistlife-online/> and give thanks for the resourceful ways that our churches have continued ministry and mission during COVID-19 reaching many online and in their communities with the Gospel as work continues providing food and teams for disaster relief. I've been reminded to pray for the spiritual needs of our BCMD partners in Kenya during this pandemic as critical needs are met creating opportunities for the Gospel to be shared by Pastors and churches in their communities.

~ Heather

Our Mission Partners**James and Sarah Morgan (IMB)**

On furlough from IMB in South Asia - "This month, one of our national partners will be doing some follow up trainings with a group that he had trained before. With his coaching, they have started 5 new churches in the past couple of years!! And they want to do more!! Pray for them as they go together to new places to share the Gospel. Pray for open doors and open hearts!" Also pray for their travel to visit partner churches and family while here in the States.

We hope to hear more from our mission partners and about what God has been doing across the country and around the world to reach people with the Gospel, translate Scripture, share oral stories, study the Bible, baptize new believers, and plant churches. Look for an opportunity via Zoom as we offer regular updates and pray for missions this year. Despite our limitations and ongoing restrictions because of COVID-19, I am greatly encouraged by unexpected answers to prayer that God is still up to much!

Salvation from sin is the greatest need of every human being. We must make it our priority to pray for the lost whether family, friend, neighbor, coworker, or stranger in light of the realities of sin in our broken world and judgment coming. May the love of God whom we worship make us unapologetically evangelistic praying for Gospel opportunities for our missionaries and opportunities to proclaim good news closer to home."

Paul & Laurel (Wycliffe)

"Greetings from dry, dusty Isiro, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)! Our family is so happy to be back here, and we know that God worked a miracle to make that happen. Our travels back went very smoothly. We passed through checkpoint after checkpoint without any difficulty, and at several points, officials showed us a great deal of grace. As you know, we were concerned about what the local immigration might say about our expired visas, but not one question was raised! ... Our kids have loved being back in Isiro, and they are settling into a good homeschool routine again. They have also made some new friends in our new neighborhood. Most every afternoon, a few friends will come over to ride

bikes and play games in the yard. All of their interactions are in Lingala, and we are so thankful that our kids jumped right back in trying to talk with their new buddies. It was such a joy for us to see our brothers and sisters here as well. The local translation organization, CITBA, has been able to continue working throughout this past year. Three languages finished typesetting their New Testaments, Budu-Nita, Budu-Koya, and Komo. This means that their translations are on the way to the printers! To the southeast of us, another language group, Omiti, are also preparing to publish their NT soon. So, over the next year, we will have four NT dedication celebrations in our region!

In addition to translation consulting, Paul also would like to see a Bible-storying program begin in the Isiro region. As people learn to accurately retell the story of Scripture, it will impact many different language communities and help the churches know how to practically engage with Scriptures. Please pray with us specifically about this plan. In particular, you can pray for Paul as he plans to meet with the top leaders of the Protestant churches in our region and propose Bible storying. Pray that God would already be at work in the hearts of these leaders and that together, they could come up with the right practical steps forward."

Bible Collection with Mission Cry

As this is being written, three containers have recently cleared their ports and these Bibles are being actively distributed throughout China, Myanmar, and India! Here's the report from Mission Cry President Rev. Jason Woolford:

In China, there are high-level government officials keeping a close eye on what we send them. These containers have cleared the port and are being received by the authentically grateful people of Hong Kong.

Burma (Myanmar) is 80% Buddhist. There are approximately 10 million Christians there, who cannot afford a Bible. We have sent nearly half a million dollars in Free Bibles and books to seminary students in Burma.

Nearly 44,000 people in India are being reached with this container of Bibles. Our missionary in India now has a permanent location where he will be able to receive future sea containers we send. 26 million Christians in India do not have access to their own Bible. With tens of millions of people coming to the Lord yearly, there is a great need for Bibles in India.

Because of your faithfulness, Asia is being flooded with the Word of God. Thank you to each and every one of you who has helped make these containers possible!

The Christian Shelter

Laundry supplies were delivered to the Christian Shelter this month which Immanuel has budgeted to do quarterly. The Shelter is always in need of cleaning supplies, especially with the COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting rules. If you would like to donate any cleaning supplies, please talk to Sara Baranowski. You may also donate money through the offering by noting the donation to the "Christian Shelter" and then we will buy the supplies and deliver them.



WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

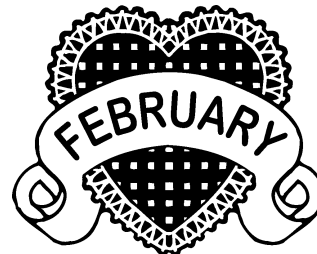
We extend our deepest sympathy to Larry Parks and his family in the death of his wife, Patty and his brother, Ernest. Patty and Ernest both passed away on December 28, 2020. Our prayers are with the family. A funeral service was held at the church on January 5th.



The deadline for submitting items of interest for the **March newsletter** is **February 22**. Please observe this deadline.



Mike & Mary Cox
29880 Kingswood Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804



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