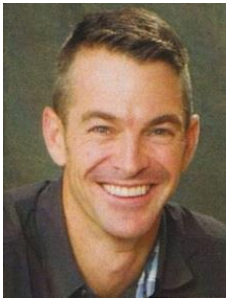




March 2021

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



**“Rejoice in the Lord always.”
Phil 4:4**

People want happiness. We want life to be joy-filled and satisfying. But reality rarely cooperates. The fact is, we live in a broken world. The happiness captured by Hallmark is fleeting. The simplicity portrayed by Norman Rockwell a myth. Yet we are drawn to these images because they picture what we lack. They convey happiness despite tragedy, innocence in the face of condemnation, and peace in the midst of war. These scenes sell paintings and post-cards, but they don't depict reality because life is hard!

Immanuel, if this past year has taught us anything, we who did not live through the horrors of Rockwell's day, it is that peace cannot be found in creation. The calamity that was 2020 affected us all, believer and unbeliever alike. We weren't spared suffering or setbacks. God didn't swoop in and save us because of our faith. In fact, in some instances, Christians faced tougher tests because of their faith. Why?

We read Paul's call to joy in the Lord always (4:4) and his promise of God's peace which transcends all understanding (4:7), but then we encounter suffering. We pray for relief and it appears our requests are ignored. We want to feel the joy to which we've been called but all we know is heartache and pain. Why?

It is easy to forget that the apostle who called the Philippians to joy also informed the Corinthians of his suffering in the province of Asia. There, Paul and his companions “were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life” (2 Cor 1:8). Paul didn't enjoy his best life now. He wasn't spared because of his calling. He suffered. Why?

Have you ever wondered why? Have you been struggling with life circumstances that appear contrary to God's promised blessings (Matt 5)? Paul did. In the midst of his suffering, God led Paul to see how everything he faced “happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead” (2 Cor 1:9). This didn't make his circumstances any easier, but it gave him the strength to stand (Eph 6:13).

Immanuel, may we stand firm in the Lord as we face trials of many kinds. And let us rejoice in Him always, knowing that we “can do everything through Him who gives [us] strength” (Phil 4:13).

Rejoice!

Pastor Andrew



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>

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

COVENANT MEETING

On **Wednesday, March 10**, we will have our quarterly Covenant Meeting. Please be present to hear what God has been doing in our fellowship. There will be normal activities for youth, RA's & GA's.

Mar. 7 – 13 – Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer

Mar. 14 - Time Change



Mar. 14 – Pack lunches for Men's Shelter
Following church service

Mar. 18 – Missions Zoom Gathering – 7:00 p.m.



Mar. 28 - Palm Sunday

Apr. 2 - Good Friday service – 6:00 p.m.

Apr. 4 – Easter Sunday



discipleship class

Mike Law is facilitating Steve Lawson's "Attributes of God," from RightNow Media. God has revealed His character in scripture, illuminating attributes that define Him. This 16-part series is a study in what GOD himself has revealed and will help to biblically understand these divine attributes. If you miss a session you can watch this series on Right Now Media.

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 any ladies who still want to join us this year. It's never too late! 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. 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.

Zoom Gathering for Mission Update and Prayer

The Mission Committee will host a 30-minute zoom meeting on March 18 at 7:00 p.m. We plan to focus on North American missionaries and some local missions Immanuel is involved in. Come talk, listen, and pray about what the Lord is doing! Contact Heather van Brackel to be sure you get an invite to join the meeting.

IMMANUEL ON MISSION

Men's Cold Weather Shelter

We had the opportunity to provide lunches for 30 homeless men at the cold weather shelter in February. The youth made homemade dessert items and wrote cards for the recipients. Volunteers worked with Johanne to pack the lunches for her to deliver.



We will meet again on **Sunday, March 14th right after the service**. Please join us if you're able. If you'd like to donate towards the purchase of food, mark your offering to "local missions." Thank you for praying for this project as we reach out to those in great need during the coldest winter months.

imb

LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

Thank you to all who helped us attain and exceed our goal. The amount given as of this writing is \$8,121.73. Praise the Lord!

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING®**
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

The Week of Prayer for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is **March 7-13**. The theme this year is "**The Mission Moves Forward**," using the scripture 1 Corinthians 15:58, "*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in*

the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

The Week of Prayer for North American missions is a time for Southern Baptist Convention churches to pray for missionaries, their ministries, and their families. Prayer is the fuel for spiritually sustaining missionaries in places where the gospel is greatly needed, but often opposed.

Though our world is facing shutdowns due to COVID-19, our missionaries are finding ways to keep the **Mission Moving Forward** as we partner in bringing the gospel to a waiting, hurting world by praying and giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Annie Armstrong is the primary way we support mission efforts in North America, which supports Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Canada, the United States, and its territories. Immanuel's 2021 goal is **\$3,500**.

God calls us to pray, give, and go!! There are still over 275 million people in North America who do not know Christ. Please pray about your participation in helping to reach this mission field.

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.

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. Please continue to pray for the first known Mali believer to grow strong in his faith and that God would call his family and neighbors to repentance and faith.

James & Sarah made us prayer cards with specific prayer requests that are found on the tables throughout the sanctuary. They are also available in the office. Please join us in lifting the Mali People up in prayer together.

FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

As we close the month of February with so much crazy winter weather, we look ahead to the promise of Spring, thankful for longer days and hopeful for more sunshine. Though we don't make much of Valentine's day in the church, let us remember the great love of God that gave Jesus the living Son of God for the sins of the world. That finished work of Christ reconciles forgiven people to God and very different people to one another in faith. I'm so grateful that the Southern Baptist Convention made Sunday, February 14th this year Racial Reconciliation Sunday. Missions Mosaic magazine celebrated the friendship of Annie Armstrong and Nannie Helen Burroughs at the turn of the century when the Civil War was still recent history. We can learn much from an older woman in the South and a much younger woman of color crossing racial lines at a similar time of unrest, racial tension, misunderstanding and deep hurt.

May we be people who continue to join hands to wipe out ignorance, to remove misunderstanding, to glorify the things of the Spirit and unify our community in Jesus' name. That's my prayer, too, for the many working across the country revitalizing and planting churches where most needed in our cities and among those from the nations seeking refuge. Look for more about the work of our North American Mission Board in the coming months as we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter offering and thank God for being up to much. Review the videos and prayer requests at www.AnnieArmstrong.com and be encouraged by the stories of our missionaries living out their faith in the midst of uncertainty and turmoil trusting God to prepare hearts as they share the Gospel.

~ Heather

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

We so appreciate James & Sarah sharing on a Sunday and hosting our first Zoom mission update and

prayer. The illustrations they presented provided so much information that we might better understand the strategy for reaching the many unengaged unreached people groups (UUPG) among the Maithili mega segment. Info sheets about the Maithili are available in the back of the Sanctuary and church office along with prayer cards for James & Sarah.

Please pray to see all 82 UUPGs engaged with the Gospel.

Paul & Laurel (Wycliffe)

Thanks so much for mobilizing people to pray! Here are some current items:

~Pray for all the Congolese kids who haven't had any school since December because of COVID. During this time, there has been no back up plan for school. There is a rumor that the schools will open tomorrow in Isiro.

~Praise God that the Lika, Komo, Budu-Nita, Budu-Koya, and Omi languages are currently recording the audio for their New Testament translations with Faith Comes By Hearing.

~These same teams have the challenge of distributing their newly printed NTs across vast regions with poor roads and also with COVID restrictions on large gatherings. Pray for effective distribution strategies.

~Pray for the Congolese Linguistics Coordinator for CITBA (local translation agency), Dominique Banotanea, who had a bad motorcycle accident on his way to the recording session for the Lika NT. He traveled by air to another town and has undergone knee surgery in a regional hospital.

~Praise God that the Fuliiru language group has sold 1,136 Bibles from their 11 sales points! The Fuliiru dedicated their translation last year right as the pandemic was beginning.

~CITBA has 8 new mobilization projects for the region around Isiro. This is the first step towards beginning a Bible translation in these languages.

Pray for the three Congolese translation consultants in training at CITBA that they would have

opportunities to complete their training and become full translation consultants.

~Praise God that in other cities, two Congolese recently met the requirements and have been approved as consultants.

~Praise God for the new house. We are settling in, and everyone is starting to feel at home here.

Thanks so much!
Paul and the family

Bible Collection with Mission Cry

Mike and Eden will be picking up another eighteen (18) boxes of Bibles and other books donated in Charlottesville, Virginia. Please continue to pray for the distribution of Bibles where most needed. There are boxes for Bibles and Christian literature in the back of the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

The Christian Shelter

Please pray for opportunities for our church to serve at the shelter as the weather warms and restrictions ease for them to host more guests. We have delivered much needed laundry supplies as promised. Thank you to those who donated cleaning supplies or money to purchase them! Extra hands are always welcome to bag surplus clothing items donated and take them to HALO for shredding. If you have questions, please talk to Sara Baranowski.



PARKING

We are so pleased to have both the East and West parking lots both paved. Both jobs couldn't have been accomplished without our support and we appreciate our confidence in your trustees. With the additional paving we now have more than ample parking for everyone on the paved surface. We are asking for your support and cooperation to no longer park on the grass areas. Again, thank you for your continued support.

~Our Trustees

COFFEE AVAILABLE

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

Sanctuary Soundboard

In December, we made you aware that our soundboard would need to be replaced sometime this year. You may have noticed problems with the speaker output and the audio of the streaming service. We believe these problems to be a result of the soundboard. It was replaced the last week of February. We are still tweaking and learning this new system. We appreciate your patience with the transition and let the office know if you have feedback.



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



MARCH

- 2 Jessica Moon
George Webster
- 3 Tabitha Morgan
Zachary Wootten
- 5 Dottie Warfield
- 7 Martha Morgan
- 16 Annie Dethloff
- 19 Leigh Ann Blades
- 23 Donald Bennett
Robert Blankenship
Gary Webster

