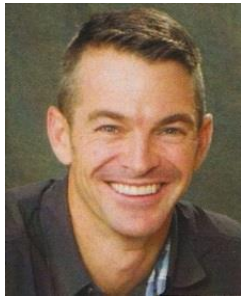




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**December 2023 VOICE of Immanuel**  
***“We exalt God above all by evangelizing, equipping  
and embracing all nations.”***

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“Blessed are...”

Matthew 5:3–12

If I could summarize our recent mission trip in a single word, it would be “convicted”. I was convicted by the commitment of those to whom we ministered. I was convicted by their rich faith in the face of radical poverty. I was convicted by their hunger for God’s Word despite high levels of illiteracy. I was convicted by their contagious joy in the gospel. I was convicted by their passion for evangelism, that their family, friends, and neighbors hear the good news of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. I was convicted by their surprise at the news that a church wasn’t birthing new churches. I was convicted by their intentionality in discipleship. I was convicted by the urgency they felt for Christ’s Great Commission. I was convicted by their understanding of God’s blessings which I generally equate with good things.

Unlike many of those we taught on our trip, I am quick to associate blessing with material bounty. I receive a raise - #blessed. I get a new job - #blessed. I get money back on my taxes - #blessed. And yet, Jesus informed a mountainside crowd that those who mourn are blessed, those who are persecuted are blessed, and those who are insulted and slandered for their faith are blessed. If this is what it means to be blessed, then it should change the way I view suffering and change the way I pray for those suffering. The brothers and sisters we served in South Asia have very little, materially speaking. But

they have a simple, childlike faith in the One who called them blessed because of it. And that was convicting.

Immanuel, may we be on our guard against the much our culture insists we merit. May we recall the warnings Jesus issued concerning money and our tendency to love it. And may we remember that true blessing can’t be bought, it can only be received by grace through faith in the One who bought it for us, Jesus!

Rejoice! ~ Pastor Andrew



**December 1 - 21** \*church  
office is open  
Monday ~ 9:00 – 1:00  
Wednesday & Thursday ~  
9:30 – 1:30

**Office is closed Dec. 22 - Jan. 3**

**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>

**Are you receiving e-mails from the church?**  
Please let us know if you are not getting the group e-mails and want to be added to the list.

## SCHEDULE



### Advent Calendar Dates for 2023

- **December 3** - First Sunday of Advent
- **December 10** - Second Sunday of Advent
- **December 17** - Third Sunday of Advent
- **December 24** - Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Dec. 3 – Dec. 10** ~ Week of prayer for  
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**Dec. 5 ~ 6:30** p.m. Women in the Word Zoom

**Dec. 6 ~ 1:30** p.m. Women in the Word Class  
6:00 p.m. Mission Night Churchwide  
Dinner

**Dec. 7 ~ 6:00** p.m. Peregrine Christmas Carol Sing

**Dec. 12~** Mission Team #2 Returns

**Dec. 17 ~ 6:00** p.m. Youth Christmas Party

**Dec. 19 ~ 9:30** a.m. Christmas wrapping @  
East Salisbury School

**Dec. 20 ~ 8:15** a.m. East Salisbury Monthly Prayer



**Sunday Dec. 24 ~ No Sunday School**  
\*10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
\*5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

**Dec. 28 ~** No Wednesday night classes

## Sunday School Classes

Are you attending Sunday Morning Bible Study? We offer something for everyone and would love to have you join us at **9:45 a.m.** each Sunday morning. Please have a glance at the list below and pray about attending one of these classes. Additionally, pray for those leading these classes and pray for those attending! We all need to grow spiritually and here is a great opportunity!

Corky Simpson is our Sunday School Director. He would be happy to answer your questions regarding any of our classes.

### Adult Sunday School Classes:

#### Jeff's class:

Curriculum: Explore the Bible for Adults

#### Quinn's class:

Curriculum: The Gospel Project for Adults

#### Mike's class:

Curriculum: Studying 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians.

#### Paula's class: Ladies' class

Study on the book, "God's Big Picture" by Vaughan Roberts.

#### NEW \* Jeremy & Carla's class:

Conversations on the Book of Luke

### Children's Sunday School

Youth: Led by Martha Morgan and Eden Schofield.  
Curriculum: The Gospel Project.

Older Children: Led by Melinda Morgan and Braedon Moyer

Younger Children: Led by Lisa Lang

## Tuesday Mornings

Everyone is invited to join us in prayer on Tuesday mornings at **7:30 a.m.** in Immanuel's prayer room.



## Wednesday Nights

**Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>,** will be a churchwide dinner at 6:00. We will be emphasizing the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering which supports International Missions. We will have Chinese food and have a program to educate us all on Lottie

Moon and this International Mission Fund. Please plan to be there!!

**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**, will be the last Bible Study until after the holidays. We will meet at 5:15 p.m. for a lite dinner and then meet at 6:00 p.m. for Kids Kamp and Adult Bible Study.

Look in next month's Voice to see Wednesday Night plans for 2024.

**December 6** – Mission Night

**December 13** – Bible Study

**December 20** – No Activities

**December 27** – No Activities

**January 3** – No Activities

**Young Adults** meet at **7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 & 13.**

### Women in the Word

Don't forget the **Zoom class will be on Monday at 6:30 p.m.** this month.

For more information, contact the office or Paula Law (410) 422-3998.

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



### 2023 Missions Giving Update

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	\$7,952.66
Pure Water/Pure Love	\$878.95
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	\$5,151.00
MD/DE State Missions Offering	\$3,123.00
Global Hunger	\$1,737.04

### Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child is a powerful way to share the message of God's love. Church partners worldwide are stepping up into the gap and are ready to share the Gospel.

Our church members and friends have turned in **15** boxes to be sent to the collection site. Others have sent money (\$25.00) to build **16** additional boxes on-line. Thanks to all who have participated in filling the boxes with gifts, love and prayers for each child that receives them!

**imb**

**LOTTIE MOON  
CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING®**

## What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the *world's greatest problem* – *LOSTNESS*. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence.

She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.

The week of prayer for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is **December 3<sup>rd</sup> – December 10<sup>th</sup>**. The theme this year is *"Impacting Lostness Together."* The International Mission Board (IMB) desires to send missionaries to the nations so that millions of people can hear the gospel. 4.6 billion people are considered unreached and over 90% of IMB teams actively engage at least one unreached people or place. You can see videos and read stories each day at [www.imb.org/weekofprayer](http://www.imb.org/weekofprayer). There are prayer guides and offering envelopes available in the sanctuary. Let's join in prayer and giving to help solve the world's greatest problem!

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of Woman's Missionary Union.

### Christmas Angel Tree for International Missions

This Christmas season our Angel Tree will be a reflection of our church's **Lottie Moon International Mission Offering** with the goal of **\$7,800**. Each angel will represent \$150 towards the goal.

### Mali People Group (Immanuel's adopted people group)

Adam & Krista are working among our Mali people and have been encouraged by meetings with the larger team and time of fellowship together. God is reaching Hindus and Muslims!



**FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR**

What to say when God has done so much in the last few months. In this Thanksgiving season, I find that I am overwhelmed by God's faithfulness to me, to our family, to our church, to our community and to our mission partners.

We have just welcomed the first team back from South Asia and soon send another with thanks from James & Sarah hosting them along with Thanh and Katie. Look for prayer cards for the unengaged unreached people groups they are working among. Find their most recent newsletter in our prayer room and commit to meeting someone to pray more often for the work there. Thanh's newsletter highlights her first many months in India and her travel to join the family in Vietnam for her brother's wedding at the end of October. Please pray that she continues to do well with language studies and settles in a new town this month.

This is our time of emphasis for International Missions, so please grab a prayer guide. Join us in thanking God for the International Mission Board and praying for the thousands of missionaries around the world reaching the lost in these eventful days. Plan to join us for dinner on December 6<sup>th</sup> to learn more about Lottie Moon and how our gifts to the Christmas Offering make a difference through our missionaries in the field. Read the Bible daily to have God's perspective on what's happening in the news, pray for the lost and look for opportunities to share the hope that we have in the One who is writing the story!

~ Heather

**OUR MISSION PARTNERS****James & Sarah (IMB)**

Hey from South Asia! We have been in a busy season...year....but it's been really good. We have been super blessed with the two teams coming and serving with us. They are clarifying what the True Gospel is, as opposed to what the prosperity gospel says. It's a big need as false ideas slowly and easily creep in from false teachers and things seen on the internet. And thank you for all the things the teams have brought over - what a fun blessing to get goodies from home:) Pray for us in this Christmas season. As festivals are so important here, people enjoy adding another reason to party. Pray for open hearts and opportunities to share the real reason for

the season! We are praying for you there as you seek to grow in Christ and reach out to others.

~Your Team in South Asia



Our first team successfully made the trip and returned. Our second team left in late November and will be home December 12<sup>th</sup>.

A prayer guide for the second team is

available at the church. We will hear from both teams after the holidays.

*As the team shares, pray for those that will hear this training, that any misunderstandings or uncertainties about the Gospel will be cleared up. Pray that they will be confident in what they believe and bold in sharing it with others. Pray that His name be glorified.*

**Paul & Laurel Morgan (Wycliffe)**

Hello from Isiro! We're happily settled back home in Congo. We'd like to add in an extra prayer request for the current Scripture checking session that was supposed to start this last Monday. Three of the six teams have not yet arrived because they encountered a flooded river, so they had to backtrack and come a different way. Then on that route, one of the bridges was just washed away so they will be canoed across. Please pray for their safe travels, health, and stamina for this very difficult journey.

Also please continue to pray for peace around the town of Goma and for elections on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks so much for praying for us and for staying in touch!



### Mission Cry

Mike and Eden drove a shipment of Bibles and Christian literature to Mission Cry Headquarters in Michigan this fall. The staff at Mission Cry was grateful for the donation. It is a pleasure to serve in this ministry with the help of our church family. Thank you for your donations.

### East Salisbury



Please join the next ministry opportunity with many hands needed to wrap gifts for about 500 students shopping at the "Christmas Store" for their families on **December 19<sup>th</sup>**.

There is a morning session starting at **9:30 a.m.** and an afternoon session at **1:00 p.m.** This is a wonderful time to interact with our Faith Partner. If you are interested in helping, please contact the office or Sara Baranowski

We continue to attend **prayer meetings** at the school media center at **8:15 a.m.** monthly. In November we had 13 students and 12 adults sharing praises and prayer requests. At the end of our time, a student asked to sing a song called "I Give Myself Away" by William McDowell. It was a special experience. Please join us!



### Wednesdays

Dec 20

Jan 17

Feb 21

Please continue to pray for our students, teachers, and families at East Salisbury School during this school year.

### ESL

ESL classes conclude this semester with a Christmas dinner hosted by staff for our students and their families. We have enjoyed record numbers attending, adding classes but turning away too many. The morning Bible study for ladies will meet for breakfast before taking a holiday break. Classes will resume after the New Year with opportunity for many more hands to serve the nations as God brings many to our community. Pray for workers and what's next for this growing ministry to meet needs in Jesus' name.

### Peregrine Senior Living Center



We have a faithful group of ladies and gentlemen meeting every Tuesday morning, 10:30 a.m., at Peregrine. Bob has tackled the Book of Romans with great enthusiasm. Though we miss Erma, we continue to enjoy hymns with Corky playing the piano or keyboard.

Pray for our folks there as they struggle with unwanted limitations and find God's grace sufficient each day.

Please join us, everyone is welcome!

Come sing **Christmas Carols and Hymns** with the many residents at Peregrine on **Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 o'clock.**

### South Asia Mission Trip

*We have two teams of four members who have responded to the invitation to join the trip to South Asia in November.* Please pray for safe travel and a successful trip. We trust that God will bring all the details together as they prepare and travel such a long distance this month. May their time be full of unexpected mercies as God does more than we ask or think by the Holy Spirit at work in through and among them. Pray for the teams as they work to reach the many unengaged unreached people groups.

Look for more information as the teams will make you aware of their prayer requests and then share with the congregation upon their return home.



### Taylor's Takes

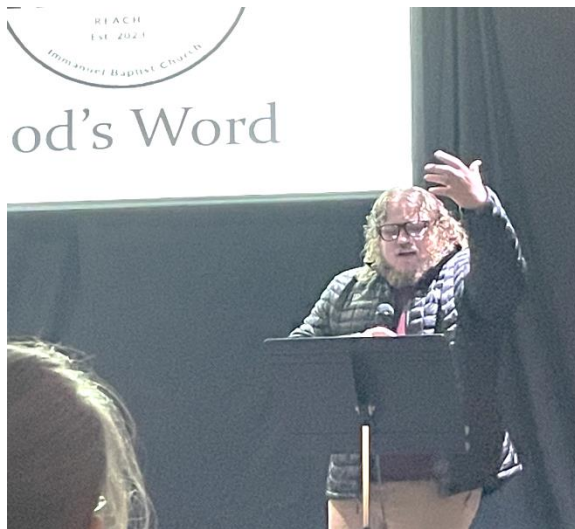
Hello, Church! We had our second Reach event in November, and it was a great night. Thank you to everyone who came and prayed for the event.

Richard Pope was our speaker, and he did a phenomenal job. I know he reminded me of how important it is to pray to God daily, especially for the life of a believer. He also reminded us that God is the same God, and he never



changes. It was great to see the youth lead through worship and games and see how much they want the people around them to have a relationship with God the Father.

We will have a youth Christmas party on the 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Please pray for the youth group during the busy Christmas season so we remember the main reason we celebrate, our Savior was born to come and save us from our sins.



**Richard Pope**



**Reach!**



## **Women in the Word Brunch**

Our Women in the Word ministry sponsored a ladies' brunch on Saturday, November 11th. We enjoyed delicious food, fellowship, and even door prizes!

Aracelia Monds shared with us about her journey to overcome cancer. It was an encouraging testimony of God's goodness in the midst of a very serious and life-threatening illness. She described her darkest times as a feeling of being "completely broke" and how this sense of helplessness led to her becoming totally dependent upon the Lord. She also shared how "fear vs. anxiety" was a continual reality, but God was faithful to meet her every need as He granted her both a sense of peace and hope even in the darkest of times.

We also heard from Erma Sheats via a video that was recorded in October of this year. In this short video clip, we learned about Erma's parents, her birthplace, and that she grew up in a Christian home. Erma had a Christian heritage and we who know Christ do as well! At a future brunch, which you will not want to miss, we will hear more wise words from Erma.



### Mission Night Emphasis on Turkey

Mission Night in November emphasized the country of Turkey. Mike and Paula Law discussed their time as missionaries there. They explained what they did and gave us specific people to pray for. Several tried on clothing, and we all got to sample several snacks from there. It was fun and informative! Please join us December 6<sup>th</sup> when we learn about China.



## revive CONFERENCE

The Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware's 2024 Revive Women's Conference will be held March 8-9, 2024, in Annapolis, MD. This special two-day event will be filled with worship, engaging breakouts, inspiring Bible teachers, and time with an amazing community of women. Last year ten IBC ladies attended, and we were truly blessed. We'd like to get another group of women to attend next year's conference and since space is limited. We hope to register early in 2024. The cost for the conference is \$40. If you are interested in getting more information, please contact Barbara Israel at [bkisrael@gmail.com](mailto:bkisrael@gmail.com), or call or text her at the number in the directory.

### *With Deepest Sympathy*

We would like to acknowledge the passing of two former members of Immanuel, **June Harris** and **Bruce Hall**. Both were very involved and loved by Immanuel. After retiring, they both moved south but each family returned for visits when in the area. Please keep their family in your prayers.



**June Harris**

Dan and June Harris were members of Immanuel Baptist Church (approximately) from 1979-1997. There will be a funeral service Saturday, December 2nd, 1:00 p.m. at Seaford Presbyterian Church, 701 Bridgeville Highway, Seaford, Delaware. A visitation will precede the service at 12:30 p.m.





**Bruce Hall**

Bruce and Betty were members of Immanuel Baptist Church from 2003 - 2016. Bruce was on our prayer list as he had been battling cancer. Please pray for his wife Betty and their family during this time of loss.

*thank you*

I would like to thank my family at Immanuel for their thoughtfulness and prayers after the sudden death of my son. It is greatly appreciated.

~ Judy Harris

### Christmas Cards

If you would like to send Christmas cards *to those who attend services regularly*, you can put them in the church mailboxes at the back of the sanctuary. If you wish, you may put the postage money saved in the offering plate and designate it to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.



*Please check your church mailbox during this Christmas season.*

**rightnow** MEDIA

We will be terminating our church subscription January 1<sup>st</sup>. We hope you have enjoyed this service. Let the office know if you have questions.



- 2 Asher Tran
- 3 Hyung Kim
- 7 Judy Harris
- 11 Maureen Dohr
- 21 Melody Hitch
- 23 Noah Morgan





## **Prayer List for December**

### **The “Long Term” Prayer List**

Carolyn Aurelio  
Julia Brandt, Crohn’s disease (Shirley Wood)  
Maureen Dohr  
Shirley Manning, at Chesapeake Cottages  
Bill Nibblett, COPD, and other things  
Joan Phillips, Wicomico nursing home  
Melissa Powell  
Dee Ward, vision loss  
Paul Ferrier, home with care  
Remy, surgery healing on leg  
Judith Scherr, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s  
Paul Braungart, back and leg pain  
Gary Webster, cancer treatment  
Cheryl Moore for healing  
Judy Harris loss of son Joe

### **Answered Prayers**

Bibles delivered to Mission Cry  
Safe travel for Thanh and parents to Vietnam  
Prayer with East Salisbury staff in the school

### **Mission & Ministry**

Christmas Shoebox Ministry  
Tuesday morning prayer  
Women in the Word  
Youth meeting Sunday nights

### **Special Requests**

Travel for mission team to S. Asia  
Members caring for family at home  
Prayer for Families with losses

### **Medical**

Darrel Bell, cancer (J. Nibblett)  
Joe Wheeler, cancer of blood treatments (Carrie)  
Rose Shahid, neck pain and vertigo  
Araceli Monds, home recovering  
Peggy Truitt, praying for healing  
Ed Dohr, cancer  
John Brenner, broken hip  
Nancy Lambert, headaches & high blood pressure

### **Immanuel on Mission**

#### **Mission Partners**

James & Sarah IMB S. Asia  
Paul & Laurel Wycliffe  
Thanh in South Asia  
Adam & Krista IMB among Mali People  
Peregrine Senior Living Center  
East Salisbury Elementary  
ESL classes  
Christian Shelter  
Mission Cry  
Canvas Church

**Thank you for updating prayer  
requests with the office!**

