



IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH

April 12, 2020

Announcements

Easter Service:

This Sunday, in addition to the message, we plan to set time aside during the service for a virtual communion. Obviously, each household will need to provide their own elements. Our virtual communion will remind us of Jesus' sacrifice, so don't get hung up on what to use for the "bread" and "wine."

30 Day Challenge:

Starting this past Sunday, we rolled out a 30-day challenge for our kids to read the Bible. If kids complete the 30-Day challenge and read their Bible for the appropriate amount of time each day AND bring their completed Challenge Form to Sunday School/church on May 10, they will receive a prize. *(Given current events, this date is a fluid one. We will keep you updated.)* The challenge details and form were emailed out. It's not too late to start – just keep track of your reading!

Church Office Closed:

Office hours are now cancelled until further notice due to the "Stay at Home" order. We will continue to update you as the situation requires.

Sunday Morning Prayer:

During the Coronavirus crisis, Sunday morning prayer time continues via teleconferencing at 8:30 AM. You can use the call in number: 605-313-5297 – Access Code: 577829. Contact Rod Bowers if you have questions.

Instructions on Giving:

There are two ways to remain faithful in giving back to the Lord.

- You can mail your check to Immanuel Bible Church (145 East Summit Street, Chelsea, MI 48118).
Dropping a check off at church is no longer an option as the office is now closed until further notice due to the "Stay at Home" order.
- Give online using the secure giving platform on our website Click on the "Financial Giving" link in the top right corner of IBC's home page at ibcchelsea.com.

Instructions to view or listen to this week's message:

Go to the church website at ibcchelsea.com, and you'll see instructions on the main page. You can join us in worship this Sunday morning by clicking on the word SERMONS in the menu bar above, or on the "Sermons" bubble you can reach by scrolling down to the "Preaching the Word" section. This week's sermon will be the first one listed. You can either listen or watch by clicking on the links.

Opportunities for Assistance:

IBC would like to take the opportunity to serve those in our church and community who may need assistance during this time. PLEASE let us know how we can serve you. A couple of current outreaches that are available until further notice include:

- Grocery/errand runs for those who are high risk. For those who are high risk (elderly, immunocompromised, pregnant or sick), let us help pick up and deliver your groceries, medications, or anything else you might need. We have had numerous volunteers offer to help with grocery pick-up.
- Child care on a limited basis. For those in need of child care during this time, please let us know. We have several families available to help watch kids on a limited basis.
- Please contact one of the elders to coordinate any needs; this includes anything you may need help with that is not included on this list as well. Please feel free to extend this offer to any person you may know of that needs extra support or encouragement during this time.

IBC Missions Update

WorldVenture/Carl & Cindy Reed:

March 28, 2020: Greetings from the Reeds in Indonesia in the midst of the world-wide Corona Virus pandemic! Probably many of you receiving this letter are also in areas of the world where the pandemic is raising its ugly head. We have been "sheltering in place" in our house here in Yogyakarta since last Sunday (March 22). The week before that Carl taught a doctoral class in Salatiga (Theology of the Historic Books: Joshua-Esther), but shortened the class to three days, returning to Yogyakarta on Wednesday, March 18th. That week Universitas Kristen Immanuel (UKRIM) (where Cindy teaches), started to limit the size of gatherings, canceling chapel. Cindy went to campus to teach her Tuesday (March 19th) class, but because students were afraid, only five out of 13 showed up. Since then, the University has gone over to online teaching, using Google Classroom and WhatsApp on hand phones to interact with students.

The Evangelical Theological Seminary of Indonesia (ETSI) has also gone to online teaching for the bachelor program. At present the courses scheduled for the masters and doctoral programs have been suspended, so Carl's busy teaching schedule is suddenly lighter. However, Carl continues to work with three master's students and four doctoral students as they are writing their theses and dissertations.

Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world, with 270 million people, and about half of the population lives on the island of Java (which has roughly the land area of Ohio), so there are a LOT of people living close together here. As of today, the government has documented 1,046 cases of corona virus in Indonesia, with 87 deaths, but since testing is very limited, there are estimates that the actual cases of virus at present are over 35,000. The number of cases will probably jump drastically in the next couple of weeks, and the medical system here is not equipped to handle them. Also, since there are so many poor people here, many people don't have the funds to stock up on food, or even enough to buy food if they can't work. We are starting to network with the university and seminary, plus with our national church workers to see how we can best minister in the midst of this developing crisis. At present, we only know of two or three possible cases of the coronavirus among students or church workers, though one man who teaches in another seminary in Solo died from the virus over a week ago. In our immediate community, we haven't heard of any cases yet. Even though the government is encouraging people to stay at home, many people in our neighborhood still were attending the weekly Friday mosque services yesterday.

We have decided to stay in Indonesia. We are in good health, but because of our age (Carl 67, Cindy 77), we are in a higher risk group. During this last week we have stocked up on enough food and supplies to last a couple of months without having to go out, and are making all our contacts with people via phone/internet.

Pray that Cindy and I are able to keep from catching the virus over the next couple of months.

Pray for the seminary and university staff and students in this crisis.

Pray that Cindy and I will have wisdom on how we can best minister to others while "sheltering in place."

Pray for the Indonesian government as they try and deal with the coronavirus crisis.

Pray that God will work in all of this to continue to bring people to Himself.

Church Contact Information

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Office hours: *Closed until further notice*