



# IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH

May 24, 2020

## Announcements

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### Sunday Morning Prayer:

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

### Senior Center Help:

IBC is mowing the garden area at the Senior Center. It takes about 45 minutes, and needs to be done once a week. A reliable push mower is located in the shed next to the garden. We need people to sign up for July, August, and September. Please contact Carl if you can help (carlschwarze@gmail.com or 734-323-3527).

## IBC Missions Update

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### Sam & Kari Bruce/Ethnos360

May 12, 2020: It was a little less than four years ago that we began this crazy process of adoption. It was a step of faith and definitely came with some trepidation as to what it could bring. Never in my wildest dreams



could I have imagined being able to witness the work of the Lord so clearly. The fact that we find ourselves in Madagascar, during a global pandemic, with our beautiful little boy, and finally able to say that he is legally our son...is a miracle!! One week ago, Rovon officially became a Bruce! Of course, he's been with us over two months and already is "ours" in our minds. The process to get permission to finalize the adoption and get all the needed papers was intense. We went to the courthouse, city hall, Ministry of Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice, passport office, and the US embassy more than 15 times in the last few weeks. These are all about an hour away from where we are staying. But to be finally done with the adoption process is such a huge relief. Friends of ours who know what paperwork entails here keep saying "It could only be God who moves things along that fast."

I think of all the negative things happening in our world right now. Not one person is unaffected by this pandemic. But we have been able to witness God working good despite all of the setbacks, delays, disappointments and difficult circumstances. I hope that each of you can also find little nuggets of joy and encouragement as you walk this journey. For us it's been our son. He is doing so well! He is still not speaking much but we have seen definite progress. He is healthy, cuddly, a great eater (as you can see), and always ready with a smile. We are blessed by him already and can't wait for you to meet him!

What's next for us? Well, we are still in Madagascar :) After his court paperwork was finished, we began to work on his exit paperwork. Yesterday, another miracle happened as somehow we were able to apply for AND collect his passport in ONE day! This was after days of doing other paperwork we needed to do to even get to that point. Our caseworkers have been bending over backwards for us. They are heroes! It's been stressful but we're so thankful that things are getting checked off the list. The remaining things to do are to get his visa at the US Embassy (have been assured that it will be finished tomorrow) and then find our flight back to the USA!! Please pray that the Lord will work out all the details of a flight back and that the costs would be within reason. The international airport is closed! So it will take a special evacuation flight for us to get out. We hope to hear something soon as to whether we can get onto a flight out of here.



Thank you for your prayers for this process. We plan to be in the states to get his US paperwork, do medical check-ups, and introduce him to family. Obviously, COVID-19 complicates it all as we will not be able to visit with family and friends for a while after we return. We are also aware that it is currently not possible for us to return to our home in Asia Pacific until they open the borders back up. We pray that this doesn't delay our return too much longer than we were planning (August) but it's a possibility. Would you pray that somehow the Lord would open up a path to return home soon? We miss our village life and long to see our coworkers, our Asmat friends, our home, and of course introduce everyone to our new son. Greyson and Amelia ask about going home several times a week and we hate that we have no answers for them. Trusting the Lord to bring us home in His perfect timing. Until then, we will make the most of our time in the USA.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We know full well that you are also facing troubles of many kinds. Please don't hesitate to write us and share all you are going through. Now is the time for us to lift each other up and be an encouragement! We hope we can encourage you as you have us, Sam, Kari, Greyson & Amelia

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### **Church Office Closed:**

The church office is closed until further notice due to the "Stay at Home" order.

### **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).
- 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](http://ibcchelsea.com).

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

Go to the church website at [ibcchelsea.com](http://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.

### **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.

### **Church Contact Information**

Website: [www.ibcchelsea.com](http://www.ibcchelsea.com)

Email: [immanuelbiblechurch@comcast.net](mailto:immanuelbiblechurch@comcast.net)

Pastoral Search Committee: [ibcchelsea.psc@gmail.com](mailto:ibcchelsea.psc@gmail.com)

Associate Pastor: David McCune ([cwbydave84@gmail.com](mailto:cwbydave84@gmail.com))

Interim Pastor: Russ Park ([russapark@gmail.com](mailto:russapark@gmail.com), 989-277-2574)

IBC Elders: Jerry Benjamin (313-910-8971, [jwbneb@gmail.com](mailto:jwbneb@gmail.com))

Rod Bowers (734-417-0200, [rodbowers@aol.com](mailto:rodbowers@aol.com))

Steven Bonnett (734-747-1006, [opus17@hotmail.com](mailto:opus17@hotmail.com))

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Church offices: 145 E. Summit St., Chelsea, MI

**Office hours: *Closed until further notice***