

November 17, 2009

Dear Members & Friends of Immanuel,

THE MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

***Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.***

1 Thessalonians 5:11

We live in a bad news, negative report, complaining world. In this statement, I am not complaining, simply making an observation.

Certain ministries need specific talents and specialized training. The ministry of encouragement needs neither. It is universal in deployment. Everyone needs it and everyone can give it. Encouragement is a valuable, and often underused, spiritual discipline.

I am thankful that Immanuel Baptist Church has a number of people who are 'consummate encouragers.'

Pastor Dan, Pastor Mike and I are also very grateful for the concentration of encouragement extended to us and our families during Pastor Appreciation Month. Serving the Lord as your pastors at Immanuel is a tremendous privilege and an awesome responsibility. To that end, we not only appreciate your prayers and encouragement, we need your prayers and encouragement. Thank you for the many ways that so many of you expressed your appreciation last month. We are grateful that, at Immanuel, this kind of support extends to the other eleven months as well. Also, thank you for your financial gift to us that was beyond generous. We continue to commit ourselves to serving our Lord and serving you in a manner that is glorifying to our God.

EVANGELISM EXPLOSION INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

My personal involvement with Evangelism Explosion International (we know this ministry as E3 at Immanuel) began in 1976, during my second year in seminary. I am grateful to the Lord for the timing of this, because it has had a profound impact on my ministry priorities. It has been my privilege to introduce hundreds to Jesus Christ, to train thousands of pastors and lay people to share the Gospel and equip others, and to travel to numerous states and foreign countries to teach Leadership Training Clinics. Over the years I have also been involved in writing and revising the training materials used in the EE ministry worldwide.

Since I have been at Immanuel, I have pretty much limited my involvement to our ministry of E3 here. It is now time for me to return to a more active and international role with EE. I have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of EE International. This role will afford the opportunity of being involved in developing strategy and initiatives as EE seeks to remain a vital force in local churches around the world into the future.

This participation will take me away from Immanuel approximately 12 days each year. In the first quarter of 2010 I will travel to FortLauderdale in February and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in March. Please pray for this ministry involvement and the worldwide ministry of Evangelism Explosion.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Few holidays have generated more family traditions than Thanksgiving. I hope that your family celebration will be a spiritually enriching experience this year.

Immanuel will have its traditional Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 25 at 7 PM in the Worship Center. It is good for followers of Christ to join for a celebration of thanksgiving as we begin the four day holiday weekend.

PASTOR'S FORUM

The Pastor's Forum is a group multi-tasking gathering. We are able to accomplish a number of goals:

- Giving an opportunity for you to get to know me and for me to get to know you in a small group setting.
- Discussing the history, beliefs, ministries and priorities of Immanuel.
- Providing the information necessary for those the Lord might be leading to make Immanuel their church home.

The next Pastor's Forum will be held on Saturday, December 12 from 9 am to Noon in the Fellowship Room at church. There will be a continental breakfast beginning at 8:30 am. You can register for the forum on the "R" Card in the bulletin the next few weeks, by calling the church office at 359-2422 or emailing je@ibcwausau.org.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDIES

The celebration of the birth of Christ is cause for Pastors and Worship Leaders to work diligently to present corporate worship experiences focused on the marvelous event of God sending His sinless Son into this sin-soaked world. Pastor Mike and I are investing quite a bit of time into this priority so that December has a proper focus here at Immanuel.

The title of the five-part December Bible study is "Let Us Go Straight to Bethlehem." You will recognize that as a quote from the shepherds following their angelic encounter. The individual studies are:

December 6	Bethlehem & Creation	John 1:1-5
December 13	Bethlehem & Revelation	John 1:9
December 20	Bethlehem & Salvation	John 1:10-13
December 24	Bethlehem & Incarnation	John 1:14
December 27	Bethlehem & Sanctification	John 1:15-18

Additionally, there is a new event being planned this year. On Sunday evening, December 20 at 6 pm we will have an ***Immanuel Family Christmas Celebration***. Pastor Mike and key lay leaders are preparing and coordinating this event.

Please join us in praying for and preparing yourself for a spiritually significant celebration of the birth of our Lord!

STRONG STEWARDSHIP & YEAR END GIVING

In spite of the economic downturn and employment difficulties, Immanuel continues to experience the committed stewardship of so many. In each of the first ten months of 2009, the general fund giving is above the same month in 2008. Since stewardship is more of a spiritual matter than a money matter, I believe that this is an indication of ongoing and, hopefully, profound individual and family spiritual growth. As each of us remains committed to Biblical stewardship, the year end giving during the last weeks of 2009 will remain strong.

Partnering with you in the work of the Gospel,

Dr. James F. Engle
Senior Pastor