

Emmanuel *God With Us*

A Christmas Prayer from the staff of The Orchard

The birth of Jesus was foretold by prophets and declared by angels.

An angel announced to the shepherds, "Fear not ... for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

To Mary, an angel brought an amazing announcement. "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

Joseph also received a message from an angel. "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." And then Matthew adds:

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the



At this Christmas season, we as a staff, pray that you will know Jesus, that you will know Him as your Savior, and that you will be filled with the joy of His presence—God with you. As you worship through music and through the messages from God's Word, we pray that you will find yourself "singing alleluia, our God is with us."


prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel"—which means, "God with us."

This baby whose birth we celebrate is Jesus, the Son of the Most High, the Savior, Emmanuel—God with us.

What an astonishing fact. Jesus became a man and walked this earth. John says, "The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us." But, even more astounding, He has ascended to the Father and now, through the Holy Spirit, is with us!

Throughout the year, you bless us in so many ways. We appreciate your faithful prayer, your generous support, and your selfless love and help. Thank you for allowing us to serve in this wonderful place. It is a privilege to work side-by-side with you.

Yours warmly in Christ,



Colin S. Smith
and the entire staff of The Orchard

Merry Christmas from the staff of the Arlington Heights Campus



(From top left) Ted Olsen, Frank Pollina, Bing Nieh, Brad Wetherell, Bob Warren, Tom Olson, Dan Wells, Annie Jenkins, Matt Zaubi, Michelle Miramonti, Linda Hrivnak, Carla Himpelmann, Linda Green, Liz Sutherland. (Not pictured: Eri Heck, Richard McConnell, and Tim Patterson.)

At the birth of Jesus, God came to live among us and now He lives with us

*We're singing alleluia,
we're singing alleluia.*

*We're singing alleluia,
we're singing alleluia.*

*Emmanuel, our **God is with us.***

December Preaching Schedule

December 11-12

*How the Coming of Christ
Brings and Relieves Fear*
Pastor Colin Smith

December 17-18

David's Story
Pastor Colin Smith

December 23-25

Arlington Heights Campus

December 24: 3 & 5 PM

December 25: 10 AM

Barrington Campus

December 23: 7 PM

December 24: 2 & 4 PM

December 25: 10 AM

Itasca Campus

December 24: 4 PM

December 25: 10 AM

For this reason we kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. We pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.**

And we pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, **according to His power that is at work within us**, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. From Ephesians 3:14-20

Merry Christmas from the staff of the Barrington Campus



(From top left) Matt Stanghelle, Kevin Meek, Russell Flynt, Russ Williams, Josh Newton, Ben Sincock, Wendi Serna, Laura Kleinschmidt, Marilyn Coe. (Not pictured: Jonathan Anderson.)

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Mark 10:27

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be **with you all**. 2 Corinthians 13:14

Merry Christmas from the staff of the Itasca Campus

(From left) Katie Smith, Greg Norwine, Jared Hendricks. (Not pictured: David Smith.)

I have been crucified **with Christ**. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ who lives in me**. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20



Merry Christmas from the Central Staff of The Orchard

Colin Smith, Scott Lothery, Bill Bradish, Claire Bechard, Laura Decker, Laura Eder, Russell Flynt, Ruth Guillaume, Mary Lou Hess, Tom Hutchison, Cindi Johnson, Russ McCune, Bjorn Olsen, Kathy Ruda, Mariel Schmitt, Rob Soukup, Georgette Steiger, Shohei Suzuki, Rita Thompson, Renee Veenendaal, Sandy Williams, Mary Zoss.

Missionary Focus

Jay and Kathy Pinney

Montreal Quebec/ReachGlobal



Jay and Kathy work with ReachGlobal (EFCA) and began their ministry in 1994 as church planters in Canada. Montreal is the second largest French-speaking city

in the world, and fewer than 1 percent of Quebecers attend an evangelical church. Jay's church planting ministry also reaches Europe. Recently he met with Paris church planters and leaders to discuss evangelism methods. While in Europe Jay learned from another leader that 1,100 new churches and home groups have been planted in Europe.

- PRAY for denominational leaders across Canada as they plan for church plants.
- PRAY for Pastor Moise and his wife Francoise from Haiti, who have been refused a visitor visa to Canada for needed training for the Overturning Strongholds Retreat in Haiti.
- PRAY for the youth of Quebec, that they will be strong enough in their faith to draw others to the Gospel.

Lowe and Yvonne Bibby

North Carolina/Bridges International



Lowe and Yvonne share the Gospel with students and scholars through Bridges International, student ministry. Their goal is to reach future world leaders

who are currently in the U.S., trusting they will return to their home countries with the Gospel.

Ministry is accomplished through social events, Bible studies, opportunities to practice English, and making American friends. This year the team has gathered contact information from more than 400 new students who want to participate in the activities during the academic year. Students are cared for in practical ways such as finding furniture, going shopping, and getting settled in America.

- PRAISE for the hundreds of new international students at NC State.
- PRAY for an effective outreach to all the new international students.
- PRAY that our children Ruth and Haydn will continue to grow in their walks with the Lord.

Kevin and Amy Hander

Florida/Agape Flights Aviation



Agape Flights is a non-denominational Christian aviation ministry dedicated to serving more than 300 missionary families living in the Caribbean nations

by delivering mail, cargo, and critical ministry supplies.

Kevin specifically is the Cargo Manager for flights to Haiti, Bahamas, and Dominican Republic. He manages the volunteers who handle shopping for lists received from the missionaries. During this holiday season, 13,000 lbs of cargo is being prepared to leave on Agape Flights. Each flight carries 3,000 pounds. More requests are expected before Christmas.

- PRAY for diligence in dealing with minute details and patience in stressful situations.
- PRAY for wisdom when prioritizing flight destinations and for safety of pilots.
- PRAY for the sale of our house in Illinois.
- PRAISE for the opportunity to see many friends and supporters when we were in Illinois in July.

Military Focus

James Day (Leslie & 2 sons) – Air Force - Korea

Please pray for James, whose initial tour in Korea is for 10 weeks but may be extended to a year. Pray that Leslie will be able to handle the home front with their two young sons and to lean on Jesus. *(Son of Gary & Linda Hrivnak)*

Adam Netzel (Kara) – Air Force – Texas

Please pray for a safe move from Florida to Texas, December 23-25; Adam will be cross-training in Texas for six months. Pray that God would go before them and guide them to a church and fellowship with other believers. Pray also that Kara will adjust well and stay healthy. *(Son of Robin and Becky Netzel)*

Please take time to pray for military personnel that serve our country all over the world and especially in Afghanistan. Pray they will have the opportunity to share the hope of Christ in very hostile and dangerous environments. Pray that they themselves will stay focused on Jesus as they struggle with the realities of war and devastating loss of lives.



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