

IMMANUEL, AN EXTENSION OF OUR FAMILY

My name is Michelle Adair, and my family and I are relatively new members of Immanuel Baptist. I started coming to Immanuel with my children in 2004. I had been introduced to the church by long-time members John and Tommie Lowe when I moved back to Redlands. I would come from time to time, but never consistently until the fall of 2004 when everything in my life seemed to fall apart. It was then that I realized I needed to be in church every Sunday with my children. My husband was not a Christian, and he had no interest at all in going to church with us. It was difficult sometimes to explain to the children why we had to go to church but “Daddy Neale” didn’t have to.

It was more than a little intimidating the first time my son and I came to Immanuel on our own. I remember walking in to this very big church and wondering where we should sit, and then feeling this hand on my shoulder urging me to the front row. I turned around to see no one, and realized it was God who was speaking to me. I even began arguing with God, telling him “You must be kidding, not the front row, we can’t possibly sit in the front row, the pastor might see us.” As you know, God always wins, and so, the front row it was, and that is where you will find us to this day. The only difference is you will find not only my son and me, but my husband as well. Over the course of the past year I joined the Blended Family Bible Fellowship Group, and eventually my husband started coming with me. Through that class my husband became saved, and then baptized. Now he ushers in the mornings before the 10:40 service and is actively involved in the church with us.

What once seemed like a big church, now feels just right, but more than that, it feels like an extension of our family. The Blended Family Group been an awesome tool for us in our marriage, and has helped us immensely with the challenges we face as a blended family. I cannot tell you how key it is to join a small group, and Immanuel has so many groups to choose from that there should be one to fit your specific needs. Beyond the strength and encouragement that Immanuel has given us in our marriage and family as a member of the Blended Family Group, our Immanuel family had the opportunity to help us when my mother became sick. Deacons came to pray with us, and to bring us the Lord’s Supper when my mother was too ill to make it to church. Everyday someone from the church called to see if we needed anything. Meals came on a regular basis, and when my mother passed away on March 22, the church really helped us with making arrangements. We could not have done it without them — maybe we could, but the experience would not have been the same.

We are pleased to call ourselves members of Immanuel.
We are Neale, Michell & Isabella Adair, and Bryce and Brooke
Koren. We look forward to meeting you.