



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

December 13, 2020

A Word from Our Pastor

There's a model prayer for successful praying found in the first chapter of the book of Nehemiah. Remember Nehemiah? When he first heard about the downfall of Jerusalem, he prayed, took about four months before he was able to sit before the king. This was not just a casual prayer. It gives us a pattern for us for successful praying. It's obvious that Nehemiah (a layman) was a man of prayer. If you want to know how to pray, you should study the book of Nehemiah – particularly this prayer. This book has 12 prayers in it. It begins with prayer and closes with prayer. Nehemiah's Prayer is found in Nehemiah 1:5-11...here we find FOUR SECRETS TO ANSWERED PRAYER from the life of Nehemiah:

Secret # 1, BASE your requests on the character of God v.5, *⁵And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments."* There's a definite confidence here...it gives the impression that we should pray like we know God will answer us: "I'm expecting you to answer this prayer because of who you are. You are a faithful God. You are a great God. You are a loving God. You are a wonderful God. You can handle this problem, God!" Notice that Nehemiah said three things about God: 1) You're GREAT – that's God's POSITION, 2) You're AWESOME God – that shows His POWER, and 3) You're FAITHFUL God – who keeps His PROMISES. The first thing Nehemiah did was to acknowledge WHO GOD IS... that's what PRAISE is. Acknowledge who God is and HIS GREATNESS. He starts off by getting the right perspective. In starting to have answered prayer, say, "God, I want you to answer because of who You are. You've given us all of these things, these precious promises. You are a faithful God, a loving God, and a merciful God" – all these things the Bible tells us He is. You begin by basing your request on God's CHARACTER...He is faithful!

Secret #2, CONFESS all known sin in our lives vv.6-7, *⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.*" Here Nehemiah confessed his sin and the sin of Israel. He was not even born yet when Israel's sin was committed... he was probably born during the 70 years of captivity. Nehemiah showed me that real leaders take responsibility for their ministry...done this many times through the years.

Secret #3, CLAIM the promises of God vv.8-9, *⁸Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.'* Can you imagine reminding God what He said in the past? David did it, Moses did it, ALL the prophets did it. God I want to remind you of one of your promises...Does God need to be reminded? No. Does He forget His promises? No. Then why do we do this? Because it helps us remember what God promised...nothing pleases God more than when you remind God of one of His promises.

Secret #4, Be very SPECIFIC in what you ask for vv.10-11, *¹⁰They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.*" If you want SPECIFIC answers to prayer you need to make specific requests. If you make GENERAL prayers, how will you know if they are answered? It is interesting to me that Nehemiah prayed for "success" Question: Are we praying for God's blessing in our lives, our marriages, our families, and the ministry hear at MBC?

Weekly Goal: \$8,135

Giving This Week: \$8,786

Giving

Many have already asked how our church will continue to meet our financial obligations (utilities, insurance, payroll, and missionary support) during this challenging season. You may provide in your tithes and offerings by one of the following methods:

- If using the U.S. Postal system: Make checks out to "Milan Baptist Church" and mail to P.O. Box 147 Milan, MI 48160. Submit [online](#). Instructions and a link to the secure online system can be found at www.milanbaptist.org. Contact the church if you have any questions.

Kids Worship (Grades K-6)

Children can sit with families until dismissal. Masks are required and social distancing will be in place. ALL ages require pick up by a parent or guardian following the Morning Worship Service.



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Prayer Requests

- Prayer for our nation during a time of racial tension and for our elected officials during this unprecedented time.
- All those who have lost loved ones
- Church leadership as they make decisions moving forward
- Pray with Kanna and Julie Vladaj for baby daughter Nora, home now but still struggling with some digestive issues
- Stange family, as they recover from COVID-19
- Arthur Avery, recovering from infection at a rehab facility
- Steve Meggitt, recovering at home from quintuple bypass heart surgery
- Jamie Scott, tumor growing on her pituitary gland. Going through tests to see which type, could lose her eye sight
- Lee Hayward, in a care facility
- Noah’s cousin, Tiffany, awaiting next steps
- Cliff Kuhn, recovering from a stroke
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer (PRAISE: Carolyn’s cancer in liver is gone)
- Elli Robins, in “maintenance” stage
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenchuk, Stralnics, Van Orman, & Waidleys
- Our MBC Shut-Ins: Shirley Krass (Cambrian), Emma Jane Hall (Senior Solutions), & Alice Ackerman (daughters home)

HEBREWS 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”



“ONLY 1 IN 6 ADULTS READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY.”

The Word of God is living and effective. It has the power to convict, shape, and inspire us—if we read it. But so often, obstacles like confusion and busyness keep us from reading the Bible and experiencing the life-transforming power of God through it.

Through the Bible in a Year

Daily Bible Reading Assignment

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
December 13	Hosea 12-14	Revelation 4
December 14	Joel 1-3	Revelation 5
December 15	Amos 1-3	Revelation 6
December 16	Amos 4-6	Revelation 7
December 17	Amos 7-9	Revelation 8
December 18	Obadiah	Revelation 9
December 19	Jonah 1-4	Revelation 10
December 20	Micah 1-3	Revelation 11

Birthdays

Anniversaries

December 14 – Dan Brooks	
December 17 – Grace Stuckman	
December 19 – Andrew Paschall	

Ministries/Services

We will be LIVE and in-person at 10 a.m.

“Call 2 Prayer” Prayer Meeting, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Our church family can tune in to Pastor & Lisa as they lead us in a time of prayer. To view, you can go to facebook.com/milanbaptist

Other Ministry Meetings:

- **Men’s Bible Study on Saturdays at 8:00 a.m.**
- **SeniorLife Community Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. (Worship Only)**
- **Church Library (Sundays & Wednesdays) following services**
- **Special Prayer Gatherings on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

○ **Room 207**

2021 Nominating Committee Results

This year’s Nominating Committee is: Chuck Bushart, Chuck Gates, Bill Cassell, Barb Collins, Mary Gable, & Bonnie Tew.