



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

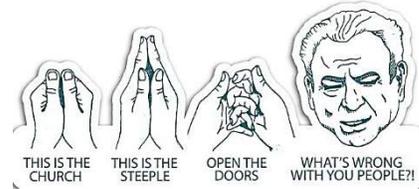
January 24, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor

One of the greatest tragedies (if not, the greatest tragedy) in the Church today is the Christian failing to grow in their walk with Christ! Even falling away from the Lord and becoming of no use for the Kingdom (Hebrews 6:4-8) The failure to engage in the maturing process (progressive sanctification). Failing to discipline our life to learn God's Law. Finding ourselves content with the ABC's of the faith ("*pure milk of the word*" (1 Corinthians 3:2) and never acquiring a taste for meat (that is, acquiring a taste for personal spiritual growth). Choosing an alternative process in our Christian walk. As Christians, we are responsible, before God, for our personal growth in the Lord, as well as, the spiritual wellbeing of our household...did you know that? The writer of the Book of Hebrews said, *"11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."* (Hebrews 5:11-14 ESV) Folks, when we get saved, we are expected to grow in Christ and not stay the same we are to progress...just like a new born baby...the natural process is to grow and mature. If a baby doesn't grow...we would think that there is something really wrong. What if a professing Christian does not grow? Is that the way God designed it? NO

If we were to take a survey...of where you are in the spiritual growth process...how many of you would say that you are SPIRITUAL CHILDREN? (Spiritual infants, still learning the ABC's) How many of you are SPIRITUAL MEN and WOMEN? (Actively growing in the process of sanctification) How many of you are SPIRITUAL FATHERS and MOTHERS? (Reproducing Christlike character in others) It's supposed to be a natural progression in our spiritual walk...to grow in Christ (that's what babies do). My question is... where are you? Are you growing in your walk with Christ? If not, why not? If you are growing (praise the Lord), keep-on growing. Let me challenge you...are you helping others to grow? Are you reproducing Christlike character in someone else? Are you serving in His kingdom's work? Here are the steps that should be taken: Step one: Choose Christ! Step two: Grow in Christ! As we embrace the new year...if you do not know Christ, receive Him as Savior today, if you know Christ, choose to grow in Him and cause others to do the same... *"Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more."* (1 Thessalonians 4:1 ESV)

A Nugget from Noah (for Parents)



When I was a kid—and even a teen—I remember how highly my parents viewed church. I have several (painful) flashbacks

of my dad coming into my brother's and my room singing, yelling, and poking us to wake up so that we wouldn't miss Sunday School; in fact, there were several times where I would half-asleep listen to him try to wake my brother up, hear him say, "you're grouchy this morning! Let's try to wake up Noah," and curl up fetal position ready for the onslaught of my silly dad's attempts to wake up a stubborn teenager. In my home, church wasn't an option, and looking back, I can't beg you enough as parents to make church a priority in your home. With that being said, here are some questions, as parents, I think we need to ponder:

1. **Do I WANT to be at church?** Yes, commitment doesn't require emotion, but it definitely makes it easier for your kids to want to be at church if you want to be there, yourself. Read Psalm 84 this week and ask God for a heart that longs for God.
2. **Do I go to church even when I DON'T want to?** Wait, didn't I just say that we should long to be there? Yes! But let's be real here...sometimes, we just don't feel like going, or even something else sounds better at the time! Listen, I am not naturally a breakfast guy, but I know I need it for the day. There's a difference between *wants* and *needs*. In your home, is church a necessity, or a commodity? Read Acts 2:42-47 this week and ask God for a heart that longs for spiritual sustenance.
3. **Do I go to church for the RIGHT reasons?** I think many of us don't prioritize church because we have an improper Ecclesiology (theology of the church)...why does the church exist? Why did Christ establish it? Is it something from our cultural upbringing (no.)? Is it something we do to gain spiritual favor with God (no.)? Is it a special service, building, or program (no, no, and no.)? The church is a *people* bought by Christ, burdened by a mission, strengthened by numbers, hungry for truth, passionate for justice, repentant of sin, progressive in growth, submitted to the Spirit, and longing for heaven! We're not a social club of evangelicals, we are an embassy for a Kingdom that has far more to offer than this world could ever imagine, and a King Who is worth every drop of blood, sweat, and tears.

Make church a priority in your home. It's worth it, your kids are worth it, and Jesus is infinitely worth it!

NOTE: For some fascinating context to the picture used, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iP4A3C3E4Cs&t=2s>



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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
- Please be in prayer for Gary Cox, friend of Keuhn and Hasselbring families, surgery was successful but continue prayer for upcoming treatments
- Pray with Kanna and Julie Vladaj for baby daughter Nora, home now but still struggling with some digestive issues
- Gerri Beehler’s sisters, Nancy and Belva, both dealing with health concerns
- Pete Belford, dealing with severe back issues
- Les & Lynn Brooks, recovering from COVID
- Emma Jane Hall, recovering from COVID
- Tim Christensen’s mother, dealing with COVID
- Cami Ratliff, recovering from knee surgery
- Arthur Avery, recovering at Senior Solutions in Saline
- 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, healing of his incision (continue to heal well)
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer (PRAISE: Carolyn’s cancer in liver is gone)
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenchuk, Stralnic, 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
January 24	Exodus 9-11	Matthew 15:21-39
January 25	Exodus 12-13	Matthew 16
January 26	Exodus 14-15	Matthew 17
January 27	Exodus 16-18	Matthew 18:1-20
January 28	Exodus 19-20	Matthew 18:21-35
January 29	Exodus 21-22	Matthew 19
January 30	Exodus 23-24	Matthew 20:1-16
January 31	Exodus 25-26	Matthew 20:17-34

Birthdays	Anniversaries
January 25 – Madison Phillips & Jackie Blake	January 28 – Cliff & Betsy Kuhn
January 27 – Becky Heinold	January 30 – Jim & Joan Hendee
January 29 – Gary Kassuba	January 31 – Steve & Lori Meggitt

Ministries/Services

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

Other Ministry Meetings:

- Church Library (Sundays & Wednesdays) following services
- SeniorLife Community Bible Study, Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. (Worship Only)
- Call 2 Prayer, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook
- Men’s Bible Study, Saturdays at 8:00 a.m.
- Prayer Gathering, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
- Kids Worship (K-Grade 6), Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (Pre-K Coming in February!)

Summer Barakel

Registration for Summer Barakel starts February 3! You can register at www.campbarakel.org/events. Camps are for students going into Grades 3-12 Fall 2021. MBC is promoting the following weeks:

- June 28-July 3: Grades 4-6 & 9-12
- July 5-July 10: Grades 3-5 & 7-9

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$10,177

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](http://www.milanbaptist.org). Instructions and a link to the secure online system can be found at www.milanbaptist.org. Contact the church if you have any questions.