



# MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

February 14, 2021

life of the home, where

## A Word from Our Pastor

In the past several weeks, we've been challenged in our study in Paul's first letter the church at Thessalonica, to step up our game in the area of "spiritual excellence." One of the important areas is spending quality time with God and His Word on a daily basis. Seeking God's plan for the day, rather than ours. It's hard for us to have a Gospel centered life if we are not checking in with our commanding officer on a regular basis. David, the Psalmist said, "O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch." (Psalm 5:3 ESV)

Today, is Valentine's Day. Trust that you are continuing to make good investments to grow your love relationship. Christianity, is also a love relationship. I've heard it said, you cannot love someone that you do not know. And you cannot know someone that you don't spend quality time with. After knowing the Lord as my Savior for 50+ years, it's become clear to me that to know Jesus is to love Him (Matthew 22:37-39), to love Him is to trust Him (Proverbs 3:5-6), to trust Him is to obey Him (1 John 5:2), and to obey Him is to be blessed by Him (Psalm 1:1-3). For me, it begins in the morning with a daily communication with the Lord. Why is it that I would encourage you to spend time with the Lord in the morning? Because you are getting ready to go on a road trip through life. You don't take the trip and then go to google maps after the fact, do you? Let me ask you a question: "How are you starting your mornings?" With a cup of coffee and checking in with your favorite news source on TV or on-line? Let me encourage you to spend quality time with His Word and the light of His presence and watch your love relationship grow!

## Psalm 34:8 ESV

"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"

## A Nugget from Noah (for Parents) 2/14/21

"#2...We want to create more than we consume. So we fill the center of our home with things that reward skill and active engagement."



Last week, we emphasized the importance of technology as a tool while we prioritize developing godly character within our homes. This week, it gets a little more practical and—at least to me—convicting! I would argue that at least two-thirds of my family's time at home is spent mainly in the living room. Odds are you have a similar room in your house (living room, family room, den, etc.), and even if your kids spend a lot of time in their own rooms, it is likely that there is a "center" in your home. This center is the

life of the home, where souls gather to experience and grow together. Arguably, then, this room is rather important!

The second chapter in *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch centers on that very center. His concept is actually rather simple: we as parents need to identify what room is the center of our family life, remove the distractions and temptations of wasteful technology (TV, video games, etc.), and fill it with things that encourage skill building and God-honoring development (Crouch, 73-79). That's it! In fact, Crouch says "This is the central nudge of the tech-wise life: to make the place where we spend the most time the place where *easy everywhere is hardest to find* (80, emphasis my own)." Let's be real here...how many hours a day is your TV on—even if it's just white noise in the background? How many minutes (or hours) have your kids watched TV, played video games, and/or scrolled through social media this weekend? How much have they spent developing a skill? The principle is simple here: as the parent, am I creating a culture that feeds into my child's immediate desires, or long-term success? It doesn't require rocket science to know that there is a distinct difference between letting your kid play Minecraft for 3 hours on Saturday, and taking the extra time to teach or encourage a skill...but why don't we do it? Short answer: it's easy. Technology is easy. Therefore, we give in to easy....but there's a problem here.

Each night after putting the boys to bed, Erica and I are starting to go through a book to learn and grow together. Currently, we are reading Paul David Tripp's *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family*. In his introduction, Tripp corrects his readers with a sobering truth: we do not own our children; instead, we are ambassadors of the Living God, being given children as a gift, and we are called to pour into them God's will for their life...not our own (Tripp, 14-16). Maybe, as parents, we need to remember what it means to represent Christ, and ask ourselves if the things we promote in the home promote His agenda, or our own. We're not in this for the easy, we're in this for His glory! **Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things.** –Phil. 4:8

## Summer Barakel

Registration for Summer Barakel starts February 3! You can register at [www.campbarakel.org/events](http://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



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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
- Tiekong family, following the home going of Starr
- Radtke Family, following the loss of Noah's uncle
- Grace Stuckman, recovering from back procedure
- Tiffany, Noah's cousin, praise baby is born and prayer for upcoming plans for cancer treatments
- 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
- Gerri Beehler's sisters, Nancy and Belva, both dealing with health concerns
- Lee Hayward, dealing with severe health issues
- Pete Belford, dealing with severe back issues
- Emma Jane Hall, recovering from COVID
- Arthur Avery, praise he is home!
- Jamie Scott, tumor growing on her pituitary gland. Going through tests to see which type, could lose her eye sight
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer
- 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)

## Nominating Committee

The 2021-2022 Nominating Committee with begin meeting on February 21. Any member who would like to make a recommendation for Deacon or Trustee consideration can submit a recommendation in writing to any member of our committee. The committee includes: Chuck Bushart, Chuck Gates, Bill Cassell, Mary Gable, Bonnie Tew, & Barb Collins.

## 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
February 14	Leviticus 15-16	Matthew 27:1-26
February 15	Leviticus 17-18	Matthew 27:27-50
February 16	Leviticus 19-20	Matthew 27:51-66
February 17	Leviticus 21-22	Matthew 28
February 18	Leviticus 23-24	Mark 1:1-22
February 19	Leviticus 25	Mark 1:23-45
February 20	Leviticus 26-27	Mark 2
February 21	Numbers 1-3	Mark 3

### Birthdays

### Anniversaries

February 15 – Joan Hendee	February 18 – Roger & Wilma Luurtsema
February 16 – Jan Hasselbring	
February 20 – Charley Harpst	

**Weekly Goal: \$8,562**

**Giving This Week: \$8,589**

## 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](http://www.milanbaptist.org). Contact the church if you have any questions.