



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

February 21, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor

You can have a thriving relationship with God, but only temporarily. Anyone can fake it in the short run, BUT to go the distance, you need a passionate devotional life and continual closeness to Jesus. Often, we tend to allow the busyness of our work life, family life, even church life and ministry to replace a real, personal walk with Jesus. But God wants better for you.

How can we improve our relationship with God? I would like to make a few suggestions: First, it takes TIME to get to know somebody. I know Jesus Christ a whole lot better than I did five years ago or ten years ago or twenty years ago. When you spend time with Jesus, it doesn't make you more religious. It makes you more natural. In fact, God doesn't want you to be religious. He wants you to be you. You can't develop an intimate relationship with anybody in a crowd. It's hard to get to know people in a large group setting, like our Sunday morning worship service. You can know about them, but you get to know people by spending time with them. The same is true with God. Secondly, relationships require COMMUNICATION. Marriages die when one partner stops talking. Folks it's true...you just can't have a relationship without communication. In the same way, you get to know God by talking to Him, by communicating. If you heard me talk to the Lord on a daily basis, it doesn't sound like a pastor talking. But I talk to God all the time. Constantly I'm saying things in my mind to God all the time. It's not even real spiritual. John 16 talks about our communication with Jesus when it says *"Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."* (John 16:24 ESV) Here's what I've learned...the more frequent our communication is with God, the deeper our intimacy with Him will be. Thirdly, relationships are built on TRUST. Lisa and I have a good relationship because we trust each other implicitly. Remember this...relationships are built on trust. When we first got married, we had all these little rules – how you fold the towels, how you push the toothpaste from the bottom up, how to replace the toilet paper role. Do you know how many rules we have in our home today? Hardly any...The greater the relationship, the fewer the rules you need. God wants you to learn to trust Him. He allows all kinds of problems in our lives, so He can demonstrate His reliability.

And finally, notice what the apostle Paul expressed to the believers in Philippi, *"that I may know him and the power of his resurrection..."* (Philippians 3:10 ESV) Paul says, "My number one ambition in life is ..." to start churches? No. To get rewards in heaven? No. He says, "My number one goal in life is to know Christ." He said these words at the end of his life. Doesn't he KNOW God? Of course. But he wants to know Him better. Paul teaches us to never stop hungering for God. Let me encourage you to make knowing God better, your number one goal this year! Growing in your relationship with Him will take time, communication, trust, and a heartfelt commitment (see Ephesians 3:14-21).

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

"#3...We are designed for a rhythm of work and rest. So one hour a day, one day a week, and one week a year, we turn off our devices and worship, feast, play, and rest together."



From FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out), to binge-watching, to aimless scrolling, many of us seem to have a constant glow on our faces. Once again, I find myself rather convicted by Andy Crouch's prompts for self-reflection. With the rise of technology—both in the ease of use and in the promotion of wasteful leisure—Crouch comments that children are less impressed by their parents' work because it simply reflects an adult version of what they already do at school (90-91). So not only has the workplace changed (which is often unavoidable), but so has the way that we rest at home, with many parents either not taking time for meaningful rest, or wasting their time at the expense of somebody else (87-88). Building off of God's commandment for a time of Sabbath, Crouch recommends families take an hour each day, a day each week, and a week each year to completely unplug from the technological world and simply enjoy God and one another—no phones, no texts, no shows, no video games, no emails; instead, just face-to-face life-sharing with one another (98).

This won't come naturally to us; in fact, I have spent the past day picking apart how it could even work in our household. We have become so attached to our screens that we might as well imagine ourselves as glorified Teletubbies with screens implanted on our torsos (did I just age myself?). This concept is so counter-cultural, so wildly different from the rest of even our evangelical world...but I think it's worth it. Mark me. My family is going to try this, and feel free to ask me how it's going. But seriously, consider joining me in this!

Unless it is something major, my dad has always done the maintenance and repairs on our cars. I remember many times talking with my dad as a kid while he worked on our cars, and I was so impressed by how skilled he was. To this day, I still bring my car into his back garage and work on it with his leading, help, and wisdom. They are some of my favorite times with my dad—no phones, no TV...just me, my dad, and a bunch of grease fittings (that I absolutely hate). I want that for my boys. I don't want them to simply exist, but rather to truly *live!* At the heart of the principles in this chapter, I think it is only fitting to remind you of our Great Commandment calling to love God for all that He is, and to love others for all that they're worth (Matthew 22:34-40). If we truly love God, we will prioritize Him over that email, game, or show. If we truly love others, all those other things can wait. Is the life I'm living worthy of emulating? If Jack, Ben, and Danny become a carbon copy of their dad, will they become men who love God with all of their heart, soul, mind, and strength; men who love their neighbor as themselves? I pray that they will; now it's time to live for that!



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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
- McGovern family, in the loss of Joanne, Newt & Linda's daughter
- Jim Hendee, recovering from knee surgery
- 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
- 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 will 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 21	Numbers 1-3	Mark 3
February 22	Numbers 4-6	Mark 4:1-20
February 23	Numbers 7-8	Mark 4:21-41
February 24	Numbers 9-11	Mark 5:1-20
February 25	Numbers 12-14	Mark 5:21-43
February 26	Numbers 15-16	Mark 6:1-29
February 27	Numbers 17-19	Mark 6:30-56
February 28	Numbers 20-22	Mark 7:1-13

Birthdays	Anniversaries
February 23 – Bill Cassell	
February 24 – Jonathan Lovelace & Sarah Bennett	
February 27 – Joe Porter	

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$4,895

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.