



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

February 7, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor

As the first month of the new year has come and gone...some of us are struggling and have already lost our focus on the commitments we made to God, to our spouse, to our family, to the company we work for. Thought it might be good to give you some suggestions on how you can regain your focus:

- **Focusing our daily thoughts... Philippians 4:8** ESV *“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 about these things.”*
- **Focusing our perspective... Hebrews 12:1-2** ESV *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”*
- **Focusing our hearts in prayer... Psalm 19:14** ESV *“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.”*
- **Focusing our minds... Colossians 3:2** ESV *“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”*
- **Focusing on regaining hope... Jonah 2:7** ESV *“When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.”*

Jeremiah 29:13 ESV

“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”

A Nugget from Noah (for Parents) 1/31/21

“#1... We develop wisdom and courage together as a family.”



Do you remember “old” technology? Corded phones, Analog TVs, Record Players, and the like? Well those things have been replaced over the years with cell phones that have more computing power than Apollo 11, TVs that are thinner than a picture frame, and music streamed whenever you want (just be ready for a bunch of ads). Simply put, technology is always changing, so why put so much emphasis on it? What if we prioritized our families?

Andy Crouch emphasizes **two character traits** that need to be present in the family. **The first is wisdom:** “...the kind of understanding, specifically, that guides action...what will be most honoring of our Creator and our fellow creatures (Crouch,

53).” Crouch spends the next little chunk discussing the importance of taking knowledge (which is easy to attain) and utilizing it in our growing wisdom as a family (53-56). **The second character trait is courage (or virtue):** “the habits of character that allow us to act courageously in the face of difficulty (56).” The challenge, however, is to figure out where both wisdom and courage (virtue) can thrive; and to that, Crouch’s answer is within the family—both in the nuclear family as well as the church (56-62). But where does technology fit in building these two qualities? Andy Crouch answers: “Since forming our capacity to be human is what family is all about, technology is at its best a neutral factor in what is most important in our families. But it is very often not at its best, because we are very often not at our best...In the most intimate setting of the household...technology distracts and displaces us far too often, undermining the real work of becoming persons of wisdom and courage (66).” Does this mean we need cancel our phone plans, disconnect the cable, and revert back to a simpler life without technology? Not necessarily—even Crouch agrees that technology is a gift—but we need to care as parents. Crouch wraps up this chapter by reminding us “that we are not here as parents to make their lives easier but to make them better,” and that we are going to have to make decisions that are at times wildly counter-cultural to those around us (68-69). Are your children worth it?

You see, at the heart of this chapter is the call for all of us parents to sober up and commit to our most important ministry: discipling our families. When I was being disciplined as a leader in college, I was taught that we are both the spiritual thermometers and thermostats. Parents, we need to gauge the spiritual temperature of our homes, and we also need to be the ones who set the temperature. **Proverbs 22:6 is a principle, not a promise;** therefore, how can we expect our children to stand in the faith if we are not teaching them how to walk in it? Commit today to be dedicated to your spouse, children, grandchildren—you’re whole family! Technology is a tool, and most tools eventually become obsolete. Your family will not!

**“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”—
Joshua 24:15**

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



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

February 7, 2021

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
- Thomas and Kelly Stockwell, welcome healthy baby girl Adeline (Grandparents: Ed & Jeanne Mortensen)
- Lidster Family, following the home going of Dan’s mom, Sybil
- Tiekling family, following the home going of Starr
- Grace Stuckman, upcoming back surgery on February 10
- 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
- Christensen family, following the passing of Tim’s mother
- 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
- 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)

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 7	Leviticus 1-3	Matthew 24:1-28
February 8	Leviticus 4-5	Matthew 24:29-51
February 9	Leviticus 6-7	Matthew 25:1-30
February 10	Leviticus 8-10	Matthew 25:31-46
February 11	Leviticus 11-12	Matthew 26:1-25
February 12	Leviticus 13	Matthew 26:26-50
February 13	Leviticus 14	Matthew 26:51-75
February 14	Leviticus 15-16	Matthew 27:1-26

Birthdays	Anniversaries
February 9 – Pastor Strader	February 13 – Dave & Mary Gable
February 10 – Kevin Johnson	
February 11 – Ben Radtke	
February 13 – Tucker Jackson & Kellan Chapman	

Weekly Goal: \$8,562

Giving This Week: \$4,234

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.