



# MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

April 18, 2021

## A Word from Our Pastor 04/18/21

With all that has happened this past year...if you are like me, I've spent a lot more time praying for myself, my wife, my family and our church family. I was reminded this week of the model prayer for successful praying found in the first chapter of the book of Nehemiah, who was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes I. Much of what we find within the thirteen chapters is thought to come from Nehemiah's personal diary. When Nehemiah 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. When you take time to examine it, you will find it gives us a pattern for successful praying. This is definitely something that all of us could stand to improve in. It's obvious that Nehemiah 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. Take a moment now and read Nehemiah's prayer located in Nehemiah 1:5-11 ESV.

Within these seven verses we find some practical SECRETS TO ANSWERED PRAYER from the life of Nehemiah. If you want to have a successful prayer life, Nehemiah's prayer gives us some practical insight.

First, we need to base our requests on the character of God v.5. 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. We do this by basing our request on God's CHARACTER...He is faithful!

Second, we need to confess all known sin in our lives vv.6-7. Unique in this respect Nehemiah confessed his sin and the sin of Israel. Interestingly enough, he was not even born yet when Israel's sin was committed...he was probably born during the 70 years of captivity.

Third, we need to claim the promises of God vv.8-9. Can you imagine reminding God what He said in the past? David did it, Moses did it, AND 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. And finally,

Fourth, we need to be very specific in what we ask for vv.10-11. 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." Are you praying for God's blessing in your life, your marriage, your family, our county, and the ministry hear at MBC? Let me encourage you to take time week to read and meditate on these seven verses and ask God to help you improve your prayer life.

## A Nugget from Noah (for Parents) 4/18/21

***"#8...Spouses have one another's passwords, and parents have total access to children's devices."***

There is a moment in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring* where the band of heroes, in the decaying ruins of a once beautiful underground city, find themselves completely surrounded and overwhelmed by orcs; fiendishly evil demon-like creatures bent on

their destruction. This moment comes after a grueling battle where the heroes faced unending foes, leading to their flight and eventual surrounding. The orcs are everywhere—innumerable even—yet a worse evil was fast approaching, as deep within the belly of this underground kingdom, a terrifyingly wicked roar echoes through the once mighty halls...the Balrog is coming.

Our world—and by extension—our children's world is surrounded by all kinds of wickedness, and few compare to the perverseness and pervasiveness of sexual immorality. Andy Crouch bluntly tells his readers that biblical sexuality is anything but easy-everywhere, and yet our culture today has made it one of the most in-your-face distractions from living a holy life (165-67). When it comes to teens, Crouch soberly shares that "an astonishing 62 percent of teenagers...have received a nude image on their phone, and 40 percent...have sent one (169)." He later adds that "if you have teenage children, whether boys or girls, it is likely that they have already been exposed to pornography and...have sought it out (171)." Does that scare you? This is a really real reality (let that phrase sink in). Some of our most popular social media platforms share sexual topics and images whether our kids click on them or not (and trust me, SnapChat, Instagram, and even Facebook are filled with sexual content). Do not tell me this not an issue. It's the rotting corpse in the closet that no parent wants to check on—but we have to! And to make matters worse, we give our children unfettered and unfiltered access to all of this. But what do we do about such heinous evil that is literally hell-bent on destroying lives, surrounding each of us? Or what do we do when the earth-shaking roar of the most wicked temptations and allurements cry out from the depths? According to Crouch, one of the most practical ways is to live a "full life" that technology cannot offer (172). He says, "We need...accountability, transparency, and visibility, all in the context of relationship (175)"; and this is most easily seen in the title of this chapter. So much more could be said—both from this book and from my longing to plead with you to care—and perhaps it is high time we scheduled a seminar to dig deep into this battleground...but back to our heroes...

After being chased by the ancient evil known as the Balrog, a creature shrouded in smoke and fire, the fellowship cross a bridge with their escape in sight; however, as long as the Balrog pursued, they would never see this freedom. Standing on the bridge, facing the Balrog, Gandalf heroically shouts, "YOU SHALL NOT PASS!" With a strike of his wizard staff, he breaks the bridge, hurling himself and the Balrog deep into the caverns below, sacrificing himself for the sake of his companions' freedom (sound familiar?). We may be surrounded, we may be pursued, but one thing Crouch misses in this chapter that we must address is that there is only one true escape, and that escape requires a sacrifice. We have a Savior, a Sacrifice, and a Sovereign King. In Him, alone, will we find rescue. **"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world (John 16:33)."**



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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.
- Marlon Hall, in the hospital with health concerns
- Carolyn Sackett, on medication for blot clots in her lungs and awaiting start for chemo
- Debby Russ, diagnosed with breast cancer, started chemo
- Tiffany, Noah's cousin, prayer for upcoming plans for cancer treatments
- Church leadership as they make decisions moving forward
- Gerri Beehler's sisters, Nancy and Belva, both dealing with health concerns
- Pete Belford, dealing with health concerns
- Jamie Scott, tumor on her pituitary gland. Another MRI in Fall to determine if surgery is needed.
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer
- All those recovering from COVID
- 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)

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

**Giving This Week: \$8,879**

## 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 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.

## Preliminary Board Posing

Please see the preliminary board nominations below. Church members have until **May 2** to give any feedback **(in writing)** about the following nominees to one of the Nominating Committee Members: Chuck Bushart, Chuck Gates, Bill Cassell, Mary Gable, Bonnie Tew, or Barb Collins.

## Preliminary Board Nominations

**Deacon:** Clark Barton

**Trustees:** Victor Michaels and Roger White

## Mask Update

Given the vaccination rates in our local counties, the leadership of Milan Baptist Church has made a change in our existing policy where masks must be worn indoors at any church activity. Going forward, masks may be removed at individual discretion during the Sunday morning worship service while the pastor is preaching. Masks must continue to be worn during this service before/after and while worshiping/singing. We are excited to take this step and thank our congregation for complying with policies as we serve and worship God together.

Through the Bible in a Year Daily Bible Reading Assignment		
Date	Old Testament	New Testament
April 18	2 Samuel 3-5	Luke 14:25-35
April 19	2 Samuel 6-8	Luke 15:1-10
April 20	2 Samuel 9-11	Luke 15:11-32
April 21	2 Samuel 12-13	Luke 16
April 22	2 Samuel 14-15	Luke 17:1-19
April 23	2 Samuel 16-18	Luke 17:20-37
April 24	2 Samuel 19-20	Luke 18:1-23
April 25	2 Samuel 21-22	Luke 18:24-43

Birthdays	Anniversaries
April 19 – Jaime McDonald & Jim Oswalt	April 25 – Ron & Jan Hasselbring
April 21 – Vella Durham	
April 24 – Ainslee Jackson	
April 25 – Sharon David	

## ABF & Sunday School Start Up

ABF/Sunday School kick off is TODAY! ABF/Sunday School will start at 10 a.m. followed by Morning Worship at 11 a.m. Please look at the list below for classes and locations:

Pre-K (age 2-grade K) – Meeting in their regular pre-school classroom (Room 121) in the church for the full 2 hours.

Children (grades 1-6) – Meeting in the chapel side of the MAC for both hours.

Teens (grades 7-12) – Meeting in Room 102 (Basement)

Adult Bible Discussion (Larry Jedele – Ten Commandments) – Meeting in Room 207

Adult Combined ABF (Tim Hewitt/Chuck Bushart – 2 Peter) – Meeting in Church Auditorium