



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

May 2, 2021

A Word from Our Pastor 05/02/21

This Thursday, May 6 our country will experience the 70th observance of the National Day of Prayer. This year's theme is... "LORD pour out Your LOVE, LIFE, and LIBERTY." Once again praying and proclaiming a promise of God in our theme verse, 2 Corinthians 3:17, "*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*" We plan to celebrate with other believers across America at noon for an In-Person observance in the MAC auditorium, as well as LIVE on Facebook during our weekly Call2Prayer at 7:00pm.

Let me remind us all that God is sovereign and nothing comes as a surprise to Him. Whether we face a fluctuating economy, threats from abroad, unrest at home, or other troubling circumstances, our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. Through prayer, we are able to tap into His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. Our God stands ready to respond to our needs when we humbly ask for divine intervention in the affairs of men.

As we pray for America whose pledge of allegiance recounts that we are "*one nation under God,*" and whose currency states that it is "*in God we trust,*" we want all our citizens to encounter the God who rules over their country. The prophet Amos wrote, "*For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!*" (Amos 4:13 ESV) Also, let's be reminded of the promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV: "*if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*" As we humbly and diligently seek Him, we'll be changed, and we'll see transformation in America through prayer!

To help us in our endeavor to pray for America, the National Day of Task Force shares a guide for us by dividing our prayer time up by praying for the seven centers of influence in our nation:

GOVERNMENT: Ask God to grant our leaders wisdom, discernment, and hearts open to His will. (1 Timothy 2:1-2, Romans 13:1-2)

CHURCH: Pray for Churches and ask God to preserve and protect them, as He inspires and empowers them to equip His Saints. (Colossians 2:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-12)

MILITARY: Pray for God to grant our Military and its leader's courage, protection, and strength for them and their families. (2 Chronicles 32:6-8, Romans 13:4)

FAMILY: Pray for the Lord to protect and strengthen families, marriages, and bring healing to relationships. (Mark 3:25, Romans 12:9-13)

EDUCATION: Pray for God's presence in education and ask Him for teachers and administrators who honor His statues, protect children, and inspire them to discover their God-given calling. (Proverbs 2:3-6, Proverbs 8:10-11)

MEDIA: Pray for Christian influence in the media, from movies, television, and radio, to newspaper and magazine publishers. (Philippians 4:8, Psalm 119:9)

BUSINESS: Pray for divine intervention in our national, state, and local economies. (Exodus 31:3-4, 1 Chronicles 29:17)



If you're reading this while currently sitting at church, I want you to look around. Approximately 120 souls sit around you with a massive variety of experiences, successes, failures, dreams, convictions, and—sobering thought here—days. If you sat in the same seat in the next ten years, and similarly scanned the room, how different will the crowd look? As of this Sunday, I will have been at MBC for 5 years; and in those five years, I have attended about 15 funerals for members of our family (remembering off the top of my head), and two of our students...some younger, some older, and some MUCH older. This may sound morbid, but who's next? Death is no respecter of persons, and quite frankly, it is a really real reality that we all will face; some much sooner than others. HOWEVER, in order for death to be a reality, life must be an equally existent reality; therefore, the question has to be asked: what will you do with today?

Crouch's final chapter needs no further explanation than what is given/implicit in the title. His whole chapter is basically a personal, yet valuable appeal to be present in the "unique and unrepeatability" life events; to share with others—especially family—the God-given gift of being together in-person (199). Challenge time: go to a restaurant this week and count the phones that you see. Even if a person is not using their phone at that moment, I have heard it said that keeping a phone out in the open is visible evidence that we do not care as much for the other person, or that we are not giving them our undivided attention. So at dinner, in the car, with your kids, with your spouse, make a clear effort to pocket or put away the phone, and live life with your loved ones! Even if I am utterly exhausted, I will almost always choose to go on an adventure with my family over being a potato at home.

Andy Crouch's big emphasis is to be there for the major things, but isn't every moment major? Why is it that many—if not most—people truly begin to see the beauty of every moment the closer death approaches? It's like we play ignorant to the reality until it's right there in our faces. Moses says in **Psalm 90: "You return man to dust (v. 3)...we bring our years to an end like a sigh (v. 9)...The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away (v. 10)."** And what is his conclusion? "**So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom (v. 12).**" Your not promised another second on this earth; however, every breath from your lungs is a gift and a promise that God is not done with you yet. Parents, you have roughly 18 years with your kids in the home...don't waste them. Ignore the TV, phone, tablet, and laptop, and go raise your little disciples for God's great glory! Share and show them the Good News! Be a tech-wise family...



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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.
- Pete Belford, home dealing with health concerns
- Marlon Hall, home dealing with health concerns
- Kathy Winters, recovering from hip surgery
- Liam McDonald, Mark & Linda's grandson, in hospital with health concerns. Prayer for quick healing
- 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: \$7,481

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. Contact the church if you have any questions.

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
May 2	1 Kings 12-13	Luke 22:1-20
May 3	1 Kings 14-15	Luke 22:21-46
May 4	1 Kings 16-18	Luke 22:47-71
May 5	1 Kings 19-20	Luke 23:1-25
May 6	1 Kings 21-22	Luke 23:26-56
May 7	2 Kings 1-3	Luke 24:1-35
May 8	2 Kings 4-6	Luke 24:36-53
May 9	2 Kings 7-9	John 1:1-28

Birthdays	Anniversaries
May 5 – Jim Hendee	May 3 – Andy & Sarah Bennett
May 6 – Doug Paschall	May 5 – Ed & Jeanne Mortensen
	May 8 – Jim & Cindy Oswalt; Jim & Mary Brasfield