

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Prayer and Boldness of a Leader Who Trusts God

Nehemiah 2:1-11

"The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire." (Nehemiah 1:3 ESV)

"Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king. (Neh. 1:11 ESV)

Nehemiah desires to have a major role in the revival.

A reviving movement among men and women at MeadowBrook is evident. People long for God to move among his people and desperately want to be part of it. Pray: "Do something wonderful and glorious here, Lord, and please, use me!"

People seeking a movement of God ought to seek God for the opportunity to move through them.

God granted Nehemiah's request, empowering him with favor, insight, wisdom, courage, strength, resources, and leadership. By God's grace, the cupbearer became the Persian Empire's appointed governor of Judah.

God would work through Nehemiah, but first, he would need to affect the king's heart, so Nehemiah prayed.

Nehemiah was confident to continue his prayer month after month because it aligned with God's word. He actively waited in prayer and sought the opportunity that God would afford.

King Artaxerxes: "Why is your face sad, seeing that you're not sick?"

His prayer had been, *"Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man"* (Nehemiah 1:11).

With that one simple question, Nehemiah knew God was at work.

Short, rapid prayers are most effective for people committed to deep, authentic praying.

As Nehemiah prayed in his heart, he opened up to the king with his well-thought-out response. *"If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."*

His response was clear and concise, and he asked for a decision.

Is there someone in your life who you're praying for God to move upon their heart? Let me encourage you to:

1. Pray and fast for God to change their heart.
2. Seek his grace to give you the opportunity to make an impact.
3. Then watch for the opportunity, seizing it the moment it occurs, not letting fear choke you from uttering the words. In other words, be prepared and ready to speak without delay.

Faith is not negated by good preparation and planning.

The way Nehemiah prepared and planned is a sign of his faith that God would provide the opportunity with the king and ready his heart for what he would ask of him.

Nehemiah's faith and hope were in God alone, not the king. He trusted God to move the heart and mind of the king, and provide as he saw fit. (Proverbs 21:1)

And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me. (Nehemiah 2:8 ESV)

Nehemiah knew and understood God's goodness, goodness as his very character. (Psalm 34:8, Psalm 100:5, Psalm 145:9, and James 1:17)

Treasure and trust in the good hand of God.

⁹ Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen. ¹⁰ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel. ¹¹ So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days. (Nehemiah 2:1-11 ESV)

We may be right in the center of God's will, walking in his favor, and still experience significant opposition.

We should expect opposition while we continue the redemptive ministry of Christ Jesus, knowing that Christ's victory is already secured.

Expect opposition even as you live and declare the victorious gospel.



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, January 21, 2024 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

MEADOWBROOK FAMILY



FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 at 6:30 PM

FEATURING: **CARS**

Join us in MeadowBrook's GYM as we sit back, relax & enjoy all you can eat pizza, chips, drinks, candy & popcorn!

\$2 per person ★ 4 & under FREE ★ \$10 max per family!

Bring your lawn chairs & blankets to sit on!
*Children MUST be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, contact Vickey Weeks (vickey@mbchurch.com).

CONNECT *people to Christ and His church*

MeadowBrook 55+
Taste of the South
with the
MARK TRAMMELL QUARTET

TOMORROW, 1/22

11:30 AM • GYM

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE
SOUTHERN DISH**



Plan to bring your favorite Southern dish(es) and register for the lunch and concert. When registering, take a moment to upload your favorite recipe(s), email them to janet@mbchurch.com, or drop them by the church. We'll print and share them with others to enjoy.

**REGISTER at
MBCHURCH.COM/55PLUS**

COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 | 10:30 AM | CAFE '59

If you are new to MeadowBrook, Pastor Randy and ministers would like to get to know you, share the mission of MeadowBrook, and answer any questions you may have.

Register at Guest Connections or mbchurch.com/connections

GROW *them as disciples and equip them to*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 am - Kids Worship Live - Kids' Theater
10:30 am - Life Group
11:00 am - Dwight Baptist Church Worship

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

11:30 am - 55+ Taste of the South - Gym

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall
10:45 am - Abundant Life Choir - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Dining Hall
(Meatball Sub, French Fries, Salad Bowl, 4 Layer Delight)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 312
6:30 pm - Men's Group & Women's Group,
Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship,
High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

6:30 pm - Family Movie Night - Gym



Estate Planning

Did you know MeadowBrook offers free estate planning through the Alabama Baptist Foundation and PhilanthroCorp? This service helps you prepare for important decisions that we will all have to face one day. Even if you already have a will, consider having a consultation to ensure all the important details are correct and up to date. For more info, email info@mbchurch.com.



2024 BIBLE READING

January 21 - Romans 10:18-11:10
January 22 - Romans 11:11-36
January 23 - Romans 12:1-8
January 24 - Romans 12:9-21

January 25 - Romans 13:1-14
January 26 - Romans 14:1-12
January 27 - Romans 14:13-23

Bible reading plans are available at Guest Connections & Ministry Central

SERVE *through missions, ministry and worship*

Creating a Welcoming Environment at MeadowBrook

Historically, the next 6 weeks are some of the highest-attended Sundays of the entire year. You play an important part in creating a welcoming environment for guests and members alike. Here are a few specific ways you might help as we approach this season of high attendance...

1. Carpool as a family to free up as many spaces in the parking lot as possible.
2. When entering the worship center, please move forward, filling every seat from the center of the rows, front to back.
3. If you're capable, consider parking on the Janelle Street parking lot as far away as you can comfortably walk, saving select spaces for others, especially guests and people with physical limitations.
4. Point out available seats to those seeking places.
5. Seek out guests, welcome them, ask them to sit with you, and invite them to Life Group.
6. Serve young families by caring for their children occasionally in the nursery (email: vickey@mbchurch.com).
7. Pray for the people around you and sing in an inspiring manner the songs of truth.

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kathy Clayton, Larry Gillis, Rob Morris, Brett Yancey, Kyle Hughes, Tony Howell, Andrea Love, Tommy Thompson, Bob Cross, Bart Watts, Teresa Curtis, Corrine Garrison, Brinley Corbin, Margie Martin, Melissa Griffin, Thomas Lee

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Vernon Tull, Pam Findley, Lanette Albright, Chris Burnette, Landon Cunningham, Max & Denise Dover, Lola-Ruth Adams, Lloyd Matthews, Wes Burnett, Tom Simmons, Frank & Peggy Brizendine, Danny Maddox, Wayne Wood, Anna Moore

- Jeanie Tucker - Encompass Rehab, Room 130A
- Tony Fleming - Gadsden Regional
- Virginia Rowe, mother of Peter Rowe - Gadsden Regional
- Vera Skaggs - recovering from surgery on 1/17
- Shirley Nall - recovering from cataract surgery on 1/17
- Uganda Mission Team (1/18-1/27)
- Baylon Fry in the loss of his grandfather, Johnny Fry
- Ben Whorton in the loss of his grandmother, Liz Hardin