

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Power of a Prayerful Leader, Nehemiah 2:9-20

Review:

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

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 2:9-11 ESV)

Local governors, Sanballat and Tobiah, were displeased that someone was seeking the welfare of the Jewish people. Later, Geshem the Arab, joined in the threats against God's people. When Nehemiah called for the people to rebuild the walls, these men strongly opposed them. (Nehemiah 2:19 ESV)

Every Christian must learn to stand courageously and spiritually fight when opposed by enemies who seek to thwart God's will.

How did Nehemiah handle the opposition? He continued as planned and paused for three days of prayer when he arrived in Jerusalem.

The Apostle Paul implores: *¹⁰ Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood. . . (Eph. 6:10-12a ESV) Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. (Ephesians 6:18 ESV)*

In Susa, Nehemiah prayed for 4-5 months, seeking God's heart and direction. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, he spent three days praying for steady resolve for him and the people to do God's will.

And later, when the enemies accused Nehemiah of rebelling against the king, he stood his ground. (Nehemiah 2:20)

Standing confidently in God's will, even when we face opposition, comes from kneeling humbly in prayer. In other words, learn to stand confidently by kneeling before God in humility.

Christian leadership is not primarily about charisma, effective communication, appearance, poise, or drive. Genuine and influential Christian leaders are people of prayer—they humbly pray to the Sovereign God, seeking his heart to lead and serve people well.

Nehemiah 2:12-16

After praying, Nehemiah set out to plan, which started with midnight scouting with a few good men. He told no one what God put into his heart to do for Jerusalem (v. 12).

When you believe God has laid something on your heart, test it by asking: "Is my thought in line with what the Bible reveals about God's character and word?" God never contradicts himself or his word, the Bible.

Like Nehemiah, God will be in our decisions if we align our hearts with the Bible.

If you want to make an impact, you'll need to spend time daily with God to align your heart with his and surround yourself with a few good people to help guide your thoughts.

Nehemiah 2:17-18

Christian leaders and influencers serve best when:

1. They are empathetic, Spirit-filled problem solvers.
2. They are eager to serve alongside others.
3. They appeal to the greater rewards, such as honor, dignity, and glory.
4. They call people to focus on God, his will, goodness, and grace.

Christians should prayerfully see the world through the eyes of Jesus, be eager to respond to brokenness with his grace, and influence others to join in his work of renewal for his glory and their good.

Our call is to be like Nehemiah, who prayed, sought, and trusted God's goodness and word. He moved in faith to rebuild the brokenness and urged others to join him in restoring the people and city.

What might we see through the Lord's eyes? How will we respond as a church? How will you respond individually? In our obedience, may his glory fill the earth.



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, January 28, 2024 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

COFFEE HOUR

TODAY
10:30 AM at CAFE '59

If you are new to MeadowBrook, our Ministry Team would like to get to know you, share the mission of MeadowBrook and answer any questions you may have.

We hope you will join us immediately following our Worship Service!





MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, FEB 4 | 11:45 AM | CONFERENCE CENTER

Lunch for anyone considering membership. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs and answer any questions you may have. (Prerequisite for membership)

Register at mbchurch.com/connections



THIS WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 2-3...

- Pray that God would reveal His wisdom and grace in every aspect of the weekend.
- Pray for all the leaders, praise band, and our speaker, Jarmon Leatherwood, to magnify the glory of Christ alone!
- Pray that students who don't know Christ would come to know Him.
- Pray that followers of Christ would be challenged, encouraged and changed as they grow deeper in love with Him.

Middle & High School students, it's not too late to sign up! Register at MBCHURCH.COM

WEDNESDAY BREAKOUTS

FEB 7 - MAR 20 | 6:30 PM

Spring 2024 Breakouts begin NEXT Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30 PM!

Breakout groups are intentional topical studies that meet for a short season on Wednesday Nights. These groups help equip disciples in various areas so that they might better glorify God in every area of their lives.



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
10:30 am - Coffee Hour - Café '59
11:00 am - Dwight Baptist Church Worship

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Dining Hall
(Chicken Pot Pie, Stewed Potatoes, Fried Okra, 7 Layer Salad, Mexican Cornbread, Dessert;
Kids Menu: Tacos, Chips, Dessert)
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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

10 am - Threads of Love Knit/Crochet - Conference Center

FEBRUARY 1-6

Costa Rica Mission Trip

FEBRUARY 2-3

D'NOW Weekend

2024 BIBLE READING

January 28 - Romans 15:1-13
January 29 - Romans 15:14-33
January 30 - Romans 16:1-16
January 31 - Romans 16:17-27

February 1 - Genesis 1
February 2 - Genesis 2-3
February 3 - Genesis 4-5

Bible reading plans are available at Guest Connections & Ministry Central



SUNDAYS at 10:30 AM

Life Group is the best way to connect to the ministry and community at MeadowBrook.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a brochure at Guest Connections.

Welcome

If you are our GUEST, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a FREE gift!



PRAY for our COSTA RICA MISSION TEAM FEBRUARY 1-6 :: San Jose, Costa Rica

- + Pray for our team as they work alongside HOPE Ministries and are able to share the Gospel with many students and their families.
- + Pray the message of the Gospel will be clear to those who hear and their hearts will be open and they will come to repentance and belief in Jesus as their Savior and Lord!
- + Pray for Jose and Gaby and the HOPE Ministries team that they will be able to follow up and disciple those who come to faith during this trip.

mom connections

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6
9:00-11:00 AM at Café '59

Moms of ALL ages are invited to join us for a time of fellowship, devotion, prayer and a cup of coffee on the first Tuesday of each month from 9-11 AM at CAFE '59. Childcare will be provided for those with children in the gym.

SECRET SUPPER Ladies' Night Out

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8
5:30-8:00 PM

REGISTER on the MB App
or at mbchurch.com
by Sunday, FEB 4th

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 Burnette, Tom Simmons, Frank & Peggy Brizendine, Danny Maddox, Wayne Wood, Anna Moore

- Lanier Cobb & family in the loss of his brother
- Jeanie Tucker - Encompass Rehab, Room 130
- Tony Fleming - McGuffey's Rehab, Room 436