

FRIDAY, MAR 7

DEAR MBC FAMILY,

As elders, we are devoted to praying in all kinds of ways for our church family according to God's Word. As a follow-up to our recent emphasis on 21 Days of Prayer, we want to share with you two particular ways we are praying for our church family now and to ask you to join in praying with us accordingly.

• Let's pray particularly for God's grace amidst changes in our government.

Over just the first few weeks of a new administration, many people across our church and city have been significantly affected by government decisions. Let's pray specifically for people in our church family who have lost jobs or are facing uncertainty about their jobs. Let's also pray specifically for people in our church whose lives and families are affected by changes in immigration policies and practices.

Beyond our church family, let's pray that we will be salt and light in our city, spreading the love, truth, security, satisfaction, and hope that are found in Jesus alone. As God has instructed us, let's pray for God's grace over leaders in our government that they might lead wisely and justly as stewards of the responsibilities God has entrusted to them. Ultimately, let's pray for boldness to share the gospel with our neighbors as we do justice for the orphan and the widow, the unborn and the refugee, and the poor and the oppressed, all of whom God specifically calls us to love and care for in His Word.

· Let's pray particularly for unity in our church family.

It's no secret that we live in a divisive culture, particularly in light of government decisions like those referenced above and the political polarization we experience in the capital of our country. It is a challenge to stay united around Jesus in the middle of it all.

Our Executive Pastor, Wade Burnett, recently completed a report for our members on litigation and church discipline at MBC from 2021-2024. His report documents that the last remaining lawsuit was recently dismissed by the courts, and also demonstrates the need to guard against the damaging effects of divisive tactics in the body of Christ. If you would be helped by reading Wade's report, it is available to you at *mcleanbible.org/lawsuitreport*.

We are a church family that refuses to unite around a political party or the personal ideologies of particular groups. We are a community of Christ followers who have many different preferences, convictions, and perspectives on issues that are not clearly and directly addressed in God's Word. So as we continue to pray, let's also go out of our way to love one another, make every effort to promote and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and labor together to spread the gospel of peace in our city and around the world.

Our next Church Family Meeting will be March 12 at 7 pm This meeting will be online, and you can participate by joining the livestream at <u>mcleanbible.org/churchfamilymeeting</u> and by voting through the link you will receive that night in your email inbox. Lord willing, we will have the opportunity to affirm a host of new members who desire to be a part of MBC, share ministry updates across our church family, and pray together for God's help in the specific ways described above.

We love you, church.

IN CHRIST, MBC ELDERS