

# Melbourne Church of Christ

*"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."*

## A Suggestion for More Effective Prayer

by Edd Sterchi

**Christians are to have a continual habit of prayers, that are effective. Too many times, we start our prayers "Dear God" and then start our wish list. But I think it's important to get the proper perspective in before we begin telling God what we would like Him to do for us.**

**We have an example of this when Peter and John had been arrested by the Sanhedrin council for preaching Jesus. After being forbidden to speak anymore about Jesus, they were released with the threat that if they continue to do so, things would get much worse.**

**Peter and John then met with the local church. It was a difficult time for Christians and they were at an important juncture for the movement. So, they decided to pray. They needed God's comfort and His assistance to remain courageous and keep moving forward for the cause of Christ.**

**We read that prayer in Acts 4:24-30, "They lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples devise futile things? 'The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.' For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus."**

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**The Encouragement Group meets on Thursday's at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall.**

**Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:10 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening 6:00 p.m.**



**Melbourne Church of Christ**  
**A Place to Belong**

**Elders**

Danny Brightwell  
291-3439  
  
Shelby Qualls  
291-7424

**Deacons**

David Brightwell     Alan Love  
307-5714                243-4608  
  
Joe Cooper  
291-4653

**Minister**

Ryan Lloyd  
217-1109  
Melbourne CoC  
Box 267  
Melbourne, AR 72556

## Family News

- We are updating our sign digitally. If you would like to contribute to this expense, please contact Shelby or Danny.
- We will have a church family game night tonight at the fellowship building from 5-7pm. Bring snacks, finger foods, and your favorite game and let's enjoy spending time together building our friendships!
- Hadleigh Grigg will have kidney surgery next Saturday, on February 27. Please keep her, Harper, Jamie, and Dalton in your prayers.
- We will have a Valentine's Banquet on Wednesday, February 14 at the fellowship building at 6pm.
- Donnie Vest passed away last week. Please keep the Vest family in your prayers at this time.
- Mandy Miller Hunt had a double mastectomy surgery. Please keep her and Shawn in your prayers as she continues to fully recover.
- Sermons and bulletins available at [Melbournechurchofchrist.com](http://Melbournechurchofchrist.com)

**OPENING PRAYER** David Brightwell

**CLOSING PRAYER** Shelby Qualls



**JANUARY**

**BRAD SIPE**

**DANNY BRIGHTWELL**

**CHIPPER LAMB**

**SHAWN WORTHAM**

**FEBRUARY**

**SHELBY QUALLS**

**CHIP MASTER**

**BRENT QUALLS**

**ROBERT LANGSTON**

**Continued...**

**If we examine that prayer, we will see they did not immediately jump into what they wanted God to do. They began by praising and honoring Him. In the Greek New Testament, their prayer consisted of 130 words. The first 86 words of that prayer were in praise of God for who He is and what He has done. It is only then that they entered into the section of prayer where they made their requests. This means that the first 2/3 of their prayer was to honor God.**

**So here's my suggestion: On your next prayer, spend the first 2/3 of it in praise of God. Doing that will put things into perspective. And in praying this way, we will not only be honoring God, we will be humbling ourselves and increasing our faith by reminding ourselves of just who He is and what He has done in the past. It is then that our heart should be prepared to present our true desires before Him.**

**When the early church prayed in this fashion, God answered their prayer in a most dramatic way (v.31). I am confident this would be true for us, as well (although you may not literally feel the ground shake beneath your feet).**

**Prayer List**

**Military:** Derek Love **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson **Nursing Home:** Al Gillihan, Debbie Hoskinds, Imodean Webb, Troy Gaston, Sue Campbell, Barbara Watson, Bill Wiseman, Ann Lawrence

Ted Kidd	Wilma Cooper	Jim Fowler	Dorothy Teague
Bill Roland	Treva Voyles	Hayden Phillips	Debbie Crow
Cornelia Summers	Christie Haney	Joanna Smith	Wayne Crosby
Brooke Partin	Gary Brown	Sanyia Austin	Charlotte Cooper
John Young	Regenia Gillihan	Robby Qualls	Regina Master
Shawna Teegarden	Jeanette Crosby	Youngblood	John Ward
Boyde Martin	Gage Barns	Jacob Cross	

**January Birthdays**

Emma Marie Cooper 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Randy Zook 5 <sup>th</sup>	Anthony Weston 7 <sup>th</sup>
Emmitt Weston 8 <sup>th</sup>	Julie Teague 10 <sup>th</sup>	Kimberly Hoskinds 12 <sup>th</sup>
Harper Cotter 13 <sup>th</sup>	Melissa Lamb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Kiley Carter 14 <sup>th</sup>
Arlene Davidson 15 <sup>th</sup>	Luke Vest 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Kosmitis 17 <sup>th</sup>
Charles Everett 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ken Bone 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wayne Crosby 20 <sup>th</sup>
Rusty Treat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Iris Beebe 22 <sup>nd</sup>	David Hoskinds 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Sharon Watson 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rhetha Lamb 24 <sup>th</sup>	Jeanette Everett 24 <sup>th</sup>
Trey Lamb 25 <sup>th</sup>	Daylee Brightwell 25 <sup>th</sup>	Zori Brightwell 25 <sup>th</sup>
Kyler McLaughlin 25 <sup>th</sup>	Eastyn Teegarden 25 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Paul Smith 28 <sup>th</sup>
Adam Hoskinds 31 <sup>st</sup>	Joe Ingram 31 <sup>st</sup>	

**January Anniversaries**

John & Marilyn Smith 18<sup>th</sup>  
Randy & Diane Zook 21<sup>st</sup>

**Dates to Remember**

Ladies meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food.  
Men meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.  
Potluck every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after services, please bring a dish.

**Psalm 34:15-18, "The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."**