

BREAD FOR THE WORLD SUNDAY 2018

A Devotional Reflection

“If it pleases the king, may I have letters....”

—Nehemiah 2:7

By Rev. Tyler C. Millner

Writing a letter is a vital tool of communication. Letters were used throughout the Bible. Nehemiah 2:7 and Acts 9:2 are examples of this. These scriptures show how letters were used to advance the goals of Nehemiah and Saul.

Nehemiah’s goal was to restore the wall, rebuild the city, and advocate for the health and safety of his people. The king’s letter demonstrated that he had the king’s approval and authorization. The letter also gave permission for Nehemiah to obtain timber for restoring the wall. On the other hand, Saul’s goal was to seek cover and protection as he went about killing and threatening the followers of Jesus Christ. His authority was assured by the government letter.

These scriptures tell us how letters can exercise influence by extending one’s presence and making one’s voice heard. Another example of this was Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s letter that communicated his concern for unjust laws and strengthened his work with white clergy while imprisoned in a Birmingham jail.

Bread for the World has a legacy of writing letters to help end hunger and poverty by 2030. Every year, Congress makes policy decisions that can advance or hinder the agenda of ending hunger and poverty in the United States and globally. As people of faith who know and experience the love and caring grace of God, we are invited to write letters, especially during Bread for the World Sunday, advocating for and with those affected by hunger and poverty.

PRAYER:

O GOD, lead me to pray for all people who struggle with hunger. Help me to do my part to create a better life for them. Help Congress to remember those affected by hunger and poverty. Help Congress to remember that protecting the most vulnerable in our world is an important way to advance a moral vision of faith and country.
Amen!



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Rev. Tyler C. Millner is pastor of Morning Star Holy Church in Martinsville, Virginia. This reflection was taken from Bread for the World’s Pan-African Devotional for the third Sunday in October.



Rev. Tyler C. Millner