



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

January 9, 2022

Engaging Missions

Article by Tim Tripp

Traditionally, for most of us, missions have been something we realize we support with our general contribution and that gets a mention from the front once in a while. A smaller group has taken the next step in missions and visited a mission site. They stayed a week or so and took on work projects to help out the local church and missionary. A handful of folks have made extended stays at a mission site and engaged the culture with the hopes of planting churches, discipling believers and reaching out to non-believers and fallen believers. A lot has been written about the effectiveness of each category. All of them have benefits for both those who participate in missions and those to whom the mission is reaching. However, the greatest impact, and this should come as no surprise, are those efforts where lasting relationships between Christians in different places can be developed. When relationships are built between Christians, it is a great context for discipleship to happen. Ultimately, that is the goal of missions: make disciples of all nations.

In reflecting on our mission and vision at West Side, I would like to see our missions model favor supporting efforts where the opportunity exists for people in Russellville to build godly relationships with people in our community or abroad where discipleship either in person or virtually can take place. I would like to see a system in place where West Side members have the opportunity to engage with people who may be at different places along the line of maturity in Christ and walk with one another to grow deeper in faith and closer to Jesus. I think it is possible with technology as it is and with training and prayer to make this happen. To do it we need West Side members who are ready and willing to engage our mission statement to Love, Share and Disciple.

I want to invite you to consider how you might be willing to engage others in relationship around a Bible Study or just to be supportive with the hopes of leading them in a closer walk with Jesus. We plan for opportunities to exist where people can meet online and conduct Bible readings to improve English skills. We hope that through those readings, relationships might be built where discussions could turn to discipleship.

If you have wanted to be involved in missions but have never had the desire or ability to travel abroad, then the time is right. You too can reach people in other places to bring them the good news of Jesus. Please be prayerful for opportunities to arise that might work for you then watch for opportunities to take shape for you to take the gospel of Jesus to the world.

In a real way you can engage missions from your own laptop or tablet and help others to know Jesus and teach them to make disciples where they are. Barriers no longer exist between you and missions. It is time for you to engage.

NEWS AND UPDATES IN THIS ISSUE

- *Gulf Coast Getaway*
- *WSYM important dates*
- *CHRISTeens Housing*

ONLINE CONNECT CARD

We would love to connect with you! Please fill out our Online Connect Card at...

westsidear.org/connect



Last Week:

Sunday A.M. Class & Conversation - 90
Worship - 203
Giving - \$17,674
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 82

Housing Sign-Ups for CHRISTeans are in the foyer today!

If you are interested in housing students for this event, please sign up soon! For more information please see Deanna Cole.

Prayer Requests

- Joshy Stansberry, 17 yr old great nephew of Jim Betterton, is currently in hospice care at home as a result of a rare neurodegenerative condition. He is in extreme pain and has not been responding well to medication. Please pray for his mother Cheryl as she makes decisions regarding the best next steps for him
- Joel Delgado, infant great grandson of Kay Larson, was recently hospitalized again, this time with Croup. Please continue to pray for Joel and his mom and dad as they endure the trials of his ongoing health issues. Continue to pray for complete healing.
- Paulette Cooper's mother, Dean Raines, is currently hospitalized in Mountain View with a severe UTI and respiratory issues. Please pray for her overall condition to improve soon.

Ongoing Concerns:

- Tami Robinson
- Sid Womack
- Sofia Juarez
- Jesse Boshears

WSYM upcoming events

- Jan. 21-22 Y.O.U. Conference in Conway - \$20
- CHRISTeans will be here soon! Feb. 25-27th

RENEW upcoming events

- Jan. 10th - classes start back
- Jan. 12th - Noon Meal and Midweek return
- Jan. 14-17 Gulf Coast Getaway - \$150

If you would like to help provide financial assistance in the way of scholarships for either the Y.O.U. Conference or Gulf Coast Getaway, see Mark Hixson, Jake Greer or Krysta Allen.

Due to the uptick in local Covid cases, mask wearing is strongly recommended in our assemblies. Thank you for your cooperation!

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