



Sending Hurts

by Tim Tripp

October
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In his three years of ministry, Jesus spent a great deal of time training his disciples to carry on his mission when he was gone. When he returned to his father it was a sad occasion for his them. Jesus' last extended conversation with his disciples in John 14-17 is heartbreaking when you read the questions they ask him. "Where are you going?" "Why can't we come with you?" It is clear that they were greatly distressed that he would be leaving them. Yet before he left them, he sent them out. "Go into all the world and make disciples...". Disciples are made to be sent.

In 2 Timothy 1:4, Paul tells Timothy that he remembers his tears. They were possibly shed when Paul left him in Ephesus to go on to Macedonia. Paul refers to this separation in 1 Timothy 1:3. That must have been difficult for both of them. They had been constant travel companions and it is obvious that they were very fond of one another. It was a father-son type of relationship. Yet despite the tears, Timothy stayed to do the work he was called to do. Disciples are made to be sent.

West Side is a sending congregation. Many times over the past years even in the relatively short time I have been here, we have seen people come to West Side, engage in the community here and then answer a call of God to go elsewhere. When they go, we send them. It is always painful.

I remember when Neil and Katie Reynolds took the lead minister role at the University Church of Christ in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. They had been here a long time. Neil had been both a youth minister and a campus minister. He had also greatly improved in his ability to share the word of God through his preaching. I remember when we gathered on a Sunday morning to send them off to their new calling. It was a time to celebrate a move of the Spirit but there was also sadness and tears. I remember sending James and Abigail Rucker to their mission in Haiti. They were only with us a short time but in that time, they were loved greatly. Sending them was sad. Zac and Christina are planning to lead a church plant in Yell County. We celebrate what they are planning but losing them is sad.

This morning we celebrate with Aris and Carina Ortiz as they and the members of the Hispanic church they lead move to the church building formerly known as 5th and Greenwich Church of Christ. We are so happy for this transition and what it means to their fellowship. We pray with them that God blesses them abundantly and helps them to reach out in their community to grow and thrive in that place. We pray that His Spirit moves in people there to bring them closer to Jesus and help them become disciples of his. Yet we are sad. We will miss seeing their faces each week, watching their children grow, and greeting them, if awkwardly over the language barrier, each Sunday.

Yet this is the way of discipleship. Disciples are together for a time. They love each other, work together, grow with one another and then often, they are sent. It hurts the heart. We dread the news when it comes but we rejoice in knowing that God's will is being done. Disciples are made to be sent.

The promise of scripture is not that we always get to do life together with those we consider family in Christ here in this life. The promise is that as we are faithful in serving Him here, we get to do eternity together later. That is something to which we look forward!

DIOS LE BENDIGA! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Blessings My West Side Family!

Well, this Sunday, is our last Sunday worshipping for the Hispanic group under this roof, my West Side Family. God has been so good to us, by giving us the wonderful opportunity to worship Him along with all of you here every Sunday, for the past 5 years, and we feel more blessed knowing that we have grown so much spiritually, in fellowship and numerically. Your support, my West Side family, has been our encouragement all the time; your concern about us, has shown us the love and motive to do better.

We are so thankful to the Lord, and we pray that more blessings and health and wisdom you will receive my West Side family. And we are asking all of you to continue praying for the Hispanic Ministry, especially now that we are taking on a new challenge and responsibilities as a congregation. Please pray for us, that our Lord will use us as instruments on his hands, that more souls can be reached and find salvation, and that we can grow more spiritually and in numbers too. Please pray that we can make a difference in that community, around our new place. Again, THANK YOU my brothers and sisters, your work in the Lord, will be rewarded in ways that only God can do. I will keep using the office here, so I will be around and if I can be of help to you in any way you can think, I will be more than happy to do it!. On behalf of my family and the entire Hispanic group: May God bless your life with health, family and happiness.

Gathering Times

Sunday Morning 10 Am Worship
& Kids for Christ
ages 1yr-5th grade

In- Person Adult/Teen Bible Study
Wednesdays 6:30pm - Room 3 & Cornerstone

Friendship Cafe and Conversational Christianity
Sunday Mornings at 8:45

In- person Adult Bible Study
Sunday Mornings at 9am

West Side News

Cookbook

Hurry Hurry Hurry! Today is the deadline to
order the West Side Delights Cookbook!

Be sure to get yours reserved today!

Order forms are available at the Friendship Cafe as well
as the West Side Friends & Family facebook page.

Cookbooks will be here December 5th!

\$20 each and proceeds benefit our KFC program!

Hey West Side!

At Camp Caudle we are planning (with the help of Rocky and Cindy Jones) to once again host our Old Fashioned Christmas events!

It's a wonderful time of the year, and we have different activities like readings of the Christmas story, cookie making, crafts, writing letters to Santa, and hayrides! There are more details and activities to come, but it's high time to save the afternoon of December 4th on your calendars!

This is a fundraising even for Camp, so there is a cost per child coming to participate - \$15 for the first child, \$10 more for a second child, and register three for \$30!

We are also looking for volunteers to help out with this event - if you have helped in the past, or are interested in coming out to help, please let Marcus McCormick know. Sign-up sheets will be in the foyer starting this week. Send Marcus a Facebook message, or text at (512)-296-7567, or an email at marcus@campcaudle.org.

Sign up for WS emails at
westsidear.org/subscribe

Week of: 10-24-2021

Weekly Giving: \$ 9,043

Attendance

Weekly Budget: \$ 13,820

Sunday AM - 316

YTD Giving: \$ 568,166

Wednesday PM -71

YTD Budget: \$ 594,249

Family Illness and Recovery

Please continue to remember Sid Womack and family as he battles esophageal cancer. Pray for effective treatment, strength, and complete healing.

Margaret Grant is recovering at home from knee replacement surgery last Tuesday. Please continue to pray for reduced pain and rapid recovery.

Tami Robinson is recovering from bladder tumor removal surgery. Please continue to keep her in your prayers as additional tests are required and full diagnosis and course of action plans are made.

Helen Stephens is currently hospitalized recovering from surgery to mend a broken hip. Please pray for her improved strength and complete healing.

OTHER NEWS

Please help restock our pantry with items we use for homeless meals and dialysis clinic

Needed Items are::

Individual cans of Tuna (packed in water ,not oil),

Ritz crackers - fresh stacks

Individual Applesauce -Unsweetened

Love. Share. Disciple.