



# WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## Different Gifts, One Job

by Tim Tripp

In the days of Nehemiah, the tension in and around Jerusalem was thick. Nehemiah and others had gotten the permission of the Persian King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem and begin to rebuild the city. Nehemiah was given money, resources and even protection to go and rebuild the great city. By the time of Nehemiah, Jews had been trickling back from Persia for nearly 100 years. They were facing more and more opposition and needed the protection of a wall around the city as soon as possible. Nehemiah was charged with that task.

He arrived to find a pile of rubble where the wall once stood. Large gaps in the wall allowed both the welcome and the unwelcome free access to the city and everyone living there. He resolved that they were going to begin rebuilding it immediately. The people who lived in the land were in opposition to their rebuilding. They sent messages insisting that the rebuilding work cease and wrote letters to the Persian king to accuse the Jewish builders of sedition. As the opposition grew louder and louder, they worked harder and harder. Attack from their enemies seemed eminent so they armed themselves. They posted guards around the places where people were working. The workers carried swords and had orders to drop their tools and take out their weapons anytime the trumpet blew. Many had a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. Everyone was required to work near their own homes. Everyone applied themselves to the task. Priests and musicians worked together with carpenters and merchants. They worked by day and guarded the work at night. Rebuilding the wall was their mission and they got it done. It took them a mere 52 days (Neh. 6:15). It was done with such passion and such relentless effort that their enemies never did attack because they could see that God was with them.

I see that story and can't help but wonder what would happen if the people of God could work together with that kind of urgency and that kind of passion on the mission of the church today. Would we see poverty erased? Might we see complete unity among people who believe in Jesus? Would we see a whole community walk with Jesus? I look at that list and think there is no way any of those could happen but I also know that God has a way of surprising people. It would be amazing to see what would happen if all of those who love the Lord would prioritize the mission of making disciples, maturing believers and taking the kingdom to the world.

We all have been given different gifts and talents. We are told that those gifts were given to us to build up the "body of Christ," (Ephesians 4:12). The phrase "build up" does not mean to build bigger church buildings or even to build churches with large numbers of members or attendees to services. A 'built up church' is one with a process to mature believers so that each part works together, as a body, to glorify God and accomplish his mission in the world.

While we all may have different gifts and talents, our goal is one and the same. We must work together with great passion and relentless effort to complete the mission with which we have been entrusted. God has given us all amazing skills and abilities but one job. If we won't work together to accomplish the task, the enemy waits to exploit the "gaps in the walls." We must focus on the job and resolve to get it done together!

## DIOS LE BENDIGA! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Fighting the good fight.

By the Lord's mercy and his Divine plan, we are part of the Kingdom of Heaven. At the moment that we took the decision to obey the gospel of Christ, and be baptized for the remission of our sins, that was the moment when God put us in the Church. And since that day, we have been fighting the good fight according to the Apostle Paul. Every day since then, Satan has been at the door waiting for the opportunity to make us fall. Satan is still there and will not leave us if we are not careful, faithful and busy doing the work in the kingdom. Satan will even use the work that we do for the Lord, to create jealousy, envy or complications in our relationships with one to another. He can use you or me to take away the encouragement, the blessings that God has for us, and make it go away so we can not enjoy that freedom, peace and love that only he can give. We never have to forget that our fight it's not against blood and flesh but against evil spirits, demons that surround us every moment of our life waiting to destroy us, our families, marriage and life. We need to be vigilant, always not letting Satan rob our salvation, making us slaves for eternity. Greater is the One who is in us, than the one who is in the world. Let's keep fighting the good fight my West Side Family!

## 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 on Ephesians  
Sunday Mornings at 9am

## West Side News

Be sure to turn in those recipes TODAY! We want everyone to have a chance to participate! You can turn in recipes at the Friendship Café on Sunday, or submit them online. See the previous posts on our Friends and Family facebook page for instructions on how to do that.

All proceeds from the cookbook sales will go to our KFC program to equip them with some needed items for the new season.

### **Remember the Cookout tonight**

**5pm at Old Post Park.**

**Hot Dogs and Hamburgers and drinks provided,  
bring side dishes and desserts.**

### Upcoming Showers:

Join us for a Drive-Through Baby Girl Shower  
in honor of Tasha Greer & Epperly Lynn

on Sunday Aug. 22nd from 2-3:15 at the Student Center.

They are registered at Target and Amazon.

A Wedding Shower for  
Tanner and Tori (Thomas) Woodhull  
will be Sunday Aug. 29th in the Rock  
from 1:30-3:30pm

They are registered at Millyn's, Target, Walmart & Amazon

**Sign up for WS emails at  
[westsidear.org/subscribe](http://westsidear.org/subscribe)**

## **Week of: 8-8-2021**

**Weekly Giving: \$ 12,102**

Attendance

**Weekly Budget:\$ 13,820**

Sunday AM - 233

**YTD Giving: \$ 440,848**

Wednesday PM - 60

**YTD Budget: \$ 442,232**

## Family Illness and Recovery

Carol White's sister Sharon remains in Hospice care. Continued prayers for the family are appreciated.

Amy Vanderheiden is being treated for infection and blood clots in her knee following her recent surgery. Please continue to pray that medication will work quickly and she regains strength before facing her next upcoming surgery.

Danny Davis is recovering from foot surgery. Please continue to pray for rapid recovery.

Tasha Greer's father, Brad, is currently hospitalized with Covid related pneumonia. Please pray for his lung function to improve quickly.

Dena Moore will be having foot surgery August 19th. Please keep her in your prayers for successful surgery with no complications and rapid recovery.

## Other News

Beth Sorrells is collecting money and gift cards for gas and food for the family of Wendell Loyd.

See Beth for more information and to donate.

Pantry Needs:

We need to stock up on items for the Dialysis Clinic. Needed items are Ritz Crackers (small sleeves)

Canned tuna (in water, not oil), Apples and Unsweetened Applesauce.

Please bring items and leave in the MNFTM box in the hallway.

**Love. Share. Disciple.**