



Welcome to West Side!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

April 17, 2022

New Beginnings

Article by Tim Tripp

Lenore and I are really excited to meet our first grandchild. She is due to enter the world early next month and we hope to get to meet her very soon after her birth. It is humbling and amazing to watch another generation of our family begin. It reminds us that God is at work continually renewing the world under his watchful eye and according to his perfect plan.

I admit though, it does come with some darker thoughts as well. As the sunrise of the new generation begins to brighten the horizon on one side, the sunset of the older generation begins to darken the horizon on the other. My parents' generation is aging and time with them feels limited.

My thoughts get darker yet when I think of my age and the fact that even a generous life span doesn't seem at all long enough to get to know the precious little girl that will join us soon as well as all the others who likely come along later.

I know this way of thinking isn't real healthy. I often tell people to live for today. I quote Matthew 6:34, *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."* It is true for sure but still, every fiber of my being wants to be here for my grandkids. I want to love them, guide them, teach them and protect them just as I did my own children. This whole "circle of life" thing is troubling.

One thing that brings me great comfort in these silly musings is resurrection.

Undoubtedly, Jesus' disciples had been caught off guard by the crucifixion. They didn't see things going down as they had. Jesus had even told them plainly what was to happen yet they would only see things through the lens of their own perspective. After Jesus' death they must have worried about what would become of them. They had envisioned themselves living in the palace of a king but after the crucifixion, the prospect of running from the authorities and facing their own execution loomed large.

When Jesus emerged from the grave that all changed. Their lives had purpose and meaning again. They began to understand better the things Jesus had told them and they, once again, walked and talked with the Lord. Death would never again be an end for the followers of Jesus. It was a new beginning.

Resurrection changes the perspective of the whole 'circle of life' thing too. It is our guarantee that there is a life beyond this life. We will walk and talk again with the generation behind us. We will again love and cling to the generations after. We'll even meet many that we never knew in this life, only to find they have been a part of our "cloud of witnesses" all along.

The inevitability of our physical lives coming to an end one day is known from early on. The thought of it makes our lives seem rather meaningless. Jesus changed all of that. Now that we can be assured of eternity where there will be no sickness or pain or death we can rest in the blessing of knowing that the end is not the end. It is a new beginning.

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Last Week:
Sunday Class & Conversation - 109
Worship - 257
Giving - \$12,705
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 101

Prayer Requests

Carol Harrison is doing well following neck and carpal tunnel surgery. Please continue to keep her in your prayers for a full and speedy recovery.

Carol White continues to make improvements following her recent surgery. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Jen Rentfro's father, Paul Bandanza, is improving while undergoing rehab for overall strengthening and is still awaiting lab results for diagnosis of his medical condition. Continue to pray for his healing.

Jonah Vanderheiden is awaiting more information regarding his recent biopsy which determined a rare eye condition. Please keep him in your prayers with his ongoing health complications.

Continue to Remember
Tami Robinson
Sofia Juarez

Address update:
Wanda Bailey now resides at
Stonebridge Assisted Living
Cottage A
Room112

Easter Egg Hunt

West Side Youth will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for children 4th grade and under, following worship service this morning.

Festivities will take place in the field behind the Family Center. In the event of rain, all activities will be moved inside.

For more information see Mark Hixson.

Save the Date for VBS
July 11-15th
be watching for more information soon!

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