

October 2008 West Wind

West Side Church of God

September 25, 2008

F. Y. I.

Mark Your Calendar: Ladies' **SILVER TEA** is Monday, December 1st.

Beautiful and inspirational **2009 Calendars** (pocket and wall size), note cards, and magnetic note pads are available for sale. Calendars and note cards are \$5 each. Magnetic note pads are \$4 each. Proceeds benefit the youth group. Display table at the west foyer.

This month at FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Guest Speaker is

Bob Gress Director of
Great Plains Nature Center



All Church Breakfast & Pastor Appreciation

October 19th

9:30-10:20 am

Family Life Center
Hosted by Cornerstone Class



We are looking forward to the installation of our new multi-media system in October. Two new monitor screens will be installed near the front row of pews—one on the east side and one on the west side of the sanctuary. These monitors have vibrant color, depth, and are easier to see; they will help with our worship experiences at West Side. Thank you to everyone who gave donations to this project.

Dear Lord, let me be still before You. When I am hurried or distracted, slow me down and redirect my thoughts.
When I am confused, give me perspective.
Keep me mindful, Father, that You are always with me.
And let me sense Your presence today, tomorrow, and forever.
from Be Still My Soul: Moments of Peace

Do We have a Vision & Mission Of Ministry?

When Jesus came to Earth He had a mission. Everything Jesus did focused on accomplishing that mission. What was His mission? It is found in Luke 19:10. Jesus was in the house of Zacchaeus, a head tax collector who was considered to be a sinner and a traitor. Some people questioned why Jesus was eating in Zacchaeus' house. Jesus' presence in the house caused Zacchaeus to change his lifestyle. Jesus responded to these events by defining His mission as "the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

What does this say about Jesus' mission when He declares it in the house of a sinner? I think it points to purpose. Jesus was in the house of a person who was lost. Jesus was there to save him. This was very specific to His mission. His statement puts parameters around what He was going to do. Jesus was telling the people He was going to work to accomplish what He came to do. In their minds, Jesus should not eat in the house of sinners—religious leaders just do not do that. But Jesus knew that in order to accomplish His mission He could not be reserved to the temple or a local synagogue. He had to go where people were to save them. Jesus' purpose for being in the house of Zacchaeus was to accomplish his mission.

It is vitally important for a church to have a vision and mission. A vision gives a church a picture of what they are to accomplish. The mission is how they will accomplish the vision. The mission spells out how the vision will happen. Take our personal lives for instance. We have goals that we want to accomplish in our lives. Those goals could be financial, educational, work-related, or spiritual. Now in order for us to accomplish these goals, we must do things that work toward them. I might ask the question "Am I doing the things necessary to accomplish these goals?" If the answer is no, then I have to make changes in order to accomplish them. If the answer is yes, I might feel some satisfaction for making it happen. I might even see what I could do better. It is the same with a church. The vision is the goal they want to accomplish. It is what they want to see happen. The mission is working to accomplish the goal or vision.

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The questions that West Side must ask are "What is our vision?" and "Is our mission accomplishing that vision?" If the answers are "I don't know," the first thing we have to do is ask God to show us His vision for West Side. Then, we need to figure out what we need to do in order to accomplish that vision, with God's help of course. Once we decide what we will do, then we will need to stick to the mission so as to accomplish the vision. That means we do only what will accomplish the vision. If our vision is to see the people in the surrounding community come to Christ then the mission will involve working in the surrounding community to see that happen. It will not be working in another community. The vision is the specific goal. The mission is specific to the vision.

So, what are the answers to the questions? "Does West Side have a vision?" "Is there something we are working to accomplish?" If the answer is yes, are we sticking to our mission in order to see our vision completed? If the answer is no, then what is our vision and how will we accomplish that? Either way, we need to go to prayer and find out from God what He would have us do.

In Christ,

The youth are running the concession stand at the square dance convention again this fall. If you would like to donate cookies or brownies for them to sell, please bring them to the church on Wednesday, October 22 – Friday, October 24. If you have time to wrap them into individual portions, that would be very helpful. Thank you for supporting the youth!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This Christmas season, a needy child overseas will receive a shoe box you filled with small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and other meaningful gifts, along with Christian literature in his or her own language. What an opportunity to reach these children with a clear presentation of the Gospel! For more details, please pick up an Operation Christmas Child brochure at the display table by the choir room. Be a part of this exciting opportunity to share God's love with a child.