

Mission Statement: Building bridges to establish relationships to advance Christ kingdom.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Articles by the Pastors
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- Bible Studies



Eric Susberry Pastor

One can hardly believe that 2021 is almost over. One thing I am certain of is this; God would have us all finish out the year strong!

Not a so-so year finish, rather a very productive, fruitful, and very blessed year in all areas (physically, financially, emotionally, spiritually,

Holiday Celebration Blitz

and relationally). I believe that a big key to this is by prioritizing Father God's plans by laboring to advance His Kingdom.

A historical precedence for what we can look forward to is found in the Old and New Testament, where God reminded His people that if they would love and serve Him first and foremost, He would bless them beyond measure.

"But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded. And when Asa heard these words of the prophecy of Azariah the Prophet, he took courage." (II Chronicles 15:7 & 8). Again, look at what Jesus said about rewards for finishing strong for Him. "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of His household, to give the others their food at the proper time, it will be good for that servant whose master finds them doing so when He returns, truly I tell you, He will put them in charge of all His possessions." (Matthew 24:45-47).

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Building Community in Our Church



Caren Susberry Assistant Pastor

I grew up in an area on the Southwest side of Chicago; a housing project called LeClair Courts a row house complex.

It was a small community of people, where everyone either knew each other personally or knew of your family. It was a community where most were involved with each other and the things that went on in the neighborhood.

It was a community that shared and supported one

another and where you made lasting friendships and felt like you belonged.

The community thrived because it cultivated activities like sports, cooking classes, social center activities, dance competitions, Sunday school

at the social center before the church in the neighborhood was built and awards for the most beautiful yard. These things help to keep the community interactive and healthy.

As a kid I went to the only church in the neighborhood LeClair Missionary Baptist Church. This church operated as a community of believers within LeClair community.

It was because of this community of believers that I invited Jesus into my heart and where my heart became fertile and foundation was laid for me to grow in my faith. I thank God for this Christian community.

Building community in the church is important because it attracts people and they have a tendency to stay and become a part of the church community.

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One area that the Lord has laid on my heart is for our church to finish strong in getting people back in church services and experiencing the love, power of God and the feeling of community among each other.

Much of what God wants to bring into our lives will not happen until WE GET BACK!

The only way I see this happening is fulfilling Jesus charge to "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." (Luke 14:23).

God wants you and I to do everything we possibly can to encourage and bring people

" For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, bei ng many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

Romans 12:4-5 NKJV When I speak of building community in the church, I am speaking of having things going on in the church to connect people and keep them coming back.

Most pastors and members have heard that leaving a good first impression on visitors is the key to church growth; as a result, we have gathered our greeters, ushers, and leaders and trained them to be friendly and inviting.

Although this is very important, we are discovering it is not all we need to do. We need to work at building community in our church. Each of us must work to bring a sense of community in the church.

Pastor Eric is always

Holiday...cont.

back in His house.

This is the simple strategy God has given me for all of us to do, and if we do it, it will certainly work.

The strategy is called, "Holiday Celebration Blitz." What is it? I am glad you asked! It is taking advantage of the three holidays that are coming up soon: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.

Each one is reason enough to invite people out to church service. The word "Blitz" is a military and sports term that has rendered many victories.

Blitz is a term meaning, all the soldiers or players conduct a surprise attack on the opposing side using rapid, quick, and overpowering force concentration.

Building...cont.

encouraging us to greet each other; especially our visitors. He wants us to touch their lives so that they will come back.

Early in our ministry we were successful at creating community in our church, people connected.

We worshipped together, experienced God together, enjoyed fellowshipping, made friends, supported and enjoyed one another. As a result, we grew.

We must get back to that because that kind of loving interaction creates a feeling of belonging and a desire to be a part of something bigger than yourself.

The Lord designed us to walk with Him in community with others. In other words, we are I believe that if each of us become responsible and do our part in getting people to church during these last few holidays, many people will come. And God will move in miraculous ways and He will bless us.

"From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does it's share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:16).

P.S. Let us all have a Holiday Celebration Blitz!

not to come together in church only. We are to be a part of each other's lives outside the church as well.

Mature believers will be intentional at creating community among themselves to spureach other toward love and righteousness.

Biblical community includes family as well; followers of Christ. Biblical community also draws those who are outside of Christ to Him. You and I are a part of a biblical community, the church. What can we do together to cause it to grow?

Think about it! I will talk about building community part II, in my coming article.

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Favor and Wisdom ~Min. Diane Tripp-Bufford~

Favor

For the past several months, Pastor Eric Susberry has been preaching on the "favor of God," and Pastor Caren has been teaching us from Proverbs the book of "wisdom."

It is no coincidence that these two words or nouns go hand in hand to give us a blueprint to unleash all that God has for us!

There are so many scriptures about the favor (favour) of God, I am sure you have your favorites. Pastor gave us so many definitions during his Sunday sermon series, of the past two months.

I remember a few points that stayed with me, "consistently remind yourself of scripture on favor," we must rest in God's favor, Phil 1:4-6." "Favor and purpose go hand and hand!" And my favorite "Favor ignites the God in your life."

The favour of God is His plan and purpose for you to live in abundance. It is being singled out by God, for special treatment!

Favor is not just love or grace, it is unmerited, a gift we did not earn. God wants to apply His divine favor in all areas of our lives. Proverbs 3:1-6.

Wisdom

We know that the book of Proverbs, mostly written by King Solomon, who was the wisest and riches King that ever lived, then and even now. We read in 2 Chron 1:7-12, when God asked him what he wanted his reply was, "Now give me

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Get Your Tickets!

(only 70 seats available)

wisdom and knowledge,... So, God said to Solomon "Because this was in your heart,.., "wisdom and knowledge are granted to you..., God's divine gift to King Solomon!

The word "wisdom or wise" is recorded over 220 times and the word "favor," over 100 times in the Bible, including 14 times in Proverbs.

King Solomon's proverbs teach us, if we use God's biblical principles and scripture on wisdom, God's favor will always be with us.

Using God's wisdom in your life will produce many blessings, in your spiritual and family life; health, relationships, and prosperity.

We must allow the Holy Spirit to have full reign to receive favor and wisdom! Amen Dear Mother Eunice, there's a person on my job that I have been mentoring with regards to life and the things of God. However, they did something that made me wonder if it was worth it to keep trying. What do you think?

Let's assume that you've been mentoring this person because God placed them on your heart. Firstly, anything that God calls you to do, expect opposition. Expect that it won't be easy and that it won't always go the way you planned. We have a real adversary out there whose purpose is to frustrate the plans of God. The thiefonly comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). When you recognize this fact, you can begin to pray against the plans of the enemy more strategically.

Secondly, remember that your motivation when it comes to

mentoring/discipleship should be love. And not just any kind of love. It's been said that love is affection in action not based upon the worthiness of the recipient but grounded in the virtue of the giver. Real, godly love is not about the other person. Consider how God loved us. When we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). God's love had nothing to do with our actions. It had everything to do with who He is. We, in turn, should reflect that same kind of love to others. Add prayer and love to your arsenal, see if that changes anything.

Young Adult Elevate Bible Study



Every Thursday at 7pm on Zoom!

Weekly Bible Studies Children's Ministry

Bible Study



Every Monday at 6pm on Zoom!

Teen's Ministry Living Proof Bible Study



Every Sunday at 3pm on Google Meet!

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Want to Know More About Our Church?



Praise God we paid off our church in 2019 and now we can do some much needed repairs to our church building! Don't forget to finish your Building Fund Pledge! Weekly Intercessory Prayer Schedule:

> 1st and 3rd Tuesday Morning Prayer 10:00am - 11:00am

Every Tuesday Evening Prayer 6:30pm – 7:30pm Prayer Conference Call

> Every Friday Men's Prayer 7:30pm – 9:30pm At Church

Every Saturday 7:00am - 8:30am At Church While Maintaining Social Distancing Guidelines

Fast Day Every Tuesday Fast until Noon Sunday Bible School classes are temporarily suspended due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We hope to see you once classes resume!



Coming in 2021: Bookstore Victory in Christ Kingdom a place where you can walk in total success in all areas of your life!

*The Nursery & Children's

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SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Service*

at: 8:00 am

at: 10:00 am

Midweek Service

Wednesday at 7pm

church is open during Sunday 10a service.