



Fortify our Future

In September 2008, my wife and I joined the New Life Community Church team to be a part of reaching 30,000 people in the Chicagoland area and to make fully devoted, fruitful followers of Christ. A month later we launched New Life's 11th location in the Tri Taylor area of Chicago. We served in that community for 7 years. Experiencing some resistance from the immediate community, we began to look for a community in the city that we could better relate to. We searched and believed Logan Square was a better fit for the church. So, in the Spring of 2015 God opened the doors at Salem Christian School and we moved to Logan Square and soon began to see people from the community attend the church.

Two years later our contract ended at Salem, but God provided us another gathering space just a few blocks away and still in Logan Square, at Humboldt Christian School. Sadly, the building was sold two years later to land developers forcing yet another move. Feeling the need to remain in the community we partnered with a local parachurch ministry, Inner City Impact, which was just west of our previous church home. We were there for a couple years then Covid hit. During Covid, our New Life office was contacted by the Carpenters House leadership who wanted to see if we were interested in taking the church into the next season.

*I remember driving toward the church and hearing God say,
"I am not giving you a building, I am giving you a community."*



The work God has done in the last 15 years through his church has been amazing. People have come and gone, played their part and sacrificed so much for the Kingdom. In this season, I believe God has planted us here to dig deep roots. He has entrusted us with a tool to build bridges with people in this community for many years to come.

- **God has given us a sacred space to be used for the preaching and teaching of His word.**
- **A training center to help people live life according to His Word.**
- **A safe space where people can find hope and develop deep relationships.**

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And we believe this is for the next generation – to prepare a place for young people to grow, serve, and impact the city at large. We already see how God is moving in the hearts and lives of the next generation. We must fortify and prepare today, to get ready as a people and a place for what God is going to do next.

In our short time here, we have developed relationships with city leaders that see us as an important asset for the community. Our building is being used for events that attract neighbors who did not know we existed.

1. We have launched a Flower Market through Sarah Kott.
2. We have partnered with Bryan Dye from Legacy ministries to conduct a discipleship conference.
3. We have partnered with InnerCity Impact to host a youth outreach.
4. We have partnered with Classical Conversation Homeschooling network to provide a space to instruct children and build community for other homeschooling parents.

Each of us has an opportunity to play an important role in reaching and serving our community.

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I am asking for us to Fortify our Future as we look to the greater opportunities to reach more people for Jesus. I believe we all can invest in something that is bigger than ourselves to outlast us for the coming generation. Our goal is to Fortify our Future in three main areas:

1. Fortify our Spiritual Training
2. Fortify our Community Partnerships
3. Fortify our Future for the Next Generation

This will be a stretch for all of us, but a sacrifice is not a sacrifice unless it cost us something. Think about the possibilities and all the people who will encounter God and have their life changed just because we are here, YOU are here.

Proverbs 18:10 – “The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

Phase 1 - Parking lot	\$27,500
Phase 2 - Sanctuary carpet	\$8,000
Phase 3 – Roof repair	\$44,500
Ray Abruzzi - Youth Pastor	\$20,000
Total	\$100,000

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