



# Preserving Christian Homes

## August 2024



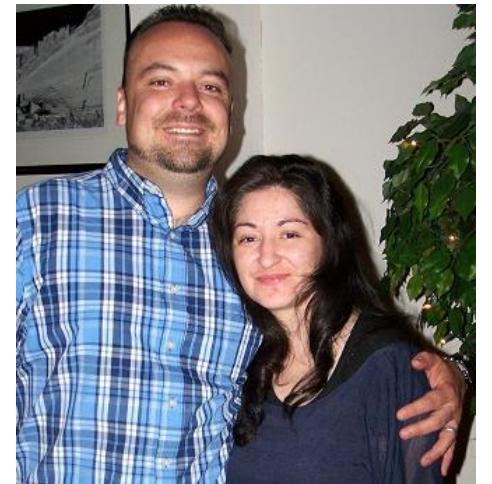
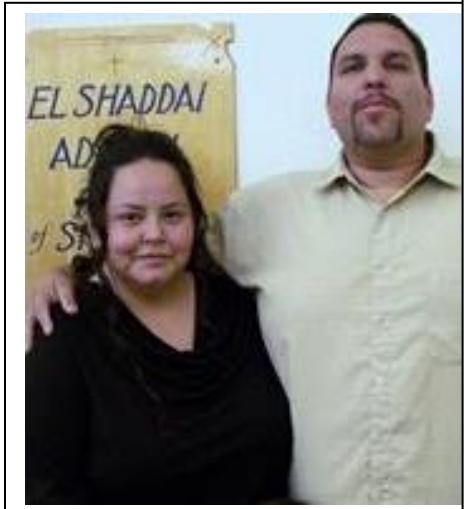
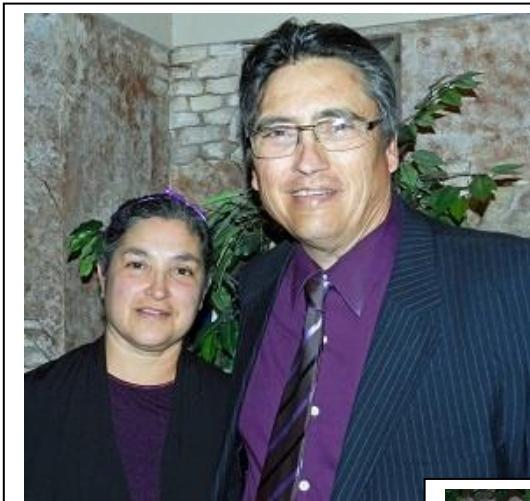
<http://www.livingwordupc.org/>

### *A Great Investment*

The World is full of those who plan their lives and then there are those who let their environment decide which direction they will go and just roll with it. Growing up, a child doesn't have a lot of control over their lives and thank God for that. If it was up to the kid, they will never get out of bed except to eat and play video games. It is mandated that somewhere around five years old we must go to school. Whether you get up each weekday and journey to the local schoolhouse or are Home-schooled, the process begins. First, we learn that the box of crayons is used to draw pictures on the paper and not the wall. Then we learn the alphabet, how to read and the various subjects like Mathematics, Science and History. In some areas we excel and in others we may struggle. Over the years we are continually asked what we want to be when we grow up. Although most of us don't have an answer to that question, we respond with something just to get past the moment. In High School I began to give more thought as to my future. My grades were not bad, but they weren't great either. I wanted to apply to one of the better schools because I had heard somewhere if you have a degree from a prestigious University getting a good job and salary was a piece of cake. Neither of my parents graduated from college but was very successful. One night at dinner I asked them what is the best way to get into a good school. My Dad said I need to buckle down and get my grades to at least a solid B-level. Well, that was going to take more work than I was willing to invest. I then asked my School Counselor for some advice. She said, good grades are the preferred way. She then asked if I excelled at any sport. Sports Scholarships were available and a good way to get accepted into a good School but you must do the work to stay there. Earlier in the year I tried to get on the School's basketball and soccer teams because the Girls at school really like Guys who walked around in their letterman jackets. The reality is I really suck at sports. I then asked the Counselor what my other options were. She asked was I involved with any social groups in the private sector or at my Church. I said no. My time is too valuable to be involved with anything like that. She looked at me and shook her head. She then explained that before some institution will invest their funds in you they want assurances they have invested wisely and that means having a record of service toward something positive whether it is good grades or involved in helping the community. That weekend I took a hard look at myself. Increasing my grade point average was possible but to raise it significantly was unlikely. It finally dawned on me that in order to help myself, I need to commit to helping others. The cool thing is when you are actively looking to help someone, there is a plethora of things you can do. My Parents were on board but made the stipulation that school comes first during the week and Church is non-negotiable on Sunday. To ensure I was off work on Sundays I got a job at Chick-fil-a. The job was really cool but just saying "my pleasure" when the Customer says thank you really helps no one. I mentioned this to my Dad and he asked me to consider helping out at the Homeless Shelter downtown. The first couple of weeks were pretty boring because all I did was work in the storeroom stocking shelves. Then things suddenly changed. One of the other Workers got sick and couldn't come to work and I was asked to man the counter. This may sound silly, but for the first time it dawned on me that Homeless Shelters were full of people who not only lacked somewhere else to live, but in many ways were stripped of hope. Over the months which followed I heard a lot of personal stories. There was one family who was homeless because there was a major fire in the apartment complex they resided which was totally destroyed. They are waiting to move into a new place but the list they are on is so long. Another family had twin boys who were special needs children and the parents said they have been evicted several times because the nature of their disability causes them to get easily agitated and violent. One day I was helping a young man do some research online for a book report. After, I invited him to our upcoming Church Youth Rally. He said no thank you because "God doesn't like me". I asked him why he felt that way and he said his family was homeless because their community was destroyed by a forest fire which was caused by lightning which is an act of God. I wasn't sure how to respond. My Church invests a lot toward Sunday School to help us build a spiritual foundation. We are taught that God is in charge and although something we don't like happens, this doesn't mean God no longer loves us. How do I convince a young boy living in a Shelter that God still loves him? I was there to help but at the end of the day I wasn't sure if God put me here for him or God put him there for me.

*One of the pitfalls many fall into today is they continually reach their hand in the pot to draw out something of value but they hesitate put anything in. Great investments begin with a willing contribution.*

## August Anniversaries



***Living Word Church wishes all of our Couples a very Happy Anniversary***

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### **Back to School Prayer**

Dear Jesus, you who promise to be with me always, I pray that you would be with me today as I go to school. Bless my going and my coming. Bless my learning and my playing. Please protect my heart from fear. Please keep me safe. Please give me good friends. Give me joy this day, and thank you for loving me from head to toe. In your name. Amen.

*5<sup>th</sup> Grader*

### Praise the Lord Living Word Church!

This summer has been a busy but productive one! From VBS to District Camp Meeting, God has been on the move in every age group from the youngest to the oldest. We have several Bible Studies going on currently and several more that have recently requested to schedule them, as well as baptisms, the infilling the Holy Ghost, and lives changed.

**Bro and Sis Batista** have even started a *Spanish Bible Study* at their house that is growing!

If you are looking for a way to get involved, please see one of the ministry staff, we will find you something to do! We have a need currently in the *First Impressions Department* looking for people that are willing to welcome each person that chooses to come to LWC, please see **Sis Desiree Mulligan** if you would like to get involved with greeting people. Our Greeters are some of the first impressions that people have of LWC, so this is an important job.

Don't forget we have our **Impact Sunday** coming up on August 18<sup>th</sup> at *Haynes Park*. We will have a Service that day at 10:00 and after we will all head to the park for outreach in our very own city. *Sunday-Funday*, as the Mayor calls it, is an opportunity to be a light to thousands of people as they come to the park to participate in the event. Last year we had lines of people and we made so many contacts, Jesus really blessed our efforts so please come out and help us be a light in the desert. Remember the *great commission* is for everyone regardless of your personality type, we are all commanded to share the Gospel to the world.

We will also have our last **Summer Revival** August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> with **Bro Tyler Sullivan** so please invited a friend! Our Saturday Service will be at 1:00 p.m. and our Sunday Service will be at 10:30. Our Revivals this summer have been life changing so you won't want to miss this!

In closing I wanted to quickly talk about a couple of our newest Ministries at LWC, **Life Support-CR** and **Grief Share**. Life Support-CR is a group designed for anyone with a hurt, habit, or hang-up and we have seen God blessing and growing our group since it began a few months ago. **Bro and Sis Porquis** and team have done an amazing job of helping us launch this important group so that as a Church we can be emotionally healthy as well as spiritually healthy. This group meets every Monday at 7:00 and anyone that is an adult is welcome. Remember you are not alone!

**Grief Share** is another group that meets on Thursday nights at 7:00. This group is designed to support people that are grieving regardless of when the death may have occurred. A Grief Share support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

Please find a place to get involved and if you don't know where to get involved, please reach out to a member of the ministry team. Blessings

**Pastor Marquart**

# *Men's Camping Trip 2024*



***Everyone had a great time  
of fun and fellowship***

# Freedom Friends Day



**Brothers Charlie and Brad ensured everyone enjoyed a delicious meal from the grill while Bro Avery rewarded those who craved something sweet**

LIVING WORD CHURCH

# REVIVAL

GUEST SPEAKER

**TYLER SULLIVAN**



join us!

**AUGUST**

**24TH SATURDAY 1:00PM**

**25TH SUNDAY 10:30AM**

**IGLESIA DE ESPAÑOL**

**¡BIENVENIDOS A TODOS!**

08

# AUGUST

/ 24

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4 Sunday School 10:30 Family Worship 11:15	5 Life Support-CR @7:00	6 Pastor's Prayer @10:00	7 Midweek Matters@7:00 Kids, Youth, and Adult Services	8 Pastor's Prayer @10:00 Grief Share @7:00	9 Youth Activity @7:00	10 Rummage Sale@IWC
11 Sunday School 10:30 Family Worship 11:15	12	13 Pastor's Prayer @10:00	14 Midweek Matters@7:00 Kids, Youth, and Adult Services	15 Pastor's Prayer @10:00 Grief Share @7:00	16 Prayer and Praise @7:00	17
18 <b>Impact Sunday Service is at 10:00</b>	19	20 Pastor's Prayer @10:00	21 Midweek Matters@7:00 Kids, Youth, and Adult Services	22 Pastor's Prayer @10:00 Grief Share @7:00	23 Youth Activity @7:00	24 <b>MTM Revival Service with Tyler Sullivan @10:00 p.m.</b>
25 <b>Revival Sunday with Tyler Sullivan 10:30</b>	26	27 Pastor's Prayer @10:00	28 Midweek Matters@7:00 Kids, Youth, and Adult Services	29 Pastor's Prayer @10:00 Grief Share @7:00	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

