WINNETKA AVE. CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE BULWARK

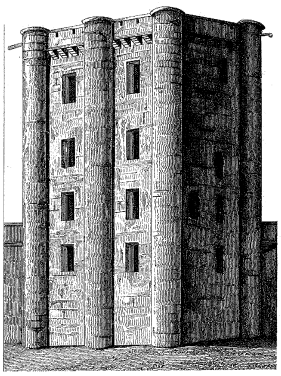
November 1, 2026

Winnetka Ave. Church Of Christ

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- W. Bruce Evans, Minister
- FREE Bible Correspondence Course
- In Home Bible Classes On Request
- Bible Based Counseling
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"Mark well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that you may tell it to the generation following"
Psalms 48:13

SPIRITUAL TSUNAMI

"Christianity at a Crossroads" is a recent four-part documentary on PBS. Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier in conjunction with Journey Films presents a rather dour assessment of the current status of "christian churches" across America. A term that has been used to describe the grim trajectory with respect to churches closing their doors, is "tsunami". A tsunami of a spiritual nature is a metaphor and basically means an overwhelming, unstoppable wave of change that sweeps through society, faith, or personal life.



The projections of decline are overwhelming. The fear expressed by many is that with such a spiritual tsunami washing over the nation, soon we will become more like Western Europe, which is noted as being extremely secular with widespread religious disaffiliation. Ominous to say the very least. But it doesn't have to be. Under the heavy shadow of oppression of the Jews, the church belonging to Christ grew in the first century. *"And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great number many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith."* (Acts 6:7) Did you make note that "a great many of the priests" had obeyed the gospel? Check out as well Acts 9:31 and Acts 16:5 as well as Acts 2:41ff.

As members of the church of Christ we could sit back and say the tsunami is only hitting denominations, that would be extremely naïve. According to recent articles citing various studies, the data is staggering. Over the past forty years there has been a steady decline, averaging 24,000 to 28,000 members who withdraw themselves. Between 2010 and 2020 some 1,300 to 1,500 congregations have closed or merged. That averages out to something like 100 to 150 closures per year. About 55% of the congregations have an average attendance of about thirty-four. One word, yikes.

Why the downturn? There are some who are wanting to point out that there is a dearth for ministers. Still others cite the change in demographics or a host of other contributing factors. But it doesn't have to be this way. Consider what was told to the church in Sardis. "*Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God."* (Revelation 3:2)

Yes, we live in difficult times. However, we do not step back, moreover we step two feet forward. Every child of God has the responsibility of sharing the message of Jesus Christ to a world lost in sin (Matthew 28:18-20) We must not be silenced. (wbe)