

Senior Pastor's 2021 Annual Report

Jeff Hokenson - 1/30/22

Recently I have been reminded of Jesus words in Mark 4:35, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." These are some of the opening words of the passage where the disciples are in fear of their lives because of the storm that is trying to capsize their boat. These opening words of the passage indicate that God's (Jesus') will was that they go from one side of the lake to the other side. That was the will of God in this moment. What this passage also tells me is that when storms or adversity strike our lives it doesn't mean we are necessarily out of God's will. In the last couple of years in particular we have been dealing with numerous storms, cultural ones, church ones and personal ones as well. Sometimes we feel like the disciples did in their moment, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" All of the adversity seems so overwhelming at times. In moments like these we simply want the storms to stop. In the midst of the storm where was Jesus? Vs. 38 "Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a pillow." Jesus was at rest because he knew it was the Father's plan for them to go to the other side of the lake. No wind, rain, sleet or snow was going to thwart the Father's plan. When we are going through our own adversity it is never wrong to ask God for help. But the kind of faith and response that I believe Jesus is looking for is for us to grab our pillow and join him in the stern until we reach the other side.

God is taking us somewhere. He's taking us somewhere as a church and he is taking us somewhere as individuals. I know that the winds of adversity are blowing, but I want to encourage all of us to draw close to Jesus, grab our pillow and trust him to get us where he is taking us.

In the natural we are making gains at getting back to "normal" as a fellowship. We have been blessed to have many new families and individuals come to PCF over this last year. We have experienced people genuinely turning their hearts to God and opening up to the work of the Holy Spirit. There is a hunger for God and the things of God in people's hearts. As I have been sharing on Sunday mornings I believe in this year ahead the Lord is calling us to remember him. To go back and do the things we did at first when we first felt drawn to him. Please continue to pray with me and the rest of the leadership team that God would continue and yet at the same time increase the flow of his presence among us.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for partnering with us for the sake of the Gospel. You have been a blessing to us in so many ways. We appreciate you and the heart you have to make this place called Pioneer Christian Fellowship a sanctuary of God's presence.

We love you all.
Jeff and Jodi Hokenson

