

GOD IS ON THE MOVE AT FAITH COMMUNITY

REFLECTING ON OUR RECENT COVENANT GATHERING...

As winter drags on, and as we dig out from yet another winter storm, I can feel my seasonal affective disorder rising, dampening my mood and darkening my perspective. At about this time each year I begin to feel "out of sorts" and a melancholy and irritability begin to set in. This has happened every year, probably since I was a kid, but it has been since I met my wife Rochelle, that I have taken real notice of it and have been able to put a name and a cause to it. Some years are worse than others, but to be sure, things have definitely improved with my annual descent into melancholy since God called me in early 2007 and I found new life and new hope in Jesus Christ. I am able to find rest in Jesus and he helps me when the burdens in life seem too heavy to bear.

We can get consumed with the burdens that we are carrying to the point that they become our focus. When we focus on our burdens and pain, we lose sight of the amazing work that God is doing around us, doing in us, and hopefully, doing through us. This happens to me more frequently than I'd like to admit, and I know that it happens to you as well.

All of this brings me to the Covenant Gathering that was held at Faith Community on February 19th. That night over 140 adults and at least 20 to 30 kids came together to feast and to celebrate how God is moving at Faith Community Church. When we lose sight of Christ, we can miss all that He is doing, but this gathering served as a way for us to refocus our gaze on Jesus and how he is moving all around us!

Some of the things that we celebrated at the gathering:

- We welcomed a new group of Covenant Members into our faith family.
- We sang Happy Birthday to Christa Poole and Noah Burnett! ;o)
- Two new elders, Dave Mobley and Randy Kostroski, were installed on our elder council. Afterward our people were able to come around them, lay hands on them, and lift prayers to God on their behalf.
- We welcomed Jodie Ryan back to the elder council as an elder intern.
- An ordination ceremony was held for Benjamin Thayer Sepulveda (our very own Pastor Ben!). And again, afterwards the gathered saints came around Ben, laid hands on him, and lifted praise and prayer to our amazing God.



from the Elders continued...

- Ron Hansen provided a positive financial update. Through God's blessing we have been able to steward God's resources well and have made substantial improvements into our facility. Some of these include:
 - A new roof for the church building
 - The exterior of the church has been repainted.
 - The entry of our driveway was repaired and then repaved.
 - The entire parking lot was seal coated and the parking lines were repainted.
 - The office and workroom have been repainted.
- Ron also reported that our mortgage has been reduced to \$490K and that at the current rate we will have the building paid off in less than four years!
- We celebrated the recent baptisms, eight in total that were held on February 12th. This included one adult and seven teenagers!
- After this Pastor Ben talked briefly about the youth ministry and interviewed Caleb Larson, who is 15 years old, and Caleb talked about why he felt it was important to be baptized and how God was on the move in his life!
- Pastor Ben also interviewed Kathryn Turner about her involvement in our CHAOS youth ministry as a small group leader. Kathryn shared some of her experiences working with the youth and how it is impacting our teenagers and how it has impacted her.
- Bobbi Blanchard, our Children's Ministry Director, interviewed Pam Domenzain who is one of our seasoned children's ministry teachers. Pam and Bobbi discussed a number of ways that God is on the move in the lives of our littles, and in our children's ministry!
- Noah Burnett, our Pastor of Worship and Community Life interviewed Sadie Hernandez Flores about joining a small group, and how being in a small group has been impactful in her life. Sadie shared how she has seen God on the move through her experience with her small group!
- Other areas where God is on the move at Faith Community include:
 - a number of weekly courses through Faith Training Center. Current offerings include "Knowing God, Scripture, and Ourselves", a "Study Through Romans, and a course on "The Life of David".
 - Pastor Ben is leading the effort to relaunch our counseling ministry
 - Peter Bergeson, the director of our prayer ministry, closed the gathering by leading us through a time of guided prayer on Colossians 1:10-14, 15-20.

When we focus on these things, when we think about these things, and then we realize how God is on the move, our burdens and our pain become somewhat less and we are more able to gain a measure of peace.

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

