

Walking by Faith

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."
- 2 Corinthians 5:7

From beginning to end, this season of my life has been defined by the teaching of walking by faith, as all my personal readings and experiences have tended and moved towards this teaching. I am touched to see God at work in my life like this. This summer, as I prepared for and began my vocational ministry at ASU, I encountered many and various road blocks from within and without, compelling me to walk ever more deeply by faith in Jesus Christ. When the time came for me to begin ministry in August, the lessons continued as I began to refine my methods for college ministry at ASU.





Moving back to Arizona back in May, I encountered a great deal to discourage me about life in my hometown, as well as a great deal to encourage me. On the one hand, I was discouraged by various spiritual dark spots that I had not noticed before, and on the other, I was pleasantly surprised to find my home church, Living Faith, had grown considerably.

As some of you may know, this summer Eric, my seminary roommate, came to Arizona to complete his summer Cross Cultural Ministry Practicum for the completion of his MDiv. Eric gained a familiarity with ministry among the Yaquis in Guadalupe, AZ, and the Apache at San Carlos. Also, he helped us at the Guadalupe Learning Lab by writing a series of sermons for a future children's camp. Eric is pictured in the left frame, in front of San Xavier del Bac, the oldest church building in Arizona which is located on the Tohono O'odham reservation near Tucson. Keep Eric in your prayers too, as he started serving as a hospital chaplain back in August.

In early August I fell and broke my left hand. This reduced my capacity for activity on campus in a number of ways (I am left handed) but by no means was I entirely deterred. Thankfully, it is healed now. However, the incident serves as an important reminder to be more mindful of stairs and difficult terrain as my condition progresses. At the end of September, while my wrist was still in a brace, I had oral surgery which required soft food for four weeks. So, as you might imagine, August, September, and October were difficult time for me.

All through the summer, I had a lot of doctor's visits, for various particular reasons, but mainly for health maintenance and rehab related to my condition. Much of this was also related to getting a prescription for treatment for my condition and then insurance approval. This process with doctors and the insurance company would continue up until the end of November when they finally approved my doctor's prescription for the treatment.



This summer I decided to maintain the tradition of weekly Common Prayer hours as I learned from Dr. Bray back at Beeson. I started in the summer with meetings in my home, inviting old friends for prayer and time to catch up over a meal. My friends, Parker and Emily (pictured center right) began joining me to pray together at this time. When the fall semester started, I invited some students from the other Anglican church in our diocese and in the Valley and then around ASU more broadly. Ehdoh and her friend Sue started joining us at this point (Sue to the right of me and Ehdoh to the right of Sue). Shortly after that, we began meeting Friday nights at 5:00 at the Campus Christian Center, a location closer to the university.

This Thanksgiving, Fr. Ernest and I combined our efforts to offer a robust Thanksgiving dinner to the members of his international students ministry from ASU. While Fr. Ernest and his wife Lalitha coordinated the students, I coordinated the cooks for our main course of chicken biryani, and folks from Living Faith brought in some more traditional American fare. Everyone had a great time, and a few students expressed an interest in Bible studies this December.









Last weekend, I flew out to Birmingham for graduation celebrations with some colleagues graduating a semester behind me. I caught up with these wonderful people, and a few more.

Left: Molly and Alex, friends from seminary

Middle: Michael, a future church planter and myself

Right: Josh, myself, Fr. Zach, and Colby, a few Beeson seminarians from Christ the King Anglican Church.

Financial Support

I'm presently working to build Financial support as I build a community ministry at ASU. You can help by giving to my ministry expenses via Zelle.

Send your one time or recurring gift to <u>finance@livingfaithanglican.org</u> and type "Benjamin" in the memo line.

Any gifts given to the ministry of Benjamin Bisgrove are tax deductable and you will receive a tax receipt from LIving Faith Anglican Church, 501(c)3 #20-2563720.

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