



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 17, 2015

RAFTING 101



THIS PAST THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY MYSELF AND ELEVEN OTHERS FROM OUR CHURCH WENT WHITEWATER RAFTING ON THE NEW RIVER NEAR BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA. AFTER RAFTING ON FRIDAY, PASTOR ANDY SHARED A DEVOTIONAL WITH THE GROUP FROM EPHESIANS 4:11-16. I'LL NOT REPEAT HIS EXCELLENT CHALLENGE BUT WILL ALSO USE THAT PASSAGE TO REFLECT ON THREE LESSONS FROM OUR RAFTING ADVENTURE.

LESSON 1: TRUST THE GUIDE.

EPHESIANS 4:11-13 INDICATES THAT CHRIST GAVE HIS CHURCH LEADERS TO EQUIP AND BRING THEM TO MATURITY. OUR TWO RAFTS WERE EACH DIRECTED BY A CERTIFIED WHITEWATER RAFTING GUIDE. THEY WERE TRAINED IN RIVER READING AND NAVIGATION, SAFETY, AND SWIFT WATER RESCUE BUT ALSO REQUIRED TO MAKE A MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN TRIPS DOWN THE RIVER WITH AN INSTRUCTOR BEFORE EVER BEING ALLOWED TO DIRECT A TRIP. JONATHAN, OUR GUIDE, WAS AN INSTRUCTOR WHO INDICATED THAT THE WORST TRIPS HE'D MADE DOWN THE RIVER WERE THOSE OF TEACHING OTHER GUIDES. HE SAID THEY TYPICALLY CHALLENGED EVERYTHING AND TRIED TO SECOND-GUESS THE ROUTE CHOSEN BY THE GUIDE AND MAKE INDIVIDUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE RAFT'S DIRECTION BASED UPON THEIR INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENTS. OF COURSE THE RESULT WAS CONFUSION WHICH SOMETIMES LEAD TO AN UPSIDE DOWN RAFT OR NEEDLESS DANGER.

LESSON 2: ENJOY SHARED EXPERIENCES.

BECAUSE BELIEVERS ARE ATTAINING TO THE MATURITY OF THE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST, WE ARE NO LONGER CONFUSED BY FALSE DOCTRINE AND THOSE WHO TEACH IT. RATHER WE SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE TO ONE ANOTHER AND GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND CHRISTIANS. (EPHESIANS 4:14-15). OUR RAFTING ADVENTURE PROVIDED US WITH THE JOY OF A SHARED EXPERIENCE. FOR 48 HOURS TWELVE PEOPLE CONNECTED TO FRBC WERE IN CLOSE FELLOWSHIP. BESIDES RAFTING WE TRAVELED, ATE MEALS, PLAYED GAMES AND SHARED SCRIPTURE TOGETHER. WHILE RAFTING, WE EXPERIENCED THE THRILL OF 20 RAPIDS BUT ALSO HIKED UP A VERY COLD MOUNTAIN STREAM TO A BEAUTIFUL WATERFALL.

LESSON 3: WORK TOGETHER.

OUR CHURCH IS A BODY THAT IS HELD TOGETHER BY WHAT EVERY JOINT SUPPLIES. WHEN EVERYONE DOES THEIR PART THE BODY GROWS. (EPHESIANS 4:16). NO ONE HAS EVER TAKEN A 6 X 14 FOOT INFLATED RAFT THROUGH RAPIDS BY THEMSELVES. IT SIMPLY CAN'T BE DONE. SUCCESSFUL RAFTING INVOLVES AN EXPERIENCED GUIDE ALONG WITH SIX OTHERS PER RAFT WHO ARE PADDLING TOGETHER AND FOLLOWING THE GUIDE'S COMMANDS. WITH EVERYONE DOING THEIR PART THE RAFT FLOATS THROUGH OR AROUND OBSTACLES AND SUCCESSFULLY TRAVERSES THE WHITEWATER.

NOT ALL OF US ARE RAFTERS, BUT EACH OF US ARE PART OF A BODY OF BELIEVERS. MIGHT WE TOGETHER MOVE THROUGH THIS LIFE ENCOURAGING AND MINISTERING TO ONE ANOTHER.

LOOKING UP,
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE