

Greetings from Sheridan WY! Pam and I were able to step away for a relaxing vacation to Kauai at the beginning of May. It was a great time of beach hopping, hiking and enjoying fresh seafood. We were able to see many great sites and experience new adventures during our time there. One afternoon, we were walking on the beach enjoying watching boogie boarders and some surfers tackling the waves, when we saw a group of sea turtles catching some waves of their own.

As we sat at the edge of Brennecke Beach, watching these turtles, we noticed a few different things. It was not the friendliest beach on the island. Pam and I enjoy boogie boarding and, since there were so many people boogie boarding, I thought I would give it a shot. The combination of big waves and large amounts of large rocks, beat me up! But for these turtles it was where they wanted to be. When each wave came in it would knock me back. For me, it took a lot of effort to stay where I was, hoping to catch a wave of my own, but as the waves came in, the turtles would ride them and stay in the same spot. The waves didn't affect where they were. It reminded me of Eph. 4:11-16.

11) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12) to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13) until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

14) Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15) Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16) From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

As a church, we are finding our footing and, at times, we are still young and like me trying to boogie board, we just keep getting knocked down. Over the last two months we have seen some "turtle" like actions helping us grow and mature to be able to handle waves that come. We have seen people grow in their walk with Christ. They are learning to ride the waves of life! Waves will keep coming at us as a church and as individuals, but can we learn to handle them.

Our first night on the island, we decided we would enjoy one "fancy" meal at a local restaurant walking distance from where we were staying. We got there a few minutes before our reservation so we watched surfers from the lawn of the restaurant. For me, I could watch them catching wave after wave for hours. After sitting down at our table and ordering our food, we started watching the surfers and the sunset. As our food came and it became darker and darker, the surfers started coming in for the night. To our amazement the majority of them were getting picked up by their moms. I would guess that most of the surfers we had been watching for well over an hour were only 12 to 15 years old.

These young men had learned and grown to handle these waves. As believers do, we look at storms or waves in life as a chance to grow and mature, or get scared and get out of the water. I think many times we see both things happen, but the more we face the waves of life, the stronger and better we can handle them, and maybe even enjoy the time we get to ride them.

In Christ, Ryan Charest

Upcoming event for Real Life: Church Camp - 3 different groups - July 14-Aug 1st

July 28th - BBQ and Pool Party

Aug. 11th - Backpack Giveaway

Sept. 8th - Meal Packing with Lifeline Christian Mission