



October 2011

From the Pastor



## Our Reaction to the Flood

We have suffered a great loss in our community. There has been incredible devastation. Now I believe we are called to be God's hands and feet to our community. We have the wonderful opportunity and great responsibility to serve. However, at times we can get tired in our service. What should we do then?

Here is what Jesus did. He had just gotten the news that his cousin, John the Baptist, had just been murdered. I am sure He was filled with grief. His plan was to get away. Here is what happened.

*<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself; and when the people heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities. <sup>14</sup> When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup> But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!" <sup>17</sup> They said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." <sup>18</sup> And He said, "Bring them here to Me." <sup>19</sup> Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, <sup>20</sup> and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. <sup>21</sup> There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children. (Matthew 14:13-21 NAU)*

Look at the steps Jesus took in ministering to those around Him. First, He took some time to be alone in His grief. We will need to take time to be alone as we grieve over what we see as we reach out to those around us. We need time to restore our batteries, but that time need not be long, just regular. Jesus would often get away to pray.



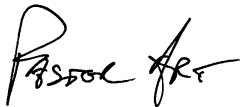
But then Jesus would get back to the people because of His love for them. We do what we do for those around us, because we care for them. It is not a condescending care; it is the kind of love that makes you almost come to tears when you see the piles of garbage that used to be treasured possessions in front of homes of people you know.

Jesus came to a desolate place and provided food. He did it in miraculous way. We come to desolate areas and give to others what is needed. We come to those in need of a miracle and ask God to work through us. We cannot work a miracle, but we can be God's hands and feet to those in need.

When Jesus was done it, was amazing to see the results. Thousands were fed. With the body of Christ working together, there will be results that others will see. They will see people care for them. They will hear God cares for them even more.

Pray for the body of Christ to be used in a mighty way during the aftermath of this flood. Pray for those who are tired and in need of rest. Pray that as we react to the flood we will show God at work in our community.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.