

MEN'S CHECK-IN

THIS WEEK'S TOPICS

JESUS' FLOW

THIS WEEK IN
CHRISTIAN HISTORY

RIDING THE WAVE
WITH ISAAC

UNITY IN PRAYER



JESUS' FLOW

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." -- Matthew 14:15-16

Jesus and the disciples had been praying and ministering to the people since dawn. Now the sun was soon to set. Everyone was dead tired. But as the Lord and His followers tried to slip away to find food and much-needed sleep, the crowd kept on. They were many miles from any village, and the people had no way to get food. The disciples faced a dilemma.

What would you have done? You've got 5,000 men (plus women and children, who were not included in the count in those days), hungry and tired. Here's what I would have done: First, make everyone queue up—perhaps 12 lines, each to be manned by a disciple.

Second, take a collection from the crowd and then send a team into the nearest village to buy as much food as possible. Third, ration the food into 12 equal units to be fed to those in each disciple's line. Fourth, make sure that everyone received just enough so that those at the back of the line also got something to eat.

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Jesus, however, saw the situation from a very different point of view. When asked the question of what to do, he actually turned the question back on the disciples. “You feed them.” It was a test. How big was their faith? With some embarrassment, Andrew said, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” (John 6:9)

We strive. Jesus observes. We organize and strategize. He acts. We exert control, He releases freedom. In the case of the 5,000, He takes His time and waits until the disciples run out of ideas. Not until Andrew half-heartedly acknowledged the boy—willing to give up his meal to feed the crowd—does Jesus act. The faith of a child; the miracle of the Savior.

As men of God we need to acknowledge that in most things, we can’t—but Jesus can. Even when His rhythm makes no sense; even when His timing seems wonky. Because everything He wants to do in us is based on a pacing and flow we can hardly comprehend. It’s the rhythm of the Kingdom. Slow down, quiet your striving—do you hear the rhythm?

Father, help me flow in Your timing and Your ways, not my own.

The post [July 24](#) appeared first on [Every Man Ministries](#).

This Week in Christian History

JULY 31, 1966: AFTER JOHN LENNON PROCLAIMS THE BEATLES TO BE “MORE POPULAR THAN JESUS,” RESIDENTS OF ALABAMA BURN THE BAND’S RECORDS AND OTHER PRODUCTS.

Embrace Digital Transformation



Riding The Waves With Isaac

This week’s Mens Check-In highlight is Isaac Hahn. Isaac has been attending The Well for about 8 years. Isaac grew up in Ojai with his parents and two sisters, except for living in Oregon for three years as a child. Isaac married his wife Ily earlier this year and currently works as the Director of Audio Visual at the Ritz-Carlton Bacara in Santa Barbara. He has also been known to be a staple in the bridge with the technology for the church.

I asked Isaac what God has been teaching him recently, and he said, “I am moving to France August 17th, and He has really been teaching me to rely on His provision. He’s been giving me peace with the move (finance, relationships, career). Over the years He has also shown me that being uncomfortable is the only way to grow in faith. I believe He uses that every day in my life to show me where I can grow.” Isaac said Colossians 3:16-17 has encouraged him and reminded him whom he lives life for. “¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one-

another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

I find this to be a great reminder for all men on how deep and rich our faith permeates our daily lives. I asked Isaac what one way he has seen God be faithful in his life. He said “When Ily and I found out she had the potential to move to France for school. We were both scared of the loftiness of it. However, we recognized that the Lord really had his hand in it and opened doors to make it possible for us.”

Isaac can be found at the beach hanging out and surfing although he hasn’t been able to lately. When he has free time, he also likes to watch UFC and spend time with family. Although Isaac is moving to France soon, he would love to visit India and the Himalayas. (I personally think Isaac is looking for the Yeti.) Isaacs favorite meal is lasagna or the potato skin pizza from Ojai Pizza.

A book or podcast Isaac recommends is “The Leaders Cut with Preston Morrison”. Isaac says Preston does a great podcast that can be summed up with Ephesians 4:22-24 “To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Isaac said one lesson he has learned as a husband, and friend is “Grace is the key. Have grace when someone makes a mistake, be graceful when there are misunderstandings. Have grace for yourself. Choosing to be graceful in situations has really rounded me out and allowed me to be a Godlier and more loving person.”

One encouragement Isaac would like to share with the men of our church is “It doesn't matter where God has you in your walk. He's got you! He may feel far at times, but he still provides. Giving us our every breath. He listens when you pray. He knows your needs. Push close to Him and he will be there.”

One quote that’s had a lasting impact on him is from his high school environmental science teacher. It is “There is a time and a place”. Isaac says “he (the teacher) would primarily use it when we would be a little too energetic and rowdy, but I think of it in a lot of different situations. It reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Reminds me to be content and not get distracted by what I do or don't have cause there will be a time and place for it. It keeps me in check.”

Isaac truly is a leader and example to those around him. I know I am encouraged after learning about his journey and faith.

UNITY IN PRAYER

Lord thank you for your grace that flows from you. May we strive to put off our old selves and desire your righteousness. We lift up the Hahn’s to you in our hearts and minds in their upcoming journey.
Amen.