

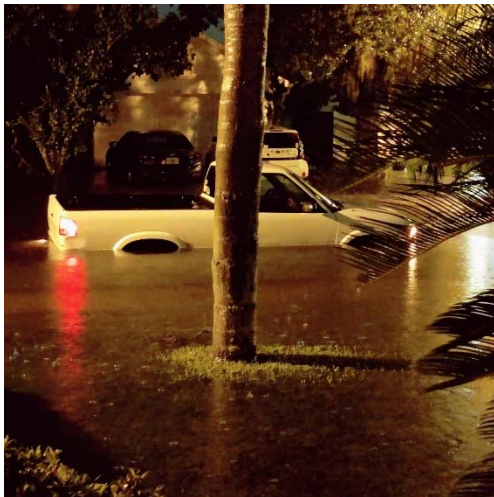
But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!" – Luke 8:23-25

8 October 2022

Dear Friends,

The verses above remind me that Jesus is Lord of the storm. We easily criticize the disciples thinking that since they lived day to day with Jesus they should not be afraid of a little storm. But... it wasn't a little storm and these guys were fishermen and understood how dangerous the water could be in a storm. And, to say it bluntly, they were amazed, like 'Who is this guy! I mean, this is not a philosophical or religious discussion, this is life and death and He treats it like it's something not to be concerned about'. Putting myself in their position, I get it. I would have thought the same thing. The important lesson here is that He is the Lord over everything, including the weather and other storms in life.

A week ago, we had a real taste of what severe weather looks like and I have to admit that it shakes you to the core. We saw the radar map, and we saw a storm that completely covered the state of Florida. Moreover, the eye was headed straight for us. At 4 am, one of our neighbors called and said you might want to look out your front door. We saw water up to our front threshold and we saw our pickup parked on the street with water up over the top of the tires (and it was still raining really hard). Being a backyard mechanic I profoundly said 'this is not good'. Thankfully, we still had power (we never



My poor little pickup. The lights are on because they were shorted by rising water.



The dark line shown here is where the water came to on our front entrance way.

lost it, unlike 2 million others including our son David) and we still had water and sewer. Unlike our next-door neighbors, the water did not continue rising and come in our home but we still had a lot of clean up and vehicle repair.

I know many of you thought of us and were praying for us and I want to say a very strong thank you!! Of course, the hurricane was devastating to many and extremely stressful. There are still floodwaters nearby and many are still without basic utilities. (David got his power back after 5 days) Please pray for the people of Florida who were so hard hit and for our neighbors as well. We have heard that the children in southwest Florida cannot go back to school for at least three months.

On a side note, after three oil changes, my little pickup is running again and we managed to get most of the water out of our daughter's car. This is a real miracle for us as most of the neighbor's cars in the street were ruined. Every day we see another tow truck go by with at least one car attached. Please pray people will turn to our Lord in these trying times.

On our ministry side, I was able to attend my first face-to-face meeting with our African leadership in July. It was exciting to see how the Lord is impacting people through these faithful men and women in spite of the challenges of Covid. Covid hit Africa as a continent the hardest but this did not slow down the spread of the gospel as many thought it would. God's people respond when times are challenging and the needs of people are highest. Our ministry is in the early stages of a restructuring designed to emphasize national ministry development that encourages them to be more independent. We are now one year in and it seems things are going very well. Elaine and I are on the team of our Vice President for Global Leadership so one of my roles is evaluating how this restructuring is going. We want to be an encouragement to the new regional teams as we come alongside them during the transition. The national teams are very excited about this new structure and have really taken the initiative to step up. However, change is always difficult so please pray for God's blessing and the protection of our new leaders and a servant heart for our regional teams.



In Senegal with our African Regional leaders

I will be returning to Africa (Rwanda this time) to join the African regional leaders next week (16th to 25th) so I would appreciate your prayers for my travel and that I would be an encouragement to these faithful people. On the home front, Elaine is going to have an outpatient hand surgery this week (13th) before I go so please pray for success and rapid healing.

Thank you so much for your prayers and encouragement to Elaine and me and our family! In the midst of Ian, we were reminded so much of Jesus' power over all things and you and your faithfulness to us.

Serving the God of the storm with you,

Mark & Elaine