

THE NEXT STEP

There's a fascinating story in Matthew 14 about a man in a boat who saw Jesus walking on water and wanted to also walk on water. When the man saw Jesus on the walking on water, he said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." To this Jesus answered and said, "Come!" Then the man got out of the boat, walked on the water, and went towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind and the violent storm, he became frightened and began to sink, at which point he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately, Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him and put him back safely onto the boat.

Now, most people who are familiar with this story can immediately name the man in this story. It was Peter. While the character in this specific story of the Bible is indeed Peter, it also describes all of us! I can confidently say that many of us have experienced this exhilarating before of walking on water with Jesus before, but for whatever reason, we took our eyes off of Him and turned our attention to the turbulent winds in our lives, and began to sink. However, Jesus graciously reached out His hand and took hold of us and put us back on our boat. For many of us, we prefer to stay in our boats because they represent what is familiar, safe, secure, and comfortable to us apart from God.

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At this point you might be wondering, “Why would I want to get out of the boat and what does it mean to walk on water?” According to pastor and author John Ortberg, there are many reasons why we should get out of the boat:

- It’s the only way to real growth.
- It’s the way true faith develops.
- It’s the alternative to boredom and stagnation that causes people to wither up and die.
- It’s part of discovering and obeying your call.

Although these are excellent reasons why we should get out of the boat and walk on water, I think there is one reason that surpasses them all: The water is where Jesus is. The water may be dark, uncomfortable, wet, dangerous, and unfamiliar, while the boat seems comfortable and dry. But remember, Jesus isn’t on the boat.

For those of us who’ve never gotten out of the boat before, maybe it is time for us to take a big step, and walk on the water. And for others of us who have walked on the waters before, maybe it’s time get out of the boat and walk on the water again! Personally, I know that getting out of the boat is not an easy thing to do. I know that it can be out of our comfort zone. It’s unfamiliar, and can even be a hassle, but how else are we going to walk on the water and continue on this exhilarating journey with Jesus Christ? There’s a Chinese proverb that says, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Are you willing to embark on that journey with Jesus by taking a single step... the next step?

If you are curious about what your next steps to get out of the boat are, you can always contact one of the pastors and/or listen to the messages on our website. We’d love to help you get started on the right track.

- Pastor Jo Ko

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“I believe there is something - Someone - inside us who tells us there is more to life than sitting in the boat. You were made for something more than merely avoiding failure. There is something inside you that wants to walk on the water - to leave the comfort of routine existence and abandon yourself to the high adventure of following God.”

— John Ortberg, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat*

PASTOR’S CORNER



As many of you know, I was recently ordained, which means that I am now considered an "official" pastor. This also means that I can now add the coveted letters R-E-V before my name as *Reverend Andrew Yi*. Has a nice ring to it, don't you think?

But all joking aside, this process of ordination has been such an incredible journey for me and my family. And as I reflect on the call that God has placed upon my life, I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude. This community has shared in some of the biggest milestones of my life - my marriage to my wife Mary, graduating from Dallas Seminary, and the birth of my son, Justin. And all I can say as I look back on all of this is "thank you." Thank you for the tremendous love and support you've so graciously given to me and my family over these past six years.

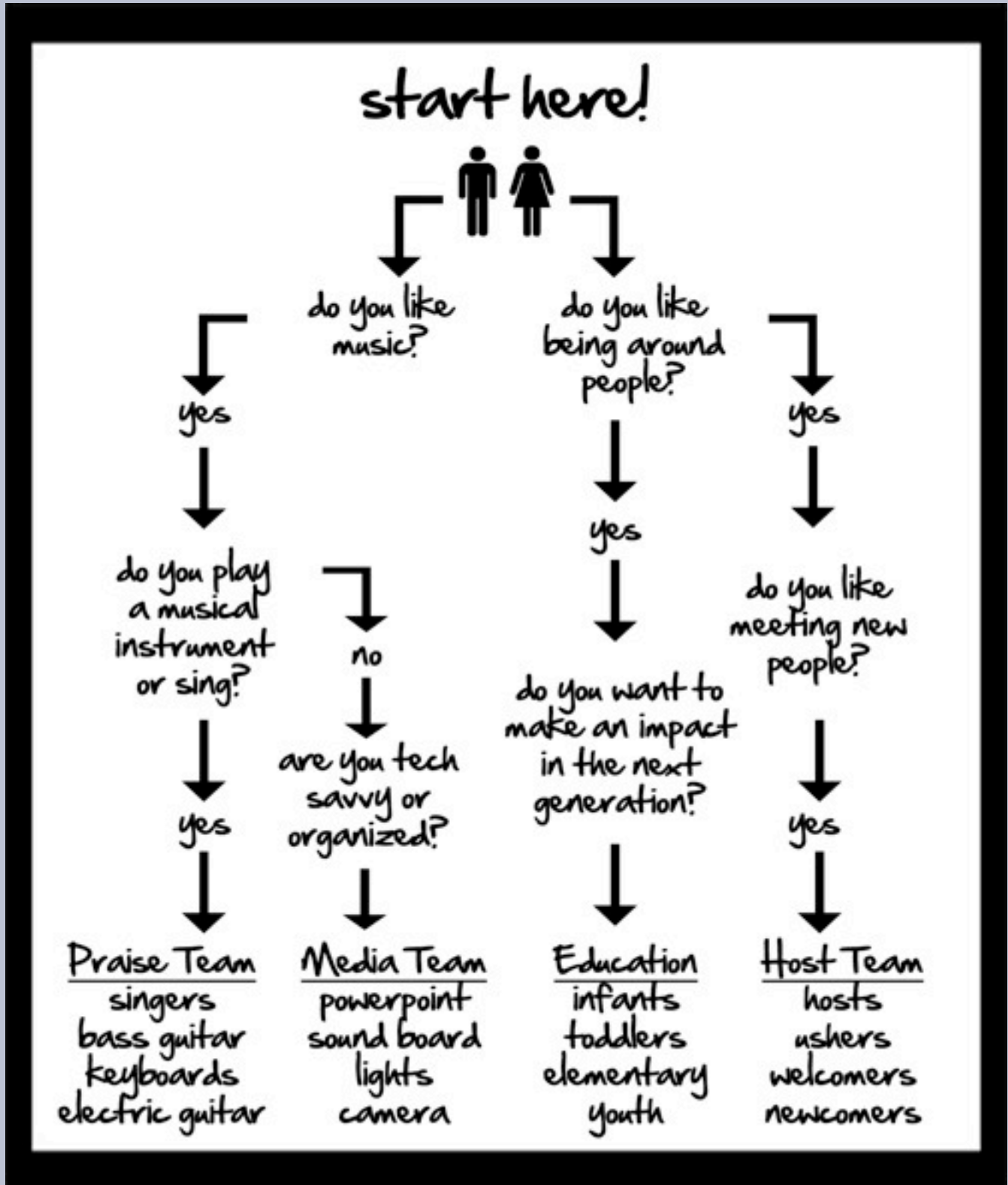
I also want to say "thank you" to our pastors, our leadership, and our staff for their constant support, and more importantly their prayers for me, and for this ministry. I have been so challenged by each and every single one of them and their constant love and care for this church. Their faithful service to God's Kingdom work, and their loving guidance and godly wisdom have proven to be an incredible source of comfort, strength, and encouragement for me. I can confidently say that I am where I am today as a pastor in large part because of their selfless investment.

As I began this journey here in Dallas over 6 years ago, I never would have imagined in my wildest dreams to be surrounded by such an amazing community. Each one of you has played such an integral part of my growth and maturity as a pastor, and as a follower of Jesus Christ. And my sincere hope is that God would bless each one of you as you have been such a blessing to me and my family; that He would pour out an abundance of His grace and favor upon each of you, and upon this community. And above all, I pray that *the God who gives endurance and encouragement would give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (Romans 15:5-6) To God be the glory!

- Rev. Andrew Yi

SERVING MAP

We understand that at times it can be difficult finding our next steps, especially in the area of serving. You want to serve, but don't really know how or where God may be calling you to. We firmly believe that God has gifted each one of us, and He desires for us to live beyond ourselves with the gifts, talents, abilities, and resources He's given to us. Below, we've provided a serving map to help get you started.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THURS - 10.7.10	SAT - 10.9.10	SUN - 10.10.10	SAT - 10.16.10	FRI-SUN - 10.15-17.10	WED - 10.27.10
College Gathering, 7:00 PM	Men's Prayer Meeting, 7:00 AM	35th Anniversary Joint Service, 11:00 AM	Women's Prayer Meeting, 7:00 AM	Married Couples Retreat	Pathway Gathering, 7:30 PM

BLOOD:WATER MISSION



What is Project 10? Project 10 (P10) is a group that is working with the grassroots organization, Blood:Water Mission, to empower communities to work together against the HIV/AIDS and water crisis that is currently present in Africa.

How does Project 10 work? Project 10 finds ways to raise awareness and money to help aid Blood:Water Mission in its cause, mostly through social media networking (Facebook, Youtube, and Twitter). It currently has about 1,075 group members on Facebook. The purpose of the group is to update people about what's happening around the world in regards to HIV/AIDS and water. Through the use of social media, P10 has given people an opportunity to act and be involved in helping the cause.

Project 10 went about raising contributions for Blood:Water Mission through the medium of music. In order to raise awareness and funds for the people of Africa, P10 is selling two different self-produced albums containing music ranging from pop to rap to heavy rock. It has also held a benefit concert, and is currently in the process for one last benefit concert, which will be held in Waco, Texas. As of now, Project 10 has raised about \$1,500 and hopes to raise even more. Once the end of December hits, all the money raised will go directly to Blood:Water Mission.

Project 10: We are called to be servants of the world. When I first started Project 10, it was just a crazy idea I thought of back when I was a freshman in college, but God works in ways that you can't even imagine. He can take something that is crazy, naive, and silly, and make it world changing. It's kind of like the parable in Matthew 25 about the talents. It's not about how much talent you have; it is about how you use your talent(s). Three years ago, I never saw myself doing anything like Project 10, but I have realized that God can take that one talent and make it explode around the world and change lives. We all have at least one talent and we are called to be servants of the world. It is just a matter of how we use it.

- JoshBob Park

For more info about Blood:Water Mission and how it works as an organization, check out www.bloodwatermission.com. For more info about Project 10, find them on Facebook (search: Project 10) and Youtube (www.Youtube.com/project10tx) or you can ask questions at project10tx@gmail.com.



Want to submit an article? We'd love to hear from you! E-mail us with your articles and ideas at connections@binnerriem.org. Submissions must be made by the third Sunday of each month. Want to serve in a different way? Join the Connections team! We are looking for: photographers, writers and other creative-minded individuals. E-mail us at connections@binnerriem.org for more information.