

## Polly's Pondering

*As He was going along the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will have you become fishers of People. At once they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:16—18 NIV*

I remember going fishing with my family when we lived in Minnesota. It required a pretty big boat, with a cabin for sleeping. I would push on the buoy as it hung off the side of the boat to make large sprays of water as we moved further into Lake Superior. When we finally anchored, we would fish for catfish. Just drop the line and wait for a bite.

My parents moved out to Lake Waukomis Missouri, just before John and I married nearly 43 years ago, we fished off the dock and caught Blue Gill. We used fishing reels and bobbers. Yum those were good eating!

John's Grandparents had property out on the Bourbeuse River in Missouri. It has a great bluff that overlooks the river and one spot has moss that softens the rock. It is a great place from which to fish. When we first married and still lived in Independence, Missouri we would go visit his parents in Saint Louis and then head to the property to fish. I usually just used an old cane pole and bobber and fished from the rock with the moss. I still hold the record between John and I for the biggest catfish – It was a six pounder that, believe it or not, was caught with that old cane pole.

When John and I first moved here we went fishing on Lake Limestone, in a kayak. We used rod and reel and trolled along while we maneuvered the kayak through the water.

And by the time you all get this newsletter I will be returning from an Alaskan fishing trip up on Glacier Bay. I am told that there have been 350-pound halibuts caught there. I have no idea what type of equipment I will be using, but I am sure it will not be a cane pole. And frankly I am just hoping that I caught a fish and that in doing so I am able to bring it into the boat instead of it pulling me into the water! I know I love active learning lessons, but I sure don't need to experience the Jonah and the big fish Bible story in such an up close and personal way.

All this is to say that as I have been preparing for this trip, I have been thinking about being a fisherman. My experiences are limited. Four days straight on the boat in cold, most likely rainy weather will give me a whole new appreciation for the work of a fisherman. I am praying I will have new insight about the importance of the way God has called us to be fishers of people.

Already in my reflections I have come to see that each place I have fished required a different type of equipment and different ways of catching the attention of the fish. Most of the time the equipment was provided. It wasn't mine. And there was always someone there with me to teach me the way to use the equipment, to tell me about the location and where to direct my efforts and also what to do once a fish was caught. (I do bait my own hooks but taking the fish off, well that's another story.) And come to think of it fishing for people is no different. The Lord directs our paths, teaches us what we need to do, provides the resources we need for the task, and gives us the location to enter into the process. We are not responsible for the catch itself, just the obedience to the call of fishing.

As we prepare for the **August 5, 2023 - DARE TO DREAM gathering**, I am praying that God will give us new direction for the fishing of men to which He has called us. If you want to see what we might experience if we are faithful to the call to go fishing look up Luke 5:1-11. Nothing is impossible for God and His plans for us are always bigger than we imagine.

Look for more info on the DARE TO DREAM Gathering in the Newsletter, emails, or call the church office. You don't want to miss it.