

## Transition and Trust

### Pastor Nate's reflection on Year #1

It has been way more difficult and far too easy. It has been crazy chaos and surprisingly calm. I have never before felt more out of my comfort zone and right in the middle of my sweet spot. I have been more lonely and more supported than I could have imagined. At no point in my previous 49 years have I been more critiqued and more complimented, more challenged and more encouraged, more broken and more blessed. And this is just year one.

One of the mini hurdles we jumped over this past year was the formation of new language around our forever mission here at Sierra Bible. What was God asking us to do now? What is the one thing, amidst all the crazy and cool, that our Lord desires and we deeply need? Is there a keystone focus that will make sense out of year one, year two, and those that follow. I have to admit as God began to show us the answer, I wasn't super stoked. I wanted language that sounded more like a rallying cry that would raise the pulse of those of us that tend to hunker down, settle in and make it about us. But I knew that these three words are all that we need to focus our journey together. "To Know Jesus..." If we got this right we would get 'it' right. And so we start there.

If there is one truth, one beautiful hope, that I have lived in and clung to throughout this year, it is the words of Jesus recorded in John 10:27. "*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*" Que up all the great illustrations about how a sheep can distinguish his or her master's voice amidst a flurry of noise and distraction. Let's remember that a good shepherd is a guide, a provider and an ever present protection.

As I reflect on this past year it has been an indescribable joy to walk with so many that are getting to know Jesus personally. Friends and fellow sheep that are not asleep in the pin while resting on the laurel's that they heard the master some years ago but walking with their shepherd today. Knowing and being known. Listening and following.

I do have a few reference points from this past year that fit quite nicely as application for the full spectrum of experience described in Psalm 23 but most days I don't get past the first phrase.

*The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

*He makes me lie down in green pastures,*

*he leads me beside quiet waters,*

*he refreshes my soul.* Psalm 23:1-3a

It is my deep and honest prayer that our church would be a place where each and every one is caught up in the amazing privilege of Knowing Jesus. Might we know him. Be known by him. And follow him.

Pastor Nate