

Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builder is use less. Unless the Lord protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good. It is useless for you to work so hard from early in the morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to His loved ones. Psalm 127:1-2 (NLT)

## **Trinkets:** *That Trunk in the Corner of the Attic*

I have now pretty much conceded that God has in store for me to release *APK's Attic* later in the month than I have in the past. Once again, God chose to put forth an abundance of blessings during the time that I intended to release this edition. I hope you are as blessed by reading this edition as I have been by living through these experiences, and as I look forward to the future!

## **Heartwork:** *Pastoral Internship Responsibilities*

This coming Wednesday, Hal Cooper will be out of town, so I have been asked to lead Lakeview's Wednesday Prayer Meeting. This weekend, we have had Dr. T.W. Hunt at Lakeview for a prayer conference. Dr. Hunt is an incredible man of prayer, and I am being reminded moment-by-moment how much I have forgotten about prayer, and how much more I have to learn.



Hal Cooper

In the wake of this conference, it is humbling to realize that I will be leading the church in corporate prayer just a few days after the conference concludes. Additionally, The interns will be in Birmingham on Wednesday, so please pray that we return in time for prayer meeting.

Last week, Bro Al and I joined a group with Rick Hagans at Mardi Gras in New Orleans to participate in street ministry. Over the years, Mardi Gras has become the last chance to sin-all-you-want before giving up certain things for Lent. All I can really say is a quote from the Bible: "Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!" (Rom 6:1b-2a). I was blessed to see several hundred Christians on the streets pushing back the darkness!

The *Find Your Place* class is doing well. Please pray that I can help the class members find their particular place in ministry at Lakeview, or around the world.

My D-Group is doing extremely well. We did not meet this week, as I strongly encouraged the guys to attend the prayer conference. Other weeks, we have had some of the most rewarding conversations I could ever imagine. Although I spend plenty of time preparing for our meetings, I always walk away blessed as God has led us in greater directions.

This coming weekend, March 1-3, I will be leading a Disciple Now group of seventh-grade boys through a study entitled "The Bottom Line." Please be praying for me as I invest in this group of young men.

In Mid-March, I will be shifting to my final internship rotation under Phil Swearingen, the Minister of Education. Although Phil will have limited responsibilities for me, at least in comparison to the work I have already done for him over the past two years, he and I are already working with the Sunday School leadership on a major project to be a vital increase to the health of Lakeview. Please be praying for us as there are a lot of decisions to be made and questions to be answered as we seek to implement this project.

## **Ephesians 1:16: *Thanksgiving and Prayer***

### **Thank you:**

"Friends" for special gifts and encouragements.

### **Praises:**

Trailer sold in 2 days! (See more in *BuildingChurch*)

### **Prayers:**

*Others:* LS&others-joining me in Maryland? M&SK-prayerful consideration of family issues. CC-unclear direction. TW&JDJ-Moving. JL-various life struggles.

*Myself:* Church-Planter Assessment process and trips. Continued development of *Worship Community* vision and core-group. Diligence to the end of the Lakeview chapter of my life, and contentment to leave in May.

**Gone Mental: Seminary Course Work**

Bro Al has given us an incredible stack of books to read in addition to several other projects for our leadership course. I have been struggling to be diligent in reading lately, so I need your prayers as this semester continues. I hope I can use my time on airplanes and alone in hotel rooms wisely over the next several months.

Earlier this week, I sent in some information regarding graduation. The moments of immanence are beginning to come more frequently.

**BuildingChurch: Planting, Growth, & Health**

I am moving along in the process of becoming a church planter. I have the preliminary paperwork done for both the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D). I have my assessment interview with NAMB set up in Atlanta on March 7-8. I will be flying to Maryland on March 22 for interviews and assessment up there. I may be staying in Maryland for the following week, with one of my possible core-group members joining me, in order to plan, vision, and begin the process of relocation. Please be praying for safety and for the profitability of both of these trips.

As further news, I have been praying about when to sell my trailer and for how much. After much consideration, and asking the owner of the trailer park, and even more prayer, God released me to sell the trailer last week, with a specific price in mind. After only two days, a deacon from a church in west Alabama brought his son, a senior in high school by to see the place. After only two offers from him, he agreed to pay the exact price that God had laid on my heart! The paperwork is signed, dated to change ownership on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

For a complete picture of what the *Worship Community* church-plant vision entails, peruse through the web site at: <http://BuildingChurch.net/wc>, or contact me and I will be glad to send you a printed version.

As a quick update to *BuildingChurch.net*, with minimal work on my part, the *Gifted2Serve* spiritual gifts inventory is becoming increasingly influential on the internet. This week, the web site received over 200 visits from locations all around the world.

**Et Moi: Personal Comments**

One of the exercises I had to complete for my church planter assessment is to write a six-to-ten page life history of myself. So far, I believe this has been the most profitable activity in the process. As I wrote, I took the time to reflect on the various parts of my life, and how each of them is tied together to create the ribbon that has been my life thus-far. The more I thought about my life, the more amazed I was at exactly how it is that God has knit me together in a specific way, for a specific ministry, at a specific time.

It's rather amusing that I teach a class that encourages people to look at how God has put their lives together for a specific purpose, yet this exercise made me see things I have never thought about before. In addition to being fruitful for myself, I sent the paper to my mother for her to review it and to verify that I had remembered some things correctly. The chance to review and reflect was an encouragement to her in much the same way it had been for me.

It's hard for me to imagine a life without a Sovereign God to oversee it, guide it, and plan it to accomplish His great and mighty purposes. So often today, the people around us simply glide through life, living for the moment. Others hate their jobs and are seeking to escape them. Some believe we are simply the result of some never-ending cosmic process. Still others believe that life is ultimately meaningless.

It is an absolute joy to say: There is purpose and meaning in life! There is a God who loves and cherishes each and every one of us! He will not leave us without comfort, without guidance, and without knowledge. For those that know Him, He gladly sends the Holy Spirit to accomplish all of those things within us—and more! (See John 14-16)

All we need to do is submit unconditionally to knowing Him, and He will reveal Himself to us.

*"Do not masquerade around any longer, looking like this world, but go through a metamorphosis by renewing your mind. This will result in your ability to prove what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*—Romans 12:2, (APK paraphrase).

Moving Forward!

  
Andrew P. Kulp