

Unless the Lord builds a house, the work of the builder is useless. 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

Last month I wrote that *APK's Attic* would probably be released later in the month than in the past. Well, for March, the edition is so late, it is now April, thus I will combine the March and April editions into this one edition. While being busy is a large part of the delay, the primary reason for the delay at the current time is the development of my future plans. I wanted to wait until after my trip to Maryland before giving a report. Due to the results, I am glad I waited.

BuildingChurch: Planting, Growth, & Health

One of the perks of living in a college town is that when the students leave, the town basically shuts down, giving you an opportunity to leave. As a result, I spent the week of Auburn's Spring Break in Maryland planning and visioning for my future in church planting. Two weeks prior to this trip, I spent a weekend in Alpharetta, GA, interviewing with the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

The interview process with NAMB went well, and by God's awesome plan, it opened up doors for me to extend some connections in Maryland. Additionally, I learned a lot about the NAMB family, and how I can use the vast network of resources during the church planting process. In order to spare me from enduring the lengthy "Church Planter Assessment Interview" twice, NAMB chose to allow the Maryland group to do the interview, and allow their decision to stand.

During Spring Break, I flew to Maryland for the church-planter assessment interview with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D). Overall, the results of the assessment were exactly what I expected, including a great negative. Knowing how the church-planting strategies in the Northeast require that the planter have ongoing relationships with people outside the church, I knew that this was going to be a problem in my assessment, because the intensity of the Lakeview program limits my ability to maintain these kinds of relationships with significant

regularity. As a result, the missions agency will limit me to partial funding for a minimum of six months, at which point they will assess my improvement in that specific area of ministry.

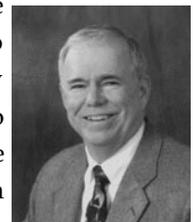
This conclusion means that I will need to find some other source of funding for my cost of living above the allotment of the mission board, which might not even pay for an apartment in Maryland. Please be praying for me over the next two months as I prayerfully and carefully consider several options about how to work this out, and exactly what location God is leading me to as a church planter.

Following the interview, I spent the rest of the week meeting with several church planters to discuss options, while beginning the leadership/visioning process with Lee Southwell, a teacher here in Alabama, who will most-likely relocate with me. Be praying for Lee and at least three other people who are considering joining me in the relocation and church-planting process.

Despite the setback of the assessment, several doors have been opened for my ministry in Maryland, and several other details have arisen that have confirmed this direction in my life. I learned a lot from several different perspectives as I met with the various planters. I look forward to joining the team in whatever way the Lord leads me.

Heartwork: Pastoral Internship Responsibilities

My time serving under Hal Cooper has now ended, and I am beginning my final rotation under Phil Swearingin, the Minister of Education. I have already helped Phil in many areas of his ministry, so my added responsibilities will be minimal, but I look forward to working with him. Phil is possibly the most relational person on staff, so I may be able to learn from him some ways to overcome the situation with the Maryland assessment.



Phil Swearingin

Ephesians 1:16: Thanksgiving and Prayer**Thank you:**

"Friends" for special gifts, provisions, and encouragements. Church planters, for your time and wisdom (and food) throughout a busy week.

Praises:

Lee has several job options for relocation to MD.

Prayers:

Others: LS&others-joining me in Maryland? ACF-van wreck, surrounding issues. M&SK-adoption process. JDK-Salvation.

Myself: Clarity and understanding regarding my relocation to Maryland and related issues. Diligence to the end of the Lakeview chapter of my life, and contentment to leave in May. Opportunities to build positive relationships outside the church.

Gone Mental: Seminary Course Work

This past Monday, I began my final course as a seminary intern at Lakeview. Dr. Chuck Lawless made the trip to Auburn to begin teaching us about spiritual warfare. Very few seminaries offer a class like this one, and Dr. Lawless approaches the topic in a balanced manner, which means we are acquiring a rare, but vitally important, piece of wisdom to close our seminary careers. Dr. Lawless taught our very first class in Louisville three years ago, and he has the opportunity to see us "out the door" this Spring.

With all the traveling I have done over this past month you would think I would have had plenty of time alone to read for Bro A's leadership class. Unfortunately, I have had very little quiet time even in the midst of those travels. Please pray for me that I continue in diligence to the very end. I have several papers to write for each of the two classes in addition to the many books to read along the way. Everything has to be in a little early to allow time for grading in preparation for graduation.

Graduation will be on Friday morning May 17, 2002, in Louisville, KY, at the seminary. More importantly, *I would like to invite all of you, my prayer and financial supporters, to my ordination service at 6:15pm, CDT, at Lakeview Baptist Church, Auburn, Alabama, on Sunday evening, May 19, 2002.*

Et Moi: Personal Comments

People that know me know that I like to do things differently. I put visual illustrations before people-I like to be just a little bit crazy-to make people think. However, there is generally method to my madness.

The college ministry at Lakeview experienced my methodical craziness first-hand this past week. With Cliff Knight out of town, he asked me to teach the College Bible Study on Wednesday night. Before Spring Break, Cliff closed a study through the book of Romans, thus he asked me to do a study from John 15, the passage about the vine and the branches.

Rather than simply teaching the passage, I created a visual illustration by pruning a tree as I spoke. I compounded the illustration by dressing in overalls and a straw hat. While this action is quite humorous, the visual affect is helpful to understanding the passage. That is the method to my madness.

There is no set way to deliver a message. A church I visited in Maryland is doing a series called "The neXt Files," using *X-Files*-type video to introduce the topics of the sermon. Last summer, another church used a top-ten song on the country charts to introduce a sermon about anger. Our choices of methods to deliver the message are infinite. However, the end result must be the same.

The message never changes. This past Sunday was Easter Sunday. Over the years, the name "Easter" has become somewhat meaningless in our culture. Some have moved to calling the day "Resurrection Day." Such a title truly fits the celebration of the day. Easter Sunday is the day that Christians set apart to focus on the fact that Jesus Christ had died on the cross and was buried, but by the hand of God was raised up to life again early Sunday morning.

That reality proves that not only did Jesus take upon himself our sin debt by dying on the cross, but he also proved that his power extends to the ability to deliver us to eternal life in heaven with God. He conquered death! That message never changes. We must deliver that timeless, changeless message in ways that speak directly to the hearts of those around us.

Alive with Christ,



Andrew P. Kulp