

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)

Finale: A Report of Completion and Future Plans

"It is finished." Although the great impact of those words of our precious Savior and Lord is far greater than they are for me, the words are no less appropriate. As I write this edition of *APK's Attic*, I have no more official responsibilities as a seminary intern at Lakeview Baptist Church. I turned in my last paper for seminary over the weekend and have completed my responsibilities for my current internship rotation. I await graduation and ordination, both within the next seven days.

However, in contrast to much of what was written in the last edition of the *Attic*, I honestly do not have much to look forward to following graduation at this time. Undoubtedly, I must take some time to explain how the past month has progressed.

As only my closest intercessors knew, 2 days prior to going to Maryland for Spring Break, something turned inside me and I was immensely unsettled in my spirit. Thinking it was just nerves, I gathered three of my intercessors together late one night to pray and seek God's will for my trip. It was these prayers that kept me focused throughout the trip and were a solace to keep a discerning eye open.

I remained unsettled throughout the trip. Although many things happened that confirmed to me my involvement in the expansion of the church in the Northeast, there was still a concern deep within me.

Upon returning to Auburn, I spent over two weeks carefully and fervently praying, seeking God's will, and seeking wise counsel. Despite all the positive things that emerged through the trip, the deep unsettledness continued, and even grew. After two weeks of emotional agony, a decision had to be made. I came to the conclusion that the timing is not right. Therefore, I have withdrawn from the process of being a church planter in Maryland for the time being, and will be seeking other directions, to be discussed later in this newsletter.

After seeking some final counsel on my decision, I wrote an email to the person in charge in Maryland. The moment I pressed the "Send" button, an unusual sense of peace came over me that I had not felt in a real long time. This sense has not yet ceased as I have begun to move forward with a new direction for the next chapter in my ministry.

There are many, many aspects of the situation in Maryland, as well as in my own life, that have led me to make such a seemingly sudden and drastic change of direction. These issues are too numerous and some are too personal to write here. I pray that you trust that I have not been rash or flippant in my decision, but that you understand that I have carefully sought to humble myself before God, seek His will, and test my understanding with the counsel of wise people around me.

Again, I have not totally written off church planting in the future. I believe God will have me intricately involved in the future. But, for now, the timing is just not right.

So, where do we go from here?

By the time most of you read this newsletter, I will be on my way to Louisville, KY. I graduate at 10am on Friday Morning, May 17, with a Masters of Divinity from the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Additionally, *I will return to Auburn in order to be ordained to the Gospel ministry at 6:15pm on May 19, at Lakeview Baptist Church.* To this point in my life, this special worship service at Lakeview is the most important moment in my adult life. *If there is any way you can make it to Auburn for that service, I would be greatly blessed by your presence.* As a reader of *APK's Attic*, your prayers and support have undergirded me and kept me going for these past three years, and I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to each and every one of you.

In light of all of the ministries I have been involved with over the past three years, it may seem difficult to pinpoint exactly what type of ministry position I should be looking for. However, there is one area of ministry that has stood out as a long-term part of my life. The *Find Your Place* curriculum and *Gifted2Serve* spiritual gifts inventory continue to make an impact around the world. Additionally, members of Lakeview have specifically requested that I come to teach them about how to find their place in ministry.

As a result, I am looking for a position in a church as an associate pastor whose primary focus is to help church members find their place in ministry, equip them for that ministry, and train them how to train others. Some churches call this an "Equipper for Ministry" position. That would be an ideal position for me, but few churches have such a position. As a result, I believe I can accomplish this ministry within the context of either Education or Discipleship.

Officially, my resume says I am "seeking a position as an associate pastor for the primary purpose of mobilizing and equipping laity for ministry. Other focuses include general pastoral duties, discipleship, and missions mobilization, both internationally and in North America."

Please join me in prayer as I seek the location and specific context for my next chapter in ministry.

In the mean-time, I will be continuing my work at Lakeview until God opens up another door of ministry. Lakeview has authorized me to continue on staff until August, or until I find another church position. Please pray that God would provide a position soon to begin the big transition.

With my seminary work done, I will be working hard at Lakeview. I will be revising and expanding the *Find Your Place* curriculum in order to develop a curriculum generalized for new members of Lakeview. Tentatively, this new curriculum will include basic theology and beliefs, the Christian's identity in Christ, spiritual disciplines, finding your place in ministry, and involving yourself in ministry. Eventually, I would like to continue expanding this curriculum to be a comprehensive introduction to every aspect of the Christian life. I believe this curriculum will be a framework for my ministry as an equipper for ministry wherever God leads me.

Additionally, I will be helping design the publicity plan for the Vacation Bible School in the children's department, and I will also be helping with and attending the Youth Camp.

Undoubtedly, other opportunities for ministry will arise at Lakeview in this interim period of my life.

Please pray that God will be glorified and Jesus' name will be lifted up through all of these ministry opportunities. It is an exciting time in my life, as God is teaching me to truly trust Him more than I ever have before. I covet your continued prayers.

Ephesians 1:16: Thanksgiving and Prayer

Thank you: YPS—helping with Moose's computer.

Praises: A fresh, new walk with Jesus. Continued financial provision. A great semester in D-Group w/ Nathan, Nolan, Ranjit, and Ches.

Prayers:

Others: SK—also seminary graduation. JDK—Salvation. Fellow interns—we all are still seeking positions.

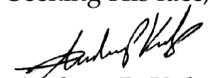
Myself: specific direction in ministry. Contentment to leave Auburn after 8 years. Financial provision for the next two months.

Et Moi: Personal Comments

As I finish this newsletter, it is a joy to report that a dear brother in the faith is staying with me for a few days. Mustafa, known to us as "Moose" is a former Muslim who met Jesus through a vision in the middle of the night. We met Moose in Ghana two years ago during our trip there.

Since that time, Moose has returned to his native land in Northern Ghana as a church planter. In the past two years, he has planted 28 churches. He has a goal of 60 churches by 2005. Currently, these churches range from a few families to one with 150 members. This man has an incredible vision, Godly passion, Holy Spirit anointing, and a clear call from God. I pray that each of us will find such clarity and power in living out God's will for His glory.

Seeking His face,



Andrew P. Kulp