

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

The summer is over and I am back in Auburn, gearing up for the final nine months of my seminary training at Lakeview Baptist Church. This edition of *APK's Attic* is a special edition, as it will give you a recap of the entire summer in Maryland, and will give you an introduction to the vision for my future in ministry.

Before I even begin to recap the events of this summer, I must repeat my abundant thank-you to the group of singles who helped me purchase a cellular phone before leaving for Maryland. Soon after arriving, I learned that cellular phones are an essential ingredient to being a church planter. Pastor Kevin, at *NorthStar*, actually has two cell phones. If the singles had not bought me the phone I probably would have had to buy one myself after I got up to Maryland. So, again—thank you!

BuildingChurch: Planting, Growth, & Health

This new column will be dedicated to sharing my vision for my future in ministry. At the beginning of the summer, I asked you to pray that God would clarify His direction in my life in relation to my desire to be a part of church-planting efforts when I graduate. Not only did God answer your prayers, but He answered them with such clarity that others noticed the answers before I said a word. My time with *NorthStar* is sure to remain a key point in my life.

The “Family Fun Day” run by the team of Lakeview youth was an abundant success! A team of 35 people came up from Lakeview to help each of the church-plant teams for 2 days. *NorthStar* was the first stop. After a short rest and explanation of the project, the team spent Friday afternoon in the community. They knocked on approximately 1600 doors in only 2 hours in order to leave a personal invitation to the Saturday event. Due to the weekend being in conjunction with July 4th, only about 100-150 visitors came to the event, but the long-term results are much greater.

Gone Mental: Seminary Course Work

This section is going to be a brief overview of the courses that I will be taking this fall. Our schedule is going to be extremely busy, leaving us with very few weekends, and several weeks where we will have responsibilities on all seven days of the week—yes, Saturday classes in Auburn during football season.

The History of Christianity I - Dr. Tom Nettles
The History of Christianity II - Dr. Tom Nettles
Elementary Hebrew - Dr. Larry Walker
Life and Work of the Pastor - Bro. Al Jackson

The month of October is going to be especially rough, with a majority of the Hebrew course intermingled with the missions conference and other classes.

Please be praying for me as I have several books to read and am struggling to shift gears back into school mode after the summer of hard, enjoyable work.

On Sunday, at least 10 new visitors attended the worship service. But even more than the direct results at the church, the effects on the community are priceless. Following the Friday blitz, the *NorthStar* name became recognized in the community. It amazed me that this one event put this 2-month-old church into such a positive and recognized position in the community!

The *Find Your Place* class (formerly *EMIM Discovery*) was not as successful as I would have hoped. Trying to organize a mid-week class for a new church during the summer months turned out to be a difficult endeavor to accomplish. Despite these difficulties, several good conversations helped some key *NorthStar* members begin to see their life and ministry differently. These realizations have helped these members make some new bridges between ministry and everyday life—which is what the *Find Your Place* class is all about.

The new website that I designed for *NorthStar* is up and running at www.northstarcommunitychurch.com. Both Christians and non-Christians of various ages have given positive feedback. I have also trained one *NorthStar* member to keep the site updated, and have instilled the vision and reasoning behind the site into several of the key leaders. The site is set up in such a way to be expanded, updated, and modified easily, which is essential to a young church where new ministries develop all the time.

The Singles kick-off "orphan picnic" was a great success—in spite of the rain. Joined by a couple of guys visiting from Lakeview, more than 10 singles enjoyed the fireworks as drowned rats huddling under tarps, blankets, and umbrellas. There's nothing like a little rain to help nurture "close" fellowship!

Whether these humble beginnings will develop into a functioning ministry or not remains to be seen. Many of the key singles are college students who are going away during the school year, which leaves a small group behind. However, Dena and a few others are very capable should the opportunity arise for the singles ministry to grow.

The original "community needs survey" that we developed was basically a failure. The other interns and I learned that the culture in Maryland is quite different than in Alabama. Different approaches are needed in opening doors to the Gospel when you are in a different culture. We developed a "45 Second Quick-Survey" that was quite helpful for understanding the interests and needs in the community. While this survey did not bridge to the Gospel immediately, it will pay great long-term dividends.

At the beginning of the summer, I wasn't sure why I packed my piano and a few odds-n-ends of percussion equipment. As it turns out, I was able to fill in some gaps when people were on vacation, and was able to give some consistency to the Praise Team at *NorthStar* throughout the summer.

Yes, this summer confirmed my call to church planting. I will present more of my vision in future editions of *APK's Attic*, but for now, I am fairly certain that I will be moving to somewhere in the DC-Philly corridor when I leave Auburn next year. Even now, my vision for a new church model is coming together.

Heartwork: Pastoral Internship Responsibilities

I'm running out of space and am just now getting to current information. I will be interning under Cliff Knight, the Minister to Students this fall. I spend a lot of time working with the college students, anyway, so the added responsibilities probably won't be that numerous. However, I will miss being a part of the YPS Sunday School for the next few months.



Cliff Knight

Also this fall I will be teaching the *EMIM Discovery* class once again (now *Find Your Place*). I will also be facilitating a video series for the 6th level of training in FAITH.

Ephesians 1:16: Thanksgiving and Prayer

Thank you:

Financial Supporters—consistency. YPS—cell phone and so much more! N&JH & BK—hospitality.

Prayers:

MLB—Health recovery. CO/TW—jobs. JDK—salvation. *NorthStar*—Guatemala team (9/1-9/8) and continued health/growth.

Diligence and discipline for studies and ministry.

Et Moi: Personal Comments

Please be praying for my FAITH team this fall. My personal experience with FAITH has been somewhat discouraging, and the students that I've asked to be on my team this fall have been slow to make a definite commitment. Please pray that God would put the team together in His way, in His time, and that the reward would be great!

Also, be praying for my trailer. Billy is still living with me. I also have another new roommate, a transfer student who is a junior in engineering. His name is Josh, which amazes me, because I specifically asked some people to pray for a roommate named Josh about 6 months ago. The 3 of us spent some time sharing burdens, struggles, and prayers. Pray for a special brotherhood this, my last year of school.

Standing Firm,

Andrew P. Kulp