

APK's Attic

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The record of the ministry of Andrew P. Kulp
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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)

As I begin to write this final newsletter for 2000, I am breathing a sigh of relief. My last paper for this semester is ready to be turned in. My last responsibility for the internship program for this semester is past. I survived the first semester of Greek. I learned communication theory, sermon preparation, and evangelism. I played with and taught preschoolers. I taught on spiritual gifts, and so much more than I can say right here!

I still have no new roommates lined up for the new year, so please continue in prayer. Also, another reminder that financial support of my ministry at Lakeview is tax-deductible for those of you looking for places to send year-end giving.

I need to read about 600 pages of systematic theology over Christmas. But for right now, I can take some time to reflect on the great things God has done, and to thank Him for you, my friends and supporters.

I have my Bible open to the first chapter of one of the Gospels. I am revisiting, yet again, that glorious moment in history, when God became a baby in a stable. It's been a while since I picked up my sketch book. I tend to use it as a way to make my thoughts more tangible. I'm quite out of practice. But, my five years in architecture will never completely leave me.

This month, I'm going to step away from a lengthy report, and simply write out a perspective on the Christmas story...

I am amazed by the mystery contained in the Christmas story. As we read in John 1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

"Through him all things

were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it . . .

"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of human descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."—John 1:1-14

God chooses to reveal himself to us in two ways: through His Word (Rom 16:25-27), and through creation (Rom 1:20). The birth of Jesus is a unique event in history: the two forms of revelation came together: "The Word became flesh." The Almighty Creator, Sovereign God, stepped out of eternity, into time and space, in order to make possible the redemption of all creation to himself, by dying on a cross. Such a humble beginning is found in the manger. Such a humble end is found in the cross.

Yet a glorious future is available through the resurrection. Such hope is all ours, if we simply receive him and believe in his name!

May God bless you and your family well beyond measure throughout this Christmas season!

With hope and joy,


Andrew P. Kulp

