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APK's Attic

The record of
God's work in the ministry of
Rev Andrew P. Kulp




(334) 332 - 0119
Andrew@Kulp.com
Post Office Box 833
Auburn, Alabama 36831

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)

In Waiting: *The APK update.*

Okay, okay, I know many of you have been waiting with great anticipation for the next edition of *APK's Attic*. Well, I will at least put together the annual Christmas edition to fill you in on God's work in my life.

Unfortunately, I still do not have the wonderful news of a ministry position to report. However, God's grace is still more than sufficient for me and my needs at this point in time. I'm still living with a friend of mine, but he will be married in February, so I need to find a new place to live. Also, shortly after my last newsletter, I began working for a friend of mine who is a structural engineer. After about a month, he handed me off to one of his architecture clients. As a result, I have now temporarily returned to my former life as an architect, commuting about an hour to Montgomery every day.

I never thought I would return to architecture, but I now understand a new facet of God's grace. When God called me into vocational ministry, I never rebelled, I simply followed. As a result, I left a career I was good at in order to follow God's call. Many of us have often heard, "If you can do anything else, then don't do vocational ministry." This time back in architecture is a chance for me to see if I can really "do anything else."

So far, I have quickly caught up to the advances in the industry, and have begun work on several interesting projects, including an international ministry headquarters. My bosses are excited to have me on board, and are pleased with my work and my attitude in the office.

However, I have to be honest, I am enjoying the work, but with limited reward. Every moment I draw and design, I am in anticipation of an opportunity to share a piece of God's grace in somebody's life—my deepest desire is to put aside the building and build up the person. Some of the folks in the office have been recipients of that desire, but even these opportunities fail to quench my desire—I desire to return to full-time ministry. I yearn for, and continue to look for and anticipate that position that God has for me, and seek to be faithful where I am in the interim.

Contemplation: *A Look at the Season*

It never ceases to amaze me that a holy, sovereign God would do all that God does . . . especially that His divine plan from before the foundation of the world was to demonstrate His wonderful grace by giving Himself to redeem sinful man to Himself, for His enjoyment.

God understood, before man existed, that man's sin would separate him from a relationship with God. Yet, God chose to create man to have a relationship with God, anyway. How odd. But throughout the history of mankind, God revealed that it was to demonstrate His glory that this plan was set in motion.

Sin is a serious thing. It separated man from God (Ge 3). It brought about the greatest natural disaster in history (Ge 6:1-9:17), destroyed cities (Ge 19), and so much more. Such a lot for us all to be dealt (Rom 3:23)!

But, to Adam, God promised that sin would eventually be crushed (Ge 3:15). To Abraham, God promised to rise up a nation that would bring blessing to all the nations of the earth (Ge 12:2-3). And among so many other promises, God promised that David's offspring would set up an eternal kingdom (2 Sam 7:12).

Stuck in our sin, the relationship with God that we were created for is only a distant, unattainable dream.

Who would think that a poor, young, teen-age girl, engaged to a common carpenter, would deliver a child in a damp, smelly stable . . . and that little baby boy was actually the fulfillment of all those great and precious promises we read about throughout the Old Testament!

No, kinship with God is not something we could attain for ourselves. So God, in the person of God the Son, became a man, and walked this earth with us, but avoided sin, and died a sinless death, that our sin might be placed upon him, redeeming us of the guilty stain!

Such grace! Such wonder! So worthy of worship and praise! Let us not forget this wonderful grace this holiday season!

God bless you for His glory!



Andrew P. Kulp