

Knowing Christ
 Growing in His Grace
 Going in His Love

Communicator



Thank God for Anonymous Servants

By Kelly R. Randolph

While recently completing a study of 2 Timothy, I noticed a phrase in Paul's final greetings that caught my attention. After mentioning several people by name, Paul says, "and all the brothers." These were Christians in Rome who were not mentioned by name but were part of the local assembly in that place. They were followers of Jesus who, like those mentioned by name, had experienced the power of the gospel in their lives and pledged to follow Jesus on the cross-centered path of life.

These are the Christians whose names are not on anyone's letterhead. They are not listed in the staff directory. They are not platform personalities. They probably don't have many followers on Twitter. They blend into the background of church life. Not many people notice them. They are anonymous servants of the King.

We have those people at Country Acres. I thank God for them. They change diapers and try to console screaming toddlers in the nursery every week. They quietly send cards of encouragement to people who are sad or discouraged. They clean the building and set up for the activities of the church. They cut the grass. They greet people at the door on Sundays. They give money to support the work of the church and missions. Some of them count the money that people give. They visit sick people. They catalog books in the church library. They put juice in cups and bread in trays so we can remember the price of our salvation. They listen to kids in

Awana. They run the sound system. They pray for the "platform personalities." They do a million things that we all take for granted, the things that we don't notice as long as they do them, but would certainly notice if for some reason they stopped.

I've discovered that most of these anonymous servants usually prefer it that way. They are humble people who feel uncomfortable "up front." They have a deep commitment to serve Jesus and make a difference for His glory. Yet, they are content to use their gifts and resources under the radar. Attention makes them uncomfortable.

I'm not saying that anonymous servants are good and the well-known are evil. It isn't that Paul made a mistake when he mentioned certain Christians by name and not others. We all have different gifts and roles in the body of Christ. Those gifts and roles are sometimes more prominent and out front, sometimes less. I get that.

But I do think that we make the mistake of thinking that the more out front, public, dramatic roles are more essential or more spiritual. That is just plain wrong. As Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians 12-14, whether you are the eye or the ear, the hand or the foot, your gift and placement in the body are divinely designed and necessary to the proper function of the body.

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We all have different gifts and roles in the body of Christ.

Our Vision

As the Word of God shapes our lives, we long to be a church devoted to Christ's Kingdom by Knowing Christ, Growing in His Grace and Going in His Love.

Eric's Notes

Dear Church Family

I would like to express to the choir and orchestra members my sincere appreciation for the wonderful worship time we had as the body of Christ at Easter. I know that each of the musicians worked very diligently and put much prayer and effort into the two worship services. Also thank you to the hand bell choir of Country Acres Baptist Church. You worked very hard as well to prepare a piece in a short period of time. What a blessing it was to hear the bells for the first time on Easter. Dear church thank you for investing in the worship ministry with your support and purchase of these

wonderful instruments. I look forward to how God is going to use this group. With the combined groups there were over a 100 musicians on Easter weekend. **Praise the Lord for what He is doing and all the glory goes to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.** For without the hand of God we would not enjoy the blessing that we do each week as we gather for worship. I am humbled by what God is doing and the fact that He would chose to use me, a sinner condemned, unclean, but by the blood and body of Jesus, I have been made right. Thank you, Lord, for the wonderful privilege it is to serve and be part of your kingdom work here at Country Acres Baptist Church.

Thank you, church, for your many cards and wonderful expressions of love encouragement to me. I was blessed beyond words.

Looking forward to what God is going to do,

Soli Deo Gloria

Pastor Eric

Thank You

Children's Garden

I would like to say a special thank you to the Women's Committee and to everyone that has given something special to add to the fun and beauty of the children's garden. The garden has been given to help little children that may have never seen or been to a garden—children that are living in motel rooms or in small apartments with no yard in which to run and play. For butterflies, wind chimes, frogs and spinners, not to mention all the flowers of assorted colors, thank you so much. You are my family. Love, Straw Hidaka (755.1107)

Any large bags or boxes for the Street Ministry, please bring to my home and leave on the front porch at any time. 2327 Rio Vista Drive.

Easter Food Boxes

I felt it upon my heart to thank everyone for the funds given from their hearts to assist with all of the Easter food boxes that went out to assist so many families this year. The Easter baskets were filled with Biblical story books for each child, even those that were too little to read, so that their moms and grandparents would have to read the story of Jesus to their children. Every food box had a brand new Bible inside with a "There Is Hope" learning tract. Several of the families were receptive to listening and open to hearing the Lord's Word, I spent as much time with them as I could. Everyone held hands in each family as we talked. We ended with a prayer of thanksgiving. Thank you, Country Acres Baptist Church, you are a

shining light in the world of darkness.



Recently, in March, I had an illness. I wish to thank everyone who prayed for me, brought us meals, visited me in the hospital. Your time and prayers have meant more than words can say. Thank you also, for all the thoughtful cards. My family stood beside me and I am grateful. To God be the glory. I point to Him for all His blessings that includes each of you.

With grateful appreciation & love,
Jan Penhorwood

EDGE Student Ministry



Several weeks back Jake and I started a journey together with several of our juniors and seniors in a discipleship program that Jake and I developed called "Kainos" (ky-nos). The purpose of this program is to get past our spiritual routines, which often fall flat, and to be intentional in our pursuit of Christ. One facet of this program is to place a high view on the powerful, life-changing word of God. Of course most Christians understand the Bible is important but most also neglect it...they do not spend time poring through the revelation of God to us...they don't spend time allowing Scripture to saturate their minds.

It is almost as if sometime we view God's word as just a mere collection of words. To state the obvious...it is more than that. That is why Jake and I, along with these students, are being intentional about reading Scripture each day and journaling our thoughts, observations, and questions. But it doesn't stop there...we have given these juniors and seniors the challenge of memorizing a portion of Scripture between now and August 1.

Our goal is to memorize 1 John. Yes...you read that right...all 5 chapters. Please understand that our goal is not to raise up little Pharisees who believe that they elevated themselves above everyone else by doing something like this...our goal is to raise up a generation of teenagers who have a love for God's word and understand the importance of hiding His word in their hearts.

Jake and I told our students that we wouldn't have them do something that we ourselves are not willing to do. So I am also in the process of memorizing 1 John. Let me tell you, it is making God's word come alive in my life. I can already point to several instances where conversations have come up where I have been able to go straight to 1 John to give instruction, correction, and encouragement. It is exciting to see the fruit of this after only a few weeks.

My mind is full of useless information...for instance, if you were to ask me who wore #6 for the University of Georgia football team last year. I would easily be able to tell you that it was John Jenkins. I could give you his hometown, the junior college he transferred from, and his height and weight. If he had sisters, I could probably give you their names. I say that to make this point...I want to lead by example. I want to fill my mind with God's revelation to us and not useless information. As I do this...2 Timothy 3:16-17 will take root in my life. Don't know what 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says? Stop reading this and go memorize those two verses! ☺ It will give you a foundation to build upon.

In all seriousness, we pray that this discipleship program will be challenging to our students...to help them mature in their faith. Scripture memorization is a small percentage of the overall strategy for Kainos. I ask that you be praying for these students, Jake, and I as we pursue God with intentionality. In the fall we will

launch this across the entire ministry. We are excited about that!

I want to encourage you to consider your own pursuit of Christ. Are you committed to the studying, memorization, and implementation of God's word? It's more than words...it is God's revealing of Himself to us...pretty important wouldn't you say?

In Christ,

Michael

Thank God... from page 1

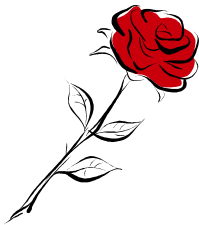
To all of you who serve behind the scenes at CABC – thank you. Thank you for serving in the ministries that don't have the flash and bling but, like the hard-working engine under the shiny hood, keep things moving forward. You are a blessing. Though some of us don't notice your service, there is One who does and His reward is infinitely better than anything we could give you.

Women's Ministry

Starting on Mother's Day we will again be participating in "Change for Life" to benefit the Pregnancy Crisis Center. May 13 there will be a play pen with empty baby bottles in it. You take a bottle and fill it with change, dollar bills, or checks (made out to CABC) and return to the volunteers at the Women's ministry table before or after the morning worship service. These funds are used to provide services for men and women in crisis situations who need hope and to know the love of Christ. This campaign runs through Father's Day.

MOTHER'S DAY








Attention ALL ladies of CABC age 18 & up! You are invited to join us for a special time of honoring our mothers on Sunday, May 13 during the Sunday school hour. We will meet in the gym. Verlinda Stone will be our speaker and Krista Savadge will bring special music. Coffee, muffins, and fruit will be served.



Baby Shower

We are sponsoring a baby shower for the Pregnancy Crisis Center in honor of Mother's Day and to minister to all moms in crisis and their babies. We will be collecting new and gently used baby items and maternity clothes through the month of May. Right now they especially need boys 0-3, 3-6 month clothes and formula, cheaper store brands are great.

Items needed

-  Formula, Walmart, Kroger, Target brands are great
-  Diaper bags
-  Disposable diapers through 12 months
-  Wipes
-  Clothes, gowns, sleepers to 12 months
-  Blankets, receiving blankets
-  Maternity clothes

Starting Sunday, May 6, you can place items in the crib in the foyer. If you have any questions, call Jenny Brown @ 792.0817.

Nursery News

Happy Mother's Day to all our beautiful moms of young and grown children! On May 13th we have a wonderful group of dads who have volunteered to give the mothers the morning off from caring for children in the nursery. Thank you Jordan Crane, Brad Suderman, Brian Key, Jim Cooper, Adrian Schulte, Tom Wyant, Josh Moff, and Geno Sylvester!

Have you heard about our new Teen Worship Team? During the second half of the adult worship service a team of two teenagers are traveling to each nursery room to lead the children in singing praises. They enter with musical instruments, scarves, puppets, and more to engage our little ones in worship. Teens attend the adult service until children are dismissed for children's church. Those who participate in orchestra do not have to miss and could even bring their instrument with them to play a short piece for the children. We are still looking for more teenagers to lead worship once a month. Do you love music? Enjoy children? Have enthusiasm and energy to worship your King? Then please contact Juliana Williams at williams@countryacresbaptist.org or 903-513-9487.

Child Dedication

We will have child dedication during the worship service on Sunday morning, May 13 in the sanctuary. Parents, if you would like to participate in this service, please contact Tami by email at office@countryacresbaptist.org or by phone at 722.1239 by Wednesday, May 9.

SHINE



In the Shine Ministry we are wrapping up school terms and the programs we have during that time and getting ready to begin our summer fun.



VBS June 11-15 will be exciting and full of experiments and fun as we learn about life changes and the

love of God through BUG ZONE. We still need LOTS of help. Please volunteer before we ask. Volunteer for teaching, helping, playground, crafts, garden lab time or registration, games, preschool help. Paulette at bpmiddle@hotmail.com, or Melodie Reimer momagreenbear@cox.net or catch one of us at church.

Summer Wednesday Nights

Awana is over for the summer and we begin Summer Story Hour on Wednesday, May 16. for 4 year olds through 4th grade during choir, and Bible study on Wednesday nights.



SHIELD

Shield, our program for 5th & 6th graders will move to Wednesday night beginning in May so they can have weekly meetings. They will meet from 7:00 – 8:30.

Our Sunday School Offering contest continues with the Preschool-Primary classes



Offering for Exal

doing the best job of bringing coins for Exal in Mexico. Let's not forget that this is more than a contest for treats, but a way to teach sharing with others in need. Hand your child a couple of coins as they arrive at Sunday School and be a part of this learning experience. Come visit our SHINE (Seeking Him in Everything) department and watch our children get excited at learning about Jesus.



The Awana program finished in a flourish as kids worked hard to try and finish their books to get their awards. They used their hard-earned points from the year to buy items at the Awana store and we also had a successful auction of some bigger items that the clubbers had a chance to bid on with their points. The clubbers were also recognized, in front of their friends and family, at the Awards ceremony on May 2nd.

Another successful year at the CABC Awana program with many thanks to those Leaders, Directors, Listeners, Pastoral Staff, and of course Paulette for making it all happen. The kids would not be able to enjoy this club if it wasn't for everyone's participation and help. We were blessed with an abundant amount of professions of faith and baptisms,. The Lord really worked some miracles through the Leaders and the Clubbers this year.

God bless & have a good summer
Commander Pete

GARAGE SALE

Funds will be used for the seminary we help support, Seminario Teologico Bautista del Sur in San Jeronimito, and other Mexico mission endeavors.

You may start bringing your items and put them in the designated shed in the west parking lot. You will need to pick up a key from the church office Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If this time is not convenient for you or you have questions, please contact Mark Borofsky (640.1280) or Steve Brown (729.2729).

Game Day

Please join us for Game Day on Thursday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in room 110.

Men's Ministry

Join us for fellowship and breakfast on Saturday, May 5 at 8:00 a.m. We will meet at CABG in the gym.

Sarah Prayer Circle

We meet every month on the first and third Tuesday in the prayer room at 10:00 a.m. If you are 55 and over and would like to join us for prayer and support, please come to our next meeting on May 15.

MOGS

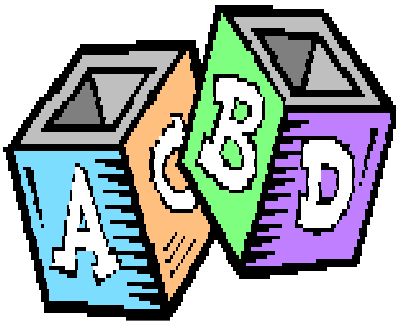
We are taking a break for the summer months. Check this space in the fall for information on our next meeting.

MPAC

We will meet each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in room 201 (prayer room). Please join us for this special time of sharing and praying for our adult children. If you have questions or need additional information about this group, please contact Patty Moore or Jennifer Travis.



Baby Shower



You are invited to a baby shower for Andrea Trulove this Saturday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Youth Center. Andrea and Calon are having a boy and are registered at Target and Babies R Us.