

A Lump of Kohl

November 22, 2015



MY ABSENCE: I'm sure my absence today is quite conspicuous. Before I signed on with Bethany, I was scheduled to be away this weekend. I look forward to being back with you on Wednesday night for our Thanksgiving Eve service.

THANKSGIVING EVE: Hebrews 13:15-16 mentions two kinds of sacrifices we can give that please the Lord. It says, *15 Through Jesus let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others in need, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.* We are going to give both kinds of sacrifices on Thanksgiving Eve.

The first kind of sacrifice is mentioned in verse 15. It is the sacrifice of praise that comes from our lips. You will have the opportunity to make such a sacrifice at the Thanksgiving Eve service. I hope that many of you will come prepared to give a testimony about how God has demonstrated His goodness and faithfulness in your life. Tell us about how God saved you, what God is doing in your life, what He is teaching you through His Word, how He has answered your prayers, how He has guided your life, the benefits you have received from giving to the Lord, the blessings you have received from God as a result of obedience, or whatever. Consider limiting your testimonies to about two minutes so that as many people as possible may participate.

The second kind of sacrifice is mentioned in verse 16. It is that of giving to others in need. For this we will be participating in Converge Worldwide's special offering to World Relief. World Relief is one of my favorite charities for two reasons. First, they have an outstanding

record of keeping administrative costs low and getting more of the money to where givers want it to do. Second, everything they do is intended for the love of others in Jesus' name, the spread of the Gospel, and the strengthening of Christ's church. This year's offering is being directed toward the Syrian refugee crisis.

world relief 

HELPING WITH THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS: Winter is coming and the nights will be cold for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. A Converge couple working there plans to deliver winter blankets, food packages, and children's clothing through churches in Tyre and Tripoli. At present, Syrian refugees make up over 25 percent of Lebanon's population, overwhelming the government's ability to provide aid. Through addressing physical needs, the Converge workers have the opportunity to visit shelters and homes and engage in personal conversations about Christ. This relief project fits into their long-term church planting and evangelism efforts in Lebanon. With oversight by these workers, we can be confident that relief supplies will be delivered directly to Syrian refugees.

PRAYER CAMPAIGN: 7:14: How are you doing at remembering the revitalization of your church in your daily prayers? The God to whom we pray is aware of our needs, cares about our situations, invites us to pray, promises to answer our prayers, is faithful to His promises, finds nothing difficult to do, and will move all of heaven and earth if necessary to keep His promises. With a God like that,

how can we not spend a few minutes each day praying for God to work a miracle in our church. Jesus said *Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, "Go, throw yourself into the sea," and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.* Let's watch God move mountains together!



PRAYER CAMPAIGN: How are you doing with the book, *A Journey to Victorious Praying?* By the end of today you should finish chapter 22. I hope it is informing and inspiring your prayer life.

SPECIAL PRAYER MEETINGS: I will be trying to conduct a special prayer meeting for most every week of the intentional interim process. I hope that many of you will participate in at least one prayer meeting per month. The meetings will last 45 to 60 minutes. The upcoming meetings are as follows:

- Wednesday, Dec 2, 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, Dec 8, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, Dec 17, at noon

MY CONTACT INFO: My mobile phone is 774-312-4966. My email for church business is bbc.gakohl@gmail.com.

BBC STRENGTHS: As you know, I have been doing a lot of interviews and a lot of listening. Below are a list of BBC's strengths as perceived by the congregation. Many other strengths were listed but the list you see below are the strengths that were repeated often enough to make them noteworthy. We have much to be thankful for in this season of Thanksgiving.

❖ The clear teaching of the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ have always been central in the preaching and teaching of BBC. Pastor Dan always had good applications at the end of his sermons. There are a lot of people around here who know the Word. BBC has had a long history of faithfulness to the Word of God.

❖ There is a great sense of family here. People really care and pray for one another, and they assist one another in hard times. ***

❖ BBC is welcoming to all. A visitor can't walk in these doors without feeling very welcomed by all. ***

❖ We have a lot of very gifted people who work so hard among us.

❖ God has blessed us with a wonderful facility with plenty of parking.

❖ We have a lot of talented vocalists and musicians. The Cushings are very talented and work so hard among us.

❖ Our pre-school ministry is well run and ministers to a lot of families in our community. It has a very good reputation in the community.

❖ We are blessed to have Brendon on staff and he does a great job with the youth ministry and Anchor group.

❖ For a church our size and thanks to Bob, we have a cutting edge missions program. We give generously to missions and, over the years, we've had a number of missionaries and ministers called out of our fellowship.

❖ There is some kind of resilience in the core of the church family. We can strongly disagree with each other yet we remain friends

***While mentioned frequently in the interview groups, a number of people have had experiences to the contrary.

