

Pk's Perspectives... THANK YOU

Last Wednesday was an incredibly awesome experience of the presence, power, and purpose of God. 32 young men took their stand with Jesus and promptly gave testimony by coming to the water of baptism. My heart soared as the crowd spontaneously applauded each young man who stepped into the baptismal trough.

So many of you were the hands, feet, and faces showing those 500+ football players just how passionate is the love of Jesus. If you prayed for this event, baked and bagged cookies or brownies, served pizza, handed out water, carried trash to the dumpster, set up/broke down chairs, provided a flatbed trailer, played an instrument, sang a song, dropped off a generator and/or fan, picked up 220 pizzas from Warner Robins, gathered ice from the local schools, transported/unpacked 1500 bottles of water, transported 600 Pop-Tarts and juice drinks, loaned a personal copy of the “Woodlawn” movie, filled the baptismal trough, helped get the sound system up and running, handed out towels to the dripping wet young men coming out of the baptismal trough, shared a conversation with a coach or player, greeted someone with a genuine smile, came back on Thursday morning to help clean up the remaining detritus – if you did these or any other things, you were an vital part of what God was doing in our parking lot on Wednesday night! Amazing! When I looked around at our crew of ministry people sweating in the late afternoon sun, I saw that the ages of our volunteers ranged from 9 years old all the way up to 84 years old! How cool is that!?

In the aftermath of such an amazing display of God’s presence, I feel a need to throw out a gentle admonition coupled with a bit of exhortation. First, it would be very easy to live on the events of last week and miss the opportunity that a new day presents. Having witnessed God’s glory on the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter wanted to build three tabernacles and extend the experience of that event. I don’t blame Peter – what happened up on that mountain was amazing. But then we see Jesus leading Peter, James, and John down from that mountain top experience and engaging the valley of humanity with all of its hurts, disappointments and needs. So we thank God for His incredible blessing last Wednesday...we celebrate 32 young men who took a stand with Jesus...we give all the glory to God...and with one voice we say to God, “What’s next?”

Secondly, a word of exhortation. Let’s consider the “components” that were a part of last Wednesday’s service for the football players. **Opportunity:** the football camp brought a bunch of unsaved young men to our doorstep. There are ten times as many unsaved people living right here in Bleckley County...we’ve got to bring ‘em in! **Preparation:** a load of planning and NOT glamorous work went into getting everything ready for the service last week...but it was absolutely worth it! We’ve got to work hard in order to meet the challenge of multitudes of people hearing the Gospel and accepting Christ as Savior. **Divine purpose:** we never have to pray about whether or not God wants us to invest time and resources in reaching the unchurched for Jesus. **Divine power:** indeed, it was the Holy Spirit powering everything associated with the service this past Wednesday. That same power is available 24/7. What God accomplished in our parking lot He can also accomplish in our Sunday School classes, our congregational services, our Student, Children’s, and Preschool ministries, and our one-on-one witnessing conversations! Prepare to take advantage of every opportunity to engage in the divine purpose of leading people to Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Cya in Sunday School & Worship (Fellowship Hall this month), PK.*