



Director's Report
January 25, 2017
Submitted by Tom Balog, Director

“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder on it.
But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation
other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ”
1 Corinthians 3:10-11

As my first month as the Director of the Co-Op comes to an end, I can say it has been a learning experience. But...it has been a blessing to be surrounded by the love and support of Linda and all the volunteers. Their support that has allowed the transition of leadership go smoothly so far. I feel the above scripture describes things perfectly. I am building on the grace given me and adding to the outstanding work Linda has done while always recognizing that the ultimate foundation of this ministry is Jesus Christ, our Lord! Knowing this has given me a peace that passes all understanding throughout my time here. I look forward to a blessed 2017 as I continue to learn from and lean on Jesus. To Him be the glory!

Here are a few highlights to add to the report Linda submitted in December:

- On January 9th, I spoke at the morning announcements at Providence Christian Academy. I was able to introduce myself and talk about the work the co-op does. This was in preparation of their Food Drive which will be the week of Jan. 23-27 with drop off dates of January 25th and 30th.
- Also on the 9th I had lunch with Jay White, pastor of First Christian Church. We got to know each other better and affirmed the relationship of his church to the co-op.
- Lastly on the 9th, the city sent an inspector to our building to do an asbestos test.
- January 10th I attended a meeting of the Gwinnett Coalition's Emergency Assistant Team. This gave me a chance to meet with some of the other agencies that are working in the area. I look forward to getting a chance to meet with many of these folks on a one-to-one basis in order to discover how our agencies can work together in getting folks the right kind of help.

- On January 17th, I meet with Zach Fitzpatrick, Pastor of Church Growth and Missions at First United Methodist Church of Lawrenceville. This was a chance to get to know one another and continue the great relationship the co-op has with his church. In a follow up call, Zach has asked me to speak with the United Methodist Women's group on February 28th.
- On January 18th, representatives of Jackson EMC came to the co-op to present the "Big Check" for \$15,000. It was a great opportunity to meet some of the board members and express our appreciation to them for the work that has been, and will be, done with the grant.
- January 19th I helped to serve dinner at Rainbow Village. This gave me a chance to meet with some of the leaders and get an idea of what their ministry does.
- I attended a Gwinnett Housing Collaborative meeting (Gwinnett Coalition sub committee) on the 24th. It was a short meeting, but did give me a chance to get a brief understanding of some of the projects they are working on.

For the most part, I have been just trying to see how things work, taking time getting to know volunteers, praying, and digesting everything that happens here at the co-op. Once again, I am thankful for all the volunteers who continue to support the co-op through their service. I look forward to working with the board to start implementing some of the ideas that came out of the discernment committee and in also looking for a new location for the co-op.

God is Good! All the Time!