

April 25, 2017

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

*How do you leave a mark on people?*

That was the question posed by David Brooks in his *New York Times* opinion piece published last Tuesday.

I read the piece as I sat by the pool, enjoying my post-Easter vacation, and Brooks' question really struck a nerve: *How do you leave a mark on people?*

According to Brooks, the answer is to be a "thick" institution:

*Some organizations are thick, and some are thin. Some leave a mark on you, and some you pass through with scarcely a memory...*

*A thick institution is not one that people use instrumentally, to get a degree or to earn a salary. A thick institution becomes part of a person's identity and engages the whole person: head, hands, heart and soul.*

At Grace Church, we aspire to be that kind of thick institution.

We want this to be a place where people experience love of God, a place where people can come to learn and know the way of Jesus, so that his way becomes their way, and his love becomes their love.

In other words, we don't want people to simply pass through our doors with scarcely a memory of being here. We want to make a difference in their lives... We want to leave a mark on them.

Happy Easter!

*Andrew*