Thank you so much for the invitation to the Unity Foundation Ernie Unruh Christian Service Award. Lisa and I were thrilled to attend and be part of honoring Keith Anderson. The last time we attended the event our good friend Joe Salo received the award. Again, we are so impressed the Unity Foundation, and the people of Alexandria, pause to celebrate the virtue of Service.

Virtue by definition is moral thought AND moral action. In the case of the Biblical ethic, that means thinking about and serving in ways that are exemplary of Christ's virtue living in us.

Keith's heart of service goes beyond good intention, he has put service into action as a lifestyle. I've assisted Keith with his IRD companies and for the past decade served as a board colleague with him at Alexandria Industries. During many exchanges and projects, I've witnessed Keith live out the virtue of Service with a heart that reflects what is important to God - people!  Keith embodies so many other virtues of Christ as he serves including humility and wisdom. Keith has always been willing to "die to self" as a living sacrifice to see God glorified in serving people.

What strikes me as amazing about the magnitude of Keith's service is his courage and perseverance. Scripture tells us Moses had a speech impediment that caused him to initially resist God's call. Paul had a thorn in the flesh, but pressed on.

As Lisa and I consider how much Keith has done and does, we know with great empathy that he has done much of it with a severe hearing impairment on the way to deafness. I am deaf, and know how tempting and easy it would be for Keith to become recluse.

But no, Keith took a major risk later in life with a cochlear implant with a hope to stay in the game and fulfill God's plan. Ears replaced with an embedded radio, computer, titanium wires, and electrodes in his skull. Therapy forever to tease his brain into re-mapping every sound he's ever heard in his life.

To sit beside Keith and observe his real struggles, and knowing exactly how hard it is for him, and then witness the endless and eternal lists of impact he makes to God's Kingdom is nothing short of miraculous. Incredible! Only God!

Yes, Keith absolutely deserves the Christian Service Award. And if you had awards for the virtues of Courage and Perseverance he would be at the top of my nomination list too.

Dan Malmstrom