

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

June 5, 2005

"How Much Do You Have to Pay...for a Black-and-White TV?"

Troy Nicholson

Most of us would not pay much at all, if anything, for a black-and-white TV, but Junior Allen paid dearly for one. He recently finished spending 35 years in jail for stealing one (*The Tennessean*, 5-29-05).

Upon being released Allen said, "I've done too much time for what I did." That may seem true to some people, especially when one considers that while he served his time other inmates convicted of rape, child molestation, and murder came and went.

But one must also consider the penalty for the crime at the time. While the penalty has since been changed to a maximum of three years in prison, in 1970 he was sentenced to life in prison for second-degree burglary. Based on his sentence, he did not serve enough time for what he did.

Allen has no one to blame but himself for the time that he served. The punishment had already been determined before he committed the crime. Knowing the potential consequences, he stole the television anyway. He simply earned the penalty due him.

Can anyone who commits sin of any kind say in eternity that they are doing too much time for the sin they committed? God has already warned us that "*the wages of sin is death*" (**Romans 6:23**). We already know that he will "*deal out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power*" (**2 Thes 1:8-9**). If we think the penalty is too severe, then we had better avoid the sin that results in it.

"The state Parole Commission decided last year to release Allen if he behaved and completed a transitional work-release program." In a similar manner, Peter told those at Pentecost to "*repent and...be baptized...for the forgiveness of your sins*" (**Acts 2:38**). We know that "*if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (**1 John 1:9**).

How much are you willing to pay?

Strippers and Parents

Troy Nicholson

In case you missed the story in last Saturday's *Tennessean* (5-28-05), a mother hired a stripper for her 16-year-old son's birthday party. She said there was nothing wrong with it, that a naked woman was nothing to get upset about. "I tried to do something special for my son. It didn't harm him." She went on to say, "We even had grandpa there," along with the boy's 14-year-old brother and other minors.

At first I was shocked when I read that a mother would do such a thing, but the more I thought about it the more I realized that she is not all that different from many other parents.

While most parents would never invite a stripper in person into their home, many of those same parents seem to think nothing of inviting strippers and other immoral people and activities into their homes via the television or video player. "A naked woman is nothing to get upset about" as long as she is on the screen. Try to put strippers in a building next door and the parents will fight against having them in town, but put a stripper in a movie and the parents will invite them into their home. As far as God is concerned, they might as well invite a stripper in person into their home.

As the temperature increases, so does the number of people besides strippers at the clubs who begin to strip their clothes at the pool, beach, and other public places. Many of the same parents who would not let their children go see the club strippers do not hesitate to let their children go see the other strippers – and even strip along with them.

The article said of the mother who invited the stripper that "once the dancer's 'bottoms' came off, she retreated into the next room." How often do parents retreat when they need to refuse? David said, "*I will set no worthless thing before my eyes*" (**Psalm 101:3**); and as the ones responsible for the upbringing of our children (**Ephesians 6:4**), we as parents need to refuse worthless things before them. We must make sure they are not "*conformed to this world, but...transformed by the renewing of (their) mind*" (**Romans 12:2**). We cannot lead them in this direction by inviting strippers into their lives.

"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; and deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your name's sake." – **Psalm 79:9**

Family News

Quinton Coppage has several health problems. Recently he has been having more problems than usual with breathing.

There is a new report from **Alessandro Corazza** in the back of the auditorium.

Nell Ferrell remains at NHC in room # 202. She is able to recognize people and talk. She and **Elmo** both have problems with mobility.

Brenda Fuqua is on more pain medicine. She has more pain when moved. She is sleeping more now and not talking very much. She is unable to walk very well and is very weak. She has not had any good days lately.

Earline Grimes, who used to attend here, passed away last Sunday.

Sandra Hunt has high blood pressure and the new medicine is only somewhat effective. She goes to the doctor tomorrow for some ankle problems.

Alvin "John" Jenkins, the 80-year-old father of Robert, has lung cancer.

All of the **Johnsons** were sick with a virus from food. None of the **Johnsons** remain sick! **Amanda** was the last to get well this past week.

Richard Jones, the Boyd's neighbor, has cancer that has spread to his bones.

Remember **Debbie Kelley** who remains at Brandywood in Gallatin. She has had problems with her wheelchair the last few weeks. They should have it working again in the next few days.

Mildred Lancaster has high blood pressure. She also has had a bad cough for over four weeks. They have changed some medicine.

Allen Malone is in Vietnam. A new report is in the back of the auditorium.

Fran Pickens had a bad fall yesterday. She is bruised and in pain but home.

Sammy Stafford's sister **Juanita Procter** has advanced cancer. She remains in a nursing home in Springfield and is sleeping a great deal of the time.

John "Jack" Reiger had a checkup in IN on Thursday (they returned home yesterday). They performed bone marrow and blood tests. Results to come.

Remember **Dustin Simpson** who continues to serve in the Navy. He remains in training. Contact him at: 91 Quevic Drive; Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Georgia Taylor is not well. She continues to not improve but get weaker.

Robert Wray is again having dizzy spells. Has a doctor's app. on Thursday.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Robert & Candy Jenkins**

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).