

The Lakeview Lamp

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

June 12, 2005

A Gift of Love

Troy Nicholson

For those of you not familiar with Locks of Love, here is a quote from their website (locksoflove.com): "Locks of Love is a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to disadvantaged children 18 years and younger suffering from long-term medical hair loss. We meet a unique need for children by using donated hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetics...The prostheses we provide help to restore self-esteem and confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers."

Before you decide to save the hair from your next haircut, you should know that the cut hair must be a minimum of 10 inches to be accepted by the organization. For most of us, this minimum length requirement rules out our donation (After my last haircut, I'm not sure if all of my hair totals 10 inches.). If you notice that Jennifer looks different today, it is probably because she had over 10 inches cut off Thursday to donate. The Johnson females have also donated to the organization in the past.

Why would people who have spent years growing long hair ever cut off so much and donate it? To find the answer, just go to the website and look at the gallery where you can see "before and after" pictures. The hair makes such a difference in some young people's lives.

While we may consider donating hair to a group like Locks of Love to be a sacrificial gift, it pales in comparison to what God was willing to give. *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son"* (**John 3:16a**). Not just His hair, not an organ, not "an arm and a leg," but His life. *"One will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (**Romans 5:7-8**).

Why would God make such a generous gift to a world of sinners? *"...that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life"* (**John 3:16b**). God gave His Son, not so we could receive some temporary benefit like is received through the gift of hair, but that we could receive the eternal benefit of life.

We may not all be able to give the gift of hair, but we have something far more valuable that even more people need. We have the gospel, *"the power of God to salvation"* (**Rom 1:16**). We can love others enough to teach them of Christ, just as someone else did for us (**2 Timothy 2:2**). We can all share the ultimate gift of love.

Update on Justin's Program

The Lentz family

Since we stopped doing the clean room program with Justin a couple of years ago due to a lack of progress and evidence the program was working, we have been blessed to have a DAN-protocol doctor become available in middle Tennessee. The DAN (Defeat Autism Now) protocol is based on the concept that autism is a form of heavy metals poisoning (for all the facts on this subject, visit www.generationrescue.org) and treats the child with metals-removing natural chemicals known as chelating agents. In addition, large amounts of vitamins are administered to offset those stripped from the body by the chelation process. In addition to these vitamins, other compounds known to stimulate the brain and assist with development are given, such as cod liver oil (high in omega-3 fatty acids and known to help thought processes).

We have also hired a consultant skilled in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) techniques. She has helped us set up a therapist who provides Justin with 8-10 hours of therapy per week, and she will be training us in ABA techniques to do some work with him ourselves. Justin's school teachers are trying to do the best they can for him, but are limited in the techniques and resources they can use.

To help cover the costs of Justin's vitamins and therapy (which of course insurance does not help with), Sherri has been working in the doctor's office on Saturdays, and some time during the week when the kids were in school. She is also enrolling in school in the fall to complete her Nursing degree in the next couple of years to help with Justin's therapy costs and to provide some funds for his long-term care, should that be necessary.

We ask that you pray for the effectiveness of his various treatments, for the skill of his doctor and therapists, for us as his parents and Leah as his sister to be patient and diligent in our efforts, and for Justin that he can be calm and work hard at improving. We also ask that you pray for our elected leaders. In spite of the critical need to remove mercury from children's vaccinations so that the tragedy of autism decreases from its rate of one out of every 68 American families, it is against all belief that senators like Bill Frist are actively trying to pass laws in secret to protect the vaccine makers from legal action against them, instead of supporting legislation to make childhood vaccines mercury free. Please pray for the honesty of those elected to represent and help us. And pray also for the Lord's swift return, so that none of this would any longer be of concern to us. Thanks.

Family News

William Brian Downs, the son of Lon and Runez Downs (they have visited with us several times), died in a plane crash in Iraq on May 30th. He will be buried in Arlington Cemetery on June 21. He leaves behind his wife Beth & children (Chandler 11; Elle 9; Bailey 8). Address: 22 Magnolia Ave, Shalimar FL 32579.

Nell Ferrell remains at NHC in room # 202. She is about the same.

Brenda Fuqua is not doing well. She did have some fair days toward the end of this past week. Yesterday was a very bad day.

Kendall Gaw went to the doctor on Monday and was diagnosed with strep throat again. Also, her doctor decided she needs to see a specialist about a heart murmur. She will see a Pediatric Cardiologist this Wednesday morning.

There is a new report from **Gary Hunt** in the back of the auditorium.

Sandra Hunt has high blood pressure. The report on her ankle problems was not good: the doctor wants to perform surgery. They will get a second opinion.

Alvin "John" Jenkins, the 80-year-old father of Robert, has lung cancer. The current treatment is beneficial, but he is weak. CAT scan next month.

Remember **Debbie Kelley** who remains at Brandywood in Gallatin. She has had problems with her wheelchair for several weeks. It is still not working: however, they should repair it this week.

Mildred Lancaster has high blood pressure. She also had a bad cough.

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

Fran Pickens had a bad fall two Sat. ago. She is in pain but a little better.

Juanita Procter, Sammy Stafford's sister, passed away last Sunday. The service was Wednesday. She was 76 years old.

John "Jack" Reiger had received good test results! He is on less medicine. **Wanda** has been sick this past week.

Joyce Werner has very high blood pressure. They have changed medicine. They will perform an MRA tomorrow to see if any unidentified clogged arteries are causing her high blood pressure. She has clogged arteries going into her kidneys. She is not sleeping well and has low energy.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Bansemers** (AM only); **Ciampas**

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