

The Lakeview Lamp

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

August 7, 2005

"Couples Game"

Troy Nicholson

Scott Bestul wrote an article entitled "Couples Game" (*Deer and Deer Hunting*, Sept. 2005) in which he discussed when his wife began deer hunting with him. In it he said, "I questioned whether she had the right stuff to become a hunter, but I helped her as best I could; and then I noticed a dramatic change happening...in me!

"Instead of my usual gung-ho, keep-up-with-me-or-get-lost attitude, I'd become a coach and an encourager. I wanted her to succeed and to enjoy the deer woods as thoroughly as I did every fall. When we hunted together, I wanted Shari to see more game than I did,...

"Before all of this, sacrificing personal effort – and potential success – was not in my game plan. After all, successful whitetail hunting requires tireless effort and lots of concentration; like some months-long chess match that always keeps us second-guessing our quarry's next move. But as I introduced Shari to the deer woods, I found myself thinking less about my next attempt at "check-mate" and more about my own hunting beginnings as a deer hunter."

When Paul wanted to *"speak with reference to Christ and the church,"* he spoke of the husband/wife relationship (**Ephesians 5:22-32**). When we understand the difference that a mate should cause in our life, then we begin to understand the difference that Christ should cause in our life.

When we get married, life changes as we know it. Instead of basically living only for self, we now have someone else for whom to live. We can no longer live selfishly but must live selflessly. "Sacrificing personal effort" becomes a part of our "game plan." We have someone else to love as we love ourselves (**:28-29**).

The same is true when we become a Christian. Paul described the change in his life in this way: *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me"* (**Galatians 2:20**). Just as the author above still hunted but hunted more for his wife's success than his own, we live to seek the will of Christ over our own.

The game of life was designed as a couples game – coupled with Christ. Has He made a dramatic change in you?

"The Metaphysics of Deer Blood"

Troy Nicholson

You may be thinking that this is a strange title for a bulletin article. Am I just on a deer hunting kick – having two articles in a row based on deer and deer hunting? Not quite. There was an article with the above title in the magazine I referenced in the last article. I want to share a portion of it with you and then explain its relevance.

The author of the article, Rob Wegner, quoted biologist Neil Campbell to describe “what happens when a broadhead (the sharp tip on an arrow - TN) merely hits an artery instead of severing it completely.” Try to focus on the process rather than the medical terms for it as Campbell explains what happens:

“The clotting process begins when endothelium of a vessel is damaged and connective tissue in the wall of the vessel is exposed to blood. Platelets adhere to collagen fibers in the connective tissue and release a substance that makes nearby platelets sticky. The platelets clump together to form a plug that provides emergency protection against blood loss.

“Although the plug is adequate to seal minor lesions in the endothelium, it is reinforced by a clot of fibrin (an insoluble protein), when damage to the vessel is more severe. Clotting factors released from the clumped platelets or damaged cells mix with clotting factors in the plasma to form an activator, which converts a plasma protein called prothrombin to its active form, thrombin. Calcium and Vitamin K are among the plasma factors required for this step. Thrombin itself is an enzyme that catalyzes the final step of the clotting process, the conversions of fibrinogen to fibrin.

“Thus, in a cascade of reactions, injury activates prothrombin, which then activates fibrinogen. The threads of fibrin become interwoven into a patch that traps blood cells and seals the injured vessel until the wound is healed by regeneration of the vessel wall.”

Were you able to keep from getting hung up on the difficult words and simply focus on the process? If so, isn't it amazing how everything can work the way it does – like a well choreographed performance? Many people try to tell us that such an extraordinary event merely came about by chance through the process of evolution. Do you buy such an explanation? We are “*without excuse*” if we cannot clearly see the “*eternal power and divine nature*” of God in the visible creation around us (**Romans 1:20**).

The metaphysics of deer blood reminds us that there is an awesome Creator and Ruler of all whom we know as the Almighty God..

“How lovely are Your dwelling places, O Lord of hosts!” – Psalm 84:1

Family News

Mary Burnett has finished the medicine for pneumonia. She is still coughing some, but is better. Overall she is doing better.

Nancy Dye, Fran Picken's daughter, had a stroke recently. She is at home.

Nell Ferrell remains at NHC in room # 202. Recently, she has been eating and talking more. Remember **Elmo** who spends most of every day with her.

Dot Gourley, Nancy Read's 77-year-old sister, remains in Skyline Medical Center. Last weekend on Saturday she fell and broke her hip and entered the hospital. She had surgery on Tuesday. She is already walking some and improving. Also, she had a stroke six weeks ago and needs to have heart surgery. The heart surgery has had to be delayed because of the hip surgery.

Laura Hindsley, Nancy Read's 87-year-old sister, went home from the hospital on Friday. She had stomach surgery on Tuesday. She is doing better. She does have a heart problem that is causing some swelling.

Kathy Hollingsworth, Joyce Werner's niece, had a stroke in June. She remains unable to talk well. She remains in a rehabilitation center.

Sandra Hunt will have ankle surgery before too long (to remove some nuts and bolts that are there from a previous injury/surgery).

Alvin "John" Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. He is weak and lacks energy. He has a doctor's appointment tomorrow.

Richard Jones, the Boyd's neighbor, has advanced cancer.

Remember **Debbie Kelley** who remains at Brandywood in Gallatin.

The **Lentzs** continue the process of moving to Memphis. **Jeff's** last Wed. at Lakeview will be this Wednesday (he starts his new job on Monday the 15th).

There is a new report from **Fred Newman** in the back of the auditorium.

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 about the same. She may not be able to hear as well.

Remember **Bill White** who has been working two jobs. One of his jobs has become much, much more stressful this year.

Robert Wray is about the same. He not be able to see as well.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Bansemers** (KY); **Malones** (Allen is preaching & teaching @ Skyview); **Fran Pickens** (Adams, TN)

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