

The Lakeview Lamp

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

December 4, 2005

The Story Behind "The Room"

Troy Nicholson

If you read last week's bulletin, then you read "The Room." I said that the author was "to be announced," and now I will explain why.

17-year-old Brian Moore had only a short time to write something for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting. It was his turn to lead the discussion. He showed the essay, titled "The Room," to his mother before he headed out the door. "I wowed 'em," he later told his father. "It's a killer; it's the bomb. It's the best thing I ever wrote." It was also one of his last opportunities to write.

Not many days after that meeting, Brian was driving home from a friend's house when his car went off the road and struck a utility pole. He emerged from the wreck unharmed but stepped on a downed power line and was electrocuted. The essay was read at his funeral.

Brian seemed to excel at everything he did. He was an honor student, a star wide receiver for the Teay's Valley Football team, and had earned a four-year scholarship to Capital University in Columbus because of his athletic and academic abilities. He took it upon himself to learn how to help a fellow student who used a wheelchair at school. During one homecoming ceremony, Brian walked on his tiptoes so that the girl he was escorting wouldn't be embarrassed about being taller than him. He adored his kid brother. He often escorted his grandmother to church.

The Moore's framed a copy of Brian's essay and hung it among the family portraits in the living room. "I think God used him to make a point. I think we were meant to find it and make something out of it," Mrs. Moore said of the essay. "I'm happy for Brian. I know he's in heaven. I know I'll see him again someday," Mrs. Moore said. "It just hurts so bad now."

The above information only shows part of the story, though; now for the rest. Brian Moore did read the essay aloud at a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting, and he did claim that he had written it himself. The truth is that the essay was written by Joshua Harris and was published in a book by Harris two years before Brian claimed he had written it.

Brian's parents had no reason at the time to suspect the essay was not their son's. They and other relatives and friends broadcast the essay as his work, sincerely believing that it was. Only after the piece was published in *The Columbus Dispatch* on the anniversary of Brian's death did the truth about its authorship become known, when readers responded with corrections that pointed the newspaper to Harris and his book.

Someone wrote of the situation, "It's ironic that an essay describing the author's sense of shame over his personal accumulation of sins would be used by another to add a few file cards to his own stash. The dead boy not only stole someone else's work but also presented it as his own before a Christian fellowship he was part of and lied to his parents about it. That's three of the ten commandments right there (stealing, not honoring parents, and bearing false witness)."

Many people feel – probably like Brian did – that they have gotten away with certain sins, that no one will ever know. They may even be like Brian and go to their grave without anyone else knowing what they have done. One thing they can be sure of, though, is what Moses said long ago: “*Your sin will find you out*” (**Numbers 32:23**). While his sins only reaped pleasurable consequences for Brian while alive (**Hebrews 11:25**), they had much different consequences after his death. Think of the embarrassment his family and friends must have felt when they learned the truth. Think of the difficulty he brought upon the true author of the essay as he had to defend himself against a dead man. Think about being Brian and having to stand before God in judgment and having Him say, “I know what you did.” Remember, “*Your sin will find you out.*”

Also, consider all the good things that Brian did. He had so many accomplishments and good deeds to his credit. Yet when people think of him now, they will probably remember most the truth concerning the essay. All the good that he did can never make up for the bad. James said, “*Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all*” (**James 2:10**). What a shame for anyone to live a good life in nearly every way, only to allow maybe just one area of sin in his life to make him a transgressor (:11) and keep him out of Heaven. How important it is that we give our all to living for the Lord (**Galatians 2:20**). If Satan wins in just one small way, he wins in all.

As “The Room” ended by saying, there are still cards to be written about your life. What will they say?

“You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you.” – Psalm 86:2

Family News

Neil Barker, Sandy Heyboer's father, remains in room number 123 at TN Christian MC. He is doing well and continues to improve. He remains on an antibiotic for histoplasmosis in his intestine. He continues to receive therapy to help with his mobility. He is scheduled to go home this Friday.

Quinton Coppage is doing a little better.

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

Metty Fain is not doing well and is steadily getting worse.

Nancy Fields, Sandra Boyd's cousin, has had a relapse of cancer.

The **Fultz** family used to attend here. Two of their children are sick. **Sandlyn** is in a great amount of pain from a tumor that is against the lower part of her spinal cord. Her pain medicine is not completely effective. She has an appointment on December 13th to see a neurosurgeon. **Nathan** has a chest CT scan and an MRI scheduled for December 12th. These are to check on the spots in his chest wall and lung and the tumor on his brainstem.

Estelle Hayes fell recently and is sore.

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

Sandra Hunt had a bone density test and x-rays this past week. They showed some inflammation but not anything else. This Thursday she has an appointment to check into some new treatments for pain.

John Jenkins, Robert's father, has lung cancer. They have stopped treatment because it was no longer effective. This past week he was in the hospital some and they also did scans (results should come this week). Overall he is doing worse and is getting weaker. Thankfully, his pain level is low.

Al Johnson, Bob's father, remains at home (still not 100%).

Richard Jones, the Boyd's neighbor, has advanced cancer. He is very weak and not doing well.

Fran Pickens has not been doing too well lately.

Allen Malone remains in Vietnam. There is a new report from him in the back of the auditorium. He is scheduled to return home on December 16th.

Dustin Simpson continues to serve in the Navy. Address (use four lines):

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Ame White is scheduled to have lab work tomorrow to prepare surgery (12/12).

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