

The Lakeview Lamp

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

December 25, 2005

When You Leave This Local Church

Greg Gwin

We are aware of your plans to leave this local church. What’s that, you say? You didn’t know that you had such plans? Yes, in fact, such plans are in place – FOR ALL OF US!!!

There are several ways it might happen. You might decide to move to some other location. Or, you could elect to become a member of some other area congregation. Or, although we pray that it would never happen, you might become unfaithful and fall away. If none of those scenarios develops, you WILL leave this church at the time of your death. Do you see what we mean? Every one of us, at some point, will be leaving this congregation.

Now then, the question is not “if,” rather it is “when?” And “when” you leave, we wonder how folks will react to your departure. There are three possibilities:

1. Sadness: When good, faithful, active, involved, dedicated members leave our midst we are truly sad to see them go. This congregation depends on members of this sort. They are the ones who step up to teach classes, call on the sick, encourage the weak, enthusiastically support the programs of work, and generally do all they can to see to it that the church here succeeds. They constitute the real “backbone” of the congregation. When we lose such people there is a sort of “void” that is left behind. Usually it takes a good while to get over their departure. We really miss them.

2. The leaving is hardly noticed: Unfortunately there are some folks that never really get involved in the local church. Oh, yes, they may attend with some regularity, but they seldom do anything more than that. Don’t expect these people to get involved in anything that requires “extra” effort – they simply won’t do it. Sadly, when they leave the church, their absence is barely noticed by other members.

3. A sense of relief – almost happiness: It is a horrible reality, but in most churches there are members who do nothing but complain and criticize. They don’t do anything themselves, but they are always looking to disparage what others are doing (**Matt. 7:1-5**). They are constantly “tearing down” rather than “building up” fellow Christians. When they are gone, we almost breathe a sigh of relief. How sad!

So, YOU are ultimately going to leave this church. How will your brethren react to your leaving?
THINK!

Expectations of Young People

Troy Nicholson

What do we expect of young people? Some Christians don't seem to expect very much of them when it comes to spiritual matters. They make excuses for them when they don't become Christians when they are old enough to do so or when they become Christians but don't live like they should. "Well, they're still young." "They are going to sow their wild oats." "Someday they'll do better."

The government expects a lot of young people. It doesn't wait for them to get older to place high expectations upon them. Consider who our government trains to defend our country, with billions of dollars' worth of technology placed in their hands and at their fingertips. Is it middle-aged people or seniors? No, it is young people – 18 and 19-year-olds, maybe early twenties. Our government expects them to accomplish great things, making great sacrifices and even giving their lives if necessary. It expects such things of them because it knows they can.

Does God expect any less of young people than the government? Does He not also expect them to accomplish great things spiritually, making great sacrifices and even giving their lives if necessary? His word says to "*remember your Creator in the days of your youth,*" and know that "*God will bring you to judgment for all these things*" (**Ecclesiastes 12:1; 11:9**).

Paul exhorted Timothy, "*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity*" (**1 Timothy 4:12**). Instead of making excuses for young people when they fall short of pleasing God, we need to be encouraging them to be an example of what it means to be pleasing to God.

Young people are able to fight and be victorious in a physical war. Our government prepares them to do so. They are also able to fight and be victorious in a spiritual war. Are we doing our part to prepare them to do so? As parents are we "*bring(ing) them up in the training and instruction of the Lord*" (**Ephesians 6:4**)? As Timothy's mother and grandmother did for him, are we ensuring that they "*from infancy have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation*" (**2 Timothy 3:15**)? It depends on what we expect of young people.

"You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you." – Psalm 86:5

Family News

Connie Cobern fell on Tuesday. She hurt her knee and ribs.

Sonny Culwell, Lyda Plank's brother in law, passed away last month (this was her sister Marilyn's husband).

Sandlyn Fultz had surgery as scheduled Wednesday morning. It went well and so far everything else has gone as well as can be expected. She went home from the hospital yesterday. In the surgery they removed a tumor was about 3 inches in length with an incision only slightly larger than that. They did have to enter the spinal canal, which has meant 5 days of laying flat. She has had a morphine pump for pain control. So far there has been no sign of any infection. They probably will not have pathology results until sometime in January.

Richard Jones, the Boyd's neighbor, passed away this past week after a long battle with cancer.

Debbie Kelley's address is: 2608 McKinley Avenue, Claymont DE 19703

Fran Pickens has had more severe arthritis pain lately.

Barbara Matish, Bonnie Sue Brown's friend, had surgery on Tues. to replace two heart valves. The surgery went well. She should come home this week.

Louis Roberts, a friend of Dustin Simpson's, had a car wreck on Tuesday. He went home from the hospital on Thursday.

Fred Wenger, Teddy's father, passed away this past week.

Ame White had surgery two Mondays ago. It went well, but so far her recovery has not gone very well. She went to the ER last Sunday night. She went back to the doctor this past week. She has had a lot of pain and some bleeding. She returns to the doctor this Tuesday.

Tom Wooten was baptized two Sundays ago! He is living and working in Turkey. Let us remember Tom in the difficult environment of Turkey.

Lakeview church of Christ

132 New Shackle Island Road

P.O. Box 514

Hendersonville TN 37077

Building: 615-824-1376

www.BibleSaints.com

Bible Call: 615-824-1310

Troy Nicholson

trojenn@intergate.com

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