

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**February 5, 2006**

## *From Resolved to Solved*

Troy Nicholson

Did you make any New Year's resolutions this year? If so, you have now had a month to keep them. How are you doing? I recently saw a list of the top ten New Year's resolutions:

- 1 – Lose weight
- 2 – Stop smoking
- 3 – Stick to a budget
- 4 – Save / earn more money
- 5 – Find a better job
- 6 – Become more organized
- 7 – Exercise more
- 8 – Be more patient at work / with others
- 9 – Eat better
- 10 – Become a better person

Do any of these look familiar? Even if you don't have them down as New Year's resolutions, you have probably still realized a need to accomplish some of them in your life.

Nearly all of these resolutions have one thing in common: a need for self control. For many of them it is simply a matter of doing what we know we need to do. Simply a matter, yet not simply done – which is why they continue to be matters resolved instead of solved.

When we fall short of living as God would have us to live, it is not normally because we do not understand His word. It is normally because we simply fail to do what we know we need to do. We never face any temptation that is greater than we can bear, that does not have a way of escape (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). The problem is that we do not take the way of escape that God provides. Paul could relate. In **Romans 7:7-25** he wrote about the constant battle to overcome the influence of evil and do what he knew he ought to do.

Paul also knew how to do more than simply resolve to do better. He knew that we must solve the problem by bringing ourselves under control. Just a few verses after writing about the problem, he gave the solution: *"If you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live"* (**Romans 8:13**). He described his personal solution in this way: *"I beat (discipline) my body and make it my slave"* (**1 Corinthians 9:27**).

Until we take control of our own bodies, all we will do is resolve. Let the beatings begin so that we may solve.

## *Accentuate the Positive*

Ken Green

*“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Peter 2:1-3).*

In this second chapter of **1 Peter**, we are told, *“Therefore...”* Because we have received the blessings enumerated in chapter 1, we are, therefore, to eliminate the negative (**v. 1**) and accentuate the positive (**vv. 2-3**) in our lives.

It’s not enough to resolve to quit malice, guile, hypocrisies, envies, and evil speakings. Nor is it enough to quit drunkenness or adultery or lust. Too often we try to eliminate these things and fail because we haven’t resolved to do anything. When people quit their meanness, a vacuum is created in their lives. If it is not filled up with something positive, worthwhile, and good, then before they know it they’ll be right back where they started.

A good illustration is found in Jesus’ teaching in **Luke 11:23**. He said, *“He who is not with Me is against Me.”* Then He proceeded to tell of the unclean spirit who goes out of a man. When he returns, he finds his former habitation “swept and put in order.” The welcome mat was out! *“Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first” (Luke 11:26).*

I have discovered the futility of trying to quit bad habits and sins without at the same time beginning to practice some good things to take their place. I have known a number of church members who continuously wage a losing battle with temptation. They have a harder time than usual, it seems, doing right. I suspect there’s a common cause for that. Look at their daily lives. Are they reading meditatively and worshipfully the word of God day by day? Are they praying for strength? Are they actively engaged in the work of the church?

Most of the time all such questions must be answered “no.” They are trying to eliminate the negative without accentuating the positive. They’re trying to drive on an empty tank. They’re attempting to accomplish something in their own strength that no human being is strong enough to do.

*“Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth.” – Psalm  
86:11a*

# **Family News**

**Bob Bunting**, a preacher who was mentioned as being in Centennial, is doing some better and has been moved to a Hospice unit.

**Dorothy Davis**, Troy's grandmother, is out of CCU and doing much better.

**Metty Fain** has been moved to the basement at the Terrace where the more severe Alzheimer's patients are kept. She is in room 131.

**Elmo Ferrell** is doing better since the increase in medicine.

**James and Anita Fuller** solicit our prayers on their behalf for spiritual strength.

**Jimmy Hunt** received good test results this week regarding his heart.

**Robert Hunt**, a member at Broadmoor and whose son Gary we support in NY, has colon cancer. He is scheduled for surgery Monday.

**Sandra Hunt** is receiving injections in her spine to relieve pain.

**Jean Jenkins**, Jerry's mother, has non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. She recently began chemo.

**John Jenkins**, Robert's father, had another round of chemotherapy last week.

**Becky Newman**, whose husband Fred we support, is doing better. They are waiting for a CT scan to rule out any possibility of tumors or other problems.

**Cotton Read** is now doing better.

**Laura Reed** did not feel well this past week.

Remember **Dustin Simpson** as he continues to serve in the Navy. You can write him at (please use four lines):

MM3 SIMPSON, DUSTIN

USS Enterprise CVN-65

Box 44

FPO AE 09543-2810

**Georgia Taylor** has been having problems with her eyes.

Remember the Christians in **Vietnam** while Allen is here.

**Donna Vaughn**, Derek Hull's mother-in-law, is home from the hospital after a double mastectomy. She will start chemo and radiation treatments soon.

**Ame White** is doing better.

**Robert Wray** still suffers from many dizzy spells and is weak.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **John Hunt** (FL), **Allen Malone** (FL)

Absent for a while: **Ciampa's** (5 months), **Gillihan's** (Michael – 8 months, Brittney – 1 month), **Simpson's** (Mike – 2 months, Dori and girls – 3 weeks)

# Lakeview church of Christ

132 New Shackle Island Road

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Hendersonville TN 37077

Building: 615-824-1376

[www.BibleSaints.com](http://www.BibleSaints.com)

Bible Call: 615-824-1310

## Sunday:

Bible class 9 am

Assembly 10 am

Worship 6 pm

## Wednesday:

Bible study 7 pm

Troy Nicholson

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