

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**February 12, 2006**

## *When Crisis Comes*

Charles N. Spence, Jr.

(The following message was taken from an e-mail list maintained for news about brethren. The thoughts expressed are worthy of our consideration. – TN)

Thank you for all of your prayers and words of comfort. At 6:30 PM on February 2, 2006, four weeks to the day after my niece had died, my father has passed away. What a shock this is to my family. This was quite unexpected. All of this is so strange to have such hit my family like it has. Yet, even from this there comes hope and comfort. The following was a sermon I preached on Wednesday that gives a perspective of where my head is at now.

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I had written brethren to tell them about the crisis that affected my father and my family. In doing so I had said that I couldn't take this anymore or that I didn't know what to do. However, now, upon much reflection, I have learned that with the Lord I do know what I have to do, for the Bible says in **1 Corinthians 10:13**, "*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*"

In the face of crisis many people may not know where to look, where to go, or what to do. It took trials in my life to bring resounding clarity to my mind as to where I have to look, where I have to go, and what I have to do.

Crisis directed me to where I had to look. "*I will lift up my eyes to the hills - from whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth*" (**Psalm 121:1-2**). When I need help I know where to look.

Crisis directed me to where I had to go. "*But Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*" (**John 6:68**). I can and you can go to Jesus for his words of life and comfort.

During a crisis, I now know where to look and where to go. Because I know where to look and where to go, I now know what to do: "*Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait I say, on the LORD*" (**Psalm 27:14**). I will wait, that is trust in God to take care of whatever the problem is in my life.

Let me conclude with the reading of **Psalm 4**:

*Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer. How long, O you sons of men, Will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness and seek falsehood? But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; the LORD will hear when I call to Him. Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD. There are many who say, "Who will show us any good?" LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. You have put gladness*

*in my heart, more than in the season that their grain and wine increased. I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.*

Tonight, I will lay down and be at peace. Though my heart is heavy and trial afflicts me sore, I am comforted in knowing that I know where to look for help, I know where to go for life and comfort, and I know what to do to strengthen my heart.

I do hope that these words will bring you comfort and strengthen you when crisis comes in your life.



## ***"Live Like You Were Dying"***

Troy Nicholson

There is a song about a man who found out he had only a short time to live, so he did all the things he wanted and needed to do. He then said to a friend, "I hope someday you have the chance to live like you were dying."

We do not need a doctor to tell us we are dying, for God has already told us. "*All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall*" (**1 Peter 2:24**). Like grass and flowers, we are dying.

Since we know we are dying, "*Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is*" (**Eph 5:15-17**). *Are you living like you are dying? Are you living according to God's will?*

# **Family News**

**Bob Bunting**, a preacher who some here know, is receiving Hospice care.

We regret that **Mark** and **Susan Ciampa** are no longer members here. They have not yet decided where they will attend.

**Dorothy Davis**, Troy's grandmother, is doing much better.

**Metty Fain** is in room 131 at the Terrace. This is where they have the more severe Alzheimer's patients. Obviously, she is not doing well.

**Elmo Ferrell** continues to suffer from back trouble.

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

**Sandlyn Fultz** continues to do very well. She feels better than she has in about three years. She is completely caught up on her school work.

**Robert Hunt**, a member at Broadmoor (the father of Gary who we help support in NY), has colon cancer. He had successful surgery on Monday. There was no sign the cancer had spread. He now has bronchitis. He remains in room 718 at St. Thomas. Overall, he is doing well after this major surgery.

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

**Jean Jenkins**, Jerry's mother, has non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. She has started chemotherapy.

**John Jenkins**, Robert's father, received chemotherapy two weeks ago.

**Becky Newman**, whose husband Fred we support, is doing better.

**Laura Reed** is suffering more than usual from arthritis pain.

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 a cold and continues to have other health problems.

**Donna Vaughn**, Derek Hull's mother-in-law, will receive treatments for cancer.

**Ame White** is slowly improving.

**Robert Wray** was suffering from high blood sugar, but is some better.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Allen** and **Cindi Malone** (CA now, Allen returns to Vietnam at the end of the week)

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

# Lakeview church of Christ

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[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).*