

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**August 6, 2006**

## *Life and Death*

Troy Nicholson

“At a time when football practice times are treated like gold and when every coach is searching for any little piece of motivation that can drive their team, the Beech High football squad gave up some of their practice times and would give anything not to have the motivation that was forced upon it early Friday morning.

“Nathan Johnson was on his way to his first practice of his junior campaign – a season in which he was expected to be a starter as the Buccaneers’ place-kicker, punter, and kickoff man – but never arrived because of what turned out to be a fatal automobile accident, just a couple of hundred yards away from the Beech entrance.”

An article in Wednesday’s *The Star News* (“Practice the last thing on the minds at Beech,” by Chris Lynn) began with the above paragraphs. It continued by talking about Nathan’s life. This article talks about our own lives.

Especially in our fast-paced society, it is so easy to get caught up in the daily affairs of life that we fail to give the proper amount of consideration to the most important things in life. That is not to say that Nathan did, only that it is a real temptation for us all. It is understandable by those of us who appreciate football why “practice times are treated like gold,” but we must remember that there is still something more important than football or even gold. The “whole duty of man” is to “*fear God and keep His commandments*” (**Ecc1 12:13**). Our goal (NIV), our aim (NKJ), our ambition (NAS) in life ought to be to please Him (**2 Cor 5:9**). There’s nothing wrong with enjoying the things that life has to offer, but serving God must remain at the center of all of them.

Death was probably not even on Nathan’s mind last Friday. Most of us do not think about the fact that our life could come to an abrupt end at any moment. Nathan’s life came to an abrupt end while in an automobile. Nearly every time we pass another automobile on the road we are mere feet from death. The slightest distraction – cell phone, radio, children, etc. – on the part of either us or someone we are passing could bring all our lives to an abrupt end.

Maybe you have seen the Nationwide Insurance commercials with various events occurring and then followed with the message, “Life comes at you fast.” Their reason for relaying that fact is to get you to realize your need for insurance. Death can also come at you fast, and realizing this fact ought to lead you to make sure your life is right with God.

Solomon told us why it is so important to realize that man’s whole duty is to “*fear God and keep His commandments*”: “*For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil*” (**Ecc1 12:13-14**). Why should we make pleasing God our goal in life? For the same reason: “*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad*” (**2 Cor 5:9-10**).

Young people, this message applies to you as much as to anyone else. What if it had been you in the car instead of Nathan? It easily could have been. If it was, would you have been ready to stand before God in

judgment? Some of you are not Christians. Do you want to have to stand before God without being one? Every day you go without becoming a Christian brings you one day closer to that reality. Remember, death comes at you fast.

*“It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, because that is the end of every man, and the living takes it to heart” (Ecc1 7:2).* Take to heart the death of Nathan Johnson and let it change your life so that you will be ready for your death.

## *The Irony of a Christian*

A.W. Tozer, titled

A real Christian is an odd number anyway...He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen, talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see, expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another, empties himself in order to be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up, is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passeth knowledge.

*“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.” – Psalm 91:1*

# **Family News**

**Mary Burnett** is not feeling well this weekend.

**Connie Cobern** has severe pain in her foot. **Neil** is having back problems.

**Elmo Ferrell** is doing some better than last weekend.

**Barry Fultz**, who used to be a member here, received good results from the follow-up MRI (the tumors have remained stable for the last 3 months).

**Kendall Gaw** had surgery on Tuesday for some infected places on her skin. She went home that night. The tests they ran indicated this was a very serious infection. Thankfully, the infection is clearing up and she is better.

**Sandra Hunt** continues the new diabetes medicine. No improvement yet. An MRI showed she has building disks. (A card in the lobby says: Thank you all from the whole family. Please keep us in your hearts and prayers. The Hunt Family James, Sandra, & Timothy)

**Annie Trula Johnson**, Estelle Hayes sister-in-law, passed away last Saturday. She was 88 years old. Her funeral was Tuesday.

**Jennifer Lindzy**, Fran Pickens' granddaughter, completed chemotherapy three weeks ago. She is still very sick (but may be just a little better). She will not go home from the hospital for at least another week.

**Karen Moore** had successful ankle surgery this past Tuesday. She is scheduled to return to the doctor on Wednesday.

**Cotton Read** returns to the eye surgeon on Thursday.

**Ame White** has been having trouble sleeping. Her daughter **Angela** went home last weekend after having surgery. She is in a great amount of pain but should start to feel better soon. She returns to the doctor Wednesday.

**Robert Wray** returned to the doctor on Tuesday: right eye is now doing well. They have scheduled left eye surgery for August 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Out of town, traveling, or visiting:* **Bansemers** (in KY in AM, back this PM); **Bonnie Sue Brown** (gone in AM, back this PM); **Edwards** (Chattanooga); **Lannings** (here today, leave for AL on Friday); **Allen Malone** (arrived safely in Vietnam yesterday).

## **Lakeview church of Christ**

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