

The Lakeview Lamp

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

August 20, 2006

Not For All the Money in the World

Beth Johnson

Many times I have been asked why we chose to live and work in India. People ask, "How do you stand the filth, the idolatry, the tropical climate, and the primitive living arrangements?"

If I were to tell them just how primitive things really are here, I might tell them how I washed our family's clothes in a bucket by hand, and that daily washing ritual included diapers for two babies a year apart. Or I might tell them that during the years when our family numbered six members, my "cook-stove" was a one-burner kerosene hot plate, and there was no oven.

I could even tell them that we had no proper brooms or mops, but had to use clumps of grass for sweeping and a rag to mop our cement floors every day. I could tell them that floors had to be mopped daily because dust from feet tracked in the dried feces where people relieved themselves out in the open day in and day out. They never considered covering their dirt like the OT law taught the Israelites to do in **Deuteronomy 23:13**.

I could tell them about the diseases our family has endured: typhoid fever, pneumonia, tuberculosis, amoebic dysentery, bacillary dysentery, food poisoning (over and over again), and cholera. Most people have never endured these diseases at all, much less more than one at a time.

I could talk about lack of decent water for bathing or washing clothes or electricity cuts or unfair taxation. I could tell about land grabbers who have tried to wrest property owned by the church. I could tell about having to pasteurize our own milk or boil our own drinking water on a daily basis.

I could tell them about the times when our postal delivery person sold our mailing addresses and even our actual mail to charlatans who wanted to make contacts in the US. I might tell about the times we were "reported to the government" for doing mission work, or about the times we have actually been evicted from the country because we did not give some "undesirable" a job.

Some would disdainfully say, "Why, I wouldn't do that for all the money in the world!"

Neither would I.

"And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible" (1 Corinthians 9:23-25).

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

Fortunately we have passed through those early gray days and perhaps become wiser for our experiences. We have somewhat better facilities now than we had several years ago and better supplies and amenities. Roads have become safer and water is now available in most shops.

More of our good people at home are aware of our needs and have been most gracious to help as they could.

God not only blesses those who are sent, but he also blesses the ones who do the sending.

May God bless you as you serve him wherever you are.



Preacher's point – Some of the men (and their families) whom we support in preaching the gospel endure situations that we can hardly imagine. They do so because of their love for the Lord and for others. They do so because they know the reward in the end is worth whatever they may endure now. The Lord has blessed us at Lakeview with the ability to support those we do. May we continue to support them both financially and with our prayers as they endure what they do for the Lord's cause.

The financial support we provide others comes from what we as individuals give to the Lord on Sundays. How much are you giving? Are you giving what is *right* (cheerfully and according to how the Lord has blessed you – **2 Cor 9:5-7; 1 Cor 16:2**) or what is *left* (after you have satisfied your own selfish desires)? If the Lord blessed you in the same spirit that you give to Him, what would you have?

“He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.” – Psalm 91:4

Family News

Virginia Bryant has not been feeling well recently.

Jim Clark, who used to be a member here, was in the hospital recently.

Connie Cobern's foot is better. **Neil's** back is better.

Tiwana Ellis, who has visited with us in the past, is in a coma in intensive care at Skyline Medical Center. Do not know for certain many details.

Elmo Ferrell has had a bad week. He has a doctor's appointment on Tue.

Kendall Gaw is now well and has been released from the doctor's care.

Mary Ham, who used to be a member here, did not have a stroke. Instead, she had some seizures. She is now doing better.

Sandra Hunt hopes to get echocardiogram results this week.

Sara Hurt, who used to be a member here, was in the hospital recently.

Jennifer Lindzy, Fran Pickens' granddaughter, remains at home and continues to improve. She still has a long recovery ahead of her. They are doing more tests to determine the status of the cancer.

Allen Malone remains in Vietnam. There is a new report in the back.

There is a new report from **Fred Newman** in the back of the auditorium.

Haley Oglesby had successful surgery on Mon. and went home on Thu. They should get test results regarding the stage of the cancer this week.

Cotton Read is having more pain in his left lung and shoulder.

Remember **Laura Reed**. She remains about the same.

Angela Steely, the White's daughter, has less pain and continues to improve. Tomorrow she is scheduled to have the staples removed and then she returns to the doctor on the 28th.

Remember **Georgia Taylor**. She continues to not do well.

Robert Wray had cataract surgery on his left eye as scheduled on Tuesday. His pain level this time is much worse than before. He needs to have another eye surgery but cannot yet because of a bad potassium level.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Cindi Malone**.

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

troyjenn@intergate.com

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