

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**September 3, 2006**

## *Addendum to "Why 'Liberal' And 'Conservative' Churches Of Christ?"*

Troy Nicholson

Jeff Lentz, a brother who used to worship here at Lakeview before moving to the Memphis area, read last week's bulletin via e-mail (If you would like to receive the bulletin via e-mail, then just let me know – TN) and had this response:

"One additional point on the "who" is a common justification – the church is at liberty to purchase supplies and services from outside organizations in order to see to the needs for which it is responsible (medical care, food, etc), so at what point is the line crossed between purchasing services and managing the facility? Brethren/elders "ease onto" boards of directors for these organizations, then go from simply hiring the services thereof to supporting via a monthly stipend, etc. It's used for hospitals, orphans' homes, and colleges.

"One other difference is who is to receive? Most liberal brethren must first justify that the church is to be doing benevolent work towards the world, then they feel at liberty to begin supporting secular human institutions that see to the needs of those other than members of the church. If that first assertion were refuted, it would require the withdrawal of support from any body that aids anyone the church is not authorized to aid."

Jeff makes some important additional comments in regard to last week's article. Others made the comment that we have gotten to the point that we do not discuss today the differences in "liberal" and "conservative" churches as much as those differences were discussed in the past. Differences that were once often debated are now for the most part either ignored or even accepted.

Concerning the "what" ("What is the mission of the church? Spiritual or also social?"), too many churches are involved in secular activities. From church sponsored ball teams to Easter egg hunts and other social activities, many churches have lost sight of what should be their mission. The church is to be the pillar and support of the truth (**1 Timothy 3:15**), not the provider and support of the trivial.

Yet it is not enough to simply avoid anything that is wrong. We must also be doing everything that is right. Are we supporting the truth as we should? That is one area in which we all need to be "liberal" – at least in the sense of abundance.

*Do You Know Who I Am?*

## Edsel Burleson

Someone has written this very challenging description of an ever present problem:

*“I have never been guilty of wrong actions, but on my account lives have been lost, trains have been wrecked, ships have been sunk, cities have been burned, governments have failed, battles have been lost, and churches have closed their doors.*

*“I have never struck a blow nor spoken an unkind word, but because of me homes have been broken, friends have grown cold, the laughter of children has ceased, wives have shed bitter tears, brothers and sisters have been forgotten, and parents have gone brokenhearted to the grave.*

*“I have intended no evil, but because of me talents have come to naught, courtesy and kindness have failed, and the promise of success as well as happiness has yielded sorrow and disaster.*

*“I have no sound, just silence. I have no offering to make except grief and sorrow. You may not in an instant call me by my name, but surely you are personally acquainted with me.*

*“My name? NEGLECT!”*

It is highly unlikely that any single factor more often enters into the careless and indifferent situations of our lives than does neglect. So many times, God warns us of this danger. Through Paul we are urged to “*be ready for every good work*” (**Titus 3:1**). In **1 Timothy 4:14** he told Timothy, “*Do not neglect the gift that is in you.*”

What is the difference between the atheist who supports no church and the member who will not support the church of the Lord to which he belongs? What is the difference between the skeptic who does not believe the Bible and the Christian who never reads it?

Too many Christians are singing “Standing on the Promises” when in reality they are just sitting on the premises. Someone has said that every church is made up of willing members: 10% are willing to *do* the work, and the other 90% are willing to *let* them do it.

Too many have learned that Heaven will be a place of rest and are getting all practiced up for it!

*“He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.” – Psalm 91:15*

# **Family News**

**Mary Burnett** has been doing well recently.

Remember **Quinton Coppage** who has several health problems.

**Tiwana Ellis**, who has visited with us, passed away two weeks ago.

**Elmo Ferrell** had a bad week, but is better this weekend.

There is a new report from **Gary Hunt** in the back of the auditorium.

**Sandra Hunt** has been prescribed a series of shots by the neurosurgeon. The first is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup>. No surgery for now.

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

Remember **Fran Pickens**. She remains about the same.

Remember **Laura Reed**. She remains about the same. (She is relieved that her granddaughter's heart problems are better. Her granddaughter is now scheduled to have some needed surgery on September 18<sup>th</sup>.)

**Angela Steely**, the White's daughter, is doing very well (she has returned to work). Her husband **Greg** is improving well after back surgery.

**Georgia Taylor** has been doing some better recently.

**Ame White** is doing well this weekend.

**Robert Wray** still has pain in his left eye. He is scheduled for another checkup on Tuesday.

*Out of town, travelling, or visiting:* **Ken & Rhonda Hull; Robert & Candy Jenkins.**

## **Lakeview church of Christ**

**132 New Shackle Island Road**

**P.O. Box 514**

**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

**[troyjenn@intergate.com](mailto:troyjenn@intergate.com)**

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