

The Lakeview Lamp

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

November 5, 2006

Encouragement and Edification

Troy Nicholson

“Many times, after the official ‘closing prayer,’ which closes out the ‘formal’ assembly, members scurry to grab the deacon who forgot to get the light bulbs replaced, the song leader who let the songs drag, Sister Ann who came in too low, Brother Joe who forgot to lower the thermostat,...and so it goes. The assembly has gone from ‘Amazing Grace’ to amazing gripes. The aisles and foyer become battlegrounds for critics, nitpickers, and legal eagles. The weak are berated; those responsible are corrected; and the few who were inspired are deflated. Instead of a peak experience, the assembly becomes a pecking experience as brethren fume and feign righteous indignation. The majority are thinking more about roast than righteousness, so there is no one available to hand out encouragements...These attitudes certainly are not prevalent everywhere every time, but haven’t you been in assemblies where this accurately portrays the atmosphere?” – Mike Root, *Spilt Grape Juice*, p78-79.

How would you answer the question at the end? Probably all of us can relate to the assembly described. That’s not to say that we should not address the issues that can and should be improved. The point is that we should not allow them to cause us to lose our focus on why we assemble in the first place. We assemble to honor the Lord and encourage and edify one another.

When Paul instructed the Corinthians in their use of spiritual gifts, one of the main problems was that they were not being used in a way that was to the benefit of all. He told them, “*Let all things be done for edification*” (1 Cor 14:26).

When Paul wrote to the Ephesian brethren, he told them to work together, with everyone doing their part, in a way that “*causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love*” (Eph 4:16). He said that every word out of their mouths ought to be “*what is good for necessary edification*” (:29).

The apostles called Joseph “Barnabas” because he was such a “son of encouragement” (Acts 4:36). He lived up to his name by being an encouragement to Saul (9:26-27) and those in Antioch (11:22-23). Could you be called one of encouragement?

“Therefore encourage each other with these words” (1 Thes 4:18).

THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THIS COUNTRY KNEW GOD

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Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

“He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of primitive Christianity will change the face of the world.”

“God governs in the affairs of men; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, neither can a kingdom rise without his aid.” (See: **Daniel 4:32, 5:21; Matt. 10:29**, JJ)

“If your riches are yours, why don’t you take them with you to the other world?” (See: **Matt. 6:19-21**, JJ)

George Washington (1732-1799)

“Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation, for it is better to be alone than in bad company.” (See: **I Cor. 15:33**, JJ)

“It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible.”

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

“Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just.” (See: **Ecc. 12:13-14; Rom. 2:7-11**, JJ)

**.... OUR COUNTRY’S LEADERS NEED TO KNOW HIM
TODAY!**

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).

(copied from *The Old Paths* bulletin edited by Jarrod Jacobs)

*“Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.” –
Psalm 93:2*

Family News

Jill Bansemer was having health problems that were harming her and her unborn baby. On Friday at 10pm they delivered **Sidney Elizabeth** two months early. She weighed 1lb and 13ozs. She has received three blood transfusions so far. She will be in an incubator at Vanderbilt for 8 weeks. Jill is in room 4216 at Vanderbilt. She should be there about a week.

Mary Burnett was released from SRMC Wednesday. She remains at home but is very, very weak.

Metty Fain is in Room B2, 215 Highland Circle Dr, Portland TN 37148.

Elmo Ferrell is having some hip pain.

Barry Fultz is scheduled to go to the Mayo Clinic tomorrow and will return home on Thursday. He continues to have his arms go numb and have severe headaches every day.

Jimmy Hunt is wearing a heart monitor for 21 days.

Sandra Hunt had an arteriogram on Tuesday as scheduled. It showed some blockage in two places. The blockages are not severe enough yet, so there is nothing to be done for now except monitor them.

Cotton Read continues to have problems breathing. **Nancy** is having some stomach problems.

Robert Wray's eyes are doing better again. Still has dizzy spells.

New Reports: **Gary Hunt** (NY NY).

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Robert & Candy Jenkins** (gone all day today); **Allen Malone** (is in Vietnam);

Nicholson (Troy is holding a meeting through Wednesday in Columbia; they are all gone today).

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