

The Lakeview Lamp

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

December 3, 2006

A Letter from Jesus

Author unknown, edited

Dear Children,

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking my name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year anyway, and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate my birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered anytime.

If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting my birth, share my story with your neighbor. If all my children did that, there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square. Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the Christmas tree a holiday tree. It was I who made all trees. You can and may remember me anytime you see any tree. (Decorate a grape vine if you wish. I actually spoke of that one in the Gospel of **John**, chapter 15.)

If you want to give me a present, here is my wish list. Choose from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to those who are away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know; they tell me all the time.

2. Visit someone in a nursing home (**James 1:27**). You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.

3. Instead of writing your employer complaining about the wording on his holiday card, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.

4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts that you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of my life, and why I came to earth. Hold them in your arms, and remind them that I love them (**Deuteronomy 6:5-9**).

5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past, and forgive him or her (**Luke 23:33-34**).

6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile. It will make the difference (**Prov 12:25**). Also, you might consider supporting the local Hot-Line: they talk with people like that every day.

7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with him. Give him a warm smile and a kind word. Even if he is not allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas," that doesn't keep you from being nice. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day, they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

8. Here's a good one. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary, especially one who takes my love and good news to those who have never heard my name (**Philippians 1:3-6**). You already know someone like that (See the board in the back of the auditorium - TN).

9. There are individuals and whole families in your town who will not have a holiday meal. Neither will they have any presents to give or receive. Buy some food and a few gifts for them (**Galatians 6:10**). If you don't know any of them, then check with a local charity that can get you in touch with them.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in me, then behave like you know me. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence – which, by the way, is everywhere (**John 1:47-48**). Let people know by your actions that you are one of my children (**Galatians 2:20**).

P.S. Don't worry, for I'll take care of you and the rest of your siblings (**Hebrews 13:5-6**). Don't forget that I am God, and your time on earth is short (**James 4:13-14**). Love me, trust me, and obey me (**John 14:15**).

I LOVE YOU

Jesus



“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16).

*“The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile” – Psalm
94:11*

Family News

Sydney Elizabeth Bansemer, Jill and Eric's baby, remains in an incubator at Vanderbilt. She has been gaining weight and doing well.

Mary Burnett remains at home. She has had a much better week.

Arrigo Corazza, who we help support, has thrombosis to his left eye. He also had this in 1997. In 1997 he was blind for a while, but not this time.

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

Elmo Ferrell is about the same.

Sarah Fultz, who used to be a member here, had her gall bladder removed on Thursday. Everything went well and she went home that afternoon. **Barry** is still scheduled for major surgery on January 10th. He will then be unable to work for a while.

Sandra Hunt has several health problems. She is in a great amount of pain. Probably nothing will be done until after the holidays.

Patti Parham, Walter Boyd's niece-in-law, has advanced colon cancer.

Cotton Read has had a better week. He has a doctor's app. tom.

Georgia Taylor continues to not do very well. She remains in assisted living. She appears to be about the same.

Ame White had surgery on her right wrist three Thursday ago. She is now doing much better.

Robert Wray's eyes are much improved. He will receive eyeglasses soon.

New Reports: **Gary Hunt, Allen Malone** (at least 10 reasons to rejoice).

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Virginia Bryant** (gone this am); **Allen Malone** (remains in Vietnam); **Cindi Malone** (gone this am); **Tanya Stubblefield** (in Atlanta helping her father (pace maker surgery)).

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