

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**November 11, 2007**

## *Never, Never, Never Give Up!*

Mike Davis

A story is told of Sir Winston Churchill, that when asked to give the commencement speech at his Alma Mater, an enormous crowd gathered. It was during world war, and the press believed he would encourage the graduates to engage their time in defense of freedom. With all the dignity due the political leader, they introduced and welcomed him. However, to the surprise of the entire audience, Churchill turned and faced only the graduates. Recorded in history as one of his most profound speeches, Churchill said to these young people, "Never, never, never give up!" and walked off the stage!

For the Christian, Paul's inspired words encourage us to "*press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (**Phil. 3:13-14**). Paul assures us of our Lord's abiding care and help within our persistence (**Phil. 4:12**). Throughout the book of **Philippians**, he encourages "joy" in this diligence (ex. **Phil. 4:1-4**). It is as if he says, "Never, never, never give up!"

Weak moments come to us all. Discouragement is said to be among the Devil's greatest tools. Yet, we must press onward toward the prize. God has promised He will never leave nor forsake us (**Heb. 13:5-6**). Again, within Paul's letter to Philippi, he encourages our attitude to be as Christ's (**Phil. 2:5**); and in so doing, consistently think on those things that result in virtue and praise (**Phil. 4:8**). The journey from earth life to heaven need not be one of drudgery if we rejoice in the task (**Phil. 2:12-17**)!

Among the encouraging factors for this journey is the companionship of our brethren, supporting and encouraging one another to, "never, never, never give up." Notice Paul's statement at **Philippians 2:1-2** ("*Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*"). Such an attitude one toward another prevents discouragement and grants joy! Even children know it is more pleasant to smile than to frown! We adults (Christians!) need reminded of the righteously contagious effect of happiness! Confidence in doing rightly, and sharing that confidence with our brethren, results in this happiness (**Phil. 1:21-30**)!

I muse on this reality! We Christians are "fueled" by the word of God (**Rom. 10:17; 2 Cor. 5:7**). It requires not only our "self-motivation" and determination, but the fellowship (family participation) of our brethren to remain encouraged in this determined goal of Heaven (**Phil. 3:15-17**). What great joy it is to know our manner of life is in heaven! We long to see our Lord Jesus Christ, and receive from Him the change of our vile bodies into the fashion of His glorious body (**Phil. 3:20-21**). What wondrous excitement to know someday we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (**1 John 3:1-2**). However, it is only achieved if we determine to "never, never, never give up!" Let us all muse on that wondrous delight!

# *The Potter's Wheel*

Author unknown

I took a piece of potter's clay  
And gently fashioned it one day;  
And as my fingers pressed it still,  
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when days were past;  
The bit of clay was hard at last.  
The form I gave it still it bore,  
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay  
And gently formed it day by day;  
And molded with my power and art  
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when days were gone;  
It was a man I looked upon.  
He still that first impression wore,  
And I could change it never more.

Preacher's point – When God's word says to "*chasten your son while there is hope*" (**Prov 19:18**), it implies that we can wait too long and lose that hope. When we delay, there comes a point at which "*the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil*" (**Eccl 8:11**). God commands us as parents concerning our children to "*bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord*" (**Eph 6:4**). Mold your children in this way now while you still can.

*"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy."* – **Psalm 103:8**

# Family News

**Betty Chapman**, who has visited here and had a lung removed nearly a year ago, now has more spots on her other lung and kidneys. She is awaiting test results to learn if they are malignant.

**Neil Cobern's mother** has returned to Ohio but has an infection and is in CCU at a hospital there.

**Quinton Coppage** had some health issues this past week but is better.

**Elmo Ferrell** remains in room 101-A at NHC. He is doing some better but sleeping much of the time.

Go to [www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn) for the latest on the **Fultz** family,

**James Hunt** has been moved to a regular room, 8137, at Centennial. He has a rare form of pneumonia, fibrosis of the lungs. The family requests no visitors at this time because he gets breathless when he tries to talk.

**Laura Reed** remains at her granddaughter's house at 1975 Shell Rd, phone number 826-1774. They are thankful for the food received.

**Jessica Stubblefield** is still missing. There are no leads at this time.

**Bill White** is scheduled for a colonoscopy on Tuesday.

**Robert Wray** has an appointment with his eye doctor on Tuesday. He continues to need meals. Check with Sandy H. for details.

## 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)

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Troy Nicholson  
[troyjenn@ibellsouth.net](mailto:troyjenn@ibellsouth.net)

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