

The Lakeview Lamp

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

January 21, 2007

Man in Hibernation

Tim Hall

When I'm out hiking through the woods this time of the year, I'm not worried about encountering a snake. It's not because I'm a courageous man when it comes to slithering serpents. I get anxious when I encounter the rubber variety. But I know that snakes aren't going to cross my path in the cold months. They're holed up in dens, hibernating until warm weather returns. That's the way it is with many animals.

People, however, don't hibernate. But blanket statements like that are now out the window since the story of Mitsutaka Uchikoshi was reported by the Associated Press on December 20. This 35-year-old citizen of Japan had been missing for over three weeks. In late October he was discovered on Rokko Mountain and was immediately transported to a hospital in nearby Kobe. Doctors determined that he had survived his ordeal because his body had gone into a hibernation-like condition, with his organs all but shut down and his body temperature at 71 degrees. The case made headlines because it's just not the norm.

If you're talking about spiritual vitality, however, hibernation is a more common condition. Women and men who zealously commit their lives to Christ sometimes lose that fervor along the way. Like Rip van Winkle, some wake up years later and renew their love for the Lord. Others never come out of their sleepy state.

Those who were closest to the Lord during his earthly ministry demonstrated the danger we all face. Jesus requested that they pray with him as he anxiously awaited his arrest and trial, but they didn't try hard enough. Upon finding them asleep, Jesus admonished them: *"Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation"* (**Luke 22:46**, NKJV). It was advice they should have heeded.

We, too, should heed the warnings against spiritual hibernation. Paul issued one such warning in **Romans 13:11-12**: *"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."* According to this image, any Christian who is preoccupied with the world and its allurements is asleep. Such a person has been lulled into a condition of low concern, believing that there are no enemies or dangers near.

Mitsutaka Uchikoshi is a lucky man. A body exposed to the elements for many days will usually not survive. It works similarly with souls. When neglected for too long, souls grow cold and lose their consciousness of the spiritual realm. Most will not awaken from such a condition until it's too late.

"He Has No Hold on Me"

Troy Nicholson

In **John 14** Jesus delivered some of His final words to His disciples before being led away to His death. In **:30** (NIV) He said, *"I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me."* Other versions read, *"...and he has nothing in Me."*

Who among us can say that Satan has no hold on us, that he has nothing in us? How wonderful to be able to make such a statement! Yet none of us can honestly say it of ourselves. We know that only Jesus could.

It wasn't for lack of effort on Satan's part. He pursued Jesus as much as anyone. He tempted Jesus for forty days in the wilderness, a time which culminated with three recorded temptations (**Luke 4:1-12**). He continued to pursue Jesus after that, always looking for *"an opportune time"* to tempt Him (**:13**). He tried working through Peter to get to Jesus (**Matthew 16:22-23**). Jesus' above comments in **John 14:30** seem to indicate Satan pursuing Him during His time of grief and anguish leading up to His death. Satan definitely pursued Jesus, but to no avail.

It wasn't for lack of ability to sin on Jesus' part. Scripture makes it clear that this was not the case. *"We do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin"* (**Heb 4:15**). *"In all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. [qvb://0/anchor/18](#)For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted"* (**2:17-18**). It was possible for Jesus to sin, but He wouldn't and didn't.

Jesus overcame sin to help us keep Satan from getting a hold on us. Through God's grace and our obedience we can be cleansed and have Satan's hold on us loosed. *"Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. [qvb://0/anchor/7](#)For he who has died has been freed from sin"* (**Romans 6:6-7**). It is now up to you to *"not let sin reign in your mortal body"* anymore (**:12**).

"Satan has no hold on me." What a goal for your life!

"In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him. [qvb://0/anchor/5](#) The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land." – **Psalm 95:4-5**

Family News

Sydney Elizabeth Bansemer, Jill and Eric's baby, remains at Vanderbilt. She weighs 5 lbs 6 ozs. She is doing well and will probably go home this Wednesday (there is one main health issue to resolve before this).

Sandra Boyd had heel surgery two weeks ago. She is in a cast. She is scheduled to have a walking boot put on February 15th. She is not to put any weight on it until then.

Bonnie Sue Brown had been sick for a little while but is much improved.

Mary Burnett was not well Friday night, but was better yesterday.

Connie Cobern still has bronchitis.

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

Elmo Ferrell had a good day yesterday.

Barry Fultz had major surgery two Wednesdays ago. It went well, but may not do what they had hoped. Yesterday they put in a drain for leaking spinal fluid. It has stopped working at least twice since then. They may have to put in a different drain (the procedure was very difficult and painful the first time). He will probably remain in the hospital until mid-week. You can keep up with his progress and send encouraging messages to Sarah and him at: caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn

Sandra Hunt had a bad week. She has a doctor's appointment. first of February.

Fran Pickens is about the same.

Laura Reed broke her arm three weeks ago. A new cast was put on this past week (they discovered that a previous break had not healed correctly).

Georgia Taylor has been moved to Christian Care Center of Cheatham Co. The address is: 2501 River Road, Ashland City TN 37015

Robert Wray continues to have dizzy spells. No apparent explanation.

New Reports: **Arrigo Corazza** (Italy); **Bob Nichols** (Japan).

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **David Bansemer** (FL - 3 more wks).

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