

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**January 28, 2007**

## *Parent to Parent*

Bill Holt

(This is a great article to help prepare us for our studies on parenthood which will begin next Sunday evening at 5pm. Whether a parent or not, we can all benefit by being here for this class. – TN)

Those who are not parents cannot imagine the love that develops in parents for their children. The tenderness, the pride, those joyous moments watching their growth and development are wonderful experiences. Far greater is the day your child obeys the Lord and becomes your brother or sister in Christ and stands beside you in the Lord’s work. So how do we get to that point in our children’s lives?

**Pray.** You need to be praying for your children – every day. Pray that they will love God all their lives and that He will protect them, keep them and not let them stray. Pray for your efforts as a parent. Ask for wisdom to be a good parent. Ask for forgiveness when you have done wrong as a parent. Pray together and be specific concerning each child and his or her unique personality traits that are either strengths or weaknesses before the Lord. When it comes to your children, *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 **Thessalonians 5:17**).

**Instruct your children in righteousness.** Fathers are commanded to do this (**Ephesians 6:4**), but **Proverbs** speaks about a mother’s counsel to her children (**Proverbs 1:8; 6:20**). Daily Bible reading and memorizing verses are important steps toward accomplishing this. Sometimes, instilling the Lord’s righteous principles comes through other opportunities presented during the course of a day.

When your children fuss with each other, talk with them about how God wants us to be kind, thoughtful, and sharing people. When you are outside, talk about the wonderful things God made. Show them Abraham’s stars. Keep the Father ever before them. When they speak negatively about someone, let them know that Jesus loves and died for that person, too. Even at an early age, when they lie, cheat, steal or use improper speech, teach them about those sins and help them learn how to pray to God for forgiveness.

**Teach them obedience to God.** Don’t just hope that your child will one day be a Christian. Expect it. Assume it. Talk about it regularly with your children. Make sure they are attentive when someone is baptized and tell them that one day they will be baptized. Be sure they understand the plan of salvation at an early age. And make certain to put as much emphasis on Jesus’ death and resurrection, and on their own faith, repentance, and confession, as you do on baptism.

**Teach them reverence before God.** Part of reverence before God means proper preparation before services. Make sure they get proper rest the night before or on Sunday afternoons. Turn off the car radio on the way to services and perhaps read from the Bible or sing songs. Do the bathroom run before services begin and teach them to wait until services are over before they go again. Children can go hours without a bathroom break when playing. Why can they not make it one hour without a bathroom break during services? The constant stream of children going to the rest rooms is distracting. Instruct them that God is

present and we are before Him in worship. By teaching children reverence before God, they will learn to control themselves, and bathroom runs will become the exception rather than the rule.

By the time children are three or four, they should be expected to sit in services without having to be entertained by storybooks or by drawing pictures. A bible or books about bible characters or events can replace these. As they enter school, drawing should be replaced by taking notes on the lesson. Children should not sleep (sometimes sleeping is better than fussing if they have missed a nap or are sick). At a very young age children can listen to sermons and answer questions about them in the car on the way home. They should sing when possible and stand for songs and prayers when the congregation does.

**Teach younger children reverence, too.** Children will misbehave. When they do, take them out, use proper discipline, and bring them back in. When our children were very young, the place of privilege was our “assigned” seat. If misbehaving put us on the back row, no toys, books, or writing was allowed. Be sure to take children out immediately. Crying is normal and we all understand. But if you have never tried to preach over a crying baby or a screaming child, believe me, the baby or child will win every time. The speaker loses people’s attention for several rows around the baby, and the effort to overcome the noise can cause him to lose his place or his train of thought.

**Teach them self-discipline.** Children need to learn to turn off the TV or electronic game after a reasonable amount of time. Help your children learn to say “no” to self and “yes” to spiritual concerns. Solomon said we need balance in the time we spend in various activities. (**Ecclesiastes. 3:1-8**) It is difficult to teach this lesson if we, as parents, spend all of our time with the TV or if we fill our children’s lives with outside activities but neglect to balance their lives with spiritual activities. Gospel meetings and singings are wonderful opportunities to be together in a spiritual setting.

**Teach by your example.** Do you want your children to be faithful? Be faithful yourself. Do you want them to be reverent? Be reverent. Do they see righteous living in your life, or do they hear the preacher speaking against things that you are practicing? Do you fuss at your children for not being responsible yet shirk your responsibilities? Are your children learning dependence upon God because they see your dependence upon Him? Do your children hear you pray at times other than at meals? Do they see you reading your Bible or teaching others from His word? If your children were asked what is most important in your life, what would they say? Try asking them.

Our children have free will. They can and will grow up to do what they wish. However, we can provide them with a strong foundation from the very first day. If we do so, I believe and pray that **Proverbs 22:6** can be a reality in our children’s lives: “*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*”

*“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate” (Psalm 127:3).*

May God bless our efforts with our children.

# **Family News**

**Sydney Elizabeth Bansemmer**, Jill and Eric's baby, remains at Vanderbilt. She is doing very well and should go home tomorrow (they are going to send a monitor home with her because of one remaining problem).

**Sandra Boyd** had heel surgery three weeks ago. She is doing well and healing well. On February 15<sup>th</sup> she is scheduled to have a walking boot put on. She is to not put any weight on it until then.

**Mary Burnett** has been in the hospital this past week. She is now home.

**Connie Cobern** is some better (she had bronchitis).

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

**Elmo Ferrell** has ongoing back problems.

**Barry Fultz** had major surgery three weeks ago. He and Sarah remain in MN. He has made some progress but not as much as was hoped. He faces a long recovery. You can keep up with his progress and send messages to Sarah and him at: [caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn](http://caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn)

**Sandra Hunt** had a bad week. Although she is in a lot of pain, she is trying to make it to a doctor's appointment on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Fran Pickens** is about the same.

**Cotton Read** is scheduled to have surgery on February 15<sup>th</sup> on the skin around his eyes.

**Laura Reed** broke her arm four weeks ago. It is healing well.

**Georgia Taylor** is in Christian Care Center of Cheatham Co. They are doing some therapy. Address: 2501 River Road, Ashland City TN 37015

**Ame White** has doctors' appointments on Wednesday and Friday.

**Robert Wray** is about the same.

New Reports: None.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **David Bansemmer** (FL - 2 more wks); **Allen Malone** (here today, leaves for FL later this week).

## **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**

If you would like to subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your address to this bulletin, then simply respond to this message and state your request.

Troy Nicholson

[troyjenn@bellsouth.net](mailto:troyjenn@bellsouth.net)

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