

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**April 8, 2007**

*A Christian Home*

Russell “Buddy” Payne

Someone once said that there was no such thing as a “Christian home” because nowhere in the New Testament is the phrase written. Most certainly you will not find the phrase anywhere in the Bible, but that doesn’t mean a Christian home isn’t described in the Bible.

Christians are described in **Acts 11:26** as disciples, disciples of Jesus. A disciple is one who hears and obeys the teaching of Jesus not only in matters of forgiveness of sins but in all areas of life (**Matthew 7:24-27**). Jesus by the Holy Spirit through the inspired writers has revealed to us all things that pertain to godly living (**2 Peter 1:3**). When we abide by those instructions with regard to all areas of our life, forgiveness of sins, worship, moral conduct as well as our family, then and only then are we disciples of Jesus (**John 8:31**).

Jesus has instructed us how the husband is to relate to the wife and the wife to the husband. Jesus has taught us how to raise our children and how to be godly children. So then, for the Christian, Christ becomes the center and emphasis of the family; and all family activities are Christ centered.

The husband as provider works in his employ as if he is working for Jesus, not for recognition of men but to the glory of Christ (**Ephesians 6:5-8**). He is the head of the family as Jesus is the head of the church (**Ephesians 5:23**).

Jesus said He had come to serve, not to be served (**Mark 10:45**); so the husband must be dedicated to a life of service to his family without regard to self-gratification. All his decisions and actions are weighed in light of his family – their wants and needs – without regard of himself (**Ephesians 5:28**).

The wife is the homemaker. She has the responsibility of managing the home life, keeping

and raising the children (**Titus 2:5; 1 Timothy 2:15**). She is commanded to be a friend to her husband, and they together are to provide each other with emotional and physical companionship (**Titus 2:5; 1 Corinthians 7:4-5**). The wife is to yield to the leadership of the husband in reverence, as Sarah respected Abraham – considering him the lord of their relationship (**1 Peter 3:6; Ephesians 5:23**). The wife is to be submissive to the husband as if she were yielding her life to Jesus (**Ephesians 5:22**).

Children are to be taught by their parents to love, honor, and obey God as well as their parents (**Ephesians 6:1-5**). Children are to honor their parents, and parents must teach their children to honor all to whom honor is due (**1 Peter 2:17; Romans 13:7**). Honor is not simply an attitude of respect but a responsibility. Jesus taught a child is to honor his parents his entire life, and that honor includes care for his parents when they are unable to care for themselves (**Matthew 15:3-6**).

The entire family is to love God and put Him before any and all things (**Matthew 22:37**). Material things and physical desires are always weighted in light of God's word. His word is precious, and so is His church. So the family works together in the local congregation, each doing what they can to glorify God and serve their brothers and sisters.

Much more could be said, but these things only serve to illustrate the things that make a home a Christian home. Most certainly the home exists and marriages are recognized by God even if the people involved are not Christians, but children of God recognize they will give an account of how they followed God's instructions for the family and act accordingly.

## *Bitter Homes and Gardens*

Dick Blackford

About the closest some families come to having peace and harmony in their homes is when they have peas and hominy (ugh, no wonder!). Things may not seem as peachy as they were when he first cabbaged on to her. When that girl is no longer the apple of his eye, and she thinks she married a lemon and feels like she artichoke him, then that marriage is about to be squashed.

Couples who have a lot on the bean won't tumip their hands and quit. There won't be a race to see who beets whom to the lawyer. If there is one grain of concern, if they carrot all, they will get to the root of the matter and find out why they've grown apart. Honest communication can bear much fruit.

If the seeds of jealousy, anger, distrust, and suspicion have been sown, then there will be bitterness. "*Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them*" (**Colossians 3:19**).

And wives, don't give occasions for bitterness.

Let us all learn a lesson from this. We may need to turn over a new leaf. It's amazing how a little corn will go a long way. Just don't forget the lesson.

*“The Lord reigns; the world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously.” – Psalm*

**96:10**

# Family News

**Mary Burnett** did not have a good week.

**Connie Cobem** returned home from the hospital last Monday but is still weak. She goes back to the doctor tomorrow to have stitches removed.

**Quinton Coppage** is going to a specialist Tuesday with intestinal problems.

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

**Barry Fultz** “graduated” from his physical therapy Friday. He is still having some minor problems but overall is feeling better. He will return to MN in two weeks. Visit [caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn](http://caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn) for more detail.

**Earl Lanning** returned home from the hospital last Wednesday and is doing better.

**Allen Malone** is back home from Vietnam.

**Cotton Read** is having trouble sleeping. **Nancy** is about the same.

**Jack Reiger** successfully had surgery last Monday. He will go back tomorrow for a report on the cancer.

**Ame White** went to the pain clinic last week and is receiving some pain therapy that seems to be helping some.

**Robert Wray** is doing OK.

*New Reports:* None.

*Out of town, traveling, or visiting:* None known.

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*"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks"(1*

**Thes 5:16-18).**