

The Lakeview Lamp

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

April 15, 2007

"Mom, Dad Can Pay Others To Do Parent Tasks"

Troy Nicholson

The above title was taken from a recent *Tennessean* article. Based on the date – April 1 – it would have made a good April fools title, but there was no fooling.

“Teaching your kids to ride a bike, shuttling them to doctor appointments, reminding them to say ‘Yes, ma’am,’ helping them with algebra homework, and training them to be sensible shoppers. These aren’t the stuff memories are made of in some families. Instead, there are services in the Nashville area that give you the choice of outsourcing traditional parental duties.”

Why would parents even consider such a “choice”? “In a time-crunched society, parents may find they’d rather spend the time on more joyous aspects of parenthood.” Where do parents get the idea that parental duties are cafeteria style – you just pick the ones that are most appealing to you and leave the others to someone else?

An associate professor of child development and family studies warned that parents who outsource run the risk of disengagement from their children. “You lose out on building memories and developing ties if you haven’t spent that time with them...If we’re too busy with our work that we’re not spending time with our children doing quality things – and I don’t mean fun things, but making connections and learning life lessons and showing them that you’re there for them – then we need to look at what in our job we can outsource for more time for home life.” God makes it clear in **Deuteronomy 6:7** that He expects us as parents to spend a lot of time with our children: “*when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, when you rise up.*” That time cannot be outsourced to someone else.

Is it possible for parents to take the same approach to teaching their children about God and His word? Not only is it possible, it is exactly what is done if parents depend on the time their children spend inside a church building for all of their biblical knowledge – with some not even making sure their children are prepared for Bible class there. God gave the responsibility of bringing up children “*in the training and admonition of the Lord*” to parents (**Ephesians 6:4**), and parents must be about fulfilling that responsibility.

The article closed with a quote from a man who said, “Our culture has developed to where time is much more valuable than dollars.” Parents, which one do our actions tell our children is more valuable to us – spending time with them or making another dollar? Who is raising our children?

Special Report

Allen Malone, edited

Available in the back is a four-page reply to many messages of concern prompted by my March 17 Update from Vietnam in which I revealed that we have proof that my work is known by officials there. In the report I give background, what we know, how we know it, my observations, and my amended plans for my next trip to Asia. I did my best to be candid and appropriately thorough, but having only a week to spend with Cindi, finish our income taxes, and prepare for an out-of-town meeting beginning today, I regret that I did not have time to edit for conciseness. Hopefully, those reading will be compensated with the same comfort and encouragement we have received from the God of all consolation (cf., **II Corinthians 1:3-7**).

If your service to the Lord makes it difficult for you to take the time to read my wordy prose, here is the bottom-line: Our concern level is high, but fear level nil. We never felt we were in immediate danger, but rather felt blessed to see the providence and protection of God. My Vietnamese co-workers are fine, and the work goes on. Lord willing, my next trip to Asia (May 22-June 29) will be divided between Indonesia and Vietnam. This will hopefully postpone my arrival in Vietnam until after present tensions have eased, allow me to utilize unexpected opportunities in Indonesia, and may give us a means for helping destitute saints in Vietnam which will better fulfill our desire to always do good and no harm.

What we need is for righteous men and women to pray fervent and effective prayers. Please include the following requests:

1. For God to take note of wicked officials who because of unwarranted suspicions oppose His people (**Acts 4:29**).
2. That God will give all the saints in Vietnam the wisdom and boldness to work wisely and speak clearly as we ought to speak (**Colossians 4:2-6**).
3. That He, if it is consistent with His perfect wisdom, would cause my new visa to be approved without problems.

Your concern uplifts our hearts. Among our concerns is that none of you would be discouraged by the things that we are facing.

The joy of the Lord is our strength!

“He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.” – Psalm
96:13

Family News

The **Boyd's** daughter, Trish Thweatt, received a good report on her mole. All cancer was removed.

Mary Burnett had a bad week but is doing better this weekend.

Betty Chapman has a lump in her stomach that is believed to be fluid. She goes back to the doctor tomorrow for another round of chemo.

Connie Cobern still has bronchitis and will go back to the doctor tomorrow. She is still waiting to have her stitches removed.

Quinton Coppage still needs more tests but is doing fairly well.

Sandra Hunt recently had her medicine changed, but it hasn't helped any. She should get more test results the first of the week.

Karen Moore's dad, Bruce Jones, had surgery at St. Thomas Hospital yesterday morning after having an aneurism burst. He is in critical care.

Fran Pickens went to the ER Friday night with an infection in her face. She is on an antibiotic to treat it.

Cotton Read is still having trouble breathing and sleeping. **Nancy** didn't have a good week.

Jack Reiger got a good report last week at the cancer doctor.

Ruth Thomas recently called Bible Call and said, "Thanks for the wonderful message. It means so much to me." She also said that she is having surgery on April 17 and requested our prayers.

Ame White goes back to the pain doctor Wednesday to have her medicine changed.

Sydney White's fiancé's grandfather in Louisiana is at the point of death.

Randy Williams' dad Neal's health is beginning to be a cause of concern.

New Reports: **Chad Lynn, Allen Malone, Robert Nichols.**

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Allen Malone** (KY - meeting).

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