

The Lakeview Lamp

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

May 20, 2007

Doing Right by Our Children

Allen Malone

It was not the first time I had seen such a situation, nor the last (unfortunately). The mother was in tears, the father upset but trying to suppress his emotions. They could not understand where they had gone wrong. They loved the Lord and served Him faithfully, but today the church had withdrawn from their nineteen year old son because of being unfaithful in various ways. “We are present at every service,” they exclaimed in sobs. “Why is our son so disinterested in spiritual things?” They looked for the answer in the present; it was to be found in the past.

Like so many couples, though this man and woman are active now, they had been unfaithful when their children were young. The husband had been more interested in establishing his career than serving the Lord. The wife had not liked to attend worship without her husband. Neither of them read their Bibles or discussed spiritual things. They did well to occasionally remember to “say Grace” before meals. On those occasions when they did gather with the saints, the children were disruptive, and so mom and dad had another excuse for missing. All the while, however, they planned “to do better later.” This plan they carried out, but unfortunately, later was too late for their son.

This couple learned a most valuable lesson. The best time to be concerned with your child’s spiritual well-being is while he or she is young enough that you have the privilege and opportunity of being able to mold and direct that child in and toward spiritual things. It was obvious that this couple was *now* very much concerned with the spiritual condition of their son, but oh how they wished they had shown that same concern twenty years earlier.

Parents, are we doing right by our children? The time to begin teaching our children about the God of salvation is before they are old enough to need the salvation He provides. The time to begin teaching them proper attitudes and priorities is before their attitudes and priorities are established. The time to do your part in saving their souls is while there is still something you can do!



Every child has the right to be well fed and well led.

My Drug Problem

Author unknown

It's not easy owning up to this. I am very reluctant to expose a problem that started in my childhood, but if confession is good for the soul, maybe I'll feel better.

I can't really say when my problem started because it seems it's always been with me. When I was less than a year old my father walked out on my mother, leaving her with four children. Dad and his live-in-lover ate well. We didn't.

Maybe the poverty had something to do with it. The thing I remember is, that being poor was very inexpensive, but it had drawbacks. We couldn't even afford electricity. I was the only one on our block who had a kerosene stereo.

Another thing about those hated times is mother couldn't buy Spock's book on child raising, and I couldn't hire an attorney to sue for separation; so we did with what we had and used the Holy Bible as a guide. That's very likely where the drug problem started.

As a child, I was drug to Sunday School, drug to Sunday evening service, and drug to Wednesday evening Bible study. And when we had revival meetings, my cruel mother drug me to church nightly.

I will always believe my life is forever marked by a childhood incident at the grocery store. I gave into temptation and stole a handful of candy only to have my sin revealed. I felt like a dope when mother drug me to the owner of the store, I acknowledged my wrongdoing, and paid for my sin.

I can't remember the entire episode, or the speech that followed, but it seems like she said something about values and respecting what other people owned. She said, "The Bible says, 'Thou shalt not steal.' If you want things, learn to work for them. Don't steal from someone else." With that I was saddled with yet another lifetime burden: a work ethic.

I really should mention how my ego suffered irreparable damage by not having my way all the time. Numerous times I was drug to the woodshed for an attitude adjustment. The altering instrument was from a cottonwood tree in the backyard bereft of its lower limbs.

Actually, I really shouldn't be reluctant to talk about such drug problems because they've spared me heartache throughout all of my adult life. They've shaped my values and given me a sense of responsibility. Instead of being desensitized, I've learned respect for others and myself.

And though I am not so vain as to make a claim of moral perfection, I will always be grateful for the good influences of the drugs. Traces of them are still in my veins.

“Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.” – Psalm 97:12

Family News

Mary Burnett fell last week and strained herself trying to get back up. She is now feeling better and overall had a good week.

Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.

Elmo Ferrell had surgery on his broken arm and has been moved to NHC, room 112, for 30 days for rehab to help him with his walking.

Mary Gioletto, Joyce Werner's sister, had successful surgery Thursday morning. The abnormal cells were not cancer. Thanks for prayers.

Jerry Jenkins and family will soon have a new address. It is 1071 Gadwall Circle. Please make the change in your directory.

Bruce Jones, Karen Moore's dad, was moved from CCU to Special Care, room 207, on Monday. He still has restricted visitation and is still on dialysis. He may be moved to Baptist soon for rehab.

Fran Pickens fell twice this week but is doing OK.

Cotton and Nancy Read had another doctor visit last week but still didn't get much news. They are both having breathing problems.

Margaret Williams is being treated for a cyst in her ovaries.

Robert Wray is still having dizzy spells, along with pain in the right side of chest.

New Reports: **Allen Malone.**

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Jerry Jenkins and family** (staying and worshipping with Brittney for a while), **Peggy, Margaret, and Catherine Williams** (AL).

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