

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

## August 5, 2007

### *Retreat!*

Jason Malham

(Our gospel meeting begins today with Jason. Schedules are in the back. Plan to be here each time we assemble. – TN)

The word *retreat* was a common word in the days of yore whenever a military unit saw no hope in its position. The command was sounded and the unit retraced its steps back to safety. I wonder what went through the commander’s mind before his decision was made. I can only imagine that he thought at once of the poor strategy he had formed, the dangerous shambles he had caused, and the bleak outlook ahead. This produced the decision to retreat.

On one occasion, the Son of God said, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Lk.13:2-3). This simple directive stirs our minds toward the concept of repentance.

***Repentance is Not Feeling Sorry for Our Sins.*** Some will tell you that repentance is simply feeling sorry for your sins. Let’s consider that view in light of Biblical teaching. “*For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death*” (2Cor.7:10). If the *godly sorrow* of that verse means anything, it means feeling sorry for one’s sins. But the verse says this feeling sorry for sins is what *leads to* repentance. This cannot be the correct understanding, then, of the Biblical concept of repentance.

***Repentance is Not Turning from Our Sins.*** Some will then say that repentance is rather the actual *turning from* one’s sins. Repentance is that *change of life* that comes from feeling sorry for one’s sins. But consider, “*Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord*” (Acts 3:19). This comment of Peter from one of the porches of the temple in Jerusalem begins with the command, *repent*. But notice what is to follow repentance according to this divinely inspired apostle: “*Repent therefore and be converted...*” If, then, repentance is the actual turning from sins or change in our lives, Peter’s comment would essentially read, “*Change therefore and be changed...*”

***Repentance is the Decision after Sorrow, before Change.*** Repentance, then, is that which comes *from* godly sorrow (2Cor.7:10) and leads *to* a change of life (Acts 3:19). Repentance is that which happens between those two events. Repentance, simply, is the *decision* one makes to change. It is the decision of a unit leader who knows his strategy has been wrong. It is the decision of the sinner to change his life. This decision constitutes repentance. And it leads to a retreat from the former conduct.

By the way, the word *retreat* has evolved over time. We use it now to speak of a place characterized by peace and privacy, a place of security (such as *a summer retreat*). Please know that God provides the greatest peace of mind there is if you will only repent. He trades you His retreat for yours.

## *“Christ Didn’t Die for Education”*

Troy Nicholson

The saga over the closing of Gallatin’s College Heights Christian Academy before school started last year continued as the “pastor” of the sponsoring College Heights Baptist Church prepared to leave (*The News Examiner*, 7-26-07). Jeff LaBorg presented his final sermon two Sundays ago, giving his side of the story for the school’s closing. “Christ didn’t die for education,” he said. “He died for the redemption of all humanity. He didn’t die so we could have a private school back here; He died so the world wouldn’t have to go to hell.” He said that he did what needed to be done to get the church back on the right spiritual path. “I wouldn’t go along to get along...people got upset because they didn’t like the truth.” Hooray for LaBorg!

Ironically, the very next issue of *The Hendersonville Star News* (7-27) contained an article about the expansion project at Hendersonville Christian Academy. Sponsor Bible Baptist Church provided around \$300,000 for improvements such as a new cafeteria and gymnasium roof, along with a new 1.5 acre outdoor play area. A spokesman for the school said that the community will benefit from the improvements. “We make decisions based on community use.”

On what basis do we as a local church make decisions – Christ or the community? Regarding education, Christ has only authorized the church to support the teaching of the truth (**2 Tim 3:15**). The only exercise He has authorized His church to sponsor is “*exercise...toward godliness*” (**1 Tim 4:7-8**, NKJV). Anything more is to cater to the community instead of Christ. May we never lose sight of our goal (**2 Cor 5:9**).

*“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.” – Psalm 100:4*

# **Family News**

**Alex Bansemer** is safely back from his stay in China and is back in Murfreesboro.

**Virginia Bryant** is still having a lot of pain in her knee.

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

**Elmo Ferrell** remains in room 101A at NHC for therapy. He has not been doing as well lately, urinary track infection.

**Sandra Hunt** is still waiting for results from her MRI to see if she needs shoulder surgery. She goes Friday to find out the results.

**Jim McDougal**, Mary Burnett's son-in-law, is recovering from surgery on his sciatic nerve. He should return home Tuesday.

**Laura Reed** has a dentist appointment tomorrow for some fillings.

**Terri Wenger**, who used to worship here, is having some health issues, such as trouble eating (losing weight) and a lump on her thyroid gland. Last week she had an ultrasound and blood drawn for more tests.

**New Reports from men we support:** Gary Hunt (NY), Chad Lynn (WV), Allen Malone (Vietnam/Indonesia).

**Out of town, traveling, or visiting:** Connie Cobern and Fran Pickens (FL).

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