

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**September 16, 2007**

## *“A Day of Good News”*

Troy Nicholson

In **2 Kings 7** we read where Elisha said that God was going to deliver His people from the Syrians. Four lepers who seem to be ignorant of what Elisha said decided their odds of living were greater if they surrendered to the Syrians.

*“This day is a day of good news.”* When the lepers got to the Syrian camp, they said, *“This day is a day of good news” (:9)*. What made it a day of good news? The Lord had caused the Syrian army to hear the sound of chariots and horses and believe that the king of Israel had hired other nations to fight against them, *“and they fled for their lives...and left the camp intact” (:7)*. Not only were the Syrians gone, they left all of their supplies. It was indeed a day of good news.

This day, today, is also a day of good news. We have the gospel message of Christ, the Son of God, who came to this earth, lived a perfect life, and then died a cruel death on the cross so that we may be saved from our sins. There is no news any better than this.

*“We are not doing right.”* After going from tent to tent, eating and drinking and carrying away plunder, the lepers said to one another, *“We are not doing right” (:8-9)*. Why? Was it some terrible thing they had done? No, it was what they had not done: *“...and we remain silent” (:9)*. They knew that others were as needy and despondent as they had been, yet they kept the good news to themselves. They said, *“If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us.”*

Are we doing right today when we know what good news the gospel message is to us and could be to others, yet we keep it to ourselves? Are we any better than the lepers who kept their knowledge and the goods to themselves? What we have is even more valuable and more needed than what they had. Surely if we continue to wait the punishment to come upon us will be even greater than what they would have faced.

*“Let us go and tell.”* The lepers concluded, *“Now therefore, come, let us go and tell.”* They then went and told the good news to others, and all the people went out and experienced the good news for themselves (:16).

Philip went to Samaria *“preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ,”* and people responded by being baptized and being saved (**Acts 8:12**). In **Acts 13:32** Paul said, *“And we preach to you the good news.”* We need to be going and telling the good news today. *“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”* (**Romans 10:15**).

# *Amazing Design!*

Greg Gwin

Birds and bats, bees and butterflies – these are but a few of earth's creatures that possess extraordinary navigational skills. How does a bird know the proper route to follow on its migrations north and south? How can a bee find its way back to the hive – and then return again with other helpers to the nectar-rich flower patch just discovered? Such accomplishments have long puzzled the scientists that study such things.

An article in *National Geographic* describes research that has been undertaken to discover the answer to these mysteries. The conclusions are amazing. Birds, for instance, have been shown to “use the sun as a compass together with an internal clock that compensates for the sun's changing position in the sky.” And then there are the honeybees which “employ special cells in their compound eyes to recognize patterns of polarized light which enables them to determine the location of the sun, even if it is obscured by clouds.” Desert ants, we are told, can tell distances by counting steps from one location to another. Spawning salmon travel thousands of miles to return to the very section of river where they were born. Scientists agree that they “locate home streams by smell...imprinting on the odors from soil and vegetation.” Other fish navigate in murky water by generating an electric field and then sensing their “environment through fluctuations in the electric current.” Some insects are known to determine direction and location by sensing “magnetic fields through specialized photo-receptors in their eyes.”

All of this staggers the imagination. The complexities of nature are incredible. But even more amazing is the fact that there are so many people who believe that this all came about by random chance as living creatures evolved from lower life forms. How can it be so? Who can believe it? Faith in a living, all-powerful God is a much more reasonable explanation. Think about it!

*“You, O Lord, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of Your name to all generations.” – Psalm 102:12*

# **Family News**

**Virginia Bryant** is scheduled for outpatient surgery Thursday.

**Mary Caldwell**, a woman who lives in Nashville and has lung cancer, has requested prayers.

**Quinton Coppage** has an appointment with a dietician on Monday and his regular doctor on Tuesday.

**Elmo Ferrell** remains in room 101-A at NHC.

**Sandlyn Fultz**'s latest exams revealed a problem with a tendon in her toes that is correcting itself and also that her body is accepting the bone grafts she had. For more information visit [www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn)

**Bruce Jones**, Karen Moore's dad, came home from rehab on Friday after being gone from home for five months.

**Cindi Malone** is scheduled Wednesday for a stress test .

**Laura Reed** remains in room 103-B at NHC for therapy.

**Angela Steely**, the White's daughter, was scheduled for surgery last week to have her tonsils removed, but the surgery was postponed due to her blood being too thin. She has an appointment scheduled with an oncologist.

**Charles Edwin Wheeler**, Mildred Lancaster's brother, died Monday morning from pneumonia (along with other contributing illnesses).

**Ame White** was in an auto accident last Monday. "Nothing broken but got really bruised and banged up." She fell at home yesterday.

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

**New Reports from men we support:** **Bob Nichols** (Japan), **Allen Malone** (Vietnam).

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