

The Lakeview Lamp

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

December 16, 2007

Warning: Holiday Ahead

Jason Moore, edited

The holiday season is a period with many pleasantries. It's a time of reunion for families, rest from our work or our schooling, and rejuvenation for our spirits. The holiday typically affords opportunities to see many Christians who are connected through past association or through familial ties. But there are some warnings to be observed while enjoying the bliss of the holiday atmosphere.

Watch out for burned out lights. I'm talking about your light. *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light so shine that others seeing your good works may glorify your Father who is in heaven"* (Matt. 5:16). Nerves get frayed, fuses get short, and all circuits are loaded to full capacity this time of year. That's the makings of an explosion. If you're not careful, you'll burst a bulb and burn out your light. Then the folks that you might have influenced for good, the lights you might have encouraged to burn brighter, will be left in the dark.

Remember the tree. Folks forget the tree this time of year – the tree planted at Calvary, the cross. *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'"* (Gal. 3:13). The decor at Calvary's tree is plain. No evergreen spray. No tinsel. Just bare, leafless, barkless, rough-sawn timbers and iron pegs. The only ornament hung with care upon this ghastly tree is the contorted silhouette of a man fastened to its branches, with a bit of color and a bit of bristle—a splash of crimson on one side and a prickly star at the top. Or is that a crown? Amidst all the trinkets and tinsel of the holiday season, don't forget the tree. Don't allow the busyness and distraction of the season to blur your vision of Calvary's tree.

Get past the wrapper and bows. Don't get so bogged down with wrappings and ribbons and exterior things that you fail to look inside. Make some time for reflection. Pull out the tissue paper and the packaging and put everything out on the table. Get things in order. Don't fritter away the opportunities for leisure that this season affords without affording yourself the opportunity to assess your spiritual condition. You stand on the brink of a new year. Sobering, isn't it? What crossing the brink will bring depends entirely on what you've got inside yourself. Jesus said that most of our trouble is heart trouble—that's what defiles a man (Matt. 15:16-20). So get your heart in order.

Enjoy your holiday; but keep your head about it, and you'll make your time with family and friends a time to rejoice over and not regret.

Last Chance

Jerry Jenkins

It's time to shuffle the groups again, at least the men. The ladies have worked out their own schedule that works best for them. It's hard to believe that the groups have been going for two years.

We are going to divide up the groups for one more secession of six months and then discontinue them for a time. All programs need to have an end. If there is an interest to restart at some point, with the same format or a completely different flavor, we can do that.

This is an opportunity for anyone who hasn't participated in the past to try it at this point – even if you only come to one or two meetings. Just ask someone who is participating, someone you are comfortable with, and ask to join them. I strongly urge you to try it. I think you will like it.

After the “organized” groups end, we still encourage you, on an individual basis, to come together and fellowship and talk about spiritual things.

New men's groups will be handed out soon.

Jesus' Influence

Author unknown

Socrates taught for forty years, Plato for fifty, Aristotle for forty, and Jesus for only three. Yet the influence of Christ's three-year ministry infinitely transcends the impact left by the combined 130 years of teaching from these men who were among the greatest philosophers of all antiquity. Jesus painted no pictures; yet some of the finest paintings of Raphael, Michelangelo, and Leonardo daVinci received their inspiration from Him. Jesus wrote no poetry; but Dante, Milton, and scores of the world's greatest poets were inspired by Him. Jesus composed no music; still Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Bach, and Mendelssohn reached their highest perfection of melody in the hymns, symphonies, and oratorios they composed in His praise. Every sphere of human greatness has been enriched by this humble Carpenter of Nazareth. His unique contribution to the race of men is the salvation of the soul. Philosophy could not accomplish that, nor art, nor literature, nor music. Only Jesus Christ can break the enslaving chains of sin and Satan. He alone can speak to the human heart, strengthen the weak, and give life to those who are spiritually dead.

Family News

Information for our **2008 directory** is on the credenza in the back. Please make needed changes or check that your information is correct.

Geneva Copelin has a bad allergy infection. She recently received a shot of steroids and is going to the doctor about a sinaitic nerve.

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

James Brayden Grushon, 2-day-old relative of Walter Boyd, is remaining stable. He is on medication to remove excess fluids.

Earl Lanning had successful knee surgery Friday to repair ligament damage.

Pat Richards has bronchitis.

Sarah Tourville, Joyce Werner's niece, had a tick bite develop into Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and is having a brain scan Monday.

Joyce Werner had a rough time trying to get a shot this past week.

Robert Wray is in room 406 at the Smith County Health Care Center, 112 Health Care Dr., Carthage, TN, 37030.

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

New Reports from men we support: None.

Note – If you have any news for the bulletin (out of town, sick, etc.), then please let me know by Saturday night. Thanks!
– Troy

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