

The Lakeview Lamp

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

May 18, 2008

"Gung Ho!"

Larry Ray Hafley

Is this church a "Gung Ho" church? It ought to be. Indeed, it must be if it is to be pleasing to the Lord.

"Gung Ho" is a Chinese expression. "Gung" means, "to work," and "Ho" means, "harmony, accord." Hence, to be "Gung Ho" means to work in unity and harmony with one accord. It is a Biblical concept. The early church *"continued steadfastly...daily with one accord"* in the work of the Lord (**Acts 2:42, 46**). *"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul"* (**Acts 4:32**). We are to *"be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind"* (**Phil. 2:2**). *"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord"* (**I Cor. 15:58**).

A church may have unity and harmony but do nothing in service to the Lord. Likewise, a church may be at work but torn apart by quarrels and strife (**Rev. 2:2-5; 3:1-5**). Neither is approved in God's sight (**I Cor. 3:1-3; Gal. 5:7**).

Generally, the busier a church is, the less likely it is that it will be fussing and feuding. "A mule cannot kick while he is pulling." "Idle hands are the devil's workshop." To avoid needless, sinful bickering and backbiting, *"Let us rise up and build"* (**Neh. 2:18**).

Usually, a church that is characterized by *"strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance (and) disturbances"* is a church that is doing little at all to advance the cause and course of the Christ (**II Cor. 12:20**). To effectively serve the Lord, we must lay aside *"all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,"* and none of us should be *"an evildoer or...a busybody in other men's matters"* (**I Pet. 2:1; 4:15**).

In other words, to serve the Lord acceptably and go to Heaven when we die, this church must be a "Gung Ho" church!

Be a Sponge

Mike Davis

The following note came from a very zealous sister in Christ. While I could share much with you regarding her situation, it is enough to tell you she has been as much or more encouragement to all who know her in Christ as they have been for her. She attempts conversing with everyone she knows about Christ and His church. Examine what she writes:

"I know He is teaching me about His Way, and I just can't wait to learn more. I feel like I'm a sponge wanting to absorb all that I can so I can continue to give Him glory, honor, and praise, and spread His message. Sometimes I get

so excited it's hard for me to quiet my mind so He can teach me more. I always remember reading about John the Baptist when he leaped for joy in his mother's womb. It tells me how **powerful** our Lord is if He can have that affect on an unborn child."

I muse on her statement, "I feel like I'm a sponge wanting to absorb all that I can ..." How exciting! Here is a soul whose hunger and thirst for righteousness (**Matt. 5:6**) is ravenous. She is a student of the Bible – not things "about" the Bible. When she encounters passages that give her concern regarding understanding, she is not bashful about asking questions. And she doesn't stop searching until she has the answer: a **proven** answer from God's Word!

When I muse on this precious soul and the genuine love for God's Word she expresses, it causes me to wonder if I am a "sponge." Granted, it would be easy to examine others and declare, "This one is; this one isn't." Yet, I must examine me (**2 Cor. 13:5**). Is my time with the scriptures as productive as it needs to be in order to please God? Do I absorb what I read concerning its meaning and its application? Am I sharing what I learn with others as fervently as I should? Have I become satisfied in my "diet" of God's Word, or have I grown accustomed to it; leading me to take for granted what I need to study further?

God already knows the answers to these musing questions. And while I know them, am I willing to accept the answers? Improvement is not limited to the souls I teach – it is in fact required **more** of me than many others who read and study God's Word (**James 3:1**). Yet, when enthused by the knowledge of truth and right, and having established my heart in such wisdom (**Ps. 90:12**), am I not duty bound to resupply what is "wrung out of me" by the end of the day? (**2 Cor. 4:16**) "*Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness*" (**Ps 119:159**), must not be a confession limited to David. It must be from my heart as well – the heart of a "sponge" for God and His Word!

"He has satisfied the thirsty soul, and the hungry soul He has filled with what is good." – Psalm 107:9

News and Notes

Burton Brown, Bonnie's brother, has received good news concerning his cancer. He has been told that it is treatable.

Connie Cobern has been suffering from bronchitis again since Wednesday.

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

Cotton Read has had a rough weekend.

Out of town, Visiting: Jim and Tanya Stubblefield (CA).

New Reports from men we support: None known.

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