

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**April 6, 2008**

## *Our Limitless God*

Troy Nicholson

The other day I received a prayer request for someone with cancer. As I began to pray for God to be with him, his family, and his doctors, I thought about all the other people in need of God’s help at the same time. It reminded me of a commercial on television right now that shows a man given several different plates to spin on poles and trying to keep them all spinning while being given another plate to put on a pole and also keep spinning. The commercial ends with the plates falling and breaking, with the general point being that we all have our limits and can only do so much.

Think of all the plates given to God to keep spinning. Think of all the patients and doctors at a time in only one hospital for whom people pray God to assist – and then multiply that number by all the hospitals in the world. Think of all the family issues (financial problems, marital conflicts, health issues, etc.) that are occurring at any one point on any one street that have people on their knees in prayer – and then multiply that number by all the streets on earth. Add to these all the local, state, federal, and world-wide issues that cause us to approach God’s throne for His help. God has a lot of plates to keep spinning!

At what point do we need to limit the number of plates we give God to keep spinning? At what point do we need to realize that He can only handle so much? Unlike with us, God has no such limits.

When God and the Israelites defeated the Arameans (**1 Kings 20:13-21**), the servants of the king of Aram said to him, *“Their gods are gods of the mountains, therefore they were stronger than we; but rather let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we will be stronger than they”* (:23-25). They thought the gods (plural) of the Israelites were limited in where they could help Israel, but they found out that God (singular) was not limited in any way (:26-30). Because of the limitless ability He demonstrated, God said, *“...you shall know that I am the LORD”* (:28).

Every time we witness God’s helping hand at work in our lives, and also remember all the others He is helping at the same time, we are reminded that He is the Lord without limits.

# *"Trying to Be More Faithful"*

Troy Nicholson

In his latest report (dated March 12, 2008), Bob Nichols mentioned a Christian, Okamoto san, who told him "that he is trying to be more faithful to God as he is getting older." He then shared the brother's weekly schedule to make it to worship: "He must leave his house by 7:30 am and ride a 50cc motorbike 5-6 miles to the highway bus station, where he rides the bus for 40 minutes to the city of Yamasaki, where I then pick him up for a short ride to the building." Bob went on to say, "This may not seem like much to some, but it is not bad for a man almost 80 years old. Additionally, the weather is not always fine, and he rides his motorcycle in the rain and sometimes in the snow. I would hope Christians everywhere would do the same, even without the convenience of their automobiles." Some Christians half his age won't even do it *with* the convenience of their automobiles!

We would probably all agree that Okamoto could not be much more faithful when it comes to assembling with the saints to worship God. What about you? Do you take worshipping God as seriously as he obviously does? Do you let relatively minor things keep you away—maybe even a simple lack of interest? Could/should you be more faithful in your assembling? Are you *trying* to be?

Are there other areas in which you could/should be more faithful? What about when it comes to sharing the gospel? Are there those who are lost in sin whom you know you need to talk to about their souls? It might be an alien sinner or even an errant Christian. "*Let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins*" (**James 5:20**). Are you trying to be more faithful at doing this?

Could/should you be more faithful to God in how you live each day? Do you sometimes say or do things you know are wrong? Are you trying to do better at avoiding them? Do you too often leave undone things that you know you should do (Bible study, prayer, etc.)? Are you trying to be more faithful by making time for them?

As Bob also remarked, "No matter how old we are, we should seek to please the Lord, and I am glad to see Okamoto san trying to do his best." As noble as Okamoto's attitude and efforts may be, they will not help you or me on the day of judgment. We must each be as determined in our own lives. Are *you* trying to be more faithful?

*"Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth." – Psalm 105:5*

# News and Notes

**Mason Bennett**, a 12 year old boy (known by Katie Greene's dad) who was baptized about a month ago, had brain surgery, and they discovered cancer. They can do no more surgery and will have to resort to other treatments.

**Mary Burnett** is back in Sumner Regional Hospital.

**Connie Cobern's grandson Tommy** fell and fractured his skull. He is home and doing OK right now.

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

**Barry and Sarah Fultz** are both doing better. For more information see [www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nathanandsandlyn).

**Ame White** is having a procedure done Wednesday to see if she needs to have her throat stretched and if she can.

Out of town, Visiting: **Ken and Rhonda Hull** (PM-Thurs), **Joyce Werner** (Gatlinburg).

New Reports from men we support: **Arrigo Corazza** (Italy), **Gary Hunt** (NY), **Chad Lynn** (WV), **Allen Malone** (Indonesia), **Bob Nichols** (Japan), **Ed Rangel** (Puerto Rico).

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