

# The Lakeview Lamp

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

**March 8**

**2009**

## *"Train Up A Child"*

Steve Klein

Vines grow the way they are trained. Children do too. Like the nurseryman who trains vines to grow on a trellis according to his design, parents are to *"train up a child in the way he should go"* (**Prov. 20:6**). Fathers are to bring up their children *"in the training and admonition of the Lord"* (**Eph. 6:4**). Vines and children trained improperly when they are young and tender, cannot easily be retrained after they have been stiffened with age. Godly parents will make a sincere and serious-minded effort to properly train their children by word and by example. Here are some practical tips for parents who are interested in having their children grow the way God wants them to grow in three important areas – worship, morality, and Bible knowledge.

### **Tips For Training Children To Worship**

1. Attend every assembly possible (**Heb. 10:25**). The example parents set will have more effect on a child than anything parents say. When parents neglect assembling they are training their children to do likewise. If there is a discussion in the home each week about "whether or not we are going to church today," the child gets the message that worship is unimportant and optional.

2. Do not allow school age children to draw, play, or sleep during a worship assembly. If they are expected to pay attention in school because "education is important," surely they should also pay attention during worship to Almighty God.

3. Encourage children to pray – at meal time, bed time, or any time they have a problem.

4. Encourage children to sing – during worship assemblies, in the car – any time they are cheerful (**James 5:13**).

### **Tips For Training Children To Make Moral Decisions**

1. Teach children to respect authority. Children who are allowed to be disrespectful to teachers and parents are not being trained to respect the God of heaven. A child who is allowed to constantly question authority will be an adult who questions God's authority. It is one thing to explain

to a child the reason for something when he needs to know; it is quite another to indulge every “why?” question a child asks in defiance of plainly spoken commands. Children must learn that the proper response to expressed authority is simple obedience.

2. Do not allow children to engage in activities which God will consider immoral when they become adults. For instance, if parents allow their six year old daughter to where a swimming suit in public, what are they training their child to do when she is eighteen years old? Following this advice may mean that a child will be looked upon as being different from other children. Children need to know that God’s people are special to Him precisely because they are different from the world (**2 Corinthians 6:17-18**).

3. Discuss with your children the moral training they receive from other sources. Children in public schools may often be shown standards of morality which are out of harmony with the Bible. For example, we are hearing of cases where elementary students have been told that there are certain circumstances under which it is alright to lie! Parents should make it their business to know what others are teaching their children.

### **Tips For Training Children To Know The Bible**

1. Take children to every Bible class arranged by the church. It would be a shame for any parent to let such an excellent learning opportunity go to waste.

2. Make sure children get their Bible class lessons ahead of time, and that they do any memory work that has been assigned. It does little good to get “little Johnny” to Bible class if he is not prepared to learn when he gets there.

3. Study the Bible with your children. When they ask a question about God’s will, about right and wrong, open a Bible and read together the verses which answer their questions. Setting aside time for Bible study can greatly benefit both you and your child.

In his book, *Good Homes in a Wicked World*, brother Irvin Lee wrote the following: “The child is like a mound of potter’s clay. The potter can take the clay and fashion it into whatever form he chooses. He can then dry and temper it, and the form is set into its permanent shape. That is a frightening thought. As the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined. As the child is molded and shaped so the man will be. The challenge is very great when the parents realize that they have the power to shape the very eternal destiny of the soul that inhabits the body of their little child. How many parents will be lost because they failed in their duty to their children?”

# News and Notes

- \* **Due to Ken Weliever's sickness, this weekend's series on Bible teaching** has been postponed. A new date will be announced soon.
- \* There will be a painting day for the resource room on March 14. See Candy Jenkins for details.

## Members:

- \* Virginia Bryant's **knee replacement surgery last Monday went well. She is now home.**
- \* Connie Cobern is having problems with her gout and fluid buildup on her heart.

## Friends and Family:

- \* **Connie's Cobern's daughter-in-law** had an emergency C-section. Both mother and baby (girl) are doing fine.
- \* Nancy Dyes, **Connie's sister, has heart problems and is now under Hospice care.**
- \* Tommy Finch, **Connie's grandson, fell and broke his arm in two places. He had surgery last night to set it.**
- \* Sandlyn Fultz had extensive leg surgery Thursday and may return home today. Some brethren in the area are pooling money to buy her a laptop to help her with her schoolwork. See Troy if you are interested in helping.
- \* Claudia Guest has an aunt who is suffering from heart problems.
- \* Bobby Lindsey, **a neighbor of the Guest's, is suffering from back problems.**
- \* Jenny Peddle is having a procedure done Tuesday at St. Thomas Hospital to check the brain coil inserted when she had her stroke.

Absent: Chris Gertsch (Dresden), Sarah Neighbours (TX).

New Reports: Ron Chaffin (South Africa), Gary Hunt (NY), Chad Lynn (WV).



*“Return to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.”*

**Psalm 116:7**