

The Lakeview Lamp

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

May 3

2009

What Are You Teaching?

Troy Nicholson

Here is an edited version of a note I received last week from a regular reader of this bulletin in response to the recent articles on teaching:

This bulletin is making strong efforts to broaden the kingdom, and that requires teachers – and good ones, too. But not all are teachers of groups. I have a strong and sad feeling for some who would love to teach in this way but know they are not teachers of groups. Many of these live a really exemplary life that teaches many. We do not give these people the due consideration they should have for so living as a light on a hill and a shining example of what God does to people who love Him. These people are teachers in every sense of the word and should be told so and congratulated as much as teachers standing before a class, cutting out pictures, etc. Those who are lights on a hill every day of their lives are teaching as they are being observed. God bless them.

While our focus this weekend with our Effective Bible Teaching seminar is on being better Bible class teachers, it is important to remember that all of us are teachers – in one way or another – every day of our lives. So the real question is not *are* you teaching but *what* are you teaching?

In the sermon on the mount Jesus said, “*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*” (Matt 5:16). Like teaching someone in a Bible class, teaching with our light can lead others to God.

Peter gave the example of wives with unbelieving husbands and said “*that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior*” (1 Pet 3:1-2). Winning others to the Word without a word – the power of a good example.

Others are watching. What are you teaching?

The Influence of a "Regular Member"

Dave Morris, edited

When I first obeyed the gospel in the late 60's, I never missed an assembly. I had all the initial zeal of a babe in Christ who at least understood that my sins were forgiven, and I was excited and thankful for that. But as is often the case, my initial zeal waned and I began missing an occasional Sunday night and an occasional Wednesday night Bible study.

It became a pattern that was noticed by L. A. Mott and Phil Morr who came to the house to encourage me. I knew in my heart they were right, and I would do better for a while but then drift into the same pattern again. They failed to really reach me. I figured it was "their job" as preachers at Romulus to talk to me about these things, and I sort of dismissed their efforts.

What turned it around for me was one of the "regular members" who also noticed my attendance pattern and took the time to speak to me whenever I would miss any assembly. It was Alice Brown. My thinking at the time was that it really wasn't her job to do this; it was the preachers' job and, while I knew they were right, I was able to keep them at bay. I was impressed, however, that she cared enough to talk to me and was patient enough to listen or endure my flimsy excuses.

We both worked at the Hydra-matic Transmission Plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and I was the maintenance electrician in the area where she worked. When I would miss an assembly, I could be sure she would request an electrician from her boss the very next day, and I would be required to see her whether I wanted to or not. Pretty clever on her part, huh? She would invariably say, "Oh, there's nothing wrong with my machine, I just wondered where you were yesterday— if anything was wrong?"

I remember one conversation in particular. She asked kindly where I was the previous day and I told her I was too tired to come. She said, "Can you imagine how tired Christ was carrying that cross?" And my cheeks burned with shame. I was OK after that.

The point I wanted to make was how the genuine concern of a "regular member" can make a difference. I really miss Alice Brown!...She was a modest lady who had no ambitions for public service, but for years to come the light from her life will shine in the lives of those of us whom she influenced for good.

News and Notes

- * The teaching seminar with Ken Weliever concludes this evening with sessions at 5pm and 6pm . Come ready to learn!

Members:

- * Geneva Copelin will go to her cardiologist Tuesday to get the results of her tests last week when she had an ultrasound regarding her kidneys.
- * Margie Frizzell is having a lot of pain, yet taking pain pills makes her sleepy.
- * Cotton Read is having problems sleeping and as a result stays tired.
- * Joyce Werner feels better each day after having surgery two weeks ago and plans to be out today.

Friends and Family:

- * Anita Hampton, **Christopher Neighbours' 55-year-old grandmother**, had a heart attack followed by surgery to put in stints.
- * Frank Hunter, **friend of the Nicholson's in Indianapolis, is having open heart surgery May 11 to replace his aortic valve and have three bypasses.**
- * Terri Koss, **Zachary Neighbours' mother, is back in the hospital to undergo exploratory surgery on her stomach.**
- * Michael Read, **Cotton and Nancy Read's son, returned home yesterday after having colon surgery two weeks ago.**
- * Angela Steely, **Bill and Ame White's daughter, is having surgery tomorrow morning at Summit.**

Absent: Pat Richards (IN).

New Reports: Gary Hunt (NY), Chad Lynn (WV).



“From my distress I called upon the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me in a large place.” – Psalm 118:5