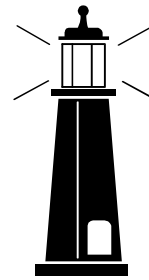




The Berryville Church of Christ

# Bible Beacon



"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Volume 1, Issue 11

April 7th, 2002

## Mothers, Are You Listening to Your Children?

Melany Hatcher

It was three months from the day we buried our 12-year-old daughter before my parents and I visited again. Of course, we were still grieving. As a close-knit Christian family, we were trying to help one another in that grieving process and being in different stages of grief was a big encouragement for each of us to be supportive.

One day during this visit, as we watched my granddaughter, Kelly, play at our feet, my mother reminisced, that it seemed only a short time ago we had watched Amanda playing with the same toys. I reflected that life was so short and uncertain, and I felt guilty for not cherishing every moment, as I should have. Then, my wise mother, trying to help me said, "I think about the lessons I learned from Amanda and that helps me endure my grief for her."

In that present mental state, I did not fully comprehend nor appreciate the truth of what Mother stated until a much later time. In my personal Bible study, I came across the scripture Matthew 18:3-5, and Mother's words came back to me. I struggled within myself to make some positive application. I thought about how often I had instructed, taught, and disciplined our children, but I knew I had not always *listened* to them. I reasoned that they should be learning from me. Taking a new approach, I reflected on some of the lessons I could recognize from all three of my children, especially Amanda's life and the impact she had on our family. I thought about how children look at life in a simple and uncomplicated way. They do not look for deep-rooted excuses and find reasons to not act. The following are some of the lessons I believe Amanda taught me, and I hope, you will consider these thoughts.

### LESSON ONE:

Our sons were 9 and 10 years old when we considered adopting Amanda. They were old

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## Kevin's Korner

I received the one article in the bulletin this week via e-mail. Melany is the wife of Barry Hatcher and they are both missionaries to Indonesia. As Barry mentioned in the e-mail, this article took a lot of courage for Melany to write. I think, after reading the article, you will understand why it needed to be published in its entirety. I believe, however, that it is applicable both to Mothers and Fathers. Please read it prayerfully.



Your response to the opportunity and privilege that we have to care for our older residents was overwhelming! The signing at the nursing home this past Sunday was TREMENDOUS! You are to be commended for supporting this event. Let's remember that enthusiasm toward the work of the church and tackle all of our efforts with as much earnestness and gusto!

We mourned with the family of Georgia Bonner this week at her passing from this life to the next. However, we do NOT mourn as those who have no hope. We know that sister Bonner was one who was baptized into Christ for the remission of her sins. Because of this, we have hope and we can rejoice in the privileged of having that hope in the resurrection of the dead. Always remember the words of Jesus, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28,29).

It is in the likeness of His death burial and resurrection that we are baptized into Christ. We rejoice with Jo Nimmo in this regard. Jo confessed Jesus as the Son of God and was baptized into Christ for the remission of sins Friday night about 9:15 P.M. What a WONDERFUL, BEAUTIFUL, GLORIOUS day it was. We have a new sister in Christ—REJOICE!!!

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enough to join in family discussions about the pros and cons of bringing a 20-month-old into our home. Not long into the discussion, 10-year-old Byran said, "I think we should do it because it will be an opportunity to save one soul." What parent could argue with that reasoning?

The lesson to glean from this is that we need to be looking at a spiritually lost and dying world around us to see what we can do to influence the world. But, we must not look at the monumental task of the entire world at once but one soul at a time (James 5:19,20). If each of us looks for just one-way to influence and teach just one person in need at the time, and we act on that, the multiplicity of our actions will allow for more to be accomplished rather than all of us only sitting back and thinking about how we are going to get it done. Moving into action is the only way to reach the lost.

#### **LESSON TWO:**

Less than 2 months after Amanda came to live with us, she was hospitalized with pneumonia. Every day after school, Barry would take the boys to visit Amanda and me at the hospital. They would take turns getting in the oxygen tent with her. Byran would read and Brent would play 'happy games'. She looked forward to these times of great bonding. After she was discharged, she still had difficulty breathing when lying down. All four of us took turns holding her in an upright position and rocking for hours so that she could rest and sleep. Both boys quickly grew to love her deeply and without reservation.

After 2 more months we went to court to finalize the adoption. At the conclusion of the proceedings in the judge's chambers, the judge looked at the boys and said, "Well, boys, you now have a new little sister. What do you think about that?" They politely smiled but as soon as we entered the hallway, Brent said, "That judge is not too smart. Doesn't he know that Amanda was already our sister?!"

This lesson is about responsibility. As Christians we should not have to have tasks and duties written out and assigned to us. We do not need nice neat *titles* and *labels* before we should accept accountability. Everyone is our neighbor. We need to be willing to get involved and proceed energetically for the cause of Christ. Let us follow the example of the "Good Samaritan" in Luke 10:30-37.

#### **LESSON THREE:**

Amanda was born with a congenital heart defect and required frequent hospital stays. There were numerous doctor visits and tests of all sorts on a regular basis beginning about the age of nine

and after returning home from our first work of five years in Indonesia. At each hospital, doctor office and lab, we came to know the employees very well. They also came to know us. One day my parents took Amanda (then 9 years old) to a pacemaker testing and blood analysis. The lab technician bragged on Amanda and her consistent willingness to be cooperative and brave about the unpleasant things she had to endure repeatedly.

The tech said that she personally was scheduled for a test but was a coward and thought she would cancel. She asked Amanda, "How do you do it?" To which she replied, "You just have to learn to go-with-the-flow."

Worry is a sin. *Do we need to learn this lesson? Why occupy and clutter valuable time with needless worry? Ninety-nine percent of what we worry about does not come to pass any way. We should use that energy on worthwhile activities and study of God's word. Prayer should be our safe haven of release. Trust in God to help us through life is the theme of Matthew 7:24-34.*

#### **LESSON FOUR:**

After much intervention and many surgeries Amanda had a heart transplant August 28, 1995. Two weeks after the transplant and before she was allowed to be around anyone except family she asked for us to devise a plan for her to be able to worship every Sunday at the Church building without coming in contact with the members, which was restricted for about six weeks.

To keep her away from outside germs, the elders suggested for us to come in the side door and slip into an adjacent classroom while announcements were being made. This way, members would not be tempted to approach her. We positioned her by the partly opened classroom door so she could see the song leader and preacher. She was grateful to be able to worship "with the congregation." She was not just a Sunday morning Christian but everyday took her personal Bible study seriously. Amanda's Christian character and attitude showed and was recognized by most people and especially medical personnel because of the comments they made about her faith and inner strength.

The morning of March 16th, 12-year-old Amanda came bounding down the stairs. This particular morning, with bubbling eagerness she asked her daddy, "Do you remember what today is?" Barry thought for a moment and knew it was not anyone's birthday, anniversary or a national holiday, nor was it a day for any doctor visits. He could see her enthusiasm and was reluctant to admit that he did not remember the significance

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of the day. Her reply was, "I have been a Christian for one year today!! It is my birthday in the kingdom of God."

Shame on us for not learning the lesson and implication associated with being a child of God. It dictates reflection of our accomplishments and goals; our failures and defeats. We need a time to ponder our relationship in the Family of God, what it cost him and what it should cost us (Luke 14:26-35). Are we as excited about being his child? If not, he is not excited about it either, huh?

**LESSON FIVE:**

I am afraid that the last lesson is the hardest one for me to swallow. April 2, 1996, Amanda departed this life to meet her maker. The next day my daughter-in-law and I came across her locked "treasure chest." We found the key to unlock the wooden box and neatly arranged inside we found a computer written "Last Will of Amanda Louise Hatcher". She had sensed she did not have long to live, and without our knowledge, had written out instructions regarding her belongings in the event of her untimely death. She had all of her earthly possessions listed and to whom she wished to receive her "treasures". Included were instructions to give my granddaughter, Kelly, her Bible, "worry-rock" and gold baby ring. She wanted to make sure that her tiny niece would know that Aunt Amanda wanted her to read her Bible and discover the cure to all of life's infirmities. I am certain Amanda understood that God is always watching out for his children and "gold" and "things" are only for people in this world (Mark 8:34-37).

The significant lesson here is two-fold. One is the responsibility we each have of being prepared for the next life. Whether we write it down on paper or not, all of our physical possessions will be left behind, and it will help us to cultivate a proper attitude about "things". This is required for all

ages, because life is so fragile and uncertain (Hebrews 9:27). Second, the spiritual inheritance we leave behind is of great importance. Amanda placed God and the hope of heaven above everything else, and it was seen in her life. It has become her legacy, and her influence is still felt by those who knew her.

I hope that I never tire of listening to my children and grandchildren. There are so many lessons to learn. Mothers who listen to their children will also take the time to evaluate their personal understanding, and will consider carefully if they are teaching and instructing their children in worthwhile and eternal values.

God's word is not complicated. We can understand it with a minimum of help and guidance. If a child can comprehend and obey simple commands of our Lord, what excuses can we as adults give?

## One Second Sermons

We stand tallest when we stoop to help others.

The best way to have the last word is to apologize.

Setbacks pave the way for comebacks.

The tongue weighs practically nothing, but few can hold it.

Life is a measure to be filled, not a cup to be drained.

When you're green with envy, you're ripe for trouble.

## Sunday's Sermons

For April 7th

Morning ..... **The Spirit of God vs. The Spirit of the World**

Scripture..... 1 Corinthians 2:10-13

Evening ..... **Questions and Answers**

Scripture..... NA

## Our Record

Week of 3/31

Sunday Class .....	64
Sunday A.M.....	73
Sunday P.M. ....	69
Wednesday .....	71
Contribution.....	\$1303.59

## News, Notes and Prayer List



• Please remember the following in your prayers: Connie Atchley, Geneva Atchley, Oneil Hayhurst, Regina Horton, Mary Paterson, Oleta Wagner, Kevin Whitely, Dena Williams, Kevin Youngblood.

- The funeral for Georgia Bonner was this past week. Please continue to remember that family in your prayers.
- Raymond Kimes fell off a horse and broke a rib this past week. Please remember him in your prayers.
- Jessica Lovelady and Lucille Wright are in the Berryville Nursing Home.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- The Cauley's will be hosting an open house at their home today. Please stop by between 2 and 5 P.M.
- This coming Saturday will be our men's breakfast.
- The youth devotional will be at the Cauley's house tonight after services.
- Remember preparations for the youth rally at the end of the month. See Rusty Windle or Brent Stevens for details.
- Next Sunday night there will be a teachers meeting for VBS. Everyone who wants to participate in this please attend.
- Remember ladies Bible class Wednesday morning at 10:30.
- The Kansas Expressway church of Christ is hosting a ladies day on April 20th starting at 8:30 A.M. They have asked that we RSVP by the 10th. There is more information in the back on the bulletin board.
- We were contacted by a young woman doing community service this week. If anyone needs help around the house or in the garden, contact me.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Dish Detergent.



## Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
<b>Sunday Morning:</b>	April 7th 2002	April 14th, 2002
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Brent Stevens	Bob Moore
<b>Scripture:</b>	Ray Duncan	Perry Foster
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Clyde Atchley	Clay Bozarth
	Raymond Kimes	Glenn Quigley
<b>(assist)</b>	George Eddings	Bruce Foster
	Brandon Foster	Ray Duncan
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Larry Elliott	Brent Stevens
<b>Sunday Night:</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
<b>Preacher:</b>	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Bob Moore	Dale Pinkley
<b>Scripture:</b>	Brandon Foster	Brent Moore
<b>Lord's Table:</b>	Leon Duncan	George Eddings
	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dale Pinkley	Glenn Quigley
<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>Songs:</b>	Hugh Atchley	Kevin Cauley
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Rusty Windle	Ken Smith
<b>Invitation:</b>	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Ray Duncan	Larry Elliott

**Elders:** Clay Bozarth, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley  
**Deacons:** Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Dale Pinkley, Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle  
**Preacher:** Kevin Cauley .....870-423-6707

## Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class: .....9:30 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship: .....10:30 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship: ..... 6:00 PM  
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: ..... 7:00 PM

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