



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
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Volume 17 Number 03

Email: staff@dovercoc.org

January 15, 2006

MY LINES

Micah Williams

How to Comfort A Sufferer

By: John Mark Hicks

What can we do for someone who has lost a loved one in death? John Mark Hicks lost his first wife in death, then years later his son died and his second wife divorced him. Here John Hicks shares from his heart and his experience of grief what we can do for someone who is suffering.

1. **Have a healthy sense of inadequacy.** The worst and most offensive thing to a sufferer is for someone to come in and have all the answers.
2. **Be there and be silent.** From a sufferer's point of view, the most important thing is not what you say but your presence. Be present and be God's instrument of comfort.
3. **Listen.** It's difficult to listen to a sufferer, and the tendency is to try and change the subject. Take a cue from the sufferer. If they lead you into remembering their loved one, go with their lead. If they talk about something more superficial, talk about the topic they choose. Be willing to listen to questioning doubt. Job's friends were unwilling to hear Job's questioning and

tried to stop him. What we do represents God for them.

4. **Be willing to experience pain with the sufferer.** We may have enough problems in our own lives that we often don't want to experience the pain and hear about the problems of others, but a sufferer needs someone to listen, feel with them. *"Like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar on soda, is he who sings songs to a troubled heart,"* (Proverbs 25:20)
5. **Express your love without interpretive statements.** Don't say, "It's all for the best," or "God plucked a rose from His garden." Never try to interpret why a person died or what God's intention was – this is not only arrogant but doesn't help the sufferer. Say something that you feel, such as, "I feel awful about this. This is terrible." Never tell a sufferer how they should feel, but you can tell them how you feel, that is, how you hurt with them and how awful you feel about the circumstances.
6. **Do something.** Don't say, "If there is any-thing, anything I can do, call me." Why not? Because this places on the sufferer the responsibility to do some-

thing, to figure out something for the person to do for them and make a call. This is a time when the sufferer doesn't need more burdens. Have you ever really been called by someone who is suffering after you told them this? Most likely, you've been called rarely, if ever. The sufferer may not want to inconvenience someone nor decide who to inconvenience. Statements like, "Call me if there's anything I can do," only extend the suffering rather than helping. What needs to be done? In some cases, everything needs to be done. Do something for the sufferer that you perceive they need. Mow their lawn, take them some food, help them clean the house, change the oil in the car, etc. Show up and do something for them!

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when other grovel.

Love takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, keeps going to the end.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

20 Ways To Be Miserable

Use I as often as possible.
Always be sensitive to slights.
Be jealous and envious.
Think only about yourself.
Talk only about yourself.
Trust no one.
Never forget a criticism.
Always expect to be appreciated.
Be suspicious.
Listen greedily to what others say about you.
Always look for faults in others.
Do as little as possible for others.
Shirk your duties if you can.
Never forget a service you may have rendered.
Sulk if people are not grateful for your favors.
Insist on consideration and respect.
Demand agreement with your own views on everything.
Always look for a good time.
Love yourself first.
Be selfish at all times.

If you follow these steps, misery is guaranteed!

Remember Our Sick

Kaitlyn Schwartz – the chances of Kaitlyn being completely cured from this cancer is pretty much 0%. With the way this tumor keeps growing back and the chemo is not working, the decision has been made to stop treatments and just keep her comfortable. Pray much for this family and this child. (She did get home for Christmas).

Mildred Sutherlin – Teresa Parker's mother, having replacement knee surgery January 5th.

Emma Sue Williams – Micah Williams' grandmother, tumor on kidney. Exploratory surgery scheduled for January 10th.

Shut-ins: Needs prayers and visits.

Dover Area: **Bernice Brown**
Evelyn Burton
Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:

Thelma Hatcher
Esther Sparks

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Susie Boley, Tom Cloud, Jamie Churchill, Wanda Damouth, Jeff Davis, Virginia Grant, Sue Griffin, Brian Holloway, Ray King, Robert and Rose Lee, Debbie Link, Bill and Mary McAlister, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Gene Smith, Tanya Smith, Pauline Whorton and Valentina.

Expectant Mothers: Shelley Parker Culwell.

Special Children: Emmy May, Zachary Shelton, Gabriel Ross Finlayson, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Military: Jon Allen, Greg Davis, Johnny Ragsdale and Cole Wetzel. Darus Brown is stateside, temporarily.

A VERY COLD WINTER

It was October and the Indians on a remote reservation asked their new Chief if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild. Since he was a Chief in a modern society he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Never-the-less, to be on the safe side he told his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?"

"It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded.

So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the National Weather Service again.

"Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes," the man at the National Weather Service replied, "It's going to be a very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later the Chief called the National Weather Service again.

"Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?"

"Absolutely," the man said. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

Events

Dover Church of Christ
Children's Church
Every Sunday

11:15 - 12:00 Noon
Ages 2 to 8

Story for January:
"Noah's Ark."

Memory Verse:
*"I have set my rainbow
in the clouds."*
(Genesis 9:13a)

Men's Devo

Thursday, 7:00 PM
January 12th
Micah Williams'
Home

Ladies Night

Thursday, 7:00 PM
January 19th
Hostess:
Joyce Helton

Mark Your Calendars

YOUNG COUPLES FELLOWSHIP

January, 14th
Saturday,
6:00 PM
Dover Church
of Christ

AREA WIDE YOUTH DEVO

Sunday, 5:30 PM
January 22nd
C.C.S.C. ATU

5th Sunday

January 29th
7:00 PM
Dover Church
Of Christ
Evening Potluck

January Birthdays

- 01 Alexis Boley
Billy Walters
- 02 Sandra Mooney
Marilyn Veasman
- 07 Chris Moss
- 08 Micah Williams
- 13 Doug Wilson
- 16 Carrie Clark
- 20 JoAnn Killer
Teresa Parker
Patsy Wisbrock
- 21 Bennie Lou Meadows
- 26 Klaus Mullins
- 27 Bill McAlister

If we missed your birthday,
please let us know so it won't
happen again.

Teacher's Appreciation Banquet

January 28th
5:30 PM
C.C.S.C., ATU

Desserts only:
See sign-up Sheet

For More info, See:
Shirlie Chadwick

THOSE TO SERVE

January 15, 2006

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Gary Williams
James Chadwick

Communion

Podium: Earl Whitted
Serve: Brent Hottinger
Brett Walters
Chris Loper
Dennis Whiteside

Scripture Reading

Jim Killer

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Jim Killer
Joe Miller

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

James and Shirlye Chadwick

Communion to Shut-Ins

Alan Boatright
Brent Hottinger

Greeters

James and Shirlye Chadwick

Wednesday Night Devotional

December 18, 2005

Sid Womack

Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

9:45 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 P.M.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Classes

7:00 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams
Church Office: 479-331-3428
Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131
Jim Killer 331-2802
Allen Veasman 331-2156
Sid Womack 967-2367

Deacons:

Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Charlene Clark
Patsy Wisbrock

Sunday Service: Marilyn Veasman

Wednesday Class: Carin Chance

Life Lines is a Publication of the Dover Church of Christ

Editor: Pat McAlister, Layout and Design: Joan Vance, Technical Assistance: M. Shoptaw

Dover Church of Christ
P.O. Box 299
Dover, AR 72837
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