



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
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“What He Said”

By: Larry Dablemont
Outdoor Writer

Fascinated by the woods even as a small boy, I could never get enough of it. Whether I was wandering around on my grandpa's farm, looking at all the things that lived in the creek, or peddling my bike down to Piney, fishing for goggle-eye or hunting squirrels, I knew I was in my element there in the outdoors and nowhere else. I was created for that life, and I knew it even then, insignificant though it might be. I also knew, long before I actually went to Sunday school class and listened to what was being said, that I was never alone out there. He was there too, around me, someone bigger than even my imagination could create. I learned there was a three letter name for Him. He was “God,” and even though I knew about Him without being taught, I wondered where He was, what He looked like, how big He might be. As I grew older, I wondered why He let the bad old hawk kill and eat a small helpless little rabbit. I wondered why He didn't save a badly hurt puppy, or why He didn't kill the evil people in the world around us. It seemed to me He didn't do much. But I sensed, out there in the woods, that He was in control, and He was there and He was awesome in His magnitude and power. I hoped I could keep Him on my side.

The Christmas story I heard about as a small boy began to make me understand some things, about God sending a part of Himself to the earth as a baby . . . born simple and poor, like me. I figured Jesus grew up to be an outdoorsman too; He helped fishermen make great catches without even good equipment. He fed fish to large crowds, and I wondered if it was bass or catfish. Jesus, they said, was the Son of God, the King of Kings, and the Prince of Peace. I was too young to take it all in, but the Christmas story was a wonderful story, and I kept learning about it. When I went out in the woods as a boy, I talked to Jesus, because I felt like somehow, He was listening, and maybe God was not too big and too busy to

bother. I don't know that I ever figured everything out. Alone in the woods today, I still know it isn't just me. He is still there. I know why He lets the hawk eat the rabbit, but I still can't understand why He lets evil people do so well, and rise so high. The Christmas story makes me realize I don't have to know everything . . . I just have to know God has a plan and He will execute it all, in time.

Jesus tried to tell us how it would happen. It wasn't His birth that gives us hope and peace, it is His life . . . the fact that many of us believe He still lives and that His words nearly 2000 years ago give men hope and purpose . . . and happiness.

Does Jesus have a place in an outdoor column? Several editors in the past have told me to keep Him out of it, but this column goes to more papers today than ever before. Once, while peddling my column to a Sedalia, Missouri newspaper, I was told by a little bow-tied editor who probably didn't know a field mouse from a fox squirrel that he liked my column, but he didn't like my “religiosity” injected into it from time to time. That really made me mad!

In the first place, I don't have a religion, I have a faith. And I don't see why we all don't talk about what Jesus said in our everyday lives. Whether you are a writer, a pharmacist, a mechanic, a teacher, or whatever . . . why not take what you feel and believe into every day of your life instead of just Sunday? Most of us don't do it because we are afraid we'll give Jesus a bad image. I got mad that day . . . I didn't wish that little editor the best. And I got mad a lot. I see that I think is corruption and evil and I still want God to stomp on the people involved in it. I read what Jesus said when He told men how to live, and I believe it, and yet I can't always live it. If I write about how the love Jesus brought to the earth, and how His message of doing good to those who hate us, is our only hope, and then you see me in a traffic jam yelling at the guy in front of me, it really looks bad.

It is the words of Jesus that makes all of us better than we could be, though a long, long way from what we should be. Yes, His

words belong in this column and in our lives each day of the week. Those words are the only answer to problems you might face, to struggles in life greater than our ability to cope. He said things that make sense that will make the life of anyone better if they try to follow them, and that even includes those who think He was just another man.

It is Christmas, and Easter and the words He said between those two earth-shaking events, that make it possible to see an answer to this mess the world is in today.

But, the greatest of His words were . . . **“Love others as yourself, what you do for the least of men, you do for me.”**

And so, with this column, let me tell you if you hear the Christmas story, you will be fascinated by following it up and reading, in the Bible, all the things He said, spelled out in four different accounts by four writers, fairly simply stated. If you have looked for answers to anything, Jesus says things you might find right up there with sage advice of TV ministers and psychologists. And should you worry about the fact that, like me, you get mad, envious, self-centered and see that all men around you are a far cry from what Jesus wants us “Christians” to be, take comfort in knowing He selected a few people like us.

One of His closest friends, named Peter, even swore and said he didn't know Him.

Jesus found value in lots of people like you and me, imperfect people who might sometimes think we aren't really good enough to be a representative of Him and what He taught. Trying is akin to succeeding. I take great hope from some of Jesus' last words, when He turned to a common thief who was a lot like me, on a cross beside Him and made him a promise.

Next week, I'll get back to more outdoor adventure, but for now, in case you are struggling, down and out, sick or hurting, or just not feeling up to getting out in public . . . I'll quote the angel who told the shepherds, **“Fear not, for unto you a child is born!”**

Used By: Dennis Whiteside as a Devotion
Dover Church of Christ, Dover, Arkansas

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Remembrances.

Gifts are good things by which we remember someone. My mom crocheted a lot. She made an afghan for my bed. Many times, as I make my bed, I think of her. I think of the little things she said and did. While she was still able, she loved to crochet and share her work with others. I remember this, but most of all I remember that she was a Christian! And because of her influence, I, too, am a Christian!

I don't crochet. How will my kids and grandkids remember me? They will probably remember some of my habits. For instance, my having to use Mentholatum lip gloss all the time. I have one in every room. Also, my hand cream. I have this in every room, too. I truly hope I make some better memories than these!

The best example to pass on to someone is not what we say but how we live our lives. For us to be a good example, we must show them by what we do, how we keep our faith when things go wrong. The truth usually comes out when we face adversity. Our experiences in life should make us a good pattern or ideal for our children. If we leave them anything at all, it should be a spiritual example. Often we fail in this area.

We can talk until we are "blue in the face," but this probably won't be remembered. However, they will remember what we do. Things we hear may go with the wind, but seeing is different. Seeing makes a bigger, lasting impression.

Living righteously not only affects us but it affects those around us. This can be scary. We know we fail often. This is something to pray about.

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others, It is the only thing."
Albert Schweitzer.

Remember Our Sick

Tommie Causey – Shirlee Chadwick's brother, diagnosed with lung cancer.

Evelyn Driver – St. Mary's, pneumonia.

Hoyt Ensey – St. Mary's, pneumonia.

David Guthrie – (Southern Christian Home) diagnosed with colon cancer.

Tracey Strickland Kissiah – coma, stroke, Conway Regional.

Jim Lackey – cancer, receiving treatments.

El Mering – cousin of Marion Helton and Joan Vance, aneurism.

Bobby Meline – home, recovering.

Ray Motley – Theresa Motley's father-in-law, in St. Mary's with pneumonia.

Betty Ortega – eye removal surgery, cancer, report pending.

Christy Pickle – Cara Williams' sister, in Africa for 3 months (internship).

Grace Ann Rowlands – hoping to come home this week.

Summer Russell – still in AMS, (coma) head and spinal injuries.

Bud Wait – back in Hospital, in rehab.

Shut-ins . . . need prayers and visits.

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

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:
Thelma Hatcher

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer,**
Mary Lee

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Daisy Hogins Anderson, Walter and Thelma Arcynski, Lawrence Boley, Lloyd Boley, Susie Boley, Gail Brewer, Ina Dell Cloud, Tom Cloud, Jeff Davis, Charles Ensey, Barbara Forehand, Sue Griffin, Charles Hickey, Robert and Rose Lee, Bill and Mary McAlister, Teresa Phillips, Charles Proctor, Annie Robinson, Reedie Smith, Tanya Smith, Stone Family, Jewel Waldrip and Elsie Youngerman.

Military: Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Steve Ferguson (Iraq), Johnny Ragsdale, Cole Wetzell and Rudy Will.

Sympathy and Prayers

For the family of **Pauline Whorton** who passed away Tuesday, January 30, 2007. Grandmother of Tanya Smith.

God's Mountains

From: Home Touch

When you think of the mountains, does any particular mountain come to mind? Which one? Perhaps it is a mountain close to where you live. Or perhaps you visited some of the great national parks we have in this country and have stood in awe at the base of some of our mountains. Have you seen Mt. Rainier in Washington? Or the Grand Teton in Wyoming? Or perhaps Long's Peak in Colorado or Half Dome of Mt. Shasta in California? All of them are spectacular and just a few of the great mountains in the United States.

One of the most spectacular mountains in the world is the Matterhorn which rises above a Swiss village of Zermatt. It's not the highest mountain in the world, but its pyramid-like shape that points to the heavens is certainly one of the most inspiring. The Matterhorn is also striking because it stands alone, a sentinel as it were, or a massive spire witnessing to the creative power of God.

In Psalm 19, the psalmist didn't have anything quite as spectacular as the Matterhorn to gaze at when he penned these words. But all he had to do was to look into the sky, perhaps at night while he was tending a flock of sheep. He knew deep in his soul, that there was a mighty God who was watching over him. So he wrote: *"The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork."*

After missing on the beauty and grandeur of God's creation, all he could hope for was that this same God might listen to his own small voice. So he concludes his poem by asking: *"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."* Greater than any Matterhorn, God is an enduring pre-sence throughout the eons of time!

Special Children: Bethaney Beasley, Emmy May, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Events

Dover Church of Christ
Children's Church
Every Sunday
11:15 - 12:00 Noon
Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Story and
Activities
Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class

CHRISTeens 2007

February 23rd thru 25th
West Side Church of
Christ
2300 West "C" Street
Russellville, AR 72801
wsyouth.org

Deadline for reservations:
Was January 26, 2007
\$10.00 per person,
payment due by:
February 9th

Registration is limited to
the first 1000 registered
9th – 12th Grades and
sponsors.

Lads, to Leaders and Leaderettes

meets for practice every
Sunday 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Mark Your Calendars

SWEETHEART BREAKFAST

Saturday,
February 10
8:30 AM – Til

Men to Cook!

Baby Shower

Sunday, 2:00 PM
February 11th
Misty Pointer
(It's a Boy)
Diapers, wipes, etc.
Dover Church of Christ
Fellowship Hall

Ladies Night

Thursday, 7:00 PM
February 15th
Hostess: Pat McAlister

LADIES' DAY!!

Dover Church of
Christ

Mark Your Calendars
Saturday, April 28th,

More info to follow!

February Birthdays

03 Mildred Turner
Jon David Vance
08 Mary McAlister
09 Juanita Whitted
11 Kristen Nordin
12 Shawn Bates
Emily Straight
15 Zackary Shelton
16 Rachel Curtis
19 Carolyn Bennett
Tyler Mullins
20 Kaci Statler
21 Julie Moss
22 Eugene Davis
Keri Letson
Troy Meadows
23 Bernice Brown
Pat McAlister
Linda Vance Herron
24 Earl Kennedy
27 Caleb Chance
28 Teresa Motley

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

"In Search of the Lord's Way"

Now 24/7

The Search Program can now
be accessed at any time on its
website: www.searchtv.org

Mack Lyon's weekly lesson
can be heard and seen on
KARK, Channel 4, Sunday,
7:30 AM.

THOSE TO SERVE

February 11, 2007

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Steve Pennington
Alan Boatright

Communion

Podium: Marion Helton
Serve: Chris Besterfeldt
Allen Veasman
Brent Hottinger
Blake Walters

Scripture Reading

Brett Walters

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Allen Veasman
Blake Walters

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Troy and Rachel Curtis

Communion to Shut-Ins

Dennis Whiteside
Donny Forehand

Greeters

Gary and Sonia Williams

Wednesday Night Devotional

February 14, 2007

Marion Helton

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:

Chris Besterfeldt
Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Chris Moss
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Kaeli Miller
Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ
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