



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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MY LINES

Micah Williams

Ministering to the Young Through the Schools

By: Sid T. Womack
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The Need: There is a crying need for the Spirit of Christ to be seen in our nation's schools. Delinquency, alcohol-ism, vulgarity, drug abuse, violence, and contempt for authority testify that at this time, Christianity is absent from school. There is a need for Christian teachers who are themselves governed by a stronger internal discipline than the letter of the law to set good examples for our confused young people. Confused young people are what they are – confused and turned off by weak parents who tell them to “do as I say and not as I do.” Examples of Christianity are badly needed. Young people are fed up with hypocrisy and weakness. They long for believable adult figures that are “steadfast, unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord.” Young people today are searching for adult authority figures they can trust.

“A NATION WITHOUT GOD'S GUIDANCE IS A NATION WITHOUT ORDER.” (Proverbs 29:18, From “Wisdom for Modern Man, T.E.V.)

The Challenge: Being a public school teacher today is not easy. To people coming from structured homes with a lot of discipline, becoming a teacher would almost appear to be pitching one's tent closer to Sodom. A young person contemplating this choice should remember the prophecies of Jesus as they are recorded in Isaiah 53. From personal experience I cannot say that any persecutions visited upon a dedicated Christian teacher would likely be as severe as those that befell Jesus. But there are times in the school year, even within the school day, that a Christian might wonder if the

schoolhouse foundation could bear the weight of one more sin. School is a busy place. It is a busy place of people succeeding, failing, repenting, regrouping, recommitting themselves, and seeking to evade justice, all at one time. For that reason, the school has been called “a microcosm of society.” Society sends its problems to school for the school to straighten them out. (The school can't do anything the home won't let it.)

It is in fulfilling the role of an educator that one will meet other challenges: challenges from within oneself. Do you have a high temper? Is your speech pure? Is your mind on spiritual things? Are you temperate in all things? These are things that the educator will find out about himself as he deals with today's youth. The school environment can provide impetus and structure for improving in problems areas, if one is willing to make a realistic assessment of himself as these insights become apparent.

The Rewards: Educators in today's schools learn to live with inconspicuous victories. A kind word or a strong example may be far more powerful in their effects than today's youth will likely acknowledge. Peer pressure today to do wrong among young people is very strong, and visible signs of responding to what is good may not be as apparent with these students as they were with the last generation. But the effect is still there: “*My Word . . . shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please . . .*” were the words of God through Isaiah. Numerous times this author in his nine years of teaching has heard students tell him privately that dedication to what was right was greatly appreciated. Oftentimes these comments were from students of other religious beliefs.

A Christian teacher can sometimes come closer to relating to adolescents than can their minister. They associate with that minister only a few hours per week, if at all, but they are influenced by their teacher for as much as 35 hours a week. Education is a powerful way for a Christian to “. . . *let your light so shine before men that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father who is in*

Heaven.”

Additional Advantages: I have experienced several advantages in my ministry from being a public school teacher and a minister for a rural congregation of 40-50 Christians. Since my wife and I are both teachers, we have an already comfortable financial base on which to build our other religious activities. Paul must have experienced the same advantages in his work with Aquila and Priscilla. Being financially independent from the monetary rewards of preaching confers upon a minister a considerable amount of psychological freedom from real or imagined censure-ship. Although I like the congregation that I minister to, if that relationship were for some reason severed, it would not be a financial disaster for my family, for that income is small compared to that from our public school careers.

This financial freedom also means that we do not have to look only to medium to large size congregations for a place to carry out our ministry, since the size of monetary reward, usually associated with congregational size, is not an important consideration. Small congregations need preachers, too – the most dedicated men they can find. Small congregations do not necessarily have small problems, nor do they by any means produce small Christians. A dual role can provide one with plenty of intellectual stimulation for producing sermons.

Sometimes, the tougher the students are that I deal with in public school, the more inspiration I have for developing sermon material. My reaction to sin is far from unique. Observe what proportion of the Bible is dedicated to describing God's plan for man, *occurring after the first sin*, as compared to that minor portion of the Bible describing events that occurred beforehand.

Many Christian teacher/ministers are needed in the Lord's kingdom. I would recommend this path to any young person having the personality/disposition to pursue it.

(This article was written in 1981 – how much greater is the importance of this message now, in 2006?)

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

A group had gathered to pray for a family that was having some severe financial difficulties. As one of the deacons was offering a fervent prayer of the Lord's blessings upon this family, there was a knock at the door. The door was opened and there stood a neighborhood farmer's boy.

One of the members asked, "Boy, what do you want? You have disturbed our praying."

The boy replied, "Pa couldn't come, so I brought his prayers in the wagon."

The man was astonished and asked, "What do you mean?"

The boy answered, "Well, I've brought his prayers, just come out and help me and we'll bring them in."

They all went out to see. On reaching the wagon, they discovered that "Pa's prayers" consisted of potatoes, flour, beef, oatmeal, turnips, apples, jellies and clothing – all for the needy family. The prayer meeting was adjourned on short notice.

"If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'depart in peace, be warmed and filled' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2:15-17)

We NEED to pray. We NEED to meet together and pray. We also NEED to realize that God uses us as human instruments, sometimes to answer our own prayers as He blesses others. Let's not just be content to pray, but let's sometimes realize we need to "pray by the wagon load!"

Tim Woodward
VIA Crossties

Remember Our Sick

Hoyt Ensey – serious health problems, Dialysis three times a week.

Alice Hollis – to go home for awhile before surgery is scheduled at Heart Hospital in Little Rock.

Rose Lee – had surgery on her shoulder, March 7th, home recovering

John Myers – having laser treatment Wednesday, March 22, St Vincent's, Little Rock.

Cherry Ramirez – Chris Ramirez's mother, possible diagnoses cancer.

Lori Ann Robey – Lawrence Boley's granddaughter hospitalized with unusual low blood count.

Sue Williams – Micah's Grand-mother, doing better.

W. T. Williams – Micah's grand-father, heart problems.

Virgil Turner – serious lung problems.

Shut-ins: Need 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:

Lloyd Boley, Susie Boley, Dora Dean Cloud, Tom Cloud, Jamie Churchill, Sue Griffin, Jeff Davis, Barbara Forehand, Virginia Grant, Grady Gregory, Vickie Gregory, Brian Holloway, Robert Lee, Bill and Mary McAlister, Troy and Bennie Lou Meadows, Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Tanya Smith, Matt and Nikki Tackett, Pauline Whorton, Valentina and Elsie Youngerman.

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

Military: Jon Allen, Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Johnny Ragsdale, Cole Wetzel and Rudy Will.

Do You Hear Or Listen?

President Franklin Roosevelt was tired of saying the same thing over and over in the receiving line at the WHITE House one afternoon. So, as individuals come to shake his hand, President Roosevelt said, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." People would automatically respond with comments such as "How lovely!" or "Just continue with your great work!"

We can be like that with our families. It is simply easy to hear what our family is saying without ever listening. Our family deserves to have our attention when they speak. God reminds us that He made the "hearing ear" (Proverbs 20:12). And we too, are reminded to listen with these words: "*The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*" (Proverbs 12:15) When our loved ones speak, we need to seek knowledge. When loved ones speak, we have a choice to make. We can be like those who heard President Roosevelt, but did not listen, or we can listen to what our loved ones say. Which choice shall you make?

Bulletin Digest

What Is Love?

Love is silent

when your words would hurt.

Love is patience

when your brother is hurt.

Love is deafness

when some scandal flows.

Love is thoughtfulness

for another's woes.

Love is courage

if misfortune comes along.

Love is hurting

as others hurt.

Love rejoices

when others have reason to rejoice.

Love is correction

when one has done wrong.

Love is going the extra mile

for those in need.

Bulletin Digest

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday

11:15 - 12:00 Noon

Ages 2 to 8

Story for March,
"God's Promise to
Abraham"

(Genesis 13, 14, 15)

Memory Verse:

*"For God so loved the world
that He gave His one and
only Son . . ."*

(John 3:16a)

Ladies Day!

Dover Church of Christ

Saturday, April 8th, 2006

8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Speaker: Barbara Knight

*"As for me and my house we
will serve the Lord."* (Josh
14:15)

Come with anticipation of:

Laughter

Joy

Being Uplifted

and

Encouraged

Lunch will be provided.

Mark Your Calendars

Daylight Saving Time

Starts Sunday

April 2nd

Set Clocks Ahead

One Hour

Dover Church of Christ

Youth Devo

Sunday, April 2,

After PM services

Host:

Chris and Julie Moss

Men's Regular Business

Meeting

April 3, 7:00 PM

Dover Church of Christ

Men's Devo

Thursday, April 13

7:00 PM

Dover Church of Christ

Community

Easter Egg Hunt

Camp Caudle

Saturday, April 15

Host:

Dover Church of Christ

Need Egg stuffers

Annual Fish Fry

Saturday, April 29th

Camp Caudle

More details to follow.

March Birthdays

- 02 Kelly Williams
- 02 Bryan Bates
Keaton Creel
Rick Hollis
- 07 Harold Turner
Colton Williams
- 08 Adam Land
- 12 Carl Lawley
- 13 Matthew Moss
- 17 Jim Killer
- 18 Ryan Whiteside
- 21 William Boley
- 22 Alan Herron
- 25 Blake Brown
- 26 Mike Creel
Jessalyn Davis
Wilma Johnson
Shelby Statler
- 28 Kaeli Miller

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

REMINDER: The Southern
Christian Home truck will be
here, Thursday, March 30th.

Attention: Are you a high school
or college graduate this year? If
so, please contact Shirlye Chad-
wick. Plans are being made to
celebrate your accomplishments;
we do not want to leave anyone
out.

Dover Church of Christ Young Adults

Saturday, April 22, 5PM
Sports World

THOSE TO SERVE

March 26, 2006

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Earl Whitted
Gary Williams

Communion

Podium: Jim Killer
Serve: Sid Womack
Robert Bird
Chris Moss
Allen Veasman

Scripture Reading

Blake Walters

Sunday P.M. Prayers

James Chadwick
Joe Miller

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
William Boley

Sunday P.M.
Congregational Singing

Prepare Table for Communion

JoAnn Killer

Communion to Shut-Ins

Dennis Whiteside
Earl Whitted

Greeters

Alan and Sandra Boatright

Wednesday Night Devotional

March 29, 2006

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: Charlene Clark
Patsy Wisbrock
Wednesday Class: Carin Chance

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Dover Church of Christ
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