



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299

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Email: staff@dovercoc.org

April 03, 2005

My Lines

Micah Williams

“Listen to my cry, For I am in desperate need.” (Psalm 142:6)

Let me begin by being honest about this theme, desperate: there’s a problem with it. I got a note from one of my best friends, a bona fide English professor – actually he’s an English professor masquerading as an administrator – who pointed out the root origins of the word “desperate” means “without hope.” He asked if we really wanted to be the Christian magazine holding up hopelessness as a cause. Well, I thought, at least it’s a niche that is wide open.

His point is well-taken but we are not going to be advocating hopelessness. And yet, sometimes the most faith-filled people are the ones who come within a few inches of hopelessness and then throw themselves into the arms of God.

Remember Jeremiah? Not a big fan of birthdays: ***“Cursed be the day I was born! . . . Cursed be the man who brought my father the news, who made him glad, saying, ‘A child is born to you – a son!’ . . . Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?”*** (Jeremiah 20:14-18) What Hallmark birthday card would you select for someone like that?

Yet right before that outburst are these words of trust: ***“Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.”*** You can imagine what fits that has given Biblical interpreters who prefer that a writer stay in the same topic. But Jeremiah is on the same topic: desperation.

So we’re not talking about the utter “despair” of desperation; rather, we’re exploring that other definition that grew out of the first – having a great desire or need.

Psalm 142 is one of David’s two “cave psalms,” along with Psalm 57. A cave is not where he expected to be. He was supposed to be in a palace, but instead he’s confined to a place that is dark, dismal, disillusioning and depressing. He’s the king of nothing as he runs from Saul. We’re used to seeing the civil exchange of presidents on the front lawn of the White House. For David, it wasn’t quite so antiseptic.

His fellow cave dwellers are a bunch of malcontents. “All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader.” What a party that must have been!

The cave is a place where all your spiritual assurances, your emotional scaffolding, get stripped away. It’s where the video you had prepared for your life (in your mind) gets erased. It’s that dark place where you wind up because of divorce . . . or death . . . or illness . . . or failure . . . or mental illness. It’s where you hold your breath and ask questions like, “Does God even care?” and “Will I die here?”

But David’s cave also became a sanctuary of sanity. In it, he had to strip away all the honors of his life and ask about ultimate meaning. Gene Edwards put it so well in **A Tale of Three Kings: A Study of Brokenness:**

Caves are not the ideal place for morale building. There is a certain sameness to them all, no matter how many you have lived in. Dark. Wet. Cold. Stale. A cave becomes even worse when you are its sole inhabitant . . . and

in the distance you can hear the dogs baying.

But sometime, when the dogs and hunters were not near, the prey sang. He started low, then lifted up his voice and sang the song the little lamb had taught him. The cavern walls echoed each note just as the mountains once had done.

He had less now than he had when he was a shepherd, for now he had no lyre, no sun, not even the company of sheep. The memories of the court had faded. David greatest ambition now reached no higher than a shepherd’s staff. Everything was being crushed out of him.

How strange, is it not, what suffering begets? There in those caves, drowned in the sorrow of his song, and in the song of sorrow, David very simply became the greatest hymn writer and the greatest comforter of broken hearts the world shall ever know.

He was literally between a rock and a hard place. Saul’s army was nipping at his heels. With that, he could only cry aloud to the Lord, ***“Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need.”***

It’s the cry of desperation Abraham found at the altar, Hannah found at an unoccupied cradle, Jeremiah found in a cistern, Daniel found in a den, Paul found in a prison and Jesus found on the cross.

He was not special because he had slayed a lion; nor because he’d planted a stone on Goliath’s forehead; nor because the oil of Samuel’s flask had flowed down his head. He was special because he was made by God for God.

By: Michael W. Cope
New Wineskins
www.winekins.org

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

“To call yourself a child of God is one thing. To be called a child of God by those who watch your life is another thing altogether.” *A Gentle Thunder*, by Max Lucado, chapter 24.

He went on to say, “People are watching the way we act more than they are listening to what we say.”

We have all heard, “action speaks louder than words.” Kindness shown is worth more than kindness thought.

Nothing on this earth could be greater than to be known by your family and friends as someone who walked with God. Or to be like David, whom the Lord said was, “. . . a man after My own heart.” (Acts 13:22)

A good Christian life is the glory of God. “*Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*” (Matthew 5:16)

God is watching the way we act. He does not have to listen to us because he knows the true feelings of our hearts. “*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*” (Hebrews 4:13)

Jonah tried to hide from the Lord but that didn’t work. It won’t work for us either.

We can say many things but our actions are what people see and believe of us. “People are watching the way we act more than they are listening to what we say.”

“You can’t have everything. Where would you put it?”

Remember Our Sick

Doris Karnes Bachand – Pat and Becky’s cousin, diagnosed with cancer.

Lloyd Boley – Lawrence Boley’s brother, tests results negative.

Amber Bolin – a college student and close friend of the Straights, had a four-wheeler accident. Has been released to home care.

Michelle Crutcher - Charlene Clark’s niece, surgery Wednesday, March 9th went well, starts radiation in three weeks. Her family needs prayer as they go through this difficult time.

Wanda Dickerson – John Clark’s mother, stint installed more follow-up on condition in a month.

Bennie Drewry – of Witt Springs, AR, Tina Davis’ father, diagnosed with emphysema (cancer test results pending).

Barbara Forehand – Donny Forehand’s mother, home from hospital.

Thelma Hatcher – second eye surgery re-scheduled for March 24th.

Bill Lafoon and Family – fighting cancer.

Wayne Melton – Tabatha Turner’s father having health problems.

Wilma Shirley – Ronnie Clark’s sister, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

A. D. Virden – hospitalized with flu.

Earl Whitted - going to have knee surgery April 12th.

Shut-ins: Needs your prayers and visits. All live in the Dover Area.

Evelyn Burton

Louise Killer

Mae Vanzandt

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Luella Bellomo, Susie Boley, Donna Brewer, Bernice Brown, John Clark, Tom Cloud, Jeff Davis, Robert Estridge, Charles and Leota Hickey, Bob and Rose Lee, Jerry Martin, Debbie Meyer, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Esther Sparks, Harold and Mildred Turner, David and Betty Walters.

Expectant Mothers: Melissa Jackson and Kemah Johnson.

Special Children: (Birth Defects) - Zachary Shelton, Gabriel Ross Finlayson, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

The Hymnal’s Page

The Dentist’s Hymn:
“*Crown Him With Many Crowns*”

The Weatherman’s Hymn:
“*There Shall Be Showers of Blessing*”

The Contractor’s Hymn:
“*The Church’s One Foundation*”

The Tailor’s Hymn:
“*Holy, Holy, Holy*”

The Golfer’s Hymn:
“*There Is A Green Hill Far Away*”

The Politician’s Hymn:
“*Standing On The Promises*”

The Optometrist’s Hymn:
“*Open Mine Eyes That I Might See*”

The I R S’s Hymn:
“*All To Thee*”

The Gossiper’s Hymn:
“*Pass It On*”

The Electrician’s Hymn:
“*Send The Light*”

The Shopper’s Hymn:
“*Sweet By And By*”

Author Unknown
Bulletin Digest

(Just a little humor.)

Military: John Allen, Greg Davis, Paul Holt, Randall Nixon and Rudy Will.

Jeremy Carter, Chris Pearson, and Terry Robinson scheduled to come home. Tom Pickle and Adam Schrepfer are already state-side.

Events

LADIES DAY

April 9, 2005

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas

Continental Breakfast
and

Registration: 9:00 AM

Program: 9:30 AM

Lunch: 12:00 Noon

Theme: "I am the light"

Speaker: Lisa Bryant
OverCup, AR

Evangelistically Speaking Lectureship

April 8th thru 10th

Mars Hill Church
of Christ
1020 Countyline Rd.
Vilonia, AR

Speakers: Howard Norton, Lance
Mays, Hugh Hale, Carroll Sites,
Enrique de los Santos, Robert Swain,
David Riley, and Ted Knight.

Mark Your Calendars

March 29th

Elders' Meeting
Dover Church of Christ
7:00 PM

DAYLIGHT

SAVING TIME

April 3rd, Sunday 2:00 AM

SPRING FORWARD

April 6th,

Following Sunday
Evening Services
Dover Church of Christ
Youth Devo
The Hottinger's

April 4th, 7:00 PM

Men's Regular
Business Meeting
Dover Church of Christ

April 14th, 7:00 PM

Men's Devo
Dover Church of Christ

MEALS ON WHEELS

Dover Church of Christ
April 18 thru April 22
Monday thru Friday

APRIL Birthdays

06 Bo Thomas
14 Danielle Smith
15 Loredana Qualls
Shannon Walters
18 Gicala Lee
19 Earlene Davis
22 Curtis Rackley
Brett Walters
23 Rusty Parker
Tabatha Turner
24 Chrissie Gregory
27 Sharon Rackley
30 Lindsay Hollis

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

April 21st

7:00 PM

Ladies Night

Dover Church of Christ
Hostess to be announced

"Shaping the Heart"

Education Seminar

Sponsored By:

Institute for Church
and Family

Harding University

Speakers: Jo Goy, Lois

Whitaker, Karen Lawson, Linda

Elucker, Charles Smith, John

Reese and Dan Stockstill.

Cost: Single \$20, Couple \$25

www.hardinf.edu/icf/

THOSE TO SERVE

April 03, 2005

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Chris Loper
Dennis Whiteside

Communion

Podium: James Chadwick
Serve: Lawrence Boley
Marion Helton
Mike Creel
Paul Helton

Scripture Reading

Rex McDaniel

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Donny Forehand
Earl Whitted

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

John and Carrie Clark

Communion to Shut-Ins

Allen Veasman
Blake Forehand

Greeters

Bob and Carolyn Bennett

Wednesday Night Devotional

April 06, 2005

Allen Veasman

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

Deacons:

Donny Forehand
Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Rex McDaniel
Joe Miller

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: Carin Chance
Sonia Williams

Sunday Service: Kim/Kaeli Miller

Wednesday Class: Marilyn Veasman

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Dover Church of Christ
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