



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
Web site: www.dovercoc.org

Volume 17 Number 16

Email: staff@dovercoc.org

April 16, 2006

MY LINES

Micah Williams

“The Parable Of The Lifesaving Station”

By: Earnest Hunter

From: *Personal Evangelism 101*

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur there was once a crude little lifesaving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat, but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves, they went day or night tirelessly searching for the lost.

Many lives were saved by this wonderful little station, so that it became famous. Some of those saved, and various others in the surrounding areas, wanted to become associated with the station and give of their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews were trained. The little lifesaving station grew.

Some of the new members of the lifesaving station were unhappy that the building was so crude and so poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea.

They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in an enlarged building. Now the lifesaving station became a popular gathering place for its members. They redecorated it beautifully and furnished it as a sort of club.

Less of the members were now interested in going to sea on lifesaving

missions, so they hired life boat crews to do this work.

The mission of lifesaving was still given lip-service, but most were too busy or lacked the necessary commitment, to take part in the lifesaving activities personally.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off this coast and the hired crews brought in boat loads of cold, wet and half-drowned people.

They were dirty and sick, some had skin of a different color, some spoke a strange language, and the beautiful new club was considerably messed up. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where the victims of shipwrecks could clean up before coming inside.

At the next meeting there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities because it was unpleasant and hindrance to the club's normal pattern.

But some members insisted that lifesaving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a lifesaving station. But these members were voted down and told that if they wanted to save the life of all various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own lifesaving station further down the coast. They did.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old station. They evolved into a club and yet another lifesaving station was founded.

If you visit the seacoast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along that shore. Shipwrecks are still frequent in those waters, but now most of the people drown!

As the parable pointed out, the mission of the church is similar to that of a lifesaving station; unfortunately, with the passing of time many churches . . . lose sight of their original mission and gradually evolve into something different than what Christ intended when He said: *“I will build My church . . .”* (Matthew 16:18)

(Lest we forget and succumb to the dangers that can befall a growing church, let's review . . .

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

To bring to light the Gospel of God:

This was Paul's mission as an apostle, *“To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given to preach to the Gentiles the unfashionable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things . . .”* (Ephesians 3:8-9)

This he did as a functioning member of the church which has a primary purpose to make known the wisdom of God. “. . . so that the manifold wisdom of God might be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.” A purpose planned by God for the church from eternity. *“This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Ephesians 3:11)

The mission of the church is no different than the mission of Christ. Christ came to save sinners. *“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.”* (I Timothy 1:15) He came preaching the gospel to lost and dying sinners. *“Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel*

Continued page 2, column 3

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1 NKJV)

The substance or reality of the things we hope for, such as, eternal life, a better life here on earth or peace and contentment is the essence of our faith. We believe in the promises made in the Word, not because we have seen, but because we know His Word to be true. Biblical faith is trusting what we are convinced is true.

Jesus said we are blessed because we believe when we have not seen. **"Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."** (John 20:29)

The evidence or proof of things not seen is the basis of our faith. A good example of this belief in things unseen is the faith of those great men and women mentioned in Chapter 11 of Hebrews. Abraham trusted God, leaving his familiar surroundings to go to an unknown place to live. This promise to Abraham and his seed did not happen immediately. Time went on and on. Even the birth of his child, from which his blessing would come, happened many years later. Patience had to be a big part of his faith. From reading other Scriptures we know that God works through His time, not ours.

The writer of Hebrews mentioned Joseph's faith at the time of his dying. He didn't mention his faith during all the time he was wrongly imprisoned. Verse 22 says, **". . . by faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones."** Faith isn't always the big things in our lives. Often it is the smaller things. Our faith won't keep us from suffering. It won't keep us safe from harm. What it will do is allow us to overcome them, just as it did those great men and women of faith in Hebrews 11. Most of them went through some terrible ordeals, but by faith and patience they were penned in this Great Book of God.

Remember Our Sick

Lawrence Boley – tests, possible shunt replacement, again.

Lloyd Collins – diagnoses, cancer.

Chris Henderson – Troy Meadows' nephew, in Baptist Hosp., Little Rock. Critical. Diagnosed with a rare incurable muscle disease

Alice Hollis – had cat-scan Friday, April 7th, appointment Monday, April 10th to evaluate.

Jim Killer – at home on the mend.

Ray King – Karen Womack's father, at home, serious health problems.

Lovella Loyd – Victor Loyd's mother, serious health problems.

John Myers – experiencing problems from last treatment. More tests.

Cherry Ramirez – Chris Ramirez's mother, prayers answered, test showed no cancer.

Ryan Whiteside – lots of stress and pressure.

W. T. Williams – Micah's Grandfather, heart problems, again.

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, Jamie Churchill, Holt Ensey, Sue Griffin, Jeff Davis, Barbara Forehand, Virginia Grant, Grady Gregory, Vickie Gregory, Brian Holloway, Robert and Rose Lee, Bill and Mary McAlister, Troy and Bennie Lou Meadows, Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Laurie Ann Robey, Tanya Smith, Virgil Turner, Sue Williams, 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.

The Mission of The Church

Continued from page 1

of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" (Mark 1:14-15)

Therefore Jesus wants the gospel made known to every person. **"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'" (Mark 16:15)**

TO PROCLAIM THE PRAISES OF GOD . . . God has made us a holy nation, His own special people. Our Purpose? To proclaim the praises of God. And how we were called from darkness into His marvelous light. How we have become the people of God. How we have obtained mercy. **". . . a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light . . ." (I Peter 2:9)** **". . . giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation."** (Colossians 1:12-15)

How do we proclaim this? By proclaiming the gospel of Christ!

Our mission as the church, as the people of God, is a glorious mission.

We must work harder. We must pray much. We must do our part each and every day to fulfill this great commission that God has com-manded us to do.

Announcement!

Neal and April Whitted are the proud parents of Caleb Michael, born Thursday, March 30, 2006.

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday

11:15 - 12:00 Noon

Ages 2 to 8

Story for April

"Joseph, the Interpreter
Of Dreams"

(Genesis 37 - 50)

Memory Verse:

"I can do all things through
Christ who gives me strength."
(Phil. 4:13)

Community Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Camp Caudle

Saturday,
April 15, 2:00 PM

Host:

Dover Church of Christ
Need 1000-1200
filled plastic eggs!

Annual Fish Fry

Saturday, April 29th
Camp Caudle
5:30 PM

More details to follow.

Mark Your Calendars

AREA WIDE

DEVO

Sunday Night
April 23rd, 6:00PM

Clarksville Church
of Christ
2211 West Main
Ph: (479) 754-3360

FELLOWSHIP,
FOOD AND
FUN!!

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN HOME

Be a Part of this
80th Year!!

Open House and
Homecoming

Saturday, May 6, 2006

9:30 AM: Registration

10:00 AM: Program

12:00 Noon: Bar-B-Q

Lunch

1:00 PM: Fellowship
and Karaoke

Send donations to: Southern
Christian Home
P.O.B. 649
Morrilton, AR 72110

APRIL Birthdays

- 09 Skylar Creel
Suzy Pennington
14 Danielle Smith
15 Loredana Qualls
16 Zach Pennington
17 Shannon Walters
18 Gicala Lee
19 Earlene Davis
22 Curtis Rackley
Brett Walters
23 Rusty Parker
Tabatha Turner
24 Chrissie Robison
27 Sharon Rackley
Mae Vanzandt
29 Kati Pennington
30 Lindsay Hollis

Mae Vanzandt will be 100
years young on April 27,
2006!!

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

Attention: Are you a high
school or college graduate
this year? If so, please
contact Shirlie Chadwick.
Plans are being made to
celebrate your accomplish-
ments.

Dover Church of Christ
Young Adults & Children

Saturday, April 22, 5PM
Sports World

THOSE TO SERVE

April 16, 2006

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Robert Bird
Alan Boatright

Communion

Podium: James Chadwick
Serve: Gary Williams
Jim Killer
John Myers
Lawrence Boley

Scripture Reading

Marion Helton

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Chris Moss
Allen Veasman

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Leota Hickey

Communion to Shut-Ins

John Myers
Lawrence Boley

Greeters

Allen and Marilyn Veasman

Wednesday Night Devotional

April 19, 2006

Rex McDaniel

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 Vaughn

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
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Dover, AR
Permit No. 18