



Life Lines

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

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The Have and Have-Nots

The statistics tell me that there are over 13,000 congregations of the church of Christ in the continental United States. In almost 40 years of being a Christian, I have lived on the inside of a little more than a dozen of them. The sizes of congregations where I have been a member have ranged from 4 to over a thousand.

It would appear that among our brotherhood's congregations, there are the **haves** and the **have-nots**. The **haves** are the ones that are at least holding their own in membership and/or are growing. Of particular interest to both the **haves** and the **have-nots** are young couples with children, because those families represent a congregation's future. The **have** congregations are mostly able to attract and retain such young couples. The **have-nots** wish for young couples to pledge their memberships with them, but the likelihood of that ever occurring is about that of stepping into a watery mirage on a Texas blacktop highway in August and getting one's feet wet.

What churches do about faith is what distinguishes the **haves** from the **have-nots**. Oh, we teach faith in all churches of Christ, it is certain, but what we do about it varies. In the **have** congregations, what is done about it reads like the opening words of so many accounts in the Honor Roll of the Faithful in Hebrews 11. *By faith* the **have** churches begin youth programs such as Lad to Leaders/Leaderettes or Leadership for Christ, even if the number of young people they begin with is fairly small. *By faith* the **have** congregations begin or resume visitation programs and sustain them. *By faith* **have** congregations upgrade their educational pro-

grams, especially their curricula. *By faith* **have** congregations broaden their international missionary program through World Bible School or Bible publishing programs such as Eddie Cloer's. *By faith* the **have** churches open web sites or radio programs. These and many other things the **have** congregations do. And when young couples with their young children come looking for a church home, they are attracted to **have** congregations because they can see things going on. Activity is contagious.

If we build it, will they come? It's not guaranteed. But if we don't build our programs, it's much more certain that the young couples with their small children will not come.

I have seen a congregation that was down to four members change its character from a **have-not** to a **have**; at last word, it was up to about fifty. I have seen large congregations change from a **have** mentality to a **have-not** and begin to die on the vine. The tiger can change his stripes if he wants to – either way.

"Oh, we want young people," the **have-not** churches say. I remember being "courted" by churches when I and my family were younger! But usually young couples want to go where others are already leading, and then gradually work their way into leadership – they do not usually want to come in as leaders! When young people have to step into leadership right away after placing membership, they are likely to be greeted with, "Oh you're too idealistic!" or "We've never done it that way," or "You're new; you'll learn that this new idea just won't work here in (_____ fill in the blank of the town's name.) The young people who are trying to get a youth program or Bible class program or other innovation going may even be

accused of "trying to take over." In the face of that treatment, before long, they will leave. "*Cast not your pearls before swine,*" they will quote Matthew 7:6.

After that experience how likely is it that our young couples in their 20's or 30's will go to another **have-not** church to pour out the best of their efforts? Nil. Nada. They will seek out, and find a **have** congregation. Jesus said it as, "*I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.*" (Luke 19:26)

The way for congregations to be recipients of those young couples is for us to behave like **have** churches. Show some faith. Start or revive some programs that are lagging. Re-double your own efforts. Re-discover the power of the ten percent rule. If we increase our efforts at spiritual things by only ten percent, we will increase our satisfaction at having done so by 100 percent!

It feels good to work in the Lord's Kingdom!

*By: Sid Womack, elder
Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas*

**"The pursuit of truth
and beauty is a sphere
of activity in which
we are permitted
to remain children
all our lives."**

Albert Einstein

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

It Takes a Church to Raise a Child

Who can raise a godly child
When no one lends a hand?
Who, by himself, can turn a boy
Into a godly man?

What little girl, if left alone,
Can learn all she should know
Of love and grace and kindly words?
Someone must teach her so.

Mothers, daddies, grandparents, too,
Must labor with all their heart
With gentle words and tender touch,
To give a proper start.

Acceptance, not criticism, adds to the
mix.
Firm discipline tempered with praise,
Helping, not hurting, laughter and
sharing,
While godly in our ways.

Then down the path and through the
years
As each child walks along,
We must be there to reassure,
To help this child grow strong.

Brothers, sisters, yes, teachers and
friends.
Must lovingly do their share,
Nurturing, teaching, showing the way
To the child God left in our care.

It takes all our efforts expended in love
And praying for all that we're worth;
No one can raise a child all by himself,
Friend, raising a child takes the church.

By Doris Charleville
Christian Woman Mar/Apr 2000

Prayers and Sympathy for the
family and friends of Oscar
Pellham who passed away Friday,
June 8, 2007.

Remember Our Sick

Lawrence Boley – health problems have improved.

MaryAnn Churchill – three blockages' found but, with medication, proper diet and exercise, this condition can be resolved.

Tiffeny Davis – diagnosed with Graves disease (thyroid) condition has improved with much prayer.

Hoyt Ensey – had surgery June 5th, right side. Doing well, home. Surgery for left side scheduled later.

Charles Hickey – experiencing more pain.

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

Linda Melton – St. Louis, breast cancer. J. Vance & D. Sheeran's friend.

Don Sheeran – St. Louis, diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Billy Walters – knee surgery June 21st.

Joyce Walters – back surgery, June 25th.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits.

Dover Area:

Bernice Brown

Evelyn Burton

Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:

Evelyn Driver

Thelma Hatcher

Stella Manor:

Louise Killer

Mary Lee

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Daisy Hogins Anderson, Bob Bennett, Lloyd Boley, Susie Boley, Jeff Davis, Anna Deimund, Don Eichenberger, Charles Ensey, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, David Guthrie, Robert and Rose Lee, Bill McAlister, Charles Proctor, Summer Russell, Reedie Smith, Tanya Smith, Jewel Waldrip and Ashley Wilson.

Special Children: Elysia Lee, Emmy May, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

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

What Do You Owe?

What do you owe God, you ask?
Suppose He sent this bill:

One hundred thousand dollars for the sun
upon the hill.

Two thousand for the little brook that
runs along the way.

Five hundred for the nighttime and
thousand for the day.

Six hundred for the little birds that trill,
chirp and sing.

Six hundred for the tiny flowers which
tell us it's spring.

These are the bills which everyone of
every clime forget.

If God should charge you what you owe
. . . You'd always be in debt!!

Author Unknown

RECONCILIATION

Sin cried out, "I'm sorry!"
Grace answered, "I forgive."
Wrong said, "I deserve to die."
Love said, "Repent and live."

Guilt said, "I am torn inside."
Truth said, "Confess and
be made free."
Life said, "I am heavy laden."
The Lord said, "Come to me."

The weary said, "Where can I go
with evil's burdens sore?"
God said, "My child, obey My Word
and live forevermore."

Owen Cosgrove

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

Lawn Schedule

Saturday, June 30

Marion Helton
J. R. Hale
Alan Boatright

No Area Wide

Youth Devo

June or July

No 4th of July Celebration
at the church or church
services Wednesday, July
4th. Community
Fireworks at the Baseball
Park, Allen Veasman,
Pyro-technic.

Mark Your Calendars

Dover Church of Christ's Youth Devo

July 1st, (after evening
services.)

Steve and Suzy
Pennington's Home

Men's Regular
Business Meeting
Monday, July 2, 7:PM
Dover Church of Christ

The CARE CENTER Of Little Rock, AR

Is sponsoring
professional counseling
in a Christian
environment one day per
week, every Friday, at the
Dover Church of Christ.
Please spread the word,
tell your friends and
neighbors.

Call for an appointment:
(479) 331-3428

"In Search of the Lord's Way" Now 24/7

The Search Program can
now be accessed at any
time website:

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

June Birthdays

- 01 Sandra Boatright
- 02 Chase Chance
- 03 Allen Veasman
- 04 Michelle Helton
- 05 Eugene Qualls
- 07 Bob Bennett
- 10 Leanna Mullins
- 11 Joe Miller
- 12 Ashlee Wilson
- 14 Kenna Rae Jackson
- 15 Jacqueline Helton
- 21 Caitlyn Straight
- 22 Nina June Qualls
- 25 Ashley Anderson
Pat Holloway
Iris Lawley
- 28 Tanya Smith
Joyce Walters

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

CAMP CAUDLE

Twelve packs and cases
of soda of all flavors are
needed for the coming
camp season. They can
be brought to the office.

Camp Caudle

Junior Week- June 24 –
30
Grades 2 thru 6
Registration Sunday,
3:00 – 5:00 PM

THOSE TO SERVE

June 24, 2007

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Rex McDaniel
Rick Hollis

Communion

Podium: William Boley
Serve: Jim Killer
Sid Womack
Marion Helton
Allen Veasman

Scripture Reading

Donny Forehand

**Sunday P.M.
Prayers**

William Boley
Sid Womack

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Troy and Rachel Curtis

Communion to Shut-Ins

Marion Helton
Merrell Shoptaw

Greeters

Jim and JoAnn Killer

Wednesday Night Devotional

June 27, 2007

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: Kaeli Miller
Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ
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