



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299

Volume 16 Number 27

Email: staff@dovercoc.org

July 03, 2005

MY LINES

Micah Williams

“Anxiety”

(Continued from last week)

The avenue of prayer is open to the Christian to request God’s help. *“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”* (I John 5:14)

God has promised peace of mind to those who are willing to commit their anxieties to Him. *“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33) *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:6-6) *“Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”* I Peter 4:19)

Take These Practical Steps . . .

Read the Bible. Committing ourselves to God’s safekeeping requires that we grow in our knowledge of God and love for Him. Thus, the most important thing we can do is study the Scriptures, pray and meditate on God’s promises to His faithful people. *“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”* (Romans 15:4)

Be realistic. Peace of mind does not depend on solving all the problems,

righting all the wrongs, removing all the imperfections or getting all we want. *“When I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the task which has been done on the earth (even though one should never sleep day or night), and I saw every work of God, I concluded that man cannot discover the work which has been done under the sun. Even though man should seek laboriously, he will not discover; and though the wise man should say, ‘I know,’ he cannot discover.”* (Ecclesiastes 8:16-17)

Some things will not change and we need to be realistic enough to accept that. (1) There are problems that have no solutions. (2) There are situations that simply must be lived through. (3) “The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.” (William James) *“A man’s discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.”* (Proverbs 19:11)

Realistic knowledge of our limitations ought to cause us to relax and slow down. (1) Besides the noble art of getting things done is the noble art of leaving things undone. (2) “The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of nonessentials.” (Gladstone)

We must learn to let go of some problems and allow the Lord to be in charge of them. *“. . . casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”* (I Peter 5:7) *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Be flexible. Change is inevitable; we have got to be resilient, adaptable, adjustable. *“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in*

prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.” (Philippians 4:11-12) Under stress, if we can’t bend, we will surely break. Our faith must be in Him who changes not. There are some changes we ought to resist without compromise; wisdom can tell us when to change and when to hold our ground.

Focus on the good cares, minimize the unnecessary ones. In the Bible, cares can be good or bad. (1) Good: *“. . . so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”* (I Corinthians 12:25) *“Apart from such external things, there is the dailly pressure on me of concern for all the churches.”* (II Corinthians 11:28) *“For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.”* (Philippians 2:20) (2) Bad: *“And the one whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”* (Matthew 13:22) *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”* (Philippians 4:6) *“. . . casting all your anxiety on Him.”* (I Peter 5:7)

We tend to become distracted by many relatively unimportant cares, and don’t care enough about the things we ought to. (Matthew 13:22)

When the mind is distracted by many pursuits, it derives but little benefit from any of them.

To be continued next week.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

It saddens me to know there are many who do not believe in God. And if they don't believe in God, they don't believe in prayer.

There is an article in the *Reader's Digest*, April, 2005, titled "New Proof Prayer Works," by Marianne Szegedy-Maszak. She says that studies and surveys have been made that give proof **now** that prayer works. Most of the article is about the healing power of prayer. It mostly had to do with health issues. People pray for good health, they pray before surgeries and they pray for others. At the end of the article, the writer says, "Whether or not prayers are actually answered doesn't really matter. For those who believe, that is not where the true power of prayer will ever reside."

Then in June, 2005 issue of *Reader's Digest*, in the section, "You said it," there are two comments from readers. The first, by Dorothea Jaster, says, "The author's closing paragraph is incorrect: 'Whether or not prayers are actually answered doesn't matter . . .' (New Proof Prayer Works). Prayer is not shooting a request into cyberspace. Anyone who actually prays knows that prayers are always answered. The answer could be "yes," or "not yet," but prayers are answered." (This undoubtedly was from a believer.)

The second comment is quite different and anonymous. "Isn't prayer a paradox? As an atheist, I'd like to know how the religious think prayer works. Most Christians believe God is all-knowing and has a plan. So, if you pray to God to cure you of cancer, you're asking him to change his plan for you. When God hears your prayers and changes his plan, does that mean he was not all-knowing before?"

It's sad, but this atheist has no clue about God or about prayer. God made us from His image. Why couldn't an all-knowing God change plans. He made us so that we could change our plans. He knows every little thing that will happen to us, even the change in plans that He will make for us when we pray to Him. We are the ones who don't know His plans. God is awesome. He is all-knowing and He does answer prayers

-Continued, bottom of third column -

Remember Our Sick

Ruby Boley – cancer in liver, at home with full care..

Bernice Brown – scheduled to see a lung specialist in L.R., June 30th.

Jamie Churchill – diagnosed with leukemia.

Ronda Fields – Bernice Brown's granddaughter, home from hospital waiting for pending liver transplant.

Laura Lammar – of Joplin, MO, cousin of Marion & Joan's, gallbladder surgery to be scheduled.

Kevin Gibson – Marion & Joan's cousin. Cancer of the colon. Surgery was Monday, June 20th, Springfield, MO.

Brain Holloway – Pat Holloway's grandson, in Memphis Hospital, serious injuries from an auto accident.

Thomas Stone – heart complications (receives our Life Lines, St. Louis Area). Home recovering from pneumonia.

Betty Walters – waiting for infection to clear to schedule knee surgery.

Shut-ins: Needs your prayers and visits. Dover Area:

Evelyn Burton

Louise Killer

Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center
Thelma Hatcher

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Luella Bellomo, Susie Boley, Donna Brewer, Michelle Crutcher, Jeff Davis, Wanda Dickerson, Bennie Drewry, Carl Lawley Family, Bob and Rose Lee, Bill McAlister, Jerry Martin, Debbie Meyer, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Wilma Shirley, Tanya Smith, Esther Sparks, Harold and Mildred Turner and Faye Williams.

Expectant Mothers: Kristen Loper Nordin.

Special Children: (Birth Defects) -

Zachary Shelton, Gabriel Ross Finlayson, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Military: John Allen, Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Randall Nixon, Cole Wetzel and Rudy Will.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMP CAUDLE DAY CAMP

July 10 thru July 16

Monday thru Saturday

MUSIC WEEK

Directors: Chris George and Greg Sublett

Session for ages 10 to 18

Registration:

Sunday, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Friday Performance,

July 15TH, 8:30 PM.

Campers picked-up be-tween 9:00 and 10 AM, Saturday, the last day of camp.

Lines for Ladies – continued –

It may be yes, no or not yet, but they are answered.

"Wherever you work, you can pray. There is no place to which you can be banished where God is not near, and there is no time of day or night when His throne is inaccessible." (Charles Spurgeon)

"Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever."

Events

Men's Regular
Business Meeting
Monday, July 11th
7:00 PM
Dover Church of Christ

MEALS ON WHEELS

July 11TH thru 15TH
Monday thru Friday
Dover Church of Christ

LADIES NIGHT
Thursday, July 21ST
7:00 PM
Hostess: Sandra
Boatright

Lawn Care

Friday, July 8TH
John Myers
Troy Curtis

Mark Your Calendars

4th of July Celebration!!

Dover Church of Christ
Monday 4:00 PM
to 8:00 PM
Lots of Games, Bump &
Jump, Cook-out,
Contests, Watermelon
Feast, etc.
Followed by: Fireworks
at Lovelady Ball Park

Meat (hamburgers, hot dogs,
etc.) provided by the church.

See Sign-up Sheet to register
for this event.

Bring drinks for your family,
lawn chairs and
a potluck dish, dessert or
watermelon.

For more info contact:
Kim Miller

JULY Birthdays

01 Silas Powers
05 Donna Bushea
14 Britni Brazelton
15 Dan Straight
16 Chris Ramirez
Diane Walters
18 Kim Statler
23 Emily Boley
Earl Whitted
25 Becky Miller
Paul Williams
30 James Chadwick
31 Kim Miller
T. J. Turner

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

5TH SUNDAY

Dover Church of Christ
Potluck Dinner
After morning services
July 31ST

Singles' Breakfast
Every Saturday
9:00 AM
Dewayne's
Dover, AR

THOSE TO SERVE

July 03, 2005

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Blake Walters
Brett Walters

Communion

Podium: Donny Forehand
Serve: Marion Helton
Mike Creel
Paul Helton
Rex McDaniel

Scripture Reading

Rick Hollis

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Robert Lee
Dennis Whiteside

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Charlene Clark

Communion to Shut-Ins

Troy Curtis
William Boley

Greeters

Marion and Joyce Helton

Wednesday Night Devotional

July 6, 2005

Alan Boatright

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: Charlene Clark
Cara Williams

Sunday Service: Keri Letson

Wednesday Class: Pat McAlister

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