



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299

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November 20, 2005

## MY LINES

Micah Williams

### “In the World, But Not of the World”

John 17 records the great prayer which Jesus prayed for His disciples on the night of His betrayal. As He poured out His heart to God He said, “*I do not ask thee to take them out of the world but to keep them from the evil one.*” Then He went on to say, “*They are not of this world, even as I am not of this world.*” (John 17:15, 16) In the world, but not of it! What an exciting concept!

Have you ever wondered why the Lord does not immediately take His people out of the dark, dysfunctional world as soon as they are saved? The answer is simple: *He has work for us here!* He left His disciples in the world because this is where He wants them to be. The world is the Christian base of operations; His arena of action. Jesus wants us here for good reasons . . .

1) **We Are Here For His Sake.** He wants us to carry out the work He Himself came into the world to do. He described that work in Luke 19:10, “*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*” as seeking and saving the lost. And He said in John 20:21, “. . . *as my Father hath sent Me, even so I send you.*” We are here on earth to tend to His business, to continue the work He came to do. “*And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business with this until I come back.’*” (Luke

19:13) In this world He has no eyes but ours to see the opportunities . . . no tongues but ours to speak words of hope and encouragement . . . no feet but ours to take the lost the good news of salvation . . .

2) **We Are Here for Others’ Sake.** Most people in this world are not much interested in their own spiritual welfare. “. . . *the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the glorious light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*” (II Corinthians 4:4) Oblivious to the danger they are in, they see no need for salvation. So for the sake of others we are commissioned to take the Gospel – God’s power of salvation – to as many people as possible. Interestingly, Jesus did not entrust this work of seeking the lost to angels. He put the treasure of the Gospel in “*earthen vessels.*” “*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves . . .*” (II Corinthians 4:7) He gave the job to us! (Matthew 28:19-20) “*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*”

2) **We Are Here For Our Own Sake.** The Christian life is one of growth; it is a maturing process. We must “. . . *grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” (II Peter 3:18) When we begin living the Christian life we are just spiritual babies. We still have a lot of growing up to do. It takes study, prayer, striving of the

spirit, repentance and self discipline for us to grow up into the image of Christ. “. . . *and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him . . .*” (Colossians 3:10) So we are left in the world after conversion to give us time and opportunity to grow into the likeness of Jesus. This world is a proving ground to prepare us for eternity. We need time to fully become what our Lord wants us to be.

Jesus’ prayer in John 17 was for us! (John 17:20-21) “*I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.*” He declined to ask for our removal from the world. He never prayed that we might find escape; He prayed instead that we might find victory! Christianity was never meant to isolate us from life but to equip us for life . . . The Gospel does not promise escape from problems, but power to overcome problems . . . “. . . *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me,*” (Philippians 4:13) Jesus does not offer easy peace, but final victory . . . “. . . *strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.’*” (Acts 14:22)

We are in the world . . . but not of it!

Bobby Dockery  
The Seeker  
Fayetteville, AR

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## Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

It's a special time of the year when we are reminded to be especially thankful for what we have. It has also been a special time of giving over the past few months for the Katrina victims. Giving has been on our minds and hearts. I saved this article from *Christian Woman*, Nov./Dec. 1997, written by Marcia Haggard. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

"Our congregation is small, but we are blessed to have several young children. Watching them, a person easily sees why Jesus has such a love for children. Their lives are as ours should be. Children are pure, loving, caring, forgiving and most of all, generous. One young child in our congregation could teach the world a lesson about giving. His name is Steven. He is 18 months old and full of life. One moment he is laughing and the next he is crying. - a typical 18-month-old child in worship service. But no matter what Steven is doing, when the time comes for the Lord's Supper, Steven knows what will be next and begins to ask his mother for money. He gets very excited and repeatedly asks for money until his mother has time to reach into her purse and get his dollar. As the men pass the bread and juice, he waves the dollar proudly in the air. 'Money!' Then the time finally comes for him to place his dollar into the collection plate. Excitedly, he will put his dollar into the plate and says, 'Thank You.' We, as older Christians, probably never think to say 'thank you' to our Lord for the opportunity that we have to give back a portion of what He has richly given to us. If only we could get excited when the collection plate is passed. If only we could remember to say 'thank you.' Each Sunday as I see Steven happily give his money to Jesus and as I hear his precious voice say, 'thank you,' I can envision Jesus' smiling face. And I can almost hear Him say, 'Thank You, Steven!'"

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**"If you have trouble remembering something, just forget it!"**

## Remember Our Sick

**James Ray Damouth** - brother of Pat Holloway, home recovering from gall bladder surgery. Still facing heart surgery, valve is leaking. James lives in Niles, MI.

**James Dykes** - St. Louis, MO, running tests, diagnosed with bladder cancer.

**Sue Griffin** - health problems.

**Baby Emmy May** - open heart surgery November 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Bobbie Moline** - Gwen Hale's sister and Lois Boley's friend - still running tests, excessive fluids in leg.

**Baby Kaitlyn Schwartz** - Another tough surgery November 14, followed by chemo with stem cell transplant.

**Lisa Stone** - St. Louis, MO, surgery of November 1, went well. Tumor was benign, home recovering.

**Elsie Youngerman** - St. Louis area, having surgery to remove a tumor November 7. (Has Hodgkin's disease)

**Pauline Whorton** - heart problems.

**Shut-ins:** Needs your prayers and visits.

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**  
**Mae Vanzandt**

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:  
**Thelma Hatcher**  
**Esther Sparks**

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**

**Others Who Need Our Prayers:**

Kenneth Anderson, Lois Boley, Ruby Boley, Susie Boley, Bernice Brown, Jamie Churchill, Jason Coulter, Jeff Davis, Ronda Fields, Randy Holland, Brian Holloway, Hayden Jones, Gigi Lane, Robert and Rose Lee, Bill and Mary McAlister, Jerry Martin, Janetta Mason, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Gene Smith, Tanya Smith and Valentina.

**Expectant Mothers:** Kristen Loper Nordin and Shelley Parker Culwell.

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

**Military:** Jon Allen, Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Johnny Ragsdale and Cole Wetzell.

## "A SOFT TOUCH"

Kindness has been described as a language that even the deaf can hear and the blind can read. Maybe that is why the New Testament words kindness, meekness and gentleness are attached to a variety of sensitive moments that need a "soft" touch.

When someone needs the forgiveness of God, we need to be kind in helping him or her overcome their sin.

When someone needs forgiveness, we need to be kind enough to give it to him or her. **"Let all bitterness . . . be put away . . . and be ye kind one to another . . . forgiving each other."** (Ephesians 4:32)

When we are about to say something that might hurt someone else, we need to measure our words with kindness. We are, **" . . . to speak evil of no man . . . but be gentle . . . toward all men."** (Titus 3:2)

When we study the Bible personally, we need to accept its direction with kindness. We must **" . . . receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save."** (James 1:21)

When we study the Bible with others, we need to season our words with kindness. When others want to know why we believe what we believe, we need to **" . . . give an answer . . . with meekness and fear."** (1 Peter 3:15)

**"That which maketh a man to be desired is his kindness."**

(Proverbs 19:22)

*Bulletin Digest*

## Events

Dover Church of Christ  
Children's Church  
Every Sunday

11:15 - 12:00 Noon  
Ages 2 to 8

Story for November:  
"Adam and Eve."  
Genesis 3:1-24

Memory Verse:  
"... hear the Word of God  
and obey it." (Luke 11:28b)

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Adult Christmas  
PARTY

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 PM  
Host/Hostess:  
Allen & Marilyn  
Veasman

Santa's Gift  
(for the Santa  
Exchange Game)

Potluck

Meat Dish Furnished  
See sign-up sheet to indicate  
the dish you would like to  
bring.

Join In The Fellowship!!

## Mark Your Calendars

AREA WIDE  
YOUTH DEVO

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 PM

Church of Christ  
Student Center  
Arkansas Tech University  
Hosted by:  
Dardanelle Church of  
Christ

BABY SHOWER

Sunday, 2:00 PM  
December 4<sup>th</sup>

Dover Church of Christ  
Fellowship Hall  
It's A "Boy"

Shell/Aron Culwell  
(Soon to be proud parents!)

Harding University's School of  
Biblical Studies (HSBS) is  
offering a 50% tuition grant to  
qualified applicants desiring to  
participate in the HSBS  
accelerated Bible and ministry  
training program. Students may  
pursue degreed or non-degreed  
tracks. For more information  
about HSBS, call 501-279-4290, see  
[www.harding.edu/hsbs](http://www.harding.edu/hsbs) or email  
[gwgregg@harding.edu](mailto:gwgregg@harding.edu).

## November Birthdays

- 01 Esther Sparks
- 06 Roxana Shoptaw
- 07 Charlene Clark
- 09 Kim Walters
- 10 Diane Shinn  
Andy Jackson
- 12 Dana Bates
- 14 Daniel Loper
- 15 Brent Hottinger  
Chris Loper  
Michael Williams
- 18 Clara Hefley  
Kevin Miller
- 20 Marion Helton  
Kimberlee Bushea
- 24 Ted Shinn
- 29 Charles Hickey  
Taylor Thomas

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Lord, we humbly ask thy blessing  
on the turkey and the dressing,  
on the yams and the cranberry jelly,  
and the pickles from the deli.

Bless the apple pie and tea,  
bless each and every calorie.  
Let us enjoy Thanksgiving dinner.  
Tomorrow we can get thinner.

For all Thy help a long the way  
we're thankful this Thanksgiving day.  
We're thankful too,  
for all our dear ones,  
for all the far away and near ones.

Although we may be far apart,  
we're together in my heart.  
Keep us in Thy loving care,  
This is my Thanksgiving prayer.

*P.S. Anyone who wishes  
may help with the dishes.*

*Author Unknown*

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**  
*The Life Lines Staff*

# ***THOSE TO SERVE***

***November 20, 2005***

## **Sunday A.M.**

**Announcer:** Randall Walters  
**Song Leader:** Merrell Shoptaw

### **Prayers**

Earl Whitted  
Gary Williams

### **Communion**

**Podium:** Marion Helton  
**Serve:** James Chadwick  
Jim Killer  
Paul Helton  
Lawrence Boley

### **Scripture Reading**

Rex McDaniel

## **Sunday P.M. Prayers**

William Boley  
Doug Wilson

# **SPEAKER**

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## **Prepare Table for Communion**

Donny and Leigh Ann Forehand

## **Communion to Shut-Ins**

Lawrence Boley  
William Boley

### **Greeters**

Gary and Sonia Williams

## **Wednesday Night Devotional**

**November 23, 2005**

Earl Whitted

**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:**

Donny Forehand  
Brent Hottinger  
Chris Loper  
Rex McDaniel  
Joe Miller

### **Nursery Attendants:**

**Sunday Class:** Carin Chance  
Sonia Williams

**Sunday Service:** Tanya and  
Danielle Smith

**Wednesday Class:** Marilyn Veasman

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