



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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“Epitaphs From The Catacombs”

On the outskirts of Rome, there is a system of about 60 underground tunnels known as the “Catacombs.” The tunnels, which are about 5 feet wide by 8 feet high, branch off into a maze of 600 miles of underground galleries. Many of the Catacombs were hollowed out by early Christians during the times of persecution and were used by them not only as places of burial, but also as places of refuge and worship when Roman opposition became especially intense.

The Catacombs tell a vivid story of the “fiery trial” which tested the faith of those early saints (I Peter 4:12). It is estimated that between four and seven million Christian martyrs were buried in the Catacombs during the 1st and 2nd Centuries A.D. When the crypts of these early saints were opened, the savagely mutilated skeletons offered abundant evidence of the sadistic tortures they endured for the sake of Jesus.

In the face of such affliction, we might have expected the faith of these early saints to waver. But the inscriptions taken from their tombs are a monument to their unshakeable confidence in Christ. One epitaph reads, “Here lies Marcia, put to rest in a dream of peace.” Another

bears the simple testimony, “Victorious in peace and in Christ.” Still another proclaims, “Being called away, he went in peace.”

How could these early Christians bury their loved ones with such assurance . . . ? How could they speak so confidently of peace and hope while undergoing such unspeakable oppression . . . ? What was the secret which allowed them to develop such great faith . . . ?

They strengthened their faith by studying God’s Word. These Christians realized that, **“Faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.”** (Romans 10:17, NAS) So they **“. . . continually devote(d) themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”** (Acts 2:42, NAS) Taking advantage of every opportunity to read and study the scriptures, **“They received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.”** (Acts 17:11)

They strengthened their faith by assembling together. They met together constantly for periods of worship and devotion. When persecution became so fierce that they could no longer meet publicly and from house to house, they met in the Catacombs. There surrounded

by darkness and death, they sang triumphant hymns of faith and hope. Their determination not to forsake the assembling of themselves together was an important factor in the building of their faith. (Hebrews 10:25)

They strengthened their faith by encouraging one another. Recognizing their need to **“. . . encourage one another daily . . .”** (Hebrews 3:13), they sought each other’s company so that they could, **“. . . stimulate one another in love and good deeds.”** (Hebrews 10:24, NAS) They found the courage to live faithfully in the examples and exhortations of their brothers and sisters in Christ. The bond of fellowship drew them closer to one another and closer to Christ.

They had world-conquering faith because they knew that, **“. . . greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”** (I John 4:4)

Does your own faith need a boost . . . ? Then learn from the faith which wrote the epitaphs of the Catacombs!

By Bobby Dockery
From The Seeker
Fayetteville, Arkansas

“Every day let God say something to you. Keep the line of communication open between you and God by reading His Word.”

House to House – Heart to Heart

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Procrastination. Do you put off doing things? Do you say, "I'll do it later, or perhaps tomorrow? Putting things off is pretty easy to do. We always think we can do it later. But, do we have tomorrow?"

"There's an old story about a painfully shy guy who fell in love with a young lady. He sensed she felt the same way but he could not find the courage to ask her out. Finally, he decided he would mail her a love letter every day for a year, and then ask her for a date. Faithfully, he followed his plan, and at year's end he was courageous enough to call her— only to discover she had married the mailman! Oh, the perils of procrastination!"

This is a funny story, probably not the end of the world for this fellow. Maybe he has a chance to find someone else. But, maybe not!

Actually, we never know how many chances we will get. Some things can't be put off.

We should not procrastinate with our spiritual life. We are never promised tomorrow, Paul tells us, "**Now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.**" (II Corinthians 6:2b) Our souls are too important to delay accepting God into our lives. "**Fear the Lord and serve Him . . .**" (Deuteronomy 6:13; Psalm 33:8)

Often young people put off obeying the gospel. They are young and have plenty of time. Death is not something they think about, not for them. They'll do it when they get a little older. "I'll do it later."

Others want to wait for a more convenient time. They believe in baptism but want to think about it longer. I'll do it later.

Then, others have fallen away from their belief and intend to correct this. They plan to come back, but not right now. They are out of the habit and it's hard to go back. "I'll do it later."

Prayers and Sympathy: for the family of **LuAnn Golden** who passed away November 20, 2007. She was Teresa Parker's sister.

Remember Our Sick

A. G. Barton – broke elbow, hip, ribs in a fall. Surgeries to follow.

Bob Bennett – trying a new treatment, follow-up appointment November 30th.

William Boley – St Vincent's, Heart valve surgery scheduled Wednesday AM, 21st.

Bernice Brown – home, recovering from pace-maker surgery.

Mary Ann Churchill – released from hospital, recovering from pneumonia.

Mike Cushman – of Evening Shade, diagnosed with cancer.

Jessalyn Davis – cancer, undergoing treatment at home, hospice.

Charles Hickey – home, Hospice.

Ray King – serious health problems.

Ryan Nicholson – home, recovering from a heart attack.

Janie West – of Center Valley, seriously injured in an auto wreck.

Judy Will – hospitalized with a stroke. A cousin to Marion Helton and Joan Vance.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area:

Evelyn Burton
Mae Vanzandt

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:

Evelyn Driver
Melba Hodges

Stella Manor:

Louise Killer

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Daisy Hogins Anderson, Amie Barkley, Carolyn Bennett, Bill Besterfeldt, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley, Susie Boley, James Chadwick, Jeff Davis, Leota Hickey, Charles Ensey, Hoyt and Sarah Ensey, Sue Griffin, David Guthrie, Dorothy King, Jim Lackey, Robert and Rose Lee, Liliya McDaniel, Linda Melton, Charles Proctor, Summer Russell, Don Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith and Lloyd Whitted.

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

Expectant Mothers: Becky Clark, Kristen Nordin.

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

My Savior Knows

When by failure I am harried

Though the fault is not my own;
When the burdens I have carried
Are by friends and foes unknown;
There is this great source of gladness
That will brush despair aside –
Far above this vain world's madness,
There is One who knows I've tried.

When the best within is mustered
To the task to no avail,
With the best of plans so flustered
That my efforts only fail,
Often here I'm roughly treated;
For the scorners must deride –
But I will not fell defeated,
For my Savior knows I've tried.

Let the whole know criticize me
For the well-meant plans I've laid;
Let their banter stigmatize me
For each brave attempt I've made.
I will brave their harsh decisions;
Let the cruel critics chide –
What care I for their derisions,
If my Savior knows I've tried.

Author Unknown

15 Ways to Enhance Your Day!

1. Get up early.
2. Look around outside before going to work.
3. Relax and enjoy your meals.
4. Spend time with friends.
5. Pace yourself.
6. Find a quiet place to go.
7. Praise yourself and others.
8. Develop positive relationships.
9. See your mistakes as stepping stones.
10. Keep track of your own moods so you can watch out for them.
11. Say NO without feeling guilty.
12. Learn effective time management.
13. Pay attention to health, diet and sleep.
14. Exercise regularly.
15. Keep from comparing yourself to others.

*From the West Side Church of Christ Vision
Russellville, Arkansas*

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

Adult Christmas Party

Saturday,
December 8, 6:00 PM
Host/Hostess: Allen and
Marilyn Veasman

Bring a Santa Gift!
(for the Santa Game)

Potluck
Meat dish furnished.

Indicate on the Sign-Up
sheet the dish you plan to
bring.

Come!
Join in the fun and
fellowship!

Mark Your Calendars

Men's Regular Business
Meeting
December 3, 7 PM
Deacons' Meeting 6 PM
Dover Church of Christ

Men's Devo

Thursday,
December 13, 7 PM
Host: Donny Forehand

Ladies Night Christmas Party

Thursday,
December 20, 6 PM
at the
Dover Church of Christ
Fellowship Hall

White Elephant and/or
Gift Exchange Present.

Potluck

(Optional: personal items for
the Abused Women Shelter)

Senior Community Luncheon

Saturday, December 8th
Dover Methodist Church
(Meals are delivered to the
home-bound)

December Birthdays

01 Leigh Anne Forehand
04 Steve Bates
06 Presley Williams
08 Suzanne Helton
14 Presten Nordin
16 Athel Hill
22 Alaynna Williams
23 Jamie Statler
Cara Williams
25 Amanda Besterfeldt
28 Betty Walters

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

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

**The Search Program can
now be accessed any time
website:**
www.searchtv.org

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

*"FRIENDSHIP is a
promise made with the
heart, unbreakable by
distance, unchangeable by
time."*

THOSE TO SERVE

December 02, 2007

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Marion Helton
Joe Miller

Communion

Podium: Donny Forehand
Serve: Brent Hottinger
Brett Walters
Chris Besterfeldt
Chris Loper

Scripture Reading

Sid Womack

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Jim Killer
Gary Williams

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Clara Hefley

Communion to Shut-Ins

Jim Killer
Marion Helton

Greeters

Alan and Sandra Boatright

Wednesday Night Devotional

December 5, 2007

Chris Moss

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
Joe Miller
Chris Moss

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: JoAnn Killer
Sunday Church: Pat McAlister
Kaeli Miller

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