



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299

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Email: [staff@dovercoc.org](mailto:staff@dovercoc.org)

December 4, 2005

## MY LINES

Micah Williams

### Two Steps Forward One Step Back

They were the most talented team in football. They could go out any Sunday and beat any team. This team was the fastest, quickest and biggest team in modern history.

They started the next season at 5-0, but fortunes soon changed. All that talent and yet they seemed to regress . . . They soon lost the next two games in a row. You could tell, by the players faces, they were frustrated and mad. But as angry as they were, the coach was worse. He was visibly steamed after the loss of the game by 14 points and ran off the field ready to embark on a tirade.

The press was going crazy with this story, "How can a team so talented, so gifted, lose like this? Let's ask the coach."

After two days of watching game films the tired and angry coach slowly walked to the podium, in which a young, witty, sports writer asked, "What's wrong coach, what's the problem with your team?"

The coach's face turned flushed, he took a deep breath and said, "They can't block, they can't catch and they can't tackle . . . we have to learn the fundamentals or it is going to be a very long year . . . it's really frustrating. We take two steps forward and one step back . . ."

**Frustration:** How frustrating that must be, to have talent, to have all the tools for a championship game team and then have to go back to fundamentals . . . Especially by mid-season, a good team ought to be focusing on schemes and

evaluating their opponents, instead of having to work on fundamentals. That will make a coach want to quit.

**Maturity:** No one can escape coming into the world as an infant because that is the only way to get here! But it is tragic when a baby fails to mature. No matter how much parents and grandparents love to hold and cuddle the baby, it is still their great desire that this baby grows up and enjoys a full life as a mature adult.

God has the same desire for His children. That is why He calls to us, "Go on to maturity!"

**Growing:** Of course the lesson is neither on the football team or its losses nor on our need to learn fundamentals . . . or being a grown baby . . . Rather it is as the Bible and God tells us. "Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment." (Hebrews 6:1-2) The writer continues his warnings to those who, though believers, have failed to mature. "Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of oracles of God, and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil." (Hebrews 5:11-14) The foundation of "elementary teachings" has been laid: we mature by building on them, not going back over them again and again.

If we are going to make progress, we have to leave the childish things behind and go forward in spiritual growth. Hebrews 6:1 literally reads, "Therefore, having left (once and for all the elementary lessons (the ABC's) of the teaching of Christ."

When I was in kindergarten, the teacher taught us our ABC's. (We didn't have television to teach us in those days.)

You learn your ABC's so that you can read words, sentences, books, etc., - in fact, anything in literature. But you do not keep learning the basics. You use the basics to go on to better things.

Jesus warns us, in order to be His disciples, we must be prepared to count the cost of discipleship . . . and growth is a part of our counting the cost.

During Jesus' early ministry, He drew large crowds. Many were on the "bandwagon" listening to the teachings of Jesus until . . . READ LUKE 14:28-32.

God's call for you today is to go on toward maturity.

Being a disciple of Jesus is about discipleship.

Put the elementary things behind you, build on them. Challenge yourself with the help of Jesus to grow. "If you are not growing, then you are dying."

**Let us make two steps forward and not one step back!!**

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### Prayer and Sympathy

For the family of **Velva Turner Bates** who passed away Friday, November 18, 2005. She was a member of the Church of Christ and a life-long resident of the Johnson/Pope county areas and loved by all that knew her. Memorial services Monday, November 21, Russellville, AR, interment Owens Cemetery.

## Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Sometimes we receive an inheritance whether we deserve it or not. It may come from family, friend or even someone we don't know. A person who has cared for someone who has been ill for years may well deserve what they inherit.

The inheritance we receive from God comes from His grace. This grace is not earned, but we must deserve it. His inheritance is available to everyone. We aren't on the receiving end just because we are one of His family.

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."* (Ephesians 2:8-9) But Paul does not stop here. In verse 10 he continues, *"... for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

Occasionally we will inherit from an unknown benefactor, but usually we inherit because we wear the name. Deserving or not, you receive the inheritance because you belong to that family. Often unresolved differences can mean that someone with the birthright is left out completely. To receive the inheritance that God offers we must wear the name of Christ. We become one family. The inheritance, He has promised to us, we want to share with others. You can't be selfish and share it alone. It is for all who want to share it.

Abraham received an inheritance through his faith and obedience. We receive ours the same way, faith and obedience.

Just as unresolved difference will cause someone to lose their inheritance within a family, so will the unrighteous lose their inheritance in the kingdom of God.

We were created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Our inheritance is a gift from God, given freely. We do good works because of our love of God and man. We could never hope to do enough good works to earn what a glorious gift He has in store for us.

## Remember Our Sick

**Helen Brown** – Virgil Turner's 87 year-old mother, health problems.

**Seanie Brown** – age 92, and her daughter, **Wanda Brown**, both with health problems. Both are relatives of Virgil Turner's.

**Tom Cloud** – Joyce Walter's brother, had surgery Monday, November 21, to correct circulation in legs.

**Mary and David Hutchinson** – of Russellville, both have been diagnosed with cancer. Mary is Virgil Turner's step-mother.

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

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

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

**Brandon Reid** – age 15, collapsed lung, severe health problems. He is a friend of Kevin Miller's.

**Baby Kaitlyn Schwartz** – the surgery on November 14th, went well. They removed most of the cancerous tumor.

**Shut-ins:** Needs your 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:**

Kenneth Anderson, Lois Boley, Ruby Boley, Susie Boley, Jamie Churchill, Jason Coulter, James Ray Damouth, Jeff Davis, James Dykes, Ronda Fields, Sue Griffin, 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, Elsie Youngerman, Pauline Whorton 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, Greg Davis, Johnny Ragsdale and Cole Wetzel.

Darus Brown is stateside, temporarily.

## Sand and Stone

A story tells that two friends were walking through the desert. At some point in the journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other in the face.

The who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand:

**TODAY MY BEST FRIEND  
SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE.**

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him.

After he recovered from near drowning, he wrote on a stone:

**TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED  
MY LIFE.**

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on stone. Why?"

The other friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it."

**LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN  
THE SAND AND TO CARVE YOUR  
BLESSINGS IN STONE.**

*Author Unknown*

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## Environmental Trivia

People don't usually regard junk mail as an environmental hazard, just a nuisance. It actually creates an incredible waste. If a person were to save up all the unwanted paper received in the mail for a year, they would have the equivalent of 1½ trees. Therefore, if only a million people were to stop their junk mail, 1.5 million trees would be saved. The fuel and human energy necessary to deliver such a volume of mail would likewise be saved.

## Events

Dover Church of Christ  
Children's Church  
Every Sunday

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

Story for December:  
"Jesus was born in  
Bethlehem."  
(Luke 1:37)

Memory Verse:  
"For with God nothing will  
be impossible." (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.

## Mark Your Calendars

Join In The Fellowship!!

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!)

90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!!

For Athel Hill  
December 11th

Open House –  
2:00 – 4:00 PM  
(No Gifts)

Dover Church of Christ  
Fellowship Hall

Ladies Night

Annual Christmas  
Party

December 15, 6:30PM  
Hostess: Leota Hickey

## December Birthdays

- 01 Leigh Anne Forehand
- 04 Steve Bates
- 06 Presley Williams
- 08 Suzanne Helton
- 15 Bradley Smith
- 16 Athel Hill (90<sup>th</sup>)
- 22 Alayna Williams
- 23 Jamie Statler  
Cara Williams
- 28 Betty Walters
- 29 Lawrence Boley  
Zachary Meyer

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

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**Men's Business Meeting**  
**Dover Church of Christ**  
**December 5th**  
**Monday, 7:00 PM**

**Men's Devo**  
**Dover Church of Christ**  
**December 8<sup>th</sup>,**  
**Thursday, 7:00PM**

**Special Ministry**  
**Meeting**  
**Dover Church of Christ**  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>,**  
**Tuesday, 7:00PM**

# ***THOSE TO SERVE***

***December 04, 2005***

**Sunday A.M.**

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

## **Prayers**

Allen Veasman  
Blake Walters

## **Communion**

**Podium:** William Boley  
**Serve:** Troy Curtis  
Doug Wilson  
Robert Bird  
Chris Moss

## **Scripture Reading**

Alan Boatright

**Sunday P.M.  
Prayers**

Brett Walters  
Robert Lee

# **SPEAKER**

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## **Prepare Table for Communion**

Diane Walters

## **Communion to Shut-Ins**

Donny Forehand  
Blake Forehand

## **Greeters**

Earl and Frances Kennedy

## **Wednesday Night Devotional**

**December 7, 2005**

John Myers

**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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