



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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December 10, 2006

## GUN-BARREL CHRISTIANS

An Old and wise preacher once remarked: “Some church members are just as straight as a gun barrel – and just as hard and cold as a gun barrel, too!” Tragically, that is not such an isolated condition. It is far more widespread than we like to admit. In fact, honesty compels us to admit that most of us, in certain situations, are guilty of a “gun barrel” mentality.

We need to be reminded, from time to time, of the following . . .

**We must Be Doctrinally And Morally Straight.** Moral and doctrinal correctness are indispensable elements of Christian living. There is “right” and “wrong” and God’s people must seek the right and shun the wrong. We must be concerned about doctrinal correctness because Jesus said, “. . . you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32) Truth is there; it may be known; only truth provides an avenue to freedom and God. It is likewise important for us to be morally correct because God insists: “*You shall be holy, for I am holy.*” (I Peter 1:16) The Bible also commands: “*Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*” (Philippians 1:27) God’s standards are never optional. We must strive to be models of soundness,

propriety and uprightness.

**We Must Not Allow Commitment To Moral And Doctrinal Integrity Make Us Hard, Or Mean, Or “Holier-Than-Thou.”** Tragically, this can often be a problem with the best people on earth. We can pride ourselves on being “gun-barrel” straight without realizing that we have also become “gun barrel” hard. We may be able to give the right answers doctrinally and still have the wrong kind of hearts. We may allow our concern for personal holiness to degenerate into a “holier-than-thou” complex.

John Gipson has well commented:

*“With all the compassion of the elder brother, we refuse to have anything to do with the one who has sinned. We praise the preacher who has the guts to slaughter the people of God when they assembled for worships; and the one who will call down fire from heaven upon those who do not believe . . .”*

**Genuine Christianity Never Makes A Person Anything But Tenderhearted!** (Ephesians 4:32) “*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted. Forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*” (I Peter 3:8)

*“To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit . . .”* Doctrinally, we must learn to “. . . *speak the truth in love.*” (Ephesians 4:15) Morally, we must learn to hate sin while loving sinners. (Jude 22,23) We must not only live by the tests of truth, decency and fairness; we must also consider what is merciful, generous and kind. To be cold, unforgiving and hard is to miss the entire emphasis of the gospel!

The point is : You can’t take the measure of a person’s Christianity with a plumb line alone. You also have to take into account the largeness of his heart, the depth of his humility, and the breath of his compassion. After all, it is entirely possible to be just as straight as a gun barrel and just as hard . . . cold . . . and empty . . .

*Bobby Dockery  
The Seeker  
Fayetteville, Arkansas*

## Lines for Ladies

*By Pat McAlister*

My daughter and her family moved to a small town in Colorado. Her kids run, play and ride their bikes in the streets with their neighborhood playmates. My grandson, Alec, who is nine, knows that he must check in with his mom every hour. However, Lakyn, his five year old sister, can't seem to remember this rule. Time means nothing to her when she is having fun.

One evening, while talking to her, I asked if she had played with her friends that day. She said, "No, Granny, I'm grounded!" A week later, the same thing. So I asked, "Lakyn, are you going to be grounded the rest of your life?" She laughed and said no.

This made think of how God could have us grounded for the things we do. We know we should not gossip, but we do, sometimes even before we think. A slip of the tongue before we realize it. There, we are grounded. We know we should not lie but we always exaggerate. I've done that a hundred times. There, we are grounded again.

Not doing things we need to do is another reason for being grounded. It is wrong to leave undone the things we should be doing. If not for God's forgiving grace we could be grounded for life.

In the Word we find all the instructions for living a good clean life. We find the guideline for our salvation. We find ways to help build us a happy and healthy life. Anything we need or want is written there for us. But just as Lakyn fails to follow the rules, we do the same thing. We fail to heed the warnings. His guidelines are for our good and we know it. We get weak or too busy in our things to do what we should.

Next, we are praying for forgiveness. We intend to do better. We realize His rules are for the best. And we don't want to be grounded for life!

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*It isn't necessary to blow out another person's light in order to let your light shine.*

## Remember Our Sick

**Daisy Hogins Anderson** – cancer no longer in remission, receiving treatments.

**Shirlie Chadwick** – home recovering from gall-bladder surgery.

**Ina Delle Cloud** – wife of Tom Cloud, having by-pass surgery, Mon., 12-3-06.

**Charles Hickey** – still experiencing extreme pain.

**Grace Ann Rowland** – Mary Ann/Jamie Churchill's granddaughter, hospitalized in LR, in serious condition form an auto accident.

**Shut-ins:** Need prayers and visits.

Dover Area:

**Bernice Brown**

**Evelyn Burton**

**Sandra Mooney**

**Mae Vanzandt**

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:

**Thelma Hatcher**

Stella Manor:

**Louise Killer,**

**Pauline Whorton**

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Walter and Thelma Arcynski, Twila Bench, Lawrence Boley, Lloyd Boley, Susie Boley, Gail Brewer, Jamie Churchill, Tom Cloud, Jeff Davis, Charles Ensey, Hoyt Ensey, Barbara Forehand, Rebecca Gray, Sue Griffin, Robert and Rose Lee, True McCabe, Jannie Myers, Charles Proctor, Jonathon Roberts, Annie Robinson Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Stone Family, Lela Beth Wallace, David Walters, Ahishi Web and Elsie Youngerman.

Special Children: Bethaney Beasley, Emmy May, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

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

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## Sympathy and Prayers

For the family of John Myers who passed away Saturday, November 18, 2006.

He will be greatly missed by his family, his church family and friends of the community.

## It's All In How You Look At It

The father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live.

They spent a couple of days and nights with what might be considered a poor and hard working family

On their return home from the trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad!"

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have a whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us; they have friends to protect them."

The father was speechless. Then the son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing?

Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have.

Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!

*Author Unknown  
Home Touch*

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**Truth For Today collection on  
November 26<sup>th</sup>, netted \$2,345.00.**

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*A good home must be made, not  
bought.*

## 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

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### Men's Devo

December 14<sup>th</sup>,  
Thursday, 7:00 PM

Will meet at Merrell  
Shoptaw's Home

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Please Remember we are  
still feeding families in our  
community.

Can foods, etc. needed for  
the Dover Church of Christ  
food pantry.

Also, for the Southern  
Christian Home Truck that  
will be here in December.

## Mark Your Calendars

### DOVER LADIES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 21, 2006  
Thursday, 6:00 PM  
Hostess:  
Leota Hickey

### Good Samaritan Christmas Activities

For Children age 2  
and older

Saturday, December 16  
11:00 AM thru 3:00 PM

Dover Church of Christ  
Fellowship Hall

More Details Later!

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Celebration

December 31, 2006  
POTLUCK  
Following Sunday  
Morning Services

No evening services to be  
scheduled for December  
31<sup>st</sup>. (New Year's Eve)

## December Birthdays

01 Leigh Anne Forehand  
04 Steve Bates  
06 Presley Williams  
08 Suzanne Helton  
14 Presten Nordin  
16 Athel Hill  
22 Alayna Williams  
23 Jamie Statler  
Cara Williams  
28 Betty Walters  
29 Lawrence Boley

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

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### "In Search of the Lord's Way"

Now 24/7

The SEARCH Program  
can now be accessed at any  
time on its website:  
[www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

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

# ***THOSE TO SERVE***

***December 10, 2006***

## **Sunday A.M.**

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

### **Prayers**

William Boley  
Rick Hollis

### **Communion**

**Podium:** James Chadwick  
**Serve:** Chris Besterfeldt  
Sid Womack  
Steve Pennington  
Allen Veasman

### **Scripture Reading**

Blake Walters

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

Sid Womack  
Robert Bird

# **SPEAKER**

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## **Prepare Table for Communion**

Leigh Anne Forehand

## **Communion to Shut-Ins**

Allen Veasman  
Blake Forehand

### **Greeters**

Allen and Marilyn Veasman

## **Wednesday Night Devotional December 13, 2006**

Rick Hollis

### **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:** Patsy Wisbrock  
Kaeli Miller  
**Sunday Church:** Pat McAlister  
Kaeli Miller

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