



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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December 16, 2007

## The God Who Gives

We worship a generous God. From the beginning, He has been the God who gives, gives again, and keeps on giving. When we are generous, we show that we are made in His image. When we open our hearts to give ourselves and our possessions, we imitate God the Father because this is what He has always done for the human family.

When first-century Christians named Paul and Barnabas wanted pagans to understand the difference between lifeless idols and the living God, the Holy Spirit inspired them to talk about God's generosity toward the human race. They told idol-worshippers that, ". . . He (God the Creator) has not left Himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." When rain falls, when crops grow, when food covers our table, and when joy fills our hearts, we have evidence to prove the existence of God's grace and goodness toward us.

King David understood that God's gifts enable us to be generous. "But who am I, and who are my people," David asks,

*"that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand . . . O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building You a temple for Your Holy Name, it comes from Your hand, and all of it belongs to you."*

James sums up God's goodness toward us when he writes that : . . . *every good gift and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*

Nowhere do we see God's generosity more clearly, however, than in the gift of His Son for the sins of the world. Jesus Christ describes the Father's generosity when He tells Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." All around the world, believers pay attention to that Blessed Gift during the Christmas Season.

We admire the courage and patriotism of young men and women who are willing to risk, and even lay down their lives, in order to secure freedom from tyranny for the people of Iraq. We have seen grief-stricken loved ones attempting to deal with the loss of a son or daughter

who made the supreme sacrifice on behalf of Iraqi freedom and our national security. That is real giving.

When God decided to offer His only Son as a sacrifice for our sins, and when Jesus went to the cross because it was the only way for sinners to have the hope of heaven, human beings experienced the blessing of real generosity. This was generosity at its peak. The Bible says, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich." Are we becoming poor to help anyone? If Jesus did, shouldn't we?

Recently a Christian asked a group of Bible scholars, "How poor should we be?" No one knew the answer, and I don't either. What we can know for sure is that God wants us to be people who use what we have in a way that will help those in need. This kind of behavior honors and glorifies the God of Heaven.

*By Howard W. Norton, Editor  
Arkansas Christian Herald  
Published by the Institute  
for Church and Family  
at Harding University*

## Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Do you ever feel inadequate? I can't do that. That is too hard for me. I'm not cut out to do that. I don't have the talent she has. Most of us have heard, "*can't never could do anything.*" Determination will cut the odds every time.

There is a story in the Bible about someone beating the odds. He was too short, but he didn't let that stop him from seeing Jesus.

Jesus was passing through Jericho. Zaccheus lived there. He was very wealthy, a chief tax collector. He wanted to see Jesus but he was too short to see over the large crowd. Did he moan and groan because he was too short? Absolutely not! He overcame the odds. He climbed into a sycamore-fig tree. Jesus saw him and said, "*Zaccheus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.*" Of course some of the people muttered that Jesus was going to be the guest of a sinner. But Zaccheus stood up and told the Lord. "*Lord! Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.*" Then Jesus said to him, "*Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*" (Luke 19:1-10)

Zaccheus was short. He knew he would never get to see Jesus unless he did something about it. What he did was nothing great or impossible in itself. But it was something, and climbing the tree served the purpose.

Perhaps we can do something to make a difference. It may be something as simple as climbing a tree. It worked for Zaccheus.

## Remember Our Sick

**Yvonne Adkisson** – another surgery scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**A. G. Barton** – had surgeries (elbow & hip) now in re-hab at St. Mary's.

**Bob Bennett** – serious health problems.

**Lois Boley** – home, open heart surgery scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**William Boley** – home, better, in church Sunday.

**Tom Cloud** – had pacemaker adjustment, doing well.

**Mike Cushman** – of Evening Shade, diagnosed with cancer.

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

**Hoyt Ensey** – had surgery, home recovering.

**Jeania Evans** - teacher, Center Valley, cancer no longer in remission.

**Charles Hickey** – home, Hospice.

**Gary Hickey** – son of David and Margaret had stint surgery. Still having difficulties.

**Ray King** – serious health problems.

**Kim Miller** – serious health problems.

**Sharon, John, Amber Standridge** – of Pleasant Grove Church of Christ, requested prayer.

**Jamie West** – of Center Valley, home in a body cast.

**Mae Vanzandt** – in St. Mary's, re-hab.

**Judy Will** – home recovering from a stroke.

**Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:**

Dover Area:

**Evelyn Burton**

**Mae Vanzandt**

**Bernice Brown**

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:

**Evelyn Driver**

**Melba Hodges**

Stella Manor:

**Louise Killer**

**Others Who Need Our Prayers:**

Amie Barkley, Carolyn Bennett, Lloyd Boley, Susie Boley, Jeff Davis, Leota Hickey, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Sue Griffin, Dorothy King, Jim Lackey, Robert and Rose Lee, Liliya McDaniel, Linda Melton, Charles Proctor, Summer Russell, Don Sheeran, Reedie 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 Wetzell and Rudy Will.

## A Boy and His Baseball

Driving to work the other day, I was listening to the radio when Bob Steele related that some young boys in his neighborhood were throwing a baseball back and forth. Suddenly, he heard the sound of crashing glass. Looking around, he noted that the back glass of his wife's car had sustained a direct hit, and a young boy was running toward his wife. He noted further that in a moment his wife had her arms around the lad and was giving him a big hug.

His wife later explained why she was so eager to comfort the boy in his distress. As quickly as the ball hit, the boy came running up and said, "I did it. I'm sorry! Can you forgive me?" In the face of such open confession, and the obvious contrition, her heart immediately went out to the boy in ready forgiveness.

If we, being evil can be touched by repentance and confession, how much more is that true of our Heavenly Father. As David in the long ago said, "*The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.*" (Psalm 51:17) Isn't that good to know!

A vivid picture of the tender mercy of God is to be found in the haunting story told by Jesus of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Coming home, after a mis-spent period of his life the son said, "*Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.*" (Luke 15:18-19) Such penitence and confession touched the father and caused him to have compassion. The wayward son was immediately embraced and kissed by his father. The son was instantly restored and a joyful banquet was held.

And that, my friend, is the way God treats penitent sinners. It's His nature.

In the long ago God introduced Himself to Moses with the words, "*The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*" (Exodus 34:6) Blessed be the name of the Lord!

**John Gipson**

*House to House/Heart to Heart*

## 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

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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)

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## Mark Your Calendars

There will be no bulletins  
for the weeks of December  
30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and January 6<sup>th</sup>,  
2008.

The office will be closed  
from December 24, 2007  
thru January 1, 2008.

Tuesday's Class for Ladies  
is cancelled for December  
25, 2007 and for January 1,  
2008.

No Puppets for the weeks  
of December 16 thru  
December 30, 2007

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The Truth for Today  
Presentation  
November 25<sup>th</sup>,  
netted \$1,440.00.

## 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  
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](http://www.searchtv.org)

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

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# ***THOSE TO SERVE***

***December 16, 2007***

## **Sunday A.M.**

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

### **Prayers**

Chris Moss  
Chris Loper

### **Communion**

**Podium:** Donny Forehand  
**Serve:** Marion Helton  
Rex McDaniel  
Rick Hollis  
Robert Bird

### **Scripture Reading**

Jim Killer

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

Brett Walters  
Brent Hottinger

# **SPEAKER**

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## **Prepare Table for Communion**

Clara Hefley

## **Communion to Shut-Ins**

Alan Boatright  
Allen Veasman

### **Greeters**

Alan and Sandra Boatright

## **Wednesday Night Devotional**

**December 19, 2007**

Donny Forehand

### **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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