



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
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You Should Have Seen What Happened Sunday

By Allen Webster

Jacksonville Church of Christ

The view from the pulpit is often very interesting. People are so used to watching unresponsive TV and computer screens that they forget preachers can see them! After a while, the unexpected becomes commonplace and he is able to keep composure though "the walls come tumbling down."

When Christians gather for worship on the Lord's Day, something special happens. Their common bond is strengthened as in concert they pour out their heart's gratitude to their Savior. It is a time of worship (Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2), rejoicing (Psalms 118:24), examination (II Corinthians 13:5) and fellowship (Acts 2:42-47). It is the week's beginning and the week's highlight, nothing else done in the next hundred and fifty or sixty hours equals it. We understand why Paul once delayed a journey for seven days so he could worship the Lord on the Lord's Day with the Lord's people (cf. Acts 20:6-7).

People of all ages are usually present: babies, teens, young adults, families, empty-nest couples, senior saints and widow/widowers. Each comes to express a common love for an uncommon God; each feels a universal thirst for eternal Truth. While worship is formal and congregational, it is neither cold nor impersonal (in "spirit," John 4:24). Personalities are involved, and that can make it interesting. This past Lord's Day we had an uncommon service. You should have seen what happened.

A Baby Cried. Occasionally someone frowns when a child cries during services, but most of us smile. Good mothers (fathers) recognize the need to take a child out to avoid disturbing others, but we don't want them to feel self-conscious. We are glad it happens! What if no baby cried Sunday? It would have meant there were no babies, for all babies cry. A church without children is a church with its best

days behind instead of ahead. If no babies had cried Sunday, it might also have indicated that parents saw no need to train the next generation in the Lord's ways (Ephesians 6:4). Good parents want children to learn about God from their first Sunday on planet earth (cf. Matthew 18:1-3; 19:13, 14). We know they'll eventually learn to be quiet, but for now we're glad to hear them.

A Sister Left for Work. In a perfect world, all businesses would close so that every person could exalt the name of God in worship each Lord's Day (Psalms 34:3). It will be that way in heaven, but it is not that way on earth. This sister had to be at work before the service ended - what to do? She could have skipped the service and told others that she "had to work." She could have slept in, had plenty of time to get ready, left in time to avoid traffic and got a bite to eat before her shift. But she chose to get up early, be in Bible class. Sing God some songs, open her heart to Him in prayer, thank Him for Christ's sacrifice during communion, give Him part of last week's check and listen to His Word. She sat toward the back so as not to disturb others when she got up a few minutes before the sermon ended. Few saw her "sermon on priorities (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1,2) as the preacher did.

Pages Rustled. As the herald "preached the word" (II Timothy 4:2), hearers "searched the scriptures to see whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). Far from offending him, it was music to his ears. Jesus found "the place where it was written" (Luke 4:17), and so should we. We joke that our favorite word in a sermon are "in conclusion," but we find most Christians thirsty for the Word (I Peter 2:2) and "hungering after righteousness" (Matthew 5:8). They bring their Bibles, read their Bibles, mark their Bibles, memorize their Bibles and live by their Bibles.

A Sister Nodded. No one except the preacher probably noticed, but a faithful sister nodded in agreement with a sermon point. She would not speak out to say "amen" like her husband (I Corinthians

14:34; I Timothy 2:1), but she encouraged the preacher just as much without saying a word. "Nods" also help others in the audience to know that the sermon is expressing both the preacher's convictions and those of other Christians.

A Christian Worshipped for the First Time. Baptized on Tuesday, a young man offered God acceptable worship for the first time Sunday. God cleansed him from sin, set him in the church and watched with interest as he bowed his soul in adoration (Acts 22:16; I Corinthians 12:28; John 4:24). If the Lord delays His return, and his days are prolonged, that is probably only 1 out of 10,000 times he will offer public worship to his Creator (John 4:24; Hebrews 10:25), but it will likely never mean more to God or him than this first service. It was a beautiful step on a long journey.

Those from "Eight to Eighty" Committed to Read the Bible. About this time each year we encourage each member to commit to reading the whole Bible in 365 days. More than a hundred agreed to do so. The youngest is just eight years old and will read the Bible for the first time. Perhaps this is the first fifty or more times. The oldest is past eighty and may be reading it for the last time. Of course, we hope that each one will live to read it many more times, but for each there will come a "last time" (Hebrews 9:27; James 4:14). This aging saint may be reading the Bible for the one hundredth time. Its words are familiar, its cover is worn, its pages creased. It has fed, warmed, guided, encouraged, emboldened and edified through all the steeps, roughs, mountains and valleys of life. Yet the Bread of Life has never grown stale.

Tears Flowed. Christian love often finds itself expressed in tears, as it did with Jesus and the early Christians (Luke 19:41; Acts 20:37). God's Word touched good and honest hearts and souls responded Sunday to the Lord's invitation. Joyful tears flowed over, one sinner repented (cf. James 5:16, 19, 20). That's what happened Sunday! Insignificant? Hardly!

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

WORDS

A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may take a life;
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill.

A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may make the day;
A timely word may lessen stress;
A timely word may heal and bless.

Author Unknown

Words can heal and words can hurt. It is hard to imagine that a little word alone can affect our lives so much, but it can. A kind word can cause so much good; yet, an unkind word can cause so much pain.

We have all said something unkind and right away, wished we could take it back. Those words slip out before we realize, and then the damage is done. Why didn't we think before we said something? What were we thinking, or were we thinking? Of course, we can apologize; they may forgive us, but how soon will they forget it? It is easier to forgive than to forget.

It seems as though the nice things we say don't seem to ripple the stream. But, let us say something unkind and all havoc breaks loose. Perhaps it takes the kind words longer to materialize. Perhaps we don't see the effect as soon. If we say something unkind we will see the results right away.

Gracious and loving words have brought couples long and happy marriages. Just as the opposite, bitter and hateful words, can bring about a broken marriage. It comes down to whether we are selfish or not. Unselfish people have kind and loving words for others.

Kindness comes from God. If we read and study more of His word we should have kinder thoughts. If more good goes in us, more good will come out.

At the close of some of our ladies' classes we quote this verse: *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.*" (Psalms 19:14) If only we could always adhere to the words in this verse!

Remember Our Sick

Terry Adkins – of Mississippi fell, corrective surgery Tue., Dec. 9th, quadriceps muscles, clots are risky.

Amie Barkley – cat-skin & MRI normal, checking thyroid for weight loss

Tommy Causey - critically ill.

Mary Ann Churchill – serious health problems.

Kelli Cohoon – surgery successful, undergoing treatments; continue to pray.

Robert Cox – Vickie Cox's husband, serious health problems.

Troy Curtis – hip surgery Dec. 31.st

Hoyt Ensey – home, doing well.

Rick Hollis – serious back problems.

Matthew Moss – mild pneumonia, at home. Also has a virus.

Rodney Pfeifer – at home, improves some each day.

Gerald Sanders – needs a heart transplant

Mona Standridge – tumors enlarging.

Ted Ward – Sarah Ensey's father, serious health problems.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**

Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Joyce Austin

Evelyn Driver

Lorene McNutt

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**

Mae Vanzandt

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley, Susie Boley, Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Pauline Dale, Mel Davis, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Pat Holloway, Dorothy King, Robert Paul Leavell, Rose Lee, Linda Melton, Helen Moore, Julie Moss, BJ/Don Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend, and Judy Will.

Special Children: Zeke Church, Garrett Hogan, Tiffany Knight, Elysia Lee, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Our Military: Cole Wetzel, D. J. Bandy and Travis Coe.

History of the Candy Cane

Long ago, there was a candymaker in Indiana who wanted to make some sort of candy to share his faith. It needed to be special and include symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus Christ. This is how the Candy Cane came to be.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White, symbolizing the Virgin Birth and sinless nature of Jesus. Hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church, and the firm promises of God.

He shaped the candy like a "j" for the wonderful name of Jesus. It is also shaped as a shepherd's staff; He reaches down into the ditches and rocky places of life to lift out the fallen and lost lambs that have strayed from Him.

Thinking the candy somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. Red symbolizing the suffering our Lord suffered on the cross. Stripes to remind us of the beating Jesus endured by which we are healed.

When you see a candy cane this year, remember Jesus, our Savior, our Shepherd, our healer, our deliverance, our Lord!

Author Unknown

Forget and Remember

Forget each kindness that you do as soon as you have done it.

Forget the praise that falls on you the moment you have won it.

Forget the slander that you hear before you can repeat it.

Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer wherever you may meet it.

Remember every kindness done to you, what'er its measure.

Remember praise by others won and pass it on with pleasure.

Remember every promise made and keep it to the letter.

Remember those who lend you aid, and be a grateful debtor.

The offering for Truth for Today on November 30, 2008, netted \$2,208.00.

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

2008 – 2009

Lads to Leaders
Leaderettes
Overall Theme:

*“ . . . All that You
command us we will do,
and wherever You send
us we will go.”*
(Joshua 1:16)

Lad to Leaders and Leaderettes

Will meet/: First & Third
Sundays, 4PM

Boys: GUARD (Guys
Understanding Authority and
Real Discipleship
Girls: GIFTS (Girls In
Fellowship and Team Study

Mark Your Calendars

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no class meetings
for the Dover
Ladies Tuesday Morning Class
on December 23rd
or on December 30th.

No Dover Church in home
Youth Devos for January
or February, 2009.

Dover Men's Business
Meeting
January 5th. 7 PM

No Dover Men's Devo
For January, 2009

Ladies Night
Thursday, 7PM
January 15th.
Hostess: Joyce Helton

No Area Wide
Youth Devo
For the Month of
January 2009

December Birthdays

01 LeighAnne Forehand
Rhonda Horton
06 Presley Williams
08 Suzanne Helton
14 Presten Nordin
16 Athel Hill
21 Jamie Churchill
22 Alayna Williams
23 Jamie Statler
24 Cara Williams
25 Amanda Besterfeldt
26 Addie Beck

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

Please Note:

The last Printing for the
Life Lines for 2008 will be
December 21st.

The first printing for the 2009
Life Lines will be
for January 11th.

The office will be closed
from December 22nd thru
December 26th.

I want to thank the faithful
volunteers that fold, sticker
and label the *Life Lines* each
week. And, especially my
editor, who does such a great
job proofing.

THOSE TO SERVE

SPEAKER

December 21, 2008

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters

Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Jim Killer

Jeff Myers

Communion

Podium: Earl Whitted

Serve: Marion Helton

Mark Farber

Rex McDaniel

Rick Hollis

Scripture Reading

Gary Williams

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Gary Williams

Donny Forehand

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

“Young Men”

Prepare Table for Communion

Billy & Diane C. Walters

Communion to Shut-Ins

Earl Whitted

Greeters

The Elders

Wednesday Night Devotional

December 24, 2008

Sid Womack

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

6:30 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

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: JoAnn Killer

Sunday Church: Pat McAlister

Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ

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