



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
Web site: www.dovercoc.org

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One Guy's Thoughts

Classic: Paul Harvey's Story of the Man and the Birds

I said last week that this week's thought will be a classic. I have decided to depart from my normal way of doing things and reprint someone else's classic. I've never done this before and will probably never do it again, but I thought this year I'd send out a story which Paul Harvey tells every year at Christmas. To my knowledge this is not copyrighted, and no violations of the copyright act is intended. The statements at the end (automatically attached to all my thoughts) about them being my intellectual property, copyrighted, and so on, do not apply to this one alone. Here, then is Paul Harvey's story of the Man and the Birds.

Unable to trace proper parentage, I have designated this as my Christmas Story of the Man and the Birds. You know, THE Christmas Story, the God born a man in a manger and all that escapes some moderns, mostly, I think, because they seek complex answers to their questions and this one is so utterly simple. So for the cynics and the skeptics and the unconvinced I submit a modern parable.

Now the man to whom I'm going to introduce you was not a scrooge, he was kind, decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family, upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe all that incarnation stuff which the churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow

the Jesus Story, about God coming to Earth as a man.

"I'm truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, "but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve." He said he'd feel like a hypocrite. That he'd much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. And, so he stayed and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another, and then another. Sort of a thump or a thud. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had tried to fly through his large landscape window.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it. Quickly he put on a coat, galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway to the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and

continued to flap helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm lighted barn.

And then he realized, that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me. That I am not trying to hurt them, only to help them. But how? Because any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not be led or shooed because they feared him.

"If only I could be a bird, he thought to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to the safe, warm barn . . . But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear and understand."

At that moment the church's bells begin to ring. The sound reached his ears above the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells – Adeste Fidelis – listening to the bells peeling the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.

Well, anyway, those are Paul Harvey's thoughts.

***Sent in by: Davie Noles
Dover, Arkansas***

Micah thought this article deserved a place in our bulletin, even if it is after Christmas.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Children's Wisdom

Hugs from people you love make you feel warm all over.

A promise is a promise.

If you do a sun dance, the sun will appear, even if it's just for a little while.

You're never too big to ask for help.

If you make someone cry, say you're sorry.

Don't stick your tongue out; it's not nice.

There are three things you should never say: hate, stupid and shut-up.

Night lights are okay to sleep with.

No pushing or shoving.

The four main food groups are apple juice, pizza, chocolate and pretzels.

Food tastes better if you eat it off someone else's plate.

New things can be scary.

It's easier to fall asleep if someone reads you a bedtime story.

Ask before you touch anything that's not yours.

It's hard to say goodbye to some-one you like.

Sharing is more fun when it's not your stuff.

Mommy is still the best word.

By Alix Strauss

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

Our Prayers and Sympathy go out to the Family and many friends of **Rachel Mae Vanzandt** of Dover, who passed away December 26, 2008. Mae was 102 years and a long time member of the Dover Church of Christ, services Wednesday, December 31, 2008, Micah Williams officiating.

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. 31st, successful. Continue to pray.

Peggy Emerson – friend of Diane Walters, LR hospital, possible surgery.

Hoyt Ensey–home, doing better.

Rick Hollis – serious back problems.

Rodney Pfeifer – at home, improves some each day.

Mona Standridge – tumors enlarging.

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**

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, Reecie 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: D. J. Bandy, Travis Coe and Byron Lee.

Prayers and Sympathy to the family of **Ted Ward** who passed away Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

He was the father of Sarah Ensey.

That Little Penny in the Parking Lot

Remember this every time you pass that little penny on the parking lot. I always thought that it was for good luck, but I love this version better.

I found a penny today,
Laying on the ground.
But it's not just a penny,
This little coin I've found.

Found pennies come from heaven,
That's what my Grandpa told me.
He said Angels toss them down.
Oh, how I loved that story.

He said when an Angel misses you,
They toss a penny down;
Sometimes just to cheer you up,
To make a smile out of your frown.

So, don't pass by that penny
When you're feeling blue.
It may be a penny from heaven
That an Angel tossed to you.

Pass this on to people you care about
And who you feel are Angels to you.
An Angel is now watching over you.

*Sent in by Iris Bates
Springdale, Arkansas*

WANTED LOYAL CHURCH
MEMBERS

All sizes. Males and females. B aptized believers.

Attend all Bible classes and worship services, except when providentially hindered.

Positive thinkers. Optimistic. "Sons of exhortation." Not carping critics. Not grumbling complainers.

Pray daily for the church. Speak well concerning the congregation.

Compliment teachers. Commend leaders. Praise good works. Sympathize with the hurt. Help the weak. Lift the discouraged.

Seek the lost. Remember the fallen. Give liberally. Volunteer for service. Be eager to work. Desire a challenge.

Strive for excellence in all church activities. Despise mediocrity.

Study the Bible daily. Live holy lives. Put the Lord first, all else second.

Have we described You?

From Lakeside Messenger, Higden, AR

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)

GIFTS and GUARD

Will stop meeting until next August
2009. (This is a two-two part
program designed for part of the
year.)

The song leading, songs
of praise and scripture
reading will resume on
Sunday, January 18, 2009,
2 PM in the afternoon for
Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes.

Mark Your Calendars

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

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

Dover Men's Devo
Thursday, 7 PM
January 8th.
Host: Allen Veasman

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

No Area Wide
Youth Devo
For the Month of
January 2009

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

The Search Program
can now be accessed
any time on website:
www.searchtv.org
Mack Lyon's weekly
lesson can be heard
and seen on
KARK, Channel 4
Sunday, 7:30 AM

January Birthdays

01 Billy Walters
02 Marilyn Veasman
07 Chris Moss
09 Micah Williams
15 Chris Besterfeldt
17 Holly Jennings
20 JoAnn Killer
Teresa Parker
Patsy Wisbrock
21 Bennie Lou Meadows
23 Mary Stamps
25 Reese Culwell
26 Klaus Mullins
30 Melissa Jackson

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

For Mexico Missions

Items needed by
January 18th, 2009

Bar Soap
Tooth paste
(money accepted, see
Karen Womack)

Will accept ink cartridges
to recycle.

THOSE TO SERVE

January 11, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters

Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Blake Walters
Allen Veasman

Communion

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

Scripture Reading

Alan Boatright

Sunday P.M. Prayers

Alan Boatright
William Boley

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Tommy and Carla Oakes

Communion to Shut-Ins

Marion Helton

Greeters

The Heltons

Wednesday Night Devotional January 14, 2009

Alan Boatright

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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