



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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January 17, 2010

## Standing Knee Deep in a River of Blessings

By Allen Webster  
(House to House/Heart to Heart)

Standing Knee Deep in a River (Dying of thirst) is a classic Kathy Mattea song, first made popular in 1992 and still often replayed on YouTube.

It is a moving song of a person thinking back over all the friends with whom she had lost touch. The sweethearts who went separate ways, and other lonely people she passed each day, who could be friends if she just reached out to them.

Most Americans are "standing parched, knee deep in a river" of blessings, but they seem to be dying of the thirst of discontent. The English word *content* means "desiring no more than what one has." The Greek word (*Arkeo*) means "to be satisfied." Thus one who is content is satisfied with what he has and has no desire for more. How many people do you know like that?

What, then, are the springs from which the river of contentment flows?

Solomon wrote, "***The fear of the Lord tendeth to life; and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.***" (Proverbs 19:23)

Multi-millionaire William Randolph Hearst invested a fortune in collecting art treasures from around the world. One day Hearst read a description of a valuable art item and then sent his agent abroad to find it. After months of searching, the agent reported that he had finally found the treasure. To the surprise of Hearst, the priceless masterpiece was stored in none other than his own warehouse!

This wealthy man had been searching all over the world for a treasure he already

possessed. Had he read the catalog of his treasurers, he would have saved himself a lot of time and money.

As believers we may be like that. We look for contentment in the world, though we'll never find it there. Yet Christ has already given it to us. The fear of God leads us to seek out God's way, which in turn helps us find contentment.

Jesus said, "***Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.***" (Matthew 5:6)

Athletes are said to be hungry when they have a strong competitive spirit. An aspiring businessman is said to be hungry when he is willing to work extra hard and do what ever it takes to be successful. Some are hungry for prestige, riches, honor, fame or political office. These are not the things for which we should hunger. (Colossians 3:2) God wants us to be hungry for righteousness. (I Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14) In so doing, He promised to "fill" us. The word means to be "satisfied with food" and originally described the feeding of animals with hay. What is a better picture of contentment than a cow having eaten to the full and then standing in the shade chewing her cud?

Only God has the ability to provide lasting satisfaction. (Psalm 107:8-9) He promises to give that which truly satisfies – "the sure mercies of David" (i.e., the blessings promised through the coming Messiah). (Isaiah 55:1-3) David came to himself as a sheep in God's pasture, and there he found deep contentment. He wrote, "***He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.***" (Psalm 23:2) What was it Paul had in mind when he made the famous statement, "***I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me?***" (Philippians 4:13) He was facing the

challenge of contentment. (4:11-12) For someone as ambitious as Paul, it doubtless was difficult for him to cool his heels in prison without frustration bubbling over. The phrase "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" is actually saying, "*I can do all things; I really can.*"

Paul's contentment sprang from his confidence in "even as." He told a pagan ship crew, "***Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.***" (Acts 27:25) He told the young preacher, "***For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.***" (II Timothy 1:12)

The knowledge that God always keeps His promises will grant us peace in the midst of any difficulty.

When we are persecuted, we can trust this promise: "***And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.***" (John 10:28-29)

When tired and burdened, we can trust: "***Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.***" (Matthew 11:28)

When our life's in chaos, we can trust the promise of ". . . ***peace that passeth understanding.***" (Philippians 4:7)

When tempted, we can trust this promise: "***For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.***" (Hebrews 2:18)

When we are facing sickness, disease, injury and aging, we can trust Him to ". . .

***Continued page two, column three***

## Lines for Ladies

*By Pat McAlister*

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (II Corinthians 1:3-4 NASB)

Paul went through many afflictions in his endeavor to spread the Gospel of Christ. He was comforted by those he had helped to convert to the Way. God gave them comfort and He expected them to comfort others in turn.

This works every time. We have troubles. We receive help from our Christian family. Then when one of them encounters trouble, we should be ready to give comfort to them. We can do this through groups or individually. Helping each other is how we survive in this crazy world. God made us needy. This brings us closer together.

Our God is a compassionate God. We depend on Him for help. He does help us and it is usually through others. “Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” (I Thessalonians 5:11 NASB) We can comfort and encourage others through the word. “This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me.” (Psalm 119:50 NASB)

As righteous people we are comforted with the hope of eternal life. The unrighteous have no such hope or comfort. It would be sad indeed to have no hope or comfort in this life.

There are many problems in this world, for the righteous as well as the unrighteous. The only way we can cope with them, is to have this comfort and peace we have with our Father. He offers this comfort to all who obey His will. It isn't restricted or limited. There is enough for ALL!

## Remember Our Sick

**Janette Litch** – battling cancer.

**Becky Miller** – home after a mini stroke.

**Jeff Myers** – homerecovering.

**Kelsey Sims** – suffering from Myasthenia Gravis, an autoimmune disease.

**Wade Walters** – health issues.

**Karen Womack** – facial shingles.

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

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**  
**Robert Lee**

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:  
**Joyce Austin**  
**Helen Brown**  
**Lorene McNutt**

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**  
**Janice Brashear**

### Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Iris Bates, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Susie Boley, Troy/Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Melvin Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, David/Mary Franke, Larry/Rhonda Freeman, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Joe Kline, Rose Lee, Mario Litch, Daniel Loper, Cindy Martin, Linda Melton, Carla Mitchell, Julie Moss, BJ/Don Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Gary/Dorene Shinn, Reedie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend and Judy Will.

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

**Expectant Mothers:** Andrea Henson

**Our Military:** prayers for D. J. Bandy, Jr., Travis Coe, Byron Lee, April Morgan, Billy Joe Ralston and others serving our nation.

## Standing Knee-Deep in a River of Blessings

Continued from page one –

“. . . change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself. (Philippians 3:21)

When we fear that we may be lost, we can pillow our heads upon this wonder-ful truth: “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

Jesus is the “water of life” (John 7:37) who offers an overflowing life to His followers (John 10:10.) He promises to “give unto him, that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.” (Revelation 21:6) To start this relationship with Christ, one must pick up a Bible and begin to study His life and teachings. (Romans 10:17) This will produce faith in an honest and good heart. (Luke 8:15; Hebrews 11:16) Faith leads one to repentance, confession of Christ, and baptism for remission of sins. (Acts 2:38; 8:37; 22:16) Then one can drink deeply from the springs of Christian contentment as he/she faithfully follows The Prince of Peace. (Revelation 2:10)

Aren't you a little thirsty?

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Sympathy and Prayers to the family and friends of Leota Logan who passed away recently. (Mother of Cindy Gordon, Lance's wife) of Terra Haute, Indiana.

## 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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### Leaders & Leaderettes

Will Meet Every Sunday,  
4PM,

Dover Church of Christ  
Song Leading, Bible Bowl  
Practice & Bible Reading.

### Dover Youth Devo

will not meet after church  
services on Sunday nights  
for the month of February.

### Dover Ladies Night

Thursday, 7:00 PM  
January 21st

Hostesses: Joyce Helton  
Plans will be made for our  
Ladies' Day in April 2010.

### 5th Sunday Celebration Young Men Doing the PM Service - Potluck

## Mark Your Calendars

### 2010 Lads to Leaders

& Leaderettes

Convention

April 2nd Thru 4th

Theme:

“FAITH is the VICTORY”

BIBLE BOWL: Hebrews

PEARLS:

Standing on the Promises

### Leader Pledges:

*I am answerable to God and to  
society. (Matthew 22:21)*

*I will overcome pessimism and  
live a life of faith in God.*

**(Philippians 4:13)**

*I am fully responsible for my  
behavior. (Romans 14:12)*

*I am responsible for my  
agreements and obligations.*

**(Matthew 7:12)**

*I pursue honest work to meet  
my responsibilities. (I Timothy  
5:8)*

*I honor and obey my parents  
and respect persons in  
authority. (Ephesians 6:2)*

*I respect my body as the  
creation of God and use it for  
His glory. (I Corinthians  
6:20)*

*I choose for my friends those  
who enjoy doing good. (I  
Corinthians 15:33)*

*I lead in building character and  
in demonstrating integrity.  
(Philippians 2:22)*

*I lead in second-mile service to  
others. (Matthew 5:41)*

Dr. Jack Zorn

## 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
- 30 Melissa Jackson

If we missed your birth-  
day, Please let us know  
so it won't happen again.

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### Men's Business Meeting

Monday, February 1st,  
7 PM

Dover Church of Christ

### “In Search of the Lord's Way”

The Search Program  
can now be accessed  
any time on website

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

Mack Lyon or

Phil Sanders

Weekly Lesson can  
be heard and seen on  
KARK, Channel 4  
Sunday, 7:30 AM

# THOSE TO SERVE

*January 17, 2010*

## Sunday A.M.

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

### Prayers

Michael Robbins  
Lee Henson

### Communion

**Podium:** Marion Helton  
**Serve:** Sid Womack  
Steve Pennington  
William Boley  
Alan Boatright

### Scripture Reading

Gary Williams

## Sunday P.M. Prayers

Larry Mahan  
Joe Miller

# SPEAKER

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## Prepare Table for Communion

Andrea Henson

## Communion to Shut-Ins

Alan Boatright

### Greeters

Jim & JoAnn Killers

## Wednesday Night Devotional January 20, 2009

Lee Henson

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:** Charlene Clark  
**Sunday Church:** Pat McAlister  
Kaeli Miller

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