



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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January 20, 2008

## **Influence, The Fragrance of Life**

By Wayne Jackson – The Messenger

People have long been aware of the value of influence. Plutarch said that, “a word or nod from a good person has more weight than the eloquent speeches of others.” Just as plants yield fragrances, so people exert influence – for good or ill.

What is influence? It sometimes is defined as the “ability to produce an effect without apparent force or direct authority.” Some people, by virtue of their personalities, have greater influence than others. A spiritual person longs to exude more influence for good. How can we develop greater Christian influence?

Here are some principles for meditation:

**Try to cultivate a genuine interest in people.** Get to know the names of those with whom you have frequent contact – the lady at the market, your auto mechanic, your doctor, pharmacist, etc. In a bustling society, people are surprised and pleased when someone expresses personal interest in them.

**When engaged in conversation with others, do not dominate the scene.** Everyone has encountered the type of person with whom you cannot “get a word in edgewise,” and such motor-mouths are not appreciated. Be willing to listen as well as to converse. Show folks you value what they say – even if it’s trite and sometimes almost nonsensical.

**Don’t be a “know it all.”** No one is, but not-a-few think they are.

There is no subject upon which they cannot pontificate for hours – whether they know anything about it or not. If you have a medical problem, they can completely diagnose it, recite a number of cases where friends have died of the ailment, and provide you with a healing remedy that may be ordered from Mexico. If your automobile is running “rough,” they know exactly what the problem is, though they may be unable to discern a screwdriver from a wrench. One can hardly influence others when he acts as if he knows everything about everything.

**In attempting to exert Christian influence upon worldly friends, do not begin by correcting everything you observe that is wrong in their lives.** If you attempt to initiate a relationship by immediately calling attention to their dress, language, recreational activities, political orientation, religious aberrations, etc., you likely will get nowhere with them. First, influence them by example. People listen to the way you talk, they observe how you dress, they soon become familiar with your patterns of religious activity. If they have a spark of spiritual interest, eventually they will comment or ask questions. Watch for open doors. You don’t have to break them down.

**Be patient with people. Remember how long it took you to learn the fundamentals of the Christian Life.** (Titus 3:1-3) **“Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient,**

**to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be peaceful, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.”** Growth does not come instantly, but slowly and steadily. If you appoint yourself as the one who sets the time-table for growth in the Christian “babe,” or for others who have spiritual problems, you will become frustrated and irritated – if and when your expectations are not met. Watch for signs of growth; encourage and commend these. Compassion and patience are not compromises.

**In teaching, learn the art of indirect maneuvers.** For example suppose a person says: “We are saved by faith, not works. Baptism is a work, so it can’t be a part of the salvation process.” Instead of responding, “That’s false doctrine!” why not say something like this. “You know, there are a couple of passages on this theme that are intriguing. Jesus described “belief as a work. (John. 6:29; cf. Revelations 2:26), and God saw the ‘works’ of the people of Nineveh as they ‘repented’ (Matthew 12:41; Jonah 3:10). Yet both belief and repentance are required by God. Why don’t we study these texts?”

Exerting influence is a skill – almost an art form – and every Christian needs to study more about how to influence others.

## Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Unlike the scribes and Pharisees, who worshipped with their mouths, we are to worship from our heart. Any other worship is unacceptable to God. God was forever warning the Israelites about their form of worship. They went through all the various sacrifices, but they were in vain, because of their hearts.

God sends Amos to warn them of their sins. Amos warns them about the doom that will soon come to pass because of the hardness of their hearts.

Like David, Amos is a lowly shepherd, from near Bethlehem of Judah. At this time, God has allowed Jeroboam II of Israel great military successes, even though their worship is meaningless. They are heavy into idol worship. So God uses Amos to warn them, not so much about their idols, but more so of their meaningless religion toward God. God's wrath is about to pour upon them.

The Lord speaks through Amos, saying, *"The Lord God Almighty, says, 'There will be wailing in all the streets and cries of anguish in every public square. The farmers will be summoned to weep and the mourner to wail. There will be wailing in all the vineyards for I will pass through your midst. Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light – pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?'"* (Amos 5:16-20 NIV)

Often our worship becomes complacent. We go through the service thinking about the cares of the world. Our thoughts stray from one frivolous thing to another. Our focus is meaningless as far as worship. We would never admit to idol worship. We worship God, not idols. However, like the Israelites, our worship is in vain.

We want our worship to be acceptable to God. We do not want God's wrath upon us!

## Remember Our Sick

**Bob Bennett** – serious health problems.  
**Lois Boley** – more tests, arterial gram next week.  
**William Boley** – had aneurism surgery, recovering.  
**Bobby Coker** – (former preacher here) St. Vincent's Infirmary, now in re-hab.  
**Jessalyn Davis** – cancer, home undergoing treatment, Hospice.  
**Barbara Dawson** – Marion/Joan's cousin, serious health problems.  
**Hoyt Ensey** – continue to pray, serious health problems.  
**Leota Hickey** – cataract surgery February 27<sup>th</sup>.  
**Annette Hull** – thyroid surgery, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, cancer cells, treatment to follow.  
**Cleon Johnson** – Paul Helton's mother, UAMS colon problems.  
**Ray King** – serious health problems.  
**Kim Miller** – fell, broke her shoulder.  
**Beverly Myers** – knee surgery Jan.15<sup>th</sup>.  
**Don Sheeran** – on going serious health problems.  
**Joyce Walters** – cataract surgery Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.  
**Judy Will** – home, recovering from a stroke. Blockage in the brain.  
**Tom Williams** – in Joplin Hospital, serious situation from a fall. Roxanna's brother-in-law.  
**Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:**  
Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**  
**Bernice Brown**  
Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:  
**Evelyn Driver**  
**Melba Hodges**  
Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**  
**Mae Vanzandt**  
**Others Who Need Our Prayers:**  
Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, A. G. Barton, Carolyn Bennett, Lloyd Boley, Susie Boley, James Chadwick, Tom Cloud, Mike Cushman, Jeff Davis, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Jeania Griffin, Paul and Sue Griffin, Dorothy King, Jim Lackey, Robert and Rose Lee, Liliya McDaniel, Linda Melton, Charles Proctor, Reedie Smith and Tanya Smith.  
**Special Children:** Elysia Lee, Emmy May, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.  
**Expectant Mothers:** Becky Clark, Kristen Nordin.

## A New Year Prayer

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one . . .

Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.

Not by making my path easy, but by making me study enough to tread any path.

Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.

Not by granting me unbroken sunshine, but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows.

Not by making my life always pleasant, but by showing me where men and His cause need me most and by making me zealous to be there and to help.

Not by rejoicing in my salvation, but by sending me someone to save.

I've seen a lot of New Year's prayers over the years and would like to borrow from several to pray this for you and me.

*Dan Lightfoot*  
*The Vision*  
*Russellville, Arkansas*

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### Our Military

**Greg Davis**, home, having shoulder surgery due to a war wound received in Afghanistan.

**Johnny Ragsdale**, now retired after 22 years of service.

**Cole Wetzel** still in active service.

**Rudy Will** accepted a special assignment in Kuwait for a year.

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**Sympathy and prayers** for the family and friends of **Billy Joe Carter**. He was killed in a tornado Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at Jerusalem, AR. He was a cousin to Joyce Walters.

## 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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TEA PARTY!!!

February 23, 2008  
Saturday, 11:30 AM

For All the Ladies of  
the Dover Church of  
Christ, Fellowship Hall

Hosted by the  
Leaderettes

Door Prizes and  
Entertainment

Please RSVP to:  
Shirley Chadwick

## Mark Your Calendars

Y O U 2008

Youth Outreach  
University  
January 25 thru 27

University of  
Central Arkansas  
Conway, Arkansas

Theme: "I Charge You"

Spiritual Growth  
And Evangelism

\$35.00 each

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

## CHRISTEENS 2008

February 22 thru 24th

West Side Church  
Of Christ  
2300 West "C" Street  
Russellville, Arkansas

Registration Deadline:  
January 25

Limited to the first 1000!  
Payment due February 8<sup>th</sup>.

## January Birthdays

- 01 Alexis Boley  
Billy Walters
- 02 Marilyn Veasman
- 07 Holly Oaks  
Chris Moss
- 08 Micah Williams
- 13 Douglas Wilson
- 14 Chris Besterfeldt
- 20 JoAnn Killer  
Teresa Parker  
Patsy Wisbrock
- 21 Bennie Lou Meadows
- 25 Reese W. Culwell
- 26 Klaus Mullins

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

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Dover Church of Christ  
Ladies Night

Thursday, 7PM  
January 17th

Joyce Helton's Home

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"Do not allow yourself to become  
upset with people, places, things or  
circumstances. They are  
powerless. Your reaction is their  
only power"

*Quote from: Allen Veasman  
Dover Arkansas*

# ***THOSE TO SERVE***

***January 20, 2008***

## **Sunday A.M.**

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

### **Prayers**

Donny Forehand  
Dennis Whiteside

### **Communion**

**Podium:** Alan Boatright  
**Serve:** Jim Killer  
Marion Helton  
Rex McDaniel  
Rick Hollis

### **Scripture Reading**

Chris Loper

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

Chris Moss  
Brett Walters

# **SPEAKER**

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## **Prepare Table for Communion**

Marion and Joyce Helton

## **Communion to Shut-Ins**

Merrell Shoptaw  
William Boley

## **Greeters**

Marion and Joyce Helton

## **Wednesday Night Devotional**

**January 23, 2008**

Merrell Shoptaw

**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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