



Life Lines

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

Volume 22 Number 05

Email: staff@dovercoc.org

January 31, 2010

DANIEL'S GLOVES

I sat, with two friends, in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town-square. The food and the food and the company were both especially good that day.

As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying a well-worn sign that read, 'I will work for food.' My heart sank.

I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief.

We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car.

Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: 'Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square.'

Then with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the store front church, going through his sack.

I stopped and looked; feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on. The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God; an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

'Looking for the preacher?' I asked.

'Not really,' he replied, 'just resting.'

'Have you eaten today?'

'Oh, I ate something early this morning.'

'Would you like to have lunch with me?'

'Do you have some work I could do for you?'

'No work,' I replied, 'I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch.'

'Sure,' he replied with a smile.

As he began to gather his things, I asked some surface questions. Where're you headed?'

'St. Louis.'

'Where are you from?'

'Oh, all over, mostly Florida.'

'How long have you been walking?'

'Fourteen years,' came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, 'Jesus is The Never Ending Story.'

Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences . . . Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona . . . He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought.

He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God.

'Nothing's been the same since.' He said, 'I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now.'

'Ever think of stopping?' I asked.

'Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me the calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads.'

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside me for a moment and then I asked, 'What's it like?'

'What?'

'To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?'

'Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to

realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me.'

My concept was changing, too. We finished our desert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he turned to me and said, "***Come ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in.***"

I felt as if we were on holy ground. 'Could you use another Bible?' I asked.

He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not heavy. It was also his personal favorite . . . 'I've read through it 14 times,' he said.

Let's stop by our church and see if we have one of those.. I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful.

'Where are you headed from here?' I asked.

'Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon.'

'Are you hoping to hire on there for awhile?'

'No, I just figured someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next.'

He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back to the town-square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things.

'Would you sign my autograph book?' he asked. 'I like to keep messages from folks I meet.'

I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, "***I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you a future and a hope.***"

'Thanks, man,' he said, 'I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you.'

'I know,' I said, 'I love you ,too.' "***The Lord is good.***"

'Yes, He is.'

'How long has it been since someone hugged you?' I asked. - Continued page 2, column 3

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Paul was giving thanks and prayers for the church at Thessalonica. *“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1Thessalonians 1:13 NIV)

Thessalonica was a major city of Macedonia. It became a major center for trade and the arts. It had both a large Roman and a sizeable Jewish population. Most likely the church was suffering persecution from both Romans and Jews. Paul was writing to encourage and exhort the brethren there.

Paul mentioned three points in the preceding verses in his prayer for them. The first point was their good work produced by faith. Their faith had to be strong in light of their persecution. A weak faith will not produce good works. Compared to the population of their city, their number was small. This was another reason their faith had to be strong.

The second point he made was their labor was prompted by love. Their love had to be as strong as their faith. They must have been laboring as one, loving and caring, under this new faith.

The third point he made was their endurance inspired by hope. Their faith and love would give them endurance, especially inspired by this hope they had through Jesus Christ. Their hope was inspired by knowing that Christ had died for their sins. They had the hope of an eternal life. They were able to sustain persecution through this hope.

The three points made by Paul were the same he mentioned to the church in Corinth when he wrote the chapter of love. *“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest is love.”* (1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJV)

Paul told them, *“We continually remember before God our Father . . .”*

Prayers were constantly being made to God the Father in their behalf. He, Silas and Timothy had made prayers of thanksgiving for their faith, love and hope. At that time it seemed to be strong.

Remember Our Sick

Bob Bennett - Leukemia, treatments twice a week.

Janette Litch – battling cancer.

Jeff Myers – released to return to work January 25th.

Diane M. Walters – had tests run, benign, other test run, successful..

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, Carolyn Bennett, William/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, Don/BJ Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Gary/Dorene Shinn, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend, Earl/Juanita Whitted and Judy Will.

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

Expectant Mothers: Kelley Chance, Andrea Henson.

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

Pray for our nation and its leaders.

Daniel's Gloves

Continued from page 1 . . .

‘A long time,’ he replied.

And so on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed . . .

He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, ‘See you in the New Jerusalem.’

‘I’ll be there!’ was my reply.

He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, ‘When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?’

‘You bet,’ I shouted back, ‘God bless.’

‘God bless,’ and that was the last I saw of him.

Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them . . . a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them.

The I remembered his words; ‘If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?’

Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. ‘See you in the New Jerusalem,’ he said. Yes, Daniel I know I will . . .

“I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can show, let me do so now, for I shall not pass this way again.”

Sent in by B. J. Sheeran
St. Louis, Missouri

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

Leaders & Leaderettes

Will Meet Every Sunday,
4PM,
Dover Church of Christ
Song Leading, Bible Bowl
Practice & Bible Reading.

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

SWEET HEART BREAKFAST

Saturday,
February 13th,
Festivities start 9 AM
(the men cook)

CHRISTEENS

February 26th – 28th
West Side Church of Christ

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

February Birthdays

- 03 Mildred Turner
Jon David Vance
08 Mary McAlister
09 Juanita Whitted
11 Kristen Nordin
12 Tommy Oakes
15 Zachary Shelton
16 Rachel Curtis
19 Carolyn Bennett
Tyler Mullins
20 Kaci Statler
22 Eugene Davis
Keri Letson
23 Pat McAlister
Linda Phillips
24 Earl Kennedy
25 Bobbie Robbins
27 Caleb Chance
28 Theresa Motley

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

Men's Business Meeting

Monday, February 1st,
7 PM
Dover Church of Christ

Dover Men's Devo
February, 11th, 7 PM
Thursday

Host: Donny Forehand

THOSE TO SERVE

January 31, 2010

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters

Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Donny Forehand

Chris Loper

Communion

Podium: Marion Helton

Serve: Chris Moss

Drew Walters

Earl Stamps

Gary Williams

Scripture Reading

Brett Walters

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Brent Hottinger

Blake Walters

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

“Young Men”

Prepare Table for Communion

Andrea Henson

Communion to Shut-Ins

Brent Hottinger

Greeters

Jim & JoAnn Killers

Wednesday Night Devotional February 03, 2010

Randall Walters

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

Life Lines is a Publication of the Dover Church of Christ

Editor: Pat McAlister, Layout and Design: Joan Vance, Technical Assistance: M. Shoptaw

Dover Church of Christ

P.O. Box 299

Dover, AR 72837

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Dover, AR

Permit No. 18