



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
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When Boll Weevils Are A Blessing

Bobby Dockery, The Seeker, Fayetteville, AR

In downtown Enterprise, Alabama there is monument to the Boll Weevil – the only known monument to an agricultural pest.

In the early 1900's practically everybody in that area made their living growing cotton. When the Boll Weevil appeared in Alabama in 1915, farmers began losing whole cotton crops to the pest. They were threatened with ruin, but farsighted locals saw this as an opportunity to diversify their crops, and began planting things like peanuts and soy beans. This brought new money into the country and they actually became more prosperous. An infestation that had the earmarks of disaster became a blessing!

It is often true that the road to triumph begins in tragedy. Folks used to say: "Every cloud has a silver lining." The Bible says it more profoundly: "*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.*" (Romans 8:28) Consider some of the blessings which can flow from the Boll Weevil experiences of life!

1) **Self-Assessment.** The trying moments of life often serve to jar us out of our comfortable grooves of

complacency and self-satisfaction. Sometimes disappointments and sorrows are necessary to spur us in new directions of living. Adversity often leads to agonizing reappraisal of values, goals and lifestyles. Some years ago, the North Texas State football team was defeated 61 to 7 by Oklahoma State. Hayden Fry, North Texas head coach at the time, called it "probably the best thing that could have happened to us. None of my coaches had ever been beaten like that. We were so embarrassed that we were forced to take inventory. We did a complete reevaluation, made some changes and got with it." North Texas State went on to win 7 games, including upsets of nationally ranked Tennessee and Houston.

2) **Experience.** Paul wrote: "*We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope . . .*" (Romans 5:3-4) Defeat and disappointment are capable of teaching a dimension of wisdom which cannot be learned in any other school. Much of the world's great

literature has emerged from suffering. Great thoughts from great thinkers have often passed through the fire. Bunyan wrote Pilgrim's Progress in jail; Milton's greatest poems were composed in blindness; David wrote many of his greatest Psalms while "on the run" as a fugitive from King Saul. And of course, much of the New Testament was written in a Roman prison.

3) **Character.** Financial loss, bereavement, sickness, heartbreak – any of these may become the crucible in which strength of character is molded. When Moses first struck a blow for the freedom of his Israelite brethren he suffered a humiliating setback. He was driven from Egypt in exile, scorned by Egyptians and Israelites alike. Then for 40 years, God hardened him in the wilderness of Midian. At last, when hardship had fortified his soul with iron, God sent him back to Egypt to become the deliverer of His people.

What seems like disaster may turn out for our good. Even Boll Weevils can be a blessing!

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Often the decisions we make come back to haunt us. The outcome can affect us for life.

This was so in Lot's life. Being Abraham's nephew, following him in his journeys, also gave Lot the blessings that Abraham received from the Lord. Lot's wealth increased right along with that of Abraham. In fact, their flocks and herds grew so that their herdsmen were fighting among themselves over land and water.

Abraham was very unselfish in what he said to Lot. *"Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."* (Genesis 13:9)

After all of Abraham's generosity, what does Lot do? He is very selfish in his decision. Verse 10 says, *"And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord."* What looked good to Lot, he chose for himself.

Selfish behavior can bring about heartache. It certainly does for Lot. Maybe not at first, but later it does. He and his family live with and associate with the sinful people of Sodom. Lot was distressed by this. *"God spares Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for the righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)."* (II Peter 2:7-8)

God sends two angels to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wickedness there. Probably because of Abraham's bartering with the Lord, Lot was saved. He and his two daughters are all that were saved.

Lot was selfish in choosing the best land. Apparently, at the time it seemed like a good idea to him. Later, I'm sure he thought differently about his decision.

Campaign for Christ
5th & Greenwich
Church of Christ
April 7 thru 11, 2010

Remember Our Sick

Alec Barkley – appt. with Pulmonologist April 9th, in Denver.

Bob Bennett – home with hospice.

Danny Brown – cancer

Robert/Vickie Cox – serious health problems.

Janette Litch – battling cancer.

Mick O'Donnell – home, on antibiotics.

Margaret (Marty) Robbins – cancer

Mary Stamps – biopsy tests results Wednesday, March 17th.

W.T. Williams - heart attack, home recovering. Needs a lot of prayers.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: Evelyn Burton
Bob Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Joyce Austin
Helen Brown
Alma Burris
Lorene McNutt

Stella Manor: Louise Killer
Janice Brashear

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, 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, Julie Moss, Jeff Myers, Don/BJ Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Gary/Dorene Shinn, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend, Judy Will and /Sue Williams.

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.

"Thank You Lord"

I once heard an old man, who was in his mid to late 80's, pray these words in a little country church. "Thank you, Lord, for last night's sleep and this morning's rising. Thank you for allowing me to awake with a reasonable portion of health and strength. Today, Lord, I thank you for your blessings, those blessings both seen and unseen."

As I listened, I thought to myself, "WOW!"

I realized that this man was grateful to God and was thanking God for allowing him to see and be part of another day.

Never mind that it was cold and windy outside the church. Never mind that the pews were more empty than full. Never mind that the offerings that were much needed to keep the church going would probably be small. Never mind the "never minds." They did not seem to bother him. He was grateful to God and expressed his gratitude in prayer.

His prayer reminded me of the Bible story that tells of the one man who, along with nine other men, was cured by Jesus of a dreaded skin disease. When the men realized that they were healed, they went off rejoicing about their good fortunes. But only one of them returned to Jesus to say, "Thank you" for the blessing of restored health.

Too often, so many of us take everything about God for granted, and we assume that there will be another tomorrow that will be pretty much as today has been.

We assume a lot of things about God and His love for us. After all, we know that God is a faithful God who watches over us. But our assumptions about God should not cause us to forget to show our gratitude toward Him.

Sharon Fields

Prayer: Lord, all I have to say is, "Thank You." In Jesus' name, Amen.

Home Touch

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

2010 Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes Convention

April 2nd Thru 4th

Theme: "Faith is the Victory"
Bible Bowl: Hebrews
Pearls: Standing on the Promises

Dover Ladies Devo

4th Thursday,
March 25th, 6:30 PM
Hostess: Diane Walters (Billy)
Fellowship Hall

Dover Men's Business Meeting

Monday, April 5th, 7 PM
Dover Church of Christ

Dover Ladies' CCSC Luncheon

Wednesday, April 7th
Provide Lunch for 150 students
(more or less)

No In Home Monthly Youth Devo for April

Mark Your Calendars

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt Of the Dover Church of Christ

will be held at Camp Caudle
Saturday, April 3rd,
From 2-4 PM
We need lots of candy-filled plastic
eggs, the goal is 1200. We need
individually small wrapped candies
to fill the plastic eggs – please start
early so we can realize our goal.
For more info: See Kim Miller

Dover Men's Devo

Thursday, April 8th, 7 PM
Host: Lee Henson

DOVER LADIES' DAY!!! Saturday, April 24th

Theme: "Ahhh...Spring!
A time to Grow."
Speaker: Kim Reynolds Wilson
Plumerville, Arkansas
(More information to follow.)

In May The Dover Church of Christ
will recognize our 2010 Graduates;
this is our list so far:

Dover High School

Blake Forehand
Josh Pennington
Drew Walters

Atkins

Shelby Statler

Hector

Lane Smith

College

Chris Ramirez
Bobbie Robbins
Tristan Stamps
Michael Williams

If there are others *Please* let
Shirlie Chadwick know.

APRIL Birthdays

02 Iva Lay
06 Andrea Henson
09 Skylar Creel
Suzy Pennington
12 Beverly Myers
14 Danielle Smith
15 Loredana Qualls
16 Zach Pennington
17 Lane Smith
18 Gicala Lee
19 Earlene Davis
20 Earl Stamps
21 Mario Litch
22 Curtis Rackley
Brett Walters
23 Rusty Parker
27 Sharon Rackley
29 Kati Pennington

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

Hector Church of Christ To Hold Grand Opening

March 7th thru April 11th
366 Oak Street
Hector, Arkansas
Randy Gray, Minister
Several ministers from this
area will be the speakers.
Speakers on Sunday 2 PM
and 7:30 PM Monday thru
Wednesday evenings.

Lads/Leaderettes Recognition

Sunday, PM, April 11th
Fellowship Hall
Potluck
For more info: Sid Womack

THOSE TO SERVE

March 28, 2010

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters

Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Rick Hollis

Rex McDaniel

Communion

Podium: Alan Boatright

Serve: Larry Mahan

Lee Henson

Marion Helton

Michael Robbins

Scripture Reading

Jim Killer

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Michael Robbins

Randall Walters

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Charlene Clark

Communion to Shut-Ins

Allen Veasman

Greeters

The Elders

Wednesday Night Devotional

March 31, 2010

Donny Forehand

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: Karen Smith

Sunday Church: Pat McAlister

Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ

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