



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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April 19, 2009

## Read This Very Slowly – It's Pretty Profound . . .

Too many people put off something that brings them joy just because they haven't thought about it, don't have it on their schedule, didn't know it was coming or are too rigid to depart from their routine.

I got to thinking one day about all those women on the Titanic who passed up dessert at dinner that fateful night in an effort to cut back. From then on, I've tried to be a little more flexible.

How many women out there will eat at home because their husband didn't suggest going out to dinner until after something had been thawed? Does the word "refrigeration" mean nothing to you?

How often have your kids dropped in to talk and sat in silence while you watched "Jeopardy" on Television?

I cannot count the times I called my sister and said, "How about going to lunch in a half hour?" She would stammer, "I can't. I have clothes on the line. My hair is dirty. I wish I had known yesterday, I had a late breakfast, it looks like rain." And my personal favorite, "It's Monday." She died a few years ago. We never did have lunch together.

Because Americans cram so much into their lives, we tend to schedule our headaches. We live on a sparse diet of promises we make to ourselves when all the conditions are perfect!

We'll go back and visit the grandparent's when we get Steve toilet-trained. We'll entertain when we replace the living-room carpet . . . We'll go on a second honeymoon when we get two more kids out of college.

Life has a way of accelerating as we get older. The days get shorter and the list of promises to ourselves gets longer. One

morning, we awaken, and all we have to show for our lives is a litany of "I'm going to," "I plan on" and "Someday, when things are settled down a bit."

When anyone calls my "seize the moment" friend, she is open to adventure and available for trips. She keeps an open mind on new ideas. Her enthusiasm for life is contagious. You talk with her for five minutes, and you're ready to trade your bad feet for a pair of Roller Blades and skip an elevator for a bungee cord . . .

My lips have not touched ice cream in ten years. I love ice cream. It's just that I might as well apply it directly to my stomach with a spatula and eliminate the digestive process. The other day, I stopped the car and bought a Triple-Decker. If my car had hit an iceberg on the way home, I would have died happy.

Now – go on and have a nice day. Do something you WANT to . . . not something on your SHOULD DO list. If you were going to die soon and had only one phone call you could make, who would you call and what would you say? And why are you waiting?

Have you ever watched kids playing on a merry-go-round or listened to the rain dripping on the ground? Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight or gazed at the sun in the fading night? Do you run through each day on the fly? When asked, "How are you," do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in bed with the next hundred chores running through your head? Ever told your child, "We'll do it tomorrow," and in your haste, not see his sorrow? Ever lost touch? Let a good friendship die?

When you worry and hurry through your day, it is like an unopened gift . . . thrown away . . . Life is not a race. Take it slower. Hear the music before the song is over.

Sent In By: *B. J. Sheeran, St. Louis, MO*

## Why Should I Do More?

By: *Carla Oakes, Dover, Arkansas*

Recently, a dear friend's fifteen year old son died. This awesome lady has certainly been blessed with the peace that passes all understanding. She has confronted those around her who were not nearly as close to her son as she was; friends, classmates, teammates and others. The faith and hope of this mother is phenomenal.

Each Sunday I wake up tired from a long, busy week and I find it easier and easier to come up with excuses to miss church services. Wednesday night rolls around and it is just too hard to make it to church. Each day I awake up and hit the floor running, when do I have time to read my Bible and pray? We get in the vehicle to go somewhere and we listen to junk called music that rattles around in my head for days and I can't quit thinking of the filthy lyrics. It doesn't matter, I like the rhythm, right? At night when I finally find a minute to rest, I turn on my TV and watch murder after murder and listen to filth again, and I realize I have become numb to it. It's entertainment, right? Don't I deserve to relax a bit and watch TV?

*I find myself doing as little as I can get by with, and yet, still call myself a Christian. Why should I do more?*

Then my friend's son dies and I see in her the reason why I should do more. Each Sunday that she was in church, each lesson that she heard, each song that she sang, each Scripture she read, each time she prayed – all of these are now pouring in on her and are now supplying the faith and strength she needs to face this situation.

Why should I do more? Because it is through the serving that we find strength when we need it.

## Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

We worry too much. We worry about the weather. We worry when we don't get enough rain. We worry when we get too much rain. We worry about not having enough money. We worry about our health. We worry about our taxes. We worry about life. We worry about death. We worry about not having anything to worry about. Why do we worry so much?

***"I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread."*** (Psalms 37:25)

We know that worry is not a good thing. Look up the meaning of the word. No good can come of it. The dictionary says; to be disturbed, to be troubled, to be distressed, fret, despair, to lose heart, dread and many others just like these. Do you see any good in any of these? They all look like something that would cause health problems, don't they?

Jesus cautioned us about worry. He told us not to worry about our life. ***"Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?"*** (Matthew 6:27) Think back about some of your worries. How many things were changed by it? None, I would imagine.

Some, if they can't find anything to worry about today, will worry about tomorrow. Or perhaps they will worry about something that happened yesterday, or last week. This reminds me of an old song that says, 'yesterday is sad and gone and tomorrow's out of sight.' We can't change yesterday nor can we control tomorrow, so why worry about it?

Today is a blessing from God. Let's not waste it on worry, which we can do nothing about anyway. God has promised to care for our needs, whatever they are. We must trust Him. ***"The Lord does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off."*** (Psalms 38:28)

For those who are not doing His will may worry. But worry is not the answer. It solves nothing. Do something about righting your life. ***"No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly."*** (Psalms 84:11b)

## Remember Our Sick

**Hoyt Ensey** – home

**Clara Hefley**-starting chemo/radiation.

**Mary Franke** – eye surgery (can't see).

Friend of Don Sheeran's, St. Louis.

**Carl Keathley** – Rose Lee's brother, in his eighties, in ICU, double pneumonia.

**Joe Kliner** – age 78, complications, cancer. Don Sheeran's friend, St. Louis.

**Iva Lay** – pneumonia (home).

**Janette Litch** – started chemo

**Sherry Strick** – Brain tumors.

**Donna Walters** – home, pneumonia.

**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, Amie Barkley, Iris Bates, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley, Susie Boley, Tommy Causey, Troy & Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Melvin Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Tim Green, Sue Griffin, Pat Holloway, Dorothy King, Rose Lee, Daniel Loper, Linda Melton, Helen Moore, Julie Moss, Kristen Nordin, Eugene Qualls, BJ/Don Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend, and Judy Will.

**Empty Egg from column three . . .**

is empty." The class fell silent. From that day on Philip was accepted and became part of the group. Whatever had made him different was never mentioned again.

Phillip's family had known he would not live a long life; just too many things wrong with the tiny body. That summer, overcome by infection, Philip died. On the day of his funeral nine eight-year old boys and girls confronted the reality of death. Nine children with their Sunday school teacher placed on the casket of their friend their gift of love – an empty egg.

*This story, around Easter, and the one about the Bird at X'mas was told each year by Paul Harvey (now you know the rest of the story.)*

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

## Empty Egg Symbolized Greatest Gift

Harry Pritchett, Jr. is rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Atlanta. His church includes specific ministries for the poor, for street people, for college students.

It is Pritchett who called my attention to a boy named Philip. He was nine in a Sunday school class of eight-year-olds. Eight-year-olds can be cruel.

The third-graders did not welcome Philip into their group. Not just because he was older. He was different.

He was different because he suffered from Down's syndrome and its obvious manifestation – facial characteristics, slow responses, symptoms of retardation.

One Sunday after Easter the Sunday School teacher gathered some of the plastic eggs that pull apart in the middle. The Sunday school teacher gave one of these plastic eggs to each child.

On that beautiful spring day each child was to go outdoors and discover for himself some symbol of "new life." And each was to place that symbolic seed or leaf or whatever inside his egg. They would open their eggs one by one and each youngster would explain how his find was a symbol of "new life."

The youngster gathered 'round on the appointed day and put their eggs on a table, and the teacher began to pen them. One child had found a flower. All the children "oohed" and "aahed" at the lovely symbol of new life. In another was a multicolored butterfly. "Beautiful," the girls said. Another egg was opened to reveal a rock. Some of the children laughed. "That's crazy!" one said. "How's a rock supposed to be like a new life?"

Immediately a little boy spoke up and said, "That's mine. I knew everybody would get flowers and leaves and butterflies and all that stuff, so I got a rock to be different." Everyone laughed.

The teacher opened the last one, and there was nothing inside.

"But that's not fair," somebody said, "That's stupid," said another.

The teacher felt a tug on his shirt; it was Philip. He said, "It's mine. It's empty. I have new life because the tomb

**Continued second column, same page**

## 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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### DOVER LADIES' DAY!

April 25, 2009

Dover Church of Christ  
Dover, Arkansas

Continental Breakfast and  
Registration 9:00 AM  
Program 9:30 AM  
Lunch: 12:00 Noon

Theme: "Today's Moments  
become . . .  
Tomorrows Treasured  
Memories . . .

For more info:  
Call (479) 331-3428 or  
E-mail: [staff@dovercofc.org](mailto:staff@dovercofc.org)

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Prayers and Sympathy for the  
family and friends of Jessie  
Walker of Dover who passed  
away, Friday, April 03, 2009.  
She was the grandmother of  
Wesley Walker.

## Mark Your Calendars

Spring Sale  
Southern Christian Home  
April 24 thru April 25

11th Annual  
Evangelistically  
Speaking Lectureship

April 17th thru 19th  
Mars Hill Church of Christ  
Vilonia, Arkansas

Speakers: Oran Burt, Dean  
Fugett, Dennis Gulledge,  
Tom German, Bob Harris,  
Ted Knight, David Riley and  
Robert Swain.

### Join The Ladies

Saturday, April 18th  
9:00 AM thru 12:30 PM

Beebe Church of Christ  
1906 W. Center Street  
(Exit 28 off 67/167'  
East ½ mile)

Bible Study on Mary  
and Martha  
"Am I Choosing the  
Good Part?"

Speaker: Becky Blackmon

To Register Call: Bonnie  
Graham (501) 786-5534 or  
Jarretta Rose (501) 882-3932

## 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 Shannon Walters  
18 Gicala Lee  
19 Earlene Davis  
20 Earl Stamps  
21 Mario Litch  
22 Curtis Rackley  
Brett Walters  
23 Rusty Parker  
25 Hoyt Ensey  
27 Sharon Rackley  
29 Kati Pennington  
30 Lindsey Hollis

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

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

The Search Program  
can now be accessed  
any time on website:

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

Mack Lyon's weekly  
lesson can be heard  
and seen on  
KARK, Channel 4  
Sunday, 7:30 AM

# THOSE TO SERVE

*April 19, 2009*

**Sunday A.M.**

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

## Prayers

Gary Williams  
James Chadwick

## Communion

**Podium:** Marion Helton  
**Serve:** Chris Loper  
Chris Moss  
Donny Forehand  
Earl Whitted

## Scripture Reading

Brett Walters

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

Earl Whitted  
Earl Stamps

# SPEAKER

**Sunday A.M.**

Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**

Micah Williams

## Prepare Table for Communion

Charlene Clark

## Communion to Shut-Ins

Brent Hottinger

## Greeters

Gary & Sonia Williams

**Wednesday Night  
Devotional  
April 22, 2009**

William Boley

## 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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