



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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May 7, 2006

## MY LINES

Micah William

### “Get Out of the Box”

(I John 3:16-24)

Everyone, it seems wants to get out of the box. Crawl out of the box, jump out of the box, leap or spring out of the box, think outside the box, live outside the box, stand on the box – whatever, we don’t want to live in the box or stay in the box.

From corporate boardrooms to church offices, the talk is all about escaping the perspectives, new strategies and creative innovations. A leader who can “think” outside the box” is considered to be priceless.

But what happens when you get too far *outside* the box? In the endless rush to embrace new ideas, too many groups have forgotten who they are and what they are supposed to do.

*Fast Company* magazine (November 2005) offers us some cautionary tales about organizations that have lost touch with their core identity and have suffered.

Consider Volkswagen of America. It once produced efficient *Volkswagens*, “*people’s cars*,” with plain interiors and simple mechanics. The Volkswagen Beetle was wildly popular in the decades after the Second World War as millions of drivers fell in love with the car’s low price, high quality and affordable running costs. But now Volkswagen cars include a luxury sedan and an SUV. And who has stepped into Volkswagen’s abandoned niche? BMW, surprisingly enough, it’s Mini Cooper is the Beetle of the new millennium – simple, solid and small.

Dell constructed its computer empire on good hardware and the promise of helpful customer service located in Round Rock, Texas. Now it out sources its tech support to the phone banks of India, and in the process has become like every other company.

What’s the lesson here? It’s okay to get outside the box, but don’t lose the box – the box is what got you here. To help us remember who we are, perhaps we need to come crawling back to the box, climb in, sit in the dark and – think *inside* the box for a while.

Groups need to identify the one thing they do best and let that core ability guide their decision making.

It’s time for us to “get in the box,” get inside the church box. Time to do what Jesus wants us to do, and do it incredibly well.

The first letter of John makes clear *that our core ability as Christians is to love one another*. We see the love in what Jesus did for us, when He laid down His life for us, and we act on this knowledge when we “lay down our lives for one another.” ***“We know by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love the word with tongue, but in deed and truth. We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. This is His commandment,***

***that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”*** (I John 3:16-24)

The sacrificial love of Jesus is more than a nice idea and a noble concept – it is, in fact, a pattern behavior that is supposed to be displayed by us in action.

“How does God’s love abide in anyone,” asks John, “who has the world’s good and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?” (3:17) Short answer: It doesn’t. God’s love lives in those who see a need and respond. Clarence Jordon’s translation in his Cotton Patch Version of John 3:18 back in 1973: “My little ones, let’s not *talk* about love. Let’s not *sing* about love. Let’s put love into action and make it real.”

Making it real, putting it into action: That’s what John is talking about when he challenges us to love one another.

So why is it so hard for us to concentrate on this core of Christian competency? Most of us are more comfortable taking a stand on abortion than taking care of a woman with a problem pregnancy. Most of us would rather write a check to a homeless shelter than spend an evening job counseling to a person on the streets. Most of us find it so much simpler to define our religious duty in terms of attending church and making offerings rather than doing the complicated and challenging.

Basically, we’re lazy. We take a fairly easy path when we get outside the Christian box and put our energy into fighting about politics, abortion, homelessness and homosexuality.

- Continued next week -

## Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Most of us, if we have a chance, will choose a smooth road over a bumpy one. If we must travel a rough, bumpy road, we will try to miss the bumps. After the road becomes familiar, we can miss the worse ones. However, we must be alert for new ones.

Our life as a Christian can be like this. We aren't promised a smooth ride. In fact, most of our growth in spirituality comes from rough bumps that we encounter. We grow from adversity. Going too smoothly will make us complacent. We don't want complacency. Think about some of your rough times. Did you grow from them? Probably so.

There is Someone who can smooth our way if we let Him. He will guide us along the smooth road. He will let us hit some bumps but will be there to help us. *"For this God is our God for-ever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end."* (Psalms 48:14)

Some days we seem to hit more bumps than we think we can handle. We have a reprieve. God is at work again in our lives. When things smooth out, we feel much better. He makes the way smooth for the righteous. Let Him guide your way.

*"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them."* (Isaiah 42:16)

## Dover Church of Christ Lawn Schedule

May 13 Rick Hollis  
Silas Powers

## Remember Our Sick

**Lawrence Boley** – home, recovering from surgery.

**William Boley** – diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes, heart problems and pneumonia.

**Hoyt Ensey** – serious health problems.

**Donny Forehand** – shoulder surgery scheduled for Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Alice Hollis** – Gall bladder surgery scheduled for Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, Arkansas Heart Hospital, Little Rock.

**Pat McAlister** – bladder surgery scheduled for Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Shut-ins:** Need prayers and visits.

Dover Area: **Bernice Brown**  
**Evelyn Burton**  
**Mae Vanzandt**

Russellville Nursing and Rehab Center:  
**Thelma Hatcher**  
**Esther Sparks**

Stella Manor: **Louise Killer**

### Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Walter and Thelma Arcynski, Lloyd Boley, Susie Boley, Dora Dean Cloud, Jamie Churchill, Lloyd Collins, Jeff Davis, Barbara Forehand, Virginia Grant, Grady Gregory, Vickie Gregory, Sue Griffin, Chris Henderson, Brian Holloway, Ray King, Robert and Rose Lee, Bill and Mary McAlister, Troy and Bennie Lou Meadows, John and Jannie Myers, Joe Miller, Nolan Passmore, Teresa Phillips, Laurie Ann Robey, Reedie Smith, Tanya Smith, Virgil Turner, Sue and W. T. Williams, Pauline Whorton, Valentina, and Elsie Youngerman.

**Special Children:** Emmy May, Gabriel Ross Finlayson, Keith Martin, Zachary Shelton and Noah Williams.

**Military:** Jon Allen, Darus Brown, Greg Davis, Johnny Ragsdale, Cole Wetzell and Rudy Will.

## Are You Giving Too Much To God?

It happened several years ago but the memory lingers. Little Luke Frauenthal told his mother he didn't want to put change in the collection plate anymore. He wanted a bill. His mother, Jeanie, opened her billfold which contained a one dollar bill and a five. Luke took the five out and put it in the plate. Jeanie confessed that tears came to her eyes. She asked, "How do you tell a child that he is giving too much to the Lord?"

Ah, that's a good question isn't it? Children don't do all the calculations we do. If they are touched, they will give away everything we have. They will not only give you their money – they will also throw in the piggy. What simplicity! What beauty! They have been known to give their favorite doll or even their bicycle.

As adults we have to sit down and figure. With a sharp pencil or calculator, we take note of percentages. We figure not only what we are giving, but how much we are going to keep. Rarely is our giving a spontaneous thing. It's often cold, calculating and precise. Generally respectable, but not necessarily generous. Maybe more out of duty than desire.

We speak of the widow's mite when we don't have a clue what we are talking about. We admire the alabaster box – without feeling the love of that woman. Such acts of generosity aren't nearly tied up in percentages. Maybe that's why they stun us so. It's just not the way we frequently give.

How do you go about giving to someone who was crucified for you? Careful now. You don't want to give too much.

John Gibson  
Windsong Church of Christ

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**"Be not afraid of growing slowly; be afraid only of standing still."**

Chinese Proverb

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## 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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Men's Business Meeting  
May 1, 7:00 PM  
Dover Church of Christ

Youth Devotional  
May 7 (after evening  
services)  
Host: Steve and Suzy  
Pennington

Men's Devo  
Dover Church of Christ  
Thursday, May 11  
7:00 PM

## Mark Your Calendars

### Ladies Night

Thursday, 7:00 PM  
May 18<sup>th</sup>

Dover Church of Christ

Hostess: Karen  
Womack,  
Russellville

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### SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN HOME

Be a Part of this  
80<sup>th</sup> Year!!

Open House and  
Homecoming

Saturday, May 6, 2006

9:30 AM: Registration  
10:00 AM: Program  
12:00 Noon: Bar-B-Q  
Lunch

1:00 PM: Fellowship  
and Karaoke

Send donations to: Southern  
Christian Home  
P.O.B. 649  
Morrilton, AR 72110

## MAY Birthdays

02 Amelia Besterfeldt  
05 Brett Cains  
06 Randall Walters  
07 Jessica Straight  
Victoria Thomas  
Carlee Williams  
08 Trinity Loper  
10 Casey Loper  
13 Kelli Hottinger  
Tim Mitchell  
15 Alan Boatright  
Alicia Brown  
20 Shelley Culwell  
24 Jaylinn Williams  
25 Diane W. Walters  
31 Paul Helton  
Don Johnson

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

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### May 21, 2006

Dover Church of Christ  
Potluck honoring our 2006  
graduates (after evening  
services)

High School Graduates:  
Kaci Statler  
Catlin Straight  
Alan Walker

Arkansas Tech University:  
Rachel Hale  
Jana Parker McGuire  
Ashlee Womack Wilson

# ***THOSE TO SERVE***

***May 07, 2006***

**Sunday A.M.**

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

## **Prayers**

Jim Killer  
John Myers

## **Communion**

**Podium:** Allen Veasman  
**Serve:** Chris Besterfeldt  
Alan Boatright  
Blake Walters  
Brent Hottinger

## **Scripture Reading**

Brett Walters

**Sunday P.M.  
Prayers**

Lawrence Boley  
Joe Miller

# **SPEAKER**

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## **Prepare Table for Communion**

Lois Boley

## **Communion to Shut-Ins**

Donny Forehand  
Blake Forehand

## **Greeters**

Earl and Frances Kennedy

## **Wednesday Night Devotional**

**May 10, 2006**

Chris Moss

**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  
Chris Moss  
Joe Miller

## **Nursery Attendants:**

**Sunday Class:** Charlene Clark  
Patsy Wisbrock  
**Wednesday Class:** Carin Vaughn

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