



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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To The Graduates of 2008

By Randall Walters
Dover Church of Christ
May 25, 2008

Congratulations Class of 2008. It is time to make your mark on the world, and what a world. Global warming threatens our very existence; the polar ice caps are melting, we're running out of oil, gasoline is \$4.00 per gallon and going up. Life as we have come to know it seems destined for nothing but gloom and doom. Who knows how bad it could get from here? There are even rumors of Rocky VII or another Rambo sequel.

I say, get off the planet while you still can.

How mankind managed to maintain the top of the food chain mystifies me. For no other creature on this earth – with the possible exception of an overly manicured and pampered French Poodle – exhibits such unrelenting silliness. Never in all of recorded history has life been good for so many, yet humankind wants to just sit around biting their nails with worry about the gloomy future that awaits us all. Best-selling books, the nightly news, and countless web sites continue to stroke the fires of fear. Life is awful and getting worse.

Really? Let me throw out a few facts. In 1900, the average life expectancy for an American was 47 years, today it's 78. In 1900, Americans devoted 50 percent of their incomes to putting food on the table, that figure has dropped to about 10 percent. By the end of the 20th century, despite a 500 percent increase in the U. S. population, forests still cover one-third of our nation (the world's forests have actually increased in size since the 1940's). Americans have three times more leisure hours over their lifetimes than did their ancestors in the late 19th century. And I could go on and on.

University of Maryland economist Julian L. Simon wrote the book, "It's Getting Better All the time – 100 Greatest Trends of the Last 100 Years." It's a refreshing change to the doomsday of mainstream media. Dr. Simon didn't fret or make unfounded

predictions; he simply gathered facts and charted trends. And, time and time again, his carefully produced graphs and trends have proven all the "Chicken Littles" of this world wrong. One of his best rebuttals was of Stanford economist Paul Ehrlich's 1968 book "The Population Bomb," which gloomily stated that, "The battle to feed humanity is over. In the late 1970's . . . hundreds of millions of people (including Americans) are going to starve to death." Scary stuff. Would you go get me another serving of that desert?

Why do I bring all this up here? Because I don't want you falling victim to this Armageddon mentality running rampant through our world. Why I am I so sure the doomsayers are wrong? For starters, they've been wrong for centuries. Let me read you a famous quote from Hesiod, an early Greek poet and philosopher, who lived around 700 B C. Hesiod said: "I see no hope for the future of our people if they are dependant on the frivolous youth of today, for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words. When I was a boy, we were taught to be discrete and respectful of elders, but the present youth are exceedingly sarcastic and impatient of restraint."

Sounds like something your parents may have said to some of you, huh?

Mainly I have two specific reasons for my unbridled optimism regarding the future and your role in it:

Reason #1, mankind has always risen to the challenge. Always.

History doesn't lie: The progress brought about by human ingenuity is near boundless. Sure, there'll be rocky spots, short-term downs, but the long-term trend is, has always been, decidedly up. What's more, technology is advancing exponentially (as proof, how many of you older folks remember not having a phone in your house?) How many, if you did have a phone, but had a party line? How many of you have a cell phone in your pocket? And how out of date is that phone, if it's only a phone. It has to be a camera, MP3

player, etc., to be cool. What's not possible today may well be possible much sooner than we think.

Reason #2, and the most important with regard to my optimistic outlook on the future is that the Lord is in control. He tells us in Matthew 6:25-33, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So, why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For your heavenly Father knows that you need these things. Verse 33 and most important: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

So how can I be so optimistic about the future? Hey, I have several hundred years of history and the good Lord on my side. How can I possibly be wrong? So look to the future with hope and optimism. And most importantly always put your faith in the Lord. And always seek Him and His righteousness first, then all the small stuff will work itself out.

You are a bright, wonderful and talented group and you are probably wondering "when is he going to be done and what can I possibly learn from this guy. Maybe nothing, but please listen to these last few words. Your parents, grand parents, uncles,

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Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

In *Reader's Digest*, February 2008, there is an article, "The Way to Happiness" by Dianne Hales. In the article she states, "Research shows that 50% of our happiness comes from genetics. Unless you're extremely poor or gravely ill, life circumstances account for only 10% of happiness. The other 40% depends on what you do to make yourself happy.

"Positive psychology has shown that happy people thrive. They're more creative and productive, earn more money, attract more friends, enjoy better marriages, stay healthier and even out live their grumpier peers. Researchers say that happiness is measurable and buildable. Keep a daily attitude journal, write a letter of gratitude or perform acts of kindness, however small. Do something, volunteer."

Is happiness contagious? Is happiness inherited? Smiling can be infectious. Just try it. We meet someone, smile, they smile back. Both of us are already in a better mood. Reading funny stories makes us laugh. Spending time with happy people makes us happier. No one likes to spend time with a grumpy person. That will grow on you, too.

"When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other." (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14)

God wants us to be happy. When times are good, be happy. He does not want us to complain and grumble all the time. He made the world, gave us life, so He wants us to be thankful for that. Being negative and unhappy all the time does not show any appreciation for what He gives us each day. Christians should be happy.

However, God does expect us to be sad and unhappy when we are going through a rough time. We don't have to apologize for feeling bad about bad things. He created us as humans who can laugh at good things and cry about sad things. **"God made one as well as the other."**

So much of how we live and act depends on us. It is our attitude, it is **continued, same page, second column**

Remember Our Sick

Troy Curtis – home at last, recovering!

Lois Boley – home, recovering.

Bernice Brown – St. Mary's, heart.

Hoyt Ensey – Home from hospital.

J. R. Hale – recovering from the third surgery on his elbow.

Joyce Helton – started radiation treatments June 11.

Rex & Liliya McDaniel – need our prayers.

Ruby Gene Johnson – had heart stint surgery Sat., May 31. Moved to Stella Manor pending surgery on her feet.

Felicia Kremers – daughter of Gwen Hale, tests, circulation problems.

William, Kim & Kelsi Sims – serious health problems.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**
Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Evelyn Driver

Stella Manor: **Melba Hodges**
Louise Killer
Mae Vanzant

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Wm/Susie Boley, Rachel Curtis, Eugene Cox, Jeff Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Paul/Sue Griffin, Pat Holloway, Cleon Johnson, Dorothy King, Rose Lee, Linda Melton, Julie Moss, Carol Presley, Charles Proctor, Don Sheeran, Reedie Smith, Tanya Smith, Judy Will and Gene Williams.

Special Children: Tiffany Knight (infant, heart problems) Elysia Lee, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Expectant Mothers: Kelly Chance, Jillian Church and Kristen Nordin

Our Military: Cole Wetzel

Lines From Ladies continued -

our choice. We can be a happier person if we choose to be. Wealth and material things do not make happiness. In fact, usually they bring unhappiness. If our happiness depends on "things" we will miss the whole idea of what being happy is all about!

Graduating Seniors of 2008

Continued from page 1 –

aunts, family, friends, teachers (at church and school) have been giving you advice for all your life.

Do you know how they obtained the knowledge from which they derived all that advice they have been giving you for all your life? **Mostly from making mistakes!**

Do you know why they try to pass that advice on to you? **Because they love and care about you!**

So they try to pass on all that advice on to you whether you asked for it or not. And now as you are starting a new phase of your life, it's time to see how much of that advice actually sank in.

I've heard it said that learning from one's own mistakes is a sign of intelligence, but learning from the mistakes of others is a sign of wisdom. My prayer for each of you is wisdom.

The greatest source of wisdom is the word of God. It won't fail you or ever lead you astray. Turn to it often as you face each new day and each new challenge.

Life's all about choices, people. Everything you do, every day, is a choice. Even when you choose not to do something, that's still a choice you make.

Approach your future with optimism. Choose to have faith in others (There's still more good than bad out there). Choose to have faith in family and friends (they really do love you). And most importantly choose to have faith in God. He is always there, and will never let you down.

Class of 2008! Go out there and make your mark on the world. Make good choices every day.

I (for one) am very optimistic about what your generation will make of this world.

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

No Area Wide Devo

For the Months of
June & July.

Dover's Lawn Mowing Schedule

Saturday, June 28th
Chris Moss
and
Kevin Nordin

Mark Your Calendars

Dover Ladies Night

Please Note: A Change in
Plans!!

Thursday, June 26th, 7PM

Home of Marilyn Veasman

5th Sunday Celebration

Sunday, June 29
Following PM Services

Potluck!

Next

Camp Caudle Schedule

June 22nd thru 28th

Session: 3rd to 6th Grade
Monday thru Friday

Registration:
Sunday, 3 to 5 PM

Director: Greg Sublett
Keith Lape

Early Registration: \$85
T-Shirt Included
Late Registration: \$105

Camp Ends Friday Night
With Awards Assembly
7:00 PM

JUNE Birthdays

- 01 Sandra Boatright
- 02 Chase Chance
- 03 Allen Veasman
- 04 Michelle Helton
Jeff Myers
- 05 Eugene Qualls
- 07 Bob Bennett
- 10 Leanna Mullins
- 11 Joe Miller
- 12 Ashlee Wilson
- 14 Kenna Rae Jackson
- 21 Caitlyn Straight
- 22 Nina June Qualls
- 25 Ashley Anderson
Pat Holloway
Iris Lawley
- 28 Tanya Smith
Joyce Walters

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

"In Search of The Lord's Way"

Now 24/7

The Search Program can
now be accessed any time
website: www.searchtv.org

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

THOSE TO SERVE

June 22, 2008

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Earl Whitted
Donny Forehand

Communion

Podium: William Boley
Serve: Brent Hottinger
Brett Walters
Chris Besterfeldt
Chris Loper

Scripture Reading

Sid Womack

**Sunday P.M.
Prayers**

Dennis Whiteside
Chris Moss

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Cara Williams

Communion to Shut-Ins

Jim Killer
Marion Helton

Greeters

Alan and Sandra Boatright

Wednesday Night Devotional

June 25, 2008
Allen Veasman

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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Dover Church of Christ
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