



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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Web site: www.dovercoc.org

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Where to Turn When There Is Nowhere to Turn

By Allen Webster

House to House-Heart to Heart

Abe Lincoln said, "I have often been driven to my knees by the sincere conviction that there was no where else to go."

The nobleman from Capernaum whose son was about to die, had just about given up hope (John 4:46-54). The baby he had first held shortly after birth, the boy he had wrestled with on the floor of their living room, the son he hoped would care for him in his old age, was about to precede him through death's door.

Perhaps friends came by and told him about a miracle they had seen at a relative's wedding at Cana some weeks before. News about Jesus often spread fast to those who had needs (Mark 2:1-3; 6:55-56; 10:47). This man Jesus could do some amazing things. Maybe He could help the boy.

At first, he likely dismissed it as wishful thinking, but then he came to see it as his last ray of hope. What could it hurt anyway? He could ask. All Jesus could do is say, "No," or try and fail. Either way, it couldn't hurt. The boy was dying anyway. Besides, just maybe . . . So "*... when he heard that Jesus was come . . . into Galilee, he went unto him.*" (John 4:47)

You'll Get There. . . If you haven't yet been to the place where you didn't know where to turn, you'll get there. You will be in a hospital waiting room or a funeral home or a police station or at the scene of an accident or a doctor's office or bank or courtroom, and know (perhaps for the first time) that you don't have all the answers.

Man is born to trouble (Job 5:7; Genesis 3:17-19; Ecclesiastes 2:17, 23; John 14:1-2; cf. I Corinthians 10:13). "*Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.*" (Job 14:1) Like this

nobleman, it may involve your son or daughter. While Jesus was on earth He was often approached by parents who were desperate for help with their children (Matthew 9:18; 15:22; 17:14-15; Luke 7:2). Some of the most heart-gripping requests in Scripture come from parents who had sick children (Luke 8:41-42; Mark 5:23, 35-36).

The natural question at such a time is, "Why? Why?" The word *why* is found 282 times in the Bible. Job asked, "*Why died I not from the womb?*" (Job 3:11-12; cf. 3:16, 20, 23) Gideon asked it (Judges 6:13). The psalmist asked it (Psalm 42:9; cf. 27:9; 71:11). Jeremiah asked, "*Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever?*" (Lamentations 5:20; cf. 1:12). Jesus asked it: "*Why hast thou forsaken me?*" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). It is still asked by a thousand passionate voices.

From the sickroom - "Why this illness?"
From the cemetery - "Why this death?"
From blood-soaked battlefields - "Why this loss?"
From the lips of the oppressed - "Why this suffering?"
From the burdened - "Why this weight?"

But remember, *why* is an easy question to ask and a hard question to answer. God's people live on promises, not on explanations. Nowhere in his book does Job deny the Lord, curse Him, or question His holiness or His power. In fact, God's justice was Job's real problem: how could such a holy God permit such awful calamity?

Riches, power, influence, station and education do not exempt us from such trouble (Job 1-3; Deuteronomy 8:5-20; Proverbs 23:5). The father of the sick boy in Capernaum was a nobleman, yet his son still got sick. Think of Abraham, David and Solomon, who all had both riches and troubles.

And God Will Already Be There . . .
One day you may find yourself in a simi-

lar situation and you will think, "I'm in deep trouble. What am I to do? Who can help me now? There may be a parent to ask or a friend to call or an elder to counsel, but sometimes they are just as helpless as we are. Jeremiah said, "*O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*" (Jeremiah 10:23)

God is everywhere, therefore, He is near everyone (Psalm 139:7-12). But there is a special sense in which God is with His children. (I Peter 3:12; Psalm 23:3-4; Isaiah 43:2-4). Was God not present in Daniel's den of lions? (Daniel 6). Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's fiery furnace? (Daniel 3) Was God not present in Paul's Philippian jail? (Acts 16)

It is at times like these that the Lord invites, "*Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*" (Psalm 50:15; cf. 78:34) God is there for His people in trouble.

The Psalmist said, "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*" (Psalm 46:1) God is a Helper - a present Helper; a Helper that can be found; a willing Helper; and a Helper that is always near. We could not even invent a better Helper; He knows everything, has every power, is everywhere and loves everybody!

Jesus is a Physician who never disappoints. (Job 13:4; cf. Isaiah 1:5-6; Jeremiah 8:22; Matthew 9:11-12; Luke 8:43-48) When dismayed or distressed with fear of wrath, the force of temptation, or the weight of affliction, we should apply to the Physician of our souls, who never rejects any, never prescribes amiss and never leaves any case uncured. (Matthew Henry, Comment on Job 13)

We should not give up hope, even when life gets dark. If we feel God is not paying us any attention, we should read the passages that say He remembers us.

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Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAister

They Are All Numbered

From AAD Web site

A person 20-30 years of age has about 615 hair follicles per square centimeter. A person 50 years of age has around 485 hair follicles per square centimeter. People aged 80-90 years have approximately 435 hair follicles per square centimeter. This shows an average of about five percent hair loss per year. The average hair loss for an individual is 50-100 hairs per day.

If you are a Bible student, then you already know where this is going. Jesus said, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Matt.10:29-31) When I got older and started losing my hair, I knew that God must have to change His count at least hourly in the case of some of us.

People two thousand years ago had the same types of problems that we have today. Jesus warned, "Therefore take no thought saying, what shall we eat? Or, what shall we drink? Or, where-withal shall we be clothed?" (Matt. 6:31) What was His response to those whose worldly concerns had overridden spiritual necessities? "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33)

Jesus closes His discourse on worldly cares saying, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Matt. 6:34) In other words, there are enough problems in one day to deal with, without com-pounding them by concerning ourselves with things that are out of our control.

Physical food fills our bodies temporarily, but in time we will hunger again. Jesus fills another kind of hunger. He said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (John 6:51) We should take comfort in the fact that we serve a God who knows us personally. He even knows things about us that we don't know about ourselves – like the number of hairs on our heads.

Remember Our Sick

Shirley Chisum – Athel Hill's daughter, diagnosed with cancer, treatments started.

Jim Dempsey – friend of Leota Hickey, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Arlis Dotson–Kim M. Joan V. friend, extremely serious accident to his arm, much pain, facing a long recovery.

Gary Nicholson – many health issues.

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

Janice Brashear

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Betty Bailey, Iris Bates, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Susie Boley, James & Shirlee Chadwick, Troy & Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Larry & Rhonda Freeman, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Joe Kline, Rose Lee, Janette Litch, Daniel Loper, Cindy Martin, Linda Melton, Helen Moore, Julie Moss, Kristen Nordin, Mary Ann Rutherford, BJ/Don Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Sherry Strick, Juanita Townsend and Judy Will.

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

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

Our Prayers & Sympathy is with the family and many friends of **Pat Holloway** who passed away Sunday, July 12, 2009, Baptist Hospital, L R.

She was a dedicated church worker and will be missed so very much by her church family.

Memorial services were Wednesday, July 22, Dover Church of Christ, with interment at Pocahontas, AR., Micah Williams officiating.

Where to Turn When . . .

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(Genesis 8:1; cf. Psalm 106:4; Luke 23:42) There are times when God seems to hide Himself, but we may rest assured that He is there. (Job 23:3; Psalm 10:1; 13:1-3; 89:46; Isaiah 8:17; 45:15; I Timothy 6:16) "Blessed be God we may know where to find Him. He is the Christ reconciling the world unto Himself; and upon a mercy-seat, waiting to be gracious." (Matthew Henry, Comment on Job 23)

But Before You Go. . . We need to develop faith in God before tragedy comes. Since trouble can come to any life at any time, now is the time to act. We must prepare for the storm while the weather is still calm. (Job 3:26; Psalm 143:11; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5) Sometimes trouble comes when least expected. (Job 30:26; 3:25-26; 29:18; Jeremiah 8:15; 14:19; 15:18; Micah 1:12; I Thessalonians 5:3)

If we refuse to listen to God's Word in good times, He may refuse to hear us in bad times. One preacher began a popular talk by saying, "This sounds strange, but I don't want to hear God laugh. Why? Because it's always sad when God laughs."

The text was: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity. (Proverbs 1:24-26)

This is not to say that we cannot turn to God when trouble comes. In fact, some Bible characters did turn to God because of trials (I Kings 21:27-29; Luke 15), and were accepted. It does not mean that if we only turn to God for aid, but without true repentance, that we cannot expect God's blessings.

So, get to know God now – whether you are standing in the sunshine or the rain. He wants you in His family (Ephesians 2:19), to enjoy His blessings (John 10:10), and live with Him forever (John 14:1-2).

You do have somewhere to turn!

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

Dover Church of Christ Vacation Bible School

July 27th thru 31st
From 6 PM to 8 PM
4 year olds
thru
6th grade
Adult Classes

Dover Lawn Care
Saturday, August 1st
Allen Veasman
Earl Stamps

Dover Men's
Business Meeting
Monday
August 3rd, 7 PM

Mark Your Calendars

Back to School Party

Saturday, August 1st
At the Veasman's
6:00 PM

Younger Children only
For more info:
Keri Letson
Leigh Ann Forehand

Dover Youth Devo

Sunday, August 2nd
After evening services
Home of Micah and
Cara Williams

Dover Men's Devo

Thursday, 7 PM
August 13th,
Host: Merrell Shoptaw

Dover Ladies Night

Thursday, 7 PM
August 20th
Hostess: Roxanna
Shoptaw

July Birthdays

- 15 Dan Straight
- 16 Chris Ramirez
Diane Walters
- 17 Kim Statler
Rex McDaniel
- 23 William Robbins
Emily Walker
Earl Whitted
- 25 Becky Miller
- 26 Valentina Penno
- 30 James Chadwick
- 31 Wyatt Henson
Kim Miller

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 on 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

July 26, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Brent Hottinger
Blake Walters

Communion

Podium: Allen Veasman
Serve: Chris Besterfeldt
Chris Loper
Chris Moss
Donny Forehand

Scripture Reading

Jim Killer

Sunday P.M.
Prayers

Alan Boatright
Allen Veasman

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.
Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.
Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Earl & Mary Stamps

Communion to Shut-Ins

Jim Killer

Greeters

Jim & JoAnn Killer

Wednesday Night Devotional

July 29, 2009

Tommy Oakes

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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