



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas 72837-0299
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December 13, 2009

The Silent Night

A Christmas Story

Oberndorf, Austria - Each year, on December 24, a special passenger train pulled by a bright red electric locomotive heads out of the train station in Salzburg for a half hour trip to the village of Oberndorf. A multitude of languages can be heard as passengers from all over the globe become Christmas pilgrims, heading for the birthplace of the world's best loved Christmas carol, "Silent Night."

At the same time, the Oberndorf streets are crowded with cars bearing license plates from neighboring European Churches across the nation, filled with people who have raced along the autobahns to arrive in time for the special Christmas Eve "Silent Night" twilight service.

Throughout the world, "Silent Night" which has been translated into more than 200 languages, is an anchor for Christmas celebrations. Its lullaby-like melody and simple message of heavenly peace can be heard from small town street corners in mid-America to magnificent cathedrals in Europe and from outdoor candlelight concerts in Australia to palm thatched huts in northern Peru. The original church of St. Nicholas, where "Silent Night" was first heard in 1818, was torn down in the early part of this century after sustaining damage from the flooding of the nearby Salzach River. The Silent Night Chapel was erected on the spot in front of the main altar where Gruber and Mohr stood to sing the six-stanza carol. In a higher section of town, another church was built and the original pulpit and altars from the old church were moved there. At Christmas singers stand in front of the same altars and recreate the moment when the song heard 'round the world' was first performed.

Researched by Bill Egan, Christmas Historian

Savior

By Austin Spurlock
Russellville, Arkansas

A father kissed His Son goodbye.
With tears in His eyes He sent Him
To a place of pain and sin
To save people who knew
Him no more.

This plan He had made before the
universe was even made,
With great humility and love He
stepped down from His throne
And transfigured Himself into a baby.

He knew where He was going
And what He had to do.
From a mere woman He created,
He was born
The child she delivered would soon
deliver her from sin.

With a baby's scream,
He took His first breath from
the very air He created.
His scream was more than a
physical scream, but spiritual.
His scream of longing to be at His
home, where He reigned,
Were He not isolated from His glory.
A home where He could be with His
Father, His Holy Spirit.

Growing to be a man, He served His
creation of humanity.
The King of Kings humbled Himself.
The world did not know Him
or His ways,
For He was the Light and the world
was in darkness.

Never afraid to get
His hands dirty,
He healed all kinds of people.
Never afraid to show love to those
looking for Him, He forgave.
And to the point of death
on a tree He served His Father.

With love in His eyes
He looked on His children
And saw their sins on that tree.
He stayed on the cross, though His
power was unlimited.
He saw all those who would put their
faith in Him and serve Him
Before they were even born.

With nails in His hands and feet,
He hung there for hours in misery.
A crown of thorns on His head
He did not deserve,
But rather a crown of glory and honor,
He did not deserve death,
For He was the Lord of Life.

[Austin composed this in just a few minutes during the Free Writing (ad lib) session of his Creative Writing Class.]

From: Vision
West Side Church of Christ
Russellville, Arkansas

Prayers and Sympathy to the family and many friends of **Jim Lackey** who passed away Monday, November 30, 2009, at Russellville, Arkansas.

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Most children love the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, even though they have a hard time pronouncing their names. I like the story, too. These three young men were from the tribe of Judah, who were taken captive into Babylon under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar.

The king had made a gold statue, ninety feet tall and nine feet wide. He made a decree that all people should bow down and worship the gold statue when they heard the sound of musical instruments. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego loved God. They refused to worship the gold statue. They only worshipped the living, breathing God.

The king became furious. But, he did give them another chance to bow down before he had them thrown into a blazing furnace. He said, "What god will be able to rescue you from my power then?"

They faced certain death, a horrible death. What did they say? "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if He doesn't, you can be sure that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

How brave they were, what great faith they had! They knew their God could save them but they were not sure whether He would or not. They didn't know God's plan for them.

It is no wonder that God was planning to rebuild Jerusalem and return His remnant of people with obedient young men as these were! You remember how the story goes, God does save them. He is not through with them yet!

Later, the king said of them, "They were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God." (Daniel 3) Could we be so brave?

Sympathy & Prayers for the family and friends of **Lester Karnes** who passed away Friday, November 27th, 2009. Services at Sikeston, MO, December 1st.

Remember Our Sick

Tim Hardgraves - in UAMS, serious condition, an accident Tue., Nov. 10th.

Rose Lee - first eye surgery went well. Second eye surgery, December 9th.

Janette Litch - battling cancer.

Jeff Myers - severe nerve damage left leg. Seeing a spine surgeon Dec. 9th.

Joyce Poynter - cancer, hospice.

Zackary Shelton - ear drum surgery Wed, Nov. 25th, went well.

Kelsey Sims - suffering from Myasthenia Gravis, an autoimmune disease.

Reedie Smith - Marilyn Veasman's mother, serious health problems, home

Janice Waldo - sister to Rachel Curtis, home recovering.

Earl Whitted - home, recovering..

Shut-ins - need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: Evelyn Burton
Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:
Joyce Austin
Helen Brown
Lorene McNutt

Stella Manor: Louise Killer
Janice Brashear

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Amie Barkley, Iris Bates, Bob/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, Mario Litch, Daniel Loper, Cindy Martin, Linda Melton, Carla Mitchell, Julie Moss, BJ/Don Sheeran, Christine Sheeran, Gary/Doreen Shinn, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend and Judy Will.

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

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

Seeking

(From Vision, West Side
Church of Christ)

A man told a story about the time his son's sixth birthday was approaching. Since his son usually was very specific about the kind of presents he liked, the dad asked him what he could get him.

The father expected a well planned reply, such as "I'd like a baseball glove; you can find it at Toys-R-Us, aisle 6, below the batting helmets, or a Parcheesi board; the games are in alphabetical order in aisle 1; it's between the Pac Man and Pay Day."

But his son's request was a bit different. He said, "Dad, I'd like a ball to play with for my birthday."

His father's asked, what kind of ball?"

"Oh, I don't know, either a football or a soccer ball."

"Well, which would you want more?"

He said, "Well, if you have some time to play ball with me, I'd really like a **football** so we could throw it back and forth. But if you are going to be real busy, may be you should get me a **soccer ball**, because I can play soccer with the kids in the neighborhood."

The dad thought about this and said, "Let me surprise you. How does that sound?"

The boy smiled and said, "Oh that would be great, Dad. I really love you."

The father shared this little encounter with his wife and together they agreed, **their son was not so much interested in the gift. He was interested in the giver.**

So it is with God and His children, except the roles are reversed. In worship our Father is asking us to separate ourselves from all other pursuits and interests and just spend some time with Him, alone, uninterrupted. The material gifts we bring to Him are already His, so it is the gift of self that God is looking for: an unqualified love, an undisputed devotion, an "until death do us part" pledge of fidelity.

The benefit of spending time with God is: we will become like Him! And we will be the hands and feet and heart of God to serve and to save the lost. We will grow in devotion to God's family, the church, teaching and admonishing each other, growing together in Christ.

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

GIFTS (Only)
Dover Church of Christ
Will Meet Every first
And Third Sunday
Sunday, 4PM

Dover Men's December
Devo Night cancelled!

Children's Christmas Party
Plans to be announced.

New Year's Eve Party
December 31, 2009
For more info see:
Diane Walters and
Kim Miller

*The Tuesday Morning
Ladies Class will not
meet December 22nd
and December 29th.*

Mark Your Calendars

Young Adults Get Together!

December 12th,
Saturday. 5:00 PM

CAROLING

Meet at the church for
caroling and snacks.
Host: Tommy and
Carla Oakes

Visitation Christmas Baskets

December 19th
See Amanda Besterfeldt
for details

Dover Ladies Night
Thursday, 6:00 PM
December 17th
Hostesses': Leota Hickey
Mary Stamps
Please Note! The Change
in plans: this will be at
Leota Hickey's Home
Bring an exchange gift for
the Santa Game.
(No GAG Gifts)
Also bring items for the
Women's Shelter.
It's a Potluck!

December Birthdays

- 01 LeighAnne Forehand
Rhonda Horton
- 06 Presley Williams
- 08 Suzanne Helton
- 14 Presten Nordin
- 16 Athel Hill
Billie Nichols
- 21 Jamie Churchill
Gary Shinn
- 22 Alayna Williams
- 23 Jamie Statler
- 24 Cara Williams
- 25 Amanda Besterfeldt
- 26 Addie Beck
Rachel Myers

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

*Please note: the last
Printing of the 2009
Life Lines Bulletin will
be December 20th.*

**The Life Lines Staff
wishes everyone and
their families a safe
and happy holiday.**

**Joan Vance appreciates
those that have continued
to help with the Life Lines!
Thanks Again!**

THOSE TO SERVE

December 13, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters

Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Michael Robbins

Marion Helton

Communion

Podium: William Boley

Serve: Allen Veasman

Blake Walters

Brent Hottinger

Lane Smith

Scripture Reading

Alan Boatright

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Larry Mahan

Lee Henson

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Billy and Diane Walters

Communion to Shut-Ins

Earl Whitted

Greeters

The Elders

Wednesday Night

Devotional

December 16, 2009

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

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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