



# Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ  
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December 14, 2008

## Finding the Treasure

Read Acts 8:26-40

By Allen Webster

From House to House/Heart to Heart

Dr. Williamson, a Canadian geologist, had been slipping along a rain-soaked road that led through Tanzania's back country when, suddenly, his Land Rover sank to its axles in sticky mire. Pulling out a shovel, he began to dig his four-wheel drive out. After some time, he uncovered an interesting-looking pink stone. Being a geologist and naturally curious about rock formations, he picked it up. The more mud he removed, the more excited he became. He hardly believed what he saw! When the stone was finally clean, Dr. Williamson had found a diamond! (Eldred Echols, *Discovering the Pear of Great Price*, Sweet, Published, Ft. Worth, TX, 1992)

Any diamond would have been a surprise, but he had found the now famous giant pink diamond of Tanzania. That muddy stone sparkles today in a brooch worn by the Queen of England on occasions, and Williamson is world renowned for his find – accidental though it was.

It is interesting that the geologist found the diamond. Similarly the Bible tells of a treasurer who found a treasure. Jesus' comparison of a sinner who learns the gospel to one who finds great treasure (Matthew 13:44) is illustrated by this Ethiopian treasurer who found the gospel on a lonely road leading back to Africa from Jerusalem (Acts 8:26-40). Why did he – of all people in the world – find the treasure that day?

**The treasurer was willing to LOOK for something more.** This Ethiopian had traveled fifteen hundred miles one way to worship, and was still reading his Bible on the way home! Because he was a eunuch, he had not even been allowed into the temple proper during the ceremonies (cf. Deuteronomy 23:1). You could say he rode three thousand miles to sit in the foyer! He knew something of the Bible but wanted to know more. He was like a man

at sunrise tilting his manuscript to catch the first light. As he read Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus, he was catching the first rays of the rising sun of Christianity.

Who will find God's treasure today? Those who are willing to look for it. Growing up, we all played the usual childhood games. We "shot" each other while playing cowboys and Indians or army. We played many games of football, baseball and basketball. And we played "hide-and-seek." While the rules would change from time to time, the basic gist was the same: One person would be "it," and the rest would hide, hoping to be the last one found. Since no one wanted to be "it," the role often was not played with much enthusiasm; those who were "it" did not always finish the game. Only those who zealously searched for those hiding would be victorious.

God's treasure is available to all, but it requires a careful and diligent Bible student (II Timothy 2:15). The way to heaven is hidden" in the Holy Scriptures. Jesus said that the Scriptures (Old Testament) testified of Him, but His name is not found there (John 5:39). He taught in parables so that only those sincerely interested would find eternal life. (Matthew 13:13-15). He said that the path to eternal life is straight and narrow and will be found by few. (Matthew 7:13-14) We do not find the path by a casual pass through the Scriptures, but rather by a diligent search. No single passage teaches all we need, but we must study to put the pieces together to know the truth which will make us free. (John 8:31-32) We should all strive to find, understand and observe God's will for us – to obey the gospel and become His children.

Several Bible passages mention "seeking:" God seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24); Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10); God re-wards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6); we are to seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33); he who seeks, shall find (Matthew 7:7-8).

**The treasurer was willing to LISTEN to another viewpoint.** When Philip gave the treasurer an opportunity to learn more of God's word, he took him up on it. This treasurer was humble enough to admit to a complete stranger that he did not understand what he was studying. (He could have told this aggressive preacher to get lost, but then he would have stayed lost.)

The treasurer listened as Philip showed how Jesus' death on Calvary and His resurrection from the grave fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (chapter 53 in your Bible).

This was not what the treasurer had been taught in the worship service he had just left. He learned the truth because he was willing to consider another viewpoint. What about us? Too many religious discussions end with slammed doors and closed minds, raised voices and lowered respect for a friend, clenched fist and closed Bibles. Truth never suffers from investigation, further study will simply confirm it.

**The treasurer was willing to LEAVE his past.** As treasurer for his country, he was doubtless an intelligent and industrious man. His religion was good. He was comfortable with it. He knew its customs, understood its theology. It taught high morals and had benefited his life. But now the preacher suggested that he give it up for something better. It no longer pleased God and was powerless to grant salvation.

He desired to please God more than others (Galatians 1:10), and was willing to change religions.

According to the book of Acts, something is wrong today when someone claims to preach Jesus, but who hearers never request baptism. How can any man preach the gospel and answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" and not give the answer Jesus told us to give? (Mark 16:15-16).

This treasurer may have been wealthy in Ethiopia before his journey, but he left the scene a far richer man. In the last view we ever get of him, he is pictured with a "smile on his face." You will rejoice, too, if you find God's treasure!

## Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

In the July/August 2008 *Christian Woman* there is a very good article written by Teresa Bell Kindred. The Title is "Taking Responsibility."

She makes three points in her article. The first point is "The need for Personal Responsibility." She writes, "During the years I taught at the local high school, many students came to class unprepared. I don't remember ever having a student admit that not having their homework completed or flunking a test was because of their own neglect. They couldn't study because of a ballgame they had to go to or other homework they had to do. It was always someone else's fault."

The second point she makes is, "The Same Old Story: Pointing Fingers." Here she writes, "Lack of accountability is nothing new. Remember Adam and Eve in Genesis 3? They were told they could eat the fruit on any tree in the garden where they lived except one. Unable to withstand temptation, they succumbed and ate of the forbidden fruit. When God asked Adam if he had eaten from the tree, Adam didn't say, 'Yes, Sir, I ate the fruit.' Instead he answered, 'The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.' When it came time for Eve to answer for her actions, she didn't do any better. She told God, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'" (Genesis 3:12, 13)

The third point she makes is "No Excuses Necessary." In this section she tells the story of David, a man after God's own heart. When Bathsheba tells David she is expecting a child, he begins to make a plan to fix the problem. He sends Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, to the front line of battle to make sure he is killed. Later, the prophet Nathan comes to David with a sad story. Hearing this, David becomes furious, demanding this person die for what he has done. Then Nathan tells David he is talking about him! He says, "You are the man!" Unlike Adam and Eve, David did not make excuses. He could have blamed it on Bathsheba, but he didn't. He simply admitted, "I have sinned against the Lord." (II Samuel 11 & 12)

We need to accept responsibility for our actions. There will come a day when we will give an account to God.

We can't blame it on anyone else, because God will know!

**Comfort:** God does not comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.

## Remember Our Sick

**Amie Barkley** – appointment scheduled for Monday, December 8th, for results.

**Tommy Causey** - critically ill.

**Laura Coleman** - C-section, Tuesday, November 25th.

**Mary Ann Churchill** – serious health problems.

**Kelli Cohoon** – daughter of Richard Cohoon of ATU, diagnoses, cancer of the tongue, surgery, Thurs., Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Troy Curtis**– hip surgery Dec. 31st

**Hoyt Ensey**–surgery, Dec. 5, St. Mary's

**Rick Hollis** – serious back problems.

**Rachel Myers** – appendix surgery, Thursday, November 20, 2008.

**Rodney Pfeifer** – some improvement, voice is better.

**Gerald Sanders** – needs a heart transplant

**Mona Standridge** – tumors enlarging.

**Ted Ward** – Sarah Ensey's father, serious health problems.

**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**  
**Mae Vanzandt**

**Others Who Need Our Prayers:**

Yvonne Adkisson, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley, Susie Boley, Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Pauline Dale, Mel Davis, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Pat Holloway, Dorothy King, Robert Paul Leavell, Rose Lee, Linda Melton, Helen Moore, Julie Moss, BJ/Don Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend, and Judy Will.

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

**Our Military:** Cole Wetzel, D. J. Bandy and Travis Coe.

## What Thanksgiving Means to Marion Helton Of Dover, Arkansas

This is a devotional given by Marion Helton Wednesday evening, the night before our Thanksgiving holiday.

T – Thanks. Thanks to Jesus for His sacrifice and His love for us.

H – Heaven. Heaven is waiting for the Christians to gather there.

A – Always. Always, we are protected by the Holy Spirit against sin and Satan.

N – Nation. A nation under God will survive.

K – Knowledge. Knowledge of the Bible will bring us to God's throne.

S – Saved. We are saved by our Lord's sacrifice.

G – Grace. Grace abounds from our God to us, in everything we do.

I – Individuals. We are individuals with connections to God's personal love, making us happy.

V – Victory. Our Victory in Jesus will be His love for us in the final judgment.

I - I. I am blessed by the love of this church by how much love we have for each other.

N – Nature. Nature's beautiful scenery and the wonderful place in which we live.

G – Giving. Thanks that we are free to worship and believe due to God's grace. I pray that God will continue to bless our nation. I hope this will truly be a "Nation Under God."

These comments were made from Marion's heart. He wanted to share his thoughts with us on this Wednesday night. However, we had to coax him to give us these notes to print!

Thank you, Marion.

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### Do You Believe in the Cook?

Sometimes when I am faced with an unbeliever, an atheist, I am tempted to invite him to the greatest gourmet dinner that one could ever serve, and when we finished eating that magnificent dinner, to ask him if he believes there's a cook.

**Ronald Regan**

## 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

\*\*\*\*\*

2008 – 2009  
Lads to Leaders  
Leaderettes  
Overall Theme:  
*“ . . . All that You  
command us we will do,  
and wherever You send  
us we will go.”*  
**(Joshua 1:16)**

Lad to Leaders  
and Leaderettes  
Will meet/: First & Third  
Sundays, 4PM  
Boys: GUARD (Guys  
Understanding Authority and  
Real Discipleship  
Girls: GIFTS (Girls In  
Fellowship and Team Study

## Mark Your Calendars

### Dover Ladies Night

December 18, 6:00 PM  
Home of Leota Hickey  
Bring an exchange gift  
(No gag gifts)  
Also, bring items for  
the Women's Shelter.  
It's a Potluck!

### Dover Children's Christmas Party

Wednesday, Evening,  
December 17th.  
Check for more info:  
Amanda Besterfeldt

Dover's Small Youth  
Visits to Shut-Ins December  
20th, 9:30 AM

No Area Wide Devo  
for  
December, 2008

### PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no class  
meetings for the Dover Ladies  
Tuesday Morning  
Class on December 23<sup>rd</sup> or  
Tuesday, December 30th.

## December Birthdays

01	LeighAnne Forehand
	Rhonda Horton
06	Presley Williams
08	Suzanne Helton
14	Preston Nordin
16	Athel Hill
21	Jamie Churchill
22	Alaynna Williams
23	Jamie Statler
24	Cara Williams
25	Amanda Besterfeldt
26	Addie Beck

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Please Note:

The last Printing for the  
Life Lines for 2008 will be  
December 21st.  
The first printing for the 2009  
Life Lines will be  
January 12th.

The office will be closed  
from December 22nd thru  
December 26th.

I want to thank the  
Volunteers who so  
graciously continue  
getting out the *Life*  
*Lines* each week!

*JV*

# THOSE TO SERVE

*December 14, 2008*

## Sunday A.M.

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

### Prayers

Mark Farber  
Marion Helton

### Communion

**Podium:** Earl Whitted  
**Serve:** Drew Walters  
Jeff Myers  
Gary Williams  
Jim Killer

### Scripture Reading

Lee Henson

## Sunday P.M. Prayers

Lee Henson  
Joe Miller

# SPEAKER

**Sunday A.M.**  
Micah Williams

**Sunday P.M.**  
Micah Williams

## Prepare Table for Communion

Billy & Diane C. Walters

## Communion to Shut-Ins

Donny Forehand

### Greeters

The Elders

## Wednesday Night Devotional December 17, 2008

Rex McDaniel

### 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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