



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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Embrace the risk: Roberta Edwards suffered for the Cross

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BrotherhoodNews.com

Roberta Edwards's senseless murder on Oct. 10 in Haiti made national and international news. I didn't know her personally, but a lot of my friends did. She was a woman of God devoted to her task of caring for children in one of the world's poorest, most corrupt countries.

The culprits and their motives are, apparently, unknown at this point. But anytime a saint enters the world to serve, risk follows. Ministry means vulnerability, opening oneself to hurt by the very people one seeks to serve. Fear would close off that risk and turn away from the possibility of hurt, but faith pushes one forward, as a light-bearer, into the darkness of ignorance and wrongdoing.

Roberta knew the risks. One site reported that she carried a gun for protection. But sensible precautions can never remove completely the malevolent dangers that shadow one's steps.

The Lord Jesus Christ came to give his life as a ransom for sin. He calls his followers to give their lives in the course of their service to him. Giving one's life takes many forms. It may mean decades-long work in a field far from home. It may mean sacrifice of health, well-being, and goods. It may call for sacrifice of family and friends. Surrendering life may mean a violent and premature end at the hands of the wicked. Heart and body may be broken in service to God.

The human reaction is to feel shocked when the surrendering of life is violent or sudden. Such loss seems senseless. Has the will of heaven been frustrated? Has evil cut short the devotion of saints? Has Satan scored a victory? Can [Proverbs 16.4](#) — *Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established* — still be true?

No shock was greater than that of the disciples as they watched their Leader being crucified and mocked. Hope in the divine promises was dashed. Aspirations of freedom and glory were doused. Ambitions were shredded with each raspy breath, with each painful groan of the Master.

If Jesus was not the Messiah, then the coming kingdom must be

nothing more than a mirage. He could not be the Messiah if this suffering and death were happening to him. Nothing remained but to become fishers of fish again.

As they see suffering and death in their midst, Jesus' disciples today often think the best thing is to lock themselves behind closed doors and protect themselves from a worsening world. Stay close to home, minimize the risks, avoid the pain. Just go back to the dried-out nets on the shores of Galilee.

With Jesus' burial, the disciples' dreams also died a quick and shattering death.

But then the resurrection broke forth. Light appeared. Purpose was restored. Joy flared up in their hearts.

And dawned the discovery that victory comes through suffering, not only for the Master, but for his people as well. The lost are redeemed when the redeemed lose themselves in the mission of the Redeemer. Kingdom pain is truly spiritual gain.

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Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

Is there a contradiction in the words, “that they may see your good works” and “do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen of them?”

No, this is not a contradiction, though it may appear at first glance. Jesus was talking to His disciples before two different groups of people when He made these statements. Jesus was teaching His disciples. In Matthew 5:16, He said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” He wanted others to believe their teachings. They were to glorify God, not themselves. Doing things to be seen of men, for that reason alone, was not pleasing to God. Their work was to be beneficial to the worker as well as the recipient. This work was done from the heart.

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:1). Jesus was trying to teach them here not to be like the scribes and Pharisees. They did their alms and deeds at the marketplace and on the street corners to be seen of men. They never did their deeds from the heart. It was always for show and never pleasing to God.

For both parties to benefit from good works, our deeds must not be done for show or recognition. The recipient may benefit either way, but the worker will not. Deeds done from the heart will be a blessing for both, the receiver and the giver.

“But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly” (Matthew 6:3-4).

Your good deeds may go unnoticed, but Someone will reward you in secret: the One that really matters! Your light shines farther than you thought.

Remember Our Sick in Your Prayers

Jason Leavell – moved to Rehab @ Baptist Medical Center

Jeff Myers – started rehab for knee surgery, feeling better

Elliot Crouch- successful surgery on Wed 11/11, weighs over 3 lbs

Charlie Tindall- started a 7 wk course of chemo w/radiation treatments

Carl Adkisson – home - improving

Jerry Turner – started medication for digestion problems

Linda Turner – tests this week

Ginger Garren – at home, some improvement

Yolanda Greenway- home, improving

Leonard Medlin – taking chemo treatments, still very weak

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Billie Nichols**

Legacy Heights:

Bonnie Vinson

Juanita Whitted

Russellville Nsg & Rehab:

Joe Miller

Leona Sayer

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Myra Ballenger, Amie Barkley, Juanita Bird, Donna Chambers, Troy/ Rachel Curtis, Dennis Drewry, Sarah Ensey, Johnny Estes, Mary Grice, Leota Hickey, Jonathan & Sheila Holland, Melba Horton, Braden & Kaleb Lambert, Ronnie Leavell, Rose Lee, Daniel Loper, Bea McDaniel, Linda McDaniel, Connie Myers, Becky Miller, Julie Moss, Michael Tindall, Jon Vance, Joan Vance, Justin Vaughn, Joyce Walters, Meredith Whitted, Greg Widner and Patsy Wisbrock.

Military: Pray for our service men and women

Expectant Mothers:

Beckie Clark

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Human perspective is short-sighted. The saints have no idea what God can do through their suffering. Where we have questions, God plans and works and accomplishes. Those spaces and events that seem to us senseless and hopeless are fertile ground for the Lord, a wide open field where his hand tills and eventually harvests.

God's greatest tool is the faithfulness of his people. The suffering *of the Cross*, the suffering *for the Cross*, continues as the means of salvation in the world. Our heavenly calling is to risk ourselves in that unseen project of faith, to enter into the agony of that invisible purpose of reconciliation.

So the risk is not only a peripheral and dispensable element of the task, but central to the fulfillment of the mission. Our suffering also lies at the heart of the gospel.

Roberta Edwards embraced this mission of risk and, in so doing, embraced the Lord who welcomed her home.

(Editor's note: Roberta Edwards, 55, was the director of SonLight Children's Home in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where she cared for orphaned and abandoned children. Her supporting congregation was the Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, TN.)

EVENTS

The next Ladies' Devo will be the annual Christmas party on December 3rd @ 6pm in the fellowship hall.

Remember to bring a gift for the gift exchange and both new and used items for our annual donation to the River Valley Shelter for Battered Women and Children.

WEDDING

For

Drew Walters

and

Lacey George

on

Saturday, December 5th

@ 2:00 pm

in the large pavilion

at Mt. Nebo

State Park Everyone is

invited!

New Pictorial Directory Planned

Lifetouch has bought Olin Mills who did our last photo directory. If you worship with us you are a part of this church. We invite you to be a part of the NEW Directory.

If you are like I am you are pretty good at remembering faces, but you really have a problem with names. And even if you remember someone's name, remembering their address, phone number, and if they use e-mail what their e-mail address is will be a blank.

It doesn't make any difference if you are someone new wanting to know the folks who have been here awhile, or if you've been

Mark Your Calendars

coming here since the church was founded and don't want to keep asking, "What's your name again" (Like I do a lot), a photo directory is a handy thing to have.

But the fact is, if you aren't in the book, the book can't help. Every family who has their picture taken for the directory will receive a FREE 8X10 picture and a FREE photo directory. If you would like to have additional pictures printed you can have that done. AND they can be here by Christmas. You could give them as a gift. Of course, there will be a charge for the additional photos.

We have scheduled November 30 through December 2 as the days the photos will be taken. The photos will be taken from 2:30PM to 8:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. It shouldn't take that long for the sitting. And right after that, because the cameras are digital, you can pick out the one you like the best for the directory and order any additional pictures you would like to purchase.

Setting up an appointment is easy. Go to the church web page www.dovercoc.org and click on the Lifetouch icon. Tell them how many will be in the picture, pick a day, pick a time, answer a few questions and that's it.

If you have problems call 331-3428 or 331-2156 call/text 857-2791 or E-mail staff@dovercoc.org or namsaev@yahoo.com

Please remember

the work of

Truth for Today

in your prayers.

November Birthdays

- 06 Roxanna Shoptaw
07 Charlene Clark
09 Kim Walters
14 Daniel Loper
15 Brent Hottinger
Chris Loper
Michael Williams
18 Kevin Miller
Dan Cloud
20 Marion Helton
21 Carla Oakes
29 Taylor Thomas

In Search

of the Lord's Way
The Search Program
can now be accessed
any
time on their website

@

www.searchtv.org

Phil Sanders

weekly lesson can be
heard and seen on
LR KASN TV 38
Sunday @ 7:30 am

THOSE TO SERVE

November 22nd, 2015

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters
Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Alan Boatright
Allen Veasman

Communion

Podium: Sid Womack
Serve: Earl Stamps
Gary Williams
Kevin Nordin
Larry Mahan

Scripture Reading

Chris Loper

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

Brent Hottinger
Charles Davis

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Lads & Leaderettes

Communion to Shut-Ins

Chris Loper

Greeters

The Elders

Next Business Meeting

December 14th, 2015

Wednesday Night Services

@

6:30 p.m.

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 Micah Cell: 479-264-9244

Or Secretary Cell: 479-264-6052

Elders:

William Boley 264-1335

Allen Veasman 331-2156

Sid Womack 967-2367

Chris Loper 331-3313

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt

Donny Forehand

Brent Hottinger

Rex McDaniel

Chris Moss

Michael Robbins

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