



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

January 2, 2018

It Is Like New

Mike King



It is not uncommon for us to ponder the thought around this time of year of developing a better attitude or renew our spirit and enthusiasm for life. We give thought to what we hear, read, watch on T.V. and in general give some evaluation to everything that impacts our thinking and behavior. David must have felt a need for this after giving thought to how wrong he had been by bringing devastation to the life of Bathsheba and her family, shame to his kingdom, debasement to himself and disappointment to God. He prayed, “*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me*” (Ps. 51:10).

The weakness of man causes him to have to “return to the drawing board” quiet often to evaluate and reprocess his thinking and disposition. Man has a problem with not being consistent and has to regroup periodically in order to present an acceptable and holy response to our Maker. One of my favorite passages is found in Isaiah 40:31 where he acknowledges the need those who serve the Lord have for renewal of strength and devotion to God, “*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*”

We can find encouragement and renewal through being provided “another chance.” Too, God approaches His dealings with us on a daily basis because He is merciful, “*Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion,*” says my soul, “*Therefore I hope in Him!*” (Lam. 3:23-24).

Instruction is given from God by Ezekiel for God’s people to “*Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit*” (Ezekiel 18:31). Our heavenly Father realizes how complicated it is for man to live in this world in human form and be expected to perform on a spiritual level. As God did for the Israelites, He will also do for us. His promise to them was, “*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh*” (Ezekiel 36:26).

Renewal and the creation of a better life must emanate from the heart. For a consistent life that can be an acceptable gift to God daily, it must have daily maintenance. I prefer to refer to it as “keeping our spirituality current.” Being sorry to God for having a heart riddled by sin, leads to repentance and change. God gives us help, so Christ promised. He told John to tell us “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (I Jn. 1:9).

THOSE TO SERVE THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2018

Announcements: Greg Clayton

Sound Room: Paul Ormon

Usher: Brian Carpenter

Lead Singing: Sun. A.M.: Richard Jennings

Sun. P.M.: Greg Harrison

Wed.: Jim/Thomas/ David/Phillip

Sunday Prayers:

Jan. 07:

A.M. Ruston Adams

Anderson Parks

P.M. Harold Russell

Thomas Wall

Jan. 14:

A.M. Dillon Clayton

Phil Young

P.M. Kevin Simmons

David Clayton

Jan. 21:

A.M. Roger Clayton

Olen Clark

P.M. Troy Robertson

Caleb Jennings

Jan. 28:

A.M. Terry Stubblefield

Martin Crotts

P.M. Randy Wall

Hunter Jennings

Lord's Supper:

North Head: Tim Dye

North Helper I: Shane Crotts

North Helper II: Kurt Clayton

South Head: Steve Todd

South Helper I: Phillip Young

South Helper II: Daniel Drummond

Scripture Reading:

Jan. 07 — Mason Simmons

Jan. 14 — Michael Crotts

Jan. 21 — Dean Dillard

Jan. 28 — Perry Jones

Wednesday Prayers:

Jan. 03 — Alvin Parks; Ronnie Griggs

Jan. 10 — Richard Adams; Mark Jennings

Jan. 17 — Jim Gann; Matt Jennings

Jan. 24 — Greg Harrison; Paul Ormon

Jan. 31 — Jason Jennings; Thomas Wall

Lock:

Jan. 07 — Steve Todd

Jan. 14 — Jason Jennings

Jan. 21 — Troy Robertson

Jan. 28 — Greg Clayton

Usher:

Jan. 07 — Shane Crotts

Jan. 14 — Jason Jennings

Jan. 21 — Randy Wall

Jan. 28 — Greg Clayton

Prepare Communion:

Janice Griffin

Host Youth Devo:

Richard & Kathy Jennings

* If you are unable to carry out your assignment please let Randy Wall know before service time.



Where Will I Be In Another Year?

With the beginning of a calendar year there is always a tendency to look back - and to look forward. Evaluations are made in regards to our financial status, our career pursuits, and other important matters. Surely it is appropriate to evaluate our spiritual welfare. Ask yourself this simple question:

2018

- If I keep doing what I am presently doing, where will I be in another year?
- Will I be a stronger Christian because I am doing things that will help me grow in Christ (2 Pet. 3: 18)? Or, will I be weaker as a result of continuing to ignore the most important things in life?
- Will I be a better Bible student? Will my knowledge of the Word have increased through regular and consistent study? Or, will I still be only wishing that I knew my Bible better?
- Will I have brought any lost soul to the Lord through a committed effort to teach others? Will I have invited folks to visit the assemblies, or encouraged them to have a private Bible study? Or, will I only be giving lip-service to the whole notion of personal work?
- Will I improve in my ability to react to life's provocations in a godly and controlled manner?
- Will I be displaying more of the "divine nature" (2 Pet. 1:4) as I deal with people and problems? Or, will I still be easily provoked and often fail as trials and temptations are placed before me?
- Will I have broken that "bad habit" that has nagged me for so long? Or, will I still be offering lame excuses and trying to convince myself that "I can't"?
- Will my example be stronger? Will others begin to recognize dependability in me? Will I be constantly striving to do all I can as a disciple (1 Cor. 15:58)? Or, will I be counted as only a "lukewarm" Christian (Rev. 3: 15-17)?
- If I keep doing what I'm presently doing, where will I be in another year? Or, more to the point, where will I be in eternity? Think

~ Greg Gwin

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016



PRAYER LIST

Larry Cobb will have eye surgery as soon as it can be scheduled at the VA, in Memphis.

Bobby White is weak from chemo treatments and does not need visitors right now. He would appreciate cards of encouragement.

Rex Bell was to have gallbladder surgery Wed. at the local hospital.

* Several members and their families were out this past Sunday due to sickness.

Sympathy:

We express our sympathy to *Amy Jennings* and family in the death of her step-father **Jimmy Dye**, who passed away Dec. 24th, in Pensacola FL. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

We express our sympathy to *Paige Young* and family in the death of her grandfather **Lavon Hill**, who passed away Dec. 26th.. Funeral services were held Fri. Dec. 29th, at United Funeral Home.

We express our sympathy to the family of **Ouida Cargile Reeves** who passed away in Henderson TN, on Dec. 28th. She was the mother of Dr. Kenneth Cargile (Becky), former elder of this congregation. Funeral services were held at the Ripley Church of Christ Dec. 30th.

Continue to Remember:

William Bailey, Joel Baxley, Jimmy Burleson, Phillip & Carol Carpenter, David Crossings, Julie Katherine Davis, Preeble Foster, Ray Franks, Violette Glass, Phillip Haynes, Shane Hutton, Johnny Lee, J.D. Stroud, Sam Warrington, Betty Young, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins:

Teresa Clark, Maurine Drummond, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Terry Young

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Wanda DeLoach, Jean Drummond, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Cornelia Kennedy, Wadie Lepard, Ernestine McKinney, Mary Frances Reid, Price & Claudia Senter, Ione Wall

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley & Chase Seals

Expectant Mothers:

Erica Crotts (boy) Jan.; Sallye Bowlin (boy) April

I've Learned...

The grass is greener where
you water it.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 04.....	Kevin Simmons
January 05.....	Linda Ashmore
January 06.....	Yolanda Stubblefield
January 07.....	Kathy Dye
January 09.....	William Sloan
January 11.....	Alvin Parks



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 11.....	Greg & Kim Clayton
-----------------	--------------------



THANK YOU NOTES

The church received several sweet notes from the children at Pine Vale Children's Home. You will find these notes posted on the bulletin board.

DIAPER SHOWER

Help us shower *Erica* and *Martin Crotts* with lots of diapers and wipes for their new little boy *Jake*, who is expected on the 15th. A container will be placed in the foyer Sunday, Jan. 14th. Please pray for a safe and healthy delivery of baby *Jake*!



YOUTH NEWS

- The Area Wide Youth Meeting for January will be held Jan. 14th, at the Oak Ridge congregation.
- The Senior Bible Bowl will meet Sunday, Jan. 21st, at the Hillcrest congregation in Baldwyn.
- This month's Youth Devo will be held January 28th , following evening services. *Richard* and *Kathy Jennings* will be hosting.



CONGREGATIONAL THEME:

Working as God's team in 2018!

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
Morning Worship.....10:30
Evening Worship.....6:00
Wednesday Bible Study....7:00

MINISTER

Mike King507-0625
Home534-6872
Office534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings316-1305
Troy Robertson316-3163
Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Greg Clayton252-9762
Roger Clayton538-8195
Shane Crotts.....316-6364
Jason Jennings.....801-3260
Randy Wall316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Mason Simmons
A.M. Prayer.....Ruston Adams
Closing Prayer...Anderson Parks
P.M. Prayer.....Harold Russell
ClosingThomas Wall
Wed. 1/10.....Richard Adams
Wed.1/10.....Mark Jennings
Lock 1/07.....Steve Todd
Usher 1/07.....Shane Crotts

OUR RECORD

Sunday School..12/24,98;12/31,79
Sunday A.M...12/24,152;12/31,103
Sunday P.M.....12/24,82;12/31,76
Wednesday.....12/20,90; 12/27,69
Contribution.....12/24,\$4,757.00
.....12/31,\$3,004.00
Budget.....\$4,385.16

THE INFORMER

January 2, 2017

Volume 1

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)
Church of Christ
511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
New Albany, Mississippi 38652
(662)534-4649

Periodical
Postage Paid
New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
(Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
148, New Albany, MS 38652

Taking Advantage of Opportunities

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:2).

The story is told of a young man who wished to marry the farmer's beautiful daughter. He went to the farmer to ask his permission. The farmer looked him over and responded, "Son, go stand out in that field and I'm going to release three bulls, one at a time. If you can catch the tail of anyone of the three bulls you can marry my daughter."

The young man stood in the pasture awaiting the first bull. The barn door opened and out ran the biggest, meanest-looking bull he had ever seen. He decided that one of the next bulls had to be a better choice than this one, so he ran over to the side and let the bull pass through the pasture out the back gate. The barn door opened again. Unbelievable! He had never seen anything so big and fierce in his life. It stood-pawing the ground, grunting, slinging slobber—as it eyed him. Whatever the next bull was like, it had to be a better choice than this one. He ran to the fence and let the bull pass through the pasture, out the back gate. The door opened a third time. A smile came across his face. This was the weakest, scrawniest little bull he had ever seen. This one was his bull. As the bull came running by, he positioned himself just right and jumped at just the exact moment. He grabbed; but, the bull had no tail!

The lesson from the above story is that we must take advantage of opportunities when they are available to us. This is especially true in the spiritual realm. Let us avail ourselves of the present time and opportunity because it may soon be gone forever.

~ author unknown ~



PANTRY ITEMS

Canned milk