



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

March 27, 2018

Living with Margination

Mike King



A little more than a decade ago, much was being written and spoken about the need to live our lives with an element of margin built into them. There are so many overloaded and headed for a crash. Consider these statistics to confirm that what I am saying is true:

- People now sleep 21/2 fewer hours each night than people did a hundred years ago. You're sleeping less than your grandparents did.
- The average workweek is longer now than it was in the 1960's.
- The average office worker has 36 hours of work piled up on his/her desk. It takes us three hours a week just to sort through it and find what we need.
- We spend eight months of our lives opening junk mail, two years of our lives playing phone tag with people who are busy or who are not answering, five years waiting for people who are trying to do too much and are late for meetings.

Rick Warren and Tom Holladay conclude that we are piled-on, stretched-to-the-limit society. Ministers are especially chronically rushed, chronically late, chronically exhausted. It is not uncommon for us to feel like Job did when he said, *"I have no peace! I have no quiet! I have no rest! And trouble keeps coming"* (Job 3:26).

Our lives could be characterized by the expression, "Too much!" Too much change, choices, work, debt and too much exposure. We remain connected all the time and maxed out by information overload and stressed by accessibility overload. In simple, we are stressed by the pace of life. As a result, the things that we want to do and need to do never get done due to all our time being sucked up by the blotter we refer to as life.

Part of the solution is to build some margin into our lives. Margin is breathing room. It allows for some reserve that you are not using up. It is the avoidance of not going from one meeting to the next, then to the next without any space in between.

Margin is the space between your load and your limit. You are fortunate if your load is not heavier than your limits. The truth is, far more of us are overloaded with more than we can handle, and there is no margin for error in our lives. It seems as if when you are marginless you are given yet one more thing to do. Marginless has been described as being 30 minutes late to the doctor's office because you were 20 minutes late getting out of the hair dresser because you were 10 minutes late dropping the children off at school because the car ran out of gas two blocks from a gas station and you forgot your purse!

Jesus often went to a secluded place to be alone and pray; someone has referred to this as "soul shepherding" (Lk. 5:16; Mk. 3:13; Matt. 14:13). If our life's schedule is so crowded that there is no margin, consider what will happen when an emergency arises. We are usually strapped with guilt because we could not attend a function of a child, attend a funeral or have time to read our Bible and refresh ourselves spiritually. It is a false sense of self-worth to think that we have to do everything and be everywhere and that the world will stop turning if we aren't. Make some margin in our life so we can attend to some of the more important things in life.

THOSE TO SERVE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2018

Announcements: Terry Stubblefield
Sound Room: Jim Gann
Usher: Will Bowlin

Lead Singing: Sun. A.M.: Greg Harrison
 Sun. P.M.: Richard Jennings
 Wed.: David, Phillip, Ruston, Jim

Sunday Prayers:

Apr. 01:
 A.M. Troy Robertson
 Randy Wall
 P.M. Steve Todd
 Olen Clark

Apr. 08:
 A.M. Harold Russell
 Richard Adams
 P.M. Kevin Simmons
 Ronnie Griggs

Apr. 15:
 A.M. Dillon Clayton
 Martin Crotts
 P.M. Ruston Adams
 Paul Ormon

Apr. 22:
 A.M. Roger Clayton
 Matt Jennings
 P.M. Greg Harrison
 Greg Clayton

Apr. 29:
 A.M. Jason Jennings
 Perry Jones
 P.M. Mark Jennings
 Alvin Parks

Lord's Supper:

North Head: Shane Crotts	South Head: Phil Young
North Helper I: Brian Carpenter	South Helper I: Michael Crotts
North Helper II: Hunter Jennings	South Helper II: Caleb Jennings

Scripture Reading:

Apr. 01 — Daniel Drummond
 Apr. 08 — Shane Crotts
 Apr. 15 — Mason Simmons
 Apr. 22 — David Clayton
 Apr. 29 — Dean Dillard

Wednesday Prayers:

Apr. 04 — Mason Simmons; Thomas Wall
 Apr. 11 — Tim Dye; Kurt Clayton
 Apr. 18 — Phillip Young; Jason Jennings
 Apr. 25 — Richard Jennings; Roger Clayton

Usher:

Apr. 01 — Randy Wall
 Apr. 08 — Greg Clayton
 Apr. 15 — Roger Clayton
 Apr. 22 — Shane Crotts
 Apr. 29 — Jason Jennings

Lock:

Apr. 01 — Steve Todd
 Apr. 08 — Terry Stubblefield
 Apr. 15 — Roger Clayton
 Apr. 22 — Matt Jennings
 Apr. 29 — Jason Jennings

Prepare Communion:

Paige & Audrey Anna Young

Host Youth Devo:

Kevin & Stephanie Simmons

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

How Your Congregation Can Come Alive!

The following are ten ways in which your congregation can be resurrected from spiritual lethargy:

- 1) Never be guilty of offering up vain worship to God (Matthew 15:8-9). Your aim and goal should be to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
- 2) Do not tolerate immorality within your congregation: "*For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, theft, false witnesses, slanders*" (Matthew 15:19).
- 3) Let your vision come from God's Word and not from any other source (John 17:17; Gal. 1:6-12).
- 4) Encourage all members to work in harmony, unity, and a "working together" spirit. Acts 2:44 says, "*And all that believed were together*"; and Acts 4:32 says, "*And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul.*"
- 5) Allow your faith in Christ to be child-like (Matthew 18:3-4).
- 6) Learn not to set limits on your forgiveness – not just seven times! (Matthew 18:22). Nothing stunts the growth of a congregation like the unforgiving heart (Matthew 6:14-15).
- 7) When you pray, believe: "*Everything you ask in prayer you shall receive*" (Matthew 21:22).
- 8) Never give up! When you come to that obstacle that looks unmoveable, remember what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:58, "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*"
- 9) Encourage all members of the congregation to give liberally (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7). The church needs money in order to fulfill its responsibilities which are: evangelization, edification, and benevolence. We must support the church that it may do its God given work.
- 10) Your congregation must be a friendly congregation. If you are, you will be an encouragement for others to come and help in the Lord's work.

~ By Mike Riley

PRAYER LIST



Emma McMillen, a ninth grade student from Ingomar was airlifted to Le Bonheur Saturday after developing a high fever and seizures. Tests are being run to determine if it is meningitis.

Grace Anderson, mother of Kaye Parks was taken back to the hospital with blood issues. There is a possibility she may have to have more of her leg removed.

Arelus Dye, father of Tim Dye will have a scope of his bladder and possible surgery Friday, March 30th.

Bobby White returns to his doctors April 2nd for tests.

Continue to Remember:

William Bailey, David Crossings, Sandra Davis, Jenice Dunlap, Preeble Foster, Ray Franks, Violette Glass, Katie Grantham, Phillip Haynes, Donnita Hines, Shane Hutton, Gloria Jones, Johnny Lee, Nancy Petrowski, J.D. Stroud, Sam Warrington, Bobby White, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins: Teresa Clark, Maurine Drummond, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Jean Drummond, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Cornelia Kennedy, Ernestine McKinney, Mary Frances Reid, Price & Claudia Senter, Ione Wall, Terry Young

Military List: Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley & Chase Seals

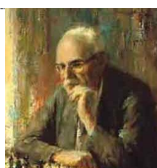
Expectant Mothers: Sallye Bowlin (boy) April

FILL-IN-THE BLANK BIBLE VERSE

The _____ shall _____ you from all _____. He shall _____ your _____. The _____ shall preserve your _____ and your _____. From this time _____, and even _____. Psalm 121: _____

I've Learned...

As a man grows older and wiser, he talks less and says more.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



March 29.Caleb Jennings
April 03. Shelley Adams
April 04. Dex Crotts

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 02. Paul & Maria Ormon
April 07. Randy & Christy Wall



LADS TO LEADERS

This weekend several of our young people will be competing in Memphis, TN, at the Lads to Leaders Convention with other young people around the mid-south. They have been working really hard preparing in various areas such as song leading, scripture reading, speeches and other activities that will help them learn to be the future leaders of the church. Those competing this year, some for the very first time, are Ella Boyd, Cade Carpenter, Molly Clayton, Owen Clayton, David Clayton, Jodie Parks and Mason Simmons. We are so proud of these young people!

GOSPEL MEETING

Our Gospel Meeting is just a month away. Please mark your calendar for April 22nd-25th and make plans to attend every service! Our guest speaker will be Chad Ramsey, minister for the Gloster St. congregation in Tupelo.

AREA EVENTS

- Lads to Leaders Convention in Memphis March 30th- April 1st.
7th week Squad Retreat for 7th grade-college age at Maywood Christian camp April 6-8. Cost: \$40.00
27th Annual Ladies Day at Hwy 15 church of Christ Pontotoc is planned for April 7th beginning at 9:00am. The guest speaker will be Angela Bates. Lunch will be served.
Jr. Bible Bowl April 15th, at Gloster St. in Tupelo.

CONGREGATIONAL THEME:

Working as God's team in 2018!

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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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Volume 13

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

MINISTER

Mike King 507-0625
 Home 534-6872
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

Greg Clayton252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....316-6364
 Jason Jennings.....801-3260
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Daniel Drummond
 A.M. Prayer.....Troy Robertson
 Closing Prayer.....Randy Wall
 P.M. Prayer.....Steve Todd
 ClosingOlen Clark
 Wed. 4/04.....Mason Simmons
 Wed. 4/04.....Thomas Wall
 Lock 4/01.....Steve Todd
 Usher 4/01.....Randy Wall

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....93
 Sunday A.M.....118
 Sunday P.M.....88
 Wednesday.....85
 Contribution.....\$3,760.25
 Budget.....\$4,385.16

PANTRY ITEMS

English peas



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Periodical
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Words that Hurt

It's a myth that speaking out against an injustice makes you a bigot or intolerant. Most people accept this, except for when it comes to Christians.

Our Wednesday night class we discussed making decisions based on fear or love. One part of the lesson focused on telling someone the truth even if it hurt them or yourself. The myth says that if you don't accept me for who I am then you don't really care or love me. Nothing could be further from the truth! In fact, I would submit that you don't really care or love someone-if you said NOTHING at all. To do nothing about someone not following biblical teaching is to accept that they are where they are and that is as far as they can go in the relationship with God. Jesus never taught us this! In Matthew 4 we read where Jesus started to gather disciples and in verse 19 said to "come follow me and I'll make you fishers of men." Meaning, he accepted them for who they were AT THE MOMENT, but not they were ok to stay there.

We as children of God need to understand that it our duty to bring the Word of God to those starving for it, and to do so may hurt their feelings in the process. But it is better to try to get them on the right path than to stay on the path towards destruction.

~ Darren Dent ~