



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

April 10, 2018

A Mission of Charity

Mike King



Throughout my years of ministry, I have had a fondness and respect for those who have preached the gospel around the world. It has been a privilege for me to have had as mentors those who have gone to primitive locations in the world to preach the gospel. They have even inspired me to leave home for periods of time to share the gospel. One who goes realizes the gravity of such a journey. What better way could one show his love for God and souls. In no way, does one going diminish the love and concern for souls here at home which also need to flourish. It has been said that, "The light that shines the farthest, shines the brightest at home." Going to distant places to share the gospel always causes mixed emotions.

Notice some of the burdens that love and the expression of it bring to the lives of those who are dedicated to the salvation of lost souls:

- One feels the tug of God's commands. Jesus connected love for Him with keeping His commands (Jn. 14:15). Those who become seed-sowers are fully aware of the commission given by the Lord in Matt. 28:18-20 and Mk. 16:15-16 to go into the world and teach all nations and that their salvation just may be contingent upon that mission of charity. Too, the Lord declared that those who love Him will feed His sheep (Jn. 21:17) which necessitates yet another tug. Being aware that many may never hear lest a preacher be sent (Jn. 21:15ff; Rom. 10:17ff). Paul said he felt the burden, "*Woe is me if I preach not the gospel*" (I Cor. 9:16).
- There is the feeling of being privileged to be a gospel preacher and to have the occasion to declare God's truth. Paul said, "*To me the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ*" (Eph. 3:8). Jeremiah said that "*God's word is in my heart like a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot*" (Jer. 20:9).
- There was a feeling of responsibility. The missionary or declarer of God's word believes that he must "Do as much as I can, as oft as I can, to as many as I can." We are dealing with eternal consequences. James warned that one who teaches God's word receives the greater judgment (Jas. 3:1). There is a huge responsibility for the local congregations to be of encouragement and support for those who willingly go.
- Many feelings of anxiety will be felt by those messengers. They fully realize expectations that are being made of them. There will be some anxieties about wanting to be effective and teach nothing but the solid truth of the gospel. Separation from biological family and home congregation is difficult. It is even difficult to leave the "good ole U.S.A." Paul was often pulled between two loves or responsibilities (Phil. 1:23).
- There are feelings of hope knowing that as they go, the Lord is with them always (Matt. 28:18-20). Those loyal workers sow in tears, but reap in hope! They too know that their labors are not in vain in the Lord. They are confident that if they sow the seed, God will give the increase (I Cor. 3:6). They hope because of God's promise to bless those who seek His kingdom first (Jn. 6:33). They hope knowing a warm reception awaits them by those who are ready to receive the gospel.

Whistle While You Work

I grew up chopping cotton! Nearly from the time I could walk, I was given a short-handled version of a cotton-pickin' hoe. Chopping cotton is, I will admit, one step above picking cotton, but just a step. Both are drudgery! Well, to lighten the job we concocted--or had handed down to us--a little ditty that went like this:

"Whistle and hoe, sing as you go! Shorten the rows by the songs that you know."

And so you know what? It did make the rows seem shorter and the load seem lighter as we whistled and sang up and down those cotton rows.

Do you have a hard row to hoe? Don't let discouragement creep in. Buckle down, sing and whistle a little as you can, and the row will get shorter and the load will get lighter. The story is told that the devil put all his tools up for sale except one. Hatred, envy, jealousy, malice, deceit, and many other implements were put "on the block." But discouragement was not for sale at any price, for the devil said, "It is more useful to me than any other tool. With discouragement I can stop more good works, and accomplish more for the cause of evil than with any other tool known to man or to the princes of darkness. Discouragement is not for sale!"

So, whistle as you work! Sing a song as you struggle along! The rows will be shorter and the burden will be lighter. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* (Phil. 4:13). ~ copied

Oh Lord, I Am So Sorry

Oh Lord,

I am so sorry it took me so long to learn...

...that the greatest satisfaction comes not from serving self, but from serving others.

...that the more I put into worship, the more I get out of it.

...that I am sometimes wrong, but You are always right.

...that life isn't about what I gather, but what I give.

...that I was put in the world to make it better, and I can do so by living better in the world.

...that people sometimes let me down, but You are always willing to hold me up.

...that the greatest treasures are not found in the world, but in Your Word.

...that difficulties on the earth are inevitable, but so is eternal bliss in heaven for the faithful.

Lord, I promise that with what time on the earth I have left, I will serve, worship, study, give, fellowship, love, and help with joy in my heart and with all of my heart.

~ Edd Sterchi ~

FOR KEEPS

Growing up, I used to play marbles with some of the neighborhood boys. We would draw a circle in the dirt and put some of our marbles inside it. Then we would take turns attempting to "shoot" the marbles out of the circle. The ones shot out of the circle would be kept by the shooter. However, I wasn't allowed to play marbles "for keeps" – that is, keep the marbles I won. My parents insisted that when the game was over, all the marbles would be given back to the original owners. This prevented anyone from losing their marbles. It was all just for fun. [Please, no jokes about me losing some of my marbles.] Life is like a game of marbles. And it's played "for keeps." We use our energy aspiring to whatever we choose. We spend our time pursuing goals that catch our interest. However, once used, time is gone "for keeps." We don't get it back. When this life is over, we will give account of what we did with our time, ability and opportunities. If we were good stewards of what the Lord gave us, He will richly reward us. If we were unfaithful, we will have to live with the dreadful consequences. There is no getting it back to do over again. No second chance. No excuses. The game of life is "for keeps." Live so that you will not regret how you lived. *"So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God"* (Romans 14:12). *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad"* (2 Corinthians 5:10). *"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is"* (Ephesians 5:15-17).

~ Ron Adams

BIBLE TRIVIA

God gave Manna to the Israelites while they were in the desert. What does the word "Manna" mean?

A) God Provides; B) What Is It?; C) Angel Bread

Exodus 16:9-15

PRAYER LIST



Grace Anderson, mother of *Kaye Parks* has been moved to Sanctuary Hospice House in Tupelo.

Arelus Dye, father of *Tim Dye* was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer which is contained to his bladder. His doctors are discussing the best treatment plan.

Mason Baxley, grandson of *Mike & Sheila King* had surgery Sat. in Huntsville, due to an eye injury he received while playing baseball. His surgery went well.

Bobby White was to hear Monday the results of his recent tests.

Mildred Shackelford, sister of *Dixie White* is not doing well.

Eleta Grimmert is awaiting heart tests.

Sue Marques, received good news on her heart echo test. She will be seeing a pulmonologist soon.

Ernestine McKinney, mother of *Perry Jones*, continues to have problems with her legs.

Clarence Wood, brother-in-law of *Perry Jones* is in an Olive Branch Hospital.

Gloria Jones will have surgery on the upper vertebra in her neck April 17th.

Judy Mills, daughter of *J.D. & Sue Stroud* is suffering with health problems.

Gunner Lindsey, friend of the *Petrowski's*, has leukemia in his spinal fluid and possibly in the optic nerve.

Ricky Adams, father of *Richard Adams*, back surgery has been postponed temporally.

Continue to Remember:

William Bailey, David Crossings, Sandra Davis, 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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



April 18.Kurt Clayton

April 19. Thomas Wall

April 20. Lynn Harrison

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 17. Alvin & Kaye Parks



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

The dates the photographer will be here for our pictorial directory are May 3rd, 4th, & 5th. You may go to our web site and click on the camera icon to schedule the date and time that is convenient for you, or you may let the office know what time you would prefer. Everyone will receive a new directory and an 8x10 photo free of charge. You will have the opportunity to purchase other photos if you like.

EVENTS

- Jr. Bible Bowl April 15th, at Gloster St. in Tupelo.
- Outdoor Gospel Singing hosted by the churches of Christ in Hardeman County, TN, will be held April 14th at the Bolivar Farmer's Market beginning at 7:00pm. Bring a lawn chair.
- The East Main Church of Christ in Tupelo to host a 'Ladies Day' April 21st. Registration begins at 9am. The guest speaker will be *Cindy Colley*.
- Pine Vale Children's Home Annual Benefit Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 21st, at the Shiloh Ridge Golf Club. Check the bulletin board for details.
- New Albany Church of Christ Gospel Meeting will be April 22nd-25th, with guest speaker *Chad Ramsey*.
- Ripley Church of Christ invites you to their 3rd Annual Youth Day, April 28th, beginning at 9:00am. The guest speaker will be *Ty Rhymes* from Pickwick COC.
- Our 5th Sunday services will be held April 29th. We will have a meal following morning services followed by a 1:15pm service lead by our deacons.
- A gathering is planned for 6:00pm April 29th, at *Phil Young's* place. Bring a lawn chair. More details later.

I've Learned...

Examine the contents, not the bottle.



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 15

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.....Mason Simmons
 A.M. Prayer.....Dillon Clayton
 Closing Prayer. ..Martin Crotts
 P.M. Prayer.....Kevin Simmons
 ClosingPaul Ormon
 Wed. 4/18.....Phillip Young
 Wed. 4/18.....Jason Jennings
 Lock 4/15.....Roger Clayton
 Usher 4/15.....Roger Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....95
 Sunday A.M.....112
 Sunday P.M.....67
 Wednesday.....83
 Contribution.....\$4,023.25
 Budget.....\$4,385.16

PANTRY ITEMS

Muffin Mix



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 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
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NEW ALBANY CHURCH OF CHRIST

GOSPEL MEETING

APRIL 22nd -25th, 2018

Guest Speaker: CHAD RAMSEY

MINISTER FOR THE GLOSTER ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday: Bible Study—9:30a.m.

Worship — 10:30a.m.

Noon Meal

Evening Worship — 6:00p.m.

Mon.-Wed. Nights —7:00p.m.

“Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isaiah 1:18