



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

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A Forbidden Gesture

Mike King



Even the doubtful person has a sense of need for having hope. So many live in denial and rejection, but when the pressure and finality is felt, man turns to hope to avoid total despair. *Gary Thomas* in *Christianity Today* (10/3/94) wrote about a very interesting event validating my point.

“As vice president, *George Bush* represented the United States at the funeral of former Soviet leader *Leonid Brezhnev*. Bush was deeply moved by a silent protest carried out by Brezhnev’s widow. She stood motionless by the coffin until seconds before it was closed. Then, just as the soldiers touched the lid, Brezhnev’s wife performed an act of great courage and hope, a gesture that must surely rank as one of the most profound acts of civil disobedience ever committed: She reached down and made the sign of the cross on her husband’s chest.

There, in the citadel of secular, atheistic power, the wife of the man who had run it all hoped that her husband was wrong. She hoped that there was another life, and that that life was best represented by Jesus who died on the cross, and that the same Jesus might yet have mercy on her husband.”

It may very well be that the end result of this occurrence may be as the little boy defined hope: “Hope is wishing for something you know ain’t gonna happen.” The Christian does not have to live in fear and uncertainty as to his eternal destiny. The grounds of hope are well spelled out in Holy Scripture. David wrote, “*Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy*” (Ps. 33:18). He later declared, in the famed 119 Psalm, “*My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word*” (vs. 74, 81). Paul felt and expressed similar sentiments by saying, “*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope*” (Rom. 15:4). He, in another writing, avowed Jesus to be “*our Savior...our hope*” (I Tim. 1:1).

We anticipate through hope the eternal calling of ourselves to be with God (Eph. 1:18); entrance into that home in heaven laid up for us (Col. 1:5); glorious appearing of “*the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ*” (Titus 2:13); and the resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:10).

So, dear reader friend, dawn your helmet, the hope of your salvation (I Thess. 5:8) which is the anchor of the soul (Heb. 6:18, 19), having the full assurance of hope unto the end (v. 11).

I WENT AGAINST MY WILL

I went to visitation but I went against my will, I was hot and tired. I had my own troubles to stew over and I was far from the best of spirits. I thought surely they will have others there but I kept hearing those words I WAS NEEDED so I went. I just could not rest knowing I was needed. So I went to the meeting and there I received not just one visit but three, can you believe that? I didn't want to come in the first place and then when I did come I was given three visits to make. I wanted to say something but a little voice, my conscience, kept telling me to go ahead and make them, so I went out on the three visits. The first visit was to a home of one of the older sisters in the church. She was a shut-in and I hardly knew her but after being in her home and learning more about her life and dedication and love for the church, I felt bad that I had complained so I went on to my second visit. This visit took me to the home of a brother who had been away from the church for several weeks. When I shared with him who I was, he was excited about my stopping because it helped him know we at the church did care. Finally I went to my third visit and there I met a young couple who had just moved into the area. They were happy I came by and I invited them to come to worship again and they promised me they would. Back home I pondered, why was I feeling so good? I did not think of bad things but good. I thought of the glad faces I had seen and I thought of the pleasure that I had received because I WENT VISITING!!!! *"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."* I Thessalonians 5: 11

VISITATION

A building is a wonderful tool or a terrible tomb. Buildings do not have legs. They cannot visit. Where did anyone get the idea about church buildings ...just open doors and suction will draw people in...?

Churches need buildings in communities. Buildings represent stability and performance. Buildings ought to be built to serve the needs of the church and town.

Buildings cannot fill buildings. The ten largest and fastest growing churches in the USA have dynamic visitation programs. VISITATION! Go and they will COME! If we don't go, the buildings will be left empty.

People choose churches because:

1. they were visited and invited by friends and neighbors (34%)
2. they were influenced by certain members (22%).
3. of the beauty of the building (9%).
4. the preacher visited them (3%).
5. of prior religious ties (1%).

56% CAME BECAUSE OF MEMBERS!!!

Our building can be filled ... In a short time! If we GO, VISIT, BRING!

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YOUTH NEWS

- The Area Wide Youth Meeting that was scheduled for last Sunday, Jan. 9th, has been rescheduled for Sunday Jan. 16th, at the Church St. congregation in Pontotoc. The van will leave at 5:55pm.
- Junior Bible Bowl will meet for competition Sat., Jan 22nd at the Church St. congregation in Pontotoc.
- The Senior Bible Bowl will have their first competition of the New Year, Sun., Jan. 23rd, at the Antioch congregation.
- This month's Youth Devo will be held Jan. 23rd. The Clayton's will be hosting

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST

Eleta Grimmert, remains in room 352 of the local of hospital. She is slowly improving.

Wadie Lepard, is improving and has been dismissed from the Tupelo hospital. She is currently staying with her daughter Susan.

Dorothy Holley, grandmother of Kim Clayton and April Pounders has been moved to The Meadows in Fulton for Rehab.

Diane Jackson, cousin of Mary Frances Reid, has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Continual Prayer

Allen Kelly, Jim Dickerson, Will Bowlin, Harmon Craft, Robert Hancock, Hugh Collins, Margaret Bailey, Donna Haynes, Shane Crotts, Bill King, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Pauline Smith, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Corrine Hall, Faye Owen, Anna Davis & Mattie Golden

Military List:

David Wilhite, Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Ham, Raegan Cole

SAGE ADVICE

In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma, but never let him be the period.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 15.....Jason Jennings
January 17.....Amy Jennings
January 18..... Jean Drummond
January 21.....Bobby White
January 21.....Audrey Anna Young

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 13.....Joe & Pat Reed

VISITATION PROGRAM

Our 2011 visitation program will be starting up in the next few weeks. Once a month a team will meet and enjoy a time of fellowship and discuss those who might be encouraged by a phone call, card, or visit. There is a sign-up list on the table in the foyer if you would like to be a part of this good work. We encourage all to take part. Please see *Bill Botts* if you have any questions.

AREA EVENTS

- **Ashland Church of Christ 2011 Youth Rally**, Sat. Jan. 22, 2011, 9:00am-2:30pm. Speaker: *B.J. Clarke*; Check the bulletin board for more details.
- **Gospel Meeting @ the Verona Church of Christ** January 21-23 with *David Jones* as guest speaker. Times: Fri. & Sat. @ 7pm and Sun., 9am, 10am & 12:30pm.
- **The 75th Annual Bible Lectureship** at Freed-Hardeman University will be held Feb. 6-11. Check the bulletin board for a schedule of lectures.

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

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	111
Sunday A.M	129
Sunday P.M	89
Wednesday	90
Contribution	\$3,267.30
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Matt Jennings
A.M. Prayer.....	Andy Clemmer
Closing Prayer.....	Dan Cobb
P.M. Prayer.....	Jerry Gibson
Closing.....	Bill Lyon
Wed. 1/19.....	Brad Pounders
Wed. 1/19.....	Phil Young
Usher & Lock.....	Randy Wall
Greeters.....	H & D Crowe



PANTRY ITEM:
Instant potatoes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

ELDERS

Richard Jennings	534-6671
Troy Robertson	534-3491

DEACONS

Bill Botts	316-2422
Greg Clayton	252-9762
Roger Clayton	534-5240
Andy Clemmer	816-5887
Harold Russell	534-4648
Randy Wall	316-9255

MINISTER

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

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Am I my brother's keeper?
The Lord ordained it so.
He appointed me to work in his vineyard
That His cause might prosper and grow.

The Minister's duty is to teach us the **Word**.
The Elders—to see we don't fall.
But to be my brother's keeper
Is the duty of one and all.

If we're truly our brother's keeper
We'll visit the sick and bereaved.
And always give unselfishly
To any who are in need.

A brother's keeper is willing
To serve others day or night.
And in their darkest hour of sorrow
Be their guiding light.

So will you be a brother's keeper
And lend a helping hand
Giving aid and comfort when needed
Whenever and wherever you can?

Be a Good Samaritan every day
Filled with His spirit of love.
Rejoicing as a brother's keeper
Guided by His hand from above.

- Howard Drake

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