



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

January 12, 2010

## Finding Where Christ Lives

By: Mike King

*“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33*

Growing up in the country, I would often be stopped by a passing motorist, while riding my bike, and asked directions to someone's home. Where would a non-believer, one unfamiliar with New Testament Christianity, seek Jesus' presence?

Paul explained to the Philippians that the Christian is to be “Christ-like” (1:21). He told the Galatians that Christ lives in the Christian (Gal. 2:20). It would stand to reason that one seeking Jesus would look to the Christian to find His presence. John became more specific when he wrote that Jesus lives in the obedient (1 Jn. 3:24). We could correctly conclude that Jesus does not live in just anyone who calls themselves “Christians”, but those who are obedient in the Christian walk. Jesus said the same when He declared that *“Not everyone who says unto me, ‘Lord, Lord.’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my father in heaven.”* (Matt. 7:21).

Christians living is in the church and we learn that Christianity is expressed in action, by looking into the “mirror”, the word of God, one can make necessary adjustments to his life (Jas. 1:22, 27). Christians cannot live in the world and be Christ-like, capable of showing Christ's presence in us (1 Jn. 2:15-17). The presence of

Jesus is to be found in those who are *“in the world, but not of the world”* (Jn. 17:11). If we fall in love with the world, it is natural to practice the life of the world with no room or welcome remaining for Jesus to dwell in our hearts. Furthermore, He cannot reside by faith for our trust has been placed elsewhere (2 Tim. 4:10). We must remember that friendship with the world is enmity with God; both cannot reside in a Christian simultaneously (Jas. 4:4).

Christians are an open book in that we are “shining lights” (Matt. 15:16; Phil. 2:14-15) and “living epistles” (2 Cor. 3:2) who are seen and read of all men. As the star in the East (Matt. 2:2) beacons the physical location of the baby Jesus, His word in the hearts of His followers illuminates His glorious presence in the world today.

Life is an expression of the heart (Mk. 7:21) and when conformed to His image the correct message about Jesus is expressed (Rom. 8:29). We can readily determine where our hearts are in relationship to Jesus by discovering our attitude toward His word, our brethren, toward religious error, sin in general and our attitude toward His work. Can others determine where Jesus lives by the “road signs” that you display?

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## “Like A Tree”

*“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:3)*

In the above Scripture the upright man is likened to a tree, but in the next verse the evil person is compared to chaff. How impressive is the contrast. What an appropriate suggestion of a bad man (chaff)...No roots, no substance, no life, no value, no future! But the good man is likened to a tree. Why a tree?

- **He is a fixed person.** “Planted by the rivers,” his roots are deep. One of his laudable traits is stability; steadfast and unmovable. Not wish-washy. Not blown about by the fickle winds of popularity and temporary gain. You can deal with him.
- **He is a growing individual.** “Planted by the rivers of water,” he has nutriment. It is intended that the spiritual part of man should continue to grow. While the outward part of man reaches the climax in growth and begins to weaken, the inward part is to be renewed and get stronger day by day.
- **He is a fruitful being.** “Bringeth forth his fruit.” Successful—Productive—Fruitful of golden deeds. “In his season.” Winter is sure to find out what summer has laid up. For a person’s family and for the world to have fruit, one must produce.
- **He is a beautiful, living creature.** “His leaf also shall not wither.” He retains his attractiveness, just like a tree holds its foliage. No ugly withering. Few objects in nature are as pleasing as a handsome tree. Its foliage beautifies the landscape. It crowns the hilltop. It touches up the mansion. But even more attractive is a righteous, fruit-bearing life. No mansion is pretty without it. How beautiful is a good life!

(unknown author)

## YOUTH NEWS

- This Sunday, January 17 will be the Senior Bible Bowl at the East Main church of Christ in Tupelo. The youth will leave immediately following morning services and eat in Tupelo before going to the Bible Bowl.
- The next Junior Bible Bowl will be held Saturday, January 23, at the Gloster Street church of Christ in Tupelo.
- This month’s Youth Devo will be Sunday night, January 24th, hosted by the Weaver’s.

## What to Do This New Year

**Mend a quarrel.**  
**Seek out a forgotten friend.**  
**Share some treasure.**  
**Give a soft answer.**  
**Encourage youth.**  
**Keep a promise.**  
**Find the time.**  
**Apologize if you were wrong.**  
**Be gentle.**  
**Laugh a little more.**  
**Express your gratitude.**  
**Welcome a stranger.**  
**Gladden the heart of a child.**  
**Take pleasure in the beauty  
and wonder of the earth.**  
**Speak your love.**  
**Speak it again.**

~Selected~

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Junior Lyon**, (brother of Bill Lyon) suffered another stroke. He is in rehab in Bethany, Mo.

**Linda Clayton**, (sister-in-law of Roger Clayton) suffered a heart attack Sunday. They have put in a stent and she is doing better.

**J. D. Stroud**, is at home and on a heart monitor

**Mary Montgomery**, had a difficult week last week, but is doing some better after being given blood and a couple of shots. Remember also Bobby Montgomery.

**Shane Hutton**, (brother-in-law of Darrell Crow) suffered a massive stroke.

**Sue Collins**, (mother of Patricia Crow) is in the last stages of Alzheimer's. She lives in Iowa.

**Sylvia Plunk**, cancer has returned. (wife of a co-worker of Sharon Clemmer)

**Continual Prayer List**

**Donald Burke, Justin Forsythe, Diane Bowlin, Bell Cross, Terry Young, Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Raymond & Amy Vest, Jean Drummond**

**Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

**Joyce McNutt; Corrine Hall; Willie Jackson; Dessie Lee Allred; Mattie Golden, Eunice Mabry, Faye Owen & Anna Davis**

**Military List:**

**David Wilhite-Navy-Florida Barry Wilhite-Marine-Navy -Virginia, Jimmie Stutts-Air Force-California, Tiffany Erwin- Army-Fort Campbell, KY; Aaron Raines-Army, Afghanistan; Jamie Vansandt, Afghanistan; Michelle Montgomery, Fort Leonard, Missouri, Jim Vest-Afghanistan**

**BIRTHDAYS**

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

**ANNIVERSARIES**

January 29.....*Victor & Alice Ashmore*

January 30.....*Raymond & Amy Vest*

**MISSION TRIP**

The word that we have received from, Greg, Randy and Troy is that all has gone well while they were in Haiti. We are expecting them home some time Tuesday (today). Thanks for all your prayers on their behalf. We will have an up-date on their work some time in the future.

**“SECRET BUDDIES”**

Please remember to turn in your “Secret Buddies” forms to Nicki Weaver by January 20th. All over the age of 65 are encouraged to participate. This is a new work that our youth will be involved with.

**SYMPATHY**

We express our sympathy to the family of Bill Curbow who passed away this past week. Mr. Curbow's wife Teresa is the niece of J. L. Eaton and Miriam Styers. His funeral was held Friday in Ala.

**AREA-EVENTS**

- **The Batesville church of Christ** will be celebrating 40 years of \*Training School For Better Service\*, Saturday Night January 16, 2010, at the church building. Time: 6-7:30p.m.
- **Fulton Bible Institute**, is offering: Bible History II (part 2). Classes begin January 26 and will meet each Tuesday for twelve weeks. Time: 7:00—\*:30p.m. Check bulletin board for more details
- **Young Ladies' Day**, Saturday, January 30, 2010 at the Foote Street church of Christ in Corinth, MS. Theme: Miss Goody Two Shoes Speaker: Mrs. Sandra Foster
- **Ashland Youth Rally 2010**, will be held January 30, 2010 at the Ashland church of Christ. Registration will begin at 9:00AM and conclude around 1:30PM,after lunch is served.

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School ..... 103  
Sunday A.M ..... 111  
Sunday P.M..... 77  
Wednesday ..... 85  
Contribution ..... \$5,317.46  
Budget ..... \$3,305.70

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....Greg Clayton  
A.M. Prayer.....J. L. Eaton  
Closing Prayer....Bobby Marques  
P.M. Prayer.....Brad Pounders  
Closing ..... Matt Jennings  
Wed. 1/20.....Bill Botts  
Wed. 1/20.....Carl Smith  
Usher & Lock .....Greg Clayton  
Greeters..... G & K Clayton

## PANTRY ITEM: Canned fruit

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

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### Elders

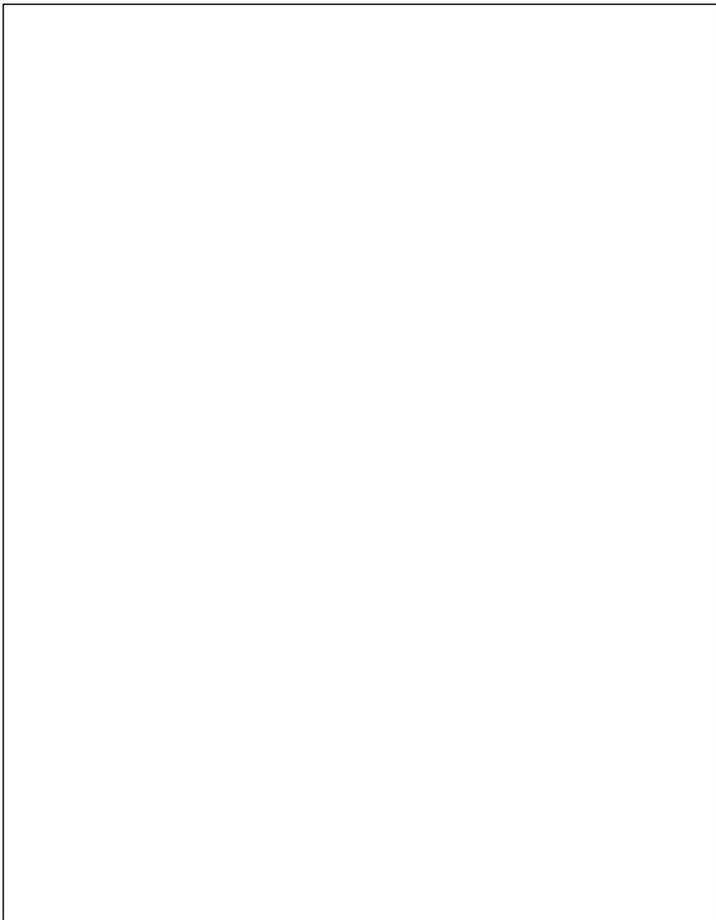
Richard Jennings ..... 534-6671  
Troy Robertson..... 534-3491

### Deacons

Bill Botts ..... 316-2422  
Greg Clayton ..... 538-0791  
Roger Clayton..... 534-5240  
Andy Clemmer ..... 816-5887  
Harold Russell ..... 534-4648  
Randy Wall..... 538-6038

### Minister

Office..... 534-4649



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