

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

February 1, 2011

Awakened From Our Sleep

Mike King



What is required to wake us from our sleep is twofold: First, the depth or degree of soundness of our sleep; secondly, the amount of interest that we have in store for us after we are awakened. Paul wrote to the Romans charging them to “*awake out of sleep...redeeming the time*” (Rom. 13:11-14). Our free moral agency is what allowed us to slump into sleep in the first place. It is the exercising of that agency that determines our time of reveille.

Different Bible characters were awakened; sometimes too late to change matters, but others were salvaged in the nick of time. King David heard the alarm sounded when Nathan said, “*Thou art the man*” (2 Sam. 12:1-14). Guilty of adultery, immorality and murder, but when awakened he confessed his sins and God forgave him. The alarm sounded for a young man eating with the pigs in a far country (Lk. 15:11-32). He demanded his inheritance, left home, and spent his money on riotous living. It was only “*when he came to himself*” that he was awake enough to know of the wrongness of his conduct. He returned home to present himself broken and hopeless to a forgiving and loving father. His lowly position is what enabled him to see objectively. One of the loudest wake-up calls was when the rich man found himself in torment. Too late to benefit him, but in time to help others. Though he “*fares sumptuously*” while on earth, he was spiritually overdrawn (Lk. 16:19-31). The apostle Peter woke to the crowing of the cock to realize that he was living in denial—denial of the Lord.

It may be an individual Christian who has drifted off into a stupor very similar to a driver on a long trip who goes to sleep at the wheel so gradually that he is unaware of it until he has forked a big tree along the road. It could as easily be an entire congregation that has fallen to sleep and stopped producing. As family members, we often drift off while on duty in bringing our children up nourished in the Lord. That wake-up call normally does not register until our children are in trouble, then it is too late! The same neglect can destroy a marital relationship, simply due to inattentiveness.

The Hebrew writer warned that we are to “*Take heed to the things that you have heard and do not let them drift away from you*” (Heb. 2:1-4). Being slack and irresponsible will cause us to perish and our lives here be virtually negated. I beg you not to drift, for it will only take a second in hell to wake you to the realities of eternity!

One of the best ways to become awakened and remain awake is by being involved in our Visitation Program. This enables us to not only keep self in focus, but to be conscious of others whose lives are out of harmony with the will of God. *Bill Botts* does a great job in coordinating these opportunities. Support this good work by being on a visitation team and enjoying association with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and extending the borders of the kingdom by drawing others into the fold. You can sign-up for a team in the lobby.

WHAT ARE YOU STILL CARRYING?

Two monks on a pilgrimage came to the ford of a river. There they saw a girl dressed in all her finery, obviously not knowing what to do since the river was high and she did not want to spoil her clothes. Without more ado, one of the monks took her on his back, carried her across and put her down on dry ground on the other side.

Then the monks continued on their way. But the other monk after an hour started complaining, "Surely it is not right to touch a woman; it is against the commandments to have close contact with women. How could you go against the rules for monks?"

The monk who had carried the girl walked silently, but finally he remarked, "I set her down by the river an hour ago, why are you still carrying her?"

- - Irmgard Schloegl, The Wisdom of Zen Masters

One of the hardest things we must do is to let go of something from the past. Someone does us wrong and seeks forgiveness, but we want to keep carrying the memory. Or maybe we made a mistake and we can't seem to stop beating ourselves up, despite the fact that we have done what God says to do to be forgiven. We don't want to keep carrying the memory (and guilt), but we do. In fact, it often seems more difficult to forgive ourselves than to forgive others.

Paul said, "*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* Phil. 3: 14-15

Paul had to forget his past achievements (as an esteemed Jewish leader). He also had to forget his past failures (which included persecuting and killing God's people).

What are you carrying today that you should have set down a long time ago?

SCRAMBLED BIBLE VERSE

NDA EHS DOEWV A OWV, NDA SIDA, O ROLD OF SOTSH, FI UTOH IWTL DENIED KOLO NO ETH
TONLIFFCA FO NETIH ANAMIHDD, NDA MERBREME EM, NDA TON TROGFE ITNHE
DIANDMHA, UTB WTLI VIEG UTON NETIH DNMAIHDA A NMA LICHD, ETNH I LWLI VIGE MHI
TUON EHT ORLD LLA EHT YSDA FO SHI ELFI, NDA RETHE SLLHA ON ZORAR OMEC NOPU SIH
DAHE.

I Samuel 1:11

YOUTH NEWS

- The next Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held on February 13th, at the Zion Rest Church of Christ.
- Thanks so much to our young leaderettes for putting up new bulletin boards in the hall and classrooms. Be sure to stop by the classrooms and see what a great job these girls did on the bulletin boards. We appreciate all their hard work!
- There are no Bible bowls scheduled for the month of February.

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST

Margaret Bailey, mother of *Paige Young* is at home under hospice care.

Faye Owen, mother of *Joe Owen* is under hospice care at Graceland Nursing Home.

Jim Dickerson will have tests run this week.

Daniel Drummond, broke a bone in his hand while playing basketball.

Continual Prayer

Maxine McCarley, Wadie Lepard, Eleta Grimmett, Diane Jackson, Allen Kelly, Robert Hancock, Hugh Collins, Donna Haynes, Shane Crotts, Bill King, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner (now at home), Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Pauline Smith, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

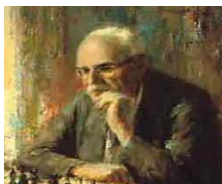
Corrine Hall, Faye Owen, Anna Davis & Mattie Golden

Military List:

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

SAGE ADVICE

He who angers you controls you.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 02.....Miriam Styers

February 05.....Paige Young

February 09.....Marie Beard

February 09.....Raymond Vest

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

February 12.....Mike & Sheila King

February 14.....Andy & Sharon Clemmer

February 21.....Price & Claudia Senter

OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to an Open House at the new home of *Austin & Jessica Garrett* Sunday afternoon, February 6th, from 1:30 to 3:30pm. Their home is located at 1119 Cr 73 New Albany, in the Beulah community just off of Hwy 178.

THANK YOU

Dear Church of Christ Family,

Thank you so much for your cards and prayer of sympathy during our loss. They have been much appreciated. We are consoled with the knowledge that my mother and father are together again. We are blessed with our memories of them.

The Family of Sue Collins

Patricia Crow

AREA EVENTS

- **Zion Rest Church of Christ Ladies' Day 2011** will be Feb. 12th from 9:00-11:30.
- **The 75th Annual Bible Lectureship** at Freed-Hardeman University will be held Feb. 6-11.
- **FHU Associates Annual Benefit Dinner** will be Feb. 17th at the Beech Hill Church of Christ. The speaker will be *Garland Elkins*.

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

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	111
Sunday A.M	133
Sunday P.M	109
Wednesday	95
Contribution	\$3,469.75
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Dean Dillard
A.M. Prayer.....	Greg Clayton
Closing Prayer.....	Phil Young
P.M. Prayer.....	Roger Clayton
Closing.....	Dillon Clayton
Wed. 2/9.....	Gary Turner
Wed. 2/9.....	Bill DePriest
Usher & Lock.....	Roger Clayton
Greeters.....	T & N Robertson



PANTRY ITEM:
Crackers

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

MONTH: FEBRUARY 2011

SOUND ROOM	Matt Jennings	ANNOUNCEMENTS	Andy Clemmer
LEAD SINGING		USHER	Shane Crofts
<i>SUN AM:</i>	Dalton Beard		
<i>SUN PM:</i>	Ray Kennedy	PREPARE	
<i>WED:</i>	Richard Jennings	COMMUNION	Marie Beard
LORD'S SUPPER			
<i>N Head:</i>	Jerry Gibson	<i>S Head:</i>	Richard Jennings
<i>N Help I:</i>	Randy Wall	<i>S Help I:</i>	Brad Pounders
<i>N Help II:</i>	Richard Adams	<i>S Help II:</i>	Bill Botts
SUNDAY PRAYERS A.M.	Opening	Closing	SCRIPTURE READING
<i>1ST</i>	Greg Clayton	Phil Young	Dean Dillard
<i>2ND</i>	Ray Kennedy	Jason Jennings	J.L. Eaton
<i>3RD</i>	Paul Ormon	Bill Botts	Steve Todd
<i>4TH</i>	Troy Robertson	Olen Clark	Ruston Adams
<i>5TH</i>			
SUNDAY PRAYERS PM	Opening	Closing	USHER & LOCK
<i>1ST</i>	Roger Clayton	Dillon Clayton	Roger Clayton
<i>2ND</i>	Harold Crowe	Daniel Drummond	Andy Clemmer
<i>3RD</i>	Burrell Walton	Ronnie Griggs	Harold Russell
<i>4TH</i>	Lonnie Weaver	Mark Jennings	Randy Wall
<i>5TH</i>			
WED PRAYERS	Opening	Closing	GREETERS
<i>1ST</i>	Harold Russell	Dan Cobb	T & N Robertson
<i>2ND</i>	Gary Turner	Bill DePriest	G & K Clayton
<i>3RD</i>	Phillip Young	Bill Lyon	R & K Jennings
<i>4TH</i>	Andy Clemmer	Bobby Marques	B & A Pounders
<i>5TH</i>	Randy Wall 3-2	Bobby White 3-2	

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