



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

February 02, 2010

## How Christians Dress

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

An extremely visible change that has come over America is the difference in the way people dress. Clothing in this country is unquestionably more revealing of the body than in the recent past. The revealing occurs both in terms of exposure of skin as well as accentuation of shape. Everything from jeans and T-shirts to swimwear have been redesigned to reflect our preoccupation with sex.

Younger generations, baby boomers in particular, have a completely different definition of “modesty” than does the older generation. Older folks among churches of Christ were taught that Christians do not engage in “mixed bathing” in the presences of the opposite sex. They were taught Christians do not wear shorts in public. But the younger generations within the church have rejected these viewpoints as outdated, prudish, and inhibited. Having lived through the Sixties when “free love” and nudity were openly promoted and practiced, Baby Boomers have been heavily influenced by the radical cultural shift that has taken place with regard to perceptions of the human body. This perception is regrettably being transferred to what is now being called Generation X.

Younger folks view restrictions on clothing as the result of parental and societal “hang-ups.” It is not that they do not see a connection between skimpy dress and the stimulation of sexual appetites; they simply feel more comfortable with expressing their sexuality. They believe sex outside of marriage is acceptable if the partners possess genuine feelings for each other.

What has been the fruit of this circumstance? Sex crimes, teenage pregnancy, divorce, and venereal disease; all intimately associated with sex and are at all-time highs in this country presently. A direct link exists between dress and behavior.

The Bible teaches Christians are to give careful attention to how they present their appearance to other people. Billions of dollars are spent every year promoting fashion and clothing style in America. Christians should not fall into the trap of constantly attempting to keep up with the latest fashions. Young people are the recipients of enormous pressure from peers to wear the latest expensive styles of shoes, shirts, jackets, and jeans. Parents, too, scratch and claw to afford suits, shoes, jewelry, and dresses which are in vogue.

In contrast to the way the world says dress, the Bible stresses our clothing ought to avoid two

things: sexual allurements and materialism. Women are admonished to de-emphasize external beauty (Prov. 31:30; 1 Pet. 3: 3-5). The admonition of Paul to women includes the use of terms that appeal to their sense of shame and virtue ( 1 Tim. 2:9-10). He indicates Christian women are to dress in such a way a good man would not be encouraged toward an unwholesome thought. Women are to dress with discretion, propriety, and decency. Clothing choices ought to take into account first and foremost the Biblical principals related to lust, passion, enticement, and worldliness.

God was dissatisfied with the clothing of Adam and Eve to the extent He redesigned their clothes more in keeping with their newly aroused sense of shame (Gen. 3: 7, 21). Similarly, God insisted Old Testament priest wear sufficient clothing to prevent exposure as they ascended the alter steps (Ex. 20:26; 28:42-43). Queen Vashti refused to allow herself to be placed on public display for men to gawk at her physical beauty (Es. 1: 10-12). Society may well ridicule Christian morality as “puritanical” and “old-fashioned,” but the time has come for Christian mothers and fathers to instruct children as to the appropriate standards of dress and modesty. Girls must be taught how to dress and move in ways that accentuate femininity without appealing to males with clothing and movement that provoke passion. Boys need to be taught by their fathers that females are to be respected, treated with gentleness and thoughtfulness, and not viewed as sex objects for the release of male passions. As society changes in ways which are in conflict with God’s word, Christians must refrain from mirroring the world. As civilization continues its inevitable drive toward moral and spiritual decline, Christians will appear to the world, and perhaps to themselves, to be bizarre relics of the past. We must, therefore, continually remind ourselves of God’s assessment of the matter. We must seek to please God and pattern our moral behavior after God’s instructions. May God help us stand and be counted! Faithful Christians must rise up together, anchored in the absolute Christian’s moral standards of God’s word, and position themselves against the immorality of our day, having “no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.”

By: David McDonald

## Haiti relief update 2/1/10

The Santo Church of Christ met yesterday on the grounds of the Son Light Children's Home. There were 6 baptisms and the members handed out 200 family packs of food after worship.

The wall rebuilding project at the group home and at the children's home continues. Two walls are up at the group house and the walls at the children's home are well on their way.

Here's a note from Roberta describing some of their work:

"Members of Son Light Children's Home, Santo Nutrition Center, Santo Church of Christ, and Airport Church of Christ in Cap Haitien, work the assembly line making family relief bags to be handed out to refugees and needy persons in and around Port au Prince. The contents of the bags include: 5 lbs of rice, 2 lbs of beans, two cans of fish, 1 can of tomato paste, 1 bar of soap, a washcloth, salt, 16 oz bottle of oil, matches and two lbs of spaghetti.

We have had success distributing bags to tent cities around the Santo area. Over two hundred bags were distributed after worship on Sunday evening. Area congregations have received bags to share with members and neighbors in need. During a recent distribution from Son Light Children's Home, the crowd became rowdy and actually pushed our gate off of its hinges. It is repaired and our next distribution went without a hitch. The crowd was very sorry for the destructive behavior and showed that when we handed out over 200 bags from our home a few days later."

Another truckload of food will be delivered to Roberta today. Relief team 2 is there in Haiti - they are keeping busy! The medical personnel with them set up a mini-clinic and treated 100 patients. Others are helping with the wall re-building, transport, and the food distribution.

## YOUTH NEWS

The next Area Wide Youth Devo will be Sunday night, February 14, at the Hillcrest congregation.

The next Senior Bible Bowl will be here at New Albany, on February 21 at 2pm. We will be needing drinks and deserts for after the Bible Bowl.

There will be Youth Devo @ the Fellowship Building Sunday night, February 21, after services.

Youth, please start inviting your friends to our 'Friends and Family Week-End', which will be February 13 &

## Encouraging Words

By: Tom Lucas

A group of frogs were traveling the woods, and two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead.

The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump up out of the pit with all their might. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that they were as good as dead. Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell down and died.

The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made his escape. When he got out, the other frogs said, "Did you not hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

### The story teaches two lessons:

1. There is power of life and death in the tongue. An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift them up and help them make it through the day.
2. The power of words...it is sometimes hard to understand that 'an encouraging word can go such a long way'. Anyone can speak words that tend to rob another of the spirit to continue in difficult times.

**Special is the individual who will take the time to encourage another. Be special to others.**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**J. D. Stroud**, fell Sunday and is in the Tupelo hospital with a fractured skull. Remember **Sue** also, as she is dealing with a broken hand.

**Deloris Crowe**, fell this past Friday and broke her left arm.

**Mary Montgomery**, will go to the Tupelo hospital today to have more chemo. **Bobby** is going back to the doctor today. (Tuesday)

**Abby Bailey**, (granddaughter of Wadie Lepard) is out of the hospital and doing better.

**Continual Prayer List**

**Shane Hutton, Sue Collins, 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**

February 05.....Paige Young  
February 09.....Marie Beard  
February 09.....Raymond Vest

**ANNIVERSARIES**

February 14.....Andy & Sharon Clemmer  
February 21.....Price & Claudia Senter

**“SECRET BUDDIES”**

The youth would like to say “Hello” to all their secret buddies. Please be sure to check the pews in the sound room often, to see if you have received a gift.

**“FRIENDS & FAMILY WEEK-END”**

On February 13th and 14th will be our “Friends and Family Week-End”. Mike King of Orange Park, Fla. will be here for a short meeting. We want to encourage everyone to be present and bring someone with you. We will have a 6:00pm service on Saturday night and Sunday the services will be as usual. We will have a meal following morning services Sunday. The adult I class will be in charge of the set-up / clean-up the Fellowship Building.

**THANKS**

We want to say thanks to all those who had a part in our 5th Sunday services this past week. Ray Kennedy had a great lesson Sunday morning and the deacons did a great job as well Sunday afternoon. We are blessed to have such qualified men to carry on the work here at New Albany. Thanks also, to those who prepared such a wonderful meal. After the afternoon service, Troy, Randy , and Greg showed pictures and talked about their trip to Haiti. We appreciate all their efforts in this work.

**AREA EVENTS**

**Youth Fellowship** sponsored by: Freed-Hardeman University to be held by the Foote Street congregation on February 7th. Check bulletin board for details.

**Freed-Hardeman University Associates Annual Benefit Dinner** to be held at the Beech Hill Church of Christ Fellowship building at 6:30pm on February 18, 2010. Speaker will be Dr. Joe Wiley, president of FHU. Adults \$15.00 College Age & under \$7.00.

**Teacher Workshop @** the Batesville Church of Christ February 27, 2010 Time: 8: 00 am-noon

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School ..... 108  
 Sunday A.M ..... 116  
 Sunday P.M..... 95  
 Wednesday ..... 88  
 Contribution ..... \$3,336.75  
 Budget ..... \$3,305.70

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....Matt Jennings  
 A.M. Prayer.....Bill Botts  
 Closing Prayer....Richard Adams  
 P.M. Prayer..... Dan Cobb  
 Closing ..... Olen Clark  
 Wed. 2/10... ..Ray Kennedy  
 Wed. 2/10.....Bill DePriest  
 Usher & Lock ....Harold Russell  
 Greeters.... ..T & N Robertson

**PANTRY ITEM:**  
**Canned Tomatoes**

## 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 ..... 538-0791  
 Roger Clayton ..... 534-5240  
 Andy Clemmer ..... 816-5887  
 Harold Russell ..... 534-4648  
 Randy Wall ..... 538-6038

### Minister

Office ..... 534-4649

## MONTH: FEBRUARY, 2010

**SOUND ROOM** Matt Jennings **ANNOUNCEMENTS** Randy Wall  
**LEAD SINGING** **USHER** Chris Smithey  
*SUN AM:* Dalton Beard  
*SUN PM:* Greg Harrison **PREPARE**  
*WED:* Ray Kennedy **COMMUNION** Kim Clayton

**LORD'S SUPPER**  
*N Head:* Troy Robertson *S Head:* Jerry Gibson  
*N Help I:* Dean Dillard *S Help I:* J. L. Eaton  
*N Help II:* Daniel Drummond *S Help II:* Andy Clemmer

**SUNDAY PRAYERS** **SCRIPTURE READING**  
**A.M.** **Opening** **Closing**  
*1ST* Bill Botts Richard Adams  
*2ND* Greg Harrison Roger Clayton  
*3RD* Jason Jennings Drew Drummond  
*4TH* Paul Orman Phil Young  
*5TH* Phillip Young

**SUNDAY PRAYERS** **USHER & LOCK**  
**PM** **Opening** **Closing**  
*1ST* Dan Cobb Olen Clark  
*2ND* Richard Jennings Harold Crowe  
*3RD* Harold Russell Ronnie Griggs  
*4TH* Burrell Walton Bobby Marques  
*5TH* Greg Clayton

**WED PRAYERS** **GREETERS**  
**Opening** **Closing**  
*1ST* Dalton Beard Shane Crotts  
*2ND* Ray Kennedy Bill DePriest  
*3RD* Lonnie Weaver Bill Lyon  
*4TH* Greg Clayton Carl Smith  
*5TH* A & S Clemmer

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