



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

February 22, 2011

A Visitor's Impression

Mike King



After visitors attend our services, does it ever make you wonder what impression was stamped on their minds? Numerous people visit for the purpose of “checking out” our services and to examine that for which we stand. The following article came my way recently and I thought you might also find it helpful and enlightening.

A church newsletter mentioned a man who visited eighteen different churches on successive Sundays. He was trying to find out what the churches were really like. He said, ”I sat near the front. After the service, I walked slowly to the rear, then returned to the front and went back to the foyer using another aisle. I smiled and was neatly dressed. I asked one person to direct me to a specific place: a fellowship hall, minister’s study, etc. I remained for coffee if served. I used a scale to rate the reception I received. I awarded points on the following basis:

- 10 for a smile from a worshipper
- 10 for greeting from someone sitting nearby
- 100 for an exchange of name
- 200 for an invitation to have coffee
- 200 for an invitation to return
- 1000 for an introduction to another worshiper
- 2000 for an invitation to meet the Minister



On this scale, eleven of the eighteen churches earned fewer than 100 points. Five actually received less than 20. The conclusion: The doctrine may be biblical, the singing inspirational, the sermon uplifting, but when a visitor finds nobody who cares whether he’s here, he is not likely to return.”

Your first response may be that this is being extreme or ridiculous, that no visitor would be so meticulous. Maybe not, but you can be assured of the fact that they note everything. They observe from the time they initially drive by or upon the parking lot. Impressions can be formed by their preconceived notions. They notice everything from how well the grounds and building are kept to how neat and modest the worshippers dress who are arriving. It is very significant to visitors how warmly they are received and to just be recognized as not being a regular member. We all make some of the same observations when visiting ourselves on vacation. Since we do not get the “second chance to make our first impression,” we must insure that it is positive. This is where church growth begins and every member plays a part.

BEAUTIFUL FEET

What makes a person beautiful? Is it their eyes or their hair? Perhaps a person's voice makes them beautiful. Maybe it is the fact a person is tall, dark, and handsome or that they have beautiful skin and golden curls that appeals to our sense of what is beautiful.

Consider for a moment what the Lord calls beautiful through the apostle Paul.

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom 10: 14-15 NKJV)

Do you consider feet to be beautiful? During the time that Paul penned these words; most people of the region wore some type of sandal or walked barefoot. Their feet would often be covered with dust, dirt and grime from traveling the roads and working fields. Think about how tough life must have been for the poor foot. No wonder there was a wash basin and fresh towel by the front door of the house! Simply washing your feet at the end of the day may have been as soothing as our resting in the recliner after working hard.

It was Paul's hardworking feet that carried him to the lost of the world. Are our feet working for the Lord? During your lifetime, golden hair will turn gray, muscles will weaken, and the eyes may cry out for bifocals, but the feet that work for the Lord will always remain beautiful. The Lord's church needs to be filled with all kinds of feet; some will hold up great teachers, others wonderful singers, givers, or evangelists. No matter what talent you may have to serve the Lord's kingdom, strive to walk each day with beautiful feet that will bring the gospel of peace to a truly needful world.

~~ Paul Nygard

YOUTH NEWS

- This past Sunday, *Andrew Shelton* from Freed-Hardeman University was here to try out for the position of Summer Youth Intern. Sunday, March 6th, *Andy Brown*, also from FHU will be here to try out for the Summer Youth Intern position.
- There will be no L2L practice Sunday, February 27th.
- The next Senior Bible Bowl will be held Sunday, March 6th at the Hillcrest congregation.
- We would like to congratulate *Phillip Young* and the Myrtle Hawks for winning North Half 1A in boys basketball. They will be playing for the State title later this week. Congratulations also goes to *Daniel Drummond* and the NA Bulldogs for placing second in the North Half 4A play-offs. They too will be playing for the state title later in the week.

WE THANK GOD

We thank Thee for this place in which we dwell; for the love that unites us; for the peace accorded us this day; for the hope with which we expect the morrow; for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth.

Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind. Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies. Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors. If it may not, give us strength to encounter that which is to come, that we be brave in peril, constant in tribulations, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune, and down to the gates of death, loyal, and loving one to another.

~~ Robert Louis Stevenson

PRAYER LIST

Margaret Bailey's health is declining. Please remember *Paige Young* and family during this time.

Jim Dickerson, will undergo surgery Wednesday in Tupelo, to have his left kidney removed.

Jean Drummond, fell and received a broken left arm, a sprained right hand and arm, and broken bones in her face. She is to return to the doctor this week.

Marshal Kell, friend of the *Marques'* is awaiting surgery to remove a kidney due to cancer.

Len Collett, brother-in-law of *Dixie White* has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Kaye Parks, fell and injured her knee over the weekend.

Continual Prayer

Ernest Foley, Maxine Carlisle, Hunter Miller, David Harendt, Della Carmon, John Sanford, Maxine McCarley, Hugh Collins, Shane Crofts, 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, Anna Davis & Mattie Golden

Military List:

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

February 25.....Carlisle Smithey
February 28.....Brian Carpenter
March 03.....Angela Ashmore
March 05.....Price Senter

REJOICE!

We are happy to report that *Will Bowlin* was baptized last Wednesday night following services. *Will* is the husband of *Sallye Clayton Bowlin*. We commend him on his decision to devote his life to Christ and become a member of the Lord's church.

THANKS

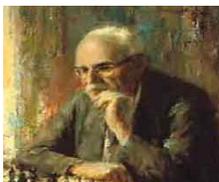
We would like to say a big THANK YOU to *Bobby White, Harold Russell* and *Price Senter* for the wonderful fish supper they provided for the congregation this past Saturday evening. Thanks also, to those who brought items to go along with the fish. Everything was delicious! We love and appreciate these men very much.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY

This Sunday, February 27th will be our Friends and Family Day. Our service times will be: Sunday school at 9:30, worship at 10:30 am and 1:15pm. We will have a potluck meal following our morning service. We are anticipating a great day and want to invite all of our friends and family to share this special day with us. Adult II class will be in charge of set-up and clean-up of the fellowship building.

SAGE ADVICE

Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.



“ A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	104
Sunday A.M	136
Sunday P.M	91
Wednesday	90
Contribution	\$3,009.80
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Ruston Adams
A.M. Prayer.....	Troy Robertson
Closing Prayer.....	Olen Clark
P.M. Prayer.....	Lonnie Weaver
Closing.....	Mark Jennings
Wed. 3/2.....	Randy Wall
Wed. 3/2.....	Bobby White
Usher & Lock.....	Randy Wall
Greeters.....	B & A Pounders



PANTRY ITEM:
SOUP

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

Please Join Us for Friends & Family Day



Sunday, February 27th, 2011

Sunday School ~ 9:30 am
Morning Worship ~ 10:30 am
Noon meal
Evening Worship ~ 1:15 pm

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Volume 8

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