



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

March 16, 2010

MOSTLY SUNNY SKY IN HAITI

FROM: GARY DODD 3/15/2010

Sunday morning, I walked across a courtyard surrounded by concrete block walls. To my right was a small fish hatchery filled with tilapia of various sizes. Beyond the pools of water was a garden. You walk between the fish hatchery and the garden and you see a small bull tied with a rope with a make-shift shed that is maybe four feet deep and seven feet long for some shade. Then, immediately in front of me as I scanned the lower right quadrant of the courtyard was a chicken coop with several hens and a rooster.

In the upper left quadrant of the courtyard was a pavilion with several folded chairs. The exterior corner of the courtyard wraps around the pavilion, and the walls are topped with barbed-wire to protect the 30 children that live in the home next door. At the far end of the pavilion is a wooden speaker's stand that comes up to the top of my chest. Behind it, a small strip of yard separates you from a Haitian kitchen to my left and what looks like an outhouse to my right.

In order to proclaim the love of Christ, I am privileged to stand underneath spiders that are busily at work nine feet above my head and in front of the place where I will watch the rats scamper about during the evening worship service. People are dressed as nicely or nicer than what I often see in American churches. They have a blessed opportunity to stop their world for a few moments and to praise their Lord.

I looked at the people and wondered where they get their clothing, how their shirts or blouses are so bright and white, and how they were able to press their clothes, shine their shoes, and look so neat. Their eyes with which I made contact while I preached revealed a searching and a yearning for the Lord's blessings. Their smiles, nods of their heads, their open Bibles, and their beautiful voices expressed a confidence and trust that challenged my faith. I was speaking, but as they worshipped and studied, they were proclaiming a message that I needed to hear.

If I looked to a 45 degree angle to my left while I was preaching, I could see a newly constructed concrete wall. Between the wall and the fish hatchery, a slab of cement rests on the ground. The wall had fallen during the earthquake. All of the children but one were in their home when the earthquake shook the foundations of the children's lives. The slab of concrete that bears etchings of the statements of love from the children in the home will soon cover the grave of a fourteen-year-old boy that was found beneath the collapsed wall. The children had removed the debris to find their "brother."

The children's home survived the earthquake, but the middle of courtyard was covered with tents. For a month, the children were afraid to sleep inside.

I do not know what the people heard when I preached on Sunday morning, but I am still learning lessons from the sermon I saw as I spoke under a mostly sunny sky in Haiti and watched reflections of the Son from some people that know Jesus better than I do.

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

THE “WRITE” DIRECTION

Just getting through the day in this sinful world can sometimes be terribly difficult. As Christians, we must see the importance of encouragement, of inspiring one another to greater hope, love and service in the Lord (1Thess 5:11; Heb 10:24). We should try to take advantage of encouraging others through every possible medium—our words, actions, and prayers.

After preaching a sermon on the value of written encouragement I received a note from a little girl named Micah, who is only eight or nine. She had not just written me, but several others too! I got another note from her just the other day, and it included this precious line: “You are doing better now than the first time I wrote you.” I couldn’t help but laugh. But you know she’s exactly right! Written encouragement from Christians is like a spiritual blood transfusion— it lifts up and strengthens those who might be “running low” (Rom 14:19; 15:2). Surely this is one of the reasons Paul mentioned so many people by name in his epistles. Why should we practice the art of written encouragement?

IT SHOWS PURPOSE. Writing to someone shows the investment of time, doesn’t it? (Eph. 5:16). Often the mere thought and the expense of effort mean more than the actual words written. God Himself showed deliberate purpose in giving us His word, the greatest word of encouragement ever written (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2Pet 1:19-21).

IT SHOWS PRACTICE. How often have we had good intentions about writing others, but simply never got around to it? God blesses the faith that works through love (Gal 5:6). When written encouragement is done, it’s done. There’s something concrete about it.

IT SHOWS PRECISION. Most of us cannot say things we can write. Written encouragement allows us carefully to choose our words and to say exactly what we desire to say. Written encouragement is powerful encouragement in the right direction! A postage stamp is still the bargain of the century for the encouragement it can give.

-Mike Vestal— From The Friend of Truth, Oct 8, 2000

YOUTH NEWS

The Junior Bible Bowl will meet Saturday, March 27th at the East Main congregation. This will be this last session until fall.

The Senior Bible Bowl will meet Sunday afternoon , March 28th, at 2PM at the Nettleton congregation. The youth will leave following morning services, and eat in Tupelo, before going on to Nettleton. This will be the final Bible Bowl session of the season for the senior group.

Sunday afternoon, March 28th at 4:00pm we will be having our Easter egg hunt at the fellowship building. Please bring 12 candy filled eggs. See April Pounders for more details.

ADULT III CLASS

The Adult III Sunday School Class hosted a St. Patrick’s party for the New Haven clients last week. Eleven members attended the party. Maxine Hall also attended as a guest of Mary Frances. Class members and clients enjoyed visiting with each other and playing bingo. The class provided refreshments, prizes for bingo , and a St. Patrick’s treat for each client. Harold carried several sacks of cans he had saved from church activities, and Alice brought cans from home. Pat Reed has recently donated cans. Greg and Lynn, Mary Frances, Bobby and Sue, and Bill and Helen regularly give cans to the school.

NOTE: Collette Cross works with the New Haven School. They are trying to raise funds to buy a special bus. Some of our members want to help with that fund. If you want to donate to that fund through the Church, you can give to the NA church of Christ and mark it New Haven Bus and a check will be sent from the church. Give your donation to Jerry Gibson.

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Perrin & Jean Drummond, will both be having heart catheterization Tuesday, in Memphis.

Dee Cox, (mother of Callie Smithey) is now at home, following a stay in the hospital because of pneumonia. She is still not doing good.

Betty Colston, (aunt of Christy Wall) has been diagnosed with cancer.

Rivers Robertson, (mother of Troy Robertson) in room 203 of the local hospital recovering from hip surgery.

Robert Childers, (local attorney) in the Oxford hospital following a massive heart attack.

Continual Prayer List

J. D. & Sue Stroud, Janet Drummond; Betty Adams; Bobby & Mary Montgomery; Jeanne Perkins, Terry Young,

Shut-Ins

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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Sue Collins; 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

March 19.....*Dan Cobb*

March 19.....*Clay Jennings*

March 21.....*Bill Botts*

ANNIVERSARIES

March 24.....*J. D. & Sue Stroud*

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

On Sunday night, March 21st, there will be a fellowship supper following services at the fellowship building. Please bring your favorite soup, sandwich, deserts, etc, and come enjoy a period of fellowship.

EGG HUNT

Sunday afternoon, March 28th, at 4:00pm we will be having our annual Easter egg hunt at the fellowship building. The children are ask to bring 12 candy filled eggs. Please see April Pounders for more details.

SPRING MEETING

The elders have set the date for our spring Gospel Meeting. It is scheduled for May 23-26, with Jesse Robertson as the guest speaker. Please mark this on your calendars.

AREA EVENTS

- **Area -Wide Singing** to be held March 20, 2010 at the Ashland church of Christ from 6:00 – 8:00PM
- **Chapman Church of Christ** will have a Gospel Meeting, March 21-24, with Garland Elkins.
- **Annual Senior Adult Rally @ Henderson TN Church of Christ** Saturday, March 27.
- **Bible Lectureship X 3** to be held March 28-31, 2010 at the Charleston church of Christ in Charleston, MS check bulletin board for details
- **Six State Gospel Singing** to be held at the Southwind Church of Christ in Memphis on Friday, April 16 from 7:00-10:00 PM
- A recording of congregational singing for “**Give Me the Bible**” telecast on WTVA will be Sunday, April 18 from 2:00-3:00. @ the Antioch church of Christ. They need singers.
- **West Main Church of Christ 50th Anniversary Celebration/Homecoming** to be held April 24-25, 2010 Check bulletin board for details

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

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	116
Sunday A.M	143
Sunday P.M.	86
Wednesday	86
Contribution.....	\$2,790.00
Budget	\$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Dean Dillard
A.M. Prayer	Jerry Gibson
Closing Prayer...	Bobby Marques
P.M. Prayer.....	Bill Botts
Closing.....	Bobby White
Wed. 3/24.....	Greg Clayton
Wed. 3/24.....	Randy Wall
Usher & Lock ...	Harold Russell
Greeters.....	B & A Pounders

PANTRY ITEM:
Pantry is low

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
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“Winners Vs. Losers”

The winner is always a part of the answer. (1 Cor. 15:58)
The loser is always a part of the problem. (2 Cor. 6:3)

The winner always has a program. (Romans 1:13)
The loser always has an excuse. (Luke 9:57-62)

The winner says, “Let me do it for you.” (Matt. 20:26-28)
The loser says, “That’s not my job.” (Luke 16:22-25)

The winner sees an answer for every problem. (Phil. 4:13)
The loser sees a problem in every answer. (Matt 19: 21-24)

The winner sees a green near every sand trap. (Psalm 23)
The loser sees two or three sand traps near every green
(Numbers 13:21-33; 32:6-13)

The winner says, “It may be difficult, but it is possible”.
(Matt 19:23-26)

The loser says, “It may be possible, but it’s too difficult.”
(Matt. 26:40-46)

God created us to be winners. Are you living like one?

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