



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.org](http://www.nacoc.org)

April 6, 2010

## “Are We Just Going Through The Motions”

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

We know it is true that we have a responsibility to attend all the services of the church that we possibly can: *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another : and so much more , as ye see the day approaching”* (Heb. 10:215). We know that we are to go into the entire world with the gospel: *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:15 -16). We know we are to be busy helping others with their needs: *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”* (Gal. 6:10). While we know these things to be true, it is also possible to do the right things but not have our heart into what we are doing.

Jesus said, *“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”* (John 4:24). This verse clearly teaches that we must have the truth in order to worship God as we should, but it just as clearly teaches that we are to worship God with our spirit. In other words we must put our heart into what we are doing. To have either one without the other leaves us short of what God expects out of us when we worship Him. In Ephesians chapter five verse nineteen the apostle Paul wrote: *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”*. He says making melody in your heart. It is possible that we can sing the songs that are announced, but our hearts (minds) are a thousand miles away. When we do such, we are just going through the motions.

Recently, I went to a Zephyrs baseball game with a friend. The game started at 7:00P.M., so we made plans to leave allowing enough time to be there before the game started. We knew there could be heavy traffic at this time of day, so we left early enough to compensate for the possible delays. We knew if we arrived late they would not hold the game up just for us (nor should they). At one point in the game the home team had the bases loaded. We did not run to the rest room or concession stand during this important moment of the game. Then the greatest excitement was in the bottom of the ninth inning with the score tied at 2 to 2. We watched with great anticipation, this was no time to be gazing at the night sky, this is what we came to see. I didn't notice people running to the exits with the game on the line as though it didn't make any difference. There were two outs and the home team had two men on base. A hit wins the game, but an out sends the game into extra innings. All eyes were watching the batter, and sure enough he gets the game winning hit. The crowd goes wild, our Zephyrs had won the game in dramatic fashion. No one turned to the one sitting (or standing and screaming) beside them and said what's all the commotion about? Our hearts were into the game and it showed.

That was on Monday night, now fast forward to Sunday morning when it is time for the worship services of the church to start.

Does the song leader know in advance what songs he will lead, or is his heart somewhere else? Are the members there on time, or did they not take the time to make the proper preparation Saturday night by getting to bed early enough so they would not be... (next pg)

...to tired? Did they take time to set the alarm clock so they would be up with enough time to get ready and be on time? Sometimes the preacher wonders if the members know that the restrooms actually work before services just as well as they do during services.

Do they know you can get water out of the water fountains before service, or do they think you can only get a drink during the worship hour? Could it be that we are just going through the motions and really do not have our heart into worshiping the God of Heaven? Have they ever considered how much they are distracting those who did prepare for worship when they drag in late every time?

Have they given any thought to the fact that while they cannot sit still because they are going in and out, or passing notes and talking that someone maybe missing out on the gospel message that is being presented? Surely they know better! Surely they have more respect for God and those that are involved in worshiping Him than what they sometimes show! Did they really come to worship, or are they just going through the motions? *"Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation"* (Psalm 111:1). ~By: Mark Lance~ copied

## SOWING AND REAPING I

One night some boys decided to raid a farmer's watermelon patch. As they were making their way toward the fence over which they would escape with the stolen melons the farmer came outside with his shotgun. As the last boy was crossing the fence the farmer aimed and fired and filled the boy's back side with rock salt.

The remainder of the night the other boys picked each particle of rock salt from the victim's back side, painfully. This, of course, enraged the boy to seek revenge. A short time later this boy sowed the farmer's watermelon patch with cocklebur s. He thought he'd gotten revenge but remember a person reaps what he sows.

Many years passed and one of the boys that was with this boy that night he got shot met on the street. After some words of greeting and reminiscing the boy who had moved out of state asked the other what he was doing now. This was his reply, "You remember that ole' farmer that shot me with rock salt that night we stole his watermelons? Well, I married his daughter and I've been fightin' cockleburs ever since."

This was told as a true story. Whether it is or not the message is very clear that you do truly reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7).

By: Ray Kennedy, 1983 Informer

## YOUTH NEWS

- The Area Wide Youth Meeting for the month of April, will be Sunday night, April 11, at the Gloster Street congregation. The van will leave at 5:45.
- Any youth planning to attend camp at Maywood this summer should get their application turned into Sarah Walker as soon as possible.
- This month's Youth Devo will be Sunday night, April 25th, at the fellowship building. The Botts will be hosting.
- GREAT JOB, to all who participated in Lads to Leaders this past weekend! Thanks to all who helped our young people.

## BIBLE CHARACTERS

### WHO AM I?

*I was mocked because I was bald?*

*Hint: 2 Kings 2:22,23*

*I was Belteshazzar's other name?*

*Hint: Daniel 1:7*

*From my shoulders and upward, I was higher than any of the people?*

*Hint: 1 Samuel 9:2*

For daily devotional & updates call **NEWSLINE @ 534-0016**

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**J. A. Thornton**, has been moved to a regular room in the Booneville hospital. He is slowly improving.

**Jean Drummond**, not doing well

**Trudy Miller**, (friend of Grace & Bill Lyon) has a tumor on the pituitary gland. They will try to shrink it with medication.

#### Continual Prayer List

**Bobby & Mary Montgomery, Rivers Robertson, Betty Colston, Dee Cox, Tom Elliott, J. D. & Sue Stroud, Janet Drummond; Betty Adams; 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, Shane Hutton, 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

April 8.....*Rebecca Dewberry*

April 11.....*Teresa Clark*

April 13.....*Brad Pounders*

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 7.....*Randy & Christy Wall*

### REJOICE!

We rejoice with Rachel Peeler, who was baptized into Christ Sunday morning, by Ray Kennedy. Please welcome our new sister in Christ and let's all encourage her as she begins her Christian walk.

### LADS TO LEADERS

We are SO PROUD of our youth who participated in Lads to Leaders over the weekend in Memphis, TN. They received the following in their respective age groups: Audrey Anna Young, 1st Place in speech; Madison Griggs, 2nd Place in speech; Dillon Clayton, 3rd Place in Song Leading; Tyler Weaver, certificate for Bible Reading; David Clayton, certificate for Song Leading, and Olivia Pounders, certificate for Song Leading. Please let these young people know how proud we are of them. Thanks to Lonnie Weaver, Sarah Walker and Ray Kennedy for working with these young people.

### BRIDAL TEA

There will be a Bridal Tea Sunday, April 18th, from 2:00 –3:30 for Erica Ormon, bride-elect of Martin Crotts, at the fellowship building. They are registered at Calico Mushroom, Belk, Southern Traditions, and Wal-Mart.

### AREA EVENTS

- **Ladies Day @ Hwy 15 Pontotoc church of Christ**, Saturday, April 10th. Guest speaker will be Cindy Colley. Registration at 9a.m. Lunch will be provided.
- **Annual Steak Benefit Dinner** for Sardis Lake Christian Camp to be held April 10 at the camp. Tickets are \$15.
- **Gospel Meeting @ Skyline church of Christ**, April 11-15. Mon– Thurs @7P.M. Guest speaker will be John Shannon
- **Ladies Day @ Hwy 178 church of Christ**, Saturday April 17. Registration /Breakfast will be from 9:00a.m- 9:45. Program will begin @ 10:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker: Shirley Williams
- A recording of congregational singing for **“Give Me the Bible”** telecast on WTVA will be Sun. April 18, at the Antioch congregation @2P.M.
- **Ashland Homecoming 2010** will be Sunday, April 25th. J.C. Enlow will be the guest speaker.

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

**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School .....	99
Sunday A.M .....	126
Sunday P.M. ....	86
Wednesday .....	n/a
Contribution.....	\$2,772.00
Budget .....	\$3,305.70

**TO SERVE**

Scripture .....	Daniel Drummond
A.M. Prayer .....	Greg Clayton
Closing Prayer .....	Shane Crotts
P.M. Prayer.....	J. L. Eaton
Closing.....	Bobby Marques
Wed. 4/14.. .....	Harold Crowe
Wed. 4/14.....	Carl Smith
Usher & Lock .....	Greg Clayton
Greeters.....	B & K Botts

**PANTRY ITEM:  
Canned Fruit**

**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.....	316-9255

**Minister**

Office.....	534-4649
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**HOW CAN YOU HAVE A HAPPY FAMILY?**

To run a test of your own home situation you might ask yourselves the following questions?

1. Is my mate closer to God because of me?
2. Can my family see that going to heaven is really the most important priority in my life?
3. Does our family take a few minutes each day to read and discuss God's word?
4. Do all the family members pray together at least once a day besides at meal-time?
5. Is our family ministering to others who are needy, lonely, and struggling, or are we self-sufficient and isolated from those whom Christ came to serve?
6. Does our family talk to one another in loving tones as though we appreciated and valued each other?
7. Does our family have a time set aside to do enjoyable, recreational activities together?
8. Does each member of the family know that they are valued and loved? Has this been openly and affectionately expressed to them?
9. Are our children growing up to have self-esteem and confidence to them? Can each child look himself in the mirror and say, "I'm glad I'm me?"
10. As time goes by, is our family drawing closer to God or is it fragmenting?
11. Is our relationship such that if I had it to do all over again, I would marry the same person, have the same children, and give myself to the same life? If I would select ideal parents for me, would I choose my mom and dad?

These questions will probe the mind and make us think. Begin today to strengthen your family ties and nurture your marriage relationship. God has only given you one wife, one husband, one family, and one life; make the most of it!

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**Volume 14**

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