



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

April 13, 2010

## DON'T LOOK BACK

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

The Savior instructed us to “remember Lot’s wife” (Luke 17: 32). In this context, Jesus was describing what would transpire at the destruction of Jerusalem, in A.D. 70. When they saw the signs of impending destruction, they were to flee from Jerusalem, not stopping to look back. It was in this connection that Jesus calls attention to Lot’s wife. You will recall that during the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.19), Lot’s wife looked back as she was fleeing the cities of the plain, only to be turned into a pillar of salt (19:26). What can we learn from Lot’s wife? What can we learn about the dangers of looking back?

**Looking back shows I do not take God at His word.** When God instructed Lot and his family to flee the cities of the plain, specific instruction were given that none should look back (19:17). This warning, as well as others, was attached to the punishment “lest thou be consumed.” Such should have served as a sufficient deterrent for casting a glance backwards. Perhaps Lot’s wife thought no real harm would befall her for simply looking back upon the home from which she was fleeing. However, God meant what He said! A terrible demise was the result of her failure to take God at His word. Oh, how many more face a far worse fate in the day of judgment because they refuse to believe what God has said!

**Looking back shows my heart is still tied to what is behind me.** God called upon Lot and his family to flee the city of the plains so that they might not “be consumed in the iniquity of the city” (Gen. 19:15). Had they been allowed to remain in that place, they likely would have been influenced for evil (note how Lot’s married children reacted). Christ taught those who would follow him

to forsake all, and don’t look back: “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). We must sever all ties with that which would pull us away from God. (Jas.4:4). To those who are tempted to cast a glance over your shoulder at what you have left behind for the Lord (Mt. 19:27), remember the words of Paul: “...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before...” (Phil.3:13-14).

**Looking backs shows a lack of trust in God’s promises.** Often our attention is turned back to the things we left behind because we do not trust that God will care for us as He says He will do. It is always the case that God will reward those who do what is right. When we are called upon to leave father, or mother, or children, or houses or lands for the sake of the gospel, God will surely take care of us in every day and in every way (Matt. 19:28). Those who will “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt.6:33) have assurance that God will take care of our needs.

**Looking back forces me to take my eyes off of what lies ahead.** When we turn to view those things we have left behind, we are not able to see what lies ahead. There are temptations to resist, pitfalls to avoid, a path on which we must remain. Looking over our shoulders makes us unable to “look {ing} unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb. 12:2). Can we honestly sing that we are “constantly looking to thee” when we are looking back, longing for what we have supposedly left behind?

By: Patrick Morrison [sixthavenuechurch.org](http://sixthavenuechurch.org)  
Via/Montrose coc bulletin

## LESSON FROM A COCOON

A man found a cocoon of an emperor moth. He took it home so that he could watch the moth come out of the cocoon. The man sat and watched the moth for several hours as the moth struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and could go no farther—It just seemed to be stuck. Then the man, in his kindness, decided to help the moth; he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The moth then emerged easily, but it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the moth because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the little moth spent the rest of its life crawling, with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the moth to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the moth into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Freedom and flight would only come after the struggle. By depriving the moth of a struggle, he had deprived the moth of health.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If God allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, He would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. How true this is! How many times have we wanted to take the quick way out of struggles and difficulties, to take those scissors and snip off the remaining bits in an attempt to be free. We need to remember that our loving Father will never give us more than we can bear and through our trials and struggles we are strengthened as gold is refined in the fire.

Author Unknown

## YOUTH NEWS

- The youth enjoyed a trip to the Gloster St. congregation this past Sunday night, for the Area Wide youth meeting. Thanks to Dan Cobb for seeing that they got to the meeting, and to Sarah Walker and other parents for going as well.
- The next youth meeting will be Sunday night, April 25th, at the fellowship building. The Botts will be hosting.
- All youth that plan to attend camp at Maywood Christian Camp this summer need to get their applications turned into Sarah Walker as soon as possible.

## A PRESCRIPTION FOR YOU

**If you are impatient, sit down quietly and talk to Job.**

**If you are just strong-headed, go and see Moses.**

**If you are getting weak-kneed, take a good look at Elijah.**

**If there is no song in your heart, listen to David.**

**If you are a policy man, read Daniel.**

**If you are getting sordid, spend awhile with Isaiah.**

**If you are chilly, get the beloved disciple to put his arms around you.**

**If your faith is below par, read about Paul.**

**If you are getting lazy, watch James.**

**If you are losing sight of the future, climb up the stairs of Revelation and get a glimpse of the Promised land.**

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**J. A. Thornton**, at last report was still in the Booneville hospital.

**J. D. Stroud**, is still having health problems and is waiting to hear back from his doctor.

**Mable Erwin**, will be having tests run in the near future .

**Jean Drummond**, will be taking treatments for fifteen weeks to help build her blood.

#### Continual Prayer List

**Bobby & Mary Montgomery, Rivers Robertson, 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,**

#### 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, Alaska; Michelle Montgomery, Fort Leonard, Missouri, Jim Vest-Afghanistan**

### BIRTHDAYS

April 19.....*Harold Crowe*

April 19.....*Thomas Wall*

April 20.....*Lynn Harrison*

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 28.....*Larry & Linda Ashmore*

### IT'S A GIRL!!!

Bobby and Dixie White are the Proud Great Grandparents of Maddie Elish Camp, born April 6th. She weighed in at 7lbs 13oz and was 19 1/2 inches long. Her parents are Chris and Shea Camp.

### 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 planning a June Wedding. They are registered at Calico Mushroom, Belk, Southern Traditions, Bed, Bath & Beyond and Wal-Mart.

### AREA EVENTS

- **Gospel Meeting @ Skyline church of Christ**, April 11-15. Mon– Thurs @7P.M. Guest speaker will be John Shannon
- **Six State Singing @ Southwind church of Christ in Memphis, TN** will be Friday night, April 16th from 7:00 to 10:00 pm
- **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.
- **West Main church of Christ 50th Anniversary/Homecoming**, April 24-25
- **Southaven church of Christ Ladies’ Day** will be Saturday, May 1st. Registration will begin at 8:30. The guest speaker will be Peggy Leonard.

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

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School ..... 119  
 Sunday A.M ..... 132  
 Sunday P.M. .... 91  
 Wednesday ..... 92  
 Contribution..... \$2,836.08  
 Budget ..... \$3,305.70

## TO SERVE

Scripture ..... Drew Drummond  
 A.M. Prayer .... Richard Jennings  
 Closing Prayer .... Jason Jennings  
 P.M. Prayer..... Jerry Gibson  
 Closing..... Steve Todd  
 Wed. 4/21.. ..... Troy Robertson  
 Wed. 4/21..... Phil Young  
 Usher & Lock .... Roger Clayton  
 Greeters..... A & S Clemmer

**PANTRY ITEM:**  
**Crackers**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School..... 9:30  
 Morning Worship ..... 10:30  
 Evening Worship..... 6:00  
 Wednesday Bible Study ..... 7:00

### Elders

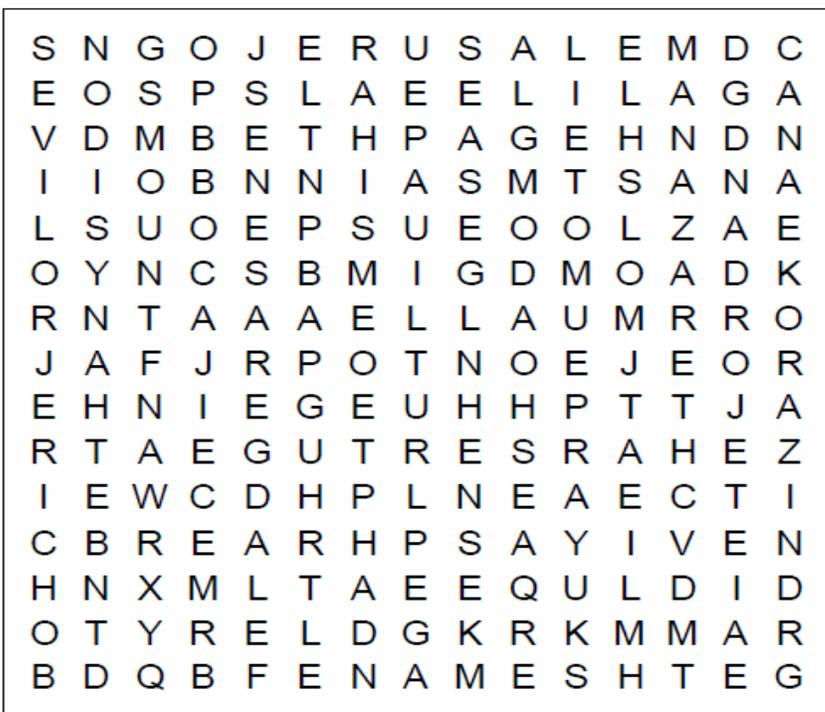
Richard Jennings ..... 534-6671  
 Troy Robertson..... 534-3491

### Deacons

Bill Botts ..... 316-2422  
 Greg Clayton ..... 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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## 9. Places in the Holy Land

BETHANY	GARDEN	MOUNT
BETHLEHEM	GERASENES	NAZARETH
BETHPAGE	GETHSEMANE	OLIVES
BETHSAIDA	GOLGOTHA	RIVER
CANA	JACOB	ROOM
CAPERNAUM	JERICO	SIDON
DALMANUTHA	JERUSALEM	SUMARIA
DECAPOLIS	JORDAN	TYRE
DESERT	JUDEA	UPPER
GALILEE	KORAZIN	WELL

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