



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

July 13, 2010

COURAGE AND FORTITUDE IN GOD'S PEOPLE

BY Mike King

Great men of God throughout the ages have both spoken about and demonstrated the significance of courage and fortitude in the lives of followers of God. Moses and David had much to say on these matters. Remember reading, "Be strong in the Lord, thy God will be with you"? Paul was consistent in the New Testament with the same emphasis. He urged the Ephesians to stand firm as soldiers of Christ to contend with the wiles of the Devil. A fierce battle is required to cope with "spiritual wickedness in high places." Soldiers of the cross of Christ must stand and lift His banner high!

The Savior has promised to be with us and not forsake us (Heb. 13:5-6) enabling us to not fear what men might try to do to harm us. By casting our cares upon Christ, freedom is granted and peace can be pursued (I Pet. 3:11). The likes of Noah, as mentioned by Ezekiel (14:14), provide us ample example for absolute trust in God. Joseph led the way in determination to do God's will while surrounded by heathen influence. Joshua was forced to make tenacious decisions in order to firmly stand for right. Micah prophesied for God, refusing to be influenced adversely by 400 "yes men" and earthly men of renown. Daniel we all love and respect for his example to young people to uphold right disregarding what would bring popularity or earthly recognition. Stephen brings tears to our eyes when pondering his

death by stoning in order to help convert Saul of Tarsus. Barnabas is recorded in biblical history as one who demonstrated conviction and purpose as he cleaved to the Lord regardless of prevailing situations. Finally, Jesus epitomized proper prioritizing to make His "Father's business" known to the great wise men of His day. Did I fail to mention that He was only twelve years of age?

The weaker and feebler you are, the better. The one who has something to trust in is the last one to come anywhere to saying - "I will serve the Lord."

Today there is a dire need for every Christian to take a stand and maintain it against Satan by possessing a steadfast faith (I Pet. 5:9). By this we can avert the fiery darts that pierce the soul (Jas. 4:7). This necessitates obedience to God rather than cowing to the whims of men (Acts. 5:29). To be a victor over sin and Satan one must develop the internal fortitude to accept the fact "Each step I take, I know that He will guide me. To higher ground He ever leads me on" We desperately need followers today who will courageously stand for the Bible, the church, the Lord, purity of life, God's plan of salvation, sanctity of home and marriage along with the reality of a pending judgment day. Where do you stand on these matters and is your stand made with courage and fortitude?

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4: 7

My Tomato Crop

For years I have planted a few tomatoes. This year I outdid myself. At the urging of my daughters who love fresh vegetables, I set out eight plants. And guess what? I am picking tomatoes on a daily basis.

Last year I didn't have any. It didn't matter how many times I went out to the garden, there was never a tomato. The whole year passed and I didn't get one. The problem wasn't disease—no sign of that. Nor did the rabbits, squirrels, or birds get them (Though they have often done that in the past). It finally dawned on me that I didn't have any tomatoes last year because I didn't plant any.

Now this is a parable for those of us in the church who are concerned about the lack of conversions to Christ. In the first century the Lord added to the church on a *daily* basis those who were being saved (Acts 2:47). Why not today?

Rather than fault God for a paltry harvest, it might be well to ask ourselves if we have been sowing the seed? If we refuse to plant there will be no harvest. It's as simple as that. We sit around expecting a million dollar return on a five cent investment, and complain when it doesn't happen.

As best as I can tell, those early Christians shared the Gospel publicly and from house to house on a daily basis. It makes me wonder if perhaps that wasn't part of the key to their success. *"Lead me to some soul today; O teach me, Lord, just what to say."*

—John Gipson

VBS

Vacation Bible School is coming;
Are you doing all you can:
Contacting friends and neighbors,
Arousing interest in our plan
To teach them about the Savior
In this most effective way,
Offering peace and joy and blessings
Not tomorrow, but today?

Because the Savior tells us
Into all creation go,
Bringing His gospel to others,
Letting unsaved masses know,
Each man has a choice as he walks here
below.

So pick up your phone or pencil,
Christian, spread the word:
Here's a golden opportunity
Of telling others about the Lord.
Only hurry now; don't "blow" it
Lest July 31 arrives before you know it!

YOUTH NEWS

- "Terrific Tuesday" youth enjoyed going bowling Tuesday, at Action Lanes in New Albany.
- Our youth will be leaving for camp at Maywood on Sunday, July 18th.
- This month's youth Devo will be Sunday night July 25, at the fellowship building, following services. The Young's will be in charge.
- VBS is planned for July 31st. Please be inviting your friends and neighbors.

IT IS A FACT

Take a leaf from a branch, lay it carefully aside and watch! Slowly the color fades, the leaf goes limp, curls up, and dies!

Take a fish out of a lake, lay it carefully on the sand and watch! Frantically it twists, struggles, gradually weakens, and then quivers and dies!

Take a Christian away from the fellowship and worship of the church, let him remain at home on the Lord's Day, and watch! Gradually he will stop praying, misses the Lord's Supper, he frets about questionable activities that keep him from assembling with the saints. Soon there are too many hypocrites in the church, the church is always asking for money, and finally he takes his stand against Christianity and dies!

Author unknown

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Laura Mae Harris, is back at home, but could use a call or visit. She is still not well.

Marie Wells, (grandmother of Justin Dewberry), is in the Tupelo hospital and not doing well.

Bill King, (brother of Mike King) to have surgery July 15th.

The Montgomery family, as they suffer over the loss of Bobby Montgomery.

Continual Prayer List

Belinda Colbird, Nance Family, Donna Weeden, Sylvia Plunk, J.A. Thornton, Pauline Smith, J.D. Stroud, Terry Young,

Shut-Ins

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

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Sue Collins, Shane Hutton, Corrine Hall, 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-Camp Rooker, AL; Aaron Raines-Army, Afghanistan; Jamie Vansandt, Alaska; Michelle Montgomery, Fort Leonard, Missouri, Jim Vest-Afghanistan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 21.....*Ione Wall*

July 22.....*Hunter Jennings*

July 22.....*Matt Jennings*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 25.....*Bobby & Sue Marques*

SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to Larry Cobb & family in the death of his sister, Cindy Whiteside, who passed away Sunday. Visitation will be 5-9PM Tuesday night with funeral services at 2PM Wednesday at United Funeral Home in New Albany. Albany.

VBS

Time for our VBS is fast approaching. Saturday, July 31st, is the date set for our Super Saturday Bible School. We will begin at 9:00AM and end around 2:00PM. Let's make every effort to make this a great Bible School. See Andy Clemmer if you would be willing to help. Every job is important and every child that comes is important. There is a work day planned on Saturday, July 24, to help get things ready for Bible School. We will be learning about the Bible characters, Samson and Esther. We encourage all to be inviting children ages 2 through 6th grade. There is a list on the table in the foyer to sign-up for VBS T-Shirts. Be sure to mark the number and size of any that will be coming.

RESPONSE

This past Wednesday night Lonnie Weaver responded to the invitation confessing faults and asking for the prayers of the church on his behalf. He also asked for prayers for his family as they strive to live as Christ would have them. We appreciate Lonnie and his family very much.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your cards I received for my birthday. I never saw such a fuss over someone having a birthday. I guess it's not every day a person turns 90! I appreciate so many of you remembering me and staying in touch. I am glad we were able to visit your services recently and see many of our friends. In Christian love,

Altha Rogers

AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Gospel Meeting @ Ashland Church of Christ**, July 18-21. They will have different speakers each night. Check the bulletin board.
- **VBS @ Christian Chapel Church of Christ** in Amory July 19-22. They will be studying "Journey Through Acts", 6:00 till 8:00PM each night.

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

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	104
Sunday A.M	123
Sunday P.M.	71
Wednesday	104
Contribution.....	\$2,650.61
Budget	\$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Randy Wall
A.M. Prayer	Greg Harrison
Closing Prayer	Bobby Marques
P.M. Prayer.....	Bill Botts
Closing.....	Jason Jennings
Wed. 7/21.	Harold Crowe
Wed. 7/21.....	Ronnie Griggs
Usher & Lock	Andy Clemmer
Greeters.....	T & N Robertson

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
-------------	----------

“You Say”

You say: It's impossible

God says: All things are possible (Luke 18:27)

You say: I'm tired

God says: I will give you rest (Matthew 11: 28-30)

You say: Nobody really loves me

God says: I love you (John 3:16 & John 13:34)

You say: I can't go on

God says: My grace is sufficient II Cor. 12:9 & Ps 91:15)

You say: I can't figure things out

God says: I will direct your steps (Proverbs 3: 5-6)

You say: I can't do it

God says: You can do all things (Philippians 4:13)

You say: It's not worth it

God says: It will be worth it (Romans 8:28)

You say: I can't forgive myself

God says: I FORGIVE YOU (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You say: I can't manage

God says: I will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19)

You say: I'm always worried and frustrated

God says: Cast all your cares on ME (I Peter 5:7)

THE INFORMER

July 13, 2010

Volume 28

THE INFORMER (USPS 5581-500)
Church of Christ
511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
New Albany, Mississippi 38652
(662)534-4649

Periodical
Postage Paid
New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
(Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box
148, New Albany, MS 38652