



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

August 10, 2010

Enthusiasm Fuels the Christian by Mike King

“ And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” Colossians 3: 23

Our span of existence upon this earth is so brief, but so full. We are greatly blessed by having been exposed to so many joys, experiences and personal relationships. It would appear, though, that if life is worth living, it is also worth giving our best. The great advisor, Solomon, wrote long ago, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Ecc. 9:10). It also stands to reason that if we are motivated by love for God, we will serve Him with enthusiasm. The Lord responded, when asked about the first and great commandment, by saying: "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all they mind, and with all thy strength" (Mk. 12:30). To do this demands enthusiasm! Jesus addressed letters to the seven churches of Asia through the inspired John in Revelation 2 and 3. To the seventh, He said, "I know thy works, that thou are neither cold nor hot: I would thou were cold or hot. So because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot or cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Revelation 3: 15-16).

If you can't be the pine on the top of the hill, Be a bush in the valley, but be the best little bush by the side of the rill; Be a bush, if you can't be a tree.

In Christianity we have enthusiastic members and sluggards as well. In Christianity, the enthusiastic will be the effective ones every time. They are

the ones who make the church strong and help define the mission and the spirit necessary to fulfill it. Whether an athlete, salesman, businessman, politician, schoolteacher, coach, etc., we look for the element of enthusiasm in them. Just this very day, my wife and I had lunch together and the personnel's disposition convinced us there are other and better places to have lunch. Those who show a passion for life and the doing of good impress us. They are the ones who make us say, "I wish I were more like them;" "They are so refreshing to be around," or "Their attitude about life makes me feel so ashamed of myself." We may be "drinking from the wrong springs" in hopes of finding something that can lift our spirits and chart our attitudinal course in this life. "Servants, obey in all things them that are your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing the Lord: whatsoever ye do, work heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:22-23). It is so vital that in the Lord's church there is an air of enthusiasm for godly and spiritual things. There should be a quest to be around people of quality and enthusiasm as we strive to exemplify the fact that Christ has made a difference in us. Never should it be artificial, but generated from a heart of love and commitment.

STRESS

Stress is known to contribute either directly or indirectly to coronary disease, cancer, lung ailments, cirrhosis of the liver, accidental injuries and suicide. A moderate amount of stress is not all bad as it serves as motivation for us to get things done. Realizing the dangers of stress, we should want our life to be free of this malady. However, we know this is not altogether possible. Jesus taught in Matthew 16:33, *“In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.”*

So, stress is not the problem but how we deal with it can become an overwhelming problem. Many of Jesus’ teachings relate to the issue of stress. None is more on the point than what Jesus taught in Matthew 6: 25-34. A summary of his teaching in this section of scripture allows us to consider these three points.

1. We must trust our heavenly father enough to know that He will not abandon his people—that He knows our needs and has promised to supply them.
2. It is better to face today’s real challenges than to be anxious about tomorrow. “Each day has enough trouble of its own.”
3. We rob ourselves of the focus and energy we need today when we are worrying about tomorrow. We cannot add hours to our life by worry, but worry can take hours away from our life.

The following scriptures will help us to grow in faith and deal with stress: **Psalms 46:1, Ephesians 6:10, II Corinthians 12:10, I Peter 5:7, I Timothy 6:6, Galatians 6:2, Proverbs 17:22, II Timothy 1: 7**

By: Bailey Howell via~ Starkville bulletin

Bible Book Word Find

Directions: Thirty (30) books are found in this paragraph. (Actually, 31 if you can find the variant of one Old Testament prophet’s name.) Circle those you can find.

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his johnboat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That’s a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local newspaper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, “The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight.” Those able to find to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur with out their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God bless.

Via~ www.housetohouse.com

YOUTH NEWS

- Thanks to Dan Cobb for seeing that our youth attended the Area Wide youth meeting in Verona this past Sunday night.
- This month’s Youth Devo is scheduled for August 22nd. If you would like to host this month please let the office know.

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Blake Ables, a friend of Victoria Botts, that was injured in an automobile accident is paralyzed from the waist down, but said to be in good spirits. Please pray for him.. He is in the MED in Memphis.

Glen Hill, father of Steve Hill, is recovering from surgery where doctors removed a large mass from his stomach. They are waiting on test results. He is in Veterans Hospital in Memphis.

Gillian, Carly & Darrin Blackburn, children of a friend of Jim Dickerson, who were seriously injured in an accident with a log truck in West, VA., are making improvements.

Bill King, brother of Mike King, received a good report from the doctors. His cancer is not aggressive and no more surgery is necessary. He will have to undergo chemo or radiation or a combination of both.

Continual Prayer List

Marilyn Chitton, Jared Ward, Sonja Each, Betty Adams, Bill King, Donna Weeden, Sylvia Plunk, J.D. Stroud, 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:

Marie Wells, Sue Collins, Shane Hutton, Corrine Hall, Eunice Mabry, Faye Owen , Anna Davis, J.A. Thornton

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“We will encourage more people by listening than by talking...”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*August 13.....Ronnie Griggs
August 15.....Jessica Garrett
August 19.....Kim Clayton
August 20.....Phillip Young
August 21.....Mary Frances Reid*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*August 18.....Shane & Barbara Crotts
August 21.....Roger & Kathy Clayton
August 21..... Jerry & Lucille Gibson
August 29.....Larry & Janet Drummond*

SECRET BUDDIES

“Secret Buddies” will begin again in September. If you are 65 years and above and would enjoy being a “buddy” to one of our youth, you are encouraged to sign up. You will not have to do a thing once you turn in your form. Our youth will do all the work. The forms will be out soon.

PM FELLOWSHIP

There will be a fellowship supper this next Sunday night, August 15th, following our evening services. Please bring your favorite snack/finger foods and deserts and come enjoy a period of fellowship. Homemade ice cream is always welcome!

AUGUST HAPPENINGS

- August 15th, PM Fellowship
- August 22nd, Mike King will be with us.
- August 28th, Memphis Red Birds baseball game
- August 29th, All Day Service

AREA EVENTS

Faith Basics Youth Rally 2010, to be held at the Gloster Street church of Christ August 21 from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Theme: “Rightly Dividing the Word” Keynote Speaker: Doug Burleson

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

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	113
Sunday A.M	129
Sunday P.M.	90
Wednesday	92
Contribution.....	2,959.85
Budget	\$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Jason Jennings
A.M. Prayer	Andy Clemmer
Closing Prayer	J. L. Eaton
P.M. Prayer.....	Greg Harrison
Closing.....	Burrell Walton
Wed. 8/18.	Phillip Young
Wed. 8/18.....	Harold Russell
Usher & Lock	Greg Clayton
Greeters.....	B & A Pounders

PANTRY ITEM:

PANCAKE MIX

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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CHARACTER

Character is more important to a good life than talent. Talent is a gift, but character is learned. Time was when good character was taught in the home, in the school room and at church. That is no longer true. America has abandoned character in favor of performance. What kind of character comes to mind when you think of the following Biblical examples: Joseph, Eve, Solomon, Samson, Esther, Pilate, Paul, Daniel, Goliath, Sarah, Ruth and Stephen? What kind of character do you exemplify as a believer? **Circle** the words that you believe **people would use** to describe those in the body of Christ at New Albany **if they judged the church by what they know of you:**

- 1) When you are driving down the road: terrifying; calm; vengeful; considerate.
- 2) When you shop in a store: happy; patient; self-centered, pushy.
- 3) When it is time to gather with the saints for worship Sunday and Wednesday evening: grouchy, enthusiastic, tired, dedicated.
- 4) When you are talking with your mate: sarcastic, empathetic, annoyed, loving.
- 5) When they are beside you at work: argumentative, honest, strong, worried.
- 6) When they watch you at social gatherings; belligerent, godly, wild, self-controlled.

Make no mistake, the world is judging the church by **YOU**. What does your character say about the church. "*You are our epistle, written in our hearts, **known and read of all men.***" II Cor. 3:2

~adapted~

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