



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

August 31, 2010

Gambling with Religion by Mike King

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1

We have little respect for a carpenter who guesses at measurements when building us a house. What about the man who guesses or estimates specifications for building an airplane? We have no patience with a meat cutter who would guess at our order for 2lbs. of hamburger meat. We would for sure panic if our druggist guessed at the ingredients in our prescription.

The same common sense would rule out any respect for guesses made in matters pertaining to spiritual things. It would be foolish to accept guesses from bias sources on beliefs and practices that have eternal impact upon our salvation. Even honesty in guess-making does not make it accurate! We demand authority when buying, that is, government measures and tested scales, but accept guesses regarding our soul?

The Bible is right and whatever disagrees with it is wrong. We must always put men's doctrines to the test, retaining only the good (1 Thess. 5:21; 1 Jn. 4:1). When we accept something foreign and in rejection to the Scriptures it is damnable to one's soul (2 Thess. 2:8-12). With these thoughts before us, consider some problem areas confronting religious people:

Did someone by guess convince me that men are saved by faith only (Jas.

2:24-26) despite James' insistence on works as well? Have I been convinced by guess that I was saved before and without obeying the command of the Lord to be baptized? Am I not aware of the fact that salvation requires baptism (Acts 2:37-38)? How do I justify believing baptism not necessary even though 1 Pet. 3:21 declares it to be? How shall I live with that decision in the light of Mk. 16:16; Rom. 6:3-6; and Acts 22:16?

Have I been convinced that there are “many faiths” or churches; thinking one to be as good as another? Have I wagered on a “long shot” by ignoring the oneness of the church (Eph. 4:4-6), knowing the church and the body are one and the same (Eph. 1:22-23)? Have I become unable to accept the fact that if I believe, teach, or support error that I renounce the truth once delivered (Jude 3) and invite the wrath of God to visit me (Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Jn. 9-11)?

Could I be living under a delusion that I have the answers? I must realize there is a way that appears right, but can be wrong (Prov. 14:12) and it is not for me to choose my path (Jer. 10:23). Remind me Lord that pride precedes ruin (Prov. 16:18). It makes as much sense to do so as to play Russian roulette with a pistol pressed to my temple!

WHEN TWO ELEPHANTS FIGHT

Through the years, I have come into contact with people from vastly different cultures than mine. One such person is a friend of mine from Nigeria. His name is Doka Obadiah. When I met Doka, he was a student at Freed-Hardeman University. Presently, he is preaching back in his home country of Nigeria.

One of the interesting things I learned early on through talking to Doka is that when speaking to a person from another culture, there are many figures of speech we use daily, that are not readily understood. Expressions such as “he’s out in left field,” “we’ll cross the bridge when we come to it,” “three strikes and you’re out,” and “putting one’s foot in one’s mouth” all had to be explained as I talked to Doka because he had no idea what I meant by such phrases.

But this phenomenon works in reverse too. There are many Nigerian phrases that sound rather unfamiliar, in fact, funny to me because I fail to understand their culture. But there’s one phrase that Doka made just prior to returning to Nigeria that conveys a concept worth consideration. We were talking about the need for unity in the church and he said, “When two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers.” While the imagery is uncommon to our culture, I understood his point.

Think about this truth the next time you are about to get into a scuffle, with someone. You may be “big enough” to handle yourself quite well in this scuffle, but what impact will this scuffle have on those around you? What about your children? What do they see and hear in your house as you “have it out” with a brother or sister in Christ? What does that do to their faith? When Christians bring church scuffles home and trash them out in front of their unbelieving spouse, what affect does that have on their desire to obey the gospel?

You see, sometimes when we dig in our heels and ready ourselves for battle, we fail to think of the damage that can be done to the lives of people we love who are all around us. When we choose to scuffle, we may come out of the whole ordeal with only a few cuts and bruises, but in the process, we may crush and destroy innocent by-standers. How often have children drifted from the Lord because of a “pouting” parent who, because they didn’t like something, expressed their protest through un-involvement?

Yes, Doka was right. Although I don’t think I would have ever thought to express it quite like he did, “when two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers!” “Do all things without complaining and disputing” (Phil. 2:14).

Via~ Montrose church of Christ bulletin/ ~Steve Higginbotham, Karns Kourier

YOUTH NEWS

- We congratulate Daniel Drummond, Drew Drummond and Philip Young on the excellent job they did conducting our afternoon worship service this past Sunday.
- Jr. Bible Bowl will begin Saturday September 25th, at the Verona church of Christ.
- Sr. Bible Bowl will begin Sunday, September 26th, at the East Main church of Christ. The youth will eat in Tupelo before the Bible Bowl.

Can you figure out these Bible names by rearranging the letters?

1. Jaileh _ _ _ _ _
2. Henteps _ _ _ _ _
3. Ulpa _ _ _ _
4. Bamhara _ _ _ _ _
5. Lisas _ _ _ _ _
6. Anho _ _ _ _
7. Raash _ _ _ _ _
8. Nana _ _ _ _
9. Ossem _ _ _ _ _
10. Utist _ _ _ _ _

Answers: Elijah, Stephen, Paul, Abraham, Silas, Noah, Sarah, Anna, Moses, Titus

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Arkie Grimmert, sister-in-law of Jerry & Eleta Grimmert has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Bill Lyon, received the first of three injections to help ease the pain in his neck and shoulders being caused by arthritic spurs. He is feeling better.

Bill DePriest, is improving.

Udell Wilson, brother-in-law of Perry Jones is in the last stages of prostate cancer.

We extend our sympathy to Justin Dewberry, in the accidental death of his 15 year old cousin from Eupora.

Continual Prayer List

Jared Ward, Blake Ables, Betty Adams, Glen Hill, Bill King, Donna Weeden, Adam & Monica Lindsey, 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

WELCOME!

We are happy to announce that Mike King will begin his work as our new minister on September 12. We are looking forward to Mike and Sheila working with us. Sheila will be coming to join him as soon as their home in Florida is sold. Let's all welcome the King's and help them in any way we can.

YOUTH LED SERVICE

We would like to commend our young men on the excellent job they did conducting our afternoon worship service this past Sunday. Those who led in the service were Drew & Daniel Drummond and Phillip Young. We appreciate these young leaders very much and their willingness to help.

“SECRET BUDDIES”

The final day to turn in your “Secret Buddies “ form is Wednesday night, September 1st. You may give your form to Nicki Weaver.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

A ladies night out is planned for Tuesday, September 14th at the “*Olive Garden*” in Tupelo. If you are interested in going please sign the list that is on the table in the foyer. Please see Kathy Jennings for any details.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 01.....Michael Crotts
September 01.....Eli Reed
September 01.....Novene Robertson
September 03.....Bill DePriest
September 07.....Sarah Walker
September 09.....Jerry Gibson
September 10.....Nicki Weaver

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 01.....Tony & Collett Cross
September 15.....Jerry & Eleta Grimmert
September 16.....Chris & Callie Smithey
September 17.....Steve & Lana Todd
September 24.....Lonnie & Nicki Weaver

AREA EVENTS

The **Ashland Church of Christ** invites you to their **Fall Gospel Singing**, Saturday, September 18th from 5:00PM till 7:00PM. (Refreshments will be served after the singing)

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

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	110
Sunday A.M	126
Sunday P.M.	95
Wednesday	94
Contribution.....	2,578.11
Budget	\$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Shane Crotts
A.M. Prayer	Dalton Beard
Closing Prayer	Olen Clark
P.M. Prayer.....	J.L. Eaton
Closing.....	Richard Adams
Wed. 9/8.	Paul Ormon
Wed. 9/8.....	Phillip Young
Usher & Lock ...	Harold Russell
Greeters.....	G & K Clayton

PANTRY ITEM: Instant Potatoes

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

Mike King.....	904-705-4206
(as of September 12th)	
Office.....	534-4649

MONTH: SEPTEMBER 2010

SOUND ROOM Randy Wall **ANNOUNCEMENTS** Brad Pounders

LEAD SINGING
SUN AM: Greg Harrison **USHER** Chris Smithey

SUN PM: Richard Jennings **PREPARE**
WED: Dalton Beard **COMMUNION** Jessica Garrett

LORD'S SUPPER

<i>N Head:</i> Roger Clayton	<i>S Head:</i> Richard Jennings
<i>N Help I:</i> Dalton Beard	<i>S Help I:</i> Burrell Walton
<i>N Help II:</i> J.L. Eaton	<i>S Help II:</i> Mark Jennings

SUNDAY

PRAYERS A.M.

	Opening	Closing
<i>1ST</i>	Dalton Beard	Olen Clark
<i>2ND</i>	Greg Clayton	Harold Crowe
<i>3RD</i>	Andy Clemmer	Ronnie Griggs
<i>4TH</i>	Jerry Gibson	Jason Jennings
<i>5TH</i>		

SCRIPTURE

READING
Shane Crotts
Dean Dillard
Daniel Drummond
Matt Jennings

SUNDAY

PRAYERS PM

	Opening	Closing
<i>1ST</i>	J.L. Eaton	Richard Adams
<i>2ND</i>	Gary Turner	Bill Lyon
<i>3RD</i>	Dan Cobb	Bobby Marques
<i>4TH</i>	Bill Botts	Steve Todd
<i>5TH</i>		

USHER & LOCK

Harold Russell
Randy Wall

Bill Botts
Greg Clayton
Roger Clayton 10/3

WED PRAYERS

	Opening	Closing
<i>1ST</i>	Greg Harrison	Carl Smith
<i>2ND</i>	Paul Ormon	Phillip Young
<i>3RD</i>	Harold Russell	Phil Young
<i>4TH</i>	Troy Robertson	Randy Wall
<i>5TH</i>	Ray Kennedy	Lonnie Weaver

GREETERS

G & K Clayton
L & N Weaver
R & K Jennings
T & N Robertson

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