



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

September 14, 2010

GRASPING FOR A ZESTFUL LIFE

BY: MIKE KING

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?” ... Matt. 5:13

Life is brief at best and God expects us to grasp the fullness and beauty of it, which quest leads to happiness. When the proper ingredients are added, life takes on a pleasantness otherwise missed, just as a little catsup and mustard make an already tasty hamburger more palatable. We are the “salt of the earth” (Matt. 5:13), meant to give flavor to the lives of all that we touch. The “Laodiceans were neither cold nor hot,” therefore lacking “zestos” (Rev. 3:15). Enjoy some thoughts on how to have a more zestful life shared by “Orlan Miller:”

We need to keep healthy. John recorded this admonition: “I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health” (3 Jn. 2). Jesus was balanced in His development, a part of which was caring for the physical by “increasing in stature” (Lk. 2:52). Good health requires that we rest, have proper diet and have outdoor life. Jesus and His apostles took every opportunity to rest (Mk. 6:31). Paul expressed concern for Timothy’s stomach condition (1 Tim. 5:23). Paul told Timothy that there was some profit in bodily exercise (1 Tim. 4:8).

Becoming and remaining happy is critical. A rich man was asked if he was happy. His reply was: “No! I have a bad heart, an ulcerated stomach, seven houses I don’t live in, friends I don’t trust and a wife that married me for my money!” Solomon observed that “The spirit of man will sustain his infirmity...

(Prov. 18:14). Early Christians were joyful: in Jerusalem, they “ate with gladness” (Acts 2:46); there was great joy in Samaria (Acts 8:8); the Ethiopian left the waters of baptism rejoicing (Acts 8:39) and the converted jailor rejoiced (Acts 16:34).

Keeping busy helps maintain zeal. Idleness is the menace of earthly aspiration and a bar to heaven’s door! The one talent man lost his reward because of laziness (Matt. 25:26). Doctors report that more than 33% of their patients suffer from inactivity and emptiness of life. The Bible points us to the sluggard and slothfulness in business despairingly (Prov. 6:6; Rom. 12:11).

Keep contented; life is not all daylight, it has darkness too. The sun hides behind clouds as joys are dampened by hurt and loss. We cannot always choose our circumstance, because it often does not fit into the will of God (Lk. 22:42).

Keep in touch with God. A kerosene lamp will extinguish when cut off; a Christian will do the same when forgetting the source of his power.



FOLLOW THE TRUE COMPASS

A man started out through a forest so thickly covered with trees that he could see neither the sun nor sky. After traveling deep into the darkness he knew the day was drawing nigh and it soon would be night. He started for what he thought was home. He was so sure of the direction so he did not look at his compass.

After a great distance he stopped to look at his compass; he was surprised to find that he was going west when he thought he was going east. So certain was he that he had been traveling in the right direction that he cast aside his compass supposing it to be broken. Traveling further and further into the forest he became frustrated and disoriented and began traveling in circles. Everything he had ever learned about direction he began to question.

His fortunes, however, took a turn for the better—he came upon his old compass; that old true friend that had led him through for many years! With feelings of both shameful guilt and relief, he opened the compass and said, “you have never told me an untruth, I will never doubt you again.”

We, too, have a compass that will always lead us in the right paths. It is the all inspired Word of God—the Bible. If humanity would but follow God’s divine compass faithfully, even when he supposed his wisdom and direction was sure he would ever find his way home. Some, however, suggest their wisdom is greater and their words more true. May we ever live by the admonition of Paul, “*Let God be true, but ever man a liar*” (Rom. 3:4).

“The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” (Psalm 119:130)

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25)

“O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (Jeremiah 10:23)

-Ronnie Scherffius via Montrose church of Christ bulletin

NO LITTLE GRIEF

Mark Twain observed, “Nothing that grieves us can be called little: by the eternal laws of proportion a child’s loss of a doll and a king’s loss of a crown are events of the same size.”

It seems to me that we often minimize our cares. Sadly, we sometimes think that our problems are too little to talk about or to pray about. We think that others will think that we are making a big deal out of nothing. However, the Bible instructs us to cast “all” of our “care” upon Christ because “he careth” for us (I Peter 5:7). Please note that it does not say that we are to cast just our *big* cares upon Him. We are to cast all of our cares, big and small, upon Him. If it concerns us, it matters to Him. After all, we are His bride (Ephesians 5: 22-33). A loving husband cares about what troubles his wife. It matters because she matters.

In addition to minimizing our cares, we sometimes minimize one another’s cares. Often things that seem big to one person seem small to another. For example, the loss of a pet can be a huge loss for one person, but a minimal loss for another. After all, one might reason, a pet isn’t a person. While this is true, people can get awfully attached to their pets. As many of us know, pets provide faithful companionship and unconditional love. Compassion requires us to be of one mind with another (I Peter 3:8). We must see the cares of others as they do and treat them as we would want to be treated (Matthew 7:12). We must guard against seeing the cares of others as insignificant. The cares of others are not insignificant. Their cares are significant because they are significant. It is not our duty to judge whether another’s burden is big or small, but rather to help them to bear it (Galatians 6:2).

I hope that the considerations set forth in this article will help all of us to be more compassionate. The closer we get to the Lord and one another, the harder it will be for the devil to get into our lives.

—Wade Webster via Glad Tidings Good Things

YOUTH NEWS

- We are so proud of Madison Griggs, who was baptized into Christ this past Sunday, September 12th. Let’s all encourage Madison.
- 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.

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Betty Eaton, wife of J.L., suffering from mini strokes. She is now at home.

Shane Crotts, will see a doctor in Birmingham this week about his kidneys.

Susan White, daughter of Wadie Lepard, is now at home following a heart procedure. She is having a difficult time.

Bill DePriest, will see his cardiologist on September 16th.

Betty Adams, mother of Richard Adams, will have knee surgery today, September 14th.

Continual Prayer List

Bill Lyon, Udell Wilson, Arkie Grimmett, 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 16.....*Lessie Bryant*
September 17.....*Dalton Beard*
September 22.....*Tauso Branch*
September 23.....*Helen DePriest*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 16.....*Chris & Callie Smithey*
September 17.....*Steve & Lana Todd*
September 24.....*Lonnie & Nicki Weaver*

REJOICE!

We are so happy to announce that another one of our young people, Madison Griggs, was baptized into Christ, Sunday, September 12th. Madison is the granddaughter of Ronnie & Linda Griggs. We are so proud of Madison and we want to be sure to encourage her as she begins her Christian walk.

MEN'S ANNUAL CHICKEN -FEST

Sunday night, October 10th is the date that has been set for the annual Men's Annual Chicken-Fest. This will be held at Phil Young's. Please mark this date on your calendar, and sign the list that is on the table in the foyer if you plan to attend.

IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to Eric & Stacie Dunn on the birth of their son, Grayden Chase, born Monday, September 13th. Grayden weighed 6lbs 9oz and was 18 3/4 in. Proud grandparents are Larry and Janice Cobb.

AREA EVENTS

Freed-Hardeman University "RUSH 2010" will be September 17-19. check bulletin board for details
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)

Gospel Meeting @ East Main church of Christ, Tupelo, MS is planned for September 19-22. Guest speaker will be Wade Webster.

Pine Vale Children's Home in Corinth will have a HUGE RUMMAGE SALE, Thursday Sept. 30 from 8am-2pm on the campus of Pine Vale.

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

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	N/A
Sunday A.M	144
Sunday P.M.	119
Wednesday	103
Contribution.....	3,320.85
Budget	\$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Daniel Drummond
A.M. Prayer	Andy Clemmer
Closing Prayer ..	Ronnie Griggs
P.M. Prayer.....	Dan Cobb
Closing.....	Bobby Marques
Wed. 9/22.	Troy Robertson
Wed. 9/22.....	Randy Wall
Usher & Lock	Bill Botts
Greeters.....	R & K Jennings

PANTRY ITEM: Spaghetti sauce

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	252-9762
Roger Clayton	534-5240
Andy Clemmer	816-5887
Harold Russell.....	534-4648
Randy Wall.....	316-9255

Minister

Mike King	904-705-4206
Office.....	534-4649

Do What You Can

We cannot all be heroes, and thrill a hemisphere,
With some great daring venture, some deed that mocks at fear;
But we can fill a lifetime with kindly acts and true;
There's always noble service for noble hearts to do.

We cannot all be preachers, and sway with voice and pen,
As strong winds sway the forest, the minds and hearts of men;
But we can be evangelists to souls within our reach;
There's always Love's own gospel for loving hearts to preach.

We cannot all be martyrs, and win a deathless name
By some Divine assignment, some ministry of flame;
But we can live for truth's sake, can do for Christ and dare;
There's always a cross of duty for faithful hearts to bear.

—Author unknown

Answer to last week's riddle HONEY

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