



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

[www.nacoc.org](http://www.nacoc.org)

January 17, 2012

## Is Being a Church Member Enough?

Mike King



We often hear someone make the declaration that “I am a member of the church, is that not adequate?” Surely, there are many benefits to be derived from and services rendered by being a member of the church. Upon closer evaluation, we may learn that it may not be enough to JUST be a member of the church.

There is more of an inclination today for superficial membership in the Lord’s church to suffice. We are seeing less and less commitment and loyalty to the church in general and the local congregation more specifically. Maybe the same trend is impacting the church that has already blighted the job-place and the home. When is membership only not enough?

1. When one has only a “*form of godliness*” but denies the power of true godliness that changes lives (2 Tim. 3:5). They were told to “*turn away*” from those thought to be members, but not actually connected to the power that comes from godliness.

2. Paul emphasized that even doing some of the things that constituted righteousness (e.g. circumcision), but to become a new creation was the only effectual performance. When in Christ, we make sure old things become history and we become “*a new creation*” (2 Cor. 5:17).

3. Entrance into the kingdom entails doing the will of the Lord and not merely saying “*Lord, Lord*” (Matt. 7:21). A life is empty that professes and fails to perform! It was not adequate in the lesson Jesus taught of those who stood knocking at the door but were “*workers of iniquity*” (Lk. 13:25-27).

4. There are many who are “enrolled” as members of some church, but have never been “*born again*” (Jn. 3:3-5). They have never been baptized to become a child of God (Gal. 3:26-27) and been added to the Lord’s church (Acts 2:41, 47).

5. It is not enough to “*profess to know God, but in works...deny him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work*” (Titus 1:16).

The primary question to be asked and needs to be satisfied is whether our name has been recorded in the “*book of life*” (Rev. 20:5). This record is made by Jesus when individuals submit to His will in obedience as occurred on the birthday of the church (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 11:24).



**PRAYER LIST**

**Jean Drummond**, is not doing well at this time. Please remember her.

**Eleta Grimmitt**, is not doing well at this time. Please remember her.

**Kathy Walker**, mother of *Sarah Walker* is doing well following knee surgery.

**Terry Robbins**, friend of *Phil Young* is awaiting surgery for prostate cancer and also having heart difficulties.

**Jack Dunlap**, brother-in-law of *Terry Young* is making steady improvements following his recent liver transplant surgery.

**Roger Clayton**, is having back problems and will have tests run this week.

**Anna Davis**, mother of *Richard Jennings* is in room 204 of the local hospital with pneumonia.

**Eli Williams**, 7year old from Madison, AL. is recovering from surgery and will begin chemo and radiation treatments at St. Jude in the near future.

**Continual Prayer**

**Wayne Jernigan, Johnny Davis, Norman Brown, Ron Garner, J.D. Stroud, Dick Young, Eleta Grimmitt, Tony Cross, Tauso Branch, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry Young**

**Shut-Ins**

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

**Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

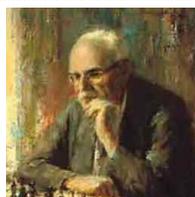
**Corrine Hall, Anna Davis, Mattie Golden**

**Military List:**

**David & Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Hamm, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley**

**“I BELIEVE”**

.... That the happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of every thing they have.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- January 21..... Bobby White
- January 21..... Audrey Anna Young
- January 23..... Shane Crotts
- January 25..... Belle Cross
- January 25..... Melissa Reed



**MISSION TRIP**

Please remember *Mike King* and *Richard Jennings* as they leave for a mission trip to New Zealand today, (Tuesday). They are scheduled to arrive in Auckland on Thursday 7:15am and then fly to Palmerston North, arriving at 11:05am. Thursday. While in New Zealand they will be preaching, teaching, leading singing and encouraging the brethren in five different cities. Please pray for their safety and the success of the work there in New Zealand. They are scheduled to return home late Thursday evening Feb. 2nd.

**5th SUNDAY SERVICE**



Sun. Jan. 29th we will have an All Day Service with a meal following the morning services. Evening services will be at 1:15 and led by the deacons. Adult I class will be in charge of set-up and clean up. We encourage everyone to join us for an enjoyable day of worship and fellowship.

**AREA EVENTS**

- A **Gospel Meeting** will be held January 20-22 at the **Verona Church of Christ**. The guest speaker will be *Mark Lindley*.
- **42nd Year \*Training School For Better Service** to be held at the **Crockett Church of Christ** Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012 at 5pm. Theme: The Youth Phase of \*TSFBS\*

\* Check the Bulletin board for more details.

## S-M-I-L-E

by: J. Nulph



Have you ever greeted a person with a happy, “Good morning!” and received the snide reply, “What’s good about it?” It seems such a shame to me that a person would be so unhappy as to reflect such a dismal attitude. It is true that life does have its trials and disappointments, yet it’s also true that we as Christians serve a trustworthy God. He’s someone on whom we can count! God never makes a promise that He won’t be sure to keep, and He promises to take care of us (Matt. 6:25-34). There are many things in the world that promise they will make one happy and fill one with joy. However, it doesn’t take long to discover that the so-called joy is shallow and superficial, and it often leaves a person hurting and alone. Most people are seeking to live a happy life. If a person is looking for real happiness, he can find it simply with a S-M-I-L-E.

**S– Spend time with the saints** (Heb. 10:25). Christian fellowship is such a vital ingredient in a life of happiness. God created us and He, therefore, knows how we humans operate. He set up His church in a manner that we get together with others of the faith. We need other people. We need fellowship to communicate our feelings, share our sorrows, share our joys, ask for prayers and get help with our questions. In spending time with the saints, we find human companionship and strengthen our faith (Phil. 1:3-5).

**M– Make prayer a priority** (Phil. 4:6-7). We all have such busy schedules, and there are always deadlines to meet and work that needs to be done. Nevertheless our daily prayer time to God is essential to having real happiness inside. We must not get so busy on earth that we forget spiritual nourishment. Refuse to let other things squeeze out your daily prayer time! It’s true you’ll have a better, often more productive day when you make prayer a priority!

**I– Include Bible study in your daily schedule** (2 Tim. 2:15). When one reads the inspired Word of God, really studies the message and works at understanding and applying these pearls of Truth, happiness is the result. We read in Hosea 4:6 that a lack of knowledge destroys. To remain happy, we must keep our faith strong, and we do that by studying our Bible daily (Rom. 10:17). The Bible is spiritual food (I Pet. 2:1-2), so include Bible study in your daily schedule!

**L– Let God take care of it** (Proverbs 3:5-6). We need to trust that God can and will handle the situation, no matter what we are going through. God knows what we need, and He will not forsake His children (Matt. 6:25-34; Psalm 337:25). When we are carrying a burden or are in the midst of one of life’s trials, we often feel we need to control what is happening and control the future. Then, we find ourselves with chest pain and grief. Happiness will be the result when “All to Jesus I surrender.”

**E– Encourage others** (Heb. 10:24-25). Encouraging someone can be done in a number of ways. Such methods include: visiting a lonely person, taking food to one who is in need, sending a note of encouragement by email or postal service, encouraging a wayward member of the church to return, helping a child who does not have a stable home environment, giving one a ride to an appointment, to the grocery store or to worship services. The list of ways to encourage others is nearly endless. When a person spends his or her time encouraging others, it makes one’s heart fill with happiness. Encouraging others is reciprocal with both the giver and receiver receiving a true blessing of happiness.

The pressures and disappointments of everyday life can have a way of robbing one of happiness. However, by remembering to S-M-I-L-E, a true and lasting happiness can be obtained.



- There will be a Youth Devo Sunday night, January 22 following evening services. *Greg and Kim Clayton* will be hosting.
- The Jr. Bible Bowl will meet Saturday at the Gloster St. Church of Christ for their competition. The van will leave for Tupelo around 8:50am.

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School .....	127
Sunday A M .....	144
Sunday P.M. ....	118
Wednesday .....	103
Contribution .....	\$4,001.00
Budget.....	\$3,567.55

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Tyler Weaver
A.M. Prayer .....	Lonnie Weaver
Closing Prayer.....	Olen Clark
P.M. Prayer.....	Bill Frohn
Closing .....	Ronnie Griggs
Wed 1/25 .....	Harold Russell
Wed. 1/25 .....	Anderson Parks
Usher & Lock...	Lonnie Weaver
Greeter .....	G & K Clayton



## PANTRY ITEM

Canned Fruit

## 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
Lonnie Weaver.....	801-8448

## MINISTER

Mike King .....	507-0625
Home.....	534-6872
Office .....	534-4649

## Ten Rules for Improving Attitudes in the Church

1. Tell yourself over and over that since you are not perfect, you would not fit into a "perfect" congregation if one existed.
2. Instead of picking out the worldly members to point to, select the sincere, dedicated, spiritual members and thank God for them.
3. If you are old, treat the young with the consideration you desired as a young person. If you are young, treat adults with the respect you will want when you are mature.
4. When you are tempted to criticize others, be sure to pray earnestly for them first. This may not change them, but it will do wonders for your attitude.
5. When you see a work neglected, instead of being critical, offer to help.
6. Never blame others for your own failures. Every individual can be faithful to God in spite of the bad example and discouraging attitudes of others.
7. Remind yourself every day that the only way you can improve the world or the church is to begin with self.
8. Consciously look for the good qualities in each brother and sister in Christ; make a mental note of the good points each possesses.
9. Constantly strive to increase your circle of associates in the church. Try to do something for each.
10. Every congregation has problems. Constantly ask yourself, "Am I a part of the problem, a part of the solution, or merely a critical spectator?" ~ Author unknown



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Volume 3

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