



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

January 20, 2015

## Must Give Account

Mike King



It is not uncommon for the elders of a congregation to give some directives to the congregation regarding matters that concern the body. It may be instruction on giving, attendance, fornication, adultery, gambling, drinking, doctrinal unsoundness, etc. The response of the congregation to those admonitions indicates the level of spiritual maturity and concern for the well-being of all concerned.

We are to *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you”* (Heb. 13:17). To resist their leadership and guidance regarding matters relative to the spiritual security of the congregation, any individual member, or special interest group, would be guilty of insubordination. God understood and intended His church to be overseen by qualified and studied men. It stands to reason that a group of men who are aged and experienced should be able to exercise judgment and objectivity concerning behavior and involvements not becoming to a Christian. Paul instructed Timothy to *“Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father”* (I Tim. 5:1) and *“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses”* (I Tim. 5:19).

It is their responsibility to maintain the purity of the church. It is to be done by teaching, or feeding (Acts 20:28), as a means of “*instructive discipline.*” If refusal and rejection of their admonitions persist, then “*corrective discipline*” must be administered to those who walk disorderly (II Thess. 3:6). If leadership is not respected and obeyed, mutiny and chaos prevail. We as a congregation of individuals must never play games with our souls or scoff at spiritual concerns and oversight exercised by our elders. Are we contributing to the best interests and growth of the Lord’s body, or are we causing their efforts to be without joy but with grief (Heb. 13:17)? When the elders give instruction to membership of the local congregation, it should behoove each and every member to give heed and serious attention! Our elders are mere mortal men and subject to weakness and needs as every other member. They desire and deserve our prayers in their behalf and for their leadership. We should never criticize them until we have prayed for them regularly. If you feel criticism necessary after having done that, the place to begin is sitting down with them and dealing with it personally and not castigate their character before strangers or non-spiritual people (Matt. 18:15-17).

## THE SOBERING TRUTH ABOUT INTOXICATING DRINK

Comedian Milton Berle told about a man who read about the evils connected with drinking. His response — he gave up reading. Some people tend to treat the Bible that way. Though it may make us uncomfortable, the Bible still brings a strong and vigorous warning about the dangers connected with drinking. A sobering passage on what we know as booze is Proverbs 23:29-35 where Solomon was seeking to warn his son (23:15, 19, 26) about the dangers connected with intoxicating drink. How long has it been since you read that passage? In verse 29 Solomon asks six straightforward questions: "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?" Verse 30 gives the expected answer: "Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine." The largely unaccepted part of Solomon's inspired advice about drinking comes in verse 31: "Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper." Our culture's answer to the dangers, destruction and death caused by alcoholic beverages is, "Drink responsibly" and "Don't drink and drive" and "don't drink if you're under 21 years old." But the Bible's message, at least in this instance, is, "Don't drink." Don't even get started. Why? Because alcohol is deceptive. What looks so good when it is "red" and "sparkles in the cup" and "swirls around smoothly" is not so good when it leaves the cup and enters human stomachs and livers and blood vessels and brains. In the end it bites and stings, and the effects it leaves behind are as toxic, painful and deadly as a serpent's venom.

Solomon's warning is not an easy sell these days. Many in our culture seem to be in denial of the deadly and destructive nature of alcohol. In a *Newsweek* article about drinking entitled "The Drug That Pretends It Isn't" (*Newsweek*, April 10, 2000, p 88), Anna Quindlen put her finger squarely on the alarm and the popular appeal of intoxicating drinks. She wrote, "Car accidents, date rapes, domestic violence — and it goes so well with Chinese food and pizza!" She insists we should own up to the fact that alcohol is "a mind-altering, mood-altering drug, and that lots of people should never start to drink at all." A fair question for Christians who argue for social drinking is this: could you hold a Bud Lite or a martini or a glass of brandy in one hand, a Bible in the other, and expect your 15 year old child or grandchild to take you seriously as you read Solomon's sobering warning about intoxicating drink in Proverbs 23:29-35? ~ Dan Gulley

### Bible Trivia Questions From the Book of James

1. Who cannot be tempted with evil? **A.** God; **B.** The Devil; **C.** A righteous man; **D.** a prophet
2. What does full-grown sin bring forth? **A.** Temptation; **B.** Damnation; **C.** Death; **E.** Evil
3. James warns against what attitude? **A.** Hypocrisy; **B.** Greed; **C.** Partiality; **D.** Mockery
4. Who does James say will receive stricter judgment? **A.** Poor men; **B.** Rich men; **C.** Himself; **D.** Teachers
5. What happens to one who seeks friendship with the world? **A.** He is blessed; **B.** makes himself enemy of God; **C.** Makes himself friend of God; **D.** He becomes shallow; **E.** He becomes humble
6. What prophet does James reference when discussing the power of prayer? **A.** Isaiah; **B.** Enoch; **C.** Daniel; **D.** Elijah



### Just a Thought

An elderly man was once robbed of his purse. According to the story, he wrote the following words in his diary: "Let me be thankful: first, because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."

In adversity all of us have much more to be thankful for than we sometimes think. The old song holds good, "Count your blessings, name them on by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

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

## PRAYER LIST



**Betty Young** fell Saturday and fractured her hip. She underwent partial hip replacement surgery Monday at the local hospital. Please pray for *Betty* and *Terry* as they struggle with their health.

**Terry Young**, (nephew of our *Terry Young*) was injured in a hunting accident Sat. Jan. 17th. He was taken to the Med. in Memphis for surgery. He is expected to recover.

**Roger Clayton** will have partial knee replacement Thurs. in Memphis.

**Andy Ulmer**, cousin of the *Young* family is being sent to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. His condition continues to decline.

**Tatarin Wilson**, nephew of *Gloria Jones* cancer is in remission, but is having other physical problems and is at St. Jude.

**Lacy Wilson**, niece of *Gloria Jones* had emergency surgery Sunday at Le Bonheur to remove fluid from her brain.

**William Wilson**, brother of *Gloria Jones* is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.

### Continue to remember:

Sunny Gay, David Crossings, Natalie Griffin, Andy Ulmer, B. A. Stubblefield, Whit Robertson, Grace Lyon, Harold Reeves, Sheila Thomas, Yolanda Stubblefield, Barbara Davis, Nancy Petrowski, Justin Forsyth, Preeble Foster, Donna Hanes, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Terry & Betty Young

### Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Claudia Senter

### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Betty Lang, Charlene Coker, Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb

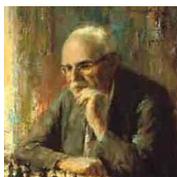
### Military List:

Barry Wilhite, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud



### I've Learned...

Worry looks around. Sorry looks back.  
Faith looks up.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January 23.....Shane Crotts  
January 25.....Melissa Reed  
January 29.....Alice Ashmore



## LOOKING AHEAD

In just a short few weeks we will have our annual Friends and Family Day. The date that has been set is February 22nd. It is not too early to begin inviting your friends and family members. If we all work together we will have a great day. Please mark Feb. 22nd on your calendars!



## YOUTH NEWS

- Congratulations to our Senior Bible Bowl team for tying for 1st place this past Sunday. We are very proud of you. Keep up the good work!
- Lads to Leaders practice Sun. Jan 25th, @ 4pm.
- Jr. Bible Bowl Sat. Jan. 24th, at the East Main congregation in Tupelo.
- This months Youth Devo will be held Sunday night Jan. 25th following services. The Claytons and Pounders will be hosting.



## Bible Verse To Remember

“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up on a rock.”

Psalm 27:5



**Christ Living in Me...  
To Be Seen in 2015!**



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>  
Email: [nacoc15s@gmail.com](mailto:nacoc15s@gmail.com)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30  
 Morning Worship.....10:30  
 Evening Worship.....6:00  
 Wednesday Bible Study....7:00

### MINISTER

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

### ELDERS

Richard Jennings .....316-1305  
 Troy Robertson .....316-3163

### DEACONS

Greg Clayton .....252-9762  
 Roger Clayton ..... 538-8195  
 Brad Pounders.....316-7931  
 Harold Russell..... 507-1180  
 Randy Wall ..... 316-9255  
 Lonnie Weaver.....801-8448

### TO SERVE

Scripture.....Olen Clark  
 A.M. Prayer.....Roger Clayton  
 Closing Prayer.....Terry Young  
 P.M. Prayer .....Tyler Weaver  
 Closing .....Bill Lyon  
 Wed.1/28.....Terry Stubblefield  
 Wed.1/28.....Dan Cobb  
 Usher & Lock ...Lonnie Weaver  
 Greeter.....A & K Parks

### OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....116  
 Sunday A.M.....143  
 Sunday P. M.....112  
 Wednesday.....113  
 Contribution.....\$4,813.72  
 Budget.....\$3,984.46



### PANTRY ITEM

Juice

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### Test Your Potency

*“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men” (Matt. 5:13).*

The salt used in Palestine came mostly from the Dead Sea, which is also sometimes called the Salt Sea (Gen. 14:3). One can find vast salt deposits around the edges of this body of water, which is 1,290 feet below sea level. Water that flows in has no place to go. The extreme heat in the area causes the water to evaporate and leave its deposits there. The evaporation of one cubic mile of sea water would leave approximately 140 million tons of salts, most of which would be sodium chloride, or common salt.

Often the salt around this sea would get polluted by winds or people and animals walking on the surface of the salt. Polluted salt, then, was dug up with the purer kinds and sold in the markets, A customer getting polluted salt could do nothing with it except to throw it out. It was no good. It could not do what it was intended to do.

Salt blesses foods by seasoning them. It brings out the taste in food. It also cleanses and preserves some foods. Where would country ham be without salt?

How potent are you in your Christian life? Does anyone know you are a Christian? Some people are acquainted for years and yet do not know the other is a Christian.

Does your life proclaim that the Lord matters to you? Can people see Christ living in you by the way you act, you dress, and you talk?

Does anyone want the Christian life you have? If others look at the way you live, would they want the faith, joy and love you have? Does anyone imitate you?

Do you have a light people need? If people you know needed spiritual help, would they come to you for it? You are the salt of the earth! Be Salty!

~ Phil Sanders ~