



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

January 21, 2014

## Cast Into The Refining Pot

Mike King



Patience is a direct result of endurance through suffering. Once we have suffered, we develop patience (Rom. 5:3-5) and once we have patience, we are fit to be children of righteousness (Mt. 5:48), we are perfected. Paul and James gave us the why about our adversities (Rom. 5:3-4; Jas. 1:3-4, 12). It enables us to do more than just bear our trials; we can choose to grow from them. "He who has a why to live can bear with almost any how" (Nietzsche). But how? Suffering refines us; it shapes us into what God wants us to be. Peter describes the building blocks (2 Pet. 1:5-7) process to which also Paul and James have alluded. Be happy because suffering and pain allow us to grow. "Patience is a virtue" is the appeal but it is most difficult to accept this while living in a world based on time and convenience. Why do so few of us have it? Patience is a necessity as a Christian because things do not always happen when we desire. The Old Testament was written so we could have examples of our forefathers' faith on the altar of trials (Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:6, 11). Consider Abraham, whom God promised a great family and he died before that promise was fulfilled (Heb. 11:13). God's time is different from our time. That is why patience appears in almost every list of Christian virtues (2 Pet. 1:6; Lk. 21:19; Gal. 5:23; Col. 3:12; Rom. 5:3; 12:12; Heb. 10:36).

The Bible says, "*The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold: but the Lord tries the hearts*" (Prov. 17:3). How does He try and test us? Tribulation! But what does tribulation mean in lay terms? It is problems, crises, everyday happenings that never go as we plan. This is the reason why Paul spoke as he did in Romans 5:3; 12:12.

The content of the individual will emerge when life puts the squeeze on us. What will it be? Will there be cursing, bitterness, revenge, hate or Christ likeness? God leaves us here on earth to develop and mature our minds (Rom. 12:2). He allows us to suffer trials to refine us (I Cor. 10:13). Like fire refines, purifies and makes gold more precious, God perfects and purifies us so we can be worthy of admittance into heaven (I Pet. 1:7). The question is, "How well do I do when placed in the squeeze? Very much like a sponge, only that which has been absorbed will exude. Can we say what Job said, "*...when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as pure gold?*" (Job 23:10). Do we need to capitalize on the good to be found in adversities and respond positively?

## IF IN DOUBT, GO

Lifeguards save lives. Often, their heroics are done at great risk to their own well being. On the beach, there may be hundreds of people within eyesight of a single lifeguard. At times, it may be difficult for the lifeguard to tell who is in need of aid, and who is not. I read that at one lifeguard station were these words, "If In Doubt, Go!" What a message, and reminder for us as well.

So many people are in trouble. Souls are lost in sin. Friends are overwhelmed by difficult decisions. Loved ones are battling illness. Co-workers are challenged by family problems. Children are stressed by peer pressure. A neighbor is left to fend for herself due to divorce. Parents are anxious because of the family finances. Church members worry about their brethren because of apathy.

Every day is the same, someone we know is in trouble or is worried about someone who is. We should not stay perched on our lifeguard stand wondering "should I stay or should I go?" If there's any question in our mind, just go!

The Bible says, "*Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ*" (Gal. 6:2).

~ Neil Richey

## BIBLE TRIVIA

- In Isaiah chapter 9, who does Isaiah predict will be against Judah?**  
A. Benjamin and Ephraim B. Dan and Naphtali C. Ephraim and Manasseh D. Ruben and Levi
- In Isaiah chapter 10, who does God say He will destroy?**  
A. Samaria B. Assyria C. Babylon D. Israel
- Immediately after rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah called for what?**  
A. Persian review of the construction B. Execution of God's enemies C. Sacrifice of 100 oxen  
D. Genealogical Registration of Jews



## YOUTH NEWS



- The Junior Bible Bowl will be held January 25th, at the East Main Church of Christ.
- Congratulations to *Rachel Peeler* for being chosen Valedictorian of Myrtle High School 2014. We are very proud of her!
- Thanks to *Greg and Kim Clayton* for hosting the Youth Devo for Jan. We appreciate you both!
- Our Senior Bible Group did a great job Sunday. Randolph won in a tie breaker by submitting their memory verse seconds ahead of us. Both teams did not miss a question or a memory verse.
- Lads to Leaders practice will not meet next Sunday, Jan. 26th due to our early afternoon service. They will meet every Sunday afternoon beginning Feb. 2nd. Boys Song leading and Girl's speech will be at 4pm and Boy's speech and Girls singing will be at 5pm. The Lads to Leaders Convention will be held April 18-20th in Memphis.
- The next Senior Bible Bowl will be held here at New Albany again next month, Feb. 16th. The questions are being submitted by the Hwy 15 Pontotoc church of Christ.



**PRAYER LIST**

**Roger Clayton** will have knee surgery Tues. Jan. 21st at the local hospital.

**Grace Anderson**, mother of *Kaye Parks*, has been moved to Union Co. Health and Rehab, room 408. She is expected to be there several weeks.

**Jennie Bell**, is at home recovering from shoulder replacement surgery. Her surgery went well but her recovery time will be lengthy.

**Continual Prayer list:**

**Tony Cross, Alicia Dukes, Rivers Robertson, Hudson Grisham, Pat Reed, Nancy Petrowski, Denise Littlejohn, Justin Forsyth, Steve Stokes, Kelly Fryar, Donna & Roy Crow, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Terry Young**

**Shut-Ins:**

**Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Teresa Clark**

**Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

**Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Maxine Carlisle, Jennie Frohn**

**Military List:**

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



**Our Greatest Need**

If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.  
If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.  
If our greatest need had been money  
God would have sent us an economist.  
If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.  
But our greatest need was for forgiveness,  
So God sent us a Savior!

**Wise Thoughts**

Learn from the turtle, it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



January 25. . . . .Melissa Reed  
January 29. . . . . Alice Ashmore  
January 29. . . . .Victor Ashmore

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

January 29. . . . .Victor & Alice Ashmore



**BABY SHOWER**



You are invited to a baby shower for *Erica Crotts* Sunday, February 2nd, from 2:00-3:30pm at the fellowship building. *Erica* and *Martin* are expecting a baby girl the first of April. *Erica* is registered at Babies R Us, Calico Mushroom, and Wal-Mart.

**ALL DAY SERVICE**

The elders have decided to have an All Day Service Sunday, Jan. 26th. This will be in place of the 5th Sunday in March, so as not to have a conflict with our Gospel Meeting which begins that Sunday. We will have a meal following our morning services, with evening services beginning at 1:15, lead by our deacons. The Young Adult Class will be in charge of the fellowship building. Everyone is encouraged to be present and bring a guest.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY!**



Mark your calendar and make plans to join us for Friends and Family Day Sunday, Feb. 23rd. We will have a meal following our morning worship services. Our evening services will be at 1:30. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us. We are looking forward to a great day!

**DOOR GREETERS NEEDED**

We need extra help with greeting our members and guests at our services. If you can help with this program please sign the list on the bulletin board. Young people as well as older members are encouraged to take part.

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

### MINISTERS

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

### ELDERS

Richard Jennings .....534-6671  
 Troy Robertson .....534-3491

### 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.....Ruston Adams  
 A.M. Prayer.....Phil Young  
 Closing Prayer...Richard Adams  
 P.M. Prayer.....Deacon  
 Closing.....Deacon  
 Wed.1/22.....T. Stubblefield  
 Wed.1/22.....Andy Clemmer  
 Usher & Lock....Roger Clayton  
 Greeter.....B & A Pounders

### OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....122  
 Sunday A.M.....155  
 Sunday P.M..... 98  
 Wednesday.....108  
 Contribution.....\$5,296.45  
 Budget.....\$3,989.47



**PANTRY ITEM**  
 green beans/ corn

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### HOW TO LISTEN TO A SERMON

- Do not be a criticizing listener. The minister makes mistakes as well as you: if he was perfect, he would not be here.
- Do not be a sermon Taster: the sermon is not intended to be pleasing to your aesthetic nature or your hobbies, but to leave you a better person.
- Listen with a mind prepared by prayer and expectation.
- Listen with a humble mind. Let the searching light of the gospel reveal the need in your heart.
- Listen with an open mind. You may disagree with the sermon, but remember one of the functions of a true sermon is to disturb your complacency.
- Listen with a prayerful attitude. A sermon conceived in prayer, meeting upon sympathetic, humble, cooperative minds will be used as seeds sown upon soil watered by the Spirit, springing up into life many-fold.

Proverbs 10:19 *"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."*

~ Gary Culbreath via Forest Hills News

**Someone has stated a sermon should "Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."**