



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

January 22, 2013

I Dwell Among The People

Michael L. King



John Henry Newton wrote, “I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple, but God declared: ‘Go down again – I dwell among the people.’” It is an amazing concept that God would see fit to entrust His Word to the custodial care of “*earthen vessels*” (2 Corinthians 4:7). Each vessel is unique and serviceable in its own way. The diversity of persons, not teachings, contributes to the strength and outreach of the “body” for it “*has many members,*” none of which fulfill the same role.

Bruce Barton wrote, “If you have anything really valuable to contribute to the world, it will come through the expression of your own personality...” When one reads the twelfth chapter of I Corinthians, inspiration is found establishing the premise from which Mr. Barton wrote. The strongest asset that we have in communicating the gospel, not considering the Word of God, is our own person. What a challenge it is to insure that we are the right kind of person.

What a beautiful picture Paul painted in his letters to the Roman and Corinthian brethren regarding the nature of the Lord’s church! That spiritual body is but a composite of beautiful people merging their various strengths and talents to honor and glorify the Lord in addition to being a blessing to humanity. There are no insignificant members in the body of Christ. Each, though some “*uncomely,*” is vital to the body (I Corinthians 12:23). The inference is that those we think to be less honorable are given more abundant honor “to that part which lacked” (v. 24).

During the Middle Ages much emphasis was given to the “clergy and laity” issue. In part, the Reformation Movement was fueled by these distinctions. Elders, deacons and preachers are not a “cut above” anyone in the church today. They are merely men who have dedicated themselves to the cause of Christ in a leadership capacity. To serve in this capacity is not a function of arrogance, but of considerably increased responsibility and answerability. Those who assume the responsibility of leadership and teaching shall “*receive the greater judgment*” (James 3:1). Each member, regardless of the role they fulfill in the body of Christ, is but a member and is to be found “*Submitting ...one to another in the fear of God*” (Ephesians 5:21).

The Lord taught in His parables that when “*...ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do*” (Luke 17:10). The statement has been made, “The ground is level at the foot of the cross.” That is where we should be, none standing taller or more important than the next; we are all in the presence of the Almighty and Eternal God! True servants lose themselves in the greatest effort known to mankind. Peter and the apostles were beaten by the Sanhedrin for preaching Jesus and left “*the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name*” (Acts 5:41). So, when we have finished our life of service here on earth and honored the commands of God, we must still see ourselves only as “unprofitable servants,” not desiring to be exalted merely because of the accolades of our accomplishments?

Remember, God dwells among the people, but is not to be found in those who have exalted themselves high on the pinnacle of self-indulgence and recognition. Jesus challenged the conventional by declaring, “*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth*” (Matthew 5:5). He also implored people to come unto Him for He was “*meek and lowly in heart*” (Matthew 11:28). In many cases, “We are the only Bible the careless world will ever read. What if the line is crooked? What if the type is blurred?” Jesus promised, “*If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me*” (John 12:32). It stands to reason that dwelling among His people could fulfill His promise. Is He being represented properly in your life?

I Need To Be There!

Someone once said, "When a fellow claims he can worship as well out in the open country, or at the beach as he can at church, it seems that he probably feels no particular urge to worship at all." Several years ago I invited an older gentleman to come back to worship with us on the next Lord's Day and his reply was, "I do my praying at home!" I guess by "praying" he meant worship. Can one worship in his home? Absolutely! But is that where the rest of the assembly is too? Not only are we commanded to assemble together to worship God every week, but we NEED to be there! In this chaotic world we live in, we as Christians need the encouragement of being together as often as possible.

I need to be there because God is there and He is worthy of my time, my adoration and my praise.

I need to be there because the Word of God is being taught and God's word encourages me, pricks my heart, changes me and fills my cup.

I need to be there because I have work to do there. A class needs to be taught, a prayer needs to be said, someone needs my encouragement, or a precious older widow needs my hug.

I need to be there because the Bible study subject is just the lesson I need to cope with a situation in my life.

I need to be there because a visitor came that knows me and now plans on attending again.

I need to be there because I am missed by others when my pew is empty.

I need to be there because fellowshiping with other saints brings me great encouragement.

I need to be there because my children will do what I do because, "the best way to train up a child in the way he should go is to travel that way yourself."

I need to be there because I am a part of God's great family!

Worship is, indeed, primarily for God. But, as we can see, coming to worship does a great deal for the worshipper. May we have the attitude about worship like that of David when he said, "*How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God*" Psalm 84:1-2. When God is worshipped, our souls will be blessed! I need to be there!

~ Steven D. Minor



Why Is It?

When people go to a football game, they want a seat in the fifty-yard line.

When they go to a basketball game, they want a seat at mid-court.

When they attend a play, they want a seat about midway the auditorium.

When they go to a boxing or wrestling match, they want a ringside seat.

When they go to a circus parade, they want to stand in the front line.

But when they go to church, they have to go early, because everyone else wants a back seat.

~ Selected

YOUTH NEWS

- Congratulations to our Senior Bible Bowlers for doing a great job Sunday. The Mayfield youth took first place and our young people tied for second place.
- The Junior Bible Bowl will be held Saturday, January 26th, at the Mayfield Church of Christ.
- This month's Youth Devo will be held Sunday night, January 27th following services at the fellowship building. *Brad and April Pounders* will be hosting.
- Sunday Jan. 27th: Lads to Leaders Boys Song Leading practice and Girls Speech practice begins at 4:00pm. Girls Songs of Praise and Boys Speech practice begins at 5:00pm.



PRAYER LIST

Jennie Frohn, sister-in-law of *Bill* and *Nancy Frohn* suffered a massive stroke Thurs. Jan. 17th , in Hammond, LA. She remains in very serious condition.

Bill Lyon is doing well following rotator cuff surgery. He began therapy Monday.

Eleta Grimmert was admitted to the Tupelo hospital Monday, to begin IV antibiotics which hopefully will finally clear her of pneumonia.

Continual Prayer : Jack Dunlap, Ralph Williams, Anna Claire Ellis, Tatterrian Wilson, Josh White, Jeff Denton, Melissa Reed, David Thornton, Whitney House, Suzette Renix, Diane Sloan, Randall Haney, Rosie Wilson, Rex Lyon, Tauso Branch, Prebble Foster, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crofts, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins: Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Teresa Clark

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Belle Cross, Mattie Golden, Amy Vest, Laura Mae Harris

Military List:

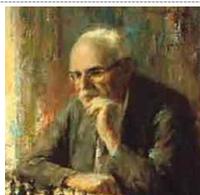
David & Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Hamm, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud & Christopher Phagan

MISSION TRIP

In late May, *Jim* and *Dianna Wall* will travel to Honduras with the West Main Church of Christ for a mission trip. If you would like to help with this trip, they have asked that we provide toothpaste and toothbrushes. There is a container in the foyer to place these items. Thanks in advance for your help with this work.

“I BELIEVE”

...that anger is what gets most of us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 29. Victor & Alice Ashmore



THANK YOU

To the members at the New Albany Church of Christ,

Words can hardly begin to express the appreciation of our hearts as we think of your act of kindness at mother’s death. It was so sweet of you to open the fellowship building, providing us refreshment and allowing us time to visit. Your gentle hugs and kind words meant so much to all of us. Mom loved New Albany and the church members who had been her “forever friends”. Many of you had written her, checked on her, and her name kept in your bulletin was sweet to see. We treasure these acts of loving service. You refreshed our hearts as you shared this time with us. How many times mom had sat in that very room to enjoy sweet fellowship. Thank You, Jean and Kurt Simmons and family of Altha Rogers



TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to *Barbara Crofts* for being chosen Teacher of the Year for the New Albany School District. *Barbara* is a special education teacher at the New Albany Elementary School. We are so proud of you *Barbara!*

AREA EVENTS

A **Young Adult’s Retreat**, hosted by the Mayfield Church of Christ, is planned for April 26-28 at Maywood Christian Camp. The cost is \$35.00. Please send your registration form in before March 31st. For more information please check the bulletin board.

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
 Harold Russell 534-4648
 Randy Wall 316-9255
 Lonnie Weaver 801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture..... Thomas Wall
 A.M. Prayer..... Troy Robertson
 Closing Prayer..... Lonnie Weaver
 P.M. Prayer..... Phillip Young
 Closing..... Olen Clark
 Wed 1/30..... Dillon Clayton
 Wed.1/30..... David Clayton
 Usher & Lock..... Greg Clayton

OUR RECORD

Sunday School..... 118
 Sunday A.M. 141
 Sunday P.M 115
 Wednesday..... 99
 Contribution..... \$ 6,801.93
 Budget..... \$ 3,817.55

PANTRY ITEM

Peanut Butter



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OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE TRIVIA

1. For what miracle did Moses neglect to give God credit? Num. 20
2. What had Jacob been doing all night just before God changed his name to Israel? Gen. 32:2
3. God is described as physically writing three times in the Bible. Upon what did He write the third time? Dan. 5:5-12
4. What prominent individual was the first cremated in the Bible? I Sam. 31:12
5. From where did Deborah prefer to do most of her counseling? Judges 4:5
6. At what did Ishmael become adept while living in the desert? Gen. 21:20
7. Whose hair grew like feathers, and nails like bird claws? Daniel 4:33
8. What did Samson bet thirty men that they could not do? Judges 14:12-14
9. What two men of God were at different times in history assisted by a raven or ravens? I Kings 17: 4-7
10. Who first warned David to flee from Saul? I Sam. 19:2