



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

January 24, 2012

Temple Without A God

Mike King



During the Old Testament times, more particularly the approximate 1500-year span from the time of the giving of the Law of Moses on Mt. Sinai to the establishment of the church, the presence of God was felt among His people. During this time, the Temple represented the actual presence of God among the Israelites in the Holy of Holies. The Temple stood in the most prominent location in the city, high on Mt. Zion decorated in splendor being overlaid with white stone and trimmed in bronze, gold, and silver. It was so radiant in the community that it drew people to it from miles around. During the time of Solomon, the queen of Sheba came and beheld, declaring after seeing it personally, “The half has not yet been told.” The Jews took great pride in and were jealous of its protection and sanctity. They supported it with their temple taxes and frequented it with regularity. They loved their God and took pride in His house.

We never know for what God is preparing us... Our business is to do our work well in the present place, whatever that may be. ~ Lyman Abbott ~

The church of our Lord stands as the spiritual temple or location of the presence of God in whom He dwells by faith. Likewise, we should be jealous and protective of God and His presence. We too should take pride in the house of the Lord. “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are” (I Cor. 3:16-17). We too should be like the temple perched in eyeshot of the community and the world. We should be like the candle that is placed on the stand and a city that is built on a hill. The purpose of this is that we might “let our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Mt. 5:16). We should also be inviting and attractive to weary travelers who happen our way and can find welcome, relief, and comfort in knowing they are in the presence of God when in our presence.

Remember that He lives in us, allowing closeness to God. Being the temple of God, we must exhibit His grandeur and glory by being holy as God is holy. Seeing that God dwelleth in individual Christians, when together in a corporate manner as God’s family, He is mightily represented. Let us make sure that we do not desecrate His holy dwelling place by worldliness and simplistic conduct. Divisiveness and hurt have no place in His holy place. If the Lord resides in us, it should make a difference. If no difference is experienced, His presence (Shekinah) may be questionable! God may have moved out without our knowledge. What a shame to have a temple, but no God toward which we feel comfortable enough to worship. If you feel distance between you and God, wonder who moved?



PRAYER LIST

Gertrude Cochran, sister of *Tauso Branch* is in the hospital with heart, lung and kidney difficulties.

Laura Mae Harris, is improving and was released from the hospital Monday.

Bobby Marques, will have eye surgery Friday in Tupelo.

Doug & Kara Penny, friends of *Richard Adams* had complications with the premature birth of their twins. One of the twins, weighing only 1 lb, is struggling to survive and one did not survive.

Jerry Gibson, fell Tuesday night and received 3 broken ribs, and multiple bruises. He is improving.

Terry Robbins, friend of *Phil Young* is scheduled for prostate cancer surgery the first of Feb.

Roger Clayton, will under go a MRI Thursday to determine the cause of his back problems.

Anna Davis, mother of *Richard Jennings* remains in room 202 of the local hospital with pneumonia.

Neal Robertson, son of *Troy and Novene Robertson* had knee surgery Friday in Lebanon, TN. He is back at home and improving.



Continual Prayer

Eli Williams, Jack Dunlap, Kathy Walker, Wayne Jernigan, Johnny Davis, Norman Brown, J.D. Stroud, Dick Young, Eleta Grimmett, 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

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
January 30.....Raymond & Amy Vest



MISSION TRIP UP-DATE

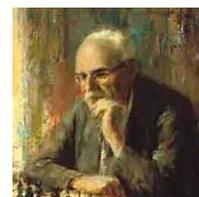
Mike King and *Richard Jennings* arrived safely to New Zealand early Friday morning Jan. 20th. Their flight from LA to NZ was diverted to Hawaii due to a medical emergency which caused them to be a day late arriving. We received word that all is going well and that they are really enjoying being with the brethren there. Please continue to 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. *Andy Clemmer* will be speaking Sunday morning. The deacons will be in charge of the afternoon service beginning at 1:15, with *Lonnie Weaver* speaking. We encourage everyone to join us for an enjoyable day of worship and fellowship. Adult I class will be in charge of set-up and clean-up of the fellowship building.

“I BELIEVE”
...That God promises a
safe landing not a calm passage.



ANTS

Edward Benesh



“Go to the ant....consider her ways and be wise” (Proverbs 6:6). The Bible talks about a number of animals this way, but have you ever actually done it? Have you ever truly considered that ant so that you could be wise? Maybe we are too lifted in our pride or bigness. Maybe we think we just don’t have the time. Maybe we see those ants as nothing more than a threat that need to be exterminated. God, however, said they are not only wise, but that you and I could learn from them.

To be completely honest, I had never really given ants much thought to the point where I would observe them. I never really noticed the and their exceptional nature, except for those little red ones that make mounds in my front yard and sting me when I walk by them. I notice how exceptionally adept they are at getting on me if I so much as even dare to brush against their bothersome burrow for but a fraction of a second. How did they do it? I mean, do they have a large force of ready and waiting mobilized, armored, teeth-sharpened Special Forces ants prepared to face certain death to protect the queen?

Just a short while ago, however, I had the opportunity, because my wife pointed it out, to observe an amazing thing among the ants (not fire ones—those in northern states who don’t know fire ants, pray now and thank God you don’t). We were outside playing a game of basketball on the driveway when my wife noticed a trail of ants leading up to our front porch, which led to one of the support columns for the awning over our front porch, which led to the roof. All in all, the line of ants stretched, it seemed for about 25 observable feet, from the roof to the lawn. What were they doing. Collecting food! In this line there were several ants carrying something white that looked like a piece of cottage cheese about the size of a split pea. It was big for an ant, and the fact that it took no less than five of them to move it, testified to that fact.

Now, we played for about two hours and in those two hours these little creatures moved that large piece of food almost the entire distance of 25 feet to the awaiting hungry that lived somewhere on my roof. This was amazing enough, but the “how” of it all is what fascinated us. By the time we finished our game, they were making their way up the final foot of the post supporting our front porch. We were done and heading in, but decided to watch. As we did so, we noticed a couple of things. First, the line was actually two lines; some were going out and some were coming back. Second, as the ants would pass by the ones with the large piece of food, they would start over. It was amazing. What teamwork! What a great understanding of harmony, unity and service. No one ant or even group of ants carried the burden. They all carried it!

It reminded me of Paul’s admonition to, “Bear ye one another’s burdens.” Spiritually, it is important for us, like the ants, to be part of a community. Now, we call it the “church,” and in such, we find ourselves being knit together with other men and women to not only have relationships, but to do the work of Christians, encouraging and helping one another.

Now, maybe your Christian journey is lacking or your life has troubles because you’re trying to be the “lone ant.” Maybe, just maybe you are spiritually starving because you have no help or support from other Christians! In this day, realize that committing to Christ means committing to His community! Love Him, but love His people as well. In reality, you can’t have one without the other.

YOUTH NEWS YOUTH NEWS

- Our Junior Bible group consisting of *David Clayton, Olivia Pounders, Cooper Pounders, Jenna Carpenter, Eli Reed, Jodi Parks, Clay and Luke Jennings* did an excellent job this past Saturday at the Bible Bowl in Tupelo. They answered all their questions correctly. Congratulations young people. We are proud of you!
- Thanks so much to *Greg and Kim Clayton* for hosting the Youth Devo Sunday night. We appreciate all they do with our young people.
- Lads to Leaders participants are working hard preparing for the Lads to Leaders Convention which will be held Easter weekend in Memphis, TN. Please encourage these young people!

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	107
Sunday A M	123
Sunday P.M.	93
Wednesday	101
Contribution	\$3,412.00
Budget.....	\$3,567.55

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Dillon Clayton
A.M. Prayer	Greg Clayton
Closing Prayer.....	Martin Crotts
P.M. Prayer.....	Alvin Parks
Closing	Matt Jennings
Wed 1/25	Harold Russell
Wed. 1/25	Anderson Parks
Usher & Lock.....	Bill Botts
Greeter	B & A Pounders



PANTRY ITEM

Oats or Grits

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

Layman's Ten Commandments

Someone has written these beautiful words. Read and try to understand the deep meaning of them. They are like the ten commandments to follow in life all the time.

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
2. Why is a Car's Windshield so large and the Rear View Mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.
5. Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!
7. When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.



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Volume 4

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511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148
New Albany, Mississippi 38652
(662)534-4649

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