



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

January 31, 2017

## Viewing the Bigger Picture

Mike King



*Alan Smith*, in his *Thought For The Day*, tells about *Leith Anderson's*, a minister now, boyhood experience. There is a lesson to be learned from it:

“As a boy, he grew up outside of New York City and was an avid fan of the old Brooklyn Dodgers. One day his father took him to the World Series game between the Dodgers and the Yankees. He was so excited, and he just knew the Dodgers would trounce the Yankees. Unfortunately, the Dodgers never got on base, and his excitement was shattered.

Years later, he was engrossed in a conversation with a man who was a walking sports almanac. *Leith* told him about the first major league game he attended and added, ‘It was such a disappointment. I was a Dodger fan and the Dodgers never got on base.’ The man said, ‘You were there? You were at the game when *Don Larson* pitched the first perfect game in all of World Series history?’

*Leith* replied, ‘Yeah, but uh, we lost.’ He then realized that he had been so caught up in his team’s defeat that he missed out on the fact that he was a witness to a far greater page in history.”

It is not uncommon for us to become entangled with the “defeats” and events that do not turn out the way that we desire, and be oblivious to a greater act of God. Paul had many experiences of this nature, but one in particular happened while in prison. He wrote to his Philippian brethren saying, “*But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel*” (Phil. 1:12). While most of us would focus on the “defeat” (being in prison though innocent), Paul was able to see the bigger picture, God working in his life. It is most difficult to view things from a heavenly perspective rather than an earthly one. The difficulty is really pronounced when in the midst of pain and hurt. The heavenly perspective is what allows us to know joy regardless of the many negative circumstances that plague us.

## THOSE TO SERVE THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2017

**Announcements:** Greg Clayton  
**Sound Room:** Matt Jennings  
**Usher:** Brian Carpenter

**Lead Singing:** Sun. A.M.: Dalton Beard  
Sun. P.M.: Greg Harrison  
Wed.: David, Caleb, Thomas,  
Dillon

### Sunday Prayers:

Feb.. 05:

A.M. Roger Clayton  
Richard Adams  
P.M. Dillon Clayton  
Olen Clark

Feb. 12:

A.M. Greg Harrison  
Hunter Jennings  
P.M. Jim Gann  
Ronnie Griggs

Feb. 19:

A.M. Jason Jennings  
Bobby Marques  
P.M. Mark Jennings  
Bill Lyon

Feb. 26:

A.M. Perry Jones  
Steve Todd  
P.M. Terry Stubblefield  
Alvin Parks

### Lord's Supper:

North Head: Tim Dye  
North Helper I: Shane Crotts  
North Helper II: Michael Crotts  
South Head: Andy Clemmer  
South Helper I: Dan Cobb  
South Helper II: Jerry Grimmett

### Scripture Reading:

Feb. 05 — Ruston Adams  
Feb. 12 — David Clayton  
Feb. 19 — Caleb Jennings  
Feb. 26 — Dean Dillard

### Wednesday Prayers:

Feb. 01 — Richard Jennings; Randy Wall  
Feb. 08 — Paul Ormon; Lonnie Weaver  
Feb. 15 — Troy Robertson; Thomas Wall  
Feb. 26 — Harold Russell; Tyler Weaver

### Prepare Communion:

Lana Todd

### Host Youth Devo:

Greg & Kim Clayton

### Usher & Lock:

Feb. 05 — Roger Clayton  
Feb. 12 — Randy Wall  
Feb. 19 — Lonnie Weaver  
Feb. 26 — Greg Clayton

**\* If you are unable to carry out your assignment please let Randy Wall know before service time.**



## Advancing Age and Weary Saints

It is so difficult for us to imagine the following events happening. Think about a boxer who had thrashed his opponent in every round and is far ahead on the scoring cards of all the judges, then he refuses to fight the last round. Think about a marathon runner who has spent years in training for the Olympics and is far ahead of all other competitors in the final race, then she simply stops one hundred feet short of the finish line, refusing to finish the race.

Your response would be, "Such could never happen," but almost all of us have seen people doing this spiritually. Far too many Christians draw back in their devotion to the Master in their latter years. They were faithful to the Lord for many years, but for unexplained reasons they quit. Look at the following words from heaven encouraging us to never quit.

Jesus spoke to the church at Smyrna and told them, "*Be faithful until death*" (Rev. 2:10), and then gave the motivation for faithfulness—"...and I will give you the crown of life." We must run the entire race and never think about stopping short of the finish.

Jesus said, "*He who endures to the end shall be saved*" (Matt.24:11). These words are surrounded by descriptions of adversity—famine, earthquakes, lawlessness, wars and false prophets. They described the worst tribulation of all times which His disciples would soon face. His message? Do not give up! Endure! Endure to the end! Regardless of what it costs, finish the race!

Paul repeatedly urged Christians to endure whatever may come for the reward awaiting them is so great. "*Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing your labor is not in vain in the Lord*" (1 Cor. 15:58). Pay special notice to the contrast he makes between the labor and the reward. "*The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*" (Rom. 8:18).

The writer of Hebrews described the end of those who give up. "*We are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of our souls*" (Heb. 10:39). The reason we cannot give up? Because Jesus, our fore-runner, waits in heaven to give us eternal rest (Heb. 4:11; 6:19-20). Keep your focus on all that awaits you. The events of the past do not really matter! What matters is that which lies ahead! Don't give up!

Make application of this to your life. As long as God gives you breath, give yourself to Him even though advancing years rob you of the energy you once had. Be determined that the zeal which burned in your heart to serve Him when you were baptized will be the zeal you have at your final breath.

~ Dan Jenkins 1-15-17

PRAYER LIST



Kevin Jones, son of Perry & Gloria Jones had shoulder surgery this past week in Houston, TX. He will begin therapy soon.

Neil Robertson, son of Troy & Novene Robertson, is scheduled to have his second knee surgery this week in Nashville, TN.

Larry Ashmore, is improving from his recent kidney infection. He was to have an outpatient procedure Tuesday, to remove the remaining kidney stone.

Jerry & Lucille Gibson; continuing health problems. Lucille was able to return home this past week.

Sympathy:

We extend our deepest sympathy to J.L. Eaton and family in the death of his sister, Miriam Styers. Ms. Miriam passed from this life Jan. 26th, at the age of 87. She was a very special lady who faithfully served the New Albany congregation for many years. She will truly be missed. Funeral services were held Sunday, Jan. 29th, at United Funeral Home in New Albany and burial in Tippah Memorial Gardens, near Ripley, MS.

We express our sympathy to Bobby and Sue Marques and family in the death of their relative, Pam Fennel, of GA. Funeral service were to be held Tuesday, Jan. 31st, in GA.

Continue to Remember:

Becky Cargile, Wade Chism, Todd Coleman, Liz Collins, David Crossings, Roy Crow, Preeble Foster, Ray Franks, Jim Gann, Lana Gann, Jacqueline Golden, Pam Hall, Donna Haynes, Dianna Hodges, Laura Hollowell, Shane Hutton, Judy Kirk, Taylor Kirk, Dean Long, Cliff Sanders, J.D. Stroud, B.A. Stubblefield, Kayla Thomas, Sheila Thomas, Judy Ward, Chris Windham, Terry & Betty Young, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins:

Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

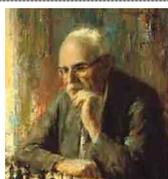
Grace Anderson, Genice Collett, Wanda DeLoach, Jean Drummond, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Cornelia Kennedy, Betty Lang, Mary Frances Reid, Claudia Senter, Ione Wall

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley & Chase Seals

I've Learned...

...to always put yourself in other's shoes. If you feel that it hurts you, it probably hurts them too.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



February 02. .... Stephanie Simmons
February 05. .... Paige Young
February 09. .... Marie Beard
February 10. .... Carson Bowlin



FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY

The elders have set the date for this years' Friends and Family Day for February 26th! That date is fast approaching so please begin inviting your friends and family members. We will have a potluck meal following our morning worship. Our evening service will remain at 6:00pm. Let us all work together to make this a special day at New Albany!



Children of Israel

Mr. Goldblatt, "announced little Joey, "there's somethin' I can't figger out." "What's that Joey?" asked Goldblatt. "Well accordin' to the Bible, the Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, right?" "Right." "An' the Children of Israel beat up the Philistines, right?" "Er--right." "An' the Children of Israel built the Temple, right?" "Again you're right." "An' the Children of Israel fought the 'Egyptians, an' the Children of Israel fought the Romans, an' the Children of Israel wuz always doin' somethin' important, right?" "All that is right, too," agreed Goldblatt. "So what's your question?" "What I wanna know is this," demanded Joey. "What wuz all the grown-ups doin'?" ~ Author Unknown ~

BIBLE QUESTION

Which one of Leah's sons brought her mandrakes? Gen. 30:14

OUR DREAM:

To become better friends with God in 2017!

**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  
Randy Wall ..... 316-9255  
Lonnie Weaver .....801-8448

**TO SERVE**

Scripture.....Ruston Adams  
A.M. Prayer.....Roger Clayton  
Closing Prayer..Richard Adams  
P.M. Prayer.....Dillon Clayton  
Closing .....Olen Clark  
Wed.2/8.....Paul Ormon  
Wed.2/8.....Lonnie Weaver  
Usher & Lock....Roger Clayton

**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School.....88  
Sunday A.M.....120  
Sunday P. M.....88  
Wednesday.....97  
Contribution.....3,386.00  
Budget.....\$4,037.54



**PANTRY ITEMS**

Pantry Full

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**Looking At The Little “Sponges” In Our Homes**

Like little sponges that absorb vast amounts of liquid, young impressionable children quickly soak up attitudes and ideas with which they come in contact. Therefore, as parents, we must be very careful about what is allowed to fill their minds during their formative years.

In our age of many godless ideologies, what are our children absorbing in our homes? What are they soaking up from watching and listening to television programs, music videos, and the Internet?

As they listen to our conversations, what kind of words and attitudes are being taken in? Are we setting a good example before them of our love for the Lord, our spouse, and concern for others?



Is there an emphasis on the spiritual side of life in our home? Are we doing what we can to fill their minds with God’s Word? (Deuteronomy 4:9-10; Deuteronomy 6:7; Deuteronomy 11:19; cf. Psalm 78:1-8).

Remember that when children grow into adulthood, they will mimic what they have seen and heard during their formative and impressionable years. Let’s make sure that the little “sponges” in our homes soak up what is pure, wholesome, and uplifting (Philippians 4:8). Let’s think about it!

~ Mike Riley