



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

January 6, 2015

Reaching Is No Good Without A Grasp!



Mike King

We have all seen movies where someone had fallen overboard and attempts were being made at rescue. Admonitions come from the deck to “grab hold” of the life preserver. Moments later you see an out-stretched arm slip into the churning sea to their death. They died, not due to a failure to reach but to grasp the lifeline. Remember the quicksand movies of years past? There was always someone on solid ground extending a hand or a tree limb encouraging them to catch hold to be pulled from the quagmire. The grasp became their salvation.

The Bible speaks much about both reaching and grasping. The principles found in Matthew 7:21 pertain: *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”* We are to hold (grasp) those things that are good for us and in compliance with God’s wishes. Those of us who are Christians are to *“let us hold fast our confession.”* (Heb. 4:14). We are not just to seek Jesus, but find Him and hold on to our confidence in Him. Those listeners of Paul’s in Athens were told to *“seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us”* (Acts 17:27). Paul told the Colossians to *“seek those things which are above...And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as unto the Lord”* (Col. 3:1, 23). The dead church at Sardis was told to *“Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent”* (Rev. 3:3), as recorded just prior to this account, the Ephesian church had released their grasp and *“left [their] first love”* (Rev. 3:4).

Paul’s major objective in life was to *“attain to the resurrection”* (Phil. 3:11). He declared that he had not yet attained, but that he was pressing on so that *“I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus”* (v. 12). Jesus was constantly reaching and pressing toward *“the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (vs. 13, 14). How well did he do? He reported to Timothy that, *“for I am being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith...”* (II Tim. 4:6-7). We too must reach for that, which is good, but grasp it and hold on tenaciously!

The Glass of Milk

One day, a poor boy who was selling goods from door to door to pay his way through school, found he had only one thin dime left, and he was hungry. He decided he would ask for a meal at the next house. However, he lost his nerve when a lovely young woman opened the door. Instead of a meal, he asked for a drink of water. She thought he looked hungry so she brought him a large glass of milk. He drank it slowly, and then asked, "How much do I owe you?" "You don't owe me anything," she replied. "Mother has taught us never to accept pay for a kindness." He said... "Then I thank you from the bottom of my heart."



As Howard Kelly left that house, he not only felt stronger physically, but his faith in God and man was strong also. He had been ready to give up and quit.

Many years later that same young woman became critically ill. The local doctors were baffled. They finally sent her to the big city, where they called in specialists to study her rare disease. Dr. Howard Kelly was called in for the consultation. When he heard the name of the town she came from, a strange light filled his eyes. Immediately he rose and went down the hall of the hospital to her room. Dressed in his doctor's gown, he went in to see her. He recognized her at once. He went back to the consultation room determined to do his best to save her life. From that day, he gave special attention to her case. After a long struggle, the battle was won.

Dr. Kelly requested the business office to pass the final bill to him for approval. He looked at it, then wrote something on the edge. She knew the bill would take her the rest of her life to pay. Finally she looked, and something caught her attention on the side of the bill. She read these words... "Paid in full with one glass of milk." (signed) Dr. Howard Kelly

Tears of joy flooded her eyes as her happy heart prayed: "Thank You, God, that Your love has spread abroad through human hearts and hands."

There's a saying which goes something like this:

Bread cast on the waters comes back to you. The good deed you do today may benefit you or someone you love at the least expected time. If you never see the deed again at least you will have made the world a better place, and after all, isn't that what life is all about?

~ copied

A Word Hunt

You are to hunt for ten words of five letters each and all beginning with the letters **RO**. Each word is described or defined to help you guess it, and you may check your answer by looking for the word in the Bible verse given.

- Large stones. (Jeremiah 4:29)
- Parts of a house. (Matthew 23:6)
- Man of a certain nationality. (Acts 22:29)
- Garments. (Luke 20:46)
- A way to cook meat. (I Samuel 2:15)
- Parts of a tree. (Mark 11:20)
- To waken. (Genesis 49:9)
- The opposite of smooth. (Isaiah 40:4)
- Kingly. (Esther 5:1)
- Large twisted cords. (Acts 27:32)



On The Way To The Barn

There is an old story about a farmer who one day decided to plow the south forty acres. His tractor needed oil, so he started to the barn to get it, but on the way he noticed the pigs hadn't been fed. Near the corn crib was a pile of sacks, reminding him that the potatoes were sprouting but on the way to the potato pit, he passed the woodpile and remembered that the kitchen stove was burning low. While picking up wood, he noticed that one of the chickens was ailing, so he dropped the wood to doctor the chicken...and so it went all day and he still hadn't oiled the tractor or plowed the south forty.

Is your Christian life like this trip to the barn? So you have grand visions of greater service that never gets done? Have you found too many "other things" to do that interfered with your goal of being a productive servant in God's Kingdom?

The only way that you and I can "get to the barn" of Christian service is to get our priorities in order. The farmer in the story didn't have any priorities. He just flowed with the tide of events around him.

Our life contains plenty of "pigs to feed," "wood to cut," and "chickens to doctor." But we can't let them get in the way of our serving God. If we will make the commitment and extend the effort, God will make a way for us to "get to the barn."

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST



Ernestine McKinney, mother of *Perry Jones* was rushed to Baptist Desoto Hospital Sunday with numbness on her left side and kidney problems.

Natalie Nicole Griffin, newborn great-granddaughter of *Janice Griffin* had surgery to close a hole in her heart this past week. She will remain at Le Bonhuer for quit some time.

Andy Ulmer, cousin of the *Young* family remains in Emory University Hospital in Atlanta with an unknown illness. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

Sick and unable to be at services Sunday:

J.L. Eaton, Eleta Grimmert, Linda Turner, Phillip & Audrey Anna Young, Catelyn Smithey

Continue to remember:

B. A. Stubblefield, Whit Robertson, Grace Lyon, Harold Reeves, Sheila Thomas, Yolanda Stubblefield, Barbara Davis, Nancy Petrowski, Justin Forsyth, Donna & Roy Crow, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, 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

Sympathy:

We express our sympathy to *Charlene Coker* in the death of her sister **Lorene Watson**. Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 5th at United Funeral Home.



I've Learned...

To the world you might be one person,
but to one person you might be the
world.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January 09..... William Sloan
January 11..... Alvin Parks
January 15..... Jason Jennings
January 17..... Amy Jennings

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 11..... Greg & Kim Clayton



BABY SHOWER

A baby shower is planned for *Sallye Bowlin* Sun., January 11th, at 1:30pm at the fellowship building. *Sallye* is registered at Babies R Us and Wal-Mart. *Sallye* and *Will* are expecting a boy in early Feb.



RESPONSE

Bailey Adams responded to the invitation Sunday morning asking forgiveness for wrongs in her life and wanting to be a better example. We commend her for her tender heart.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Drew Drummond graduated from Mississippi State University in December with an accounting degree. He has taken a job with an accounting firm in Ridge-land, MS. We are proud of him for his many accomplishments and wish him the best in his new career. His address is: 831 Rice Road, Apt. 2113, Ridgeland, MS 39157

THANK YOU NOTE

To Our Church Family,

We are so blessed to be a part of this loving church. Thank you for all your love and caring during my sickness, but most of all for your prayers. Please keep me in your prayers.

In Christian Love, Grace & Bill Lyon

YOUTH NEWS

- Area Wide Youth Meeting Sun. night Jan. 11th, at Hwy 15, Pontotoc. The van will leave at 5:55. The extra car driver will be the *Jennings* family.

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: 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 Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163

DEACONS

Greg Clayton252-9762
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Brad Pounders.....316-7931
 Harold Russell..... 507-1180
 Randy Wall 316-9255
 Lonnie Weaver.....801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Alvin Parks
 A.M. Prayer.....Greg Clayton
 Closing Prayer...Richard Adams
 P.M. PrayerTroy Robertson
 ClosingJim Gann
 Wed.1/14.....Steve Todd
 Wed.1/14.....Lonnie Weaver
 Usher & LockHarold Russell
 Greeter.....S & L Todd

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....113
 Sunday A.M.....129
 Sunday P. M.....107
 Wednesday.....NA
 Contribution.....\$3,849.27
 Budget.....\$3,984.46



PANTRY ITEM

Instant Potatoes or Rice

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WISHING YOU

“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (I Thessalonians 5:22)

“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord” (James 4:10)

“And He shall lift you up.” (James 4:10)

“Pray without ceasing” (I Thessalonians 5:17)

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season...” (2 Tim. 4:2)

“Ye are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14)

“Now I pray to God that ye do no evil...” (2 Corinthians 13:7)

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith...” (1 Cor. 13:5)

“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and guile...” (1 Peter 2:1)

“Yea, all of you be subject one to another...” (2 Corinthians 13:7)

“Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters...” (Titus 2:9)

“Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves.” (1Pet 4:8)

“Rejoice...for great is your reward in heaven...” Matthew 5:12)