

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

January 7, 2014

A Day in the Life Of Bondage Returnees

Mike King



We sometimes doubt the ability of God to care for His people, the children of Israel, with there being so many. Too, the conditions under which they were traveling would have added to the complexity of God's custodial care for them.

Moses and the Israelites were in the desert and great needs had to be met daily to care for the potential 2 to 3 million people. How do you feed that many people off of a land that was dry and desolate? A Quarter-master General in the Army has done some rough estimates of what would be required.

The travelers from Egypt to Palestine would have required 1,500 tons of food each day. To bring that much food daily to the table would have necessitated two freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day.

Considering that they were in the desert, firewood would have been required to use for cooking this abundance of food. This would have required a few more freight trains, each also a mile long, just for one day's providing. This had to be repeated each day for forty years!

What about water? That certainly would have been a necessity with it being a desert. If they used it just for drinking and washing a few dishes, it would have taken 11,000,000 gallons of water each day and a freight train of tank cars 1,800 miles long, just for their water.

Crossing the Red Sea at night was no mean task. It is conjectured that if they crossed on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would require 35 days and nights to get through. There had to be a space in the Red Sea, three miles wide so they could walk 5,000 abreast to manage crossing in one night.

Surely this was enough of a challenge for God without having to consider where they would bed down each night. Their place of encampment at the end of the day would have required acreage two-thirds the size of Rhode Island. This would have been the equivalent of 750 square miles.

Is there anyway that Moses could have figured this out before leaving Egypt. Impossible! The numbers were always changing with births and deaths daily. Simply calculate the necessary acreage for burial of their dead for one day. Almost 15,000 died in Numbers 16 alone!

Now, if God could meet these challenges, do you not believe that "...*he is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think?*" (Eph. 3:20).

Things that Draw Us Nearer Together

Raymond Elliott

Several years ago as I was leaving a place of business, a friend engaged me in a conversation regarding the difficulties that were facing our nation at that time. He mentioned that during the depression years people were closer together as friends and neighbors. He emphasized the need existing in the hearts of people for one another. There seemed to have been a closeness prevailing among the citizens of our nation during those trying years.



This brought to my mind a lesson relative to those things that tend to bring people nearer together. First of all, it might be good to mention those things that do not necessarily contribute to a closer relationship with others. Whenever money, material and physical blessings exist in abundance, people are apt to feel self-sufficient and self-reliant, and they become very selfish. A person who has everything feels no need of leaning on others for assistance. The tendency is not to be close to neighbors, friends and even family at times. In a marriage relationship, husbands and wives who both have professions may feel so independent that there is not the need of interdependence. Many are often prone to stay ahead of neighbors regarding the obtaining of the material and the physical. Such blessings can become a curse if an individual feels no need of God and others.

Much to the surprise of many, it is during periods of trials, tribulations, sorrows, and adversities that we are drawn nearer to one another. Consider the early years of marriage when the abundance of money was indeed a rare commodity. It may have been during those college years or while in the military, but the memories linger concerning those lean years. Yet, you would not trade those years for anything. Why? It is because such difficulties brought you nearer to one another as husband and wife. Think of the times when a baby was sick or a mate was confined to bed for a lengthy period of time. It was then that the family felt the need of one another. It is when a loved one dies that the family leans heavily on one another for strength. Even during a national crisis like the destruction of the Trade Center buildings, there was good to be found. There was the tendency for people to feel the need of others for strength and comfort.

The Lord has taught in the Holy Scriptures that members of the church should feel the need of one another. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:26, "*And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it...*" He also stated "*that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another*" (1 Corinthians 12:25). The Hebrews writer spoke of a time when Christians "*endured a great struggle with sufferings*" and others "*had compassion on them that were in bonds*" (Hebrews 10:32-34). The Jerusalem church suffered persecution, but such adversity caused the members to be "of one heart and soul" (Acts 4:32). We are taught to "*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ*" (Galatians 6:2). It is when the odds are terribly against us that we should be strengthened and stand together.

Finally, the admonition is given in James 4:8, "*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*" This involves all of a person's relationship with God. When we trust in God and obey Him He will surely be with us. He will never fail us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

YOUTH NEWS

- The Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held January 12th, at Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ. The van will leave at 5:55.
- The next Senior Bible Bowl will be held here at New Albany on January 19th at 2:00pm.
- The next Junior Bible Bowl will be held January 25th, at the East Main Church of Christ.
- A large group went ice skating in Tupelo this past weekend and had a great time. Thanks to *Dan Cobb* and *Sarah Walker* for getting this together.
- This month's Youth Devo will be held Sunday night Jan 26th following evening services. *Greg* and *Kim Clayton* will be hosting.





PRAYER LIST

Jennie Bell, will have shoulder replacement surgery Jan. 14th at the local hospital.

Grace Lyon is improving and slowly regaining her strength.

Tony Cross is being moved from the local hospital to Graceland Care Center for rehab. He is expected to be there for a few weeks.

Continual Prayer list:

Gordon Gentry, 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

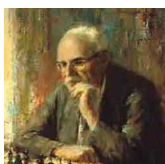


RECIPE FOR CHARM

A dear old Quaker lady, distinguished for her youthful appearance, was asked what she used to preserve her charms. She replied sweetly, "I use for the lips, truth; for the voice, prayer; for the eyes, pity; for the hands, charity; for the figure, uprightness; and for the heart, love."

Wise Thoughts

Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, a touch that never hurts.
~Charles Dickens



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January 11..... Alvin Parks
January 15..... Jason Jennings
January 17..... Amy Jennings
January 18..... Jean Drummond

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 11..... Greg & Kim Clayton
January 13..... Joe & Pat Reed



IN TOUCH DIRECTORY 2014

It is time to update our church directory. A copy of the 2014 directory will be placed by the bulletin board. Please make any corrections needed to your address or phone numbers. Also, check to see if all birthdays in your family are correct. If you would like, please add your email address. Thanks for your co-operation.

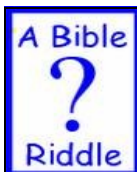
SYMPATHY



*We express our deepest sympathy to *Carl Smith* and family in the death of his brother *Tommy Smith* who was killed as a result of an automobile accident Jan. 2nd. Funeral services were held Sat. Jan 4th, at United Funeral Home in New Albany.

*We also express our sympathy to *Greg Clayton* and family in the death of his uncle *Thomas Barkley*, who died as a result of injuries he received from a fall. Funeral services were held Sunday, Jan 5th at United Funeral Home in New Albany.

* Our sympathy goes out to *Kaye Parks* and family in the death of her step-father *L. C. Anderson* of Pascagoula, MS. Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 10th from 2 -7pm at Serenity Funeral Home in New Albany. Funeral services will be held Sat. Jan. 11th at 1pm, at Oak Grove Baptist Church in the Wallerville community.



I am the bronze snake that Moses put up.
What is my name? _____
2 Kings 18:4

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 Jennings534-6671
Troy Robertson534-3491

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.....Steve Todd
A.M. Prayer.....Troy Robertson
Closing Prayer...Anderson Parks
P.M. Prayer.....Burrell Walton
Closing.....Gary Turner
Wed.1/8.....T. Stubblefield
Wed.1/8.....Alvin Parks
Usher & Lock...Lonnie Weaver
Greeter.....R & K Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....127
Sunday A.M.....163
Sunday P.M.....98
Wednesday.....116
Contribution.....\$4,300.46
Budget.....\$3,989.47



PANTRY ITEM
Peanut butter, crackers

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Volume 1

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Beware of the Dog

Upon entering a little country store, the stranger noticed a sign saying, "DANGER! BEWARE OF DOG!" posted on the glass door. Inside, he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor near the cash register. He asked the store's owner, "Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?"

"Yep," the man answered, "That's him." The stranger couldn't help being amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me," he chuckled. "Why in the world did you decide to post that sign?" The owner replied, "Before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."



Am I doing more for the kingdom of heaven than just taking up space on a church pew? When have the waters of the baptistry been stirred because of me? When has a widow seen my car pull up in her drive? When has a needy person seen my wallet open to help? When has the youth group been over to my house for fellowship? When is the last time I volunteered to teach a class or cook a meal?

"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." Galatians 5:6