



# THE INFORMER

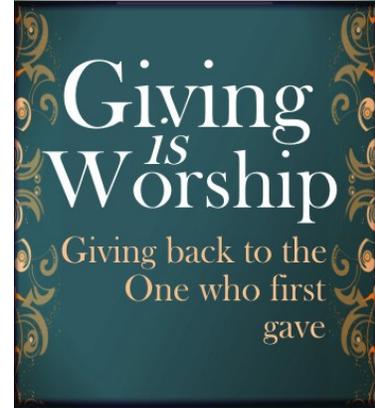
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

January 8, 2013

## WHAT OUR GIVING CAN MEAN

Mike King



Paul said to the Corinthians that their liberal sharing not only supplied needs of the saints, but glorified God (2 Cor. 9:12-14). Additional benefits are realized when we think more in terms of giving rather than receiving. Note some of the great good that *Cecil A. Hutson* identifies that can be done by generous givers:

1. Giving supplies “wants.” Our giving does make a difference! Unfortunately, we do not always see the recipients and the results of our giving. Because of what we give, souls are saved, hurting people helped, and real needs are supplied.

2. Giving brings thanksgiving to God. We have heard grateful expressions from people that our giving has helped. One can see by the “looks” on the faces of the recipients, gratitude, appreciation, and relief. Those helped thank God for our blessing their lives by aiding them during difficult times.

3. Giving brings glory to God. It proves what God can do in human lives through other human lives that belong to God. People in subjection to the gospel can do things thought very improbable or impossible (2 Cor. 8:2). When giving is inadequate and an improper disposition toward giving is manifested, conversely, a “message” about ones spiritual immaturity is sent. We are to let our “*light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify [our] Father*” (Mt. 5:16).

4. Giving proves a great spirit. Liberal giving comes from a wholesome spirit, conditioned by unselfishness. Liberality is a quality which blesses others and demonstrates a personal tenderness toward those having needs or a cause that is worthy. It is a way of saying, “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*” (2 Cor. 9:15).

5. Giving “connects” people in Christ. The Christians in Jerusalem were recipients of the liberal gifts of Macedonia and Achaia. There was a great distance between them, but yet, there was a longing in the saints in Judea to see and to be with the saints of Achaia. This is where fellowship is realized at its best!

6. Giving is an offering to God. The term “service” refers to a priest’s ministering. The apostle Paul was a beneficiary of the Philippians’ liberal giving, although he felt God was the real recipient because it was for them a sacrifice (1 Pet. 2:5).

If our giving is driven by a spirit of liberality that grows from God’s grace toward us, our giving is then truly considered by God as a sacrifice.

## A Christian New Year All Year Long!

Mark N. Posey

Resolutions are typical this time of year. Most of us will make a resolution, promising to make changes in our lives for the better. Therefore, commitment, dedication and determination are in full swing and great abundance. Losing weight, exercising more, better financial stability and enjoying life rank high on most lists. However, as February rolls around, fires cool and steam fizzes, but it should not, especially for Christians. Resolute and resilient Christians should blaze the trail in the land called "Promises Kept," but in what areas? In what ways will this year be any different than the previous?

1. **This year I will lose the weight of sin.** I will lay aside every weighty transgression, encumbrance and distraction, and run with perseverance the Christian race (Hebrews 12:1-2). I will **not** run a competitive race, but a cooperative one. I am running with, not against, my brethren.
2. **This year I will exercise greater discernment between good and evil.** I will repetitiously and habitually train my spiritual senses to discern good from evil (Hebrews 5:14). In doing so, my ability to teach God's Word will dramatically increase; I will go from being a student to being a teacher.
3. **This year I will save the souls of my friends and family.** Jesus is the only Savior; so, I will live like Him, love like Him and labor like Him in bringing my loved ones to His precious and redeeming blood (1 Peter 1:19).
4. **This year I will improve my spiritual health.** I will consume large quantities of spiritual meat (Hebrews 5:13-14). My hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6) will help me grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18). I will be faithful and fit for the Lord!
5. **This year I will better organize my thoughts, words and deeds.** I will clean out all the evil from my heart, mind and soul, replacing it with virtuous and praiseworthy thoughts, words and deeds (Colossians 3:5-17; Philippians 4:8).
6. **This year I will enjoy my spiritual life more.** I will rejoice in "newness of life" (Romans 6:4), repentance of sin (2 Corinthians 7:9, 10), "joy of faith" (Philippians 1:25), "the Lord" (Philippians 4:4) and difficulties that strengthen my faith (James 1:2-4). I will realize more than I have in the past that lasting joy comes from a Christ-like mind (Philippians 2:5), faith filled heart (Philippians 1:3-11), soul centered hope (Hebrews 6:19; 1 Peter 3:15) and love motivated life (Matthew 22:37-39).
7. **This year I will quit making excuses and always abound in the Lord's work.** I will conduct myself as an effective and faithful worker for the Lord (Ephesians 2:10). I will refuse the notion that my efforts for Him are empty and worthless (1 Corinthians 15:58b). I will work, not to gain salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5), but to display it (James 2:18).

Resolutions are only as good as the ability and dedication of the promise maker to reach their goal. Therefore, my work is clear and ordered! I must determine to be unwavering, grounded and unmovable in my commitment to reach spiritual goals. **This year is for the Lord**

Via ~ [www.gospelgazette.com](http://www.gospelgazette.com)

### Recipe For a Happy New Year

To leave the old with a burst of song  
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;  
To forget the thing that binds you fast  
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;  
To have the strength to let go your hold of the  
not worthwhile of the days grown old,  
To dare to go forth with a purpose true,  
To the unknown task of the year that's new;  
To help your brother along the road  
To do his work and lift his load;  
To add your gift to the world's good cheer.  
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.

Author unknown

### It Might be Funny if it Wasn't so Painful

Two men were arguing about which of them knew most of the Bible. Finally one bet the other that he couldn't quote the Lord's prayer. The bet was called and the fellow recited:

"Now I lay me down to sleep.  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.  
If I should die before I wake,  
I pray the Lord my soul to take."

When he finished the other fellow said, "Well here's your money. I didn't think you could do it."

~ Via The Encourager, the weekly bulletin for the Dongola church of Christ, Dongola, IL.



**PRAYER LIST**

**Jack Dunlap**, brother-in-law of *Terry Young* has been placed under Hospice care. Please pray for this family.

**Eleta Grimmett** underwent a lung procedure in Tupelo on Monday. They are hopeful this will help clear up her pneumonia.

**Ralph Williams**, minister of the Hwy 178 congregation suffered a heart attack last week. He is now at home and improving.

**Continual Prayer** :**Anna Claire Ellis, Tatterian 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 Crotts, 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:**

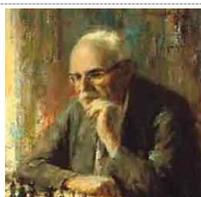
**David & Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Hamm, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud & Christopher Phagan**

**JANUARY EVENTS**

- Area Wide Youth Meeting at Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ Jan. 13th.
- Senior Bible Bowl Jan. 20th, here at New Albany.
- 3rd Sun. night fellowship Jan. 20th
- Jr. Bible Bowl Sat. Jan. 26th, at the Mayfield Church of Christ.

**“I BELIEVE”**

...that **“Humor oils the wheels of life and helps to keep it running smoothly.”**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



- January 15. . . . . Jason Jennings
- January 17. . . . . Amy Jennings
- January 18. . . . . Jean Drummond

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- January 13. . . . . Joe & Pat Reed



**THANK YOU**

Thank you for the cards, food visits and prayers during our loss. Your kindness will never be forgotten. *Mary Nell* was so proud to have been part of this church family. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.  
Carl Smith and family

**SYMPATHY**



We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of *Altha Dodd Rogers* who passed away Tues. Jan. 1st, at the age of 92. Burial was in the New Albany City Cemetery along side her husband *James*, who passed away in 2009. *Ms. Altha* served this congregation for many years as a Sunday school teacher, elder’s wife and in many other areas of church work. *James* and *Altha* moved from New Albany to Henderson, TN in the fall of 1997 after some 50 years of work and service to this congregation. *Ms. Altha* was a special lady and will be missed by all who knew her.

**AREA EVENTS**

- Sardis Lake Christian Camp Hall of Fame Dinner will be held Jan. 12 at 5pm at the Senatobia Church of Christ. RSVP to 662-6090-912
- The Calvary Hill Church of Christ invites you to a special series of Bible Lessons on the Book of Revelation, Jan 11-13. Speaker: *Don Taylor*
- Gospel Meeting, Jan. 18-20 at the Verona Church of Christ with guest speaker *Stanley Williams*. [Chaplain, MS State Penitentiary, Parchman, MS]

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	101
Sunday A.M.....	130
Sunday P.M.....	101
Wednesday.....	113
Contribution.....	\$ 2,930.00
Budget.....	\$ 3,567.55

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Ruston Adams
A.M. Prayer.....	Richard Adams
Closing Prayer.....	Matt Jennings
P.M. Prayer.....	Terry Stubblefield
Closing.....	Anderson Parks
Wed 1/16.....	Bill Botts
Wed.1/16.....	Perry Jones
Usher & Lock.....	Randy Wall
Greeter.....	G & K Clayton



## PANTRY ITEM

Toilet Tissue

## 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

Greg Clayton.....	252-9762
Roger Clayton.....	538-8195
Harold Russell .....	534-4648
Randy Wall .....	316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....	801-8448

## MINISTER

Mike King.....	507-0625
Home.....	534-6872
Office .....	534-4649

## Heading All Different Directions



I read about a painstaking scientist who discovered that the younger leaves of the compass plant, which grows in Texas, point North and South. By referring to them, one can find his direction even at night. The younger leaves of the plant tilt edgewise to the ground and always point North and South while the older leaves, however, become weighted with dew and dust and point in all directions. The weight of sin easily faces us all in the direction that leads to destruction. Romans 3:9-18 teaches us about the universal problem of sin.

1. GENERAL SINFULNESS. Romans 3:19-12 - *There is none righteous, no, not one . . . and there is none who does good, no, not one.* We ALL sin. Someone wisely stated, "The ground is level at the foot of the cross."

2. SINS OF ONE'S SPEECH. Romans 3:13-14 - *Their throat is an open tomb, with their tongues they have practiced deceit . . . .* Lying. Slander. Cursing. Gossip. A wise man will control his tongue!

3. SINS OF DEED. Romans 3:15-17 - *their feet are swift to shed blood . . . .* Humans seem to get excited about violence. Hurting each other for control or for revenge seems to be a daily occurrence among our schools and society. Movies, music, video games, pro wrestling, and the nightly news are all an indication of this sad reality.

Romans 3:18 says, *There is no fear of God before their eyes.* When we put God up in His due place, the sins listed above will be put in their place. Are you heading all different directions? Seek God! Fear God! Walk with God!

Steven D. Mino, via ~ Focus Press, Inc.

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Volume 2

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