



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

October 18, 2011

## There Is A Race Set Before Us

Mike King

By some, the passage found in Hebrews 12:2 has been referred to as “The Runner’s Pattern.” The passage is worded as follows: *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

The governing impulse of the runner is described by the statement, *“Who for the joy that was set before him...”* The joy of the Christian is virtually the same as that of the Lord. His joy was helping, serving, and the anticipation of the glory that would follow when the race had been run and at last finished. Is your religious motivation from behind, by which you are being driven, forced and coerced against your will? Is your life characterized by *running from* something or *running to* something? Jesus promised to draw all men unto Himself by His being lifted up (Jn. 12:32). Our joy should be realized through serving Him and our fellowman.

The runner acclimates himself to accepting sorrows. Jesus *“Endured the cross, despising the shame.”* The Roman cross form of assassination was considered the most humiliating and painful of all forms of death. The shame of the cross was inevitable, but the mission of Jesus was so much stronger and powerful in His life that He was willing and able to bear it without losing His kingly composure. We too can endure because of the abundance of joy in service which we are privileged to render overshadows the shame and heartache of persecution and daily cross bearing.

This passage reminds us of the runner’s triumph: *“And is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* We sense a great measure of repose, authority and fellowship. Jesus was able to declare: *“It is finished!”* And it was – His life, His mission, the fulfillment of the Old Law, giving of His life as a supreme sacrifice, and His message of salvation and the authorization of the church to declare the gospel to the world. Our Savior Jesus could declare, as did God after completing His daily creation agenda, that *“it was good.”* To run the Christian race can mean much to us while making the run, but much more upon its completion. Paul was willing to suffer loss of all things and treat them as refuse in order to “win Christ” (Phil. 3:8). Those of us who are Christians can derive manifold blessings by *“looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith”* (Heb. 12:2). Before we can run effectively, we must *“lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run the race that is set before us”* (Heb. 12:1).



## Running My Race

His Word Guides My Feet

...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us ~ Hebrews 12:1



**PRAYER LIST**

**J. D. Stroud**, has been moved to room 209B of the Union County Health & Rehab while he recovers from his recent hip surgery.

**Elizabeth (Betty) Lang**, sister of *Miriam Styers* and *J. L. Eaton* is having some heart problems.

**Ron Garner**, friend of *Mike & Sheila King*, will be going to a Cleveland, Ohio hospital for a high risk surgery to replace his aorta valve.

**Continual Prayer**

**Janice Cobb, Lucille Gibson, Barry Yancey, Bobby Marques, Earnestine McKinney, Lisa Mitchell, Ron Garner, Dick Young, Eleta Grimmett, Cindy Sprouse, Daphne Fitzpatrick, Tony Cross, Tauso Branch, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crofts, 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 & Pauline Smith, Ruby Shouse**

**Military List:**

**David Wilhite, Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Ham, Raegan Cole, Micah Russell**

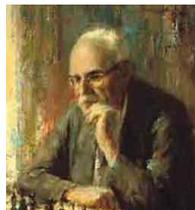
**FALL LECTURES CONTINUE**

- Wed., Oct. 19th, *Adam Miller*, Mayfield Church of Christ.
- Wed., Oct. 25th, *Randy Collum*, Ashland Church of Christ

\*Meal at 5:45pm — Service at 7:00pm

**“I BELIEVE”**

**.... That you should always leave loved ones with loving words. It may be the last time you see them.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- October 27.....Mark Jennings
- October 28.....Erin Wall
- October 29.....Phil Young
- October 31.....Steve Todd

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- October 27.....Jason & Amy Jennings

**SYMPATHY**

\*We express our sympathy to *Darrell Crow* and family in the death of his aunt *Ruby Wagoner*, who passed away Tuesday, Oct. 11th. Funeral services were held this past week in Anniston, AL.

\* We express our sympathy to the family of *Lessie Bryant* who passed away Sunday, Oct. 16th, at the age of 98. *Mrs. Bryant* was a faithful member of the New Albany congregation for many years and will truly be missed. Funeral services will be held today, Oct. 18th, at 2pm at United Funeral Home in New Albany.

**REJOICE!**

We are happy to announce that *Rex Bell* was baptized into Christ Friday night, Oct. 14th, by *Bill Lyon*. We rejoice with *Rex* and *Jennie* upon his decision. Please make our new brother welcome and encourage him as he begins his Christian walk.

**TRUNK ‘R’ TREAT**



Trunk or Treat will be held for our youth Wed. night, Oct. 26th, in the back parking lot. If you would like to participate please be in the back parking lot at 6:15pm. Please remember the meal at 5:45 at the fellowship building. You are asked to bring soup or chili and deserts. Hotdogs will be provided. We hope to have a large crowd. All adult classes will be in charge.

## “WHY SIT NEAR THE FRONT?”

A few weeks ago *Mike Peters* of Dallas addressed the question, “Why Sit Near the Front?” in his church bulletin. Here is what he said:

There is a tendency to spread out and leave vacant pews in the front of the building. I have come to the conclusion that you will never be motivated to sit towards the front until you convince yourself of the value. Here are some of the reasons for sitting up front that you might consider:

1. Because it is considerate of others. People who come in late, especially visitors, want to be seated as quickly as possible. If they have to walk to the front of the auditorium to find a seat, it is quite embarrassing.
2. There are fewer distractions during worship. I don't see the latecomers filing in, nor the darling baby perched on mother's shoulder. My mind is clear to marvel at the cross of Christ during the Lord's Supper and to sing with understanding.
3. The singing is more enjoyable. Sitting up front means all of the voices are pointed in your direction. You are surrounded by the sound of harmonious voices singing praises to God. I am stirred to sing more enthusiastically myself.
4. The preaching is better. I'm serious. You miss a lot in the back of the auditorium. The expression on the face of the speaker (and the song leader) adds depth to the message being communicated. I feel more a part of the message, as if the speaker was talking directly to me.
5. It makes a statement about my interest in what is happening. Question: When you buy a ticket to a concert, the theater, or a sporting event, do you ask for the seat farthest away? When visitors see rows of empty pews at the front, what impression does that make on them about our involvement in worship and our excitement about the Lord?

Okay, You're still not convinced, right? Hard to break old habits? Then let me challenge you with this one thought. Move to the front just one time and see if you can tell a difference in the meaning of your worship. I believe some of you might be surprised at how much more you get out of (and put into) worship.

The best seats in the house are in the front. There are some seats available! Will you lead the way?

~ via Lackland Terrace Church of Christ bulletin ~

### AREA EVENTS.

- **Annual Spaghetti Supper** sponsored by the **Freed-Hardeman Associates** will be held October 21, at the Tippah County Fairgrounds in Ripley, Ms.
- **Parenting Seminar** to be held October 29th at the Batesville Church of Christ with *Dr. Sam Jones* of Freed-Hardeman University as the guest speaker. Check the bulletin board for more details.
- There will be a **Ladies' Day** Sat. Nov. 5th at the **Mayfield Church of Christ**. The speaker will be *Amy Mize*. Registration begins at 9:00am.
- You are invited to a **Gospel Meeting** at the **Gloster Street Church of Christ** Nov. 6-9, with *Ted Burlison* as the guest speaker. Mon-Wed at 7:00pm

### CORNERSTONE

Replace each letter of the alphabet with a different letter to reveal the passage of scripture.

MSQ NTKQBSTMD MKIS YKLQGLJS NS LKQ

PKTVSQPJM QK SLQSTQXGL RQTXLVSTR

PKT QBSTSND RKAS BXIS SLQSTQXGLSU

XLVSMR JLXFXTSR.

Clue: Q = T      Clue: R = S

Hint : Hebrews 13: 1-2

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School .....	112
Sunday A M .....	124
Sunday P.M. ....	104
Wednesday .....	104
Contribution .....	\$3,300.00
Budget .....	\$3,455.70

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Ruston Adams
A.M. Prayer....	Richard Adams
Closing Prayer...	Ronnie Griggs
P.M. Prayer.....	Bill Botts
Closing.....	Olen Clark
Wed 10/26.....	Ray Kennedy
Wed. 10/26 .....	Bobby White
Usher & Lock .....	Bill Botts
Greeter.....	R & K Jennings



## PANTRY ITEM

Pantry is **very** low!

## 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

## If You Could See Where I Have Gone

If you could see where I have gone  
The beauty of this place  
And how it feels to know you're home  
To see the Savior's face.  
To wake in peace and know no fear,  
Just joy beyond compare,  
While still on earth you miss me yet,  
You wouldn't want me there,  
If you could see where I have gone.

If you could see where I have gone,  
You'd know we'll meet some day,  
And though I'm parted from you now,  
That I am just away.  
So, thank you loved ones,  
Thank you friends  
For living for the Lord  
For encouraging me to love Him,  
To trust Him and His word,  
Secure in every way,  
I'm waiting here at heaven's door,  
To greet you some sweet day.

~ Author Unknown ~

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Volume 42

THE INFORMER (USPS 5581-500)  
Church of Christ  
511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148  
New Albany, Mississippi 38652  
(662)534-4649

Periodical  
Postage Paid  
New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
(Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box  
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