

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

October 23, 2012

The Proper Congregational Mind-set

Mike King



Church growth must extend far beyond the elders, deacons, and ministers to ever become a reality. It would be a proper conclusion to make that the growth of a church must be a congregational mind-set. Each and every member must realize the need for growth or stagnation and eventual death of the local church results. It has to do with the value that we place upon the salvation of souls. When every member is enrolled in making the church grow, outsiders are drawn, visitors are impressed, and the membership is strengthened by increase in numbers, more lively worship, and a larger work-force is amassed. The following article impressed on me just how important it really is that our visitors (potential members) are to the growth of the local congregation. See if you do not agree.

“Studies indicate that growing churches show at least five of every 100 persons in Sunday morning worship service to be visitors from within 15-25 miles of the building. One preacher reported that if visitors were visited within 36 hours and the visit lasted 15 minutes, 85% returned the next Sunday; if the visit was made in 72 hours, 60% returned; when the visit was made seven days later only 15% returned.

How many visitors does it take for the church to grow? Churches lose on the average of 6 to 10% of their members each year. When you consider those who move away, those who fall away, and those who die, this is probably true. If a church of 185 had 73 visitors a year (that is, one or two per Sunday) and saw 15% become members of that congregation within a year, they would have grown by 11 members, but since they would lose 10, the church would show a plateau growth pattern for the year.

So think about it: many visitors, much growth; no visitors, no growth! Let each one of us make it our aim to invite our family, neighbors, and friends to our worship services each week.”

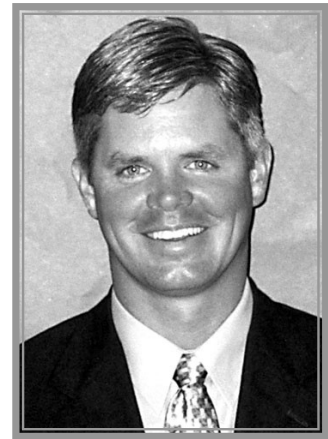
It is so important that each and every visitor be treated with unusual attention and that visits and contacts be made immediately following their visit. The kind of urgency that we exhibit toward welcoming our visitors and in contacting those with a “thank you for coming” or “how can the congregation be of service to your family?” can determine their destiny and growth of the church! What can we do more and better relating to our visitors to enhance church growth? *“Look on the fields, they are already white unto harvest”* (Jn. 4:35).

OCTOBER FALL LECTURESHIP SPEAKER

Mark Lindley - Speaker

Chapman Church of Christ ~ Ripley, MS

OCT. 24, 2012 - 7:00 PM



Mark Lindley is presently serving as the minister for the Chapman Church of Christ located off Hwy. 4 just east of Ripley, MS. He is well thought of in northern Mississippi and is used broadly throughout the brotherhood. Mark has been preaching the gospel for 22 years, with 17 years as a full-time preacher. He has worked with the Oak Ridge congregation in Baldwyn, MS and the 10th and Rockford Church of Christ in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mark was born and raised in the Tupelo area. He is married to the former, Kim Britt. They have been married for 20 years and are the parents of three boys: Britt, Brock and Brice. Some of my family and several of our members at New Albany have had association with the Lindley family in recent years and speak very highly of their family and involvement in the Lord's church in Ripley and elsewhere.

As a 1995 graduate of Memphis School of Preaching, Mark then attended Freed-Hardeman University and graduated in 1999. His educational background speaks well of his spiritual and ministerial foundational development, but his track record of preaching and work attest to the fact that he is a sound and doctrinally dependable servant of the Lord. He will be further developing our theme, "Reaching Beyond Ourselves in 1012" by giving emphasis as to how this can be done through evangelistic emphasis and exercise. I think that you will find Mark's presentation to be challenging and interesting.

YOUTH NEWS

- Our Senior Bible Bowl group tied (4-way) for first place Sunday, at the Nettleton Church of Christ. We are so proud of them! Congratulations on a job well done.
- A campout and hayride is planned for Nov. 2nd at the Walls lake. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan to attend and also mark if you will be spending the night.
- This month's Youth Devo is scheduled for Oct. 28th following evening services. *Phil & Paige Young* will be hosting.
- The next Junior Bible Bowl will be held at the Gloster St. Church of Christ Nov. 17th.
- The next Senior Bible Bowl will be held at the Antioch Church of Christ Nov. 18th.

Bible Trivia

1. As what does the Lord say He will be to Ephraim and Judah in the fifth chapter of Hosea?
A. Judge B. Lion C. Avenger D. Mountain
2. Who do the people of Israel make glad with their wickedness in chapter seven of Hosea?
A. Themselves B. Neighbors C. King D. Thieves
3. Like what animal is Israel described in chapter seven of Hosea? **A. Donkey B. Silly Dove C. Strutting peacock D. Cunning snake**
4. In chapter seven of Hosea, the rage of the princes' tongue will be their derision in what land?
A. Israel B. Babylon C. Egypt D. Assyria
5. Like what fruit does the Lord say He found Israel in the ninth chapter of Hosea?
A. Pears B. Grapes C. Wheat D. Pomegranates



PRAYER LIST

Melissa Reed, is facing multiple eye surgeries at UT Memphis in the near future. These surgeries are quit serious. *Melissa* has requested our prayers.

Diane Sloan, mother of *Brad Sloan* is awaiting results from a recent biopsy. *Brad* requested prayers on her behalf.

Mallory Chapman, a teenager from the Chapman congregation is having heart problems. Please pray for her.

Jennie Bell, will be seeing a doctor in Memphis for back treatments.

Anna Claire Ellis, a newborn infant from Greenville, MS is in St. Jude with a tumor on her liver. Her parents are *Drew* and *Stacy Ellis*. Her grandmother *Mary Ellis*, who requested our prayers, is a member of the Van Dyke church of Christ in Paris, TN.

Continual Prayer

Kelly Taylor, Pat Reed, Crystal Bickerstaff, Randall Haney, Eleta Grimmett, Taterrin Wilson, Rosie Wilson, Mayala Wood, Rex Lyon, Altha Rogers, Tauso Branch, Perrin Drummond, Mary Alice Holloway, Prebble Foster, Brooks Russell, Jack Dunlap, Larry Averett, John Tierney, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Belle Cross

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Mattie Golden, Amy Vest, Laura Mae Harris

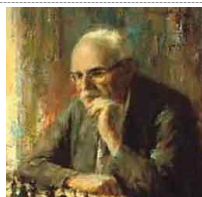
Military List:

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



"I BELIEVE"

...that the task ahead of us is never greater than the Power behind us.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- October 27.....Mark Jennings
- October 28.....Erin Wall
- October 29.....Phil Young
- October 31.....Steve Todd
- November 01.....Amy Vest
- November 03.....Paul Ormon

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- October 27.....Jason & Amy Jennings
- November 03.....Bill & Grace Lyon



RESPONSE

Cody Clemmer responded to the invitation Sunday morning asking for forgiveness and requesting the prayers of the church. We commend *Cody* on his decision to make his life right with God. Please remember him in your prayers and continue to encourage him. If you would like to send him a note of encouragement you may do so at: 1120 CR 43 Etta, MS 38627.

FALL CAMPOUT/HAYRIDE

You are invited to a campout and hayride Sat. Nov. 2nd, at the Walls lake. Please sign the list that is on the table in the foyer if you plan to attend. Also, mark if you plan to spend the night so *Randy* and *Christy* can make preparations. We appreciate the *Wall* family for hosting this great time of fellowship.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat will be held for our youth Wed. night, Oct. 31st. If you would like to participate please be in the back parking lot at 6:00pm. Prior to Trunk or Treat there will be a chili/hot-dog supper beginning at 5:30pm. You are asked to bring hotdogs or chili, chips and deserts. Everyone is invited. Following these events we will meet at 7:00pm for our 5th Wed. night singing.

* Final Fall Lecture Oct. 24th, with *Mark Lindley* of the Chapman Church of Christ. Meal at 5:45; Service @ 7pm

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	117
Sunday A.M.....	140
Sunday P.M.....	105
Wednesday.....	118
Contribution.....	\$ 3,356.25
Budget.....	\$ 3,567.55

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Alvin Parks
A.M. Prayer.....	Bill Frohn
Closing Prayer.....	Terry Young
P.M. Prayer.....	Jason Jennings
Closing.....	Drew Drummond
Wed 10/31.....	Paul Ormon
Wed. 10/31.....	Bill Lyon
Usher & Lock.....	Randy Wall
Greeter.....	G & K Clayton



PANTRY ITEM

Canned Meat

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.....	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

Don't Give Up!

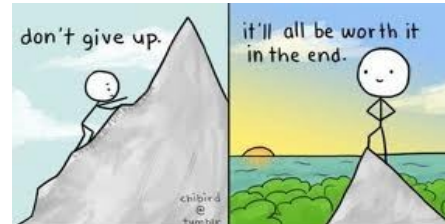
Babe Ruth struck out 1333 times. Yet, we remember him for his 714 home runs. Cy Young won 511 games. Yet, the number he lost is forgotten.

Many believe for a while but “in time of temptation fall away” (Luke 8:13). In most communities, there are those who once were more faithful than they are now. They do not attend Bible classes, night services, or other meetings as they once did. They have ceased to participate in church activities. Their light has gone out. They have virtually quit.

Everyday religion is the antidote to failure. Practice these safeguards.

- Everyday let God say something to you. Keep the line of communication open between you and God by reading his word.
- Everyday say something to God. Stay in contact with the strength by prayer. We cannot walk alone.
- Everyday say something for God. Share the good news. Tell a friend. Speak a kind word.
- Everyday do something for God. Look for opportunities to serve. Opportunities are abundant; only a blind man could not see them. Give a helping hand. Encourage the downtrodden. Exhort the wayward. Comfort the sorrowful. Support the weak. Let's be doers—not quitters!

Clarence DeLoach



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