



# THE INFORMER

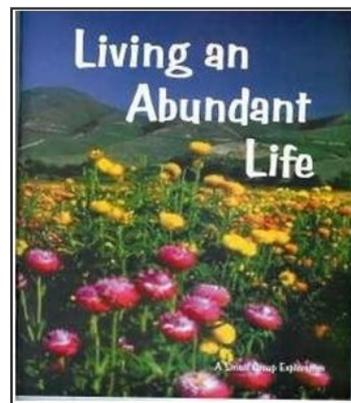
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

October 7, 2014

## Participants in an Abundant Life

Mike King



Jesus means so much to so many, from which we have not been exempted. He can be seen and responded to as our source of so many things. The blessedness of our lives is contingent upon how receptive we are to His provisions. Christian living carries with it so much more than just a name that we attach to ourselves by being a “church member.” True it is that those in the church do bear that name, but we must understand that it entails additional benefits as well. Jesus said, *“I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”* (Jn. 10:10). This life is the only life wherein authentic joy, happiness, and peace can be found. Living this life means being supplied with living water to quench our spiritual thirst (Jn. 4:14) and to feast upon the bread of life to sustain us as we spiritually hunger (Jn. 6:35).

Christian living could be characterized as making an entrance through the door of salvation (Jn. 10:9) insuring a confidence in our resurrection unto eternal life (Jn. 11:25). Initial obedience to Christ establishes us in a life of knowing God and Jesus (Jn. 17: 3) and to walk in His way (Jn. 14:6). The Christian is able to affirm that, *“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”* (2 Tim. 1:12). Because of this confidence, we are able to conclude that; *“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day...”* (2 Tim. 4:8).

The danger with us is that we want to water down the things that Jesus says and make them mean something in accordance with common sense, if it were only common sense, it was not worthwhile for Him to say it.

It was from that upper room that Jesus promised the apostles, *“I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there ye may be also”* (Jn. 14:2-3). When Peter heard these exciting predictions and promises made, he later described it as *“living hope”* and as an *“inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you”* (I Pet. 1:3-4). This precious promise is guaranteed by the Lord’s victory over death, who shall *“fashion anew the body of our humiliation that it might be conformed to the body of his glory”* (Phil. 3:21). When the Lord appears at His second coming, we shall recognize and praise Him because of appearing with Him (Col. 3:4). What a glorious day it will be when we see and share, as members of His body, His eternal glory and say, *“Come, Lord Jesus”* (Rev. 22:20).

## Jesus Finds Fault With Fault Finders

Criticism is sometimes needed and justified. Jesus taught, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone" (Matthew 18:15). Jesus did not tell us to imagine or find fault with anyone — He only tells us to point out what is really there. And He is clear the first step to clearing up a fault between my brother and myself is to go tell it to the brother alone — not behind his back and not to everybody else in town or in the church. The place to confront and criticize someone about unfaithful, fault-ridden behavior is to his or her face — not on Facebook or other social networks where others look on and weigh in. And not with a crude anonymous note, no matter how right you may think that is. The point is not to deny that all of us are sometimes guilty of faults and deserve constructive criticism. The point is that criticism, to be effective, must be done by the right person at the right time in the right place with the right attitude for the right reasons. We should not criticize such criticism.

All that having been said, Jesus found fault with a very widespread human fault in Matthew 7:1-5 — the fault of being a faultfinder! This passage bluntly states, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (vs 1), and goes on to warn that in the end we will be judged and measured by the same judgment and measure we have used to judge and measure others (vs 2). The Lord points out that some folks focus on a "mote" or "speck" in their brother's eye, even to the point of trying to remove it — and all the while the faultfinder has a "beam" or "plank" protruding from his own eye! So ridiculous is the picture Jesus paints, it is hard to believe His original hearers did not roar with laughter as He pointed out how extreme some faultfinders can be. Careful now. Contrary to the way some interpret this passage, Jesus is not okay with leaving a "speck" in the eye (or life), let alone a "plank" — whether in mine or my brother's. If you've ever had a speck in your eye you know even the tiniest speck makes for a great deal of discomfort and dysfunction. The problem, and the proper solution, is stated by the Lord in verse 5— "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." The folks Jesus finds fault with in this passage are faultfinders — people who search for and find even the tiniest of faults in others while blind to mountain-sized faults in their own lives. Such people find fault with everybody and everything. Their criticism knows no boundaries or limits. Jesus was the only faultless and flawless human being who ever lived, but that didn't keep some from criticizing and finding fault with Him, to the point they eventually crucified Him. All this reminds me of the old story about two taxidermists walking the sidewalk. They stopped before a window where an owl was on display. They began to criticize the way the owl was mounted. Its eyes did not look natural; its wings were not rightly proportioned; its feathers were not neatly arranged; its feet did not look real; its head was cocked at an odd angle. So they said. When they finished with their criticism, the owl turned his head, and winked at them! You need to know that if you are a faultfinder, Jesus Christ will find fault with you. Think about it.

~ Dan Gulley

### FAMILY

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days.

But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family. An unwise investment indeed, don't you think?

So what is behind the story?

Do You Know What The Word

Family Means?

(F)ather (A)nd (M)other

(I) (L)ove (Y)ou

### THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the many former members, friends and local church family who joined us this past Sunday to worship God and to celebrate 75+ years as a congregation here in New Albany. We had a wonderful day! *Jesse Robertson* delivered three good lessons from God's word, then we enjoyed a meal and a time of fellowship together. Our delicious meal was catered by Lamar's Bar-B-Que and Catering from Baldwyn, MS. We would like to also thank everyone who helped in any way preparing for our Homecoming. Copies of the day's lessons were recorded if you would like a copy as well as copies of the picture slide presentation of days gone by.

# For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016



## PRAYER LIST

**Elizabeth (Betty) Lang**, sister of *Miriam Styers* and *J. L. Eaton* has been in the local hospital with pneumonia. She was expected to be moved to Graceland Care Center Monday for rehab.

**Sheila Thomas**, co-worker of *Paige Young* has been diagnosed with cancer.

**Victor Ashmore**, was released from Veterans Hospital in Memphis over the weekend. He is still not doing well.

**Kaye Parks**, was taken to the emergency room over the weekend with chest pains. She was diagnosed with (costochondritis) inflammation in her rib cartilage and joints. She is feeling better.

**Sympathy:** We express sympathy to *Bobby White* in the death of his aunt **Geraldine Garner** of Ripley. Funeral services were held Fri. in Ripley.

We express sympathy to the family of **Reba Holcomb** who passed away Oct. 1st. She was the mother of *Cheryl Reeder*, daughter-in-law of *Bill* and *Grace Lyon*. Funeral services were held Sat. Oct. 4th.

### Continue to remember:

Yolanda Stubblefield, Charlene Coker, Barbara Davis, Mabel Erwin, Mary Butler, Roger Clayton, Paul Carruth, John Popson, Nancy Petrowski, Pat Reed, Justin Forsyth, Judy Ward, Bobbie Nunnally, J. J. Harris, Glen Jumper, Eulene Hooper, Hudson Grisham, Kelly Fryar, Donna & Roy Crow, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Terry & Betty Young

### Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Claudia Senter

### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Jennie Frohn

### Military List:

Barry Wilhite, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud



### I've Learned...

God doesn't get you around trouble,  
He gets you through it.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



October 12. . . . . Greg Harrison  
October 16. . . . . Jodi Parks  
October 18. . . . . Rex Bell

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

October 09. . . . . Terry & Betty Young  
October 13. . . . . Olen & Teresa Clark  
October 14. . . . . Perrin & Jean Drummond



## ANNUAL MEN'S CHICKEN FEST



The annual men's chicken fest is scheduled for Sun. night Oct. 12th, following evening services. This will be held at the home-place of *Phil Young*. *Randy Wall* will be cooking his famous chicken and fixings! Men, remember to bring your lawn chair.

## MISSION TRIP

We will be collecting items for several children's homes in Haiti again this year. *Mike* and *Sheila Kings'* daughter *Cristi Baxley* will be traveling with others from the Beltline congregation in Decatur, AL for a mission trip later this year. We have been asked to supply 150, 24 count Crayola crayons, any Crayola coloring books, 90 individual wrapped match box cars, and 5 soccer balls. A container will be placed in the foyer after homecoming for these items. They need to be here by Oct. 15th if at all possible.



## PINE VALE'S FALL FOOD DRIVE

Please remember the Fall Food Drive will continue until Oct. 19th. Our congregation has been asked to help by providing; toothbrushes, light bulbs— mainly 40w and 60w and some 100w, chili seasoning, and pancake syrup. There is a container in the foyer for these items.



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>  
Email: [nacoc15s@gmail.com](mailto: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 Jennings .....316-1305  
Troy Robertson .....534-3491

**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.....Burrell Walton  
A.M. Prayer.....T. Stubblefield  
Closing Prayer.....Phil Young  
P.M. Prayer .....Ruston Adams  
Closing .....David Clayton  
Wed.10/15.....Greg Harrison  
Wed.10/15.....Hunter Jennings  
Usher & Lock ...Brad Pounders  
Greeter.....T & N Robertson

**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School.....158  
Sunday A.M..... 230  
Sunday P.M.....130  
Wednesday.....108  
Contribution.....\$4,854.66  
Budget.....\$3,989.47



**PANTRY ITEM**

Rice

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**BE SOMEONE'S BREATH OF FRESH AIR**

In the diary of Robert Louis Stevenson, there is an entry that says, "I have been to church today and am not depressed."

I find that statement fascinating. Why is it there? Is it because the majority of the services he's attended have been depressing, and therefore this particular occasion deserved entry into his diary because it was not depressing?

From church service to daily interactions, it should be our task to encourage those we come in contact with rather than discourage them. What if every sermon you ever heard was full of bad news? What would that do for your soul? On the other hand, what if every comment you make is negative? How would folks feel about you? Would they look forward to spending time with you?



Clovis G. Chappell said, "A discouraged man is not an asset but a liability."

Question, are you and am I strengthening souls to be assets for God? Or, are we discouraging them?

Paul wrote, as he spoke about an encourager by the name of Onesiphorous, "...for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:" (2 Tm. 1:16). That's what I want to be--a refresher. I want to bear burdens, not create them (Gal. 6:1-2).

Today, let's resolve to do more to encourage those we meet than to discourage them.

~ Neil Richey ~