



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

November 9, 2010

## THE LAST LEAF

Mike King



In May of 1899, in a small Greenwich Village, Johnsy and Sue met, became good friends and eventually shared an apartment to reduce expenses.

In November, Johnsy became deathly ill with pneumonia that was ravishing the entire area. Her illness lingered and she became so ill and frail that she lost hope of recovering. There was an old ivy vine outside her window climbing the brick wall with only a few leaves remaining. Johnsy became so disheartened that she refused to fight her way back to health and convinced herself that when the last leaf fell from the vine, she would die.

Her friend, Sue, explained to the doctor who made a house-call, that if she does not focus her attention on something other than her sickness, she is sure to succumb. Sue is worried for her and goes downstairs to reveal her fears to Mr. Behrman, a grizzled, unsuccessful artist who dreams of one day painting a master-piece. He was also worried that if the wind and rain were to cause the last leaf to fall during the night that she would die.

The next morning, Sue and Johnsy look out the window to find the last leaf still there. Johnsy thinks that the last leaf remained to serve as an omen that she would not die. Her spirit changed, and the doctor confirms that she is getting well. He too announced that Mr. Behrman downstairs developed a case of pneumonia and died the same day. Sue later discovered that the cause of his death was from exposure to the elements while painting, atop his ladder, a true masterpiece...a picture of the last leaf on the brick wall.

I see a striking similarity to O Henry's touching story in the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us. We were smitten by sin, living in despair, alienated and separated from God due to sin. Hope languished and all confidence had disappeared. Christ gave His life to provide us with encouragement and incentive to live and be healed from our debilitating onslaught of sin. One of the most touching and descriptive passages of scripture about Jesus the "hope giver" is found in Isaiah 53. It says, *"Surely He has born our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed"* (Isa. 53:4-6).

## A carrot, an egg, and a cup of coffee...

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each one on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl.

Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see." "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then ask the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell. She observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then ask, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?

-Author Unknown via~ The Chapman Challenger

## YOUTH NEWS

- Three of our young people competed at state level in Jackson this past weekend in cross country . They all received medals. Daniel Drummond (class 4A boys) placed 12th ; Hunter Jennings (class 1A boys) placed 7th; and Rachel Peeler (class 1A girls) placed 11th. We are proud of you!
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- The JR Bible Bowl will meet Saturday, November 13th at the Antioch Church of Christ.
- Area Wide Youth Meeting will be here at New Albany Sunday night, November 14th, at 6:30 pm.
- The next Senior Bible Bowl will be held November 28th at the Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ. The youth will eat at George's in New Albany before leaving for Pontotoc.
- This month's Youth Devo is scheduled for Sunday night, November 28th following evening services. *Dan Cobb* will be hosting.

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016



### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**John Sanford**, is scheduled to have gall bladder surgery, November 9th, in Alabama.

**Margaret Bailey**, mother of Paige Young, is continuing with her cancer treatments.

#### Continual Prayer List

**Vickie Chism, Chris Isbell, Donna Haynes, Barbara Smithey, Shane Crofts, Udell Wilson, Arkie Grimmitt, Bill King, Donna Weeden, Sylvia Plunk, Terry Young**

#### Shut-Ins

**Jean Drummond, Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Pauline Smith, Raymond & Amy Vest**

#### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

**Sue Collins, Corrine Hall, Eunice Mabry, Faye Owen, Anna Davis & Mattie Golden**

#### Military List:

**David Wilhite**-Navy-Florida **Barry Wilhite**-Marine-Navy -Virginia, **Jimmie Stutts**-Air Force—California, **Tiffany Erwin**— Army-Camp Rooker, AL; **Aaron Raines**-Army, Afghanistan; **Jamie Vansandt**, Alaska; **Michelle Ham**, Fort Leonard, Missouri,

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November 18.....Linda Griggs  
November 19.....Linda Turner  
November 23.....Betty Young  
November 25.....Cooper Pounders  
November 28 .....Jerry Grimmitt

### AREA EVENTS

**Area Wide Youth Devo for November** will be here at New Albany on November 14th. Mike King will be the speaker.

**Fall Gospel Meeting at the Nettleton Church of Christ; November 14-17.** Theme: "What It Means to Be a Christian". There is a schedule of speakers & subjects on the bulletin board.

### AREA WIDE YOUTH MEETING

Sunday night, November 14, we will host the Area Wide Youth Meeting at 6:30 p.m. We are expecting around 300 and could use your help by providing canned drinks and desserts. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. We will also need a few coolers brought so the drinks can be iced down. Your canned drinks need to be here by Sunday morning.



### THANKSGIVING MEAL

The Hwy 178 congregation will be providing meals for the needy again this year on Thanksgiving Day. They have asked if we could help them by providing casseroles and desserts. They could also use help serving plates on Thanksgiving morning. If you are willing to provide a casserole (e.g. hash brown, sweet potato, macaroni /cheese) you will need to have them here at the building before 10AM Thanksgiving morning. Any desserts may be brought Wednesday night and left at the building. For more details see Helen DePriest or Kathy Jennings.

#### *Always Remember God Gives You Enough*

Enough happiness to keep you sweet  
Enough trials to keep you strong  
Enough sorrows to keep you human  
Enough hope to keep you happy  
Enough failure to keep you humble  
Enough success to keep eager  
Enough friends to give you comfort  
Enough wealth to meet your needs  
Enough faith to banish depression  
Enough enthusiasm to make each day  
a better day than the last.

*"Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." Proverbs 16:3*

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.org>

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School ..... 103  
 Sunday A.M ..... 124  
 Sunday P.M..... 100  
 Wednesday ..... 96  
 Contribution ..... \$2,527.93  
 Budget ..... \$3,305.70

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....Dean Dillard  
 A.M. Prayer..... Roger Clayton  
 Closing Prayer.Daniel Drummond  
 P.M. Prayer..... Andy Clemmer  
 Closing.....Bill Lyon  
 Wed. 11/17.....Steve Todd  
 Wed. 11/17.....Ronnie Griggs  
 Usher & Lock .... Roger Clayton  
 Greeters..... L & N Weaver

## PANTRY ITEM: SOUP

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School ..... 9:30  
 Morning Worship..... 10:30  
 Evening Worship ..... 6:00  
 Wednesday Bible Study..... 7:00

### Elders

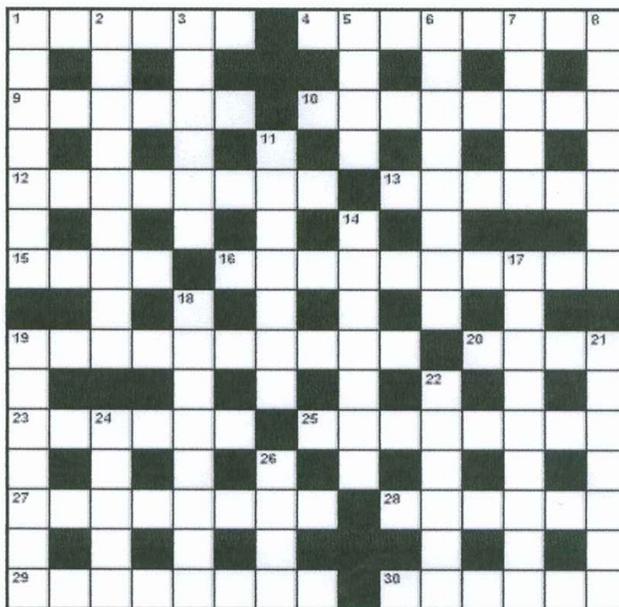
Richard Jennings ..... 534-6671  
 Troy Robertson..... 534-3491

### 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

### Minister

Mike King .....904-705-4206  
 Office..... 534-4649



### Across

- 1 Express sorrow (6)
- 4 Anticipated (8)
- 9 God with judge people with this (6)
- 10 Sore ants (anag); In the White House? (8)
- 12 Kept confined (8)
- 13 Times Peter denied Christ (6)
- 15 Noah became this by faith (4)
- 16 Last book of the Bible (10)
- 19 God's angels (10)
- 20 Mix up (4)
- 23 Thin length of material (6)
- 25 It never comes (8)
- 27 Soothed (8)
- 28 Money lender (6)
- 29 Counted (8)
- 30 Rigid sheets of metal (6)

### Down

- 1 A dimension of God's love (7)
- 2 Himalayas, for example (9)
- 3 Gain, reach or arrive at (6)
- 5 Sesame worked! (4)
- 6 A faithful minister of Christ (8)
- 7 Mother in law of Ruth (5)
- 8 Sun sets in this sky (7)
- 11 Retaliation (7)
- 14 Scripture is profitable for this (7)
- 17 Magicians couldn't do this for Pharaoh's dreams (9)
- 18 Jerusalem - how her house is left (8)
- 19 Disease of cattle (7)
- 21 When Jesus comes these will be with Him (7)
- 22 Fragment of food (6)
- 24 Booms (anag) (5)
- 26 Not there! (4)

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