



THE INFORMER

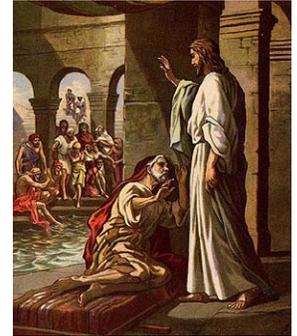
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

November 30, 2010

A People of Deferred Hope

Mike King



The pool at Bethesda was a gathering place for people with infirmities, helpless, hopeless, or friendless. Jesus frequented the pool area often to minister to those who were destitute and in want.

One man stood out among the multitude of visitors who gathered there through the centuries. This visitor was thirty-eight years of age and had laid there daily waiting for the movement of the water and someone to help him into the water for healing. When ready to enter, someone would pre-empt his entry. Jesus asked him, “Do you want to be healed?” His reply was, “*Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled and while I am going, another steps down before me*” (Jn. 5:5-7).

This man lived with the blind hope of the bubbling waters of the ancient pool healing him. For thirty-eight years his hope had been deferred. His dilemma reminds us of the fact that we live in a world with multitudes of all-but-forgotten men, women, and children. Speaking before a world conference, *General Carlos Romulo* said, “We belong to the community of the hurt, the heartbroken, and of deferred hopes.” So many of these people are living in poverty, illiteracy, socially disadvantage, economic deprivation, and far worse than this are those who have never enjoyed Christ as their friend and Savior. They are living with “deferred hope” or hopelessness! The tragedy is that in too many cases, we have never brought the lost man and Christ together.

This pool was within the confines of Jerusalem. The community of the suffering speaks volumes about the inhabitants of the city itself. It was close enough that the temple virtually cast a shadow across it, but the leaders were more concerned about “keeping the Sabbath” or beautifying the temple than helping a man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. We can become oblivious to the people of deferred hopes in our community. Whether we share their lost condition, hurt, broken-heartedness, or deferred hopes speaks volumes about whether we are for real or not as Christians. *Walt Whitman* wrote, “Agonies are one of my changes of garments, I do not ask the wounded person how he feels, I myself become the wounded person.”

Jesus was attentive, sensitive, and willing to help, otherwise the man’s hope might have been eternally deferred. Who might we be overlooking without hope today?

“Are You Jesus?”

A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night’s dinner. In their rush, with tickets and brief-cases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding. All but one. He paused, took a deep breath, got in touch with his feelings, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned.

He told his buddies to go on without him, waved goodbye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor. He was glad he did.

The 16 year old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping, and no one to care for her plight.

The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them into the baskets, and helped set the display up once more. As he did this he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket. When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, “Here, please take this \$20 for the damage we did. Are you okay?” She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, “I hope we didn’t spoil your day too badly.” As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, “Mister...” He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, “Are you Jesus?”

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That’s our destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to church, It’s actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day.

You are to apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked you and me up on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit. Let’s start living like we are worth the price He paid. Start today!

People will forget what you said,

People will forget what you did, but

People will NEVER forget how you made them feel.

YOUTH NEWS

- Saturday, December 4th, the youth will enjoy a shopping trip to Memphis. They will leave the building around 9:30am. and return later in the evening. See Dan Cobb for more details.
- Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held Sunday, December 5th at the West Main Church of Christ. The van will leave at 5:30pm.
- The youth will prepare fruit baskets for the elderly again this year. We will have more details next week.
- December’s Youth Devo will be held Dec. 19th.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER



Harold Russell, will have carpal tunnel surgery on both wrists Wednesday, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in New Albany.

Jim Dickerson, is having problems with his blood pressure and will be having tests run on his kidneys soon.

John Sanford, is back home from Alabama, but still awaiting surgery.

Continual Prayer List

Kathy Dye, Hailey & Carol Enlow, Hugh Collins, Margaret Bailey, Vickie Chism, Chris Isbell, Donna Haynes, Barbara Smithey, Shane Crofts, Udell Wilson, 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;

MEN'S BREAKFAST



The annual Men's Breakfast and Planning Session will be Saturday, Dec. 4th, at 7:00am at the fellowship building. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

Be sure to sign the list in the foyer by Wednesday night so Randy will know the number for which to prepare .

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



November 30.....*Sissy Bullock*
December 02.....*Stacie Dunn*
December 02.....*Dillon Clayton*
December 04.....*Daniel Drummond*
December 07.....*Kathy Clayton*
December 08.....*Larry Ashmore*
December 08.....*Deloris Crowe*
December 10.....*Maria Ormon*

TEEN SHOPPING TRIP

The 7th grade and up youth group will take a shopping trip to Memphis Saturday, December 4th. They will leave around 9:30am and be back later that evening. Please see Dan Cobb if you have questions.



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

The annual Ladies Christmas Brunch will be Saturday, December 4th, at the home of Novene Robertson. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite brunch dish (with recipe) and a wrapped Christmas ornament to play "Dirty Santa."

CALLING ALL MEN!

This coming Saturday is an opportunity for all of our men to be together for breakfast. It too will have some valuable input into the exciting work of the congregation for 2011. We desire all of our men to develop a vested interest in our work for the cause of Christ. This will also give me my first opportunity to be with the men to be encouraged to do all that I can do to help promote, encourage and provide some guidance in our efforts to reach the lost, strengthen the local church and to effectively point our families toward God. MK

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	106
Sunday A.M	122
Sunday P.M.....	100
Wednesday	90
Contribution	\$3,126.03
Budget	\$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Ruston Adams
A.M. Prayer.....	Burrell Walton
Closing Prayer.....	Bobby White
P.M. Prayer.....	Jason Jennings
Closing.....	Olen Clark
Wed. 12/1.....	Harold Crowe
Wed. 12/1.....	Bill DePriest
Usher & Lock	Randy Wall
Greeters.....	A & S Clemmer

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	534-5240
Andy Clemmer	816-5887
Harold Russell.....	534-4648
Randy Wall.....	316-9255

Minister

Mike King.....	662-507-0625
Home.....	662-534-6572
Office.....	662-534-4649

MONTH: DECEMBER 2010

SOUND ROOM	Dan Cobb	ANNOUNCEMENTS	Lonnie Weaver
LEAD SINGING		USHER	Chris Smithey
<i>SUN AM:</i>	Richard Jennings		
<i>SUN PM:</i>	Dalton Beard	PREPARE	
<i>WED:</i>	Ray Kennedy	COMMUNION	Harold Russell

LORD'S SUPPER

<i>N Head:</i>	Richard Adams	<i>S Head:</i>	Dalton Beard
<i>N Help I:</i>	Andy Clemmer	<i>S Help I:</i>	Greg Clayton
<i>N Help II:</i>	Randy Wall	<i>S Help II:</i>	Dillon Clayton

SUNDAY

PRAYERS A.M.	Opening	Closing	SCRIPTURE READING
<i>1ST</i>	Burrell Walton	Bobby White	Ruston Adams
<i>2ND</i>	J.L. Eaton	Matt Jennings	Dean Dillard
<i>3RD</i>	Greg Harrison	Bill Lyon	Jerry Gibson
<i>4TH</i>	Harold Russell	Bobby Marques	Mark Jennings
<i>5TH</i>			

SUNDAY

PRAYERS PM	Opening	Closing	USHER & LOCK
<i>1ST</i>	Jason Jennings	Olen Clark	Randy Wall
<i>2ND</i>	Daniel Drummond	Shane Crotts	Bill Botts
<i>3RD</i>	Roger Clayton	Brad Pounders	Greg Clayton
<i>4TH</i>	Ray Kennedy	Phillip Young	Roger Clayton
<i>5TH</i>			Andy Clemmer 1/2

WED PRAYERS

	Opening	Closing	GREETERS
<i>1ST</i>	Harold Crowe	Bill DePriest	A & S Clemmer
<i>2ND</i>	Bill Botts	Ronnie Griggs	H & D Crowe
<i>3RD</i>	Richard Jennings	Drew Drummond	G & K Clayton
<i>4TH</i>	Paul Ormon	Steve Todd	T & N Robertson
<i>5TH</i>	Troy Robertson	Gary Turner	

THE INFORMER

November 30, 2010

Volume 47

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
148, New Albany, MS 38652