



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

December 10, 2013

## Let Him Buy A Sword

Mike King



The Lord had sent His apostles out without purse; wallet, or shoes and they reported that they had lacked nothing. He had proved He would take care of them, now He instructs them, *“He that hath none, let him...buy a sword”* (Lk. 22:36). One of the most powerful instruments of carnal warfare was the Roman broadsword. It was short, double-edged and converged to a point. The Roman soldiers kept their sword razor sharp and ready for combat at all times. The Romans were able to conquer the world, which no other nation has been able to duplicate even with modern means. The discipline and dexterity of the Roman soldiers were what made the sword so powerful. It is believed that Paul fell victim to the Roman sword, in spite of his being a Roman citizen. It was Paul who knew that the sword was the only offensive weapon capable of doing battle and expanding the borders of the kingdom. The other equipment is valuable, but the battle must be won by being on the offensive with each soldier bearing his sword mightily.

I couldn't wait for success ...so I went ahead without it.

~ Jonathan Winters ~

Christian soldiers are not engaged in a carnal warfare, but it is just as demanding and as real. *“For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”* (Eph. 6:12). We are not bearing the Roman broadsword, but it is God's word. Note how effectively our weapon can be when wielded by a skilled soldier of Christ, *“For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of the soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Heb. 4:12). John received a vision in which he saw *“one like unto a son of man...out of his mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength”* (Rev. 1:13, 16).

Paul charged Timothy in the sight of God to throw off weights that could beset him and flee carnal interests. Then, he said, *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...”* (I Tim. 6:9-12; Heb. 12:1). Brethren, we must be disciplined, prepared, and motivated soldiers at all times!

## A SYMPATHETIC GESTURE

Edgar Guest, a renowned American poet at the turn of the century tells of a neighbor by the name of Jim Potter. Mr. Potter ran the drug store in the small town where Edgar Guest lived. Guest recalled that daily he would pass his neighbor and how they would smile and exchange greetings. But it was a mere casual relationship.

Then came that tragic night in the life of Edgar Guest when his first-born child died. He felt lonely and defeated. These were grim days for him, and he was overcome with grief. Several days later Guest had reason to go to the drug store run by his neighbor, and when he entered Jim Potter motioned for him to come behind the counter. "Eddie," he said, "I really can't express to you the great sympathy that I have for you at this time. All I can say is that I am terribly sorry, and if you need for me to do anything, you can count on me."

Many years later Edgar Guest wrote of that encounter in one of his books. This is how he worded it: "Just a person across the way—a passing acquaintance. Jim Potter may have long since forgotten, but I shall never forget it—never in all my life. To me, it stands out like the silhouette of a lonely tree against a crimson sunset."

How will your friends and brethren remember you as they look back on their difficult days? I am reminded of the words of our Lord in Matthew 25:31-46. Friends, most importantly, will the Lord see you living a life of a benevolent spirit toward your fellowman? Will your friends and brethren encouragingly and joyfully remember your acts of kindness? Remember, "*For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself*" Rom. 14:7. A good daily Christian goal is to try to make a positive difference in someone's life each day. A visit, phone calls, emails, encouraging words, and notes of encouragement are valuable to this end.

~ via THE SOWER, Bulletin Gold 11/13

### Giving and Receiving

By Kathryn Wiesenhoefer

Take the "sun" out of sunshine,  
Put it in a sunny smile.  
It will cheer a lonely person  
And make living more worthwhile.

Take a hand that needs a helping,  
Lead it on a happier road.  
It will ease those heavy burdens  
By your sharing half the load.

Take your heart that's filled with love,  
Gladly give it all away.  
It will overflow to others  
And keep rushing back each day.

Take the time to speak to neighbors,  
A "hello" to show you care.  
You may need a cup of sugar,  
For you no cupboard will be bare.



### Just Suppose

Just suppose the Lord should begin tomorrow to make people as sick as they say they are on Sunday?

Just suppose the Lord should take away the children whom parents use as an excuse for staying away from church?

Just suppose the Lord should make some people as poor as they say they are when asked to finance His program?

Just suppose the Lord should have every covetous man stoned as He did Achan?

Just suppose the Lord should strike dead all who lie about their giving, as He did Ananias and Sapphira?

Just suppose the Lord should let some parents look into the future and see where their example and lack of control led their children?

- via *The Central Message, the weekly bulletin of the Central Church of Christ in Paducah, KY*



**PRAYER LIST**

**Bill Lyon** is suffering with pain in his hip.

**Gorden Gentry**, was diagnosed with a mass in his kidney. He will undergo surgery to remove that kidney Friday, Dec. 13th at the Tupelo Hospital.

**Bobby White**, had heart tests run Monday and is awaiting results.

**Donna Stroupe Daniel**, mother of Clint Stroup and a member of the Chapman congregation has been diagnosed with cancer.



We express our deepest sympathy to the family of **Guy Hester** who passed away Friday Dec. 6th, in Corinth, MS. He served as a fulltime minister in several states for 64 years.

He is survived by his wife *Shirley Hester*, daughters *Connie Montgomery (Larry)*, *Jalema Tidwell (Jay)*, sons *Ferrell Hester (Lynn)* and *Tim Hester (Amy)*, 10 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Funeral services were held Tuesday Dec. 9th, in Jasper, AL.

Continual Prayer :

**Rivers Robertson, Mike Reed, Helen DePriest, Hudson Grisham, Phares Birdwell, Lucille Gibson, Tony Cross, Nancy Petrowski, Denise Littlejohn, Justin Forsyth, Donna Haynes, Steve Stokes, Martha Collins, Polly Sago, Kelly Fryar, J.V. Davis, Judy Ward, Pat Reed, Ruth Brown, Barry Yancey, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Norman Brown, Terry Young**

Shut-Ins:

**Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Teresa Clark**

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

**Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Maxine Carlisle, Jennie Frohn**

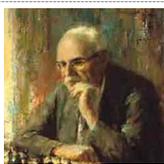
Military List:

**David & Barry Wilhite, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud & Christopher Phagan**



**Wise Thoughts**

Every day you spend without a smile is a lost day.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



December 13. . . . . Clayton Hill  
 December 14. . . . . Eleta Grimmett  
 December 20. . . . . Brooke Mann  
 December 20. . . . . Callie Smithey  
 December 21. . . . . Janet Drummond



**THANK YOU**

The Junior Auxiliary would like to say thank you for all your donations. We raised \$310 as a church and was able to purchase 85 toys. We appreciate your support so much.

Thanks also to all who helped provide Christmas gifts for the children at Pine Vale Children's Home. You were so generous!



**DECEMBER HAPPENINGS**

- Sat. Dec. 14th ~ Ladies Christmas Brunch at 10:00am at the home of *Sarah Walker*. You are asked to bring your favorite brunch dish or finger foods and a wrapped Christmas ornament.
- Sun., Dec. 15th ~ Holiday Fellowship following evening services. Please bring finger foods and desserts. The adult 3 class will be in charge of the fellowship building.
- Sun., Dec. 22nd ~ Youth Devo following morning worship. They will enjoy lunch at the fellowship building and have various activities during the afternoon. *Dan Cobb* and *Sarah Walker* hosting.
- We will have our regular services Wednesday night Dec. 25th.
- Sun., Dec. 29th ~ 5th Sunday Services/ covered dish meal and 1:15pm service
- Sat. Jan. 4th, the 7th grade and up youth will go Ice Skating in Tupelo! We will have more details later.



**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 .....534-6671  
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.....Randy Wall  
Closing Prayer....T. Stubblefield  
P.M. Prayer.....Lonnie Weaver  
Closing.....Dillon Clayton  
Wed.12/18.....J.L. Eaton  
Wed.12/18.....Tyler Weaver  
Usher & Lock.....Roger Clayton  
Greeter.....B & A Pounders

**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School.....103  
Sunday A.M.....134  
Sunday P.M..... 91  
Wednesday.....111  
Contribution.....\$3,739.00  
Budget.....\$3,817.55



**PANTRY ITEM**

**Pantry is Low**

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**How To Decide Right & Wrong**

- Does the BIBLE say it's wrong? Jn. 12:48; Ex. 20:15; Eph. 4:28
- Would JESUS do it? Jn. 13:15; I Pet. 2:21
- Am I being a good EXAMPLE? I Tim. 4:12; Matt. 5:3-16; I Cor. 8:9-13
- Would I want EVERYONE to know I did it? Eccl. 12:13
- Could it hurt my BODY? I Cor. 6:19-20
- Would I want it DONE to me? Matt. 7:12; Lk. 6:31
- Is it putting GOD first? Matt. 6:33; Eccl. 3:1
- MIGHT it be wrong? Rom. 14:23; I Thess. 5:22



~ via Lakeside church of Christ Bulletin