



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

December 30, 2014

The Wisdom of Looking Ahead

Mike King



It is not uncommon to receive the advice to “look ahead.” This is so easy to say but so much more difficult to perform. Several implications are made with the use of this expression. It usually implies that there is something behind or occurring presently that we would prefer to make history and leave behind us. Paul must have reached this point repeatedly in his life and ministry. When he wrote to the Philippians, from jail, he stood as a giant when he said, *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus...* (Phil. 3:13-14). He was an inspiration to those young and struggling churches.

Paul was looking ahead because of the joy that the future held for him and for others. He knew that “*Christ in you*” is “*the hope of glory*” (Col. 1:27). He responded properly by encouraging his brethren to “*seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. for you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*” (Col. 3:1-4).

It is not true that nice guys finish last. Nice guys are winners
before the game even starts. ~Addison Walker

Congregations must continue to “look ahead” with great confidence and anticipation. Being a healthy, growing church does not just happen, but dynamic congregations of the Lord’s people are created by faith-filled followers who trust deeply in God’s providence. They also believe in the strength of mortal men who are committed to a cause greater than self.

Congregations can only be as strong and dynamic as those people who comprise it. While looking ahead, take a glance within to appraise deficiencies. We can learn of solutions that can enable us to be the kind, who through faith in God and the power of His might, can be recipients of all the glory reserved by God for us. Are you capitalizing on all the blessings and growth opportunities that God has intended for you? Each local congregation can have a glorious future in representing the Lord in a sin-filled world, but we must believe in Him and in ourselves, and then go to work! “We must pray as if it is all up to God, but work as if it is all up to us.” Paul told the Colossians to pray “*that God would open a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ*” and for them to “*walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time*” (Col. 4:3, 5). Let us “look ahead!”

Sheila and I want to wish each family member of the New Albany congregation a very Happy New Year! We pray for you to have good health, happiness, and prosperity both physically and spiritually. We feel blessed to be a part of your lives and the work. Our prayers are for you and your families for the coming year.

THOSE TO SERVE THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2015

Announcements: Harold Russell
Sound Room: Paul Ormon
Usher: Justin Dewberry

Lead Singing: Sun. A.M.: Greg Harrison
Sun. P.M.: Richard Jennings
Wed.: Ray Kennedy/Youth

Sunday Prayers:

Jan. 04:
A.M. Jason Jennings
Mark Jennings
P.M. Anderson Parks
Randy Wall

Jan. 11
A.M. Greg Clayton
Richard Adams
P.M. Troy Robertson
Burrell Walton

Jan. 18:
A.M. Richard Jennings
Andy Clemmer
P.M. Thomas Wall
Dillon Clayton

Jan. 25:
A.M. Roger Clayton
Terry Young
P.M. Tyler Weaver
Bill Lyon

Lord's Supper:

North Head: Brad Pounders
North Helper I: Perry Jones
North Helper II: Bobby Marques

South Head: Phil Young
South Helper I: David Clayton
South Helper II: Will Bowlin

Scripture Reading:

Jan. 04 — Hunter Jennings
Jan. 11 — Alvin Parks
Jan. 18 — Phillip Young
Jan. 25 — Olen Clark

Wednesday Prayers:

Jan. 07 — Ray Kennedy; Matt Jennings
Jan. 14 — Steve Todd; Lonnie Weaver
Jan. 21 — Gary Turner; Ruston Adams
Jan. 28 — Terry Stubblefield; Dan Cobb

Greeters:

Jan. 04 — Richard & Kathy Jennings
Jan. 11 — Steve & Lana Todd
Jan. 18 — Troy & Novene Robertson
Jan. 25 — Alvin & Kaye Parks

Usher & Lock:

Jan. 04 — Brad Pounders
Jan. 11 — Harold Russell
Jan. 18 — Randy Wall
Jan. 25 — Lonnie Weaver

Host Youth Devo: Open

Prepare Communion: Kathy Jennings



Someone Needs You

A fable is told of a young orphan boy who had no family and no one to love him. Feeling sad and lonely, he was walking through a meadow one day when he saw a small butterfly caught in a thorn bush. The more the butterfly struggled to free itself, the deeper the thorns cut into its fragile body. The boy carefully released the butterfly, but instead of flying away, the butterfly transformed before his eyes into an angel.

The boy rubbed his eyes in disbelief as the angel said, "For your wonderful kindness, I will do whatever you would like." The little boy thought for a moment and then said, "I want to be happy!" The angel whispered in his ear, and vanished.

As the little boy grew up, there was no one in the land as happy as he. When people would ask him to tell them the secret of his happiness, he would only smile and say, "I listened to an angel when I was a boy."

On his deathbed, his neighbors rallied around him and asked him one more time to divulge the secret of his happiness before he died. The old man finally told them: "The angel told me that everyone, no matter how secure they seemed, no matter how old or young, how rich or poor, had need of me.

You see, when God measures a man, He puts the tape around the heart instead of the head!

~ Tim Woodward ~



BIBLE QUIZ: Which disciple brought the boy with five loaves and two fishes to Jesus?

_____ **John 6:8**



For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST



Natalie Nicole Griffin, newborn great-granddaughter of *Janice Griffin* was born Fri. Dec. 26th, with heart problems. She is expected to be at Le Bonheur for a couple months.

Andy Ulmer, cousin of the *Young* family is in Emory University Hospital in Atlanta with an unknown illness. He has been sick since a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in early 2014.

Grace Lyon, is now at home and slowly improving.

Whit Robertson, grandson of *Troy* and *Novene Robertson* was scheduled to begin chemo treatments this week.

B. A. Stubblefield, father of *Terry Stubblefield* had back surgery this past Friday. His surgery went well and was believed to be successful.

Eulene Hooper, sister of *Novene Robertson* received good news that her cancer is in remission.

Continue to remember:

Harold Reeves, Deborah Gullick, Kay Kafar, Kyle Crotts, Sheila Thomas, Yolanda Stubblefield, Barbara Davis, Mary Butler, Nancy Petrowski, Justin Forsyth, Judy Ward, Bobbie Nunnally, J. J. Harris, Glen Jumper, Eulene Hooper, 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:

Betty Lang, Charlene Coker, Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb

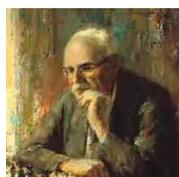
Military List:

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



I've Learned...

When we have done what we can,
God will do what we can't.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January 04. Pat Kennedy
January 05. Linda Ashmore
January 06. Yolanda Stubblefield
January 09. William Sloan



BABY SHOWER

A baby shower is planned for *Sallye Bowlin* Sun. January 11th, at 1:30pm at the fellowship building. *Sallye* is registered at Babies R Us and Wal-Mart. *Sallye* and *Will* are expecting a boy in early Feb.



YOUTH NEWS

- Youth, remember the skating trip to Tupelo Sat. Jan. 3rd, from 10 till 12.
- Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held Sun. Jan. 11th at Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ. The van will leave at 5:55.
- The Senior Bible Bowl will meet for the first competition of 2015 on Jan. 18th at Hillcrest Church of Christ.
- The Junior Bible Bowl will have their first competition of 2015 at the East Main congregation on Jan 24th.



HELP NEEDED



With the beginning of the new year comes the need for helpers with various works around the church building. If you can help by preparing communion, hosting youth devotionals or decorating the fellowship building during the year, please mark the lists posted on the bulletin board as soon as possible. If we all take part and work together, things will continue to run smoothly. Your help is appreciated!



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>
Email: 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 Jennings316-1305
Troy Robertson316-3163

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.....Hunter Jennings
A.M. Prayer.....Jason Jennings
Closing Prayer....Mark Jennings
P.M. PrayerAnderson Parks
ClosingRandy Wall
Wed.1/7.....Ray Kennedy
Wed.1/7.....Matt Jennings
Usher & LockBrad Pounders
Greeter.....R & K Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....100
Sunday A.M.....131
Sunday P. M.....97
Wednesday.....105
Contribution.....\$3,453.17
Budget.....\$3,989.47



PANTRY ITEM

Crackers

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Recipe For a Prosperous Year-Round Year!

Take twelve, fine, full-grown months, see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate and jealous; cleanse them completely from every clinging spite: pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past; have them as fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time.

Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. This batch will keep for just one year. So, do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot in this way), but prepare one day at a time, as follows:

In each day put twelve parts of faith, eleven of patience, ten of courage, nine of work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), eight of hope, seven of fidelity, six of liberality, five of kindness, four of rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad, do not do it), three of prayer, two of meditation, and one of well selected resolution.

If you have no conscientious scruples, put in about a teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Pour into the whole love ad libitum and mix with a vim.

Cook thoroughly in a fervent heat; garnish with a few smiles and a sprig of joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness, and a Happy New Year is certain!