



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

December 6, 2011

NEW ZEALAND 2012

Mike King



Over the past 25 years, I have been involved in the work in New Zealand through various means. I have worked with two congregations in the U.S. that sponsored and/or supported both native and American missionaries in the work there. In the past, I have made three trips to help encourage and educate the churches meeting in various cities across the north island.

Once again an invite has come to return to speak for various congregations and activities scheduled for the brethren there. This trip, I am delighted to have *Richard Jennings* accompanying me. He will be sharing the workload, speaking in some of the sessions and leading singing in others. We will be leaving on January 17th from Memphis, change planes in Atlanta, clear customs and change planes in Los Angeles in preparation for the 13 hour flight to Auckland.

Our first location of duty will be speaking for the Palmerston North congregation's encampment. It will last from Thursday evening, after we arrive, until the following Sunday. The theme will be: "Keeping the Faith in Today's World." This will involve about five lectures. We will travel to the capital, Wellington and speak there on Jan. 25th. We will travel to our second encampment in Hamilton to develop the theme: "Creating Concern for Spiritual Development." We will have six sessions there from Friday, Jan. 27th through the 30th. We will conclude our speaking tour by having a three night gospel meeting in Auckland from Jan. 30th to Feb. 1st. We will depart Auckland for our return home at 7:15 PM, Feb. 2nd. We will arrive in Memphis at 10:25 PM, Feb. 2nd.

I am especially excited, as are the New Zealand brethren, to have *Richard* as a part of this trip in that to my knowledge there are no elders in any of the churches in New Zealand. They will be inspired by his faith, courage and leadership by being there. It will also encourage the brethren to make greater progress in preparing for serving as elders. The church is relatively young in age and spiritual maturity, so leadership has been slow in the making.

Different ones have asked about the expense of the trip. *Richard* and *I* were content to finance our travel, but different members have insisted on being a part. Contributions have been given to *Jerry Gibson* to help defray the cost of travel. When in the country of New Zealand, the brethren will see to our needs and care there. The primary expense for us will be \$2188.40 each for tickets to Auckland and we have yet to purchase tickets from Auckland to Palmerston North which should be somewhere in the vicinity of \$100 each. The primary help that you could provide would be to pray for our safety, our wives we leave behind and for the work that we do to be effective. The churches are vital in New Zealand because to a great extent they are feeders for the churches in Australia, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa and other south sea islands.



PRAYER LIST

Lucille Gibson, is at home recovering from knee surgery.

Johnny Davis, friend of the *Cross's* had surgery for colon cancer last week. His address is: 1047 CR 578 Blue Mountain, MS 38610

Margret Ormon, mother of *Paul Ormon* fell this past week and was to have a back procedure Mon., in Tupelo.

Norman Brown, nephew of *Bobby Marques* is in serious condition in an Atlanta hospital following heart surgery.

Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, members of the Chapman congregation are dealing with health problems. Their son *Jeff* requested our prayers.

Ray Adams, brother-in-law of *Roger* and *Kathy Clayton* has been in the hospital and rehab for over 90 days. If you would like to send him a note of encouragement his address is: Quince Nursing & Rehab, 6733 Quince Rd Memphis, TN 38119-3899

Continual Prayer

Ron Garner, Pat Reed, Bernice Nobles, Chris Isbell, J.D. Stroud, Barry Yancey, Lisa Mitchell, Dick Young, Eleta Grimmitt, Cindy Sprouse, Tony Cross, Tauso Branch, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crofts, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Corrine Hall, Anna Davis, Mattie Golden

Military List:

David & Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Hamm, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley



“I BELIEVE”

.... that you can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- December 08.....Larry Ashmore
- December 08.....Deloris Crowe
- December 10.....Maria Ormon
- December 13.....Clayton Hill
- December 14.....Eleta Grimmitt



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- December 08..... David & Sharon Peeler

LADIES' CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Ladies, remember the Christmas Brunch at the home of *Maria Ormon* this Saturday, Dec. 10th at 10:00am. Please bring your favorite finger foods/brunch dish and a wrapped Christmas ornament to play dirty Santa. We appreciate *Maria* opening her home for this enjoyable event.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION

The New Albany church of Christ recently made memorial contributions to the Pine Vale Children's Home in memory of *Lessie Bryant* and *Pauline Smith*. Letters have been sent to their families to let them know of this contribution.

YOUTH NEWS

- Thanks so much to *Dan Cobb, Sarah Walker, Lynn Harrison* and *Richard Adams* for taking the young people on a shopping trip to Memphis this past weekend. They all enjoyed the trip.
- There will be a youth devo following services Sun. morning, Dec. 11th at the fellowship building. You are asked to bring items to go with taco soup and desserts. They plan to go Christmas caroling following the meal and devo.

Why People Quit Church

By: Wayne Jackson

Church leaders have long been interested in why so many drift away from faithful service to the Lord. Jesus summarized the matter in his parable of the sower. The causes he listed are: the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of wealth, distracted desires for worldly things, and carnal pleasure (Matt. 13:22; Mk. 4:18; Lk. 8:14).

This list could be expanded from numerous other texts (e.g., the ingestion of false teaching (cf. Rm. 16:17; II Thess. 3:6; Titus 3:10), but for the moment this will suffice.

Several months ago, Life Way Christian Resources, a Baptist-based group, did a survey of 469 adults who formerly were “church” people but had left their respective groups. The results of this study are interesting.

(1) Many of them “quit church” because they “simply got too busy.” Too busy to honor their Creator; too busy to serve Him who died for them; too busy to go to heaven.

(2) Others faded away, they said, because “family and home responsibilities prevented” their continued connection with church. Is not serving God the most important family and home responsibility? Is putting food in a child’s mouth and clothes on his back more crucial than nurturing his soul toward heaven? The failure to sort out one’s prime obligations is one of the most significant gauges of spiritual foolishness.

(3) A considerable number complained that they had become disenchanted with church leaders or members. This is what one might call the PTB syndrome (“passing the buck”). Some do not like the elders’ decisions, others find the preaching boring, and there is the complaint that the deacons don’t minister to their needs.

There also is the common gripe that they are not being included in the church’s activities. Of course, they never volunteer for service and usually complain when asked to do something.

(4) Not a few charge that church members are judgmental and hypocritical, etc. Never mind that these are judging those whom they contend are judgmental. And they never boycott any place on the basis of hypocrisy except church!

In more than a half-century of service to Christ, I cannot recall having seen a reprobate leave the fellowship of the church and take personal responsibility for his apostasy. He always plays the blame game: “It’s not my fault; they did it to me!” Such rationalizations are hypocritical subterfuge on the part of dishonest people who refuse to acknowledge their own problems.

(5) A small number claim they left the church because they lost faith in organized religion. One supposes they prefer disorganized religion. God does not condone confusion (I Cor. 14:33), and one is not allowed to improvise his own worship and service system. (Jn. 4:24; 17:17). Such autocratic, self-focused individuals have not the slightest understanding of what genuine Christianity is.

Of course, there are cases where people genuinely lose faith. Perhaps they were never grounded or they were disappointed when their expectations of God were more idealistic than informed.

I am familiar with a man who matriculated through two Christian schools and then preached the gospel for a number of years on a foreign mission field. Eventually he “soured,” and now he works vociferously to oppose Christianity in every conceivable way he can, denying even that Jesus Christ ever lived. It most likely is the reality that he failed personally and now seeks to rationalize his apostasy by directing his wrath toward the Son of God.

Such loss of faith is never justified. Let the patriarch Job be your teacher! One should join the man who exclaimed, “Help my unbelief” (Mk. 9:24). And seek assistance.

(6) Some fall away because of changing circumstances in their lives. A divorce, for example, can devastate a person. He or she may feel an unjustified guilt because the marriage did not hold together. One may be immersed in shame because other families in the church seem stable.

(7) Others may experience a job move that sends them into an isolated area where there are no Christians. If one does not have the stability to survive in a community where there is no church, or if they cannot summon the courage to faithfully serve God alone, attempting to teach others, he or she would be far better off finding a new job that would facilitate Christian faithfulness. No job is worth the loss of one’s soul (Matt. 16:26).

The ultimate truth of the matter is this: there are **no valid reasons for forsaking Christ**— only lame excuses! And Jesus made it very plain: excuses will carry no weight in the day of reckoning (Lk. 14:18).

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	127
Sunday A M	147
Sunday P.M.	88
Wednesday	94
Contribution	\$4,037.91
Budget.....	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Daniel Drummond
A.M. Prayer	Randy Wall
Closing Prayer.....	Olen Clark
P.M. Prayer.....	Andy Clemmer
Closing	Bill Lyon
Wed 12/14	Dillon Clayton
Wed. 12/14	Bobby White
Usher & Lock.....	Bill Botts
Greeter.....	R & K Jennings



PANTRY ITEM

Peanut butter

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
Lonnie Weaver.....	801-8448

MINISTER

Mike King.....	507-0625
Home.....	534-6872
Office	534-4649

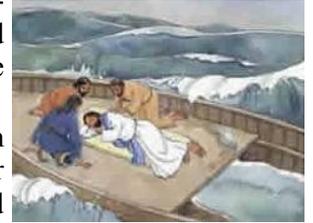
Sleeping When the Wind Blows

Years ago a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the crops and buildings. As the farmer interviewed applications for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals. Finally, a short, thin man. Past middle age. Approached the farmer.

“Are you a good farmhand?” The farmer asked him.

“Well, I can sleep when the wind blows”, answered the little man.

Although puzzled by the answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man’s work.



Then one night the wind howled loudly in from the offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand’s sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, “Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!” The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, “No sir, I told you I can sleep when the wind blows.” Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops and the doors were barred. The window shutters were secure snug. Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired man meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

Moral: When you’re prepared, spiritually, mentally and physically...you have nothing to fear!

Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life? The hired hand in the storm was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm. We, as believers in Christ, secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves in the Word of God. We don’t need to understand, we just need to hold His hand to have peace in the midst of storms.

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Volume 48

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