



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

March 17, 2015

## Coping With a Moral Crisis

Mike King



Our nation has been blighted with a lapse in morals to the point of it becoming a crisis. It has affected the nation, family, church, and destroyed individuals who have become victims.

Society has been inundated by a breakdown in morals pertaining to sex, marriage, crime, honesty, identity, habits, and many other areas. We have experienced a decline in attitude toward wrong in general. Please note some basic causes for immorality:

1. Rebellion against God - When God is left out, mankind “wrecks on the rocks of its stupidity!” The Gentiles were good examples of this downfall. The Jewish nation became alienated from Him because of their immoral behavior as well (Isa. 59:2).

2. Denial of sin – It is a sign of the times when we explain away sin. Denial of its existence kicks open the doors to much permissiveness. The people of Jeremiah’s day reached the point where they no longer blushed (Jer. 6:15).

3. Elevation of human wisdom – Jeremiah said that “*It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps*” (Jer. 10:23). Though man professes to be wise, his behavior makes him a fool (Rom. 1:22). “Elevation of human reason does not elevate man.” Man must return to God’s wisdom to escape the immorality trap.

4. Dismissal of the Bible – Chaos exists when man is without restraint. The “Bible is labeled obsolete because it contains absolutes.” Evolution has tried to say there is no creator, therefore, no God. When God can be eliminated from the minds of men, there is no authority, thus the removal of restraint... anything goes!

Hosea said if we sow to the wind, we will reap a whirlwind (Ho. 8:7). Those in Rome received “*in themselves the penalty of their error that was due*” (Rom. 1:27). It has been observed that “Dissipated bodies and damaged minds roll out of America’s moral-machine in increasing numbers.” Sowing brings reaping; the time of reaping is nearing!

The cure is to return to God or sink lower. We must return to the Scriptures to obtain hope (Ps. 39:6-7). Sanctification comes only through the truth (Jn. 17:17) which so beautifully sets us free (Jn. 8:32). We must return to God’s plan for the home, marriage, and sex (Mt. 5:27-32; 19:3-9; Eph. 5:21-31; 1 Cor. 6:16-20). By recognizing the horror of sin we learn discipline and adequate fear of being its victim.

## My Own Back Yard

By: Ellen Kyle

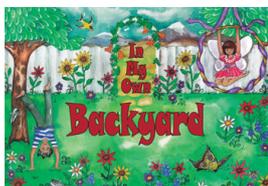
I was sitting and wondering what is love,  
The kind described by God above.  
How will I know it, how will I see,  
God please show this love to me.

I was wondering, hoping for an answer to my prayer,  
Then suddenly I understood, it was everywhere.  
I saw it in a couple who had a loved one slip away,  
And came to worship that very same day.  
I saw it in a woman struggling with ill health,  
And never once showed she felt sorry for herself.  
I saw it in a couple so elderly and frail,  
Who always are so friendly and attend without fail.  
I saw it in a man who gives his time to teach,  
Because the lost he loves and wants so much to reach.  
I saw it in a preacher who's not afraid to cry,  
And say how much he loves us and for heaven we  
must try.

I saw it in his wife, who tries God's ways to live,  
I saw her daily walk and that she has so much to give.  
I saw it in a woman that who through unfailing love,  
Has done so very much to help me know God above.  
I saw it in the families who teach their children right,  
And have not given up the struggle no matter how  
hard the fight.

I saw it in the teens who gave into their peers,  
And came and repented, their eyes filled with tears.  
I saw it in the ones who always come alone,  
When their spouses chose to just stay home.

I saw it in friends that have done so much for me,  
They are always there to encourage and to uplift me.  
Lord, help me to remember when my search for love  
seems hard,  
I only need to look in my own backyard.



## Church Attendance -- Is it Necessary?

We Miss Communication

When one does not attend all the services of the church he also misses communication with other Christians. Some members feel like "outsiders" because they never seem to know what is going on in the congregation. The reason for this is quite simple. They fail to attend the assemblies where congregational news is given.

## A CHURCH THAT EXCELS!

Someone noted this similarity between playing bagpipes and throwing a javelin blindfolded, "you don't have to be good to get everyone's attention!" What kind of person gets your attention? The Bible tells us the kind of person kings and other prominent people are searching for in Proverbs 22: 9, "Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men." Cream rises to the top, and excellence in work and character stands out like a diamond in the mud. First Timothy 3:13 reveals that God honors deacons who are committed to excellence in their work for Him; *"Those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus,"* Deacons, as well as other disciples of Jesus, can serve well, or be guilty of serving God in less than excellent ways. A lack of excellence in our work for God will not please Him. Jeremiah 48:10 reveals the seriousness of serving God in a shoddy and less than excellent way: *"A curse on him who is lax in doing the Lord's work"* (NIV). The New American Standard Bible renders this verse, *"Cursed be the one who does the LORD'S work negligently."* Elders, preachers, deacons, song leaders, Bible class teachers, yes- every Christian at every position of service to God - can serve well, or we can serve poorly. We can excel, or we can be lax and negligent.

Mark 7: 34 says about Jesus, *"He has done all things well,"* revealing that Jesus was committed to excellence in His service to God and to us. A Lord who did His best for us deserves the best we can do for Him. A church cannot excel unless the members who make it up are devoted to excellence. How excellent are you in living, loving, giving, forgiving, attending, worship, praying, teaching, and serving? John Gardner said something worth considering about excellence, "The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity, and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is in an exalted activity, will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water" (Leadership magazine, Summer, 1993). Nor will the notion that we can scorn excellence and tolerate shoddiness in our service to God! If you want to hear God say, "Well done, good and faithful servant," you must commit yourself to doing well and being faithful and being a servant. The church excels in service to God when her members do. Anything less than excellence is less than God deserves.

~ Dan Gulley ~

# For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

## PRAYER LIST



**Whit Robertson**, grandson of *Troy* and *Novene Robertson* had an MRI last Thursday that showed he now has spots on his spine. Please continue to pray for *Whit* as he begins a long regiment of chemo treatments.

**Laura Mae Harris** fell this past week and broke her upper arm and wrist. At last report her doctor had decided against surgery. She is in room 204 of the local hospital.

### Continue to remember:

Nancy Petrowski, Natalie Griffin, Genice Collett, John Elliott, Timmy Bolden, Judy Ward, William Wilson, Sonny Gay, David Crossings, Andy Ulmer, Harold Reeves, Sheila Thomas, Yolanda Stubblefield, Barbara Davis, Justin Forsyth, Preeble Foster, Donna Haynes, Roy Crow, Shane Hutton, Jack Dunlap, Terry & Betty Young

### Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, 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

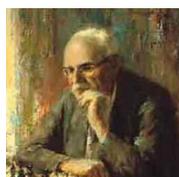
## Bible Verses To Remember

*“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6-7*

*“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Phil. 4:13*

## I’ve Learned...

Don’t lose hope. When it gets the darkest, the stars come out.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



March 19.....Dan Cobb  
March 19.....Clay Jennings  
March 23..... Isabella McMillen  
March 27..... Mary Martin Crotts (1st)  
March 28.....Roger Clayton

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 24..... J. D. & Sue Stroud



## CONGRATULATIONS!

We want to congratulate our Senior Bible Bowl group for receiving first place overall for the year. This was their third year for placing first. We are very proud of them for continuing their diligent study of God’s word. Their parents, along with *Dan Cobb* and *Sarah Walker*, are to be commended for their continued encouragement and support. Those participating in the Senior Bible Bowl are *Bailey and Ruston Adams, Dillon and David Clayton, Michael Crotts, Madison Griggs, Caleb Jennings, Anderson Parks, Olivia Pounders, Erin and Thomas Wall, Tyler Weaver and Audrey Young*.



## AREA EVENTS:

- The Junior Bible Bowl will be held Sat. March 28th, at the Gloster St. congregation.
- Pine Vale Children’s Home Annual Benefit Golf Tournament will be held Sat., April 18th. Please check the bulletin board for more details.
- Senior Adult Rally will be held at the Henderson Church of Christ in Henderson TN, Sat., March 28th. For more information check the bulletin board.
- Youth Rally at the Amory church of Christ, April 10-12th. Check the board

**Christ Living in Me...  
To Be Seen in 2015!**



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

Email: [nacoc15s@gmail.com](mailto: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 Jennings .....316-1305  
Troy Robertson .....316-3163

### 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.....Michael Crotts  
A.M. Prayer.....Steve Todd  
Closing Prayer....Jason Jennings  
P.M. Prayer .....Richard Adams  
Closing .....Terry Stubblefield  
Wed.3/25.....Ray Kennedy  
Wed.3/25.....Jim Gann  
Usher & Lock ....Roger Clayton  
Greeter.....L & N Weaver

### OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....109  
Sunday A.M.....142  
Sunday P. M..... 114  
Wednesday.....94  
Contribution.....\$4,042.82  
Budget.....\$3,984.46



### PANTRY ITEMS

Pantry is very low, all items needed!

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### But - Or - Therefore

There is one great class of "Christians" who say: "I'd help with the work around the church building . . . But, I have to work such long hours. I'd help visit the sick . . . but, I must spend some time with my family. I'd like to go teach my neighbor . . . But, I'm just no good at personal evangelism. I'd give more to the work of the Lord . . . but, I am paying out a new car, or a home, or a television or . . . ! I want visitors made welcome at services . . . but, I can't do it and chat with my friends. I would come to Bible Study, Sunday night, Midweek services, the Gospel meeting . . . but, etc. etc."

Then there's another group of Christians who say: "I'm a Christian ... therefore, you can count on me to help where possible. I believe the promises of God ... therefore, I'll put the church first in my life. I want people to be saved . . . therefore, I'll show them a life of faith and trust and invite my friends and neighbors to worship with me. I want to grow in grace and knowledge of the truth . . . therefore, I will study the Bible and attend the classes. I want those who visit with us to feel really welcome . . . therefore, I'll spend my time after services talking to those who have come, inviting them back, arranging to pick up their children for Bible school, etc. etc. I want to see the work prosper in this place . . . therefore, I'll give as God prospers me, generously, cheerfully, prayerfully. I know that my example is important to those who watch me from day to day . . . therefore, I will walk like a Christian, talk like a Christian, live like a Christian."

Friend, what about you? You profess to be a Christian. Are you a "but" or a "therefore" Christian?

~ Tim Woodward