



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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April 19, 2011



Going Down In Order To Go Up

Mike King

The above title is known as a “paradox.” A paradox has been defined as “truth *standing on its head* to make a point.” Jesus employed the use of a paradox when He expressed to His disciples that “...*whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted*” (Mt. 23:12). He both taught and demonstrated that humility was a trait desired by God in His followers.

The wisdom of Solomon called for humility. It is better to be invited by the prince to appear in the presence of the king, than to be presumptive by appearing and then removed (Prov. 25:6-7). The question was asked, “*What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*” (Mi. 6:8). The child of God will seek to possess a Christ-like spirit toward himself and others. Paul was willing to use himself and his companions as examples to the Corinthian Christians. He wanted them to “*learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another*” (I Cor. 4:6).

To exercise humility is to be rewarded in life. Job said that those who would “*be low*” would be “*set up on high*” (Job 5:11). David depicted the mind of the Lord on this matter by saying “*Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly*” (Ps. 138:6). Again, Solomon spoke to this subject by declaring that “*before honor is humility*” (Pro. 15:33). He later showed that the reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life (Prov. 22:4).

The Bible is replete with examples of great people, who found favor and acceptance before God, because of their humility. Abraham saw himself as “*dust and ashes*” (Gen. 18:27). Joseph was subordinate to Pharaoh allowing God to give him an answer of peace (Gen. 41:16). Moses felt humbled and inadequate when commissioned to lead God’s people out of Egypt (Ex. 3:11). We have mentioned Solomon’s disposition previously. Daniel stands as an example of contriteness (Da. 2:30). We have great admiration for the publican who would not lift up his head before God who saw himself as a sinner (Lk. 16:18). Then of course, Jesus, the epitome of lowliness, “*humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*” (Phil. 2:8). Like Him we must become to be exalted by God!

COMMUNICATION

The marriage relationship can sometimes seem complex. Developing a good marriage relationship takes time. A husband of fifty years was asked, "Do you have a perfect marriage?" He replied, "I am working on it."

One factor in having a successful marriage is having successful communication. I want us to look at some of the "Barriers to Great Communication" (**What Every Family Needs.**)

1. **Materialism**—"Materialism is simply putting things before people...Wives, children, and husbands need people more than things."
2. **Critical Attitude**—"Life with a fault-finder is misery. Our spouses are to love, not criticize." The critical attitude includes: flare words, interrupts, shouting, pouting, sarcasm.
3. **Fear**—"Fear freezes communication." When a husband frequently judges or criticizes his wife, she is afraid to be open or reveal her inner self. On the other hand, if the wife can't take any negatives without turning on the tears, her husband will be afraid of hurting her and will not speak from his heart.
4. **Manipulation**—"No one is comfortable if he feels he is being manipulated. Nagging, whining, pouting, bargaining, being gushy, lying, and switching the subject are a few methods used to motivate a person to think *my way without his knowing it.*"
5. **Preoccupation**—We usually make time for the "important things" (meals, telephone, games, etc...). We must make time for truly important things (God, spouse, children, etc...).
6. **Dishonesty**—"Good marriages are characterized by honesty and truth. When a husband and wife cannot be honest with each other, major problems occur."
7. **Dullness**—Dullness captivates the marriage that does not try new things: different foods, eating places, wallpaper, carpet, paint...).

~Neil Richey~ copied

A Skunk in My Basement



A little old lady called the police station begging for help. "I've got a skunk in my basement!" As a solution, the policeman told her to crumble up some bread and make a trail of the crumbs up the stairs, through the house, and out the door. The policeman then instructed her to leave the house for an hour.

An hour later, the lady called the police again. "I need help!" The same policeman asked her, "Maam, did you crumble up some bread, make a trail up the stairs, through the house, and out the door?" "Yes," she replied. The policeman asked, "Then, what is the problem?" The lady cried out, "I now have TWO skunks in my house!"

Problems are inevitable. But as sure as we may experience problems, and as sure as they might multiply, there is a God who will inevitably see us through. He is our Rock and Deliverer (2 Sam. 22:2). We can know assuredly that when we face problems-or the multiplication of problems-God will take care of us. Be patient, be positive, and have faith in Almighty God!

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called

YOUTH NEWS

- Thanks to all who came to the L2L rehearsals this past Sunday. Our youth did a great job presenting their Bible readings, song leading and speeches. They also had their art work and photos on display. We are so very proud of them and wish them a safe trip this weekend to Memphis and know they will do their best.
- Thank you to all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt this past Sunday. The kids had a great time!

PRAYER LIST

Billy Joe Bray, brother of *Deloris Crowe* has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Eleta Grimmett, is now at home recovering from problems with her lungs.

Cheryl Turner, a great niece of *Miriam Styers* and *J.L. Eaton* is scheduled to have liver surgery at UT Hospital in Memphis on April 18th.

Elaine Hill, grandmother of *Paige Young* has been released from the hospital and is at home recovering.

Tauso Branch, is at home not feeling well.

Mike White, son of *Bobby & Dixie*, had surgery on his shoulder this past week and is doing well.



Continual Prayer

Mark Caples, Linda Madden, Harvey Jones, Shelly Trout, Willie Jackson, David Harendt, Joey Black, Maxine McCarley, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Bill King, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Lessie Bryant, Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Pauline Smith, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

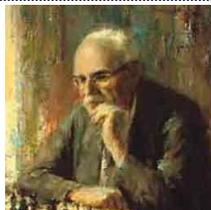
Corrine Hall, Anna Davis & Mattie Golden

Military List:

David Wilhite, Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Ham, Raegan Cole

SAGE ADVICE

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April 26.....Austin Garrett
April 29.....Lana Todd
April 30.....Jamie Crow

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 28.....Larry & Linda Ashmore
April 29.....Harold & Deloris Crowe

LADS TO LEADERS/LEADERETTES

The following young people will be competing at the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes Convention in Memphis, TN this weekend: *Bailey Adams, Ruston Adams, Dillon Clayton, David Clayton, Madison Griggs, Anderson Parks, Olivia Pounders, Ashlee Weaver, Tyler Weaver, and Audrey Young*. Please pray for this group as they travel to Memphis and compete. They have worked very hard over the last several months and we are confident they will do well. A BIG THANK YOU to *Sarah Walker, Ray Kennedy, and Lonnie Weaver* for all the time and effort they put forth helping prepare these young people for the Lads to Leaders Convention!

AREA EVENTS

- Spring Gospel Meeting continues through Thursday night at Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ. *David Paden* is the guest speaker.
- Ladies Day ~ East Main Church of Christ, April 30th. Topic: Seasons of Service
- Gospel Meeting ~ Skyline Church of Christ April 24-28 ~ Mon-Thurs. at 7:00pm
- Northwest MS Gospel Meeting to be held at the Batesville Civic Center May 2-4, 7pm nightly. *David Lipe* will be the speaker.
- Spring Sing will be held at the Booneville Church of Christ Sat., May 7, 2011, 3:00-8:00pm.

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....n/a
 Sunday A.M140
 Sunday P.M..... 142
 Wednesday.....105
 Contribution\$3,224.75
 Budget\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Philip Young
 A.M. Prayer.....Roger Clayton
 Closing Prayer.....Ronnie Griggs
 P.M. Prayer.....Ray Kennedy
 Closing.....Brad Pounders
 Wed.4/27.....Troy Robertson
 Wed. 4/27.....Phil Young
 Usher & Lock.....Greg Clayton
 Greeter.....T & N Robertson



PANTRY ITEM:
Spaghetti Sauce

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship 10:30
 Evening Worship 6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00

ELDERS

Richard Jennings534-6671
 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.....507-0625
 Home..... 534-6872
 Office.....534-4649

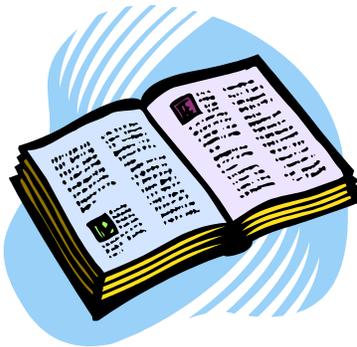
IT LIVES

Generation follows generation—yet it lives.
 Nations rise and fall —yet it lives.
 Doubted, suspected, criticized—yet it lives.
 Condemned by atheists—yet it lives.
 Scoffed at by scorners—yet it lives.
 Betrayed by fanatics—yet it lives.



Yet it lives...

As a lamp to our feet.
 As a light to our path.
 As a guide to heaven.
 As a guide for our youth.
 As a comfort to the aged.
 As food to the hungry.
 As drink to the thirsty.
 As rest to the weary.
 As light for the ignorant.
 As salvation for the sinner.
 To know it is to love it.
 To love it is to accept it.
 To accept it is eternal life.



*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful...the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet 1:25).
 ~via Glad Tidings of Good Things*

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