



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

April 24, 2012

## PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTH

Mike King



Recently, an article came across my desk written by *Steve Higginbotham* of the South Green St. Church of Christ in Glasgow, KY that intrigued me. The title of his article was, “Play to Your Strength.”

He observed the complexity of trying to coach *Shaquille O’Neal*. How would you best use him and where would you put him on the floor? He could either be put in the post position, playing down low where his height, strength and rebounding ability could be maximized. He could also be positioned beyond the three-point line. You would certainly not expect him to win in a clutch play from the free-throw line!

This principle that we learn from sports can be applied to Christianity. The “modern church” is involved in so many things that focus on entertainment, amusement, eating, play, etc. It is also possible to focus on benevolence, humanitarian needs, social issues and many other activities. *Steve* makes a good point in saying that “The church whose focus revolves around these matters is playing away from her strength.” By no stretching of the imagination is he implying that involvement in these things is wrong or bad in and of themselves, but that it is not playing to the strength of the church. The church can never “out play” the YMCA or some local recreation department. It cannot “out give” other organizations such as the Red Cross who are entirely devoted to rendering a unique kind of service.

The strength of the Lord’s church is handling the saving message of redemption, the gospel of Christ. When churches do not focus upon the gospel of Christ and the distribution of it, they are playing away from their strength and failing to most effectively meet their spiritual objective. There is one unique function that the church can perform that no other can – proclaiming the gospel! So, we must “reach beyond ourselves” to get it accomplished!

The Lord’s church is the only organization commissioned to preach deliverance from sin. Jesus gave the commission (Mt. 28:18-20) and He looked to the church to “*make known the manifold wisdom of God*” to the world (Eph. 3:10).



**PRAYER LIST**

**Roger Clayton** is under the care of a different doctor. He will begin therapy for his back pain this week.

**Johnny Garrett**, grandfather of *Austin Garrett* will have surgery Thurs. in Tupelo to remove his lung cancer.

**Belle Cross**, has been dismissed from the hospital and is improving.

**Laceonia Wilson**, 14 year old niece of *Perry & Gloria Jones* had surgery last week for a cerebrospinal blockage. Please pray for her recovery.

**Gloria Jones**, is appreciative of all the prayers, cards, and words of encouragement during her illness. Please continue to pray for her. She will be seeing a gastroenterologist on May 2nd for continued care and testing.

**Tauso Branch**, has a fracture in her left leg and torn meniscus. She will be confined to bed for a few weeks. Please pray for her recovery.

**Continual Prayer**

**Larry Averett, Emma Giddens, Jack & Melinda Dunlap, Andrea Spears, John Tierney, Bill DePriest, Mable Erwin, Avery Anna White, Ruby Gaines, Larry Hester, Eleta Grimmett, Tony Cross, James McDonald, Johnny Garrett, Norman Brown, Dick Young, Tauso Branch, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry Young**

**Shut-Ins**

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

**Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

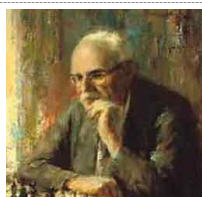
**Corrine Hall, Anna Davis, Mattie Golden**

**Military List:**

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

**“I BELIEVE”**

**...that envying another’s beauty will diminish your own. But when you praise beauty in others your own beauty deepens.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



- April 29. . . . . Lana Todd
- April 30. . . . . Jamie Crow
- May 03. . . . . Anderson Parks
- May 04. . . . . Ruston Adams
- May 04. . . . . Brandi McCullough

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- April 28. . . . . Larry & Linda Ashmore
- April 29. . . . . Harold & Deloris Crowe
- May 02. . . . . Will & Sallye Bowlin



**WELCOME**

We are pleased to announce the *McCullough* family placed membership last Sunday. *Jason & Brandi McCullough* and their children, *Ben-9, Ab-7, and Lucy-1* come to us after just recently moving into the area from Coffeerville, MS. Their address is: 1178 Lot#2 Hwy 9 South, Blue Springs, MS 38828. We are excited to have this addition to the New Albany church family. We look forward to getting to know them better. Please make them feel welcome.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP**

- Sunday, April 29th we will have an “All Day Service.” There will be a potluck meal following morning services at the fellowship building. The adult 1 class will be in charge of set-up and clean-up of the fellowship building. Our afternoon services will begin around 1:15. Prior to the afternoon service our young people will be recognized for their accomplishments at L2L and Bible Bowl. Our afternoon service will be led by our young men.
- A Men’s Breakfast is planned for Sat., May 5th at 7:00a.m. Please sign the list in the foyer if you plan to attend and mark if you can help with cooking and cleaning up.
- A ‘Church Picnic’ is planned for Sat., May 12th at the Walls’. More details next week.



## HAITI UPDATE

A letter to the New Albany Church of Christ

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

With your help, our spring break mission to Haiti was a great success. We worked with five different congregations in the Port-au-Prince area, providing each with a two-day VBS and a free medical clinic (which is a major logistical challenge!). Our VBS classes were held from 4:00-6:00 each evening, with classes for men, women, teens, and children. Depending on the size of the congregation, attendance ranged from 100-300 at each location. Our clinics saw between 275-500 patients each day as well, for a total of about 1700 patients for the week. As a result, we left each congregation with hundreds of contact names for follow-up and possible Bible studies.

All of the congregations we worked with have also received assistance in our earthquake disaster relief work. They are all growing, which is another reminder to us that out of trials great blessings may come. Although our time with each congregation was brief, our Haitian brothers and sisters repeatedly expressed thanks for our coming. They were very encouraged by your support of our work. We had one Haitian doctor (who is also a brother in Christ) who came and spent every day with us, working in the clinic for free. He said that if we could take time off and pay to come and work, he surely could do the same.

This trip was Emily's first mission campaign, and she is eager to go again. It is difficult to say whether the Haitians or the Americans received the greater blessings. We are excited about the future of the church in Haiti. We know that even through our efforts are imperfect, if we keep sowing and watering, God will provide the increase ((1 Cor. 3:6). Thank you for making it possible for us to spend a few days working in this fertile field. Your generosity has made a difference in the lives of people who desperately need their lives-and their future-to be made different.

In Christian gratitude,  
Jesse and Emily Robertson

### Do Not Let Yourself....

**Worry**—when you are doing your best.  
**Hurry**—when success depends on your accuracy.  
**Think evil**—of a friend until you have seen the facts.  
**Believe**—a thing impossible without trying it.  
**Trust**—an elastic conscience.  
**Waste**—time on unimportant matters.  
**Imagine**—that good intentions are satisfying excuses.  
**Harbor**—bitterness in your heart  
**Continue**—in things the Scriptures condemn.  
**Avoid**—things that are pleasing to God.

### Jesus Christ

The **Light** for those in darkness.  
The **Way** for those stumbling and lost.  
The **Hope** for those separated by sin.  
The **Truth** for those surrounded by lies.  
The **Life** for those who face death.  
The solid **Rock** in times of distress.  
The **Peace That Passes All Understanding** for troubled minds and hearts.

Author Unknown

## YOUTH NEWS

- Thanks to *Lonnie* and *Nicki Weaver* for hosting the youth devo Sun. night.
- Our young men will be leading the afternoon service Sunday, April 29th at 1:15.
- We will have a list of all our seniors and their accomplishments in the next few weeks. They will be recognized on Sunday, May 20th.
- There is a Teen Retreat at Maywood Christian Camp Memorial Day weekend. If you are interested in going please let *Sarah Walker* know so transportation can be arranged. There will be a group leaving after graduation on Friday night, May 25th.



**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School.....	123
Sunday A M.....	148
Sunday P.M.....	112
Wednesday .....	112
Contribution .....	\$3,117.55
Budget.....	\$3,567.55

**TO SERVE**

Scripture.....	Ruston Adams
A.M. Prayer....	Lonnie Weaver
Closing Prayer.....	Olen Clark
P.M. Prayer .....	Harold Crowe
Closing .....	Dillon Clayton
Wed 4/25 .....	Dan Cobb
Wed. 4/25 .....	Shane Crotts
Usher & Lock.....	Randy Wall
Greeter.....	G & K Clayton



**PANTRY ITEM**

Juice

**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

**BEWARE**

**DANGEROUS DOGS (AND PEOPLE)**



**OF DOG**

Upon entering the little country store, the stranger noticed a sign saying, "Danger! Beware of Dog!" posted on the glass door. Inside he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor beside the cash register. He asked the store manager, "Is THAT the dog folks are supposed to beware of?"

"Yep, that's him, he replied."

The stranger could not help but be amused. "That certainly does not look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?"

"Because", the owner replied, "before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

When we mentally make a list of the "worst sins" in the Bible, laziness does not usually come to mind. But sometimes those people most "dangerous" are those that just lie around and do nothing but get in the way. Solomon had much to say about the sluggard, or lazy person.

*"The lazy man says, 'There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!' As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed. The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth"* (Prov. 26:13-15).

Talk about lazy! When you are too lazy to eat, there is no hope for you! These are absurd pictures but pictures designed to make us think, to realize how "dangerous" it is to become lazy.

So, what are you doing just sitting here reading this thought? Get up and do something constructive!

~ Alan Smith~



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