



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

April 3, 2012

## VISITATION – A PERFECT WAY TO “REACH BEYOND OURSELVES IN 2012”!

Mike King



When I think about ways for advancing the cause of Christ here in New Albany, the need for interaction of our members with our friends and neighbors of the community continues to weigh heavily on my mind. Too there is as well, the need for constant cultivation of faith, strength and relationships with our own members who have needs.

The elders have determined that it is critical and necessary for the congregation to truly be the Lord's church to be instrumental in "*declaring the manifold wisdom of God to the whole world*" (Eph. 3:10). Our elders are striving to the best of their ability to move the church as a whole in a more God-ward direction as well as develop individual spirituality and involvement in each of us. If we do not respond to their leadership and influence upon us, countless good people could very well miss becoming what they need to be while on this earth and being with the Lord eternally. It all starts right here with each of us!

*Bill Botts* has done a marvelous job coordinating our visitation program for several years. To him we are deeply indebted. He has been unwavering in his efforts to generate more contact with prospects and meeting the concerns of good people in and out of the church. We need more warm and dedicated Christians to step up and become involved in the visitation efforts of the congregation. It has been a real joy of mine to be a part of the program since coming to New Albany. We are actually on all the teams and meet with each and every group and take visit assignments for each one. We have learned to love and appreciate so many of our own members and feel a closer attachment with individuals and the congregation as a whole. It too has taken us into some wonderfully warm homes in the community. It has enabled us to wield some influence that has been instrumental in bringing additional members to the congregation and helped heal some lonely and hurting hearts that have been injured by death, sickness or other personal and/or family disorder. If the cause of Christ in our town and community was totally dependent upon you as an individual, would the church grow or would anyone be drawn to Jesus? We can talk and preach a good message and verbally express our sincere concern, but the sincere part is smoke blowing unless we leave our comfort zones and reach out to others.

There is a list in the lobby of the church building for names of those who will participate. No one will be asked to do anything that would frighten or scare them. Experience is not necessary, but a genuine love for the Lord and the lost is! If you want to be more than a nominal member of the congregation, you will not be able to live with yourself or be content until you develop a vested interest in the real purpose of the congregation. We come to worship on a regular basis, but we must be determined to leave to serve. Step out of your comfort zone or get over your indifference concerning the need and destiny of others and become a staunch supporter and participant of the major area of growing the congregation, and yourself, in addition to making an eternal impact upon others. We will have one team meeting one time per month for two consecutive months. We have a fellowship gathering in a home of one of our families and receive information on someone whom we may visit of our choice. The program is starting this month (April) and will continue through November. If you want to be on each of the four teams, you may, or simply sign up for a two-month segment. By all means, sign up to be a part in some capacity. Should you desire more information, please contact the office or Bill Botts. Looking forward to having you aboard!



**PRAYER LIST**

**Mable Erwin**, had eye surgery Monday, in Memphis.

**Roger Clayton** will have back surgery (today) Tuesday, in Oxford.

**Harold Russell**, is doing well following surgery for carotid arteries.

**Belle Cross**, will see a cardiologist for another stress test.

**Laura Mae Harris**, is at home recovering from a fall.

**Jason McMillen**, is recovering from hernia surgery and doing well.

**Continual Prayer**

**Gina Stewart, Avery Anna White, Ruby Gaines, Larry Hester, Eleta Grimmett, Tony Cross, James McDonald, Johnny Garrett, Charles Hodges, Chris Isbell, Eli Williams, Norman Brown, Dick Young, 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, Jesse Stroud**

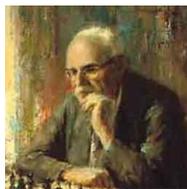
**BIBLE CHARACTER "WHO AM I"**

I was the son of Gera, a Benjamite, who was lefthanded. Who am I?

Judges 3:15

**"I BELIEVE"**

...That a lot of church members that are singing "Standing on the Promises"... are just sitting on the premises.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



April 08. .... Rebecca Dewberry  
April 11. .... Teresa Clark  
April 13. .... Brad Pounders

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

April 07. .... Randy & Christy Wall

**REJOICE!**

We rejoice that *Patty Jacks* was baptized into Christ Sunday, April 1st. Please make our new sister welcome and encourage her as she begins her new life as a Christian. Her address is 1151 CR 100 #2 New Albany, MS. 38652.

**LADS TO LEADERS CONVENTION**

This weekend several of our youth will be competing at the Lads to Leaders Convention in Memphis, TN. Sunday afternoon, April 1st, they gave a presentation of the different areas they will be competing in such as: song leading, speeches, Bible reading, scrapbooking, and art work. They did an excellent job. Please pray for them as they travel to Memphis to compete.

**AREA EVNETS**

- **Skyline Church of Christ** invites you to a series of meetings April 15th-18th, entitled, "Ingredients of a Godly Home." *Jerry Martin* will be bringing the lessons. Please check the bulletin board for a list of topics.
- You are invited to the **Annual Ladies Day** April 21st at the **Hwy 178 Church of Christ** in New Albany. The guest speaker will be *Marilyn Graham*. Lunch will be provided immediately following the program.
- The annual **Six State Singing** will be held Sat. April 21st, from 3:00-6:00pm at the Church of Christ at Southwind in Memphis, TN.

## Spiritual Weariness

Robert Hatfield

Even the best of Christians may be plagued by spiritual weariness. Far too often the Lord's work goes unnoticed or is unwelcome, and this can be discouraging to faithful brethren. Paul reminded the Galatians, "*and let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*" (Gal. 6:9).

Webster says that to be weary is to be "exhausted in strength, endurance, vigor, or freshness" and that it is much like "having one's patience, tolerance, or pleasure exhausted." The Greek word for "weary" which Paul used in Galatians 6:9 literally means, "to faint or to lose heart." The word "faint" in that verse literally means "to be loosened or relaxed." similar to the way the limbs of a physically weary person will hang (cf. Heb. 12:12). It is sad when Christians become discouraged, begin to slack, and ultimately quit in their work for the Lord.

One of the worst things about spiritual weariness is that it is addictive. The faintheartedness of one often becomes that of another. This undoubtedly the reason why the inspired writers of the New Testament would repeatedly warn against giving up.

But why were those once-faithful servants tempted to give up? What would cause one who is so blessed (both physically and spiritually (Eph. 1:7; 2 Pet. 1:3) to suddenly find himself or herself so disheartened to the point of folding altogether? The New Testament indicates that some folks give up because they expect immediate reward (Gal. 6:9; 2 The. 3:13; Luke 18:1-7). Paul would remind these people to press on (Phil. 3:14) and await the reward which is to come "in due season." Others are weary because of a lack of patience and trust in God (cf. Heb. 10:36; James 5:7ff.) or because of persecution (Eph. 3:13). Even others buckle under pressure and wonder why God is chastising them (cf. Heb. 12:3,5). Sadly, some become disheartened and give up simply because they do not get their way in the church.

Can an honest, truth-seeking soul beat spiritual weariness? Absolutely! Jesus was mindful of His fainting followers (Matt. 9:36) and He is surely mindful of those who suffer weariness today. But the fact that He is compassionate toward the weary does not mean that He overlooks it. The Lord (through His word) admonishes the faint-hearted to look to heaven: "*he that endureth to the end shall be saved*" (Matt. 10:22). "*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life*" (Rev. 2:10). The New Testament writers repeatedly emphasized the reward that awaits God's enduring servants. While the reward remains yet unseen, the promise remains true (cf. Titus 1:2): "*I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also*" (John 14:2-3).

Members of the church are involved in the greatest work on earth. The message they carry is the living bread and water which can spiritually feed a dying world. Within that message the Savior pleads, "*Come unto me...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*" (Matt. 11:28-30; John 14:6). And those who surrender their lives to the Savior in humble obedience will hear, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of the Lord*" (Matt. 25:21,23).

What is your response? Will you give the Master 100 percent or will you allow yourself to be overcome by spiritual weariness?

## YOUTH NEWS

- There will be an Easter Egg Hunt Wednesday evening at 5:45 at the fellowship building. Each child is asked to bring a dozen candy filled eggs. They will enjoy a pizza supper following the egg hunt. Please let *April Pounders* know if you plan to attend.
- Our youth participating at the Lads to Leaders Convention in Memphis, TN, will leave Friday April 6th. and return Sunday afternoon, April 8th. Please pray for their success and their safety while there. They have worked very hard preparing for their competitions. We are so proud of all of them and wish them the best. Those attending are: *Bailey Adams, Masey Kate Adams, Ruston Adams, David Clayton, Dillon Clayton, Madison Griggs, Anderson Parks, Jodi Parks, Cooper Pounders, Olivia Pounders, Ashlee Weaver, Tyler Weaver and Audrey Anna Young.*

**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School..... 118  
 Sunday A M .....138  
 Sunday P.M. ....106  
 Wednesday .....132  
 Contribution .....\$3,949.87  
 Budget.....\$3,567.55

**TO SERVE**

Scripture.....Anderson Parks  
 A.M. Prayer.....Jason Jennings  
 Closing Prayer...Brad Pounders  
 P.M. Prayer.....Gary Turner  
 Closing.....Burrell Walton  
 Wed 4/11.....Ray Kennedy  
 Wed. 4/11.... Bobby Marques  
 Usher & Lock...Roger Clayton  
 Greeter.....T & N Robertson



**PANTRY ITEM**

Canned/powdered milk

**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

**IT'S WONDERFUL**



Some person wrote. "My mother once sent me to pick a quart of raspberries," said a well known citizen recently as he let his thoughts go back to his boyhood in the country. "I did not want to pick a quart of raspberries, and I wanted to do anything but that. So I dropped unwilling feet toward the berry patch. Then a happy thought came to me: I would pick two quarts of raspberries and surprise the family! That changed everything! I had such a good time picking those two quarts that I never have forgotten it. I redeemed an undesirable situation by changing an inner attitude."

So when Christianity becomes a burden to you instead of a joy, perhaps the trouble is within you. Perhaps it may be corrected merely by a change of attitude on your part.

- Instead of seeing obligations alone, see situations as opportunities.
- Rather than viewing all things as duties, see them as privileges. Looking at life in this manner can make all the difference in the world.

Why not try it? Few men ever had more problems or persecutions in life than Paul the apostle, but his advice: "*rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.*" (Phil. 4:4).



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Volume 14

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