



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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The Obvious, Camouflages The Inconspicuous

Mike King



Have you ever found yourself so obsessed about something that is amiss that you fail to observe the real matter of concern? It is so easy for us to be critical or find fault with a behavior in someone and be oblivious to a fault in ourselves that constitute more harm. The following story adequately illustrates the point of discussion.

“An off-duty police officer, familiar with radar guns, drove through a school zone within the legal speed limit when the flash of a camera went off, taking a picture of his license plate.

The officer, thinking the radar was in error, drove by again; even more slowly. Another flash. He did it again for a third time, at an even slower speed. Same result.

‘This guy must have messed up the settings,’ the off-duty officer thought.

A few weeks later, when he received the violations in the mail, he discovered three traffic tickets: each for not wearing a seat belt!”

Jesus had to deal with the Scribes and Pharisees constantly, regarding the above kind of violations. They were very critical of the disciples of the Lord who “*transgressed the tradition of the elders*” by eating with unwashed hands while their own hearts were far from Him (Matt. 15:2-3, 8, 11). We can be so insistent and judgmental of a brother or sister in Christ who is failing to abide by a certain truth, but living in sin themselves. It appears a bit pharisaical for a church member to be dogmatic about another’s conduct while driving with a radar detector on their dashboard and brag about setting their cruise five miles per hour over the speed limit when on the open road.

Jesus addressed this principle in His sermon on the mount. He spoke of someone trying to remove the mote (speck) from a brother’s eye while suffering from “beam-itis.” They were oblivious to their own weaknesses and oversights, but quick to point out those in the lives of others. He called them “*hypocrites*” for readily seeing the faults of another while blinded to their own. He charged them to “*first remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye*” (Matt. 7:3-5). A solemn warning preceded this little lesson: “For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with what measure you use, it will be measured back to you” (v. 2).

What Might Have Been

I had wanted to begin with an air of anticipation in sharing with you the exciting Bible studies I have been having with a man by the name of Tony. It is however, with the fresh PANGS OF GRIEF that I write the following.

As a friend and roommate of Shaun & Michelle Cowie, they invited Tony to a gathering at my brother's home near the end of last year. He also attended our family camp. After several other events he commented on how welcome he felt and that he enjoyed the camaraderie of the brethren. A short time later, he expressed a desire to see what the Scriptures had to say for him.

Tony was so enthusiastic to learn and I have rarely met anyone who had more humble reaction to Christ dying on his behalf. He mentioned how he was already making changes and that he was feeling a new sense of positivity in life. More than once he stated that he was looking forward to becoming a Christian, and I was as certain as I have ever been that by our next newsletter I'd be reporting on his baptism. On Mon. Apr. 30th, I left his home at 9:30pm after having another great Bible study with him. By 9:00am, Tues. morning, Tony had had a brain hemorrhage and died.

While I have heard accounts of similar situations, nothing prepares you for when such a reality strikes between your own eyes. Interested souls are hard to find in this country and I cannot adequately express how this tragedy has discouraged and bruised our hearts - I think it will haunt me the rest of my days. My "why?!" may remain unanswered, and I will always wonder if things could/should have happened differently. (This sad latest report written by *Kent O'Donnell*, a New Zealand national, friend of *Richard* and myself, and the minister of the congregation in Palmerston North, New Zealand. This should remind us of the urgency of teaching and that "TODAY is the day of salvation!" - MLK).

Important For Faithful Christian's To Read

So much of our writing, preaching, and visiting is directed to the weak and unfaithful. We want to reverse that order here. This article is not addressed to you who have to be begged, petted, and pampered before you will attend the services of the church, and still are absent as often as you are present. This isn't for those who grumble the most while doing the least! Those in that category can stop reading now, for this is not written to you. This is written to the faithful.

Vocabulary is not large enough to tell you wonderful people how much you are appreciated. It does not matter how many meetings are called in a week, you will be present. Neither the weather nor company of any kind is able to keep you from your responsibilities.

Whatever attractions or distractions the world may offer, you will not forsake the Lord. You make whatever sacrifices are necessary. You have no more time than the unfaithful members do, but somehow you manage to find time to serve our Master with the finest and best of your time and talents.

Whatever good programs are put before the church, no one wonders what your response will be. You always support fully every program submitted by the leaders. You will accept an assignment, and when you do, it is a forgone conclusion that you will successfully complete it.

You don't flirt with sin and see how worldly you can become without completely apostatizing. You are appreciated even more because you demand no special attention or praise for your service, and you do not consider regular and faithful attendance of each class and worship period in service of God as a grievous burden or a great feat of valor.

You are a good example to the youngest member and an inspiration to all. You make the work of an elder, preacher, deacon or Bible class teacher much lighter. THANK YOU for being what the Bible describes as a simple New Testament Christian!

~ copied



PRAYER LIST

Pat Reed will have surgery today, May 14 in Greenwood, MS to repair the port in her arm. She continues dialysis treatments three days a week and will continue to need help with transportation.

Eleta Grimmett, is at home recovering from gall-bladder surgery.

Maxine Carlisle, grandmother of *Richard Adams* is not doing well at this time.

Continual Prayer :

Dan Wood, Judy Ward, Ruie Harmon, Pat Reed, Margie Barkley, Wendell Cary, Melissa Reed, Marie Beard, Rivers Robertson, Ruth Brown, Barry Yancey, Jennie Frohn, Randy Dunnam, Jack Dunlap, Diane Sloan, Rosie Wilson, Tauso Branch, Prebble Foster, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Al Pless, Shane Crotts, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Teresa Clark

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Mattie Golden, Amy Vest, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Margret Reeves (Okolona)

Military List:

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

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all the supplies you've donated for our mission trip to Honduras. We leave May 29th. Please pray for our mission team's success and safety.

In Christian Love,
Jim, Diana & Landon Wall

God is like:

THE U.S. POST OFFICE

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice, will keep Him from His appointed destination.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



May 19..... Bobby Marques
May 22..... Lea Anne McMillen
May 22..... Will Bowlin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 19..... Eric & Stacie Dunn
May 20..... Bill & Karen Botts



CHURCH PICNIC

This Sat. May 18th, will be the annual church picnic at the *Walls'* lake. You may come any time during the afternoon to fish, play games, or just visit. The meal will be served around 6:30pm. Please bring your lawn chairs. We appreciate so much *Randy, Christy, Erin* and *Thomas* opening their beautiful home place for our church family. It is always a wonderful experience!

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER



Our 3rd Sunday night fellowship supper will be held Sunday May 19th, following evening services. You are asked to bring finger foods and desserts. The adult II class will be in charge of set-up and clean-up of the fellowship building. Everyone is invited to attend.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

A men's breakfast is planned for Saturday, June 1st, at 7:00am in the annex building. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. All men are encouraged to attend. A sign-up list will be placed in the foyer.



VBS



A one day Vacation Bible School is planned for Saturday June 1st. The theme for this year is "It's a Blue Ribbon Life" a study of the Fruit of the Spirit. If you can help in any way please let *Lonnie Weaver* know. The day will be filled with Bible lessons, memory work, crafts, games, skits and more. Please begin inviting your friends and neighbors to join us Sat. June 1st, from 9:00am-2:30pm. Lunch will be provided.

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 Jennings534-6671
Troy Robertson534-3491

DEACONS

Greg Clayton..... 252-9762
Roger Clayton..... 538-8195
Harold Russell 534-4648
Randy Wall 316-9255
Lonnie Weaver..... 801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Will Bowlin
A.M. Prayer.....Phil Young
Closing Prayer....Phillip Young
P.M. Prayer.....Andy Clemmer
Closing.....Ruston Adams
Wed 5/22.....Jerry Gibson
Wed.5/22.....Daniel Drummond
Usher & Lock....Roger Clayton
Greeter.....B & N Frohn

OUR RECORD

Sunday School..... 129
Sunday A.M.....169
Sunday P.M 90
Wednesday.....123
Contribution.....\$3,260.81
Budget.....\$3,817.55



PANTRY ITEM

Cake mix

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Having a "Yes Face"

When Thomas Jefferson was president, he and some friends were traveling across the country on horseback. They came to a river flooded by the recent rains. The fast-moving water had taken out the bridge, and now each rider was forced to ford the river on horseback. All the riders fought for their lives across the strong currents. Nearby a traveler apart from their group watched as a couple of the riders made it across the river. The traveler must not have felt he could walk across with his horse, because he turned to President Jefferson and asked if he would ferry him across. The President jumped right to the task and led the stranger across. Once safely on dry ground, one of the members of Jefferson's group asked the stranger, "Why did you select the president to ask this favor of?" The man was shocked and admitted he didn't know the president was the one who helped him. But then the man said, "all I know is that on some of your faces was written the answer 'No,' and on some of them was the answer 'Yes.' His was a 'Yes' face" (C. Swindoll, *The Grace Awakening*, Word, 1990,p.6).

More than ever, the church needs people with "Yes faces." These are people who are looking for ways to serve. These are people who jump at the opportunity to help. These are people who are characterized by a desire to serve and help others. Interestingly, this characteristic is a choice, not just a personality trait. This can be you if you choose!
~ Brett Petrillo