



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

May 2, 2017

## Excellence – Strategy of Evangelism

Mike King

EXCELLENCE  
IS NOT A  
SKILL.  
IT IS AN  
ATTITUDE.

–RALPH MARSTON

In the November 2, 2003 issue of *The Light*, published by the Lake Forest Church of Christ in Jacksonville, FL appeared a very intriguing article. *Brian Giselbach* wrote an article on “How Do We Attract the Masses (In Order To Teach Them The Gospel).” A portion of that article I would like to share with you that I found provocative and with which I concurred fully. Follow his reasoning:

“Another ‘strategy’ that must be considered comes in the form of an attitude or characteristic that needs to fill our churches. I am speaking of striving for excellence in all things. We need to strive for excellence in our lifestyles, in our homes, and in our assemblies. In the context of local church evangelism, we need to strive for excellence in every ministry and task. Excellence is attractive! We may not be able to attract people with big programs, big budgets, or big buildings. We certainly must not attempt to attract people with entertainment, as so much of the denominational world seems to be doing. So how does a church with a simple “unexciting” worship style (by worldly standards) attract people who are conditioned by their culture to be entertained and stroked? There is only one way. All that we do must be done with excellence. We need to be excellent in our love, in our holiness, in our concern, in our sincerity, and in our worship. We will not attract everyone by our commitment to excellence, but we will attract the perceptive and discerning. What we do we must do well. And most importantly, God will be pleased that our service to Him is not dull, routine, or haphazard. Every worship service should be led by men committed to excellence. Every dish should be prepared with excellence. Every Bible class should be taught with excellence. The church building should be cleaned with excellence; and the building itself should reflect the quality of excellence. Even the pencils on the backs of pews should bear the quality of excellence. From the whole to the details, we need to strive for excellence! There should be no exception to the principle of excellence. The alternative is mediocre, poor quality, blemished, and inadequate service. Put yourself in the shoes of someone searching for God. What reflects better on the God we claim to love and serve – excellence or mediocrity?”

These thoughts reminded me of Ecc. 9:10a, “*Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do it with your might.*” This should be us!

## Influence

A young man was asked to preach for a certain church at the last minute. On a sudden impulse, he used as his text, "Thou Shalt Not Steal."

The next morning the young man stepped on the bus and handed the driver a five-dollar bill. The driver handed him back his change. The young man made his way toward the back of the bus, sat down and began counting his change. After counting it twice he discovered that he had been given a quarter too much back in change. His first thought was, "the bus company will never miss a quarter." Then quickly he came to realization that he could not keep money that did not belong to him.



He made his way back to the front of the bus and said to the driver, "You gave me back too much change." Just imagine his surprise when the bus driver said, "Yes, a quarter too much. I gave it to you on purpose. You see, I was at the church where you preached yesterday and I watched in my mirror as you counted your change. If you had kept the quarter, I would never again had confidence in your word.

What a tragedy if he had done the wrong thing! Isn't it amazing that we really never know how many people are watching what we say and do until we mess up? Could we emphasize the point enough that we need to be careful what we say, what we do and where we go? Believe it or not, there are people waiting for Christians to stumble and fall. Then they take great pride in pointing it out to others. Is this a call to live a perfect life? No. It's simple a reminder that we must daily be aware of the fact that people are watching to see if we live the kind of life we profess.

~ Tim Woodward

## True Worship Starts With Me

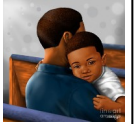
- I will take home something if I bring something.
- I will get something out of it if I give something to it.
- I will be edified by others if I seek to edify them.
- I will be encouraged if I am first an encourager.
- I will be uplifted if I lift up others.
- The Lord will be closer to me if I draw closer to Him.
- Worship, even in public is a private affair. It starts with me.

## "My Daddy Came to Church!"

Did it ever make you sad to see a child happy? It did me! Yes, the other Sunday, I saw one of the happiest children in the world and I nearly cried. And, every time I have thought of it since, I have had to fight back the tears.

The little fellow comes to services with his mother. His father isn't a member and rarely comes. Now there is nothing in this world to this little boy like his Daddy.

Well, on this particular Sunday, the little boy ran ahead of the rest and entered the church building where I was greeting people in the vestibule. He came running up to me, face aglow, with his hand outstretched. He clasped my hand, but didn't say "hello" or "good morning." There was just one thing on his mind; just one thing that seemed to matter. He said, "Brother Grider, my Daddy came with me today!"



I wish the fathers and mothers of every child that come to Preston Highway could have seen and heard as I saw and heard that child last Sunday. I just know it would have helped the members to be better fathers and mothers, And I am sure it would have had effect upon nonmembers.

You only have them for a short time, Mom and Dad. Swift passes the time when that child will look up to you in wonder and exclaim, "I want to be just like you!" If you postpone faithful service to God until the children are older, you have in all likelihood lost your opportunity to bring your children to the Lord. Parents, what pattern are you setting for your children with your life? Non-Christian friend, these things may not be important to you today; but one day, these matters will consume your heart with regret. *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Mark 8:36-37). What are you giving in exchange for the soul of your child?

A. C. Grider (Preston Hwy Bulletin, 10/6/60)

## WHO SAID?

1. What is truth? \_\_\_\_\_ John 18: 37-38.
2. "Lord Jesus receive my spirit?" \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 7: 57-60.
3. "Let me die with the Philistines" \_\_\_\_\_ Judges 16:30.
4. "I know that my redeemer lives" \_\_\_\_\_ Job 19: 25.



### PRAYER LIST

**Eleta Grimmett** was admitted to room 253 of the local hospital Sunday morning due to breathing problems. She was expected to be released Tues. morning.

**Amy Martin**, granddaughter of *Tim & Kathy Dye* has improved and was able to return to school this week.

**Linda Palmer** has been moved to New Albany Health and Rehab on Glenfield Road for rehab.

**Helen DePriest** is at home recovering from surgery.

**Ernestine McKinney**, mother of *Perry Jones* has been moved to Diveriscare of Southaven for rehab. Her address is: room #701, 1730 Dorchester Dr. Southaven, MS 38671

#### Continue to Remember:

William Bailey, Wade Chism, Todd Coleman, Liz Collins, David Crossings, Chris & Arley Crow, Roy Crow, Preeble Foster, Ray Franks, Jacqueline Golden, Linda Griggs, Pam Hall, Donna Haynes, Dianna Hodges, Laura Hollowell, Shane Hutton, Taylor Kirk, Johnny Lee, Dean Long, Barbara Raines, Cliff Sanders, Pete Scriara, Kayla Thomas, Sheila Thomas, Judy Ward, Kathy Wesson, Terry & Betty Young, Tommy Young.

#### Shut-Ins:

Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner

#### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Genice Collett, Wanda DeLoach, Jean Drummond, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Cornelia Kennedy, Betty Lang, Mary Frances Reid, Price & Claudia Senter, Ione Wall

#### Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley & Chase Seals



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- May 04. ....Ruston Adams
- May 06. .... Lonnie Weaver
- May 07. .... Randy Wall
- May 07. .... Ashlee Weaver
- May 11. ....Viva Dillard
- May 11. .... Sydney Hill
- May 12. .... Eric Dunn
- May 12. .... Tim Dye
- May 13. ....Carl Smith

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- May 09. .... Josh & Shelly George



### HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION



Sunday, May 14th, we will recognize our 4 high school seniors, *Dillon Clayton, Madison Griggs, Tyler Weaver* and *Audrey Anna Young*. We will have a finger food fellowship following our evening services. Each senior will have a table set-up showing their interest and accomplishments while in High School. Please come share this special time with them and their parents. They all will be graduating Friday night, May 19th.

### AREA EVENTS

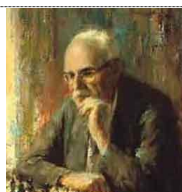
- Area Wide Youth Devo to be held at the Nettleton Church of Christ May 7th. The van will leave at 5:45.
- A Gospel Meeting will be held May 7-10 at the Nettleton Church of Christ. The guest speaker will be *Philip Hathcock*. Mon.-Wed. night at 7.
- The West Main Church of Christ will have a Gospel Meeting May 7-10 with guest speaker, *Dale Jenkins*. Mon.—Wed. nights at 7:00.
- Fraley’s Chapel Church of Christ will have a “Purity Day” Sat. May 13th. Registration begins at 9:00am. *Celine Sparks* will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be provided.

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10: 13-17)
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)

### I’ve Learned...

Our fears always out number our dangers.



### OUR DREAM:

To become better friends with God in 2017!

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  
 Randy Wall ..... 316-9255  
 Lonnie Weaver .....801-8448

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....Thomas Wall  
 A.M. Prayer.....Tyler Weaver  
 Closing Prayer.....Randy Wall  
 P.M. Prayer.....Steve Todd  
 Closing .....Dan Cobb  
 Wed.5/10.....Roger Clayton  
 Wed.5/10.....Jerry Grimmitt  
 Lock.....Troy Robertson  
 Usher.....Roger Clayton

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....95  
 Sunday A.M.....136  
 Sunday P. M.....72  
 Wednesday.....96  
 Contribution.....\$3,623.00  
 Budget.....\$4,385.16



## PANTRY ITEMS

Muffin Mix

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## Making Soap to the Glory of God.

A sixteen-year-old boy was told by his father that he must leave home and make his way in the world. With all his possessions wrapped in a small bundle he started off. As he trudged along toward the big city he met a canal boat captain to whom he opened his heart.



The boy had learned soap making at home, so the captain, who was a noble Christian, gave him this advice: "Some one will be the leading soap maker in New York and it may as well be you as anyone. I hope it may. Be a good man; give your heart to Christ; give the Lord all that belongs to him of any fortune you earn; make an honest soap; give a full pound, and I am certain you will succeed."

They knelt on the towpath and the old man prayed. The boy went on to the big city. He followed the advice of his friend to the letter. He secured a position as a soap maker, was promoted rapidly, and finally became the owner of one of the nation's soap industries.

His name was William Colgate. At first he gave a tenth of all his income, then gave two tenths, then three, then four, then five. In middle age he settled all his plans for life and gave the whole of his income to the Lord.  
 ~ author unknown

*"But this I say, He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly;*