

# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

May 21, 2013

## Dead Men Walking

Mike King



The apostle Paul had just addressed the subject of grace abounding wherever sin abounds. It is as he expected—a misread. He could anticipate their thinking the solution to be to sin more so that “*grace may abound*” (Rom. 6:1). He gave an emphatic “*God forbid*” (v. 2) to any such reasoning.

Earlier in the chapter, Paul had given emphasis to the fact that when we were baptized into Christ, a death occurred (vs. 2-12). We died to sin which should in reality cause us not to be so strongly pulled by temptation. It would not be normal for one who had died to continue walking and carrying on as normal. This is the reason the resurrection of Jesus drew such attention; it was simply not consistent with having died. When we die to sin, it also is not consistent or normal for us to carry on living in sin. Death means “a cessation of life.”

The passage from death to life should be manifested by the newness of the nature of our raised life (vs. 4-12). It is natural and expected that we “walk” in this new life. Having the new life enables us to be freed from the dominion sin has over us and the enslavement under which we have lived. We operate now under a new Master and ownership. As long as we insist on living in sin, we remain enslaved; when we are truly raised, we belong to God and live righteously (vs. 16-19).

The anticipated outcome should alert us to the seriousness of remaining as dead men. If we continue in sin, we are headed for everlasting death. We move from death to life not death to death (vs. 16, 21-23). Sin promises everything, but delivers nothing (v. 21). Profitability is only found in Christ! At day’s end, we must determine if we want to be paid according to our sin (death, v. 23) or based on our service and obedience to God (eternal life, v. 22).

When we choose to profess a life of righteousness, but live a life of ungodliness, we are as dead men walking. It makes it quite obvious that a death has not truly occurred. In doing so, we lack feeling, purpose and hope. We are to “*choose...this day whom we will serve*” (Josh. 24:15). It is a choice because man cannot serve two masters lest he hate the one and love the other (Matt. 6:24). This is nothing short of hypocrisy. When we say that we have fellowship with God but walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice truth (1 Jn. 1:16). Is it time for a complete burial?

## Just In Case

It is my habit when I go out of town to make sure I hug those who are closest to me and leave them with a word of encouragement, “just in case” something happens to me and I don’t see them this side of Heaven. I write notes to my wife while I am gone and sometimes place a few dollars in them for her to buy her lunch or treat the granddaughters to a snow cone or some chicken nuggets. It is my habit to always tell her I love her when we are parted even when I am not out of town and she always ends evening conversation on the phone or as I walk out the door with an “I love you.” I know a man in Virginia that always writes a letter to his family when he travels, “just in case.” Now these are little things, and they are probably only meaningful to the ones that do them and receive them. But as I think about “just in case,” I wonder sometimes if we should not adopt that action in the daily walk.

What if we always acted toward others and spoke with others with the “just in case” attitude in full operation? What if we went ahead and did what we actually think about doing when it comes to that phrase we often use, “Well, I had planned on writing that note... I had planned on going by and visiting... I had intended to help with... I had planned on giving...” What possible difference could it make if we actually took the time to be the person we are capable of being in all those ways? Would you and I be happier, more contented, more of a good example to others if we lived that way? Of course we would.

There was a time when people were doing noble things with their lives, making a difference in the world just because it was the right thing to do. There were no “politically correct” ways to do things. We did things the way the Bible said they should be done. We treated each other the way we wished to be treated, by the “Golden Rule.”

We didn’t take things or touch other people or their things without permission. We were confident in ourselves and could give a simple yes or a no about almost any question that was asked of us. We were raised on the magic words of “Please” and “Thank You.” And the worst offense we could commit was to be ungrateful to others who had helped us or lifted us or made us understand something better. What happened to us? Did we become so arrogant that we now think we don’t need anyone or anything of God at all in our lives? Are we so self-absorbed in our tiny little worlds that we have forgotten the greater, more important things in life: absolute truth, faith, and obedience?

Sometimes we lose our timing in life. We make a wrong decision. We take the left fork when we should have gone to the right. We stop dreaming and stop believing and by and by we become what we never thought we could become—discouraged and afraid.

God is always near. He is the “just in case” answer to every question, concern, every difficulty we have or ever will have. When we start dreaming God’s dreams again for our lives then they are going to come true. That is what prayer is all about. It’s our request to God that, even though we are going to do our part, we need Him. He is our “just in case,” our last resort, our defender, our hope, our mediator, our friend. Before he left this earth He told us he would never leave us or forsake us. That is the only “just in case” I will ever need in this life or the next.

Ken Upchurch ~ via ~ Tanzania 2000



- There will be a Youth Devo Sunday night, May 26th following the evening service. *Greg and Kim Clayton* will be hosting.
- ATTENTION GIRLS! There will be a Girls Fun Day at *Sarah's* house on Sat. May 25th. Come anytime after 2:00pm. Bring your favorite snack. Girls who want to can spend the night and *Sarah* will bring everyone to church services Sunday morning.
- Thanks so much to the 4th and 5th grade class for stocking the pantry. They have been saving money over this quarter to purchase items for the pantry. This past Sun., after enjoying lunch at McDonald’s along with their teachers *Lana Todd* and *Paige Young*, they organized and stocked the church pantry. They have also, over this quarter, been helping as “Greeters” at our services. We applaud these young people for their willingness to serve.



**PRAYER LIST**

**Jann Hicks**, niece of *Terry Young* is at the Med in Memphis as a result of an automobile accident. She is showing signs of improvement.

**Caleb Jennings** will have surgery on his right elbow Friday, in Columbus, MS.

**Dennis Nichols**, friend of Brad & April Pounders has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

**J.V. Davis**, cousin of *Brad Pounders* has liver problems and is in need of a transplant.

**Ken Joines**, minister from the Southaven area will have a biopsy of his left kidney June 4th. He has requested our prayers.

\* We express our deepest sympathy to the family of **Carol Boyd** who was killed last week in a car accident. *Mrs. Boyd* was the mother of *Tyler Boyd*, fiancé of *Heather Robertson*.

**Continual Prayer :**

**Pat Reed, Eleta Grimmett, Maxine Carlisle, Dan Wood, Judy Ward, Pat Reed, Margie Barkley, 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 Crofts, 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**



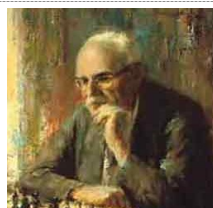
**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY!**

**REMEMBER - OUR FALLEN HEROS**

**God is like:**

**BOUNTY**

**He is the quicker picker upper...  
Can handle the tough jobs...  
And He won't fall apart on you.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



May 27..... Olen Clark  
May 27..... Sheila King  
June 01..... Grace Lyon  
June 01..... Clay Ormon  
June 01..... David Peeler

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

June 01..... Bill & Helen DePriest



**RESPONSE**

*Yolanda Stubblefield* responded Sunday morning asking forgiveness and seeking to make things right in her life. She requested prayers for strength to face challenges in her life. Please continue to remember her as she strives to live for Christ.

*Josh George* also responded to the invitation Sunday evening asking forgiveness and a desire to return to faithfulness to the Lord. We commend Josh on his decision and look forward to him being a part of the church family here at New Albany.

**NEW DEACON INSTALLED**

We are happy to announce that *Brad Pounders* was installed Sunday May 19th, as a deacon. We appreciate his willingness to take on this work. He will be a great asset to the church. *Brad* and his wife *April* have two children, *Olivia* and *Cooper*.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Men, remember the breakfast planned for Saturday, June 1st, at 7:00am in the annex building. All men are encouraged to attend. Be sure to sign the list in the foyer.



**VBS**

Our VBS is planned for Sat. June 1st, from 9:00am-2:30pm. Be inviting your friends and neighbors. Lunch will be provided.



A big "THANK YOU" to *Randy, Christy, Erin & Thomas Wall* for the great time we all enjoyed at the church picnic. We love and appreciate you!!

**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 .....534-6671  
Troy Robertson .....534-3491

**DEACONS**

Greg Clayton..... 252-9762  
Roger Clayton..... 538-8195  
Brad Pounders.....316-7931  
Harold Russell ..... 534-4648  
Randy Wall ..... 316-9255  
Lonnie Weaver..... 801-8448

**TO SERVE**

Scripture.....David Clayton  
A.M. Prayer.....J.L. Eaton  
Closing Prayer....Harold Crowe  
P.M. Prayer.....Dan Cobb  
Closing.....Olen Clark  
Wed 5/29.....Jason Jennings  
Wed.5/29.....Ronnie Griggs  
Usher & Lock....Harold Russell  
Greeter.....H & D Crowe

**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School..... 136  
Sunday A.M.....157  
Sunday P.M .....121  
Wednesday.....104  
Contribution.....\$3,713.75  
Budget.....\$3,817.55



**PANTRY ITEM**

Canned Fruit

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Mr. and Mrs. Troy Robertson  
request the honour of your presence  
at the marriage of their daughter

*Heather Dawn*

to

*Tyler Nathan Boyd*

son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Boyd  
on Saturday, the eighth of June  
two thousand and thirteen  
at two o'clock in the afternoon  
New Albany Church of Christ  
511 Highway 15 South  
New Albany, MS