

# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

June 25, 2013

## Why Am I Failing?

Mike King



It is not uncommon for each of us to ask ourselves this question after becoming weary with trying to succeed. We often work hard seemingly to no avail. Great effort is put into prayer in behalf of someone, a situation or a decision, with still unsatisfactory consequences. How do we respond when life seems futile?

A rather simplistic story that has made the rounds helps to illustrate the answer. God told a man that He wanted him to move a great stone. God told him to push against the rock. Long hours of pushing laboriously against the rock seemed to be futile. A gentleman passing by added insult to injury by scoffing and confirming his doubt of it ever moving. He did decide to approach God with the matter and report his frustration. "Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong, why am I failing? God's response in this legend was, "My friend, when I asked you to serve me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push! And now you come to me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed." It was pointed out to him that his legs had become massive and hard, opposition had made him exemplary physically. His faith had been exercised, his hands calloused and his arms made strong.

Very realistically, God tells us to obey His will and trust in Him and He will move the obstacles. As we experience the "push" process, we become stronger in faith and in our confidence in God. He has instructed us to labor in His cause and He will "give the increase" (I Cor. 3:7). We must exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves those mountains!

When things seem to go wrong...just P.U.S.H. When the job gets you down, when people do not react the way you think they should, when money is gone and bills are due or when people do not understand you...just P.U.S.H.! The solution is to be found in an acrostic:

P = Pray

U = Until

S = Something

H = Happens



## IMPATIENCE

How many times have you been in a hurry only to be slowed by someone or something?

How many times have you prayed for an answer from God only to be met with impatiently waiting until you gave up and made a decision for yourself?

The great New England preacher Phillips Brooks was known for his calm demeanor, but even he could have his patience tried at times. One day a friend observed him pacing the floor like a caged lion. "What's the trouble, Dr. Brooks?" asked the friend. "The trouble is that I am in a hurry," he replied, "but God isn't."

Isn't that true of most of us at times in our life? We become impatient with the deliberate manner in which God operates. We want results now! We want that sapling to grow into that huge tree soon, we want to see that church grow to maturity, and we want to see that teenage who has been going astray turn their life around overnight.

I'm sure the foolish builder of Matt. 7:24-27, could have pointed out the length of time it took the other guy to cut a foundation out of bed rock, and to make his deliberate, painstaking preparations. But you know what happened when the wind and the rains came; the guy who was in a hurry was homeless!

It took three years to develop His apostles. It took eighty years to prepare Moses for leadership. It took thousands of years for the right time for God to send His son (Gal. 4:4).

And we want results yesterday, at the soonest. Are you kidding me? I wonder if the Lord operates on Greenwich Mean Time or Eastern Standard Time. I wonder who sets God's deadlines. I wonder if it wouldn't be better if we began to fit into His schedule rather than trying to crush Him into ours. "The earth produces *by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear*" (Mk. 4:28).

God has an eternity in which to do His work. Then again, we're eternal beings, too. Maybe we should work into His schedule and "*wait on the Lord*" (Ps. 27:4).

~ Jeff Arnette, BulletinGold,

## FROM: ANDY'S DESK



Hello again! Since we did not run a newsletter last week I would like to take this opportunity to brag on the youth who were involved in Work Camp. From Monday through Friday on the week of June 10<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. I was absolutely blown away at the work ethic, attitude, and leadership displayed by our youth from New Albany. It was my first time to ever be a part of Work Camp in Corinth (headed by Foote Street Church of Christ) and I could not have been more astonished by the fact that there are so many of God's people who are service-oriented and willing to reach out to their communities and share the love of Jesus with those around them. I feel truly blessed to have been able to witness such a powerful, unifying bond that was so evident throughout the entire week by everyone who played a part in achieving the overall goal of Work Camp, which was serving others and letting them see the glory of God. Having said this, though, it was also a hard week of work and sweat and heat. Each day from 9 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon we scraped, power-washed, primed, painted, and even cut down some trees! In saying this, I want to recognize and thank those from the youth group, along with *Victoria Botts*, who went and worked so diligently to help improve the living situation of someone who could not have done so on her own. I was so very proud of *Madison Griggs*, *Anderson Parks*, and *Thomas Wall*, and I know that everyone who is a member of the church here in New Albany would have been equally as proud if they could have witnessed their efforts. I hope that there will be more opportunities to serve in the near future and that we will not hesitate to act upon God's calling when it comes our way. As tired and weary and sunburned as we all were, it was worth the sense of accomplishment we felt upon completing the house, as well as the overwhelming gratitude we had for the riches and blessings that God has given to us.

Galatians 5:13 - "*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*"

\*Upcoming Youth Events: Canoe Trip: Friday, June 28; Horizons: July 7-12;  
Redbirds Game: July 20; Lock-In: August 2-3



**PRAYER LIST**

**Troy Robertson**, is at home recovering from by-pass surgery.

**Frank Mills**, father of *Patty Jacks* has been experiencing seizures due to a fall. He was to have an MRI Sunday, in FL.

**Melissa Reed**, is at home recovering from eye surgery this past week. She is hopeful that this will be her final eye surgery.

**Nancy Petrowski**, daughter of *Harold* and *Deloris Crow* remains in room 590 of the Tupelo Hospital following chemo treatments for leukemia. She is not able to have visitors at this time.

**AL Pless**, friend of *Bill* and *Nancy Frohn* has been placed under Hospice Care. He is not doing well at this time.

**Eleta Grimmert** has been diagnosed with shingles.

**Continual Prayer :**

**Suzette Renix, Ken Joines, Jann Hicks, J.V. Davis, Dennis Nichols, Pat Reed, Judy Ward, Pat Reed, Rivers Robertson, Ruth Brown, Barry Yancey, Jennie Frohn, Randy Dunnam, Jack Dunlap, 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:**

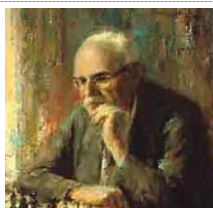
**Mattie Golden, Amy Vest, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Maxine Carlisle, Margret Reeves**

**Military List:**

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

**Good Thoughts**

As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home everyday.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



- June 23. . . . . Andrea Hill
- June 24. . . . . Erica Crotts
- June 24. . . . . Sharon Clemmer
- June 25. . . . . Sharon Peeler
- June 26. . . . . Shelby Carpenter
- June 27. . . . . J.L. Eaton
- June 29. . . . . Deborah Griffin
- June 29. . . . . Kaye Parks

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- June 30. . . . . Phil & Paige Young



**5th SUNDAY — JUNE 30TH**



Sunday, June 30th, there will be a fellowship meal (potluck) following our morning service. Our evening service will be at 1:15 and led by our young men. The adult III class will be in charge of set-up and clean-up of the fellowship building. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us Sun.!

**AREA EVENTS**

- **Ashland Church of Christ** ‘Youth Day’ June 29th from 9:00am-2:00pm.
- **The Fulton Church of Christ** invites you to attend their VBS July 14-17. Sunday night will be at 6:00pm and Mon.-Wed. at 7:00pm.
- **The Tiplersville Church of Christ** invites you to “Friends and Family Day” July 14th. Their Gospel Meeting with *Billy Smith* also begins July 14th and goes through the 17th.

**WERE YOU IN THE ARK?**

A grandchild  
sitting on her grandfather’s lap  
listening to the Bible story  
of Noah’s Ark, asked,  
“Were you in the Ark, Grandpa?”  
He chuckled and replied,  
“Why, no I wasn’t.”  
There was a pause,  
and the child looked up  
at him quizzically and asked,  
“Then why weren’t you drowned?”

**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.....Tyler Weaver  
A.M. Prayer.....Gary Turner  
Closing Prayer.....Phil Young  
P.M. Prayer.....Dillon Clayton  
Closing.....Clay Ormon  
Wed 7/3.....Andy Clemmer  
Wed.7/3.....Harold Crowe  
Usher & Lock.....Greg Clayton  
Greeter..... L & N Weaver

**OUR RECORD**

Sunday School..... 116  
Sunday A.M.....160  
Sunday P.M .....120  
Wednesday .....102  
Contribution.....\$4,137.00  
Budget.....\$3,817.55



**PANTRY ITEM**

Soap

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**SEEDS OF NEGLECT**

Theodore W. Brennan

I looked upon a farm one day that once I used to own;  
The barn had fallen to the ground, the fields were overgrown.

The house in which my children grew, where we had lived for years—  
I turned to see it broken down and brushed aside the tears.

I looked upon my soul one day to find it, too, had grown  
With thorns and nettles everywhere, the seeds of neglect had sown.

The years had passed while I had cared for things of lesser worth;  
The things of Heaven I let go when minding things of Earth.

To Christ I turned with bitter tears and cried, "O, Lord, forgive!  
I haven't much time left for thee, not many years to live."

The wasted years forever gone, the days I can't recall;  
If I could live those days again, I'd make Him Lord of all.

