



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

July 12, 2011

## Ananias and Sapphira Under Investigation

Mike King



The infant church had been unmarred until the sin of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). Luke had just discussed liberality and honesty prior to this, but these two young Christians present a contrast.

Their problem was not selling the land or even keeping a part for private use, but giving a part under pretense of giving the whole. Their sin was one of falsehood (vs. 3-4). Their sin was premeditated and willful (Heb. 10:26) in that they had planned long before the actual commitment of it (vs. 2, 9). Their sin was also secret because they had “*agreed together*” and “*tempted the Spirit,*” trying to escape God’s notice.

Their sin, as all sin, had its origination with Satan. He had filled their hearts with the seed of lies because of his being “*a liar and the father of it*” (Jn. 8:44-46). Satan made his way into the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira just as he did to Judas with similar end results (Jn. 13:2, 27). Satan was the origin of their sin, but their own hearts also worked in accord with Satan for their own destruction. James attributed the sources of sin as being a conjoined effort of Satan and the human heart. He said that “*each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed*” (Jas. 1:14). Take note that the devil exercises his role as the tempter and man’s heart responds to the enticement, ultimately being drawn away. We know from the context that God does not tempt, but the devil does (1 Thess. 3:5). The heart of man has to be opened before being filled with either bad or good. The devil’s wares include pride, causing them to want to be known as liberal givers (1 Jn. 2:16) and greed for they simply wanted the money.

They had not considered God’s divine detection system. The detection was instantaneous, requiring no trial, previous suspicion, or testimony of human witness. The detection was complete, uncovering everything, revealing the origin and nature of the sin, and those who are to be implicated. Though their sin was planned in secret, it was exposed in public as was Achan’s sin of Joshua the seventh chapter.

Their punishment was sudden and severe (vs. 5-6, 10), showing God’s hatred for sin. The punishment was super-natural with Peter only the spokesman for the Spirit and not the pronouncer of the death penalty. The punishment was justified due to the infancy of the church and its need for having abhorrence for sin. Be sure your sins will find you out (Num. 32:23)!

## The Old Phone On The Wall

When I was a young boy, my father had one of the first telephones in our neighborhood. I remember the polished, old case fastened to the wall. The shiny receiver hung on the side of the box. I was too little to reach the telephone, but used to listen with fascination when my mother talked to it.

Then I discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device lived an amazing person. Her name was "Information Please" and there was nothing she did not know. Information Please could supply anyone's number and the correct time.

My personal experience with the genie-in-a-bottle came one day while my mother was visiting a neighbor. Amusing myself at the tool bench in the basement, I whacked my finger with a hammer, the pain was terrible, but there seemed no point in crying because there was no one home to give sympathy.

I walked around the house sucking my throbbing finger, finally arriving at the stairway. The telephone! Quickly, I ran for the footstool in the parlor and dragged it to the landing. Climbing up, I unhooked the receiver in the parlor and held it to my ear. "Information please" I said into the mouthpiece just above my head. A click or two and a small clear voice spoke into my ear. "Information." "I hurt my finger..." I wailed into the phone, the tears came readily enough now that I had an audience. "Isn't your mother home?" came the question. "Nobody's home but me," I blubbered. "Are you bleeding?" the voice asked. "No," I replied. "I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts." "Can you open the icebox?" she asked. I said I could. "Then chip off a little bit of ice and hold it to your finger," said the voice.

After that, I called "Information Please" for everything. I asked her for help with my geography, and she told me where Philadelphia was. She helped me with my math. She told me my pet chipmunk that I had caught in the park just the day before, would eat fruit and nuts.

Then, there was the time Petey, our pet canary, died. I called, "Information Please," and told her the sad story. She listened, and then said things grown-ups say to sooth a child. But I was not consoled. I asked her, "Why is it that birds should sing so beautifully and bring joy to all families, only to end up as a heap of feathers on the bottom of a cage?" She must have sensed my deep concern, for she said quietly, "*Wayne*, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in." Somehow I felt better.

Another day I was on the telephone, "Information Please." "Information," said in the now familiar voice. "How do I spell fix?", I asked. All this took place in a small town in the Pacific Northwest. When I was nine years old, we moved across the country to Boston. I missed my friend very much. "Information Please" belonged in that old wooden box back home and I somehow never thought of trying the shiny new phone that sat on the table in the hall. As I grew into my teens, the memories of those childhood conversations never really left me. Often, in moments of doubt and perplexity I would recall the serene sense of security I had then. I appreciated now how patient, understanding, and kind she was to have spent her time on a little boy.

A few years later, on my way west to college, my plane put down in Seattle. I had about a half-hour or so between planes. I spent 15 minutes or so on the phone with my sister, who lived there now. Then without thinking what I was doing, I dialed my hometown operator and said, "Information Please." Miraculously, I heard the small, clear voice I knew so well. "Information." I hadn't planned this, but I heard myself saying, "could you please tell me how to spell fix?" There was a long pause. Then came the soft spoken answer, "I guess your finger must have healed by now." I laughed, "so it's really you," I said. "I wonder if you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time?" "I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your calls meant to me. I never had any children and I used to look forward to your calls." I told her how often I had thought of her over the years and I asked if I could call her again when I came back to visit my sister. "Please do", she said. "Just ask for *Sally*."

Three months later I was back in Seattle. A different voice answered, "Information." I asked for *Sally*. "Are you a friend?" she said. "Yes, a very old friend," I answered. "I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said. "*Sally* had been working part time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago." Before I could hang up, she said, "Wait a minute, did you say your name was *Wayne*?" "Yes." I answered. "Well, *Sally* left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you." The note said, "Tell him there are other worlds to sing in. He'll know what I mean." I thanked her and hung up. I knew what *Sally* meant.

Never underestimate the impression you may make on others. Whose life have you touched today?

*"...but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."* 1Tim. 4:12



**PRAYER LIST**

**Billy Joe Bray**, brother of *Deloris Crowe* is suffering with pancreatic cancer and not doing well.

**Milena Nesbit**, a member at the Hwy 178 Church of Christ is dealing with a high risk pregnancy.

**Dr. Richard Russell**, suffered a heart attack and is in the Oxford hospital.

**We express sympathy to J.L. Eaton** in the death of his brother-in-law *Leo Clark*.

**Continual Prayer**

**Billy Joe Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Travis Jamieson, Al Pless, Aliene Cain, Donna Haynes, Willie Jackson, David Harendt, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry Young**

**Shut-Ins**

**Lessie Bryant, Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Raymond & Amy Vest**

**Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

**Corrine Hall, Anna Davis, Mattie Golden & Pauline Smith**

**Military List:**

**David Wilhite, Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Ham, Raegan Cole, Micah Russell**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

July14.....Steve Hill  
July21.....Ione Wall  
July22.....Hunter Jennings  
July22.....Matt Jennings  
July22.....Jason McMillen

**“I’VE LEARNED”**

...That you should never say no to a gift from a child.



**Smithville, MS Disaster Relief**

Due to the generosity of the New Albany church family, over \$1100 have been given for the purchase of needed items for our adopted lady. Through cooperation with the Lord’s church in Smithville we were put in contact with *Reba Turner*. *Reba* is 87 years of age and sustained facial injuries during the tornado that leveled their town and lost a sister who died days later in the Tupelo Hospital from injuries.

*Richard, Troy and Mike* delivered a truck load of items this past Friday to assist her. She received a new washer and dryer, lawnmower, bed linens, hair blower, dishes, glasses, silverware, and a lamp. We still have some items that she selected for her “want list” upon or request that we still want to satisfy. She needs a sewing machine, convertor box for antenna T.V., brown telephone stand, a dark T.V. stand, cordless phone and any other items that could be used and appreciated by a lady who has lost everything. Ashley Furniture provided her with living room furniture and she has purchased a bed. If you have items you would like to send to her, bring them to the office or additional monies can be handed to *Jerry Gibson*.

If you would like to drop her a note to encourage her, send it to: *Reba Turner*, 60008 Appaloosa Dr, Smithville, MS 38870. Her phone number is 662-315-0038. Please keep in mind that this lady is not a member of the church, but the local congregation is working with her and our efforts will be assisting them in meeting her spiritual needs as well.

**AREA EVENTS**

- Chapman Church of Christ VBS is July 17-20.
- Fulton Church of Christ VBS is July 17-20.
- The Pine Bluff Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting July 17-20. Times are: Sun Bible Study at 10:00am, Worship at 11:00am and 6:00pm; Mon-Wed at 7pm. The guest speaker will be *Bruce Mclarty*.

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School .....	107
Sunday A M .....	138
Sunday P.M .....	88
Wednesday .....	98
Contribution .....	\$3,864.85
Budget .....	\$3,455.70

## TO SERVE

Scripture .....	Daniel Drummond
A.M. Prayer .....	Richard Jennings
Closing Prayer.....	Ronnie Griggs
P.M. Prayer.....	Andy Clemmer
Closing .....	Harold Crowe
Wed 7/20. ....	Dillon Clayton
Wed. 7/20 .....	Bill DePriest
Usher & Lock.....	Bill Botts
Greeter.....	L & N Weaver



**PANTRY ITEM:**  
**CANNED MEAT**

## 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

## YOUTH PAGE

**(Proverbs 11:14) “Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls, but in the multitude of counselors there is victory.”**

This world is in great need of Christian examples and righteous leaders. We see far too often how those apart from Christ can be deluded into a life of sadness, pain, and self-destruction simply because their source of direction dwelt in the darkness.

There are many ways in which we can be the light to those who are in need and guide those who are lost. One of the most influential characteristics we should possess in aspiring to become the leader God would have us to be is to ALWAYS have the attitude of Christ.

This means to show compassion, kindness and love to everyone, at all times! Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy.”

Jesus, the most powerful leader who ever lived, demonstrated this attitude. Even as he hung on the cross and died for our sins, he was praying to the Father so that those persecuting him would be forgiven. Talk about standing in a time of challenge and controversy!

In order to lead others to Christ, we must first be like Christ. This means being selfless even if we are facing a difficult situation or going through a hard time. People in this world desperately want and need Christian leaders. God has called each and every one of us to be that example. Great leadership cannot afford to take a break, and we are constantly being observed by the outside world. May we continually strive to be better guides to the spiritually lost.

- *Andy Brown*

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