



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

July 24, 2012

## LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

Mike King



The great poet and servant of the Lord, David, marvelously extolled the virtues of God and His word in his writings. Upon examining the Psalms, one soon becomes impressed by a man whose life was at times heavily burdened, yet so hopeful. He understood that he was living in a harsh society, each having their own selfish agenda and objectives for their life. He could very well have become despondent, depressed and defeated, but that could not serve his purposes in life or those of God for him. He said, *“When my heart is overwhelmed: Lead me to the rock that is higher than I”* (Psalms 61:2). As a young man growing up in the country, it was nothing unusual to become lost in the acres of forest that surrounded me. The natural thing to do was to climb to the highest point or climb a tree for an unobstructed and unencumbered view of where I was and where I needed to go. David acknowledged before God and welcomed the fact that *“thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me”* (Psalms 139:10). Though plagued by sin, David also understood that it was God’s will that mattered and so he prayed, *“Teach me to do thy will...Lead me in the land of uprightness”* (Psalms 143:10).

J.H. Newman allowed the sentiments of one of David’s Psalms to serve as a thesis for his well-known song, *Lead, Kindly Light*. That Psalm was the 119<sup>th</sup> and verse 105, *“Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.”* While traveling in Italy in about 1833, Mr. Newman became sick and was hindered for three weeks and was “becalmed” in a ship for another week. During this time his patience was challenged and health threatened, but he was inspired to write this beautiful song in the Straits of Bonifacio. It was written as a prayer, asking God to lead him amid the encircling gloom. He did not ask to see “the distant scene” but declared that “one step enough for me.” He referenced God and His Word as being “kindly Light.” Our world is harsh today as well and so confusing to the hearts of conscientious people. Isaiah found it hard to be a spokesman for God as a prophet. He too realized that he needed the gentle hand of God to nurture him along life’s rugged way. He affirmed that God *“shall feed his flock as a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young”* (Isaiah 40:11). What a beautiful picture to be displayed in life’s gallery of hurt, injustices and heartache!

These great men of spiritual integrity served the Lord faithfully and lived long without encouragement and help from their peers. Not only did they not have encouragement, these were the men who were sawn asunder and slain with the sword because of the relentless love and devotion they had for their beneficent God (Heb. 11:37). These attributes were what prompted David to declare, *“O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me”* (Psalms 25:2).

Two lessons we can learn from the words of the beloved old song and the exemplary loyalists who served God faithfully through the generations. First, God is worthy of being trusted! His word is perfectly adequate to guide us when our mind’s eye is clouded by tears, despair and struggles. Our prayer should be, “Lead Thou me on” despite the fact that “the night is dark and I am far from home.” Secondly, during tough times, we want to be dealt with kindly. Should it not behoove us to behave in a godlike manner (godliness) in relating to others who are encircled by gloom? Our brother, and apostle, Paul admonished the Roman brethren to *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another”* (Romans 12:10). It is *“in the spirit of meekness”* that we are to help those overtaken in a fault (Galatians 6:1). It would be in the best interest of each of us who struggle in this world, presently plagued by “an encircling gloom” to *“walk in the light, as he is in the light.”* We the people of God could enjoy *“fellowship one with another and allow the blood of Jesus Christ his Son to cleanse us from all sin”* (I John 1:7).



**PRAYER LIST**

**Betty Young** has not been feeling well due to complications from medication changes. She will return to her doctor this week.

**Johnny Garrett**, grandfather of *Austin Garrett* will undergo 12-15 radiation treatments over the next 2-3 weeks due to a tumor found on his brain.

**Grace Elliott**, niece of *Melissa Reed* who was injured recently playing softball, continues to improve. She will have another brain scan this week.

**Raymond Vest**, is weak and not feeling well. Please remember him and *Ms. Amy*.

**Tauso Branch**, is having a difficult time with her health. Please remember her.

**Continual Prayer**

**Reva Parrish, Bill Frohn, Laura Mae Harris, Harold Vaughn, Johnny Garrett, Brooks Russell, Altha Rogers, Jack Dunlap, Tauso Branch, Larry Averett, John Tierney, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry Young**

**Shut-Ins**

**Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Belle Cross, Raymond & Amy Vest**

**Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Mattie Golden**

**Military List:**

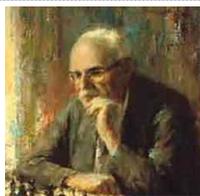
**David & Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Hamm, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud**



**SYMPATHY**

We express our deepest sympathy to *Dalton Beard* and family in the death of his mother, *Juerhee Beard*. *Mrs. Beard* passed away Friday, July 20th in Ripley, MS. Funeral services were held Sunday, July 22nd at the Chapman Church of Christ near Ripley.

**“I BELIEVE”  
...that a lot of kneeling will keep  
you in good standing.**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



July 27..... Dixie White  
August 03..... Ray Kennedy

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

July 25..... Bobby & Sue Marques



**IT’S A GIRL!**

Congratulations to *Dan & Karen (Ashmore) Maltby* on the birth of their daughter, *Evelyn Paige*, born Friday, July 20th. She weighed 4lbs, 10oz. Proud grandparents are *David & Cindy Ashmore* and great-grandparents *Victor & Alice Ashmore*.

**5TH SUNDAY SERVICE**

This coming Sunday, July 29th, our summer youth intern, *Andy Brown* will be speaking at the morning service. There will be a potluck meal following our morning services at the fellowship building. Adult 1 class will be in charge of set-up and clean-up. Our afternoon service will be at 1:15 and led by the elders. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for worship and fellowship this Sunday!

**BABY SHOWER**



There will be a baby shower for *Shelby Carpenter* Sunday, August 12th, at 2:00pm. at the fellowship building. *Brian* and *Shelby* are expecting a baby boy in September. Big sister *Jenna* is anxiously awaiting his arrival. *Shelby* is registered at Babies ‘R’ Us, Something Special, Target and Wal-Mart.

**HAITI MISSION TRIP**

Monday July 30th, *Troy Robertson* and a small group from Henderson, TN will travel to Haiti to take care of some needed repairs at the Sonlight Children’s Home. They will be gone for a week. Please pray for the work there and for their safe travels. We will have a report on the work there when they return.

## Things I've Learned

- I've learned that, no matter what happens, how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.
- I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles four things: a rainy day, the elderly, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.
- I've learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.
- I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life."
- I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.
- I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you, but if you focus on God, your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.
- I've learned that I still have a lot to learn.

~ unknown

*"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets."* Proverbs 1:20



**From: Andy's Desk**

I am definitely glad to have all of the youth back from summer camp at Maywood! I know everyone who attended camp had a great experience. I am thankful that they were able to participate in what was always one of the highlights of my summer growing up. I'm also happy to have everyone back because last week just was not the same without them! As I was thinking of church camp, I couldn't help but to think about the closeness one feels to God during that particular week. It is a time like no other where you can be with people your age, and also people who share the same love, passion, and dedication to the Lord as you do. It was always an amazing blessing and encouragement to be surrounded by so many great Christian people, and to have bible studies and devotionals multiple times a day for an entire week. There was something about camp that made you think about the important things in life, like the condition of your soul and your relationship with God. I made the decision to be baptized at the camp I attended in Centerville, Camp Meribah, in the summer of 2006. I was fourteen years old, and I will never forget who the teacher of the Bible class was that morning, the phone call I made to my parents from the camp's kitchen, and driving over to Fairfield Church of Christ with the camp director and my cabin's counselor, and the wonderful and excited feeling I had that night before, during, and after my baptism.

We can often get on a "spiritual high" when we attend camp or other Christian events, when we are constantly surrounded by other believers and followers: when it is *easy*. Then we get home from camp, when we get away from the circle of Christians who were so encouraging and supportive, when reality sets in and we are back in the world, that high starts to gradually wear off. I wish that I could feel as good as I did that summer night when I was baptized, every single day. We should all strive to have that same motivation and zeal to do good works for the Lord, to love Him, and to serve Him with all of our might every moment of our lives. It's not always easy, in fact sometimes it's just plain hard to live like that in this world, but we need to strive for it! There is nothing wrong at all with feeling a "spiritual high" from participating in things such as summer camps, retreats or mission trips, but we simply cannot rely on this fleeting feeling to carry us through. We must have the kind of firm foundation and relationship with the Lord that we know no matter what, we are going to cherish and honor Him, and live out His will. I think these two passages from Psalms summarize it best:

**\*Psalms 25:5** *"Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long."*

**\*Psalms 71:8** *"My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day."*

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	116
Sunday A.M.....	151
Sunday P.M.....	135
Wednesday.....	62
Contribution.....	\$3,294.75
Budget.....	\$3,567.55

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Steve Todd
A.M. Prayer.....	Richard Jennings
Closing Prayer...	Jason McCullough
P.M. Prayer.....	Harold Russell
Closing.....	Carl Smith
Wed 7/25.....	Dillon Clayton
Wed. 7/25.....	Alvin Parks
Usher & Lock.....	Randy Wall
Greeter.....	G & K Clayton



## PANTRY ITEM

Muffin mix

## 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.....	538-8195
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

## YOUNG MOTHERS



Has your child ever tossed a doll back two rows during services while you stared straight ahead wishing you were invisible? You have probably heard the voice of your own young one in the pause of “Rock of Ages” sing in an off-key “Jesus Loves Me.” You heard in the interlude of announcements a little prayer in the loudest voice praying for the dog, cat, or some such.

Incidents such as these make one wonder, “Why am I here?” No sooner do you sit down than you get up, reach out, pick up, take out, and on, and on. You want so much to keep your children quiet and not distract others.

In every church there are young mothers at every service. They pick up toys, dry eyes, wipe noses, and bow heads. They swat, spank, scold, and wonder, “Oh why am I here?” But they come. A pattern is being set and the hand that threw the doll may some day sow the seed of salvation.

Many times we wonder, we sit embarrassed, but always we’re there. We have our moments of discouragement, hushing, and coralling. “Won’t you please pray for us?” When you see a young mother, tell her you are glad that she and her family are there. Encourage her for there goes tomorrow’s church.

Many times older people may forget the times their children misbehaved and acted up in public. Hats off to parents who bring their children to church anyway!

*“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice...” 2 Tim. 1:5* [www.housetohouse.com](http://www.housetohouse.com)

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