



THE INFORMER

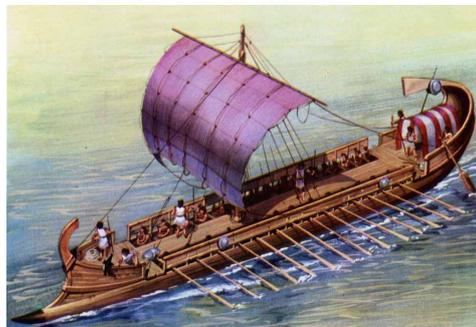
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

July 28, 2015

Serving as a Slave in God's Vessel

Mike King



The church could be likened to an ancient seagoing vessel of yesteryear. Some can remember the movies depicting medieval slaves incarcerated in the belly of a cargo or war galley. They had long rows of oars protruded from each side with slaves manning them from within the ship. They were organized in that one would bark out a cadence of “pull” or “heave ho,” or the singing of some rhythmic song. They could increase from being idle in the harbor to ramming speed with their collective man-power. They, being slaves, were chained to each other at their post of duty and were forced to stay in synchronization with all other rowers to avoid chaos and produce the needed power.

The large boats could take down much larger ships than it and were very effective in transporting cargo. It was not uncommon for great valuables to be transported while crisscrossing the Mediterranean Sea. It was also common for these ships to masquerade as life-saving vessels while on pirating missions.

The church is a mighty powerhouse of God, attended to by slaves of Jesus. Each working in harmony to a cadence set for them by their Master, Jesus (Heb. 9:14). This great “cargo ship” conveys blessings to God from man and to man from God. It can serve as a rescue ship, cargo, or when needed, a war ship. It is versatile in the execution of its power and purpose. The church flies the banner of truth for all who fear God to find hope (Ps. 60:4). The banners will be posted to further serve as a sign of victory and celebration, bearing the name of God, for He has satisfied all of the bill of lading for all specified goods have been delivered as promised (2 Pet. 3:9).

A sailor would perch himself high in the “crow’s nest” to maintain vigilance for enemy onslaught or the jutting of land or reef that could endanger. In inclement weather when visibility was hindered, the sailor would keep some crows in a cage, high up on the mast in the crow’s nest. He would release them and then chart a course “as the crow flies” for they would head for land. Habakkuk said, “*I will stand my watch, and set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me*” (Hab. 2:1). “*Therefore, let us not sleep...but let us watch and be sober*” (1 Thess. 5:6). We are to “*be watchful in all things*” (2 Tim. 4:5) for there are those who seem to be coming to our aid, but are spiritual pirates (Eph. 4:14).

THOSE TO SERVE THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2015

Announcements: Greg Clayton
Sound Room: Lonnie Weaver
Usher: Michael Crotts

Lead Singing: Sun. A.M.: Richard Jennings
 Sun. P.M.: Greg Harrison
 Wed.: Ray Kennedy/Youth

Sunday Prayers:

August 02:
 A.M. Alvin Parks
 Harold Russell
 P.M. Terry Stubblefield
 Cody Hardin
 August 09:
 A.M. Brad Pounders
 Phillip Young
 P.M. Thomas Wall
 Andy Clemmer
 August 16:
 A.M. Troy Robertson
 Hunter Jennings
 P.M. Dan Cobb
 Shane Crotts
 August 23:
 A.M. Randy Wall
 Terry Young
 P.M. Mark Jennings
 Bill Lyon
 August 30:
 A.M. Greg Clayton
 Steve Todd
 P.M. Matt Jennings
 Bobby Marques

Lord's Supper:

North Head: Gary Turner	South Head: Richard Adams
North Helper I: Jim Gann	South Helper I: Ruston Adams
North Helper II: Jason Jennings	South Helper II: Olen Clark

Scripture Reading:

Aug. 02 — Anderson Parks
 Aug. 09 — Phil Young
 Aug. 16 — Caleb Jennings
 Aug. 23 — Paul Ormon
 Aug. 30 — Alvin Parks

Wednesday Prayers:

Aug. 05 — Tyler Weaver; David Clayton
 Aug. 12 — Roger Clayton; Jerry Grimmatt
 Aug. 19 — Perry Jones; Dillon Clayton
 Aug. 26 — Ray Kennedy; Richard Jennings

Greeters:

Aug. 02 — Richard & Kathy Jennings
 Aug. 09 — Randy & Christy Wall
 Aug. 16 — Mike & Sheila King
 Aug. 23 — Lonnie & Nicki Weaver
 Aug. 30 — Troy & Novene Robertson

Usher & Lock:

Aug. 02 — Brad Pounders
 Aug. 09 — Harold Russell
 Aug. 16 — Randy Wall
 Aug. 23 — Lonnie Weaver
 Aug. 30 — Greg Clayton

Host Youth Devo. Garrett & Smithey

Prepare Communion: Jessica Garrett

A TEACHER'S RESPONSIBILITY

The church is facing a crisis. There is a drastic shortage of qualified Bible class teachers. Church leaders need to train new teachers, and those already in that capacity need to take their jobs seriously.

There is a great honor attached to teaching the Word of God. This exercise is the most sacred trust one can imagine. Unfortunately, there are those, on occasion, who want the honor that attends that lofty role, yet they are unwilling to pay the price that accompanies the responsibility. What are some of the costs that accompany this sober responsibility?

An Example. The teacher must be an example – in life, in spiritual fervor. Luke wrote concerning that which Jesus both *practiced* and *taught* (cf. Acts 1:1; cf. 1 Tim. 4:12). No one who is careless in church attendance, who shows virtually no interest in the lost, who dresses provocatively, who is addicted to harmful substances, who is known to be worldly, etc., needs to be in a teaching capacity. Many sincere people struggle to overcome such problems, and for this they are to be applauded. But folks must realize that there is a certain level of maturity to be achieved before one may assume the revered role of a public teacher of the Scriptures.

Being Prepared. The teacher must be willing to spend considerable time in diligent study so as to be qualified as an accurate instructor of the Scriptures. Off-the-cuff, sloppy preparation can jeopardize the souls of honest people. Those who busy themselves with mundane matters all week, and then bore their students with a hastily thrown-together, Sunday morning presentation, are contributing to the disinterest of our youth. Is it any wonder that many congregations consist mainly of older folks these days? Too, a good teacher will invest money in appropriate study tools to help qualify himself or herself in Bible knowledge. A study of history, geography, language, etc., is vital for the well-qualified instructor.

Attitude. A good teacher must be patient and compassionate with his or her students. One who is ill-tempered, lacking in understanding, impatient, explosive, etc., can do more harm in attempting to teach than if he or she had simply refrained. A godly teacher will love his fellowman and value the soul above all else.

Faithful. A teacher must be sound in his religious convictions. It is important what a man believes. Those who subscribe to false ideas regarding the plan of salvation, the church, worship, the nature of the Bible, and moral issues (e.g., divorce/remarriage) must not be permitted to spread their error. Church leaders who reason: "Well, I know he holds some unorthodox ideas in certain areas, but he has agreed not to express them," simply are deceiving themselves.

In view of these requirements, it becomes easier to understand why the inspired writer James admonishes: "*Be not many of you teachers*" (3:1). It is not that he would discourage teaching; it is just that we must take this responsibility very seriously. The future of the church depends upon its teaching program. Let us attempt to do a more responsible job.

~ Wayne Jackson ~

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST



Betty Young fell Saturday and broke her left wrist. Her doctor thinks it will heal with a brace in 8 or 9 weeks.

Novene Robertson is scheduled to see a heart doctor Aug. 3rd, for a follow-up after having some tests.

Harold Crowe is at home slowly improving from an impacted stomach.

Nicki Weaver is suffering with arthritis in her eye along with several other health problems.

Pam Ledford former secretary of *Mike King* from Jacksonville, FL, is scheduled for stents, valve replacement and repair at the Heart Clinic in Cleveland, OH, Aug. 3rd.

Continue to Remember:

Chrystal Bickerstaff, Brad Bogue, Timmy Bolden, Larry Cobb, David Crossings, Roy Crow, Jackie Dodd, Deborah Elliott, John Elliott, Justin Forsyth, Preeble Foster, Sonny Gay, Natalie Griffin, Donna Haynes, Dianna Hodges, Shane Hutton, Judy Kirk Lonnie Parker, Nancy Petrowski, Wayne Reams, Whit Robertson, Lisa Russell, Sheila Thomas, John Todd, Sean Thompson, Judy Ward, Chris Windham, Andy Ulmer, Terry & Betty Young, Tommy Young.

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Teresa Clark, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Claudia Senter

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Betty Lang, Miriam Styers, Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris

Military List:

Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud

Bible Verses To Remember

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.” I Thess. 5:14

I've Learned...

Don't become discouraged. It may be the last key in the bunch that will open the door.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August 03. Ray Kennedy
August 05. Martin Crotts
August 05. John Michael Mann
August 08. Kathy Jennings

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 08. David & Cindy Ashmore
August 09. Jason & Lea Ann McMillen



THANK YOU NOTES

To Our Youth Leader Cody Hardin,

We would like to thank you for a great fun trip to Chattanooga, Ruby Falls and White Water Rafting. We really had a great time and appreciate all of your hard work putting this together for us. Thanks again, Your New Albany Youth Group

Dear New Albany family,

Thank you so much for all the calls, cards, and visits during the recent loss of our son, Wyatt. Your words of kindness and your willingness to help with anything needed was a great comfort. We are so grateful to have such a loving, caring church family. Please continue to pray for us during our time of healing. With Love, Mark and Alyce Jennings

CHURCH SOFTBALL GAME

A church softball game is planned for Sunday night August, 2nd, following our evening worship services. This game will be the same format as the recent basketball game. If you would like to participate please sign the list in the foyer, and if you have any questions please see *Cody*. Everyone is invited to participate or just watch and cheer on the players. This will be a bring your own snack event.



**Christ Living in Me...
To Be Seen in 2015!**



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>
Email: 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 Jennings316-1305
Troy Robertson316-3163

DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
Roger Clayton 538-8195
Brad Pounders.....316-7931
Harold Russell..... 507-1180
Randy Wall 316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Anderson Parks
A.M. Prayer.....Alvin Parks
Closing Prayer...Harold Russell
P.M. Prayer .Terry Stubblefield
ClosingCody Hardin
Wed.8/05.....Tyler Weaver
Wed.8/05.....David Clayton
Usher & LockBrad Pounders
Greeter.....R & K Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....126
Sunday A.M.....152
Sunday P. M.....108
Wednesday.....104
Contribution.....\$4,164.07
Budget.....\$3,984.46



PANTRY ITEMS

Tomato Sauce

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From Cody's Desk:

I recently bought a shirt that read, "Everything I know I learned from Mr. Feeny." Mr. Feeny is a character from one of my favorite T.V. shows of all time, *Boy Meets World*. He was the voice of wisdom on the show and whenever there was a problem, he would know how to fix it. He was the main character's teacher. He was always trying to drill information into his head, but taught him more life lessons than those related to school. On the importance of education Mr. Feeny once said, "You see Mr. Matthews, education is not about obscure facts and little test scores. Education is about the overall affects of years of slow absorption, concepts, philosophies, and approaches to problem solving." I really enjoyed that quote. Mr. Feeny, of course, was talking about a secular education, but the same could be said for our Christian education. It can be hard to motivate yourself to go to Bible class, especially if the teacher isn't the most interesting you've ever had. It may feel useless and you may feel like you left learning nothing but what you already knew. But remember, your Christian education isn't just about obscure facts, and there are no tests. It's about growing closer to the God that you serve and learning to love Him more.

