



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

August 21, 2012

## God's Massive Brotherhood

Mike King



When away from home, one is caused to notice and appreciate many things that might otherwise be taken for granted or overlooked. A few months ago when *Richard* and I were visiting and speaking in various locations and congregations around the north island of New Zealand, it served as a reminder to me of the greatness of God's kingdom.

It is not uncommon for us to think that we are the only ones who struggle to adhere to God's word, remain sound and are concerned about teaching it. During the time that we were in New Zealand, we were surrounded by believers who were Kiwi (British decent New Zealanders), Maori Indians (equivalent to our Native Americans and indigenous to the islands), Samoan islanders, Malaysians, Fiji islanders, Australians, British/Irish mix and American. Others in attendance came from South Africa, England, Vietnam, Cook Islands, Mexico and various other locations. Many of these were converted to Christ in their own land and sought the Lord's church upon arrival. Most of them were converted after arriving in New Zealand. The South Pacific islands have been evangelized in part by converts from N.Z. returning home and taking the gospel back to their families. Being there reminded me of Paul's sermon delivered on Mar's Hill in Athens, Greece. He said that God "...*hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth...*" (Acts 17:26). Ironically, the Lord's church dates back to the Restoration Movement in that region of the world.

Though representing many ethnic back-grounds, they all had one thing in common – they loved the Lord, His Word and His church. I was inspired by their enthusiasm for learning. They took notes, asked questions, sought copies of outlines used, poured over the Word and sang with heartfelt enthusiasm. It is always an inspiration to me to work with these good brothers and sisters in Christ. They have so little with which to work, but manage to get so much mileage from it. They lack elders, preachers, reading material and facilities in some cases, but make up for it with their sincerity, discipline and conscientiousness.

It is fascinating to travel so many miles to circumstances so different, but find the same Book being used, same faith exercised and having the same spiritual family ties. Now, these are the ones with whom I have had contact only. Think of the multitudes scattered throughout the remote areas of India, Africa, islands and cities around the world who obeyed the same New Testament gospel, belong to the one church built by our Lord and share our same hope of being with God in heaven. It is true after all, He meant for it to go to every nation, and so it is! There are many "*who have not bowed their knee to Baal*" but love and are serving the Lord as are we are, all in the same spiritual family.



### PRAYER LIST

**Phyllis Popson**, sister of *Sue Stroud* is in a Florida hospital having test run.

**Raymond Vest**, has returned to Graceland Care Center after a brief stay in the hospital.

**Laura Mae Harris** has returned to the rehab center on Bratton Road after a short stay in the hospital.

**Johnny Garrett**, grandfather of *Austin Garrett*, is now at home but not doing well. He continues to struggle with cancer.

**Rosie Wilson**, sister-in-law of *Gloria Jones* has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will undergo surgery soon.

#### Continual Prayer

**Chrystal Bickerstaff, Teresa Eaton, Betty Young, Tauso Branch, Jim Dickerson, Perrin Drummond, Harold Vaughn, Reva Parrish, Connie Phagan, Mary Alice Holloway, Roy Crow, Prebble Foster, Brooks Russell, Altha Rogers, Jack Dunlap, Tauso Branch, Larry Averett, John Tierney, Tony Cross, Norman Brown, Al Pless, Hugh Collins, Shane Crofts, Terry & Betty Young**

#### Shut-Ins

**Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Belle Cross**

Nursing Home/Assisted Living: **Mattie Golden, Raymond & Amy Vest**

#### Military List:

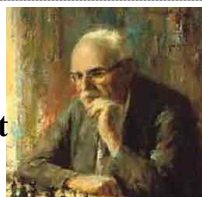
**David & Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Hamm, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud**

### HELP NEEDED!

Your help is needed to fill the following works: Someone to prepare communion for the months of Sept., Oct. & Dec.; Someone to host the Youth devotionals for the months, Aug. & Nov.

**“I BELIEVE”**

**...that it is not what you gather  
but what you scatter that tells what  
kind of life you have lived.**



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August 26. . . . . Gary Turner  
August 30. . . . . Richard Adams  
August 30. . . . . Alyce Jennings  
August 30. . . . . Troy Robertson  
August 31. . . . . Rachel Peeler

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 29. . . . . Larry & Janet Drummond



### LADS TO LEADERS

\*Any youth who plans to do an art project or bulletin board for the ‘2013 Lads to Leaders Convention’, please let *Sarah Walker* know by Sept. 1st.

\* Anyone who would like to order a T-shirt with the 2013 Lads to Leaders theme from Prov.3:5-6, “*Trust the Lord with all your heart.....*”, please sign the list on the table in the foyer. The cost will be \$8 for up to size XL and \$10 for 2X and larger. Our youth will wear these T-shirts to Bible Bowls and other youth events. Anyone is welcome to order one.



### OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to an Open House for *Steve* and *Andrea Hill* August 26th, from 2:00-4:00pm. Their address is 1285 County Road 87, New Albany. For directions please see *Sallye Clayton*.

### AREA EVENTS

- **Senior Adult Rally** to be held at the **Booneville Church of Christ** Sat. Aug, 25th. The topic is ‘Over the Hill?’ (The Spills and Thrills On the Way Down). Guest speaker: *Ben Flatt*
- **Gospel Meeting** at the **Marlow Church of Christ** August 26th-29th with *Lance Foster* as the guest speaker. Mon-Wed at 7:30pm.
- **Senior Adult Rally** Sat. Sept. 8th at the Southwind Church of Christ in Memphis, TN. Check the bulletin board for details.

## OLYMPIC MEDAL “OAR” MAYBE NOT

In every Olympic Games, there are compelling human interest stories. For those of you who are old enough to remember, names like Dan Jansen and Derek Redmond bring to mind heart-tugging stories. But allow me to introduce you to one of my heroes from the 2012 London Games. His name is Hamadou Djibo Issaka.



Hamadou is from the West African country of Niger. Six months ago he was working as a gardener. Just three months ago he took up the sport of “sculling,” (rowing). In his heat, he finished 1:39 seconds behind the winning sculler. To put that in perspective, that means that he finished three and a half football fields behind the winner! As a result, he’s been dubbed the “Sculling Sloth.”

Obviously, he wasn’t in the same class as his competitors. In fact, he told a reporter after the race that he was just glad that he didn’t make his boat fall over. Although he was totally exhausted, he was determined to finish the race and he did. He said the cheers of the spectators kept him going.

Friends, doesn’t that remind you of life? For some, life comes so easy and they can row with grace and speed through still waters. But for others, life seems to come hard, and requires rowing against the wind through troubled waters. No matter how life comes to you, don’t quit! Finish the race, and when you do, you won’t be judged by your speed, but by your perseverance.

~ Preaching Help from Steve Higginbotham 08/07/12

## The Straight Path

Once a father took his three sons on a winter hike. They came to a field glistening white from a snowfall the night before. The father, wanting to challenge his youngsters and perhaps teach them a lesson suggested a contest: Which one could walk the straightest path across the field.

The first trudged across the field keeping his eyes down to watch each step, trying to put one foot in front of the other. When he reached the other side, he looked back, and to his surprise the tracks were curved like the letter “S.”

The second lad started, taking a few steps then looking back to see if his path appeared straight. About every ten to fifteen steps the process was repeated. When he finished he eagerly surveyed the entirety of his course, but discovered it wasn’t really straight at all - it was in segments, veering to the right, and then to the left.

The third, seeing the other two had failed, employed a different strategy. He looked directly at his father who stood on the opposite side of the field. He walked toward his father, never taking his eyes off of him. Having completed the trek, his path was the straightest of the three by far.

The wise father then taught the boys, saying, “Sons, there is just ONE path in life that is straight and true, and that is the way of Jesus Christ (John 14:6). As you go through life, keep your eyes on Him, “*looking unto Him*” (Heb. 12:2), and your course will always be right! Remember, He is the Way. Trust Him and do what His Word teaches and you will never go wrong.”

- Selected; via [bulletingoldextra.blogspot.com](http://bulletingoldextra.blogspot.com)



## KINGS IN THE BIBLE QUIZ

1. I am the place that the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the King of Judah went up against. What place am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. I was the Old testament prophet who prophesied the slaying of the children of Bethlehem by King Herod. What is my name? \_\_\_\_\_
3. I was King Herod’s son who succeeded him? Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....	111
Sunday A.M.....	156
Sunday P.M.....	111
Wednesday.....	107
Contribution.....	\$3,103.27
Budget.....	\$3,567.55

## TO SERVE

Scripture.....	Jason McCullough
A.M. Prayer.....	Richard Jennings
Closing Prayer..	Daniel Drummond
P.M. Prayer.....	Jason Jennings
Closing.....	Matt Jennings
Wed 8/29.....	Ray Kennedy
Wed. 8/29.....	Olen Clark
Usher & Lock.....	Greg Clayton
Greeter.....	R & K Jennings



## PANTRY ITEM

English Peas

## 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

## The Bridge Builder

By Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man, going a lone highway,  
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,  
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;  
The sullen stream had no fears for him;  
But he turned, when safe on the other side,  
And built a bridge to span the tide.  
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,  
"You are wasting strength with building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day;  
You never again must pass this way;  
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide--  
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today  
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm, that has been naught to me,  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."



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