



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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August 23, 2011

And The Walls Came Tumbling Down

Mike King



There is a trend today for people to become more reclusive which has potential for damaging relationships. Due to our vocations forcing us to be surrounded by people, problems, deadlines, and decisions, we take flight. It seems as if when we have been on the job and surrounded by people and traffic, the last thing that we want is to be around people at day's end. This trend impacts the closeness of Christians and thwarts part of the purpose and mission of the Lord's church.

New Testament Christians, among many other assignments, were to be given to hospitality (Rom. 12:13). This was not something for them to dabble in lightly or on rare occasions, but was to be "given" to exercising hospitality (Titus 1:8).

God gave instruction as to how this was to be done. Christians are to "*Use hospitality one to another without grudging*" (I Pet. 4:9). It was one of the requirements of elders to meet qualification. It was not restricted to them, but they were expected to be examples as to the importance of the use of it. They were to be "*a lover of hospitality*" and "*a lover of good men*" (Titus 1:8). Who knows the outcome or impact that your open door might have, "*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unaware*" (Heb. 13:2). We vicariously have Christ into our home and heart when treating others warmly (Matt. 25:31-75).

Hospitality is associated with a demonstration of our faith by our works. We actually exercise what we are saying and feeling about others as James cautioned: "*be ye warmed and filled*" but negligently sent them on their way (Jas. 2:15-17).

That beautiful body of people in the first century that is referred to as the "church" regularly "*broke bread from house to house with one accord and singleness of heart*" (Acts 2:46). It was an opportunity for them to improve life and relations with brethren.

Keep in mind the following goals for fellowship. There is no better avenue for extending encouragement and strength than through fellowship. When familiarity toward each other increases, suspicion, gossip, jumping to conclusions, distrust, and fear diminish significantly. Being together reminds us of the fact that we are fellow strugglers and need each other. We can encourage each other by speaking positively about the Lord's church and her work. It is the same as a family reunion, having association with those who have a kinship. It allows worship to be sweeter when having a warm relationship outside of worship. Let us pray for each other in our quest for spiritual growth and happiness both here and in eternity.

THE BARGIN

During one of the many Reformation battles, a young soldier found himself and his army being soundly defeated by the enemy. He and his comrades hastily retreated from the battlefield in defeat, running away in fear of their lives.

The enemy gave chase. The young man ran hard and fast, full of fear and desperation, and soon found himself cut off from his comrades. The soldier eventually came upon a rocky ledge containing a cave.

Knowing the enemy was close behind, and that he was exhausted from the chase, he chose to hide there. After he crawled in, he fell to his face in the darkness, desperately crying to God to save him and protect him from his enemies. He made a bargain with God. He promised that if God saved him, he would serve Him for the remainder of his days.

When he looked up from his despairing plea for help, he saw a spider beginning to weave its web at the entrance to the cave. As he watched the delicate threads being slowly drawn across the mouth of the cave, the young soldier pondered its irony. He thought, "I asked God for protection and deliverance, and He sent me a spider instead. How can a spider save me?"

His heart was hardened, knowing the enemy would soon discover his hiding place and kill him. Soon he did hear the sound of his enemies, who were now scouring the area looking for those in hiding.

One soldier with a gun slowly walked up to the cave's entrance. As the young man crouched in the darkness, hoping to surprise the enemy in a last-minute desperate attempt to save his own life, he felt his heart pounding wildly out of control.

As the enemy cautiously moved forward to enter the cave, he came upon the spider's web, which by now was completely strung across the opening. He backed away and called out to a comrade, "There can't be anyone in here. They would have had to break this spider's web to enter the cave. Let's move on."

Years later, this young man, who made good his promise by becoming a preacher and evangelist, wrote about the ordeal:

"Where God is, a spider's web is as a stone wall. Where God is not, a stone wall is as a spider's web."

Author: Unknown

A SECOND GLANCE



In a recent article, I expressed the thought that Methuselah was "highly esteemed by God." How do I know that, someone quizzed, because the Bible simply says he lived "*nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died*" (Gen. 5:25-27). I realize that assumption, speculation or conjecture are not adequate for declaration of something to be truth.

This man was a part of God's scheme of salvation because he constituted part of the seed line of Jesus. He is seen as a direct descendent of Adam (the son of God) by about eight generations and eventually Jesus arrived (Lk. 3:23-38). He was a significant part of God's umbilical cord connecting the Savior with lost mankind. He was the son of a great man of God, Enoch, whom God prevented from "*seeing death... because he pleased God*" (Heb. 11:5). He was the grandfather of Noah and indirectly responsible for the preservation of all mankind. He was blessed by God to have lived longer than any other of His entire creation.

Though not precisely worded in Scripture that God esteemed Methuselah, I feel confident in drawing this conclusion because of the connection that he had with God and the incarnate Christ, then ultimately salvation. Thanks for being observant and reading carefully!

Mike

YOUTH NEWS

- This month's Youth Devo will be Sunday night, August 28th, following services. The youth are asked to bring drinks. *Shane and Barbara Crotts* and *Alvin and Kaye Parks* will be hosting.
- Wednesday night, August 31st will be singing night. All young men are encouraged to lead a song.
- The first Senior Bible Bowl for this season will be held September 18th, at the Nettleton Church of Christ. Questions will be taken from Acts 1-7.
- The first Junior Bible Bowl will be held Saturday, September 24th, at the Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ. Questions will be taken from the book of Luke.

PRAYER LIST

Randy Wall, is doing well following shoulder surgery. He will receive therapy for several weeks.

Jerry Coates, minister for the Potts Camp Church of Christ has been released from the hospital and is recovering at his brothers home in Booneville.

Laura Mae Harris, is back home and improving.

Continual Prayer

Pat Reed, Tommy Howell, Bobby White, Drew Ferguson, Claudia Senter, Daphne Fitzpatrick, Tony Cross, Billy Joe Bray, Tauso Branch, Al Pless, Travis Jamieson, Aliene Cain, Donna Haynes, Willie Jackson, 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



SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to Bobby White and family in the death of his uncle *Lenwood Garner*, who passed away Saturday, August 20th. Funeral services were held Monday, in Ripley.

“I’VE LEARNED”

...That life isn’t tied with a bow, but it’s still a gift.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 29.....Larry & Janet Drummond

NOTES



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all your thoughts and prayers on my behalf. I appreciate the many cards and well wishes for my recovery and I am getting better!

In Christian Love, Claudia Senter

Thank you so much for all the cards, calls and visits while Bobby was sick. It is so good to be a part of this Christian family.

Bobby & Dixie White

REJOICE!

We are happy to announce that *Michael Crotts* was baptized into Christ Monday evening, August 22nd by *Mike King*. We are very proud of *Michael* and appreciate his parents for the influence they have had on his life. Please make our new brother welcome!



BABY SHOWER

There will be a baby shower for *Jessica Garrett* Sunday, August 28th at 2:00pm in the annex building. *Jessica* and *Austin* are expecting a girl in mid September.

AREA EVENTS

Marlow Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting Aug. 28-31 with guest speaker *Tom Childers*, Mon-Wed at 7:30pm

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	114
Sunday A M	142
Sunday P.M.....	110
Wednesday	111
Contribution	\$3,495.50
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Matt Jennings
A.M. Prayer.	Troy Robertson
Closing Prayer....	Jason Jennings
P.M. Prayer.....	Roger Clayton
Closing	Mark Jennings
Wed 8/31.	Phil Young
Wed. 8/31	Clay Ormon
Usher & Lock..	Lonnie Weaver
Greeter.....	G & K Clayton



PANTRY ITEM

Peanut butter

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

BLIND OR FORGETFUL?

Old man Woodruff loved golf, but his age was making it increasingly difficult for him to play. He complained to the clubhouse man about his eyesight. "I can't play with my glasses on because they keep falling off," he said. "And I'm too nearsighted to play without them."

"Why don't you play with Hughes?" the clubhouse man suggested.

"Him?" Woodruff scoffed. "He's ninety-eight if he's a day, and he can't get around without a wheelchair!"

"True," said the clubhouse man, "but he's farsighted." So the next day, Woodruff and Hughes played together.

Woodruff took a tremendous swing and hit the ball well. "Boy, that felt good!" he explained. "Did you see it?" he asked Hughes.

"Yes," the very old man replied.

"Where did it go?"

"I can't remember," Hughes sighed.

Which do you suppose is worse - - those in the world who are blind to the fact that God has provided them with so many good things, or those of us who "see" that, but forget to express our appreciation to God?

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who satisfies your mouth with good things..." (Psalms 103:1-5a)

As we are surrounded by so many reminders of God's goodness to us, may we not only have our eyes open to recognize all of his blessings, but also remember to express our appreciation. ~ copied

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