

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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August 5, 2014

Who Is Packing Your Chute?

Mike King



Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a Surface-to-air-missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived it and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, “You’re Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!” “How in the world did you know that?” asked Plumb. “I packed your parachute,” the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, “I guess it worked!” Plumb assured him, “It sure did, if your chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, “I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform; a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottomed trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said, “Good morning, how are you?” or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shroud lines and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn’t know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, “Who’s packing your parachute?” Everyone has someone who provides what he or she needs to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory – he needed his physical parachute and his spiritual one as well. He called on all these supports before reaching safety. Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason. As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachute.

Deacons: Unsung Stars in God's Show!

Way back in 1979, Star Bible Publications, Inc., published a booklet written by Texas preacher Charles Hodge entitled, *God's Deacons*. In the first chapter of the booklet ("Deacons Are No Joke") Brother Hodge wrote these attention-arresting words about "deacons" — "Brethren are taught to love elders but not deacons. . . . Mothers want their boys to grow up to become preachers and elders but not deacons . . . Have you ever heard anyone say, 'The goal of my life is to be a great deacon?' Any man too big to be a deacon is too little to be an elder! . . . Why don't more deacons become elders? By the way, why don't more deacons become deacons?" Not to be overly negative, but I think one reason why, is found in the very definition of the word "deacon." The Greek word translated "deacon" is diakonos (pronounced dee-ak'-on-os). The word occurs some 30 times in the New Testament. It is often translated "servant" or "minister" and can apply to Christians in general or to gospel teachers. Strong's Concordance defines "deacon" as "an attendant, i.e. a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); deacon, minister, servant." To reiterate, the word diakonos (deacon) applies to all Christians. Every disciple who takes Jesus seriously must move past simply flopping down on a pew and learn instead to flesh out the attitude Jesus taught with His life and His lips — *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"* (Mark 10:45). By the way, these words were spoken after James and John came to Jesus and demanded, *"do for us whatever we ask"* (verse 35). These days, many people choose a church based on what it will "do for us." But any church that truly seeks to follow Jesus and mold others into His likeness will teach and challenge its members to "do for others."

Now, back to men the New Testament calls "deacons." Five verses translate diakonos as "deacon" in recognition of a select group of servants who serve the church and assist the elders under their oversight. They are Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:8,10,12,13. Note especially 1 Timothy 3:10 and 12 — *"But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless... For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."* These two verses get to the heart of the deacons' role in the church — serving! Serving well! Decades ago I heard the late G. P. Holt say in a sermon: "You don't have to be a star to be in God's show!" Real deacons are the church's unsung heroes. They are men of rock-solid faith in God and sterling Christian character. They have proven that they know how to live the Christian life at home, on the job, in the community, and at church. They have gained the respect of the elders and the church as men who, when asked to do a job, will not only get it done but do it well. They seek, not to be show-stopping stars or celebrities, but men who want to follow in the footsteps of the One who said, *"I am among you as the One who serves"* (Luke 22:27). The reward that motivates deacons is a good standing with God, even if their service is often unsung. The church waits. Who is able and willing to serve?

~ Dan Gulley ~

From Cody's Desk:

I'd like to do something a little different this week. I want to brag on the teenagers a little bit. As most of you know we had the YAHOO lunch Sunday afternoon and it went great, and it didn't have anything to do with me. The teenagers worked extremely hard to get things set up. We took the girls to Walmart and let them get what they needed to cook the meal, and with no help at all, they got everything ready. The guys didn't have as big of a role until the day of the event. They stepped in and did exactly what they needed to do. It was great to watch and great to be a part of it. More impressive than what they did, was how they did it. Most teenagers, when faced with a difficult situation, will complain and argue and not get anything accomplished. That being said, the teenagers we have saw what needed to be done, and they did it. I want to say they learned a good lesson about life; that when something needs to be done you have to step up and do it. However, with how well they did, I don't know if I can say they learned it, they might have already known it.

It occurred to me when I started writing this morning that I am going into my last full week here this summer. It has been a wonderful summer so far and I don't want it to end. We do have a few things left before the summer is over though. Other than the YAHOO lunch, which I have already talked about, we had a scavenger hunt Sunday night. Coming up, we have a movie night Wednesday night and then a canoe trip Saturday. I'm so excited for the week and a half I have left, I do not want it to end.

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

PRAYER LIST



Rebecca Anthony, member of the Ripley congregation has a spot on her lung that is believed to be cancer. Her niece *Amber* works with *Sarah Walker* and requested prayers on her behalf.

Eleta Grimmitt is not improving as well as she had hoped but was able to be at worship Sun. night.

Kent Brantley, the medical missions Dr. who contracted the Ebola virus has been brought back to the states for treatment. Please continue to pray for him and others who have this deadly virus.

Nancy Petrowski, underwent a procedure this past week to stop the bleeding behind her eyes. She hopes to be released by the middle of Aug.

Marvin Atchison, uncle of *Mike King* from Bloomington, IN suffered a partial stroke. It was also discovered that he has a mass on his lung.

Continue to remember:

Phyllis Lovelady, Pat Reed, Justin Forsyth, Nancy Petrowski, Judy Ward, Bobbie Nunnally, J. J. Harris, Tetterian Wilson, Glen Jumper, Eulene Hooper, Alicia Dukes, Hudson Grisham, Kelly Fryar, Donna & Roy Crow, Hugh Collins, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Terry & Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Claudia Senter

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Grace Anderson, Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Jennie Frohn

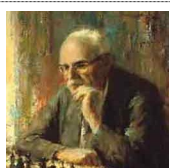
Military List:

Tim Baxley, David & Barry Wilhite, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud



I've Learned...

That Christianity is a verb.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August 08. Kathy Jennings
August 10. Sue Stroud
August 11. J. D. Stroud
August 12. Bailey Adams
August 13. Ronnie Griggs
August 15. Jessica Garrett

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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



THANK YOU

Thanks so much to our 7th grade and up youth for the wonderful lunch they hosted for the Yahoo group this past Sunday. The delicious meal was prepared by the young ladies and served by the young men. They all did an excellent job and we appreciate them so much for their hospitality. They were assisted by our summer youth intern, *Cody Hardin*.

We Love You All, The Yahoo Group

BRIDAL SHOWER



There will be a Bridal Shower for *JaLyn Stillman* bride elect of *Clay Ormon*, Sunday, August 17th from 2:00-3:30 at the fellowship building. *JaLyn* and *Clay* are registered at Walmart. *Clay* and *JaLyn* are planning a September wedding.

AREA EVENTS

- A **Gospel Meeting** is planned for August 17th-20th at the **Hillcrest church of Christ** in Baldwin, MS. The guest speaker will be *James Horton* of Ripley, MS. Time: 7:00pm nightly.
- **Fulton Bible Institute's** fall term begins Tuesday, August 26. The study will be on "Historical Christian Evidences." Check the bulletin board for more details.
- **Area Wide Youth Meeting** will be held Aug. 10th, at the Hillcrest congregation in Baldwin.

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 Robertson534-3491

DEACONS

Greg Clayton252-9762
Roger Clayton 538-8195
Brad Pounders.....316-7931
Harold Russell..... 507-1180
Randy Wall 316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Ruston Adams
A.M. Prayer.....Richard Adams
Closing Prayer.....Olen Clark
P.M. PrayerHunter Jennings
ClosingMatt Jennings
Wed.8/13.....Dan Cobb
Wed.8/13..... Cody Clemmer
Usher & LockLonnie Weaver
Greeter.....A & K Parks

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....109
Sunday A.M..... 128
Sunday P.M.....107
Wednesday.....115
Contribution.....\$4,862.64
Budget.....\$3,989.47



PANTRY ITEM

Cake Mix

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HUGS ARE IMPORTANT IN THE HOME

Some counselors recommend two hugs a day, just for maintenance! Consider these words written by Dean Walley concerning hugs:

It's wondrous what a hug can do. A hug can cheer you when you're blue. A hug can say, "I love you so," or, it can say, "I hate to see you go."

A hug is "Welcome back again," and, "Great to see you, where've you been?"

A hug can soothe a child's pain, and bring a rainbow after rain.

The hug, there's just no doubt about it—we scarce could survive without it!

A hug delights and charms; it must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers, sweet for sisters, swell for brothers. And chances are, your favorite aunts, love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them, puppies love them; heads of state are not above them.

A hug can break the language barrier, and make your travel so much merrier.

No need to fret about your store of them; the more you give, the more there are of them. So stretch those arms without delay, and give someone a hug today!

The human touch is powerful medicine overlooked. There are some crucial times for families to think about hugs:

- When you get up in the morning.
- When you part for the day.
- When you come together in the evening; and,
- When you retire for the night.

Have you hugged your kids today? What about your husband or wife? Take the time to make a difference in somebody's day. Some people go days and even months without a hug from anybody. Alert your family members to such needs and share your hugs with others!
- Jim Roberts -

"...a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing" —Eccl. 3:5