



# THE INFORMER

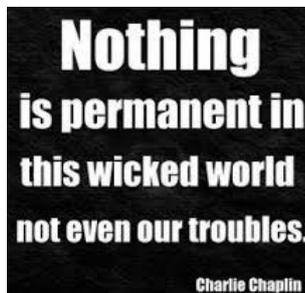
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

September 8, 2015

## Surviving Trying Times

Mike King



Many people only see life as difficult, particularly for them. Job expressed it as some feel, *“Life is hard and then you die”* (Job 14:1). We often see only our problems because we fail to realize that everyone has problems. It is not “if” we encounter troubles, but “when”! James gave some sound advice for handling trials (Jas. 1:2-12).

First, he discussed the reality of trials (v. 2). The Bible tells us repeatedly that they will come. James said our faith will be tried (v. 3) and that we will have to endure temptation (v. 12). Paul taught that tribulation works patience (Rom. 5:3). Peter spoke of the trial of faith (I Pet. 1:7) and that we must not think it strange concerning “fiery trial” (I Pet. 4:12). John recorded in the Revelation account that *“faithfulness to the end”* is required (Rev. 2:10).

Second, these trials are difficult. So often we bring trials upon ourselves (I Pet. 4:12). Sometimes we “fall into” difficult situation over which we have no control as the man on the road to Jericho (Lk. 10:30). We are often “ambushed” by health, life or situations.

Thirdly, trials can be diverse or vary in kind. They may be different, but no less definite. It is interesting to note that the storm mentioned in the story in Matthew 7:24-27 came as the *“rain descended”* (down); *“floods came”* (up); and the *“winds blew”* (horizontal). The direction from which they approach may be different, but no less difficult!

James said they come to prove the validity of our faith (v. 3). How will it be found? (I Pet. 1:6-7). Job’s wife did not fare well. Though we have faith, there are ways it can be tested (Jas. 2:12). There was no question about Abraham’s faith when asked by God to offer his son Isaac. His willingness to do so made a statement about his faith! (Gen. 22:2). He further showed they improve the quality of our patience (v. 3). Endurance comes out of hardship and improves our staying power. Regarding the game of life, who for the fourth quarter is critical! Lastly, he equates trial with maturity of life (v. 4) being *“perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”*

## When Dressing, Put on a Smile

We live in a time when fashions can become obsessions with us. Garments are constantly changing style as the fashion designers dictate what the “respectable” people will be wearing this season. And some Christians seem to be caught up in the whirlwind of flashy clothes and all the trinkets that go with them. Sure, God wants us to be properly clothed at all times, but it becomes very easy to take advantage of the accessibility of clothes and become nothing more than breathing mannequins.

Christians must allow the purity of the Christian heart to decide what will be worn in public. I know of a woman who is a member of the church who must have a fabulous wardrobe. She always has something on which looks as though it came directly from the department store window. And if she wears the same dresses more than once, she does so at such intervals that no one could tell that she did not have access to an infinite variety of garments. But though her clothing is the latest in styling and usually very modest, she always appears a bit underdressed. Her countenance seems naked. She rarely has a smile or a kind word for anyone.

The expression of a Christian life can be the most precious of garments. It really isn't what one wears on the outside that draws people, but what one is inside. Some of us haven't learned this yet. One of the most obnoxious “Christians” I have ever met is meticulous about his dress. What he doesn't realize is that if he changed his personality, he could wear bib overalls and people would still love him.

Paul warned of overdressing and suggests that there is a certain amount of judgment and discretion involved in deciding what to put on. “Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; but rather by means of good words, as befits women making a claim to godliness” (1 Tim. 2:9, 10). When we slip into our clothes each day, we ought to be able to say, “Father, I know that you will be pleased with this outfit today.”

When dressing, it isn't really the material or the pattern of the garment that is of paramount concern, but rather, that we are wearing the Spirit of Christ (Gal. 3:27). Oh yes, there's one more thing. The next time you get dressed to go out — be sure to put on a smile!  
~ Steven Clark Goad via Bulletin Fodder

## You Preach First

The first sermon preached each Sunday is not by the minister, but by you.

You preach a message of good cheer when you say “good morning” to those you meet as you are parking, or in the hallway and classrooms. You preach a message of “welcome!” when you slide over in the pew instead of forcing others to squeeze in front of you. You preach a message of hope and joy when you sing enthusiastically during the service. You preach a message about the power of prayer when you fervently enter into the time of prayer. You preach a message about respect when you listen attentively to the special announcements about church activities. You preach a message of love when you smile, and say “hello” and introduce yourself to visitors. You preach a message about faith when you give your liberal contribution. You preach a message about the importance of the Scriptures when you open your Bible to read along with the preacher.

Many messages are preached before the minister stands up to bring the sermon. If your message is positive and consistent, then the message given from the pulpit will be much better received!

## AREA EVENTS

- East Main Church of Christ in Tupelo will have An Evangelism Class every Mon. night beginning Sept.– 14th - Nov. 2nd. They will be using the book Muscle & Shovel by Michael Shank. The class will meet from 7-8:30p.m.
- Hwy 178 Church of Christ invites you to their annual Ladies Day September 19th, beginning at 8:30am. This year's theme is “Woman in the Mirror: A Spiritual Reality” with guest speaker *Sister Ira Booker* of Shelbyville, TN.

## 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

*The family of  
Dean and Jeanette Long  
invite you to share in the celebration  
of their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary  
Saturday, September nineteenth  
Two Thousand and fifteen from 2 until 4p.m.  
Enterprise Church of Christ  
1005 CR 14 (Darden Road)  
Myrtle, MS*

# For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

## PRAYER LIST



**Vernon Davis**, brother of *Marie Beard* is much improved. He had a pacemaker installed this past week.

**Whit Robertson**, will begin taking an experimental drug soon, which has shown promise in adults with his type of brain tumor.

**Danielle Jones**, niece of *Perry Jones* will have her last radiation treatment Wednesday, September 2nd for a tumor on her brain.

**Casey Huling**, niece of *Marie Bread* has stage 3 Multiple Melanoma which is fast spreading. She will have a CT sometime soon.

### Continue to Remember:

Timmy Bolden, Chrystal Bickerstaff, David Crossings, Roy Crow, Jackie Dodd, John Elliott, Justin Forsyth, Preeble Foster, Sonny Gay, Pam Hall, Donna Haynes, Dianna Hodges, Shane Hutton, Danielle, Jones Judy Kirk, Lonnie Parker, Nancy Petrowski, Wayne Reams, Troy & Novene Robertson, Whit Robertson, Brooks Russell, Lisa Russell, Sheila Thomas, Mildred Shackelford, Judy Ward, Nicki Weaver, 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:

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

### Military List:

Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



September 13. . . . . Grayden Dunn  
September 15. . . . . Gloria Jones  
September 16. . . . . Jim Gann  
September 16. . . . . Ryleigh Garrett  
September 17. . . . . Dalton Beard

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 14. . . . . Jerry & Eleta Grimmett  
September 16. . . . . Chris & Callie Smithey  
September 17. . . . . Steve & Lana Todd



## PINEVALE CHILDREN'S HOME FALL PANTRY DRIVE



Once again we have been given the opportunity to help with Pine Vale Children's Home Fall Pantry Drive. The items they have requested for our congregation to concentrate on are: Toilet Paper, Thousand Island/Ranch Dressing and Ziploc Bags (quart and gallon/regular and freezer). We will be notified the first of October for an exact date for pick up. A container has been placed in the foyer for these items. Thanks for you help with this good work.

## THANK YOU NOTE

On behalf of the entire Todd family, I want to thank you for the overwhelming love and support you have shown to us. I thank you for being with us at the visitation and at the service for my dad, **John Todd**. The food you provided was delicious and I appreciate the comforting cards. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Lana and I love you all.

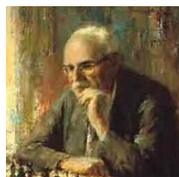
Steve Todd

## OCTOBER LECTURESHIP

Guest speaker each Wednesday night in October.

### I've Learned...

Following the path of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked..



Grandparents Day!

September 13th

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



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: [nacoc15s@gmail.com](mailto: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 Jennings .....316-1305  
 Troy Robertson .....316-3163

### 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.....Phillip Young  
 A.M. Prayer.....Andy Clemmer  
 Closing Prayer.....Terry Young  
 P.M. Prayer .....Jason Jennings  
 Closing .....Harold Crowe  
 Wed.9/16.....Dan Cobb  
 Wed.9/9.....Shane Crofts  
 Usher & Lock ...Brad Pounders  
 Greeter.....S & L Todd

### OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....109  
 Sunday A.M.....139  
 Sunday P. M.....113  
 Wednesday.....106  
 Contribution.....\$4,161.50  
 Budget.....\$3,984.46



### PANTRY ITEMS

Cake Mix

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Volume 35

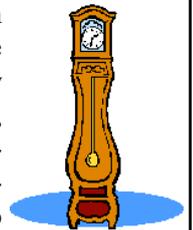
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### The Grandfather Clock

There is a legend about a grandfather clock that stood in a corner for three generations, faithfully ticking away the minutes, hours and days. Its means of operation was a heavy weight suspended by a double chain. One of its new owners, believing that an old clock should not bear such a load, released the weight. Immediately the ticking stopped, and according to the legend the clock asked, "Why did you do that?"



The owner replied, "I wanted to lighten your burden." The clock answered, "Please put my weight back for that's what keeps me going." All too often we try to remove the very things that keep us going, the things that make us worthy of the air we breathe and the space we occupy. As we take a backward glance at our life, we must confess that much of what has contributed to our character was achieved through conflict.

Much of what people admire and praise in us, came through the double doors of opposition and frustration. In simpler words, we're like that grandfather clock: life's weights keep us going. Thus, we shouldn't try to get rid of the very things that give us our strength, especially since there's a source of help in bearing the burdens of this life. That source is Jesus Christ. He's promised to help us whenever we need that help if we're a child of God.

Paul said regarding his thorn in the flesh, "*Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*" (2 Cor. 12:8-10).

Paul also said, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" (Phil. 4:13).