



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

May 19, 2020

God Bless America

By: Gene Elliot

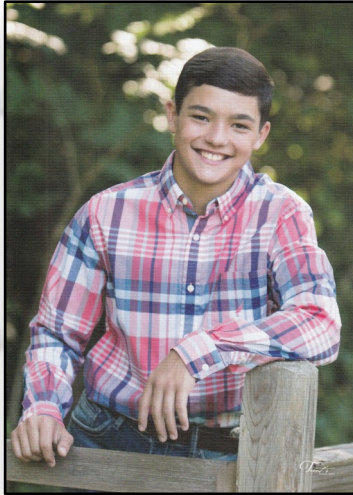


There is little doubt but that America will long be regarded as one of the greatest nations in the annals of human history. Though vilified by some, our nation is still a bastion for freedom and human rights. However, we have concerns about our nation's future and an uneasy feeling that we are drifting away from God. Fortunately, at the present time, we still have a right to express our concerns—a right not enjoyed in many places around the globe.

America owes its greatness, not to its financial prosperity or military might, but to its recognition of its own dependency upon God. In 1954, “one nation under God” was added to the Pledge of Allegiance. In 1956, “In God we trust” became our national motto. With varying degrees of success, some have sought to remove all such reminders of God. While our founding fathers safe-guarded against creating a State Church, they had no intention of disregarding the importance of God in building our nation. The Declaration of Independence asserts that we are “endowed by [our] Creator with certain unalienable rights....” We owe our blessings to God who is the giver of “every good and perfect gift” (Jas. 1:17). We must keep in mind that, “*Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it...*” (Ps. 127:1).

Acknowledging the Lord as our God is an important first-step toward providing our children with the same blessing we enjoyed in being raised up under freedom's banner. Scripture reminds us: “*How blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!*” (Ps. 144:15). Profession, however, without performance, is never enough. There must also be on our part a sincere desire to follow after the teachings of the Lord. Scripture says, “*Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people*” (Prov. 14:34). Righteousness, then, is the key to national success. But, what is righteousness? Simply put, righteousness is doing the right thing. We do not determine what is right and wrong. God has already done that in His word. The psalmist says “*For all Your commandments are righteousness*” (Ps. 119:172). But, he goes on in that verse to point out that “sin is a disgrace to any people.” Our prayers, then, for our rulers at all levels of government, is that such laws and ordinances be enacted that reflect reverence and gratitude toward the God who has so richly blessed us.

2020 GRADUATES



David Cole Clayton
Valedictorian
West Union High School



Patience Arialle Golden
Ingomar High School

College Graduates:

- ◆ **Jonathan Clayton: North East Mississippi Community College**
- ◆ **Shaler Grigsby: Freed Hardeman University**
- ◆ **Hunter Jennings: University of Mississippi**
- ◆ **Thomas Wall: Itawamba Community College**
- ◆ **Madison West: Freed Hardeman University**

*Details of their accomplishment will be posted at a later time. We are proud of all our graduates.

The Legend of the Cap and Gown

(This article originally appeared in the May 17, 1987 Informer)

Long ago, in ancient Greece, when formal education was for the very rich or the very determined, a wise old teacher was approached by a group of noblemen. "Our sons gave completed their studies and it is time for them to return to their homes and live in the style befitting their station. On the morrow, we will hold a great banquet in their honor and expect them to be dressed in their finest garments." The old man smilingly answered, "They will be there," and he added, "appropriately dressed."

The following day, the banquet hall was filled with royalty and nobility dressed in dazzling jewels and costly finery.

Then came the great moment when the students entered with their beloved teacher. A startled cry arose from the crowd. For here were their young men dressed, not in garments of the noble, but in simple sackcloth robes, each carrying a mortar board -- the sign of a common workman. "Let me explain," spoke the teacher as he raised his hands for silence.

"Some will build cities, some will build lives -- perhaps one of them may even build an empire. But all will be builders on the solid foundation of knowledge."

And thus, over the years, the cap and gown have become a tradition part of graduation, symbolizing the fact that our young men and women are builders -- of their own future -- and the future of the world.

PRAYER LIST



Andrea Hill, underwent a procedure Fri., (shot in her neck) to relieve migraine-pain.

Richard Adams is at home recovering from knee surgery.

Bill Lyon, his health continues to decline. Please remember *Bill* and *Grace* in your prayers.

Molly Clayton had tests last week at Le Bonheur. Everything looked normal. They are waiting on biopsy results.

Expectant Mothers:

Kelsey Petrowski: boy, Aug.;

Erica Crotts: boy, Oct.

Continue to Remember:

Molly Clayton, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Phillip Haynes, Janie Huggins, Ronnie Miller, Elizabeth Phagen, Jerry Robbins, Shannon Sciara, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Nicki Weaver, Donnie Wilson

Shut-Ins:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski, Sue & J.D. Stroud

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Price Senter

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

Sympathy:



We express our deepest sympathy to Brad, Kirsten, Reagan and the entire Sloan family in the death of their son and brother, **William Joseph Sloan**.

William, age 17, was killed in a car accident May 14th. William was a junior at New Albany High School and was active in many organizations including AFJROTC. Funeral services were held Tues. May 19th, in Pontotoc MS His burial was in New Albany City Cemetery, with Military Honors. Please keep this family in your prayers.

I've Learned...

No one knows what he can do until he tries.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



May 19. Bobby Marques

May 22. Lea Anne Clark

May 27. Olen Clark

May 30. Larry Cobb

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 31. Jim & Emily Gann



THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you to all for the prayers, calls and cards in the death of my sister, Mildred. I have a wonderful Christian family. Love, Dixie

RETURN TO SERVICES MAY 24

The elders have made to decision to return to the building for worship beginning Sun. May 24th. This will be for the morning worship service only, beginning at 10:30. They are requesting that all individuals adhere to recommended precautions maintaining social distancing guidelines. Each individual should evaluate their current health and family situation to determine if they should attend services at our building or continue to attend worship service remotely. They ask for us to spread out in the auditorium and that there be an empty pew between individuals/ families. For older and higher risk member, every precaution will be made to provide a clean and safe environment. While entering the auditorium prior to services there will be a table in the foyer which will allow you the opportunity to collect communion supplies and give your contribution. This will be a learning opportunity for all of us, however we are all looking forward to seeing one another , and returning to worship. The Elders

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17)
2. Believe the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16)
3. Repent of Sins (Acts 3:19)
4. Confess Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37)
5. Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
6. Be Faithful (Revelation 2:10)

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Volume 20

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTER

Shaler Grigsby....Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office 534-4649

ELDERS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Tim Dye.....316-2527
 Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420
 Roger Clayton 538-8195
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings..... 801-3260
 Mark Jennings...731-609-3309
 Randy Wall 316-9255

TO SERVE

Scripture.....
 A.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed.....
 Wed.....
 Lock.....
 Usher
 Security

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



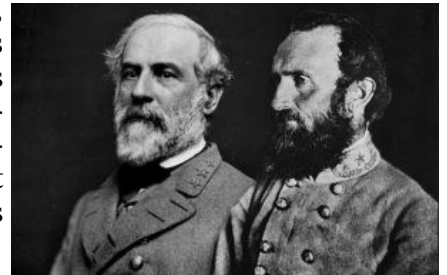
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My Greatest Command

A little more than 150 years ago, General Robert E. Lee was camped approximately 10 miles from General Stonewall Jackson. Lee sent a message to Stonewall Jackson, informing him that he wanted to meet with him at his convenience.



The very next morning, while Lee was eating his breakfast, Jackson appeared at his tent, prepared for their meeting. Lee asked Jackson, "What are you doing here? I didn't mean for you to come immediately. It wasn't urgent. Did you not read what I said? I said, 'at your convenience.' You unnecessarily rode through a terrible snowstorm to get here." In defense of his actions, Stonewall Jackson responded, "General Lee, your slightest desire is my greatest command."

Friends, most of life's challenges and temptations could be defeated if we possessed the same attitude toward God. What better disciples would we be; what more committed soldiers in the Lord's army would we be if we decided to make God's "slightest wish our greatest desire." Give it some thought.

Steve Higginbotham