



# THE INFORMER

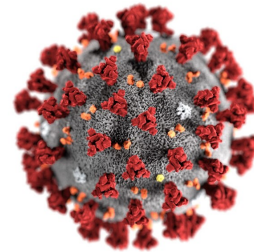
Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

July 28, 2020

## What Has the Coronavirus Done To You?

Dan Gulley



Hulk Hogan does not come to mind when people are asked to think of a great Bible scholar or preacher or theologian. Nevertheless, after the Coronavirus shut down a scheduled Wrestle Mania in Tampa, Florida, back in early April 2020, the muscled up Hulk held forth on what he thought God was doing through the Covid-19 pandemic and all the so-called “draconian” measures world leaders enacted to battle the pesky, persistent, vile virus. In an Insta Gram post Hogan said: “In three short months, just like He did with the plagues of Egypt, God has taken away everything we worship. God said, ‘You want to worship athletes, I will shut down the stadiums. You want to worship musicians, I will shut down Civic Centers. You want to worship money, I will shut down the economy and collapse the stock market. You don’t want to go to church and worship Me, I will make it where you can’t go to church’ ” (“Hulk Hogan on coronavirus: ‘Maybe we don’t need a vaccine’ ” by Jay Cridlin at [tampabay.com/news](http://tampabay.com/news)). Hogan also suggested God wanted people to “humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways” in order that He might “forgive their sin and heal their land.” I don’t know if God specifically said or even thought the things Hogan said God said about shutting down America’s idols – but God is on record as saying that part about humility and prayer and forgiveness and sin and healing (see **2 Chronicles 7:14**). Hogan stirred the controversy pot even more when he wrote, “Maybe we don’t need a vaccine. Maybe we need to take this time of isolation from the distractions of the world and have a personal revival where we focus on the ONLY thing in the world that really matters. Jesus.”

I know not everybody who reads this article will agree with Hogan. Or with God. What I do know is this. The God who crippled the mighty pharaoh of Egypt long ago didn’t have to have nuclear bombs and army tanks and laser-guided missiles. To bring that arrogant, idolatrous, proud ruler and his powerful nation to their knees, God used some pretty small and seemingly weak things. Don’t believe me? Read Exodus chapter 5 through chapter 12. If you do you will see how God brought the mightiest nation and its supposedly divine ruler to their knees – not with a nuclear device or laser-guide missiles or Abrams M1A2 tanks. No. God’s weapons of choice included things like frogs (8:2ff), lice (8:17ff), flies (8:21ff), hail (9:18ff), locusts (10:4ff), darkness (10:21ff), and finally, death of the firstborn (12:29ff). The mighty Pharaoh who at first arrogantly defied God saying – “*Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go*” (5:2) – ends up pitifully pleading, “*Rise, go out from among my people ... as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also*” (12:31-32).

I don’t want to get hung up in a debate about whether God specifically caused the coronavirus. I know Psalm 115:3 declares, “*But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.*” The question I want to leave with you is not who caused the coronavirus or whether or not it is from God or even what has the coronavirus done to America. The question I want to leave with you is what has the coronavirus done to you? Has it only made you angry, frustrated, and fearful? Why not, as Hulk Hogan suggested, allow it to make you more humble and focus more deeply on your need for God? Just asking. Won’t you think about it?

## THOSE TO SERVE THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020

**Announcements:** Jim Gann  
**Sound Room:** Kurt Clayton  
**Usher:**

**Lead Singing:** Sun. A.M.: (2nd) ~ Mark Jennings;  
 (9th) ~ Phillip Young; (16th) ~ Richard Jennings; (23rd)  
 ~ Mark Jennings; (30th) ~ Phillip Young

**Sunday Prayers:**

Aug. 02:  
 A.M. Hunter Jennings  
 Matt Jennings  
 P.M.  
 Aug. 09:  
 A.M. Perry Jones  
 Harold Russell  
 P.M.  
 Aug. 16:  
 A.M. Joe Owen  
 Steve Todd  
 P.M.  
 Aug. 23:  
 A.M. Randy Wall  
 Thomas Wall  
 P.M.  
 Aug. 30:  
 A.M. Phil Young  
 Olen Clark

**Lord's Supper:**

**Head:** 2nd ~ Jason Jennings; 9th ~ Paul Ormon; 16th ~ Kevin Simmons;  
 23rd ~ Greg Clayton; 30th ~ Dane Coggin

**Scripture Reading:**

Aug. 02 — Owen Clayton  
 Aug. 09 — Jackson Coggin  
 Aug. 16 — Clayton Hill  
 Aug. 23 — Clay Jennings  
 Aug. 30 — Caleb Jennings

**Wednesday Prayers:**

Aug. 05 — Mark Jennings; Shane Crotts  
 Aug. 12 — Greg Clayton; Richard Jennings  
 Aug. 19 — Jason Jennings; Tim Dye  
 Aug. 26 — Phillip Young; Mark Jennings

**Usher:**

Aug. 02 — Shane Crotts  
 Aug. 09 — Mark Jennings  
 Aug. 16 — Jason Jennings  
 Aug. 23 — Randy Wall  
 Aug. 30 — Kurt Clayton

**Lock:**

Aug. 02 — Dan Cobb  
 Aug. 09 — Richard Jennings  
 Aug. 16 — Jason Jennings  
 Aug. 23 — Randy Wall  
 Aug. 30 — Kurt Clayton

**Security:**

Aug. 02 — Tim Dye  
 Aug. 09 — Jason Jennings  
 Aug. 16 — Mark Jennings  
 Aug. 23 — Matt Jennings  
 Aug. 30 — Brian Carpenter

\* If you are unable to carry out your assignment please let  
**Randy Wall** know before service time!

### The Words of a Friend

The encouraging words of a friend are worth more than gold. I know that the encouraging words that my friends give me keep me going. I look on them as blessings directly from heaven above. I thank God for them (the words and the friends) and I thank my friends for building me up with the words that edify according to the need of the moment ([Ephesians 4:29](#)).

Solomon wrote: A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity ([Proverbs 17:17](#)). You don't need me to tell you how important friends are. Scripture tells us that God will watch over us and not allow us to endure more temptation than we are able to bear; that we ought to approach the throne of grace to find grace to help in time of need ([1 Corinthians 10:13](#); [Hebrews 4:16](#)). One of the ways that God provides this care and protection is through our godly friends. Solomon's point is that a friend, a true friend, loves you no matter what happens; will stick with you through thick and thin. At the beginning of this article, we noted that the words of a friend are worth more than gold; however, sometimes the worth of a friend is not seen in his/her words, but in his/her presence. Sometimes just knowing that someone is there is enough to get you through a difficult situation.

We live in a culture built on "rugged individualism." We are a freedom-loving people and we don't want anyone fooling around with our freedom and independence! There is a caution here, however. We must not let pride shut out our friends! Sometimes when we get into a tough situation, we don't want to ask for help or cry out because that would not be in keeping with the rugged individual. We don't want to take charity! Did you know that "charity" is a word that means "love"? I realize that we don't want to be perceived as someone who always has his hand out, but the "charity" of our friends is a star in their crown and a blessing to them. If we deny them the opportunity to bless us, we deny them a blessing, as well.

Let me encourage you to let God help you and bless you through the friends and brethren who are around you. Please understand that such a blessing is only going to come through those friends who encourage you according to God's will. No blessing will come when you follow a friend's encouragement to go against God's will. Still, when you are in trouble, when you are besieged from every angle, let your friends be a help and a support to you.

~ Copied ~

**PRAYER LIST**



**Shelly Adams** was diagnosed with Corona-virus. She said she is improving every day.

**Lynsey Robertson**, daughter of *Terry & Yolanda Stubblefield* has been diagnosed with the Coronavirus. She remains very weak.

**Perry Jones** injured his back last week at work. He has been in a good bit of pain.

**Nancy Petrowski** was taken to the ER Monday, due to her sugar levels being to low. She is better.

**Sue Marques**, is slowly improving. She will need knee surgery when she recovers from a broken rib and injured wrist.

**Joe Reed** is having problems with his hip and knees.

**Eleta Grimmett** continues to improve and will have her dialysis port removed this week.

**Billie Joe Garner** under Hospice Care.


**J.L. Eaton** continues to have back and hip problems.

**Kathy Clayton** still very weak. Will begin physical therapy soon.

**Richard Adams** is recovering from knee surgery.

**Dixie White**, still very weak and having heart tests.

**Expectant Mothers:**

**Kelsey Petrowski:** boy, Aug. 

**Erica Crotts:** boy, Oct.

**Continue to Remember:**

Kathy Clayton, Shane Crotts, Arelus Dye, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Bill & Grace Lyon, Ronnie Miller, Jerry Robbins, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Donnie Wilson

**Shut-Ins:**

Bill & Helen DePriest, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski,

**Nursing Home/Assisted Living:**

Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Price Senter, J.D. Stroud

**Military List:**

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Andy Dye, Luke Goff, Chase Seals



**I've Learned...**

Talent is God given. Be humble. Fame is man-given. Be grateful. Conceit is self-given. Be careful.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



August 01.....Dane Coggin

August 05.....Martin Crotts

August 08.....Kathy Jennings



**WORSHIP TIME CHANGE**

The elders made the decision to change our worship time to 9:30 am, instead of 10:30am, beginning Sun. August 2nd. Our hope is that we will be able to begin Bible classes again soon and this time change will get us back in the habit of coming at 9:30. A reminder will be sent out Sat. by way of our church text.



**REJOICE!**

We were all made to rejoice over James Carter's decision to make his life right with God. He came forward Sunday, July 26th, repenting of wrongs in his life and requesting to become a part of the New Albany congregation. We appreciate James' courage and desire to live his life as God would have him. Please encourage James. Please add his name and address to your directory; (1346 CR 86, New Albany, MS 38652).

**DO IT NOW**



Do it now — the good you can,  
True to God and fellow man;  
One more day may be too late,  
Never should we hesitate.  
If you have a fragrant flower,  
Cheer some one this very hour,  
Flowers laid upon a tomb,  
Quickly fade and lose their bloom.  
If you utter earnest prayer,  
For a soul with grief to bear,  
God will help both you and him,  
When the way seems rough and dim  
In this world of sin and woe,  
We, the love of God must show;  
Do it now if but a smile,  
Helping other all the while.

~ G. Welker ~



# THE INFORMER

July 28, 2020

Volume 29

## 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 Jennings .....316-1305  
 Troy Robertson .....316-3163  
 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

Communion.....Olen Clark  
 Scripture.....Dean Dillard  
 A.M. Prayer.....Dillon Clayton  
 Closing.....Kurt Clayton  
 P.M. Prayer.....  
 Closing.....  
 Wed.....  
 Lock.....Kurt Clayton  
 Usher .....Kurt Clayton  
 Security .....Jason Jennings

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....  
 Sunday A.M.....62  
 Sunday P.M.....  
 Wednesday.....  
 Contribution.....  
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

## PANTRY ITEMS



Tuna

THE INFORMER (USPS 581-500)  
 Church of Christ  
 511 Hwy. 15 South, P.O. Box 148  
 New Albany, Mississippi 38652  
 (662)534-4649

Periodical  
 Postage Paid  
 New Albany, MS

POSTMASTER: Send address changes  
 (Form 3579) to: The Informer, P.O. Box  
 148, New Albany, MS 38652

## BITE THE WAX TADPOLE

When Coca-Cola began marketing their product in China in 1928, they ran into a problem translating their name into Chinese. Mandarin Chinese is a language of symbols rather than sound. Retailers tried to translate the title of the new drink using symbols representing the sound rather than what the words the symbols meant.

The result was a sign for Coca-Cola that read “Bite the Wax Tadpole.” Needless to say, sales were sluggish until the error was fixed.

As Christians, we are a representation of Christ to the world. As 1 Peter 2:12 says, “*Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation*“. If our actions do not match the name we proclaim, we may just as bad for marketing as Coca-Cola was when it first reached China. Remember you may be the only gospel someone ever hears preached!

~ Barry Haynes

