



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

September 22, 2020

Covid-19 (Thoughts About Returning To ‘Normal’)

Serious talk. Guys, I’m a little bit scared. When my elders announced we would be resuming class at the church building on Wednesdays, of course I was excited. BUT—and here’s what I debated sharing publicly because I’m embarrassed—there was a part of me that was disappointed about “having” to be at the building Wednesday again.

Disappointed. Why? Because it’s been over 3 months since the church met together for Bible study. I’ve grown accustomed to coming home from work, eating dinner with the family, and then relaxing in the living room watching some sort of canned Bible study on my TV (with my family). I’ve officially gotten out of the habit of the family getting ready for Bible class and driving to the church building on Wednesdays. So there was a part of my heart that was actually disappointed—bummed—over the “burden” of going back to Bible study - and that scares me.

Of course I’m taking my family back. That’s not a question. I’m excited! There’s no danger of me or my wife “falling away.” I’ve just gotten out of the habit. And psychologically, my mind has grown accustomed to it. I don’t like this about my heart. And in my prayers, I ask God to rid my heart of sinful desires like this (like the desire to stay home when I can assemble, which is a heart problem).

Here are some other scary thoughts to me:

□ What if I was 18? That time was an impressionable time for me. I look back, and I sometimes think I could have gone one way or another with my faith. I would have been vulnerable to this if this happened to me then. I NEEDED the assembly—every assembly.

□ What if I was 5? Or 10? Or 13? Kids that are that age are going to remember this. And we have deprived them of assembling with the saints in some major, important ways.

□ What if I was a new Christian? What if I was a weak Christian?

If I felt disappointment in my heart, think what others may be feeling at the thought of “going back to church.”

I still think the churches, collectively, did the right thing in postponing their assemblies for a number of weeks. But elders did this to better assess the situation. At first, because of the unknowns, the virus was a major concern. And it still is a concern. But over 3 months later, at what cost?

This virus isn’t going away any time soon. At some point, we need to think, “What is the end game?” Am I willing to be absent from the assembly of my church family for another month? Three more months? Six? 2021? (Why even go to church anymore? Let’s sell the building and do everything online! Is that what some of us are good with??)

At some point, we have to ask: what’s a greater threat to the church: a virus? Or the effects “scattering” is having on the church after months of isolation?

I don’t want to oversimplify things. But if your conscience isn’t as burdened over this anymore, then—I say this kindly but bluntly as your brother in Christ—you have a heart problem. The virus is no longer the biggest danger in your life.

God designed His church to be an ASSEMBLING church. Online “worship,” while I’ve been thankful for it, will never be a substitute. His people need to be willing to take a little bit of RISK to follow His plan and ideal. We need to have a little bit of FAITH—not that God will miraculously protect us from getting the virus—but that assembling with His people is more pleasing to Him than cutting ourselves off from the church.

Let’s take safety measures. But I need “church.” I need to be in relatively close proximity to my brethren. I need the friendships. I need the encouragement. I need the congregational singing. I need the classes. I need the accountability. I need to hear YOU—in person—push me to keep going, “and all the more as we see the Day drawing near.”

Let’s not give Satan one more inch.

- by Ben Giselbach

Are You An Encourager or Discourager?

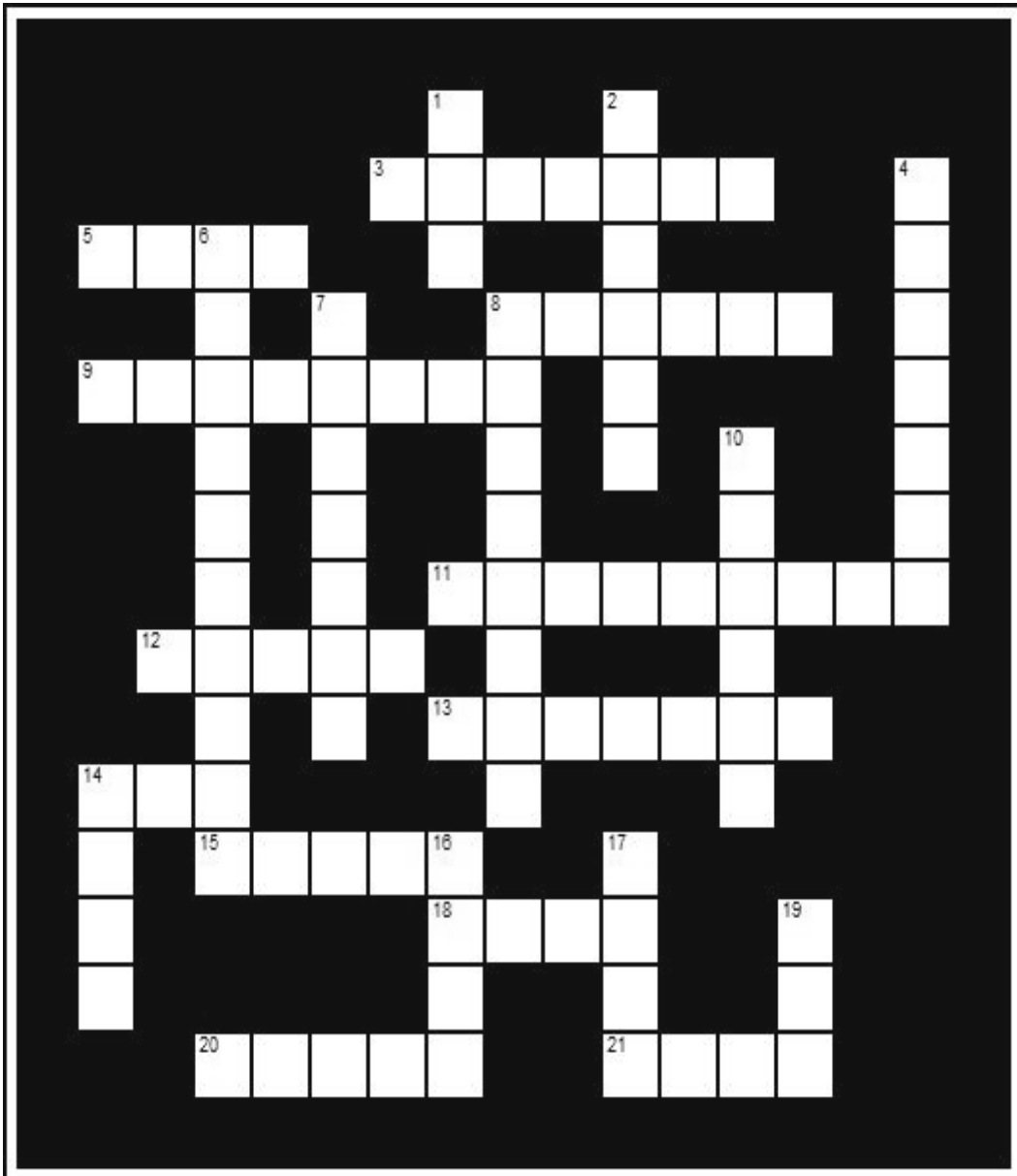
His real name was Joses, but because he was such a great encouragement to those around him he was given the name Barnabas. It means literally, "the son of consolation," or "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36,37). What a great thing! Can you imagine having such a positive reputation that others actually give you a nickname based upon it?

There are lots of ways to encourage one another, and we ought to be looking for opportunities to do so. In fact, if we don't make a conscious effort to encourage others, we may very well become a discouragement.

One of the more obvious ways that we encourage each other is by worshipping together. *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"* (Hebrews 10:24,25). Do you see it? By being together in the assemblies we have a chance to "provoke unto love and good works" and to "exhort one another."

If the attendance slips because of our neglect, then we have actually become discouragers rather than encouragers. Some do this without even thinking about it. They make plans to be out of town regularly, or they allow minor excuses to become a reason to miss the assemblies. Others let mild aches and pains keep them away. Clearly, you can't be an encouragement if you aren't present.

We hope everyone will think about the important work of encouraging their fellow Christians by faithful attendance and by every other acceptable means. Who knows, we may have to think up a nickname for YOU!
by Greg Gwin



BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Across:

- 3. David's son
- 5. promise
- 8. prophetic book
- 9. tax collector
- 11. Nehemiah
- 12. offered strange fire
- 13. stoned to death
- 14. Babylonian false god
- 15. Cain's son
- 18. 15th O. T. book
- 20. father of harp
- 21. Samson killed

Down

- 1. prophecy author
- 2. preserve corpse
- 4. Jesus
- 6. 1st "church"
- 7. Jeremiah's father
- 8. sin
- 10. created on 5th day
- 14. liquid measure
- 16. place of torment
- 17. O. T. king
- 19. Jacob's son

PRAYER LIST



Grace Lyon is slowly recovering from her recent illness. Please pray for Bill also, who is dealing with health issues.

Cody Williams, family member of Mark & Marti Neaves is in ICU Tupelo with his heart, kidneys, and liver failing.

Helen DePriest has been moved to Union County Health on Bratton Rd. She is recovering from a broken hip. She is able to walk some with a walker.

Shelley Clayton has improved from Covid and pneumonia but is still dealing with swallowing issues caused by Covid. She is to have more tests the 28th.

Sympathy: We express our sympathy to Mike and Sheila King in the passing of Sheila's father, Phares Birdwell. Mr. Birdwell passed away Wed. night Sept. 16th, at the age of 95. A private family graveside service was held near Florence, Al. The King's address is 238 Waterbrook Lane, Harvest, AL 35749.

Expectant Mother

Erica Crotts: boy, Oct.

Continue to Remember:

Kathy Clayton, Shane Crotts, Amanda Dye, J.L. Eaton, Mable Erwin, Prebble Foster, Don Golden, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmett, Bill & Grace Lyon, Peggy Miller, Ronnie Miller, Nancy Petrowski, Olivia Pounders, Jerry Robbins, Gwyn Russell, Levi Smith, Josie Tidwell, Charles Ulmer, Angela Victory, Dixie White, William 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...

In the rush to return back to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



September 23.....Shelly Clayton
September 23.....Helen DePriest
October 01..... Harold Russell



DIAPER SHOWER

Martin and Erica Crotts are expecting their 4th child (a boy) in mid Oct. Please help us welcome baby Wilkes next Sunday, Sept. 27th, by bringing diapers, baby wipes, or anything else you would like. A table will be set up in the foyer for the gifts.



THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the calls, text, and food while I was sick. I truly appreciate everything, but most of all the prayers. Please continue to pray as I continue to deal with issues caused by Covid.

In Christian Love,
Shelly Clayton

FALL PANTRY DRIVE

Pine Vale Children's Home is having it's Fall Pantry Drive. Our congregation has been asked to help by providing 9volt or AA batteries, Rotel, green beans and canned greens or spinach. A container will be placed in the foyer for these items.



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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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....
 Morning Worship.....9:30
 Evening Worship.....
 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

Communion.....Phil Young
 Scripture.....Owen Clayton
 A.M. Prayer.....Richard Adams
 Closing.....Mason Simmons
 P.M. Prayer.....
 Closing.....
 Wed.23rd/D. Coggin/R. Clayton
 Lock.....Jason Jennings
 UsherJason Jennings
 SecurityDan Cobb

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....
 Sunday A.M.....82
 Sunday P.M.....
 Wednesday.....
 Contribution.....
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

PANTRY ITEMS



Crackers

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

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 Postage Paid
 New Albany, MS

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

JESUS - THE EMULSIFIER

You have heard it said that oil and water don't mix. You can understand this concept better when you take a look at a bottle of salad dressing. You hold it up and you can see where things have settled and the oil and water have separated. In order to bring that oil and water back together, the bottle must be shaken. You sit the bottle back down for a bit and in no time the oil and water separate because in a bottle of salad dressing the togetherness of the ingredients won't last forever. They go back to their own department. They go back to separate rooms. They go back to separate seating places, separate communities. They go back because it is their nature they will not mix.

Mayonnaise, on the other hand, does not have to be shaken even though it is also comprised mostly of oil and water. This happens because mayonnaise contains an emulsifier. An emulsifier is that which brings things together that which otherwise could never come together. The emulsifier in mayonnaise is an egg and the egg infiltrates both substances so they are able to come together and be a solid substance. The emulsifier that brings people together from different backgrounds and places into the church is the blood of Christ. Out of Jesus' great love for us He acts as an emulsifier that makes us one "in Christ Jesus."

~ Clark Tatum