



# THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

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

January 19, 2021

## Christian Hibernation

By Tim Dooley

This past week has been particularly cold (one of the reasons I came to Mississippi was because it was supposed to be warm. Check back with me in August). The reality is though that it is winter. The days are shorter, nights longer, and when it gets cold outside most of us want to stay indoors where it is warm and comfortable. We think of bears as hibernators but they actually aren't. They enter a state of "torpor" where their heart rate slows and body temperature drops. They sleep but are able to wake up and move around.

Hibernation though is defined as (of an animal or plant) the state of spending the winter in dormancy and figuratively (of a person) as remaining inactive or indoors for an extended period. One resource states, "a 'True' hibernator appears to be dead..." True hibernators are gophers, some bats, frogs, snakes, ladybugs, and even some "Christians."

The hibernating Christian is a strange creature indeed. Some time after becoming a Christian they enter a state in which any cognizant person would believe them to be dead! There are no signs of life...they are cold and inactive. Many more exist in a state of torpor (The church in Laodicea in Revelation 3). Their heart rate slows and their body temperature drops and although they may occasionally get up and move around, there is very little activity.

Obviously, the true Christian is neither a hibernator nor one who ever enters a state of torpor, but is awake, alert, and active. Jesus, our example in all things, said; *"I must be about my Father's business"* (Luke 2:49). In John 9:4 he said, *"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."*

The Bible is filled with warnings and instructions in order to avoid hibernation. Peter wrote, *"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, you shall never fall"* (2 Peter 1:10); and *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour"* (1 Peter 5:8). The apostle Paul wrote: *"Watch, stand fast in the faith, act you like men, be strong"* (1 Corinthians 16:13). *"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;"* (Colossians 4:2). *"You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep, are asleep in the night; and they that are drunk, are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation"* (1 Thessalonians 5:5-8).

My prayer, the churches need, and God's will is that none of us are hibernating! Nor will we ever allow the long cold nights of winter and the heavy eyes of fatigue to draw us into inactivity. But if we are, please heed the warning of Romans 13:11, *"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."* *Be faithful!*

## Leadership and Servanthood

God's perspective often conflicts with that of the world. For example, the world thinks of greatness as resulting from the exercise of authority over others; but Jesus said the great ones are servants, and the greatest is the slave of all (Mark 10:43, 44).

Self-centered, worldly attitudes conceive of leaders as those who set ambitious goals and then reach them by hook or by crook. By contrast, I like the way Jeff Myers put it: "Good leaders don't use others to reach their goals; they use their goals to reach others." Isn't that consistent with what Jesus said, as well as being consistent with the life He lived?

That isn't to say, of course, that Jesus didn't enlist the help of others in accomplishing His goals. He did. Men like the apostles, however, were not merely stepping stones to be used and then cast aside. Jesus reached out to them, then reached out to others through them.

John 6:38 expresses Jesus' goal: "*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*" Jesus did not simply use other people to get what He wanted; rather, as He explains in the next two verses, helping others was part and parcel of His goal: "*This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day*" (6:39, 40).

The servant leadership set forth in Scripture seeks not to exalt self at the expense of others, but to help others even at the sacrifice of self. Jesus exemplified this model as He left the indescribable glories of Heaven, lived in a common, working-class household, and finally went to the cross to suffer, bleed, and die for sinners. Paul likewise demonstrated godly leadership when he wrote, "*And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved*" (2 Corinthians 12:15). Yes, leaders are called to sacrifice even when their followers don't appreciate it.

Business, the church, and every other segment of society would be better off with servant-leaders such as the Bible describes, rather than those following worldly standards. Especially in the church, let us hold fast to God's pattern for leadership.  
~ Joe Slater

### Warrior or Worrier?

A Christian who is not a native English-speaker recently attempted to praise someone by saying she was a spiritual warrior. Instead, he wrote that she was a great "worrier."

Christ wants us to be warriors in His kingdom rather than worldly worriers.

He wants us to do something constructive, rather than fret about everything.

Our Lord tells us to fight for the faith and allow Him to create new life in the lost, rather than drown in fright of bad things that might happen.

Paul barks out these orders: "*Stay alert, stand firm in the faith, show courage, be strong*" (1 Cor 16:13).

Remember, you can't fight and fret at the same time. You can't stay alert when you're worried about getting hurt. You can't stand firm when you squirm with each imagined discomfort. Strength comes from focus, fear disperses vision, and worry blinds one to God's power.

So what are you going to be: a warrior or a worrier?

Randal Matheny (via Walking with God)

### Bible Trivia - General

1. Though people refer to the Bible by this name, the name is not found in the Bible. What is the name?
2. How did Elisha make iron float on water?
3. What is the shortest verse in the New Testament?
4. What is the shortest psalm?
5. What is the longest verse in the Bible?
6. Which books in the Bible do not contain the name of God?
7. Name two people who walked on water.
8. Which apparently fickle prophet prayed that it might not rain and then prayed that it would rain?
9. In Babylon, Daniel was called by what name?
10. Which disciple did Jesus call "Satan"?
11. What was the subject of the debate between Michael and Satan?
12. Who sat on idols?

[Answers found: Gen. 31:34, Jude 9; Daniel 1:7; Matt. 16:23; 1 Kings 17:1; 1 Kings 18:42,45; Matt. 14: 25,29; Bible; John 11:35; Psalm 117; Esther 8:9; II Kings 6:6; Ester & Song of Solomon].

# YOU TUBE ~ LIVE STREAMING ~ Sun. @ 9:30; Wed. @ 6:30

## PRAYER LIST



**Ronnie Miller**, father of *Amanda Coggin* has been diagnosed with Covid.

**Caleb Jennings** has Covid.

**Ricky Adams**, father of *Richard Adams* is scheduled to have sinus surgery Jan. 22nd.

**Andrea Hill**, is scheduled to have surgery at UAB in Birmingham, Jan. 26th.

**Gail Clayton**, aunt of *Richard Adams* is in an Amory Hospital with several health issues.

**Harold Russell** will see a doctor in Tupelo this week about the blood cloth in his leg.

**Greg Hicks**, nephew of *Betty Young* was to have surgery on his neck Jan. 18th, in Jonesboro, AR.

**Father** of *Terry Stubblefield* has Covid and not doing well. He is under Hospice Care at this time.

### Continue to Remember:

Chris Bradley, Kathy Clayton, Shelly Clayton, Shane Crotts, Earnestine Dye, Kathy Dye, Prebble Foster, Ron Griggs, Eleta Grimmitt, Madison Hardy, Debra Harville, David Holmes, Alfred Jones, Gloria Jones, Sue Marques, Connie Phagen, Olivia Pounders, Joe Reed, Harold Russell, Ansley Thompson, Lake Tremble, Terri Turner, Charles Ulmer, William Wilson family, Dixie White, Sarah Grace Wise

### Shut-Ins:

J. L. Eaton, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Bill & Grace Lyon, Nancy Petrowski,

### Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson

### Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Luke Goff, Chase Seals

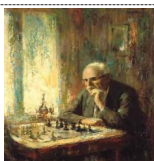
## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

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)

## I've Learned

The time is always right to do what is right.

*M.L King*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January 21. . . . . Audrey Anna Young  
January 23. . . . . Shane Crotts  
January 29. . . . . Alice Ashmore



## BIBLE CLASS MATERIAL

Anyone that is needing the study materials for Sunday AM or Wednesday PM and would like to have these either mailed or emailed to you, please send a message to 662-316-2527 or email [office@nacoc.us](mailto:office@nacoc.us) and we will make sure you receive these materials.

## CARE GROUP NEWS

Our Care Groups will be assisting in the weekend feeding program for students at Myrtle and West Union Schools, once a month. Our groups will also be purchasing special items for Pine Vale Children's Home, quarterly. We will be taking donations for these items so we can buy in bulk quantities. If you have any questions see *Shane Crotts* or your group leaders.



## YOUTH DEVOTIONALS

If you can help host a youth devo this year please sign the list that is on the bulletin board. Most of the monthly devotionals are on the 4th Sundays. If you have any questions please see *Shaler Grigsby*. Your help is greatly appreciated.



## CLOTHES CLOSET



We have a church clothes closet in the making, and can use your help by providing slightly used clothes and shoes. This work has been approved by the elders and is being overseen by *Madison Griggs* and *Madison Grigsby*. If you have any questions or suggestions please check with these young women.



Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>  
Email: [nacoc15s@gmail.com](mailto:nacoc15s@gmail.com)

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Volume 03

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

## MINISTERS

Tim Dooley.....859-486-4215  
 Shaler Grigsby...Youth/ Assoc.  
 .....256-263-9137  
 Office.....662-534-4649

## 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.....T. Stubblefield  
 Scripture.....Jackson Carter  
 A.M. Prayer.....Kurt Clayton  
 Closing.....Owen Clayton  
 P.M. Prayer.....  
 Closing.....  
 Wed 27th.... S. Crotts/ J. Jennings  
 Lock.....Kurt Clayton  
 Usher .....Kurt Clayton  
 Security .....Dane Coggin

## OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....90  
 Sunday A.M..... 93  
 Sunday P.M.....  
 Wednesday.....61  
 Contribution.....NA  
 Budget.....\$4,095.92

## PANTRY ITEMS



Soup

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

## In the Thickets

Sometimes we have the tendency to complain about little things in life. It is those little things which ought to prepare us for the more difficult things. Paul saw persecutions as hurdles one may jump. You won't jump those high hurdles if you can't jump the low ones. Use those low hurdles in life to be more successful as a Christian in the future. Jeremiah 12:5, *"If you have raced with foot runners and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you fall down, how will you fare in the thickets of the Jordan?"* (NRSV) Do you see what God is saying? If you can't succeed when the going is easy, how will you succeed when the going gets tough? Many complain about how hard it is to confess Christ in our society. I wonder what they would do if their life were on the line. Many first century Christians faced just that sort of challenge.

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