



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

August 10, 2021

There's a Stranger at the Door

Tim Dooley

A startling knock at the door in the middle of the night awakes you. The heart pounds with surprise and anticipation. Who is it? What do they want? Has something bad happened? You decide on a course of action and prepare to defend yourself and your family. You go to the door and call out, "Who's there?" A stranger cries out with urgency. You throw open the door and the stranger tells you that your house is on fire and you must escape before it's too late. In your state of sleep, and in the commotion, you hadn't even noticed your impending doom. At this point, I do not suppose you thank the stranger and then return to bed. Do you?

Yet, this is exactly what happens to countless souls every day. Consider this...

The stranger at the door is Jesus. Christ said, *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"* (Revelation 3:20). There are two imperatives here. One, I must hear Him. The word here means I must listen to Him and incline my ear and mind to learn from Him what He desires me to know. Secondly, I must open the door. If I am going to be saved I have to obey His voice.

The house and the deep sleep represent our lives and the world we live in outside of Christ. Consider the parable of the Lord in Matthew 12:43-45. Paul said, *"For they that sleep, sleep in the night..."* (1 Thessalonians 5:7). Those who are saved are *"...the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness"* (1 Thessalonians 5:5).

The fire is our unforgiven sins and the danger from that is eternal punishment. Jesus taught that those separated at judgment from the obedient and faithful would be told, *"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Matthew 25:41).

The door is your heart and the knocking is the gospel of Christ. In James 1:21 we read, *"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."* Jesus made it clear that the words which he spoke would judge us (John 12:48). David knew the importance of this and said, *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"* (Psalm 119:11).

Now, no one would leave their family lying in sweet slumber and return to bed if they knew the house was burning down. We would not tell the stranger that to leave the house would somehow mean we did not owe our lives to him because we did it ourselves. We would do all we possibly could to follow the stranger to safety, taking our family with us. Why not obey Christ? Come out of the world and escape the danger of sin not repented of and not remitted by obedience to the gospel plan of salvation.

Take this scenario one step further...you're the stranger passing the home of a friend or loved one and realize the house is on fire. What should you do? What would you do? What will you do? Be faithful!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Below is a list of activities/projects in which our Care Groups are involved. Our aim is to better serve our community and one another. We encourage everyone to help in any way you can, no matter to which Care Group you are assigned. You may contact the person(s) listed next to each activity for detailed information.

- Monthly collection of non-perishable, individually-wrapped items for children in need at Myrtle Attendance Center (Kurt Clayton)
- Supplies for Pine Vale each quarter: This quarter we supplied bottled water (Kurt Clayton).
- Coloring Books/Crayons for Le Bonheur: Coloring books/crayons or monetary donations are due by Sunday, November 14. Our goal is 100 (Andy/Victoria Brown or Kurt/Shelly Clayton).
- Snack bags and activity books for dialysis center (Brian Carpenter/Matt Jennings/Shane Crotts)
- Provide items for weekend feeding of needy children at West Union Attendance Center (Brian, Matt, Shane).
- Provide bags for foster children (Brian, Matt, Shane).
- Provide hygiene products for students. Each month, we will supply a different school. August-West Union; September-New Albany High School; October-Myrtle; November-New Albany Middle and NAES; December-East Union; January-Ingomar (Kevin/Stephanie Simmons).
- Caring for our church family: Collect donations to buy food for those grieving over the loss of an immediate family member; for our new mothers; for those in the hospital/having surgery; for families in quarantine due to Covid (Kevin/Stephanie Simmons).
- Assist our elderly and the sick with yard work (Kevin/Stephanie Simmons).
- Run errands for our shut-ins (Kevin/Stephanie Simmons).
- Prepare care boxes for our shut-ins (Kevin/Stephanie Simmons).

The Mississippi Department of Health is urging everyone to wear a mask in all indoor public settings.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- **August 15** Elders/Ministers meeting at 8:15a.m.
- **August 15** Care Group #2 (Brian/Matt) will meet at the fellowship building after the morning service. Lunch will be potluck
- **August 20** The Yahhoo Group will meet at Coffey's Steak & Fish at 5:30p.m.
- **August 21** 50th Wedding Reception for Roger & Kathy Clayton 2:00p.m.-3:30p.m.
- **August 22** Care Group #1 (Kurt/Dane) will meet at the fellowship building after the morning service. Lunch will be potluck.
- **August 22** Care Group #3 (Kevin Simmons) will meet in room 12 immediately following the morning service.
- **August 22** Youth Devo - Brian & Shelby Carpenter hosting
- **August 28-29** Widowhood Workshop with Dean Miller. Please pick up some flyers from the table in the foyer and share with your family, friends and businesses.
- **September 19-20** Church directory pictures
- **November 14** Coloring books or donations are due. Please see Andy/Victoria Brown or Kurt/Shelly Clayton.

AREA EVENTS

- **August 20-22** The Amory Church of Christ is hosting a free exhibit, *Bible Lands Museum*. There is a flyer on the table in the foyer or for information, please call (662) 256-5813.
- **August 24** The Fulton Bible Institute is offering *For the Glory of God: Christ and the Church in Ephesians*. Classes will meet each Tuesday for 13 weeks. Morning and evening classes are offered, 10:00a.m. and 7:00p.m. Both classes will cover the same material. There is a flyer on the table in the foyer, or for more information, please call (662) 862-4549.
- **August 28-29** The New Albany Church of Christ will host a Widowhood Workshop with Dean Miller. For more information, please call (662) 534-4649.
- **August 29-September 1** The East Main Church of Christ is hosting *A Call for New Testament Christianity* by Neal Pollard. For more information, please call (662) 842-6116.
- **September 12** Area-Wide Youth Meeting will be in Verona at 5:00p.m.
- **September 18** Ladies, save the date! The Amory Church of Christ will host a Ladies' Day with speaker, Debbie Dupuy. More information to come.

YOU TUBE ~ LIVE STREAMING ~ Sun. @ 9:30; 1:15 Wed. @ 6:30



PRAYER LIST

Arelus Dye had back surgery this past Friday. He currently does not have back pain and is more mobile.

Marilyn Chittom, sister of *Randy Wall*, had shoulder replacement surgery this past Friday.

Ricky and Betty Adams are sick at home.

Dixie White will have outpatient surgery Friday, August 13th. She will have a new pacemaker and additional lead wires implanted.

Bobby and Sue Marques need our prayers for encouragement. Sue's knee replacement surgery was canceled because the hospital has no rooms due to Covid. She is currently home bound and Bobby is caring for her.

April Pounders will have surgery for breast cancer August 16th.

Those with Covid:

Lea Anne Clark, Andrea Hill, Clayton Hill, Perry Jones, Herb Dooley (Tim's father), Tim Ellis (Richard Adams' brother-in-law)

Continue to Remember:

Lynda Ball, Mitchel Barton, Kathy Clayton, Larry Cobb, Shane Crotts, Prebble Foster, Donnie Golden, Eleta Grimmitt, Madison Hardy, John Haynes, Patrick Holmes, Caleb Jennings, Jason Jennings, Michele Kimsey, Myra Martin, Anderson Parks, Olivia Pounders, Joe Reed, Susie Roberson, Novene Robertson, Joanna Ross, Harold Russell, Bobby Sweat, Bella Taylor, Ansley Thompson, Tommie Whiteside, Allie Williams, Sarah Grace Wise

Shut-Ins:

Helen DePriest, Kathy Dye, J. L. Eaton, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe & Benita Garner, Sue Marques, Nancy Petrowski

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Bill Lyon

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Chase Seals



I've Learned

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August 10.....Sue Stroud
August 13.....Ronnie Griggs
August 15.....Jessica Garrett
August 19.....Kim Clayton
August 19.....Kyleigh Sweezer
August 20.....Phillip Young

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 18.....Shane & Barbara Crotts
August 21.....Roger & Kathy Clayton



RESPONSE

Yolanda Stubblefield responded to the invitation this past Sunday, requesting prayers of the church for strength and encouragement to live a faithful Christian life. Please pray for Yolanda and for each other.

THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the food, calls, texts, cards and most of all the prayers while Clay and Halei had Covid. They are both feeling better. Luke's allergy testing went well this past week and he can now eat red meat again. Thank you all for being such a loving church family!

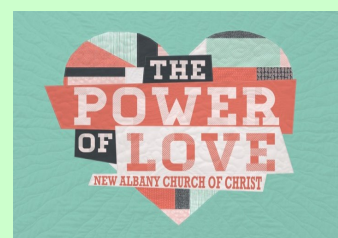
Love, Jason, Amy, Hunter, Caleb, Clay, Halei & Luke



YOU ARE INVITED

A 50th wedding reception will be held for Roger and Kathy Clayton Saturday, August 21st from 2:00-3:30p.m. at the fellowship building. No gifts please.

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

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School..... 9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Pew Packers/Afternoon Worship
1:15
 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.....662-252-9762
 Tim Dye.....662-316-2527
 Richard Jennings .662-316-1305
 Troy Robertson 662-316-3163
 Phil Young.....662-316-2059

DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....662-316-6420
 Shane Crotts.....662-266-0195
 Jason Jennings.....662-801-3260
 Mark Jennings.....731-609-3309
 Kevin Simmons.. 662-512-8451
 Randy Wall.....662-316-9255

TO SERVE

Communion.....Greg Clayton
 Scripture.....Jackson Coggin
 A.M. Prayer.....Bill Botts
 Closing.....Phil Young
 P.M. Prayer.....Mark Jennings
 Closing.....Shane Crotts
 Lock..... Jason Jennings
 Usher.....Jason Jennings
 Security.....Dan Cobb
 Wed Open 18th.....Tim Dooley
 Wed Close 18th.....R. Griggs

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....100
 Sunday A.M.....114
 Sunday P.M.....76
 Wednesday.....80
 Contribution.....\$4,711.00
 Budget.....\$4,219.62

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Volume 32

“I Don’t Know”

There are three words that are, seemingly, almost painful for many of us to utter—“I don’t know.” To voice these words makes us vulnerable, perhaps brings ridicule from others, sometimes causes disappointment in others, and usually makes us feel great embarrassment. But, when we state these words in openness and honesty, there are benefits that can follow.

Saying “I don’t know” can help others to see us as human, rather than an arrogant know-it-all. Saying “I don’t know” can help us to build trust with others, as they see us exposing a weakness in our effort to be truthful. Saying “I don’t know” can strengthen a marriage relationship, as a husband and wife are honest with each other. Saying “I don’t know” presents an opportunity for us to learn and grow in an area where we have not grown previously. Saying “I don’t know” is the best answer we can give in a religious discussion when we don’t know an answer. It’s ok to say it. Let’s be honest at all times.

Is this article helpful? “I don’t know.”

~ David Sproule

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)

NEW ALBANY CHURCH OF CHRIST
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