

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

August 31, 2021

Are You Suffering? Be Happy!

Tim Dooley

You have problems; you're depressed, overwhelmed, and anxious. Welcome to life. Now, I do not mean to minimize anyone's pain and suffering but the fact is we all live in a sin-cursed world and things are not always going to go like we desire. Some folks indeed seem to have more than they can bear. But, this is not true! You can bear it, maybe not alone, but with friends and family, the church, and Jesus we can! While I understand there are clinical issues many deal with, the fact is far too many people are crutch bound and wallowing in self-pity.

The answer is simple. Maybe not as simple as Bobby McFerrin's admonition, "Don't worry, be happy" (you're singing now aren't you!) but close. Look, Jesus came to give us an abundant life (John 10:10). So if you are a faithful Christian you need to stop and ask yourself these questions:

Why the long face?
Why am I so grumpy and nasty to everyone I meet?
Why do I face each day with a depressing, defeatist attitude?
Why do I consider anything other than my current situation an improvement?
Why can't I be happy right where I am?

The answers to these questions are simple.

No good reason!
Because I simply have a bad attitude!
Because I have chosen to do so!
Because I base my happiness on externals!
There is no reason why I can't!

What does the Bible say about all this? Be happy when you have difficulties (James 1:2). Jesus says when persecuted and reviled we should, "*Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven*" (Matthew 5:10–12). The apostles rejoiced when they suffered shame for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:41). When the Lord refused to remove the thorn in the side of Paul He said, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness,*" Paul said he took, "*pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong*" (2 Corinthians 12:7–10). As Christians we are to rejoice and be glad when we suffer in Christ (1 Peter 4:13–16). And if we are living godly lives we are going to suffer (2 Timothy 3:12).

Jesus suffered more than any man ever has: He left heaven, gave up His equality with God, lived a life of poverty, loneliness, and temptation, suffered the loss of family and friends, was despised, rejected, betrayed, mocked, beaten, and put to death. What's your problem?! What practically can you do?

- Face the day with positivity! Look on the bright side. Each day is going to come with it's own unique challenges (Matthew 6:34). Find the good among the bad and be happy!
- Greet everyone you meet with a smile and a warm greeting (1 Corinthians 16:20; Romans 12:10). Don't grunt and growl, mumble and moan. Smile and be happy!
- Pray! Talking with God and giving Him your cares and trials is not only practical, it is commanded (1 Peter 5:7). And then leave them with Him to deal with!
- Do what you can do and forget about the rest or put it on your list of things to do tomorrow!
- Read the Bible! Studying God's word and making application to your life is essential to good spiritual and mental health.
- Fellowship! Regular worship and fellowship times with like-minded Christians is meant to encourage and up lift. To provoke to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24–25).
- Don't listen to gossip, neigh Sayers, and bad news (1 Timothy 5:13). Remember, "Garbage in, garbage out."
- Be active! The worse thing you can do is stay in bed with the covers pulled up over your head and the blinds drawn. Get out and live!!!!

The most important thing is to make sure we are in a good relationship with God. We must obey his commands and humbly submit ourselves by repenting of our rebellious lifestyle (Acts 17:30), confess Him as the only begotten Son (Matthew 10:32–33) and be baptized for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21). We can live our lives without the guilt and weight of sin that so easily troubles us (Hebrews 12:1). Be happy! And be faithful!

THOSE TO SERVE THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021

Announcements ~ Kevin Simmons

Sound Room ~ Randy Wall

Lead Usher ~ Steve Hill

Lord's Supper

Sept 05~ Troy Robertson
 Sept 12 ~ Clint Stroupe
 Sept 19 ~ Richard Adams
 Sept 26 ~ Kurt Clayton

Scripture Reading

Sept 05 ~ Brian Carpenter
 Sept 12 ~ Owen Clayton
 Sept 19 ~ Jackson Coggin
 Sept 26 ~ Clayton Hill

Wed. Night Lead Singing

Sept 01 ~ Dillon Clayton
 Sept 08 ~ Clay Jennings
 Sept 15 ~ Hunter Jennings
 Sept 22 ~ Mike Brown
 Sept 29 ~ Thomas Wall

Sunday Lead Singing

Sept 05
 A.M. Richard Jennings
 P.M. Mark Jennings
 Sept 12
 A.M. Phillip Young
 P.M. Richard Jennings
 Sept 19
 A.M. Andy Brown
 P.M. Phillip Young
 Sept 26
 A.M. Shaler Grigsby
 P.M. Andy Brown

Wednesday Prayers

Sept 01 ~ Thomas Wall; Shaler Grigsby
 Sept 08 ~ Shane Crotts; Hunter Jennings
 Sept 15 ~ Jason Jennings; Perry Jones
 Sept 22 ~ Mark Jennings; Clay Jennings
 Sept 29 ~ Richard Jennings; Matt Jennings

Sunday Prayers

Sept 05
 A.M. Terry Stubblefield
 Dillon Clayton
 P.M. Mason Simmons
 Bill Botts
 Sept 12
 A.M. Phil Young
 Ricky Adams
 P.M. Roger Clayton
 Olen Clark
 Sept 19
 A.M. Mike Brown
 Dane Coggin
 P.M. Andy Clemmer
 Ronnie Griggs
 Sept 26
 A.M. Greg Clayton
 Martin Crotts
 P.M. Tim Dye
 Caleb Jennings

Greeters

Sept 05 ~ G & K Clayton
 Sept 12 ~ S & L Todd
 Sept 19 ~ P & P Young
 Sept 26 ~ K & S Simmons

Lock

Sept 05 ~ Steve Todd
 Sept 12 ~ Greg Clayton
 Sept 19 ~ Randy Wall
 Sept 26 ~ Shane Crotts

Usher

Sept 05 ~ Kurt Clayton
 Sept 12 ~ Shane Crotts
 Sept 19 ~ Jason Jennings
 Sept 26 ~ Mark Jennings

Security

Sept 05 ~ Mark Jennings
 Sept 12 ~ Matt Jennings
 Sept 19 ~ Randy Wall
 Sept 26 ~ Joe Owen

Host Youth Devo: Open

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



Dooley Noted...

In Deuteronomy 24:19-24 the Lord commands the children of Israel to make special provision for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widows among them. Why? Because God is a God of love, mercy, and grace. He cares! When studying the evil kings of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah we find the consistent message that what made them evil in the sight of the Lord was twofold. One, they didn't worship God according to His standard of worship. And, two, they forsook their duties in caring for the fatherless and widows.

James 1:27 says, *"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."* God hasn't changed in His desire for His people to worship Him faithfully and to care for those who need our (and His) love, mercy, and grace. We are so thankful for brother Dean Miller and the Widowhood Workshop. In months to come we will be looking at ways we can support those in our congregation and the community that need our help. In the meantime, each of us should be looking for ways to share God's love personally with those with whom we have a relationship and with anyone who needs Him.

~ Tim



PRAYER LIST

Perry Jones was in an auto accident Monday night. He is recovering at home and will follow up with his doctor in two weeks.

Don Golden, father of LaKisha Harris and brother of Benita Garner, is not doing well.

Larry Cobb is struggling with health issues. He was to return to the VA Hospital in Memphis on Tuesday.

Those with Covid: Dean & Viva Dillard, Jennifer Luttrell (niece of Janet Drummond), Randy & Becky Harville (brother & sister-in-law of Kathy Clayton)

Continue to Remember:

Lynda Ball, Mitchel Barton, Kathy Clayton, Larry Cobb, Shane Crotts, Prebble Foster, Donnie Golden, Eleta Grimmitt, Madison Hardy, John Haynes, Caleb Jennings, Luke Jennings, Michele Kimsey, Anderson Parks, April Pounders, Olivia Pounders, Joe Reed, Susie Roberson, Novene Robertson, Joanna Ross, Harold Russell, Bobby Sweat, Bella Taylor, Ansley Thompson, Dixie White, Tommie Whiteside, Sarah Grace Wise, Betty Young

Shut-Ins:

Helen DePriest, 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

SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to the family of *Brandi McCullough*, who passed away this past Friday morning due to complications from Covid. Brandi and her family were former members here.

We also express our sympathy to the family of *Alan Joe Byrd*, who passed away Sunday night in Sikeston, MO due to complications from Covid. He was the cousin of Betty Young.

The Elders want to remind us that The Mississippi Department of Health is urging everyone to wear a mask in all public indoor settings.

I've Learned

Start where you are—use what you have—do what you can.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- August 31..... Cade Carpenter
- September 01..... Michael Crotts
- September 01..... Lillie Grace Jennings
- September 01..... Novene Robertson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- September 02..... Dane & Amanda Coggin
- September 02..... Mike & Janice Brown

DIRECTORY PICTURES

If you have not signed up for directory pictures, please do so as soon as possible. Time is running out. There is a link on our church website or, for those without internet service, we are happy to help. Please see Troy Robertson, Mike Brown or Lana Todd.



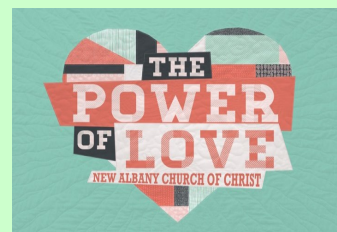
CHURCH CALENDAR

- There will be no 1st Sunday fellowship meal this month.
- **September 12** Care Team #3 will meet following the morning service.
- **September 12** Kaleb Norwood will present afternoon lesson
- **September 12** Area-Wide Youth Meeting is at Verona at 5:00p.m.
- **September 19-20** Church directory pictures
- **November 14** Coloring books or donations are due for Le Bonheur. Please see Andy/Victoria Brown or Kurt/Shelly Clayton.

ADULT 3 BIBLE CLASS

There is a sign-up sheet for the Adult 3 class. Please check if you plan to attend Sunday morning and Wednesday night. There is also a space for suggestions for the Wednesday night class.

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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.... Troy Robertson
Scripture.....Brian Carpenter
A.M. Prayer.....T. Stubblefield
Closing.....Dillon Clayton
P.M. Prayer...Mason Simmons
Closing.....Bill Botts
Lock.....Steve Todd
Usher.....Kurt Clayton
Security.....Mark Jennings
Wed Open 8thShane Crotts
Wed Close 8th.....H. Jennings

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....117
Sunday A.M.....145
Sunday P.M.....101
Wednesday.....83
Contribution.....\$4,881.00
Budget.....\$4,219.62

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August 31, 2021

Volume 35

Facing the Storm

A little girl walked daily to and from school. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school.

As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child.

Following the roar of thunder, lightning like a flaming sword would cut through the sky. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly, each with the little girl stopping, looking at the streak of light and smiling.

Finally, the mother called her over to the car and asked, "What are you doing?" The child answered, "God just keeps taking pictures of me."

God bless you today as you face the storms that may come your way!

Author Unknown~

Opportunities to Serve

- Food items for children at Myrtle School (Kurt)
- Supplies for Pine Vale each quarter (Kurt)
- Coloring Books/Crayons for Le Bonheur (Andy/Vic Brown, Kurt/Shelly)
- Snack bags and activity books for dialysis center (Brian, Matt, Shane)
- Food items for children at West Union School (Brian, Matt, Shane)
- Provide bags for foster children (Brian, Matt, Shane).
- Provide hygiene products for students. August-West Union; September-New Albany High School; October-Myrtle; November-New Albany Middle and NAES; December-East Union; January-Ingomar (Kevin/Stephanie)
- Caring for our church family (Kevin/Stephanie)
- Assist our elderly and the sick with yard work (Kevin/Stephanie)
- Run errands for our shut-ins (Kevin/Stephanie)
- Prepare care boxes for our shut-ins (Kevin/Stephanie)

NEW ALBANY CHURCH OF CHRIST

P. O. Box 148 / 511 Highway 15 South

New Albany, MS 38652