

THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

June 7, 2011

HOLINESS IS BEAUTIFUL

Mike King

Exciting
Holiness

One of the primary characteristics of God's people is the attribute of holiness. John described the church as being "*a holy priesthood*" and "*a holy nation*" so that we might "*offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ* (I Pet. 2:5-9).

There are many avenues through which we may express our holy nature. The Old Testament records at least four passages where the expression, "The beauty of holiness" is stated. Unfortunately, our society today does not see the true value in the beauty of holiness. There needs to be a reactivation of the exercise of holiness in the life of every Christian.

Steve Higginbotham expressed his concern over this matter when saying, "We live in a time when people have flip-flopped this biblical expression and are being deceived by what they think is the "holiness of beauty." He suggests that we have reversed what is important.

Worship is an area where this can easily be done. Even in the church, we have become preoccupied with "beauty" rather than "holiness." Some congregations are allowing special singing groups and choruses to replace congregational singing, because of their emphasis upon beauty and beauty alone. We must never forget that nothing can replace the cracking, failing voice of an aged Christian widow singing, "Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All." One can feel and hear the "beauty of holiness" reverberating from that voice and life. It may be true that younger and better trained voices, musically, could represent the "holiness of beauty," but cannot touch the depth of her "beauty of holiness!"

There is nothing wrong with beauty, but it is not our ultimate aim. Our aim should be that of acquiring holiness. The purposes and values of our hearts are driven by the "beauty of holiness" not the "holiness of beauty." Melody is to be made in the heart that proceeds from a much deeper level than that of beauty. All of what we do in worship that is found acceptable before God comes from a level of spiritual maturity and comprehension that runs so much deeper than the superficial emphasis that we give to how beautiful it can be voiced. It is nice when it is both beautiful and holy, but a quick assessment finds God favoring holiness. David said, "*Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*" (Ps. 29:2).

AN 8 - COW WIFE

On an isolated Pacific island, it was the custom for a young man to announce his intention of marriage to the entire village.

After the announcement, he and the whole community went to the young woman's home. Her father would come outside and then—in front of the community—the father and the suitor would barter. Obviously, there was no feminist movement on the island.

The main item of value on the island was the cow. Therefore, a suitor would offer the father a certain number of cows for his daughter. The average bride was worth two cows, perhaps three if she was unusually bright or attractive. The all-time record was four cows.

The most eligible bachelor on the island was Johnny Lingo. He was handsome and wealthy. Imagine all the excitement among the women on the island when Johnny announced one day that he had selected a wife. But then he shocked everyone by announcing that his choice was a girl named Lisa. Lisa was not even in the top ten. She was regarded as plain and frightfully shy. Some of the jokers in the crowd even suggested that Lisa's father might pay Johnny a cow or two.

The community gathered at Lisa's house for the bartering. Then came an even greater shock. Johnny's opening bid for Lisa was eight cows! Her father almost fainted, but he managed to say yes.

That very evening Johnny and Lisa were married, and they departed for their home on an adjacent island.

For a full year no one saw Johnny and Lisa. Then on their first anniversary they returned to visit their parents. From the moment they arrived at the dock, the news spread. Everybody said, "Come and see Johnny and Lisa! You won't believe it!"

Everybody came, but nobody noticed Johnny. All eyes were on Lisa. She had been transformed! She was a vision of loveliness. She was poised, warm, friendly, and confident.

At the end of the day, as Johnny and Lisa were preparing to return to their home, one of Johnny's longtime friends pulled him aside and said, "I want to know the secret of this amazing transformation in Lisa. How did it happen?"

Johnny said, "I will tell you. From the time Lisa was born, she had been treated as though she was not worth very much. She had begun to believe that about herself. But I announced to the community that she was an 8-cow wife, and I have treated her just that way. She has become that vision of herself that she sees every day in my eyes."

If you want an 8-cow wife or husband, start treating her or him that way. Give it a year and see what happens. *"Husband...giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life..."* I Peter 3: 7
~via House to House~ Heart to Heart

YOUTH NEWS

- Verse to read: "Proverbs 16:3" ~ It is okay to plan ahead for your future, but just remember to ultimately base your decisions around what God wants.
- 7th grade and up, don't forget to bring your Bibles and the new textbooks, Lures of the Liar, to Wednesday night to class!
- Thursday June 9th, the 7th grade and up will be going to Saucer Creek Church of Christ as part of the "Summer Youth Series". Those that plan to go need to meet at the church at 5:30pm.
- Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held June 12 at Church St. congregation in Pontotoc.
- "Magnificent Monday" sixth grade and under will meet June 13th for a trip to the movies. The movie they will be watching is Kung -Fu Panda II. The time and cost will be announced later.

Andy

PRAYER LIST

Mitchell Hall, friend of *Phil and Paige Young*, has been released from the hospital and is doing better.



Continual Prayer

Billy Joe Bray, Ailiene Cain, Donna Haynes, Glenda Cox, Linda Martin, Shelly Trout, Willie Jackson, David Harendt, Hugh Collins, Shane Crotts, Terry Young

Shut-Ins

Lessie Bryant, Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Pauline Smith, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Corrine Hall, Anna Davis & Mattie Golden

Military List:

David Wilhite, Barry Wilhite, Jimmie Stutts, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Michelle Ham, Raegan Cole

READ THE FIRST LINE CAREFULLY

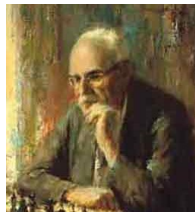
If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.



“I’VE LEARNED”

...That I can always pray for someone when I don’t have the strength to help him in some other way.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 10.....David Clayton
June 11.....Christy Wall
June 12.....Collett Cross
June 16.....Lucille Gibson
June 16.....Joanna Moffitt
June 18.....Madison Griggs

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

June 08.....Dalton & Marie Beard
June 10.....Ray & Pat Kennedy
June 12.....Martin & Erica Crotts
June 14.....Greg & Lynn Harrison
June 14.....Austin & Jessica Garrett
June 16.....Richard & Kathy Jennings

EVENTS IN JUNE

- Elders/Deacons/ Preacher meeting Sunday, June 12 at 5:00pm.
- Elders meeting Tuesday night, June 14 at 7:00.
- Fellowship supper (homemade ice cream) Sunday night, June 19, following services.
- Deacons meeting June 26, at 5:00pm.
- Elders/deacons/ preacher visitation June 28, at 6:30pm.
- 5th Wednesday night singing June 29, at 7:00.

AREA EVENTS

- Verona Church of Christ invites you to their Gospel Meeting June 10-12. *Michael Bates* will be the guest speaker.
- Verona Church of Christ Youth Rally ~ June 11
- Ashland Church of Christ invites you to their VBS, Sat. June 11, from 9:00am-2:30pm.

OUR RECORD

Sunday School	117
Sunday A M	148
Sunday P.M	99
Wednesday	103
Contribution	\$6,091.80
Budget	\$3,455.70

TO SERVE

Scripture	Dillon Clayton
A.M. Prayer	Roger Clayton
Closing Prayer.....	J.L. Eaton
P.M. Prayer.....	Dan Cobb
Closing	Ronnie Griggs
Wed 6/15.	Richard Jennings
Wed. 6/15	Randy Wall
Usher & Lock.....	Roger Clayton
Greeter.....	G & K Clayton



PANTRY ITEM:
Pancake Mix / Syrup

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School	9:30
Morning Worship	10:30
Evening Worship	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

ELDERS

Richard Jennings	534-6671
Troy Robertson	534-3491

DEACONS

Bill Botts	316-2422
Greg Clayton.....	252-9762
Roger Clayton.....	534-5240
Andy Clemmer	816-5887
Harold Russell	534-4648
Randy Wall	316-9255
Lonnie Weaver.....	801-8448

MINISTER

Mike King	507-0625
Home.....	534-6872
Office	534-4649

The ABC's of Marriage

Absolutely adore each other
Be Best Friends
Compromise
Discover new things together
Encourage each other
Forgive and forget
Gaze into each other's eyes
Hold hands and hug a lot
Inspire and intrigue each other
Joke and laugh and have fun
Kiss, kiss, kiss
Love with all your hearts
Marvel at each other's feelings
Nurture each other's souls
Overcome problems together
Play games
Quiet each other's fears
Remember the little things
Say "I love you" everyday
Take time for tenderness
Understand and care deeply
Value everything you share
Wish on stars together
X-press your true feelings
Yearn for each other's touch

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