

Christ the Reason for the Life

There have been a lot of news items recently on the movement who style themselves "Freedom From Religion", who want to ban greetings of Merry Christmas, manger scenes, and etc. from public view. In response there seems to be a resurgence of "Christ, the reason for the season" slogans and banners. As you know, I have no problem with the celebration of Christmas (Romans 14:5, 6 — "One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord..."), but I do wish that the "Christ, the reason for the season" slogan could be altered slightly to reflect what Jesus was really all about — not a season, but a life.

My guess is that if our celebration of Christ was a little more every day, a little less seasonal, there might be fewer unbelievers.

Park Linscomb



Linda and I will be visiting family this Sunday, but Preston will be covering the pulpit in my absence. Preston's sermon topic is "God with Us" A home for the Homeless, Matt 1:18-23.

Have a Merry Christmas! Our love to you all; God's greatest blessings be yours!



Park Linscomb, our minister

Our Family

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

NOTE FROM THE ELDERS:

Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. (Isaiah 46:4)

Think about this. Do you believe this to be true or just more nice Bible verses? Do you have faith that God sent Jesus to rescue us from ourselves? Pray about what this means to you and how it affects your life during this week and have a merry Christmas!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 21 Christmas Cookie Reception after Bible Class at the Cottrells. Cookies, hot chocolate & coffee provided.

December 24 service at 11:30pm Songs, scripture & communion.

December 25 services...

Worship at 11am only. First service, Sunday School & evening services are cancelled. Tuesday Morning Ladies Class will resume meeting **January 3** at 10am. They are studying James (chapter 2)

Menu for Dec 28

Turkey pot pie
Salad, Bread
Dessert

Menu for Jan 4

Baked Potato Soup, Chicken
Noodle Soup, Minestrone
Salads
Dessert

NEWS

Christmas Cards & letters from Darby Coss and The Winsteads are on the foyer bulletin board. **Please stop by and read them.**

New Address for April Cetoute:
453 Maple St. #4

Manchester NH 03104

Same phone, cell, 820-0410

No Wednesday bulletin next week.

OPPORTUNITIES to SERVE

Visit those sick or shut in.

Cooks are needed for Wednesday night suppers.

Talk to The Potters or Glenna if you have questions.

The Pantry is in need of

YOUR help. Please don't think someone else will help; we need everyone's help on this one. We need groceries or money to buy them. Donations can be given to the Skerrys.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Katie Paul: applied for new job at Disney (coordinator of ed with animals) Pray for an interview.

Gerry Millette: post retirement job

Mark Brown & his daughter

Mark's fiance & her two girls

The Chase family: guardianship.

Court date continued to March 1

Cory Roukey faith and guidance

Brenda, Lee's sister, Court/

grandchildren's custody

Gary Chase's job

Marie Abbott (job loss, needs insurance)

Bonnie Witham

Valentina Sanchez

Jerry Ellis Job needed. Being laid off this week.

Family of Fred McKinnon Lost everything in a house fire.

For our members & their families that will be traveling & for those that can't be with their families over the holidays.

Health:

Brian Glass Car accident, beating Asher Ellis ear infection, tubes to be inserted

Penny's brother back surgery

Dec 22

Cathy, Marge Simon's niece, has cancer

Dwaine Gray, Susie's dad is having a spot removed from his lung. Complicated by his congestive heart failure.

Leslie Davis' mom: heart attack last week but home now

For Larry, Linda C's co worker.

Facing difficult cancer treatment decisions .

Barry Fogal

Manley Jones

Marge Simon

Eileen Wasserstrom

Pete Steffensen

Aaron Abood

Dotti Carty (Beth King's mom)

Jean Cottrell, (Preston's mom radiation treatments in January)
Brittany Uchitjil (recovering from bone marrow transplant)

Darlene Chamberlain

(dermatology & diabetes)

John Matthew Davis surgery Jan 12

Gina Marcoux Johnston, brain tumor.

Laura (MS) & her brother (brain tumor)

Marie Levesque (job needed)

Jill Sullivan (heart attack)

Isabella (5yr old with cancer)

Heather for smooth pregnancy

Ansar Rana (brain tumor)

Cory Mixon (elbow to heal)

Geneva Baum's family

Matt (cancer)

Lennie Hooper has Wegner's

Disease (attacks immune

system) Dolores Hooper breast cancer surgery

Diane Dunagan (cancer)

Alex, (foot pain) treatment in CA
Terry, Dave Skerry's coworker, in hospice

Dana Greenlay (Back injury)

Christina (Deb Garven's

daughter) possibly cancerous

moles were removed Tues.

Barbara, Freda's daughter

Penny's dad. COPD & dementia

THANKS

Brittany Uchitjil's platelet count is going up very quickly. Was 17,000 when she left the hospital about 2 weeks ago.

Now over 108,000. (Normal is 150,000-400,000)

Jean Cottrell got great news after her surgery. The margins were all clean. They removed all the cancer! She will undergo radiation starting in January.

Alan Chamberlain made a wonderful card to say thanks for the art exhibit. See it on the foyer bulletin board.

Darlene Chamberlain is thankful to have a computer at home! Send her an email!

TEENS

Be watching for updates as plans are confirmed.

The Debt of Love

“I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish....For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” Romans 1:14,16

What if no one had ever shared Jesus with you? What if you had just been left to grope for God for truth, for rescue from yourself (mistakes, sinful deeds, worldly attitudes, etc.), and for forgiveness? Where would you be now? Where would you be heading? What sort of eternity would be awaiting you? Frightening to think about isn't it?

How can you ever repay that precious friend who shared with you an eternal treasure of light and life?

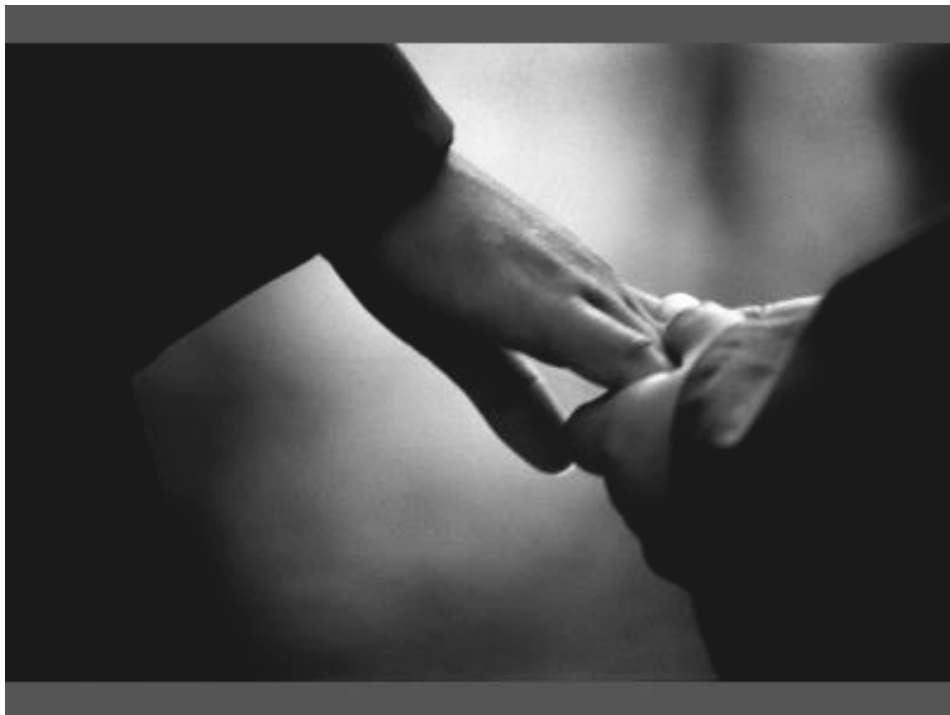
When Paul considered his mission of preaching the Gospel, he described it as an “obligation”. A literal translation of the word means “a debt”. A debt? Owed to whom? Maybe Ananias who must have approached Saul of Tarsus, the world’s most notorious Christian-killer of the day, with a boat-load of fear, but who still came and told him what he must do to be saved. Maybe Barnabas who likewise took an enormous risk to his life by befriending Saul in Jerusalem, when everyone else was hiding out for fear of him. Certainly Jesus, who saved the “foremost of sinner”. Yes, Paul was quite a debtor.

But he couldn't pay Ananias, Barnabas, or Jesus back with money or anything like that; it wasn't that kind of debt; it was far too precious. It was a debt — a debt of love — that could only be repaid by passing along the same message, taking the same risks, loving with the same heart as he received.

We, like Saul of Tarsus, also are debtors — to Christ and to that person or people who loved you, risked your scorn, and told you the Gospel. That makes us also “under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and the foolish”.

Bring the Gospel to a friend, or bring your friend to the Gospel; and pay the debt of love.

Park Linscomb



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18 Happy Birthday to Sarah Gordon	19	20 Happy Birthday to Kris Duer, Zak Kerrins & Benji Peacock	21	22	23 Happy Birthday Rich Therrien	24 Christmas Eve Services at 11:30pm
25 Christmas only I am worship. (no Sunday school or evening services.) Happy Birthday Tyler Apgar	26 Happy Birthday Eric Apgar	27 Happy Birthday Jolene Karafelis & Alan Chamberlain	28 Happy Birthday Lindsay Garison	29 Happy Birthday Noah Duer & Joanne Hazelton	30 Happy Anniversary Charles & Sue Burdette	31
1 Happy Birthday Linda Paul	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Happy Anniversary Walter & Marcia Franklin	9 Monday Night for the Master	10	11	12 Happy Birthday to Penny Ranger	13 Happy Birthday Priscilla Jones	14

8:30	WORSHIP LEADERS	11:00	Stats Sunday morning attendance:.....133 Sunday morning contribution.\$2220.75 Weekly budget.....\$3710.00 Pantry served 1 family this week.
NO	Songs	Gary Diaz	
8:30	Closing Prayer	David Skerry	
WORSHIP	Scripture	Pete Steffensen	
SERVICE	Lord's supper		
TODAY	Coordinator	Ken Simon	
NO EVENING SERVICE	Songs	Wed 28: Doug Paul	

The Manchester church of Christ

603.623.5559 mht_church@comcast.net

Elders' Link: December

Barry Fogal 487-2387 bfogal@comcast.net
Mike Moser 661-6381 heymikeymo@comcast.net

If you have any concerns that the elders should be aware of, or need to speak with them, please contact Barry or Mike this month.

Deacons

Finance: Tony Casella
Small Groups: Stuart Peacock
Education: Doug Paul

Maintenance: Peter Steffensen

Our Worship Services

Sunday AM: 8:30 & 11:00

Bible Class: 10:00

Sunday PM: 6:00

Small Groups:

West Side: 5PM at Doug Paul's house

Merrimack: 5:30PM, contact Stuart Peacock

Wednesday PM Devotional/Bible Classes: 7:00

Contact David Skerry with Benevolence/Pantry needs.