
THE BULLETIN

IS ONE JUST AS GOOD AS ANOTHER?

When you were seeking a wife or a husband, was one just as good as another?

When you go home after work, is one home just as good as another?

When you called the doctor, was one just as good as another?

When he gave you a dose of medicine, was one just as good as another?

When the pharmacist filled your prescription, was one ingredient just as good as another?

When you paid the cashier, was one amount just as good as another/

When you took your wife out of the hospital, was one baby just as good as another?

When the realtor handed you the deed, was one just as good as another?

When the bank sent you your statement, was one just as good as another?

When you got in your car, was one just as good as another?

When Christ shed His blood for His church, how can another be just as good? "The church of the Lord which He purchased with His own blood." (Acts 20:28)

Author Unknown

The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Minister:

Park Linscomb 540-0287

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387

Gerry Millette 497-3105

Mike Moser 429-9487

Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance

Fred Hillhouse- Facilities

Doug Paul- Education

Stuart Peacock- Worship

Pete Steffensen- Facilities

David Skerry- Benevolence & Outreach

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Is It You?

A chain is as strong as its weakest link,

And it breaks with a heavy load,
But the church that's full of links that pull

Can level the roughest road.

If you get in tune with the Master's will,

And with your heart and labors, too,

You will love your church, though it has its faults,

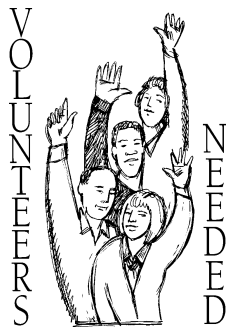
For it isn't the church, it is you.

Selected

Our Family News

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household," Ephesians 2:19, NAS95.

If you a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb our minister (the really tall guy) or any other church member.



Host a teen event...

Our teens need you and your help. We need folks interested in spiritually uplifting our youth in

devotionals, and folks interested in, well, having fun! There is a signup sheet going around that you could volunteer your home or time or food. Here's a special way to make connections with these young disciples. Signup and serve!

Monday Night for the Master, Our monthly evening of service together is next Monday, February 1, starting at 6pm with a meal and then a variety of projects that range from cards, to visits, to maintenance projects, to benevolent work, to prayer hour. And the real bonus is that we get a chance to do it together! If you haven't come before, treat yourself to this wonderful evening of food, service, and fellowship.

Next Leadership Training: February 21. A special series of monthly classes learn more

about leading in the worship. Our focus will be leading public prayer this month. We'll start at 10am and go to 12pm each time—donuts provided. Older brother, invite a younger brother to come with you!



The Conway youth rally... 1/27 — 3/1. Their theme is "First Ascent". The cost will be \$28 for teens/\$12 for chaperones. More info? Contact Terri Apgar or Susie Peacock.

Looking down the road, mark your calendars...

- March 7-14, Harding Spring Break Mission Team
- March 27, the church here hosts Lifeline Screening
- April 24-26, the Manchester Youth Rally (ours)
- May 1-3, the New England Lectures in Taunton MA
- June 28-July 4, Gander Brook Work and Worship Week



Update on the house

next door... The house next door, as most know, suffered busted pipes a couple of weeks ago. Water damaged some floors, ceilings, rugs,

heating systems, and plumbing. A new heating system has been installed; new plumbing has been installed as needed; the clean up crew has dried out the house and disposed of ruined things; a construction crew will be in next week to repair walls, ceilings, etc.; and a flooring company will be replacing the rugs and flooring soon afterward. God willing, it should be ready for occupancy sometime early February.

Prayer List:

Evangelism: Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Brethren who have forsaken the assembly

Our college students who'll be returning to school soon

Health: Anthony Davis, Natalie Cleavitt, Louise Linscomb, Peggy Mailloux, Curtis Winstead, Jean Cadet, Lynn Millette, Mary Jane, Dave Seguin, Barbara Ann, David Lovering, Gary Chase Jr., Linda Tetrault, Jim Kenison, Brian Day, John Matthew, Jamie Hazelton

Struggles: Mark Brown & Emma, Linda Tetrault, Jim Kenison.

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents

Our Statistics for the week from January 15-21, 2015

Sunday morning worship	122
Wednesday evening Bible classes	c.85
Contribution	\$3838.75
Budget	\$2300

A Word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

OLD TESTAMENT PARALLELS

MOSES (EXODUS 3,4) AND RELUCTANT AMBASSADORS

The story is familiar to most people who have even a modest knowledge of the Bible: the call of Moses at the burning bush. Moses the Israelite had been raised as an adopted child of privilege in the house of Pharaoh for 40 years, but he had run away from Egypt to escape justice for the crime of killing an Egyptian who had been beating an Israelite slave. His fugitive home had been the land of Midian for 40 years where he had become a humble herder of sheep—quite a demotion from being a prince of Egypt. Now, at 80 years old, God was calling him to be His ambassador to Pharaoh and tell him, "Let My people go!" Perhaps just as daunting, Moses was also to tell Israel that God had sent him to lead them out of Egypt to the land of promise.

But Moses was 80 years old. Though he had thought at 40 that he would be Israel's savior (Acts 7:25), he had long ago abandoned that prideful illusion of glory, long ago stopped speaking Egyptian in everyday life, and long ago abandoned hope of being anything more than a humble sheep rancher far from "civilization". So, rather than jump at the chance to be part of one of the greatest stories of the Bible and all history, he offered up excuses.

In many ways parallels to modern day excuses from being God's ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20), priests (1 Peter 2:9), and sowers of the seed of good news (Matt. 13:3) to the world are remarkable.

"WHO AM I...?"

While on the surface this sounds perfectly humble and proper to an invitation to do something great. But as an excuse to the God who commands that we speak His message to the world, it is neither humble nor proper. It ignores the fact that "Certainly I will be with you...", and it amounts to a sort of deliberate faithlessness. So, speak up whether you're a prince or a pauper in this world. Just in case you were wondering, you are a child of the King!

"...WHAT SHALL I SAY?"

We offer the same question/excuse today, hoping that our lack of a surefire persuasive speech will constitute a "pass" for us. God's answer to Moses was a simple message of God's concern for Israel, His promise to liberate them through Moses, that He'd bring them to Canaan with the wealth of Egypt, and a command to Pharaoh to let them go. There was no special approach or method given, no surefire "pitch"; it wasn't complicated, just a simple message. The Gospel, likewise isn't that complex: God loves you; you can be liberated through Jesus from sin and death; obey Him in faith, repentance, confession, and baptism; He'll bring you to

Heaven; and Satan will be defeated—the victory is assured. So, speak the simple Gospel and leave the rest to God.

"WHAT IF THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE ME OR LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY?"

God tells us, just like He told Moses, that some wouldn't believe—expect it. God's answer to Moses was to give clear three compelling evidences that he was, in fact, speaking for God. While we aren't give these sorts of miraculous signs, we are given numerous compelling evidences that Jesus does save and the Bible is the word of God such as the accuracy of the Bible, the resurrection of Christ. So, speak and share the evidences

"...FOR I AM SLOW OF SPEECH AND SLOW OF TONGUE."

God's answer: I, the maker of man's mouth, will be with your mouth. Trust God in this. Jesus told His disciples, (Matthew 10:19) "But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say." This excuse tends to come from the misconception that success of the message depends on us; it doesn't (Rom. 1:16). Moses sought to dodge God's commission by saying that Israel and Pharaoh would not listen to God, because he wouldn't be eloquent. Truth be known, those converted through the eloquence of the speaker seldom make it faithful to the end—they're often converted to the speaker. On the other hand, those converted to Jesus through the message of the Gospel—eloquent or not—often do remain faithful to the Lord. So, what does it matter, whether or not we are slow of speech and tongue? A message from the Lord is still a message from the Lord, even if spoken by someone who stutters. So, speak, slow or not.

"PLEASE, LORD, NOW SEND THE MESSAGE BY WHOMEVER YOU WILL."

Here, Moses was simply and directly "begging off"—and it seems to have been the most offensive thing that Moses said, because God got angry (Exo. 4:14). When God gives a command, He will not brook refusal or disobedience, and He will not accept excuses. In spite of all the excuses Moses gave, He still required Moses to be "His man". He gave Moses Aaron to be a spokesman, but the command given to Moses stood. Likewise, we may wish the job of sharing the Gospel to others; but wishing won't change the facts and giving us helpers won't take away our personal responsibility—so, speak up, the job still belongs to us.

We can learn from Moses' failure to do the Lord's will. Let's be the messengers that the Lord is calling us to be.

Park Linscomb

Our Congregational Calendar for January 18—31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Fellowship luncheon	26	27	28 Bible class 7PM	29	30	31
1 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Fellowship luncheon	2 MNFm 6pm	3	4 Bible class 7PM	5	6	7

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week			SERVICE	SUNDAY, JAN. 25	WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28
Sunday	Jan. 25	Genesis 31	<i>Call to worship</i>	Park Linscomb	
Monday	Jan. 26	Genesis 34-35	<i>Songleading</i>	Steve Johnson	Doug Paul
Tuesday	Jan. 27	Genesis 36-37	<i>Scripture reading</i>	David Skerry	
Wednesday	Jan. 28	Matthew 10	<i>Communion</i>	Gary Diaz	
Thursday	Jan. 29	Genesis 38	<i>Devo thought</i>		Gerry Millette
Friday	Jan. 30	Genesis 39	<i>Closing prayer</i>	Stuart Peacock	
Saturday	Jan. 31	Genesis 40	<i>Coordinator</i>	Ken Simon	
			<i>Tech</i>	Barry Fogal	



Our next gathering will be at the Linscomb home, listen up for details in the bulletin and announcements.

The Conway church of Christ is announcing its annual youth rally, to be held February 27 through March 1. Their speaker will be Tibor Siklosi and Jake Keefer from Ohio Valley University will lead singing. A singing group from Boston, "Revive", will also be there. Their theme is "First Ascent" The cost will be \$28 for teens/\$12 for chaperones—and we will need chaperones. Wanna go? Contact Terri Apgar or Susie Peacock.

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