

THE BULLETIN

WHY NOT PERSONALLY INVITE A FRIEND?

Jerry Rice, who played for football's San Francisco 49ers, has been considered by many experts the best receiver in the NFL. Interviewers from Black Entertainment Television once asked Rice, "Why did you attend a small, obscure university like Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi?"

Rice responded, "Out of all the big-time schools (such as UCLA) to recruit me, MVSU was the only school to come to my house and give me a personal visit."

The big-time schools sent cards, letters, and advertisements, but only one showed Rice personal attention.

Jesus didn't sky-write His good news in a mass-marketing effort; He touched people personally, talked with people personally, had dinner with people personally, counseled people personally, and preached the good news personally.

Beware of the temptation to use impersonal mass media efforts **alone** to share God's message. Mass media is a lot like the artillery of a battle: it softens up the enemy, but it takes a soldier to claim the victory and the enemy's territory.

If we want to share our faith, there's still nothing like the personal touch: a personal invitation to church, a personal offer to study the Bible, a personal greeting at the church building, and personal concern for a person's struggles.

Anonymous

The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Minister:

Park Linscomb 540-0287

Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387
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Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance
Fred Hillhouse- Facilities
Doug Paul- Education
Stuart Peacock- Worship
Pete Steffensen- Facilities
David Skerry- Benevolence & Outreach



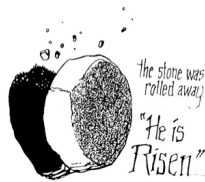
Our Family News

"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're 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.

Easter is next Sunday Survey

after survey reveals that people who usually don't go to church are most likely to come to church, if a friend or family member would ask them to come. AND Easter is one of two times a year that people feel like they'd like to come to church. Soooo, please make a special effort to pray about it and then ask. Ask a dozen people and see how many come. We'll be planning something special! A brochure about Easter is available in the foyer to help start the conversation.



Today, is the 5th Sunday of March. We'll be taking up special collection to expand our church facilities. Please help, if you can.

Also today, after Bible classes, there will be a Youth Rally organizational meeting at the Skerry home, 55 Dove Lane—virtually just around the corner from the church. It will be a covered dish lunch. Come help with this great effort and service to our own youth and the Christian youth around New England.

Monday Night for the Master is April 6 at 6PM. Good food and good works!

The Menu for this Wednesday's dinner is *Mexican food*. Don't worry, it will be "New England-ized". :)

Also, if you could help with planning and cooking one of these meal one week, it would be great! The Potters need an occasional break!

Next Leadership Training: April 11, 10am to noon. A good crowd of men came to yesterday's class to learn more about leading in the worship. Our focus for April will be devotional thoughts and sermons. Donuts provided.

Life-Line Screening

Thanks to everyone who helped clear the auditorium of excess chairs, bring up tables, and collect fallen books, AND those who helped put the auditorium back together again on Thursday evening! The event seems to be have been a success



Mark your calendars...

- April 5—Easter Sunday
- April 6— MNFM
- April 10-12—the Conway ladies' day
- April 18, Concord NH church hosts an area-



wide singing, 2pm-4pm, with dinner

- April 24-26, the Manchester Youth Rally (ours)
- May 1-3, the New England Lectures in Taunton MA
- May 16,17, "Dreaming with Your Eyes Opened" Workshop at Kittery ME

Prayer List:

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

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: Kathy Feuerhelm, Darlene Chamberlain, Mark Brown & Emma, Linda Tetrault, Jim Kenison.

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents



Our Statistics for the week from March 22, 2015

Sunday morning worship	122
Wednesday evening Bible classes	c.70
Contribution	\$3199
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.

THE STONES WOULD CRY OUT, WOULD YOU?

In Luke 19:28ff Jesus was only about 5 days away from His profoundly loving and sacrificial death on the cross, and a week away from His glorious resurrection. As He approached Bethphage and Bethany He sent His disciples into the village just ahead to get a donkey upon which He could ride into Jerusalem. When they brought one, He mounted it and rode on it the rest of the way into Jerusalem.

By this time in His ministry, Jesus was famous enough that He attracted a lot of interest almost everywhere He went; and since it was near Passover and the city of Jerusalem was filling up with Passover pilgrims, a bigger crowd than usual greeted Him as He rode the donkey into town. They laid palm branches (Matt. 21:8) and their coats on the road in front of him—very much like a parade for a victorious leader—while they shouted, "... BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38).

Apparently the palm branches and coats in the road were tolerable, but not "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" These words were not only the praise that one might offer to the Messiah, but Matthew tells that they also shouted "Hosanna", praise that was usually reserved for God. This was just too much for the unbelieving Pharisees in the crowd. "Teacher, rebuke your disciples," they demanded!

Jesus replied, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!" (Luke 19:40). First, the roar of the stones would have been deafening, because there's about a bazillion stones around Jerusalem—just saying. But the real point that Jesus was making here was that the whole non-human creation wanted (and still wants) to cry out and recognize the Creator and Savior, Jesus—but the Pharisees demanded that the crowd fall silent.

The story has made me think more than once in my Bible reading, "I wonder what the rocks would have said? I wonder what they would say today?"

In Jesus' day I imagine that they would have certainly praised Him as Creator, and would have loudly confessed and recognized Him as none other than the Son of God, King of kings, the long awaited Messiah, and God incarnate! I wonder if they would have rebuked the

Pharisees for their blind hearts and selfishly ambitious motives? I wonder if they might have taunted, "How many miracles does it take for you to believe? How many signs must you be shown?"

But I also wonder what those stones would be saying today? I bet they'd still like to talk. I have no doubt that they would be praising the Lord, confessing His divine nature, and declaring His glory. But especially now that it has been revealed that He is Redeemer, High Priest, the King sitting on David's throne, and the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world, wouldn't you suppose that they be shouting His salvation, too? Betcha they'd be inviting the lost to study Scripture, come to church, be baptized, and follow Jesus! Betcha they'd be chiding some of the saved about their reticence and timidity, especially since the "Pharisees" of our day seem to have succeeded in bullying some of us into silence. I can easily

imagine them scolding, "Don't you know who He is? What He offers? What's at stake here? Speak up! Speak up!"

Now, of course, the stones cannot speak up. God has given the praise of the Lord Jesus, the confession of His name, and the broadcasting of His message to humans only in this world. But I can't help but wonder about the song that we sometimes (the teens more often) sing, "Ain't No Rock.

*Ain't no rock gonna cry in my place!
As long as I'm alive I'll glorify His holy name!*

While it is a song that urges praise and worship, these things are also by their very nature *confessions* that He is Lord and Savior. And confession is not merely the thing we do just before we're baptized into Christ; it is a lifelong charge that is accomplished by both word and deed—one facet of which is the sharing of the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The situation for Jesus' disciples really hasn't changed. He still is the Messiah, King of kings, God incarnate, and Redeemer! His Kingdom is great in the extreme! His salvation is still awe inspiring! His reward is greater than any mouth could tell! The stones would be willing to speak up, will you?

Park Linscomb

Bring a friend this Easter.

Our Congregational Calendar for March 29 through April 11

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Youth Rally Org mtg @ Skerry home approx 12	30	31	1 Bible class 7PM	2	3	4
5 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Easter Sunday	6 Monday Night for the Master	7	8 Bible class 7PM	9	10 Conway ladies' retreat-->	11 Men's Leadership Training 10am

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week		
Sun	03/29	Leviticus 16
Mon	03/30	Matthew 27
Tue	03/31	Leviticus 17
Wed	04/01	Leviticus 18
Thu	04/02	Leviticus 19
Fri	04/03	Leviticus 20
Sat	04/04	Leviticus 21

SERVICE	SUNDAY, MARCH 29	WED., APRIL 1
<i>Call to worship</i>	Park L.	
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug P.	Doug Paul
<i>Scripture reading</i>	Justin Silva	
<i>Communion</i>	John Osceola	
<i>Devo thought</i>		Gerry Millette
<i>Closing prayer</i>	Dave Skerry	
<i>Coordinator</i>	Stuart Peacock	
<i>Tech</i>	Rich Therrian	



Are you planning on coming to the youth rally organizational meeting at the Skerry home today at noon. You should! Even if you weren't able to come for the first meeting, come to this one and get a job to do. Youth rallies are even more enjoyable, when you are part of helping make it happen!

Ecclesiastes 12:1 *"Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no delight in them';"*

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