

THE BULLETIN

Dead? Or Alive?

“Wanted Dead or Alive” is a popular song from 1986 performed by the group Bon Jovi. You may have also seen “Wanted! Dead or Alive” signs in movies or your local post office.

When it comes to your faith, is your faith dead or alive? Hebrews 11: 1 teaches that faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Many times, Christians make it to Sunday morning worship services just in time to take communion, just before it is put away, and are pleased with his or her worship for the day.

Is the notion just-in-time worship really representative of faith? Does Christian faith require more than attendance at Sunday morning worship services?

Hebrews 11 also provides example after example of faith being followed by actions. By faith...

- Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain
- Noah prepared an ark to the saving of his house
- Abraham offered up Isaac
- Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come
- Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter
- The walls of Jericho fell down , after they were compassed about seven days

What if I told you faith without action is dead and alone? What would that mean to you?

Perhaps it is easier to understand that a body without the spirit is dead. Sounds harsh? Well, faith without deeds is dead. Even if a person says he or she believes in God. That is not enough. For even the devils believe in God and tremble. “Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.”

Show your faith is alive by doing good deeds. Make your faith complete with action.

Learn more by reading James 2.

Joseph O. Anderson



The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Minister:

Park Linscomb 540-0287
Mark Casella 380-6979

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



A Bible that is falling apart, usually reveals a life that isn't



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.

We have a new sister:

Wendy O'Reilly a life long friend of Chrissy Magnuson was baptized on Sunday morning. Her information is 556 Central St. # 167, Leominster, Ma. 01453 (857) 719-7521 Please welcome her when you see her.



church treasurer. If you are needing a campership, please also contact Tony.

Vacation Bible School— August 17 - 19—It's all about Creation this year.

Organizational Meeting for VBS: THIS Sunday morning, right after morning services. Grab a coffee and a snack and meet Mark down in the double class room. Help our new associate minister organize this year's VBS.

Some health updates: Penny Ranger's mom Gerry had second eye surgery and is doing well....Brian Day has continued pain but was able

WANTS to come to this area to live and work. If anyone knows of a job, please let Park or the church office know.

Lawn Mowing - The grass is getting long, again. The sign up sheet is on the board. Thanks to those who have already signed up and to those who are keeping the lawn and flowers well-kept and so inviting.

Mark your calendars...

- July 6—Monday Night for the Master at 6:00PM
- August 17-19—VBS (bring a friend)

What's Happening?

GANDER BROOK IS THE NEXT BIGGEST EVENT ON THE HORIZON, HERE'S SOME INFO...

- **Regular camping** season began yesterday, July 4. Camper registration and information can be found at ganderbrook.org. Camping for you youngster is by the week and the next week starts July 11.

- **Camperships** for kids in our congregation needing help can be made by contacting Tony Casella, our

to make it to worship last Sunday.... Debbie Garven's daughter is still being monitored for blood clots.

Job Needed - Jessica Revelle, one of the leaders with this year's Harding group is still looking for a



job. Jessica

Prayer List:

Good Works: Bible studies in progress, Gander Brook's season, the Men's Leadership Training, our website, MNFM, food pantry

Health: Lynn Millette, Louise Linscomb, Brian Day, Peggy Mailloux, Penny's neice Chelsea, Mary Jane Parker, Dave Seguin, Gary Chase Jr., Natalie Cleavitt, David Lovering, Linda Tetrault, John Matthew, Rich Therrien's brother-in-law

Struggles: Mark Brown & Emma, Jim Kenison, Brethren who have forsaken the assembly.

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents



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.

ISRAEL AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Peaceful coexistence. It was an enticing proposal to the Israelites. Since shortly after leaving Egypt they had been at war. They had fought their way through the wilderness and then, after crossing the Jordan, they had fought a war of complete destruction against the great fortified Canaanite cities, subduing the Promised Land. But the complete victory wasn't yet won. After the land was divided amongst the tribes, the "mop up" operations remained and would now be led by the leaders of the various tribes. One caveat though, the Canaanites wouldn't be completely defeated all at once: (Exodus 23:29, 30) "I will not drive them out before you in a single year, that the land may not become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land." In other words, it would take a few years—a couple more generations of war.

To a war-weary nation, this probably became discouraging. Enough blood, violence, struggle, and war! No one seemed to have the stomach for more war, and peaceful coexistence became more appealing as the years passed by. And peaceful coexistence had its effect. The Israelites began to think, *"The Canaanites don't seem to be terrible people. So what if they worship a different god? And we needn't get involved in their corrupted practices—we can keep their customs at arm's length. Besides, they make good slaves."*

The Bible says in the book of Judges that tribe after tribe began to neglect the tearing down of the Canaanites' altars. They neglected to drive the rest of the Canaanites out of the Promised Land. And some Israelites seem to have actually negotiated peace with them.

But peaceful coexistence came with a price: "...and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done? Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you,'" (Judges 2:2, 3). And thorns and snares are exactly what the Canaanites became to Israel. The Canaanites and their pagan religion corrupted the people both morally and religiously. In the end Israel ended up in cruel Assyrian and Babylonian exiles—all because of war-weariness and a willingness to settle for peaceful coexistence.

Our warning? We must not become war-weary. By this I don't mean that we need to go literally take up arms, nor

do we go around picking fights, but there are two arenas of battle that we must not abandon in our Christian walk.

The first is the battle we have with the "old man of sin". God has in mind for us to completely drive out the old man of sin in our lives. There is no place for lust, envy, covetousness, hate, rebellion, or pride in the heart of the Christian, let alone outward sins such as fornication, theft, deception, murder, insolence, or high-handedness! But sometimes after having accomplished a basic victory over the capital sins of our lives, we also become weary of war against the flesh, become slack and satisfied with "peaceful coexistence" with our harmless little sins or vices. Perhaps we even think that they might be useful, like the Canaanites made good slave labor. But like the Canaanites, our harmless little sins always become spiritual thorns and snares.

The other arena of battle is with the world around us. The inspired apostle Paul often used battle metaphors as he spoke about Christians living in the world, not the least of which was the imperative to "stand firm!"—no less than 7 times. When battles were fought in the ancient world, the urgent command in battle was always to "stand firm"—don't let the enemy break the line, don't turn and run, hold your ground! To the battle-fatigued disciple, who may be weary about standing up against the world, who may be tired of being being called intolerant, who may be worn out from correcting false teachings, who are bushed from being the "bad guy" all the time, the command *still remains* "stand firm!" We need to continue to refuse peaceful coexistence with the immorality and false religion of the world.

One end result of becoming war-weary—as it was with Israel—is corruption and compromise with God's enemies. I have seen war-weary brothers abandon the great virtues of courage, strength, perseverance, and holding the line against the enemy; embracing instead indiscrete tolerance, non-judgment, and coexistence—hardening their hearts toward clear Biblical teachings and conforming to the world rather than being transformed by the Lord and in turn transforming the world.

The other end result is—exile. Israel was exiled from her Promised Land for her disobedience to Assyrian and Babylon. The sort of exile that we face for our disobedience is not the kind that takes us out our country, it is something much worse, separation from God and our own Promised Land eternally.

Be a spiritual warrior. Don't grow weary of the battle!

Our Congregational Calendar for July 5 through July 18

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------------------------|
| 5 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am Karen Dugre BD | 6 MNFM Fogal anniv. | 7 | 8 Bible class 7PM Eskel anniv. | 9 | 10 | 11 Jerome Paul BD |
| First week of children's camping at Gander Brook | | | | | | |
| 12 Worship 9:30 Bible class 11am | 13 | 14 | 15 Bible class 7PM | 16 | 17 | 18 Bible class 7PM |
| Second week of children's camping at Gander Brook | | | | | | |

| Bible Reading Schedule for this Week | | | Service | July 5 | July 8 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sun | July 5 | Ruth 3-4 | Coordinator | Stuart Peacock | |
| Mon | July 6 | Luke 8 | Call to Worship | Barry Fogal | |
| Tue | July 7 | 1 Samuel 1-2 | Song leader | Steve Johnson | Stuart Peacock |
| Wed | July 8 | 1 Samuel 3-4 | Scripture | Dave Skerry | |
| Thu | July 9 | 1 Samuel 5-6 | Communion | Fred Hillhouse | |
| Fri | July 10 | Luke 9 | Closing Prayer | Stuart Peacock | |
| Sat | July 11 | 1 Samuel 7-8 | Worship Tech | Susie Peacock | |
| | | | Devotional | | Gerry Millette |



Following Jesus means standing firm and obedient, even when the world completely disagrees. This will often mean that we'll need to not only stand firm, but also be able to give a good answer for what we believe. Do you have a good answer for some of the "hot topics" of the day? One great answer is Proverbs 30:5, 6 — "Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. *Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.*" God's word is not only—well, God's word; but it also has been tested and found best for thousands of years. Stick with His word, it is always right—men, not so much.

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