

THE BULLETIN

GIVE ME SOME PLOW WORK

Two wealthy Christians, a lawyer and a businessman, joined a church group that was traveling around the world. In Korea, they saw a roadside field, and in the field a boy was pulling a crude plow as an old man directed it through the rice paddy. The lawyer was amused and took a snapshot of the scene. One of the group said, "That's a curious sight."

The missionary guide told them, "Yes, that is the family of Chi Noui. When the church building was built, they were eager to give something, but they had no money. So, they sold their only ox and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves."

The lawyer and businessman were silent for moments. The businessman said, "That must have been a real sacrifice."

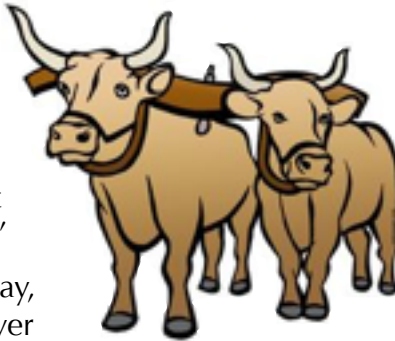
The missionary said, "They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell."

The tourists did not have much to say, but when they reached home, the lawyer took the picture to his preacher and told him about the incident. He said, "I want to double my contribution to the church, and give me some plow work to do. I have never known what sacrifice for the Lord really means. I am ashamed to say that I have never given anything to Him that really cost me something."

David said, "...I will surely buy it from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing.' So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver" (2 Samuel 24:24). Jesus said, "...If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).

Let's make a real sacrifice...and do some plow work, too.

Author unknown



The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Ministers:

Park Linscomb 540-0287
Mark Casella (501) 388-1687

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 & Out-reach

Regularly Scheduled Services

Sunday worship: 9:30am
Sunday Bible class: 11:00am
Sunday evening: 6:00pm
Wednesday Bible class: 7:00pm


 God is greater
 than any problem you
 have.


Our Family

"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.

THANKS

- The results are in! What a great youth rally! We had 80 in attendance last week-end.



- Philip Baird did a great job.
- Our own teens did a great job of pitching in
- All our cooks did outstanding work!
- Our hospitality homes were wonderful
- Registration workers were excellent
- Clean-up crews were great!

THIS AND THAT...

MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE MASTER—We're ALL encouraged to come to MNFM on April 11. It's

such a good opportunity to work together and grow closer in fellowship. The meals are excellent, too; this time, ham, scalloped potatoes, veggies, and dessert.

NEXT SUNDAY is our regular fellowship luncheon Sunday. If you aren't in the habit of coming, make a special effort to



bring a little something and join in the fellowship and food.

GANDER BROOK STUFF

- If you'd like to help rebuild the director's cabin, the camp has a **webpage where you can contribute online** —ganderbrook.org/directors-cabin/. Otherwise, checks can be given to Park who'll forward them to GB's treasurer.

- **Gander Brook is going to be building a new dorm soon**, and likewise needs donations toward that project. Again checks can be given to Park to forward to camp's treasurer.



- **Registration forms** (paper) are now in the foyer. Online registration will be available very soon
- **Work and Worship Week** will be held on June 27-July 1 this year. WWW is a wonderful week of family camping, a great way to contribute to Gander Brook, and features a great spiritual uplift each evening. This year's speaker is Arnie Holmes.



Arnie was the preacher for the church in Manchester CT until his recent retirement.

WEDNESDAY DINNER: Breakfast for dinner! Pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, and dessert.

AREA EVENTS

• Area Wide Hymn Sings

- April 10, at Concord; 2-5pm

- May 1, in Springfield VT.

• Ladies' Days

- May 7, in Fall River

- May 14 Manchester CT.

- *A men's day*, May 21, at the Concord church; "Iron Sharpens Iron". Park Linscomb and David Rollert will be speakers.

• Special Lectures

- The New England Lectureship, May 6-8, in Taunton MA. More info on the foyer bulletin board



PRAYER CORNER:

Good Works: Bible studies in progress, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Penny Ranger's evangelistic efforts online

Health: Tom Jones, Cy Stafford, Deb Dlutowski, Marge Simon, Lynn Millette, Penny's niece Chelsea, Mary Jane Parker, Dave Seguin, Natalie Cleavitt, David Lovering, Linda Tetrault and her brother Bob, John Matthew and Anni

Struggles: Randy Stevens, Jim Kenison, and finally, 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.

CERTAIN ABOUT HIS CALLING AND CHOOSING YOU—SELF CONTROL

2 Peter 1:6 *"and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,"*

How certain is your salvation? On the one hand, nothing in this world or the next can separate us from Christ's love (Rom. 8:39); on the other hand, it is also true that we ourselves can lose our salvation through neglect and unfaithfulness (Rom. 11:22). *Staying* called and chosen (2 Peter 1:10) is something that we should be giving focus to, because what **we** do effects it. Last week we focused on adding knowledge to moral excellence; this week we'll add "self control" (2 Pet. 1:6).

2 Peter 1:6 *"and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,"*

It's no great news flash that self control is probably the least popular of the virtues listed in this passage—unless, of course, you'd like someone else to exercise some of it. But in numerous ways, it is the key to the exercise of the rest of them.

It is "the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites" (according to *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*). And it is necessary for any human being to exercise any sort of righteousness. Human beings (perhaps as part of our being made in the image of God) are a fusion of reason and passion. While some might wish for a "Vulcan-like" lack of emotion, the truth is that our emotions and passions are what make it possible to enjoy life. Yet, it is undeniably the passions that so often get us into trouble. Self control, self mastery, having a grip on yourself, is what properly monitors and moderates our passions, lusts, anger, pride, hatred, joy, laziness, impatience, grief, greed, and all the rest of our emotions, longings, and inclinations—good and bad.

Self control is necessary to be diligent, for example. Self control will push the disciple to keep working hard, when it would be easier to either quit or give a mediocre effort to the task at hand. Self control in diligence deliberately refocuses the mind's attention away from distractions and gives the proper spiritual concentration to things like moral dis-

cernment, prayer, the work of the church, and one's own heart to name just a few common things.

Self control is likewise important in regard to the gaining of knowledge, since reading, studying, and meditating on God's word is so often interrupted or preempted by modern gadgets and entertainments. And the same could be said for perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love found later in our context.

But how does one "get a grip on oneself"? There's the question of questions, and the answers aren't especially easy.

It should start with early childhood parental discipline, in which the softer clay of the child's heart to say no to itself to avoid punishment. But not every child has this advantage, especially in this "progressive" society. So, lacking this, what now?

Learn to say no to yourself **and mean it**. It sounds very simple, yet to many without much self control, it is really hard. "No" in self control really means no; not maybe, not except for..., and not "just one won't really mean that I've messed up". Mean it! Let your yes be yes, and your no be no. Remember each time you're tempted, you do have a choice.

Secondly, know where the lines are that you must never cross. This may be slightly different for everyone, but it is learned by experience, godly teaching, or observation. And by the way, the first line to never cross on some things is the line of doing it in the first place—drink, drugs, illicit sex fit this category. Successful dieters will know how much they can eat and will not eat a smidgen more. Good men will know the point where they must walk away when they get angry. Godly teens will know the godly lines of affection, when they date. TV watchers will know when they need to turn it off and pick up their Bibles.

Be self controlled, and be increasing in it, to make your calling and election sure.

Park Linscomb





***We will be for lunch today at Nadeau's! We will be there approximately at 12. Hope so see you there!**

***MNFM is this Monday from 6-8! Come eat, hang out, and do other things (like put chairs back)**

***April 16th! Devo at Mark and Ann's house. Be there! We got snacks!**

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Saturday April 31st is our progressive dinner! 5 dollars to help cover food! Come enjoy some fellowship, surprise, and fun!**

***A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the youth rally and helped out with everything. You helped make the youth rally successful**

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week		
Sunday	April 10	Psalm 107-109
Monday	April 11	1 Corinth 4
Tuesday	April 12	Psalm 110-112
Wednesday	April 13	1 Corinth 5
Thursday	April 14	Psalm 113-115
Friday	April 15	1 Corinth 6
Saturday	April 16	Psalm 116-118

Service Schedule for April 10 through April 13		
Call to Worship	Gerry Millette	
Song Leader	Gary Diaz	Mark Casella
Scripture	Phil Gould	
Lord's Supper	Karl Davies	
Closing Prayer	Dave Skerry	
Worship Tech	Susie Peacock	
Coordinator	Stuart Peacock	
Devo		Phil Gould

Our Congregational Calendar for April 3-16						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Teens @ Nadeau's Areawide singing @ Concord 2pm Bldg sm grp-- 6pm	11 MNFM reschedule date	12	13 6pm dinner 7pm Bible study	14	15	16 Teen devo @6pm
17 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm Third Sunday fellowship luncheon	18 Area preachers' meeting in Concord	19	20 6pm dinner 7pm Bible study	21	22 Teen movie night	23