

THE BULLETIN

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We all like a pat on the back and a word of encouragement for a job well done. The Bible also is not silent in providing God's children words of encouragement. The work 'encourage' means, according to W.E. Vin, to urge forward persuade. It is used in Acts 18:27 when Apollos was encouraged by the brethren to go to Achaia (Greece). It is used in I Thessalonians 2:11 and 5:14 where it means to stimulate to the discharge of the ordinary duties of life. In John 11:19, 31, it means to comfort.

What words of encouragement do you find in the Bible? Let me share with you some that have encouraged me:

- In Philippians 1:21 Paul writes, *'For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain'*. I appreciate Paul's words. I can just imagine after spending approximately 25 years in the ministry for Christ that Paul is ready to go home to the Lord. He has been beaten up and ship wrecked on more than one occasion. He is looking forward to heaven but, he also knows, that he has more to do.
- In Galatians 2:20 Paul again writes, *'I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which now lives in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself up for me'*. Paul was clearly a man of conviction and passion. He personally knew Jesus Christ and Paul was determined to live Christ everyday.
- In Colossians 3:23, 24 Paul writes, *'what ever you do, do your work heartily as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ who you serve.'* I am confident that Paul was tired and frustrated at times. He must have thought how wonderful it would be to go back to secular work and settle down. However, his work was for the Lord and it was the Lord who would reward him.

Be encouraged to live the Christian Life! Be encouraged to work and labor in the Kingdom of God! Be encouraged each day to be a parent, a spouse or a single mom or dad, or a student. Be encouraged!

Arnie Holmes

The Manchester church of Christ

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Our Ministers:

Park Linscomb 540-0287
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Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387
Gerry Millette 497-3105

Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance
Doug Paul- Education
Stuart Peacock- Worship
Pete Steffensen/Will Hamel-
Building & Grounds
David Skerry- Benevolence &
Outreach

Regularly Scheduled Services

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

*The greatest single
distinguishing feature
of the omnipotence of
God is that our imagi-
nation gets lost when
thinking about it,*

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.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Labor Day Picnic - Sept. 5 - Sign up sheets in the back. Come share the fellowship & food at the Potter's. There are sign-up sheets for more than just food - need help with set-up and clean-up. Bring your own meat, too

Gander Brook Retreats:

Sept 9-11 - Teen Retreat - see Mark

Sept 15-17 - Ladies' Retreat - information at back

Sept 22-24 - Men's Retreat - information at back

Family Workshop:

October 21-23 the church will host a family workshop with Dr. Joe Brumfield from Harding University



WED NIGHT SUPPER: It's about time for our Wednesday night suppers to begin. We will need cooks, lots and lots of cooks. Many ways to help!! There is a sign-up sheet at the back. If you are willing to be put on a list of substitutes for last minute emergencies, GREAT. Cooking for the group is a 'real learning experience', but the fellowship is super! Get a friend, sign up to try and you'll like it.



LAWN

MOWING: This building belongs to all members we need people to sign up and mow the lawn. Bring the children and make it a family service project.

LORD'S SUPPER to shut-

ins: There is a need for someone to take the Lord's Supper to the shut ins during the months of November & December. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium.

MNFM Cooks are needed.

Sign-up sheet in the back of the auditorium.

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL:

Need someone to take the lead. It's a great opportunity to teach the Good News from home.

LIFELINE: Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Manchester Church of Christ on 10/27/2016. See foyer for sign-up sheet. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries; abdominal aortic aneurysms; hardening of the arteries in the legs; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat; and a bone density screening, for men and women. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit

www.lifelinescreening.com/

NEW - ADDITION TO LIBRARY

We are adding media to the library. There is a case with CDs arranged by topics. Please come use our assets.

PRAYER CORNER:

BARBARA LOVERING, CASEY JONES, MALACHI NORRIS, PEDRO LEBRON & HIS BACK PAIN, LYNN MILLETTE, EVA JOHNSON



CONTINUING REQUESTS:

Good Works: current Bible studies, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Penny Ranger's online evangelism

Health: Dick Potter, Marge Simon, Casey Jones, Tamera Silva, David Lovering and for Barbara as she cares for him and has Parkinson's herself.

Judy Diaz's neighbors sorrow, Brian & Joyce Day, David Skerry's brother-in-law (Eddie), Tom Jones, Lynn Millette, Penny's niece Chelsea, Mary Jane Parker, Natalie Cleavitt, Peggy Mailloux daughter, Kim, Linda Tetrault and her brother Bob, John Matthew and Anni

Struggles: Tamera Silva and her children; Jim Kenison; the spiritually weak.

Thanksgiving: Darlene Chamberlain is going back to work the 2nd week of Sept. Note of thanks from Peggy Mailloux - in the foyer

Leadership: Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be;" Matthew 5:14, NAS95.

A Word of Encouragement

“Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13. NAS95.

WHO HAS THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE?

Jesus had been teaching, healing, and feeding the people. His fame had spread all over Galilee, and tremendous crowds were following Him. But many were following for the wrong reasons; they wanted to make Him a political king, because He fed them. So Jesus found it necessary to winnow out those with the wrong motivations by teaching “hard” things. And it had the desired effect; for this reason, the Scriptures say, many stopped following Him (John 6:66). And then Jesus asks His closest disciples (the twelve) a curious, but necessary question, “... You do not want to go away also, do you?” John 6:67.

I can't help but wonder about the specific reason that Jesus said this. The fact that Jesus asked this question in response to so many walking away makes me suspect that Jesus realized the social impact that this mass exodus was having on the apostles. Maybe it was the look of disappointment on the faces of the apostles that so many were leaving. Maybe the apostles were getting too excited about the numbers, the size of Jesus' movement, the prospects of a physical kingdom—and then watched as Jesus deliberately said shocking things that sent lots of them home. Perhaps Jesus' words had shocked even some of the apostles enough that, especially combined with the crowds leaving, they had begun to wonder if they hadn't made a mistake about Jesus being Messiah.

Thank God for Peter, who gave the right answer, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.” John 6:68.

Relationships are powerful things in our lives. Whether marriage, children, family, friends, colleagues, peers, neighbors, or society at large; our relationships are all powerful influences in what we think, how we feel, what we do, what we accept, and what we reject. Consequently, they can either have an influence for good in our lives or be a stumbling block for evil.

In 40 plus years of ministry I've observed husbands and wives being led away from the Lord because of

an *unbelieving spouse*; parents that have deserted the Lord, because their *children* left Him; children who have followed a worldly path, because *parents* were weak and uncommitted in their discipleship; Christians who left the faith, because *friends or colleagues* tempted them and scorned them when they resisted; and even church leaders who have strayed off course, because *society* doesn't accept Jesus' teachings as they are given to us in the Bible.

It is the reason why the Lord forbade marriage to foreigners (Deuteronomy 7:3). Why Israel was forbidden to make any covenant with the Gentiles (Exodus 23:32,33). And why Paul warned the Corinthian Christians about being bound together with an unbeliever (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). Those with whom we associate can strongly influence us.

This is, of course, not to say that we shouldn't have any association with unbelievers at all; else how could we share the Good News?

But it is to say that we as Christians need to steel ourselves against the influences of the world around us. We need to stand convinced that the Bible is right and that what the world proclaims is not. We need to remind ourselves that our loyalty must be to the Lord first and foremost, far above all other ties. We need to remember the words of the Peter not only when he said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life,” but also when he said, “...We must obey God rather than men,” Acts 5:29.

It's a common parent / child scenario:

Child: “But mom/dad everybody's doing it!”

Parent: “If everybody jumped off the bridge, would you want to do that, too?”

It's an answer that should ring in our ears especially, when it comes to spiritual matters: “If everybody jumped off a spiritual bridge, would you want to do that, too?” Hopefully, not.

Jesus may not have the key to popularity, but He does have the words of eternal life. Follow Him!

Park Linscomb



Upcoming Events

*Sept 4 - Labor Day picnic set up - Free Food will if you help

*Sept. 5 - Labor Day Picnic @ the Potter's

*Sept. 9-11 - Teen Retreat at Gender Brook - Forms are due 9/7. Cost is \$10 + food money for Friday night. Plan to return on the 11th by 3pm. Don't forget all the necessities, including your Bible

*Sept 12 - MNFM - 6-8pm

*Sept 21 - Goldenrods for ice cream

*Sept 24 - Teen movie/game night

*Oct 1 - Corn Maze Day - Get ready to have some major funs in life size puzzles!

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week			Sept 11	AM	PM	Sept 14
Sunday	Sep 11	Jeremiah 37-39	Call to Worship	<i>Park L</i>		
Monday	Sep 12	Hebrews 3	Song Leader	<i>Gary Diaz</i>	<i>Steve Johnson</i>	<i>Doug Paul</i>
Tuesday	Sep 13	Jeremiah 40-42	Scripture	<i>Mark Casella</i>		
Wednesday	Sept 14	Hebrews 4	Lord's Supper	<i>Fred Hillhouse</i>		
Thursday	Sep 15	Jeremiah 43-45	Closing Prayer	<i>Fred Hillhouse</i>		
Friday	Sep 16	Hebrews 5	Coordinator	<i>Rich Therrien</i>		
Saturday	Sep 17	Jeremiah 46-47	Worship Tech	<i>Barry Fogal</i>		
			Devo			<i>Gerry Millette</i>

Our Congregational Calendar for September 4 - September 17

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm Will & Kathy Hamel - Anniv	5	6 Randy & Candy Chase - Anniv Kris & Jolene Karafelis - Anniv	7 7pm Bible Study Randall Chaffin - BD	8	9	10 Mark & Kerstin Dumas - Anniv
11 Worship @ 9:30am Bible class @ 11am Bldg sm grp-- 6pm	12	13	14 7pm Bible Study Mary Jane Parker- BD	15	16	17