

# The Word



Dealing with the past  
By  
Jack McNiel

Do you have something in your past that hinders you from doing the right thing in the present?

The apostle Paul had things in his past that could have hindered him from doing the right thing. He had plenty of cause to be remorseful. He had persecuted the church in Jerusalem and other places, "...Beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it..." (Galatians 1:13); "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison..." (Acts 8:3); "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem." (Acts 9:1-2). He was even an accessory to murder at one point in his life! Remember when Stephen was stoned to death by an angry mob, that it was a young man named Saul who held the cloaks of Stephen's assailants. "And cast him [Stephen] out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul... And Saul was consenting unto his death..." (Acts 7:58; 8:1).

Even before Paul's conversion, Ananias was apprehensive towards him when the Lord commanded him to go to Paul and teach him what he needed to do in order to be saved. He said, "I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name..." (Acts 9:13-14). After Paul's conversion, the consequences of his past sins were still felt. Some years after his conversion, the Christians at Jerusalem were still wary and mistrustful of him, "And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple." (Acts 9:26).

Paul had reason to regret his past. How did Paul deal with this adversity? In his own words, he said, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14). Paul's answer to his regretted past was to forget it, to get over it and to reach for the things that were before him. He did not waste time on "what might have been," but instead he strove for "what may be." He pressed towards the mark!

Baseball coaches say that one of the most important attributes of a good pitcher is a short memory. If he throws out a pitch and it is knocked out of the ballpark, he must forget about it and move on. If he is still feeling timid after the last pitch was hit for a homerun, he has a problem. His next pitch is liable to leave the ballpark as well. The same goes with us in our religious life. If our past keeps haunting us, or if we let the feelings or attitudes that others have toward us affect our Christian walk, then we have a problem. We need to let go of the past and ignore what others may think of us, and press on in our Christian life.

## CHELMSFORD LIFE LINES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2012

*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:32*

### September 2, 2012

Greeters Jones Family  
Song Leader John Wolfert  
Welcome Phil Dumont  
**3 Hallelujah Praise Jehovah**  
**827 Sweet Hour of Prayer**  
Prayer Bruce Corcoran  
Scripture Charlie Dismuke  
**Matthew 6:5-15**  
**382 Why did my Savior come to earth**  
Communion John Ferullo  
Contribution Bill McIninch  
Servers Leshe Abety  
Chengsheng Luo  
**548 The Lily of the Valley**  
Scripture Skip Jacquard  
**Ephesians 3:1-11**  
Lesson Lancelot Watson  
**909 There's a Fountain Free**  
Prayer Earl Mosier  
Announcements  
**853 When We All Get to Heaven**  
Shepherd's Blessing

### September 9, 2012

Greeters Loiselle Family  
Song Leader Chengsheng Luo  
Welcome Lancelot Watson  
Prayer Earl Mosier  
Scripture John Ferullo  
Bill McIninch  
Communion Phil Dumont  
Contribution Skip Jacquard  
Servers Leshe Abety  
Bob Cascio  
Lesson Lancelot Watson  
Prayer Charlie Dismuke  
Announcements  
Shepherd's Blessing

## Prayer Requests

Prayers for Maria and her son Richard for comfort as they deal with troubling problems.

Rene asks prayers for her friend Kim as her doctors still have not found a solution for her health problem.

Earl Moser asks that we pray for membrs of his family who were in a car accident with many critical injuries.; C.J. has broken ribs, Ronnie has broken bones and is paralyzed from neck down and on life support. Janet, Ronnie's wife has a broken arm and must deal with decisions about Ronnie.

Walter will not have treatment for his heart , but the doctors will deal with the cancer in his lung.

Martin Pothier our visitor from Texas asks that we pray for Dwayne, his brother-in-law, who is recovering from open heart surgery.

The Dumonts ask prayers for Jeremy who is carrying a full load this semester that he is able to maintain the work.

Thanksgiving that Genivieve's neice (Haiti) is back to work after a successful surgery however the father is still in the hospital.

Haverlina asks that we pray for her niece Rachine who is in the hospital though the doctors are unable to make a diagnosis.

Many offered prayers for thanks for blessings of jobs, God's daily care especially those we do not notice or acknowledge.

Thanksgiving for a good season at Gander Brook.

### Special prayer request from Bill McIninch:

(From Linda Rincon Lopez (a high school friend)  
I just spoke with my son (David) and they are putting him back in the hospital for a 5-7 day stay for a 48 hour non-stop EEG, an infusion of new medicine, and 4 hour MRI on back and head. It appears that so far at least 9 different kinds of medicine they have had him on have not worked. He is forgetting words and his reflexes in his leg are messing up. All this on top of a constant headache (because of the tumor) since September. His quality of life has changed drastically. Unfortunately, surgery could cause a stroke, being paralyzed, blindness and worse, so please pray that they can get him on some medicine that will work. His neurologist is now consulting with another specialist.

### Housekeeping Note:

The back door does not operate as the front door. The back door must be locked with a key. Please be vigilant with checking that the door is properly locked.

Remember Saturday is the Ladie's Luncheon at Delia's house on North Rd. across the street and up the hill with plenty of parking behind the house near the barn. Dee says to come anytime from 11:00 on. Lunch will be served at noon. She will be gone for a short time to pick up Shirley.

Welcome to Dawn Shanklin and others who visited us last Sunday.

### Worship Opportunities

#### Sunday

Fellowship 9:00 am  
Worship 9:30 am  
Bible Classes 11:00 am

#### Mid-Week

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Our mid-week service offers a prayer devotional and classes. Please join us for that midweek lift.

**Chelmsford CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
205 North Road  
Chelmsford, MA 01824  
Phone (978) 256-8901

Office Hours: Mon 9-12; Weds & Fri 9-2  
Available by apt. outside these hours.

**Evangelist: Lance Watson**

781-420-4412 (cell)

lanwat@live.com

preacher@chelmsfordcofc.org

**Elders: R. Cascio, C. Dismuke**

## Calendar of Events

**Potluck Meal and Fellowship—2nd Sunday**  
**Monthly Ladies Gathering—2nd Saturday**  
**Men's Breakfast—Last Sat of the month**  
**September Congregational Mtg –23rd**  
**Bring a Friend Sunday—Sept 30th**  
**Work Day—TBD**

Outreach Building Use:

AI Anon - Wednesday 10:00 am

AA Young Adults - Mon. 7:00pm

	8/26/12	8/19/12	8/12/12
<b>Fellowship</b>			
<b>Worship</b>	40	36	36
<b>Contribution</b>	686.55		2241.05
<b>Mid Week Devotion</b>	21	13	15

## Announcements

Registration brochures for the **Gander Brook Ladies' Retreat** are on the table in the foyer. The retreat is September 13-15. If you want to stay at the camp see Janice Dumont by August 26 so we can send in our registrations as a group. Also see Janice if you want to carpool.

Registration forms for the September 20-22 **Gander Brook Mens Retreat** are on the foyer table. Phil Dumont is going so talk to him if you want to ride together.

### Special Activity at September 8th Ladies Luncheon.

In an effort to develop closer relationships with our sisters in Christ, Elaine has requested that each woman WRITE a short biography of herself to share with the ladies. The note should/could include such facts as : where she was born, size of her family, jobs or work history, special talents or hobbies, and even a special fact that is not readily known. Elaine encourages us all to participate at the fellowship on Saturday September 8 at noon when wen will enjoy salads and sandwiches at Delia's home.

Potluck has been moved from this week to next. We will have a cookout, please bring desserts and side dishes.

Our pantry has been sued quite a bit in the last several weeks, please help us support our neighbors and build it back up. There is a list available on the table in the foyer, or you can ask Mary H directly.

Any items left from the Clothing Give-away are free for the taking for the next week, then the remaining items will be donated to charity.

Rene would like to have us consider those in need of Thanksgiving baskets this year. Please submit names to her as soon as possible.

Lauren (Forkner) Gans, her husband Edd have a new baby brother for Dylan and Ava. Logan Alexander was born Aug 29, 2012 at 6:16 p.m. He weighed in at 9 lbs 14.3 oz and 23 inches long! Proud grandparents are Bob and Judie Forkner. To God be the glory!