



Where families worship,
serve and raise their
children

Belt Line Road Church of Christ

“...churches of Christ salute you” (Rom 16:16)
Established 33 AD

December 5, 2016
Volume 8 Number 44

1202 N. Belt Line Road
Irving, TX 75061
972/790-8606
972/790-3897 (fax)

Web site:
www.beltlinechurch.com

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Class.....9:00 a.m.
AM Worship...10:00 a.m.
PM Worship.... 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study.... 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday:

Ladies' Bible Class(Sept.–Apr.)
Class meets at 10 a.m.

Evangelist

Don Hatch

Email:

don-hatch@sbcglobal.net

ELDERS

Jerry McKey
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

DEACONS

Darrell Allen
Glen Kelly
John Mayer

SECRETARIES

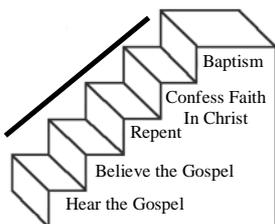
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

CUSTODIANS

Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear-Romans 10:17
Believe-John 8:24
Repent-Acts 17:30
Confess-Romans 10:10
Be Baptized-Acts 22:16
Saved - in Christ (Galatians 3:27)



The Early Church Grew

Don Hatch

The early church **multiplied their intent**. They had a charge from the Lord to take the gospel to every creature (Mk 16:15-16). There was no set limit or number of people planned on to be reached. If they had limited themselves to only those who attended their worship it would have been only a few. **Their intent was to reach every soul** (Matt 28:18-20).

They **multiplied their opportunities**. They were in the temple daily and **went from house to house teaching and preaching Jesus Christ crucified** (Acts 5:42; 1 Cor 2:1-5). Finding visitors in the building manifests their interest in salvation, looking for them elsewhere manifests our interest in their salvation. Most people will be in their homes or at work when we encounter them.

They **multiplied their times** of teaching the lost by teaching daily (Acts 5:42). Time is precious and should be used prudently. Most congregations of today meet about 4 hours of the 168 hours in that week, with a few other seasonal events. If Christianity is to become a majority religion the time must be found to plant the seed (Lk 8:1-15).

They **multiplied the number of individuals working** to reach the lost (Act 8:4). The great commission has within it the plan to pass on information to the alert next generation (2 Tim 2:2). They passed on knowledge and zeal for fulfilling the great commission (2 Pet 2:1-5; Heb 5:11-14). The plan was to grow and taking the gospel (good news) was everyone's work. They thrived even when persecuted and scattered abroad (Acts 8:4).

The early church had more Christians teaching more alien sinners more often and the results were phenomenal. If a few do all the work of evangelism the result will be small. The converse is true. The more we all do the greater the results.

They used every means available to them. Their evangelism zeal remains unmatched but it can be duplicated in our day if we use the means they used. They became all things

to all men that they might save some (1 Cor 9:22). This didn't mean that they cast off the pattern of Christianity. Rather they used every technique to teach every Jew or Gentile the truth of the gospel of salvation (Eph 1:1-15). Generally the means was to open the scriptures and have a setting favorable to learning established (Acts 8:25-40). Using God's word to glorify God and teach the alien of how to draw near to God in obedience was a mainstay of church growth.

It took commitment and compulsion to go where the lost were to be found. Paul's commitment: "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. ²⁵Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day have I been in the deep; *in* journeyings often, *in* perils of rivers, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils from my countrymen, *in* perils from the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; *in* labor and travail, *in* watchings often, *in* hunger and thirst, *in* fastings often, *in* cold and nakedness. Besides those things that are without, there is that which presseth upon me daily, anxiety for all the churches" (2 Corinthians 11:24-28 ASV). Paul manifested his love for the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and time (Matt 22:34-40).

The spread of Christianity is a divine work. It will meet with opposition, as seen in the book of Acts. The church was called a "sect everywhere spoken against" (Acts 28:22). However, it was said they turned the world upside down (Act 17:16). As a movement grows it will become hated by those who are satisfied with "status quo". Being alien from God and without hope is no "status" (Eph 2).

Characteristic of growth is the zeal with which the church edifies its present membership and wins new adherents to the Bible's point of view. Proclamations of the truth led to an amazing growth of the early church. All means must lead to achieving God's purposes. **Standards of the Christian system cannot be mitigated, only upheld.**

Thirsty souls long to drink of the life giving fountain and when they have drunk they become like the Samaritan woman who told others (Jn 4:1-37). "...let him know, that he who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:19-20 ASV).

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Each year the Bible becomes dearer to those who love the “Old, Old Story”. Outstanding facts about Genesis are the history of generations of mankind. The Bible seeks to inform, not through philosophy, theories or speculation but by revelation. If it had been done by philosophers it would have set forth theism in a vastly different manner. The Bible opens with the doctrine of God. Without discussion God is defined as the Creator and Sustainer of all. He is set apart from creation and the creatures He made. Thus the worlds are neither self-existing nor self-created. They came from the mind of God and He spoke them into existence. The worlds being called into existence demanded a creative power of an Infinite Being, uncreated, limitless and beyond the finite mind of man.

Creation calls upon man to know that there is a Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit Gen 1:26, 27). Throughout the remainder of the Bible this fact is further explored and enlarged. John in his opening words discusses Jesus Christ and His being in the beginning. In Genesis the Holy Spirit moved upon the deep and becomes greater evidence of the Godhead three (divinity Rom 1:18-23).

The work of creation was not simultaneous but extended in its processes. Each successive day added to the fullness of an earth made for the crowning creation of God, man! Creation started at the bottom and worked upward, step by step in order to set forth and establish all the laws of nature. This story of creation antedates all legends of man. It has abundant support from science that the Bible is true in every aspect of the Genesis account. Blunders of some scientists have yet to be corrected. The Bible never needs correction but stands as the rock of ages.

Man’s place in the scheme of things is profoundly given in the biblical account. The earth was prepared for man. Man is more than material. Man can say, “...Wherefore we faint not; but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Cor 4:16-18). Man is a dual being of flesh which perishes and spirit which is created in the image of God.

The outline of Genesis is the Account of Creation, Antediluvian Period, Fall of Mankind, Promise of a Saviour, Flood, Worldwide Destruction, Repopulation, and the Patriarchal Age (Abraham to Sons of Israel). It includes the wonderful history of faithful men and women like Enoch, the man who walked with God; Abraham whose seed we become in Christ (Gal 3:27-29); Joseph the great man of faithfulness; Sarah the woman of hope (1 Pet 3:1-6).

The history of the world is bound up in the lives of those before the flood and those who arose from Noah’s three sons. The New Testament gives a voluminous amount of space to teach us that these lived as pilgrims and strangers upon the earth “...looking for a better country, that is, a heavenly: wherein God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city” (Heb 11:13-16). We should be familiar with these references, note the circumstances under which they were made and the importance that the New Testament attaches to these incidents.

Don Hatch

Evidences Corroborated By Witnesses

A witness is one having a first-hand, eyewitness account of events which took place and verifies them accurately. Jesus chose the Apostles to be his witnesses (Acts 1:8, 15-26). They were specially guided by the Holy Spirit to give faithful and true, verifiable accounts. Part of the Holy Spirit’s mission was to guide these special witnesses into all truth (John 14:17; 16:13). The Holy Spirit was not given to everyone in the first century (Heb 2:1-5). Each time **witness** is used it identifies items vouchsafed from personal knowledge or inspired understanding. **Never** is the word used to imply that one could be called to “**bear witness**” who did not view the processes or who had not been inspired to accurately know the events. Subsequent to the apostolic period (1st Century) one could not with accuracy **bear witness**.

Following the first century there were no witnesses in the true sense of the word. One could give testimony of the transformation of life observed in an obedient and faithful Christian and endorse their faithfulness.

False witnesses have abounded in history (Matthew 26:59-62; 1 Tim 1:18-20). Those who are out of sympathy with God will bear false witness. Christians can give **testimony** based upon others’ eye-witness accounts. Seeing **transformation** in brethren manifests faithfulness to the teachings of the Scriptures (Rom 10:1-17; Col 1:13). **Translation** out of the power of darkness is not brought about by a miracle, but rather compliance to the oracles of God, vouchsafed by the scriptures. One can verify that **prophecies** were fulfilled because of clear biblical teachings and the Apostle’s witness that such was the case.

The church can **verify** that it was **purchased** (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). She can **authenticate** that she will be **preserved** because of the promises given (Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:18-20). She can **corroborate** that she is **precious** in the sight of God, and **substantiate** that she is **privileged** (Ephesians 1:3-13; Hebrews 4:14-16). She can **justify** her statement of being **empowered to speak on the Lord’s behalf** (Mark 16:15, 16; Matthew 28:18-20). She may **identify joy** (Philippians 4:4-7) as her **honored right** and **claim** to wear the name of Christ (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16). In each example the only means of **assertion is based upon correct Bible teaching**.

Christianity is not a **subjective**, “better felt than taught religion”, but an **objective** one which uses book, chapter and verse to **authenticate** any application of the scriptures taking place in lives of the believers. Its validity consists in confirmable, objective facts. In both Testaments, objective facts appear as a primary standard for establishing and testing claims of truth. On the contrary uncertified subjective claims, opinions, and beliefs, are inadmissible.

The legal sense of a witness in the presentation of evidence plays a decisive role in the New Testament’s promotion of the gospel. In the New Testament, reliable historical evidence is a handmaiden to the significance of the Gospel’s message. Eyewitness testimony was of utmost importance. The testimony of one witness was insufficient—*for testimony to be acceptable, it must be established by two or three witnesses* hence multiple witnesses were used (1 Cor 15:6)

Confidence in the gospel teachings on salvation is directly proportional to the Bible’s historical reliability of the events portrayed in it about items such as the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. It would have been incredulous for Jewish Christians (Apostles) to use the Old Testament legal procedure for establishing the legitimacy of the gospel via the testimony of multiple witnesses if all the while they knew that the events had transpired another way. **Don Hatch**

FAMILY NEWS:

News at Belt Line

Call in your information to the office at:
972-790-8606 by Sunday evening

ASSIGNMENTS FOR DECEMBER

GREETERS:

December 11 – Front Foyer – Don & Anne Herriage
Back Foyer – Henry Seidmeyer & Thomas Rathbun

December 18 – Front Foyer – Robert & Cathy Taylor
Back Foyer – Bobby & Brenda England

Communion Preparation: Bobby & Brenda England

Contribution Counters: Glen Kelly & Nathan Allen

SERMONS

December 11 – a.m. “Written Aforetime”
Matthew 1:18-20
p.m. “Fishers Of Men”
Mark 1:1-8

**HAVE YOU INVITED
SOMEONE TO WORSHIP
THIS WEEK?**

Ongoing Health Concerns: Bobby Bowen, Jane Easter, Dessie Ross, Don & Margaret Lewis, Frances Tipton, Deidra Sutton, David & Faye West, Laquita Baker, Glen Kelly, Mike Garrison, Lauren Roses, Nellie Melvin, Alice Worthy, Carol Swinney, Sissy Allen

Home Bound Members: Helen Thomas, Mary Walker, Dessie Ross, Gearldean Jones

Nursing Homes: Elsie Nanny – Avante Frances Tipton – Arlington Rehab
Max Melton – Northgate Plaza

Military: Chris & Abigail Mathews

EVENTS

MISSION PRINTING – Mission Printing will meet every **SUNDAY** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium to collate and staple tracts to be sent all over the world. Please come help us and enjoy the wonderful Christian fellowship.

Ladies Bible Class will be on Tuesday, **December 6th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Annex. The Topic will be “**Jesus is Master at Molding Men & Women**”.

Ladies – please start bringing items for the **Goodie Bags** which we will be filling on **December 13th**.

The **39’ers** monthly get together will be on Monday night, **December 19th** at 6:30 p.m. at the Annex. Come bring your favorite food and enjoy the wonderful Christian fellowship.

Address Change:

Faye Yeldell (former member) – 300 N. Fort Lane
Apt. # 105
Layton, Utah 84041

PRAYER CONCERNS

Mary Curtis went to the ER Wednesday afternoon with her white blood count high. They gave her medication.

Delisa Banister’s daughter needs our prayers as she is in drug rehab at the present time.

Lautricia Williams relative, **Trisi Williams** will be having some cysts removed on Tuesday & has requested our prayers.

There are many others who are dealing with health issues at the present time. Please keep them in your daily prayers.

Hospital:

Beverly McKey is being treated for pneumonia at Medical City Hospital. She is in the East Tower, room #566.

Frances Tipton is at Arlington Memorial Hospital, room #5201. She had a stroke, has an infection and is in the final stages of dementia. When she is moved back to the nursing home she will be under Hospice Care.

Sissy Allen is in CCU at Baylor Irving.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/19/16 – 39’ers – Annex – 6:30 pm

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Grady Fowler – 12/1
 Ann Bruce – 12/5
 Virginia Stull – 12/6
 Lotah Franklin – 12/6
 Max Melton (Walter) – 12/7
 Carolyn Thornton – 12/10
 Crystal Morris – 12/13
 Elizabeth Garrison – 12/13
 Linda Matthews – 12/17
 Virgil LaFerney – 12/17
 Kim Mayer – 12/20
 Carol Lee – 12/24
 Kent Conner – 12/27
 Brenda England – 12/29
 Lovetta Smith – 12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bill* & Carolyn Montgomery – 12/22
 David & Judy Odom – 12/31

*If unable to serve on the Lord’s table,
 please contact Curtis Vaughan:
 (469) 216-7580*

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THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

<u>LORD’S TABLE (MORNING)</u>		12/11/16	<u>SUNDAY PRAYERS</u>
<u>Front Table</u>	<u>Rear Table</u>		A.M. – Jerry McKey Dale Cox Bill Matthews
Nathan Allen	Thomas Rathbun		P.M. – Ken Lee Darrell Allen
Curtis Vaughan	Dale Cox		
Purman Cofer	Alex Mayer		
Dean Webb	Robert Taylor		
John Mayer			
Kenny Mayer			
<u>LORD’S TABLE (EVENING)</u>			<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u>
Alex Mayer			A.M. – Glen Kelly Matthew 1:18-20
Don Herriage			P.M. – Alex Mayer Mark 1:1-8
<u>SONG LEADERS</u>			<u>COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS</u>
A.M. – Jerry Baker			Darrell Allen
P.M. – Nathan Allen			

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	54	60	62	100
A.M. Worship	94	78	99	150
P.M. Worship	54	56	71	80
Wed. Class	54	48	60	85
Contribution	\$4802	\$6091	\$5377	\$5170

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED

Glen Tattersall – Australia
 Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
 Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
 Charlie & Mary DiPalma – Australia
 Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
 David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT
 Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
 Ted Lingren – Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
 Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
 Elangwe & Magdaline Gregory – Wotutu, Cameroon
 Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo
 Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India

OTHERS SUPPORTED

Paper Pulpit – Hurst, Texas
 The Truth In Love – Hurst, Texas
 Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
 Christ’s Haven Children’s Home – Keller, Texas
 Foster’s Home for Children – Stephenville, Texas
 Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution

STUDENT PREACHERS SUPPORTED

Brown Trail School of Preaching – Bedford, Texas
 Carlos Tario, Dolcey Patino, Roberto Ortiz, Brayden Shelley
 Southwest School of Preaching – Austin, Texas – Mike Batot

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