



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

June 8, 2020

Volume 12 Number 23

1202 N. Belt Line Road
Irving, TX 75061
972/790-8606

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.

MINISTER

Randy Reagan

Email:

randy.reagan@beltlinechurch.com

ELDERS

Jerry McKey
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

DEACONS

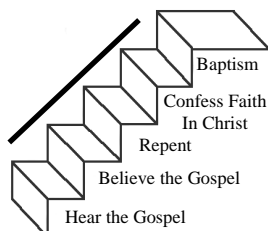
Darrell Allen
John Mayer

SECRETARIES

Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



A Malignant Delusion

Throughout history, there have always been skeptics, non-believers. Jesus tried to teach those who did not believe. (Jn. 5:36-44; 12:37) Ultimately, their unbelief meant they would die in their sins. (Jn. 8:24) Still some refused to accept Jesus. (Jn. 12:42-43)

Some nonbelievers are antagonistic, aggressive and abusive towards Christians and Christianity. Jesus talked of believers who would be persecuted with lies. (Matt. 5:11) Unfortunately, in our complacency today, we forget how nonbelievers infiltrate our educational institutions as well as influential journalistic publications to attack Christians and misrepresent their beliefs. For example, recently Steven Pinker, a professor at Harvard, made the following observation: "Belief in an afterlife is a malignant delusion, since it devalues actual lives and discourages action that would make them longer, safer, and happier." Pinker linked to a Washington Post column arguing that "Christian fundamentalism is often fatalistic." In the Post column, contributing columnist Gary Abernathy cited a variety of New Testament verses as part of his argument that Christians didn't take corona virus deaths as seriously as other groups. "Evangelicals take it to heart [when James reminds them](#), 'What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes,' or [when Paul writes](#), 'I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us,' or [when Jesus asks, rhetorically](#), 'Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?'" He added that "[a]s far as many evangelicals are concerned, life passes quickly, suffering is temporary and worrying solves nothing.' That's not a view that comports well with long stretches of earthly time spent waiting out business closures or stay-at-home orders. It should be no surprise that a person's deepest beliefs about the world influence how they measure the risks they're willing to take."

I think it is important to note how Mr. Abernathy twisted scripture to support his view. Satan did likewise. (Matt. 4:6) The whole premise that Christians who believe in heaven have no value to earthly life and therefore are more than happy to see others (including themselves) die is completely false. I have never known a Christian to advocate this. Paul told the Philippian Christians that while he was anxious to go to heaven, he realized that God still had need for him in this life. (Phil. 1:21-26)

I cannot imagine anyone in their right mind who would not long to go where "there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying....no more pain." (Rev. 21:4) But to suggest that Christians have no regard for life and want others to die is a ridiculous lie. As is always true, if they search hard enough, they can probably find someone who will profess views to support their position, but to suggest that all Christians believe and practice this is false.

Is heaven a "malignant delusion?" Of course not! If we are not very careful to vocally oppose these lies, our children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren will believe this nonsense. Expose them and their lies. (Eph. 5:11) Darkness hates the light. (Jn 3:19-20) Truth wins. (Jn. 8:32)

Randy Reagan

FAMILY NEWS:

News at Belt Line

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

Ongoing Health Concerns: David & Faye West, Laquita Baker, Grady Fowler, Paul Kelly, Polly Roses, Sherry Hodge, Anne Herriage, Katherine Cox, Patsy Swain, Marcella Porter, Vera Gleghorn, Marinell Zaun, Debra Wintle, Joe Farley

Home Bound Members: Helen Thomas, Mary Walker

Nursing Home: Nellie Melvin – Avalon Memory Care

Dale Cox – Avante

Henry Seidmeyer – Good Life Senior Living

Clorece Wilson – River Oaks

Military: Andrea Daniel (Air Force) Curtis Vaughan (Navy)

As of April 30th the “**Shelter-In-Place**” orders have been lifted by the Governor. It has been highly recommended that age 65 and over folks continue to stay in and not go out if not necessary.

The Elders of Belt Line Road church have decided that it is in the best interest of our members to **only** have **Sunday morning worship service** at 10 a.m. at the present time. No Wednesday night service yet.

The Elders have requested that we wear a face covering coming into and leaving the building. If you do not have one, we will provide one for you. We want to protect everyone from getting the COVID-19 illness.

All events are still cancelled until further notice.

Please continue to watch Randy's weekly sermons or listen to them on our website or CD if you are not comfortable in attending Sunday Morning Worship service at the present time. His lessons have been excellent.

A NOTE FROM THE ELDERS

If you do not feel comfortable in returning to worship at the present time, please continue to mail your contribution checks in. The mailing address is: 1202 N. Belt Line Road - Irving, TX 75061.

Please remember that even though we can't get out to visit our shut-ins, we can call them on the phone, email them or send them cards. It's very important that we stay in touch with each other during this pandemic.

Updates: **Andrea Daniel** was able to leave rehab. She is staying with her parents to finish her recovery process. Thank you for the many prayers on her behalf.

Myrtle Wade is having issues with her pacemaker.

There are many others who are dealing with short term health issues. Please remember them in your daily prayers.

If you have not received a new directory, please see Janice Daniel or Jerry Grantham to get one. New Pictorial Directories are in process and each family will receive one when they are ready.

Greeters scheduled for Sunday Morning – June 14, 2020

Front Foyer: Patti Kidd & Jim Walters

Back Foyer: Elizabeth Garrison & Myrtle Wade

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Laquita Baker	6/2
Karen Rathbun	6/2
Harry Debrick*	6/2
Virginia Debrick	6/22
Randy Reagan	6/22
Nadya Workman	6/22
Darrell Allen	6/23
Delisa Banister	6/24

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Cathy Taylor	6/13
John & Kim Mayer	6/30

THOSE TO SERVE**A.M. – JUNE 14, 2020**

Lead Singing – Darrell Allen

Sermon Topic – “Two Things I Request of You”

Scripture – Proverbs 30:7-9

Attendance a.m. on June 7, 2020 was **59**

Please keep our country in your daily prayers that this COVID-19 virus ends very soon and please be mindful of others and stay in during this time.

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED

Glen Tattersall – *Australia*
 Jose & Miriam Suarez – *Mexico*
 Roland & Rose Mohsen – *France*
 Gary & Nadya Workman – *Ukraine*
 Charlie & Mary DiPalma – *Australia*
 Willie & Del Gley – *Ghana/Togo, Africa*
 David & Paula Tarbet – *New Milford, CT*
 Matthew & Emma Idowu Fola – *Lagos, Nigeria*
 Ted Lingren – *Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia*
 Rohan & Sandra Jones – *Cape Town, South Africa*
 Elangwe & Magdaline Gregory – *Wotutu, Cameroon*
 Dennis & Beth Johnson – *Chennai Teacher Training School – India*

OTHERS SUPPORTED

Paper Pulpit – *Hurst, Texas*
 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
 Luis Loera – Jaelyn Downing

A Message from Our Shepherd

This month in my articles I would like to talk about the influence we have in our lives, so let us get started.

The power of influence is staggering. Astronomers, watching the peculiar behavior of the planet Uranus, deduced that it must be under the influence of another planet. Thus convinced, they pointed their great telescope in the correct direction and discovered the planet Neptune.

So, what is **influence**? Influence is that moral spiritual force, power or capacity by which we have an effect upon a person, condition, or development. Jesus presents this moral force-influence under the metaphor of: **Light (Matt. 5:14-16)** *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."*¹⁵ *"Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house."*¹⁶ *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* Verse 14 is a further testimony to the indispensable nature of God's children (US). The comparison is between a city on a hill and a group, or church, of his disciples. Our influence cannot be ignored in the world. Verses 15-16 sets forth instructions regarding the Christian's light, or influence, in the world. Christ forbid hiding it under a bushel or basket. We do not want to obscure our influence for the truth, and this applies to everything in our lives.

What then should be done with the light, or influence of the Christian's life? It should be placed upon *"a lampstand"* according to God. The stand is nothing less than the church of Jesus Christ, namely, the local congregation. **Rev. 1:20** identifies the lampstands as the churches. *"The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches."* So, by putting in on *"the stand"* what are we as Christians to do? The command is to glorify God through an abundance of good works. So *"Let you light shine."*

Next week we will talk about salt as it relates to our influence.

Jerry McKey

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