

**December 15, 2008**

## **SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

### **December 21, 2008**

a.m. *"The Light of the World"*

Scripture: John 8:12-20

p.m. *"By Every Word"*

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

## **FAMILY CARE**

### **A Message from Our Shepherds**

This issue will be our last mail-out bulletin for 2008. Please notify the office or one of the elders on any information the congregation needs to know.

Brethren, we have a lot to be thankful for at Belt Line Road, and among many of our most cherished blessings are the encouragements we give and share with each other. Everyone I know appreciates encouragement. The elders are thankful to God everyday for the members at Belt Line, and the encouragement each of you gives to us and our families. Our minister, Brother Don Hatch, and his family appreciates words of encouragement and a pat on the back for doing well. Sister Letitia Beverly, our church secretary, who does a very good job, and Brother & Sister Mike & Elizabeth Garrison and their family appreciates positive encouragement. Our Bible Class Teachers and their families appreciate encouragement. All of our members and families at Belt Line appreciate positive encouragement. Encouragement builds confidence, and gives support and hope to those in need. God gives us encouragement throughout the Bible such as recorded in Joshua 1:5 "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee". Phil 4:1 "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved".

We must remember that the principle of sowing and reaping is handed down from God Himself. None of us can deny it, because it was true in the garden of Eden that Adam reaped what he sowed, and it has been true ever since. Gal 6:7-10 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith".

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sister Brenda Bryant and family, over the loss of her husband, Floyd "Bear" Bryant. "Bear" as he was known, will sorely be missed, and the many wonderful things he did behind the scenes. We have several families that have recently lost loved ones, and we need to offer our assistance, and keep them in our prayers as well.

Have a great week serving God! Remember to pray for all of the sick & shut-ins.

~ Dean Webb

## **SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008**

### **A New Commandment**

“A new commandment I give you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you...” (Jn 13:34). Christians never question the preeminence of love. "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8, 16), and the greatest of the Christian qualities is love (1 Cor 13:13). Commandments of the law were love for God and one's neighbor (Mat 22:33-40). Throughout the Bible love is commended and manifested. Christ's new commandment gives us a definition for how to love (Jn 13:31-35). We love as He loved us. We must observe how Christ loved. In the first place, His love was not temporary. Jesus' love is calculated only by eternity. The measure of love is Jesus' substitutionary death for mankind. Whenever we think the love commandment demands too much we should compare our love to Christ's. "For the love of Christ constraineth us...that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him who died for their sakes and rose again (2 Cor 5:14,15). "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend" (Jn 15:13). Christ died for sinners (Rom 5:1-5). You can learn of Christ's love in one of our Bible classes and in worship

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the December 18, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News



### *How long has it been since you...*

*Took the time to go see someone who lives alone?*

*Wrote a letter to someone who crossed your mind?*

*Read the Bible to someone too ill to read for themselves?*

*Encouraged someone who was having a hard time being a Christian?*

*Prayed earnestly for someone who was faltering?*

*Tried to have a Bible study with someone you knew was lost?*

*Told a teen that you were proud of their efforts to live for Christ?*

*Spent more time on your knees praying than on the phone talking?*

*Informed your family of your love and appreciation of them?*

*EVERY CHRISTIAN CAN DO SOMETHING TO ENCOURAGE SOMEONE ELSE!!!*

### **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

**Sunday, December 21, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Robert & Cathy Taylor; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

**Back foyer:** Ilene Ashworth; Carol Swinney

## Sunday, December 21, 2008

**Front foyer:** Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

**Back foyer:** Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

## Family News:

### MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

### MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** gathering will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

### SINGING SESSION

The Sunday afternoon singing session will be held at **5:15 p.m.** in room #116.

### LADIES

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will be on Holiday recess until the first of the year.

### IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to everyone for the cards, prayers, food, calls, & thoughts of us. We could not have even made it this far if it weren't for our wonderful Church family. God bless you all. In Christian love, Gwen & Bob

Thank you so much for the many prayers, calls, cards, good food & wishes over the past few months; Don & I appreciate them all. Lovingly in Christ, Joann

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Our Bear Bryant** passed away last Friday morning. Visitation will be Tuesday evening (12/16) at Brown's Funeral Home from 5pm – 7pm; due to space & expected attendance, services will be held at the South Mac building on Wednesday (12/17). Interment will be at Oak Grove.

**David Peavler** (the Armstrong's son-in-law) passed away last Thursday. Services are this evening (12/15) in Beaumont.

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Due to the Holidays, the church office will be closed on Wednesday & Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and also on Thursday, January 1, 2009. If you have a need or information during this time, please contact Don, one of the elders, or leave a note in the secretary's box.

Due to our agreement with the Post Office, this will be our last bulletin for the year. It will resume again on January 5, 2009.

### BIBLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Bible classes will be suspended on **12/24 & 12/31** due to the Holidays. All will meet in the main auditorium for devotional time.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

- Mike Batot** had foot surgery on Wednesday & is home doing well.
- Bob Bingham** has decided not to have further treatments; hospice care will begin today (12/15).
- Dana Hodgkins** underwent neck surgery; she is now home recuperating.
- Marietta Houser** will undergo a CAT scan today (12/15).
- Don & Donna Meyer** have been ill at home.
- Flora Jagers** (Virginia Stull's sister) is in Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler following back surgery.
- Glen Keller** (Harold's son) lost his father-in-law last week.
- Ted Lingren** (missionary) has been suffering with double vision & vertigo; there will be testing.
- George Ryon** (Ann's son) is in Life Care on Harry Hines, room #202.
- Mary Lou Tibbetts' grandson**, Michael, lost his mother over the weekend.
- Ida Tidwell** (Virginia's other sister) is also in Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler following hip-replacement surgery.
- Crystal Vaughan** (Mary Curtis' daughter) continues to suffer with neck problems & will undergo tests this week.
- Linda Woodruff** (the Webb's neighbor) will need a heart transplant if all testing goes well.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- Dec 21: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- Dec 24, 25, Jan 1: Church office will be closed for the Holidays
- Dec 24 & Dec 31: All Bible classes will meet in the main auditorium for devotional time.

## **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

### **Sunday morning:**

- Julie Roses

### **Sunday evening:**

- Betty Ruckman

## **DEC. LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

### **Front Table**

- Mike Batot
- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Grady Fowler
- Brandon Howard

### **Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Virgil LaFerney
- Derroll Allen

## **SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Dean Webb
- Stan Selby
- Harold Head

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

- Jerry Baker  
John 8:12-20

**SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Rob Farmer
- Robert Ruckman

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Brandon Thomason
- John Mayer

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

- Darrell Allen

**FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET**

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	96	108	95	125
A.M. Worship	190	178	165	210
P.M. Worship	75	77	94	112
Wed. Class	80	77	94	110
Ladies Bible Class	15	18	21	35
Contribution	\$5996	\$5498	\$5398	\$5400

***MISSIONS***

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Missions
- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
- Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
- Glen & KuinTattersall – Australia
- Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko - Russia
- Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
- Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
- Foster's Home for Children – Stephenille, TX
- Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India
- Ian & Mabel McPherson – Tasmania Australia
- Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
- Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
- Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
- Terry & Pam Laurence – Bear Valley School of Preaching
- Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India