

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

January 17, 2012
Volume 4 Number 3

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

Web site:
<http://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.... 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday:

Ladies' Bible Class..Sep.-Apr.
*See page 4 for current
meeting time.

Evangelist

Don Hatch
Email:
don-hatch@sbcglobal.net

ELDERS

Jerry McKey
Richard Renfro
Dean Webb

DEACONS

Darrell Allen
Glen Kelly
John Mayer

SECRETARIES

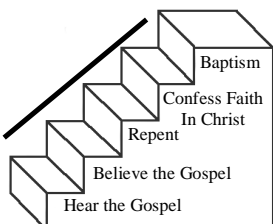
Janice Daniel & Jerry Grantham
beltlinechurch@sbcglobal.net

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)



Is The Cross To Be A Talisman?

Don Hatch

The cross is a time honored symbol of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The cross became symbolic of this human tragedy and divine salvation. It has become universally known since Jesus' death on Golgotha. The cross is a principle content of the Christian religion and Christian civilization. Pictures of crosses depict it as the *crux immisa* [upright beam with short crosspieces], *crux commissa* [Anthony's cross in the shape of a 't'], *crux decussate* [Andrew's cross in the shape of the letter 'x']. The cross of Jesus Christ of Nazareth is historically an upright with a crossbeam, lowered from the top with a foot pedestal. There are historical documents to demonstrate that such was the preferred Roman cross. The account of crosses spans history and encompasses many nations.

Constantine the Great (272-327 AD) considered Christianity a valuable asset to the Roman Empire. He gave them a great deal of latitude to practice their faith. His mother, Helena became enamored with the "Cross of Christ" and a desire to find the true cross. She had the tomb excavated where Christ was purportedly buried. It was claimed that Christ's cross and two crosses of the malefactors crucified with Jesus were found. Further, claims of miracles being generated by touching the cross identified Christ's cross as the true cross. Traditions say that it was entire including the nails. Helena had a church built on that very spot and the main part of the cross was erected. Thus, the cross became a **talisman** [an object marked with magic signs and believed to confer on its bearer supernatural powers or protection, something that apparently has magic power]. Reminders of the cross were given to Constantine and the balance was placed in a new church building, especially erected in Rome, and named "Santa Croce". Small fragments of the cross were sold and many incusted in gold and jewels by the wealthy believers desiring to possess such a priceless relic [talisman]. Many miracles were attributed to touching or holding the "icons". Historically many groups with such portions of the cross have great celebration.

The history of the brazen serpent, erected by Moses, has a unique parallel. The Israelites were murmuring concerning the manna against

Moses and Jehovah (Nun 21:4-20). Thus, they were sinning. Jehovah sent fiery serpents among them and they bit them. Many people died because of these bites. The people begged Moses to remove this terrible plague. Moses prayed and God told him to raise a "Brass Serpent" upon a standard and those who looked upon it would be saved. It came to pass that if any were bitten by a serpent and looked upon the "Brass Serpent" they were saved. The rest of the story is found in 2 Kings 18. The Israelites had kept the "Brass Serpent", calling it "Nehushtan" [icon worthy of veneration]. The Israelites made the "Brass Serpent" into an object of worship. Jesus will illustrate that His crucifixion was going to have the effect that Moses' "Brass Serpent" had by saving people who were in sin (Jn 3:14, 15). Jesus did not make the items of His cross that which would save, but rather His being crucified becoming the means of shedding His blood and giving of His life for the salvation of mankind. Taking up the cross is symbolic, not a literal cross (Lk 9:33-35; Mat 10:38, 39). Paul said he had been crucified (Gal 2:20, 21). It was not a physical death, but rather a spiritual death.

Through the centuries many legends and tales have arisen about "icons" made in the image of the cross of Christ. Altars have been built with the "cross" as a center plate, galvanizing worshipers to this symbol, creating a physical emblem for veneration. You are to be identified not by a cross on a building or around the neck, but being a light in the world adorned with purity and righteousness. Buildings are thought to be consecrated by having a cross attached to them. Veneration of an icon was savagely denounced during the "Iconoclastic Period". During history there have been many "iconoclasms" manifested in images. These are found in religion and politics. Isaiah illustrates idols graven by men taking wood and making an idol (Isa 30:22; 37:19; 44:9-12). The wood from which the idol is formed has "tailings, shavings" which are later burned in the stove for heat and cooking. How odd, one part of the wood is sacred and the other base. Something graven by man is not worthy of veneration (Rom 1:18-20). Erecting a cross on a building does not make it "Christian" anymore than sitting in a henhouse makes one a chicken. It is what takes place within the building that makes it different. Often, like the Jew who venerated the "Brass Serpent", the erecting or wearing of "sacred symbols" are held as an official means to identify one as "Christian". The greatest manner is being buried with Jesus in baptism, thus being crucified with Him in baptism, being raised to walk in the newness of life (Rom 6:1-11). The cross of Christ was unique, but it was never to be a "talisman" or "good luck charm". Take up your cross and follow Him.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

The elders briefly presented the 2012 budget Sunday. The 2012 budget for the Belt Line Rd. church of Christ is \$5,470 per week. This budget is less than last year's budget. The finances of the church need to be planned just like a family budget, keeping things in order and within reason. I think it is exciting that more than half of our budget is dedicated to Evangelism. We have made some changes in that area. Mission Printing will now be supported by \$250 per month as well as the cost of equipment and supplies for our work area at the building. We will partially support David and Paula Tarbet's work in the Northeast United States. We have deleted support for the work in Hyderabad, India after the passing of Ivy Paul. Douglas Alvaranga has postponed his plans for Argentina and is not in the 2012 budget. The elders have always wanted to reach as many countries and languages for the Lord as possible. Belt Line will continue to support Charlie and Mary DiPalma even though they are moving from Malaysia to Australia for health reasons. They will be working with the church in Melbourne, where our brother Soon attends. Soon was our visitor last summer for a few weeks. We now financially support missionaries in the following areas: Saint Petersburg, Russia; Paris, France; Germany; Sisophon, Cambodia; Chennai, India; Melbourne, Australia; Accra, Ghana; Tasmania, Australia; Fort Defiance, Navajo Nation; Cape Town, South Africa; Kayenta, Navajo Nation. We want each one of our missionaries to say the same thing to us that Paul said to the Philippians.

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God” (Philippians 4:10-18 NKJV).

I have learned from all my visits to our missionaries that they all are ready to be content, giving up many things we consider to be necessities. Our missionaries are working hard everyday to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank God for their dedication and perseverance.

The elders are very proud of our staff for helping keep our expenses low by doing many things as volunteers. They alert us to any potential problems and usually have a good solution to offer. The Belt Line church is sound financially and she is because God has blessed her with generous and faithful members who give their best to our Lord. **Richard L. Renfro**,

Immortality

“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of the faith, lay hold on the life eternal, whereunto thou wast called, and didst confess the good confession in the sight of many witnesses. I charge thee in the sight of God, who giveth life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed the good confession; that thou keep the commandment, without spot, without reproach, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: which in its own times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in light unapproachable; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power eternal. Amen” (1 Tim 6:11-16).

Immortality is the survival of the soul or the spiritual part of mankind made in the image of God after the body is dead (2 Cor 4:14-16). Death does not end all. There is a future life, a hereafter. After the survival of death there is a state described as **everlasting life**, distinguished as immortality. Some shrink from the mere thought of death until they learn that it can be a resplendent world suited for the soul of mankind. In this imperishable world the spiritual part of mankind can find joy and peace after a lifetime of service to God. The disembodied soul is in the Hadean world [realm of the unseen]. This is not considered the final destination of the soul. There will be judgment and the separation of the righteous and unrighteous (2 Cor 5:1-10; Mat 25:31-46). Eternal life with God is conditioned upon redemption by the blood of Jesus Christ. Rejection of Christ ultimately establishes the destiny a soul to Hell [Gehenna]. The only true source for finding the truth about immortality is the Bible (1 Tim 6:11-19). The **Moral Argument** argues for a moral law to which mankind is responsible. It teaches that there is a Divine Being to which mankind must capitulate. There is a certain moral administration which prohibits or permits. This agency of God is greater than man. There is a tangible condition in life which satisfies a sense of justice and morality giving a positive sense to immortality. When the lamp of reason grows dim mankind must turn to revelation to refresh their lives. Mankind is fitted for the knowledge of God and is more than a mere beast for his life transcends time. There is a pledge from God of immortality. Man's integral parts demonstrate the hope of immortality.

Grace intervenes and delivers the lost soul from the impending doom of Hell. God's mercy breaks the bonds of the hopelessness of man's lot while in sin. God's promise to make a covenant with mankind admits them into fellowship and grants security for their soul. In this fellowship there is the hope of a future. The supreme purpose of redemption is the principle of immortality. The good confession of mankind that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God begins the process towards immortality. The full consonance [agreement] of God's scheme of redemption is discovered in Christ, the New Testament and His church. There is an inheritance incorruptible that fadeth not, reserved in heaven for the obedient and faithful (1 Pet 1:3; 1 Tim 1:10; Rom 2:7; 2 Tim 1:10; 1 Cor 15:50-58).

Don Hatch

Family News:

News at Belt Line.

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

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

January 22, 2012

Front foyer: Don & Anne Herriage

Back foyer: Glen Kelly & Mary Scott

January 29, 2012

Front foyer: Henry Seidmeyer & Fay Yeldell

Back foyer: Max Melton & Myrtle Wade

Sermon Titles

January 22, 2012

a.m: "Son Of Man"

Scripture: Acts 7:54-60

p.m: "Try Yourselves"

Scripture: 2 Cor. 13:1-5

January 29, 2012

a.m: "Four Thousand Fed"

Scripture: Mark 8:1-10

p.m: "Fifth Sunday Singing"

Scripture: To Be Announced

Contribution Counters

John Mayer & Bobby England

MISSION PRINTING

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

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet *Sunday* in Rm #116 at 5:15 p.m.

NEWS OF THE SICK

'**Robert & Cathy Taylor's** great grandson, Austin Taylor has been moved from Children's Medical to Baylor Children's Rehab Center. Please keep this family in your prayers.

'**Hank Henry** is home recovering from successful surgery on January 9th.

'**Laquita Baker** needs our prayers as she is not feeling well from her chemo and radiation treatments.

'**Dessie Ross** is still ill at home. They have requested no visitors at this time.

'**Grady & BC Fowler** both are ill. **Grady's** surgery on the 13th went well. They have asked for our prayers.

'**Ira Wolfe** has been moved to Health South Rehab Center. He has had a slight improvement in his walking. His address is: 3200 Matlock Rd., Room #317-C, Arlington, Texas 76015.

'**Kuin Tattersall** had surgery and is now waiting on reconstruction surgery. There will be at least a six-week recovery period for her. Please keep this family in your prayers.

'**James Brown** will have cataract surgery on January 24th on one eye and the other eye will be done two weeks later. Please keep him in your prayers.

'**Tom & Linda Head's** son, **Frank Martin** had surgery to remove his little toe and part of his foot. He is in Parkland Hospital. The family has asked for prayers on his behalf.

'**Betty Jenks**, daughter of **Mary Bachman** who keeps the Mission Printing activity going at Lakewood Village has cancer. Please keep this family in your prayers.

'Prayers have been answered as the following people were able to be back at services on Sunday: **Cathy Taylor, Maxine Prude, Melissa Allen**

LADIES

Ladies Bible Class will be taught by Roberta Price on Tuesday, **January 24th** at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex.

LADIES

Please meet next Sunday, **January 22nd** following evening worship in room #116. Your input is needed regarding our 11th Annual Ladies ½ Day. It is scheduled for **April 28th** this year.

BEAR MINISTRY

Stitcher's please turn in your completed bears by Sunday, **January 22nd**.

CHRIST'S HAVEN

Grocery bags are available in both foyers for Christ's Haven. There are lists attached to each bag for your convenience. The bags are scheduled to be picked up on Tuesday, **February 14th**.

ADULT CLASSES

Sunday Morning:

Jerry McKey – Room 116

"Book of 1 Thessalonians"

Don Hatch – Auditorium

"Book of Romans"

Wednesday Night:

Henry Seidmeyer – Auditorium

"Book of Colossians"

PRAYER CONCERNS

Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Frances LaFerney, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Debra Alonzo, Maxine Prude, Serena Hatch Jacob, Letitia Beverly, Hank Henry, Elsie Nanney, Virginia Stull, Ralene Ruyle.

LITERATURE

Literature is in both foyers. Please pick up what you want.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING JAN. BIRTHDAY'S

Don Lewis – 1/16
 Carolyn Montgomery – 1/24
 Lautricia Williams – 1/25
 Marvin Brown – 1/25
 Jessica Alonzo – 1/28
 Dorris Walker – 1/29
 Serena Jacobs – 1/30
 Judy Odom – 1/31
 Harold Keller – 1/31

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

Marion & Jerry Grantham – 1/28

*If unable to serve on the Lord's table,
 Please contact Mike Batot @ (972)741-2397*

THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE THIS SUNDAY

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

·Purman Cofer
 ·Don Herriage
 ·Dorris Walker
 ·Denzil Myers
 ·Mike Garrison
 ·Clifford Yeldell

Rear Table

· J.C. Ross
 ·Robert Taylor
 ·Max Melton
 ·Brent Howard

1/22/12

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

· Richard Renfro
 · Bill Matthews
 · John Mayer

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Thomas Rathbun
 Acts 7:54-60

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

· Mike Garrison
 · Clifford Yeldell

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Bill Matthews
 2 Cor. 13:1-5

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

· Jerry Baker

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

·Glen Kelly
 ·Robert Ruckman

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

·Mike Batot

A.M. SONG LEADER

·Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: ATTENDANCE & BUDGET NUMBERS

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>26 Week Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	77	84	77	100
A.M. Worship	152	159	139	150
P.M. Worship	68	64	72	75
Wed. Class	83	77	77	75
Ladies Bible Class	n/a	n/a	0	25
Contribution	\$5947	\$4389	\$4934	\$5470

MISSIONS

Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa
 Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
 Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
 Glen & Kuin Tattersall – Australia
 Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine
 Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia
 Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
 Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX
 Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
 Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
 Dan Keele – Kayenta, AZ – Navajo Nation
 Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
 Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
 Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
 Dennis & Beth Johnson – Chennai Teacher Training School – India
 Rohan & Sandra Jones – Cape Town, South Africa
 David & Paula Tarbet – New Milford, CT

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