

Door Knocking Campaign

Let's not forget about our door knocking campaign here in Belle in May. On May 1st and 2nd we will knock doors and then will continue the meeting through the 5th and maybe later depending on how things progress in the five days we have slated. Every one of us needs to have a job of some kind in this in order to pull this off and make it a success. In April we will be going through classes of meeting the public for those who will be knocking doors.

Building Cleaning

Tonight we clean the building after the evening worship services. All who can stay and help out with this chore are asked to do so.

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
04/13/09 Monday.....	Joshua.....17-18	Acts.....16
04/14/09 Tuesday.....	Joshua.....19-20	Acts.....17
04/15/09 Wednesday.....	Joshua.....21-22	Acts.....18
04/16/09 Thursday.....	Joshua.....23-24	Acts.....19
04/17/09 Friday.....	Judges.....01-02	Acts.....20
04/18/09 Saturday.....	Judges.....03-04	Acts.....21
04/19/09 Sunday.....	Judges.....05-06	Acts.....22

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8th and Oak in Belle, Missouri 65013. Our Mailing address is "P.O. Box 381, Belle, Missouri 65013. The church phone number is (573) 859-6616. Jerry McDonald is the pulpit preacher. His email address is jerry@challenge2.org. His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is thmcdonald10@hotmail.com. His cell phone number is (573) 201-6093. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. We also support Ruben Williams as he studies to preach at the Memphis School of Preaching. Our church website is <http://www.bellecoc.com>. The email address is bellecoc@bellecoc.com. Our services are as follows:

TIMES OF SERVICE

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	9:30
Sunday Morning Worship.....	10:30
Sunday Evening Worship.....	6:00
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....	7:00
Ladies Bible Class 3 rd Monday Evening of Each Month.....	7:00

OUR PLEA:

BACK-TO-THE-BIBLE

Belle church of Christ
P.O. Box 381
Belle, MO 65013

The Informer

Belle church of Christ

Volume 18

April 12, 2009

Number 15

“EVERYBODY WANNA GO TO HEAVEN...BUT NOBODY WANNA DIE”

Jerry D. McDonald

Those were the words that were spoken by a Jamaican drug lord as he tried to kill the sister of a burned out DEA agent who had returned to his home town in the 1980's movie "Marked For Death" starring Steven Segal. Now, I am not going to talk about Jamaican drug lords, but there is a semblance of truth in the statement that actor made.

We all want to go to heaven, but few of us are willing to die to get there. We look at death as our enemy and so we don't want to die. The apostle Paul saw things differently "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you" (Php 1:21-24). Paul didn't look at death as an enemy, he looked it as a way to get to be with Christ." Paul informed Corinth that when "this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law" (1Co 15:54-56). Death is only the enemy of those who are outside of Christ. For those who are in Christ Paul told the brethren in Thessalonica "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope" (1Th 4:13). If we are going to go to heaven, we are going to have to face death. Paul said "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb 9:27). If we are faithful, it is not our enemy, it is merely a door to allow us to enter the next life to be with our savior.

We all want to go to heaven, but few of us are willing to do the things that are necessary to get there. It seems that some think that everyone should be allowed to enter heaven regardless of how we have lived on this earth. The denominational world has, for many years, taught

that once you are saved you cannot so sin as to be lost, but within the last 30 years this very doctrine has been taught in the Lord's church. The doctrine that repentance isn't essential when we commit sin has permeated the church and has given rise to all ungodliness. With this ungodly doctrine a person can commit any sin he/she pleases as long as one still believes in Christ and be all right. They don't have to repent, and God will automatically cleanse them of those sins. Their proof text is 1 Jno. 1:7: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Now there is no doubt that God continually cleanses us with his Son's blood, but only inasmuch as we repent. Verse 9 explains verse 7: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1Jn 1:9). So if we confess our sins, he will forgive us our sins, and this explains what it means to walk in the light. If we walk in the light, when we sin, we will confess our sins, then God will forgive us our sins. When Simon offered Peter money for the gift of the Holy Spirit Peter rebuked him thusly: "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee" (Act 8:22). Now, if repentance isn't essential why did Peter command Simon to repent? Simon was a Christian who had sinned, and Peter told him to repent. Do men today know more than an inspired apostle? I believe that Peter and John both knew that repentance and confession was essential for the Christian's salvation.

We all want the church to grow, but few of us want to do what it takes to make it grow. There are always those who grumble and complain about how the church isn't growing. I have had people tell me that we need to wine and dine visitors and do whatever it takes to get them in the doors. Well, that isn't what the Lord commanded. Jesus said "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). There is nothing about building gymnasiums in the word of God, to get people in. What I read is people going from house to house (Acts 2:46) and meeting together daily in the temple and teaching and preaching the gospel in every house (Acts 5:40). Here at Belle, we have a door knocking campaign coming up in May. We also have a gospel meeting to go along with that campaign. Some good brethren from Lindsay, OK are going to come up and help us with this great effort. However, this is OUR TOWN, and it is OUR RESPONSIBILITY to be out there knocking doors and holding Bible studies. How many of us really want to see the church here in Belle grow? How many of us are willing to take time out of our schedules and do whatever it takes to do the things that it is going to take to make it grow. This plan will work, but not by itself. WE are going to have to WORK it! If we don't work it, it will be because we don't want the church to grow. So each able bodied member needs to ask himself/herself the question: "Do I want to see the church here in Belle, MO grow?" Then ask another question: "Am I willing to get out and do whatever it takes to make it grow?" What will your answer be to the Lord in the day of Judgment?

PRAYER LIST

We need to remember all those who are sick and afflicted in our daily prayers. We need to remember those who are in the nursing homes, and in the military. We also need to keep Doris Pendleton, Ruby Backus, Tex Kinman, Bill and Verna Butler, Gary Cooper, Lynna Shanks, Verma Long, Connie Gass, Nelta Brock, Cheryl Harris, Janet Patrick, Evonelle Calkins, Vera Dreyse, Elnora Shanks, Dawn Tivoli, Richard Massey, the Bill Habermehl family, Savannah Shanks, Taylor Shanks, Adrian and Jean Swindler, Chesley Shanks, Gary Wallace, Sandy Sarchette, and Olivia

Shanks. Andy had his knee surgery and is back at home. He still needs our prayers.. Doris Pendleton's mother, Nettie B. Shirley, fell and broke her collar bone. Two weeks later she had a mini stroke, and is in a rehabilitation hospital. We also need to remember Chesley Shanks who will have knee surgery on May 13th. Dixie Wallace is in ICU in Capital Region Medical Center where she is on a ventilator for respiratory problems due to her surgery last Thursday. Let's keep her and her family (Gary) in our daily prayers. Doris Pendleton is having surgery on her back Wednesday at St. Mary's in Jefferson City. Darrell Conley (an instructor at OABS) fell and broke his back last Wednesday evening. We don't have any further news as of yet.

THOSE TO SERVE April 12, 2009 A.M.	THOSE TO SERVE April 19, 2009 A.M.
Greeters.....Tex & Lois Kinman	Greeters.....Danny Keeney & Jerry McDonald
Announcements.....Danny Keeney	Announcements.....Elwood Runge
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Danny Keeney
Opening Prayer.....Leroy Thomas	Opening Prayer.....David Shanks
Lord's Supper...Elwood Runge & Danny Keeney	Lord's Supper.....Jerry & Thomas McDonald
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Danny Keeney
Opening Prayer.....Danny Keeney	Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Closing Prayer.....David Shanks
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Danny Keeney
Opening Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks
Devotional.....Jerry McDonald	Devotional.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Closing Prayer.....Thomas McDonald

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME

The items for Fair Haven Children's Home this week are "Canned Chicken," and "Chicken Broth."

Sermons for the Next Two Weeks

A.M. For April 12, 2009: "There's A Great Day Coming." The P.M. Lesson will be: "I Am Not Ashamed To Own My Lord."

A.M. For April 19, 2009: "Almost Persuaded." The P.M. Lesson "O To Be Like Thee."

Wednesday Evening Class

We are going to be working on marking the Bibles for the door knocking campaign and taking classes on how to conduct Bible studies until our campaign in May on Wednesday evenings.

THE BUTT-BARKER DEBATE

There is a copy of the Butt-Barker Debate in the church library for anyone who wants to watch it. It is on DVD format. And don't forget about the other DVD's we have available for the church to watch: Expelled, and "Obsessed."

Ladies Bible Class

The ladies Bible class will be held on April 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the building.