

BUILDING CLEANING

We will clean the building on June 14, 2009 following the afternoon singing. All who can stay and assist with this chore are welcome to do so.

LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

Ladies' Bible class will be conducted on June 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the building. All the ladies are welcome to attend.

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
06/15/09 Monday.....	2 Kings.....07-08	Psalm.....101-102
06/16/09 Tuesday.....	2 Kings.....09-10	Psalm.....103-104
06/17/09 Wednesday.....	2 Kings.....11-12	Psalm.....105-106
06/18/09 Thursday.....	2 Kings.....13-14	Psalm.....107-108
06/19/09 Friday.....	2 Kings.....15-16	Psalm.....109-110
06/20/09 Saturday.....	2 Kings.....17-18	Psalm.....111-112
06/21/09 Sunday.....	2 Kings.....19-20	Psalm.....113-114

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) 308-9126. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. 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

June 14, 2009

Number 24

MISSION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH—BENEVOLENCE

Jerry D. McDonald

The word "benevolence" appears but once in scriptures "Let the husband render unto the wife due **benevolence**: and likewise also the wife unto the husband" (1Co 7:3)" The word, itself, comes from the Greek "εὐνοία" and is transliterated and defined as follows: "εὐνοία; gen. *eunoías*, fem. noun from *eunoéo* (G2132), to favor. Benevolence, goodwill (1Co 7:3 [TR]; Eph 6:7). **Syn.**: *eudokía* (G2107), pleasure, good thought; *eulogía* (G2129), blessing; *cháris* (G5485), grace, acceptance, pleasure. **Ant.**: *ará* (G685), a malediction, cursing; *katára* (G2671), curse" (*Word Study Dictionary, e-Sword Bible Program*).

No one can rightly deny that the mission of the church is to save souls "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise" (Pro 11:30). And the work of the church is to carry out that mission, but that work is broken down into three areas: (1) evangelism; (2) edification both of which we have already studied; and (3) benevolence. Now the kind of benevolence of which Paul writes and which we study are two completely different kinds, but the fact of the matter is benevolence is goodwill, to favor, good thought, pleasure, blessing. Paul speaks of the benevolence that the man and the wife owe one another which would be the sensual pleasure, blessing, etc., but what we will be studying is the benevolence of good will in helping those who are in need of the necessities of life. We want to look at some attitudes that people have towards benevolence and then look at the proper attitude that we are to have towards it.

SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT CHRISTIANS ARE A FREE HAND OUT

There are many people in this world who can work, but will not work because it is much easier to get someone to give you a handout than it is to actually do something for what you have. Paul told the church in Thessalonica *“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat”* (2Th 3:10). Our society is filled with lazy people who would rather have a handout than to work because they know that there are soft hearted people who will give to them. This is the ruination of any society and ours will be no different! The church is not to give and give to those who will not help themselves. It does, however, give to those who cannot help themselves; who find themselves in a time of need of the necessities of life. Then the church is right, of course, to help. However, to continue helping someone who will not make an effort to work, Paul said that they should not eat. Don’t let the generosity of Christian love lead you into giving to those who perpetually sit back and refuse to work when they can, you are not keeping the Lord’s commandment.

SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT WHEN THEY ARE HELPED THEY MUST LIVE BETTER THAN THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED THEM.

In other words, money is given by widows who barely afford hamburger helper and is taken and these people want T-bone steaks. Well, no, that’s not fair! On the other hand, it also isn’t fair to find something in the back that no one wants to eat and give it away to someone who is hungry. That, too, is unfair. If we won’t eat it what makes us think that someone else wants it? “Well, if they are hungry enough, they’ll eat it, I’ll bet!” we say. Yes, and so would we, but the fact is our attitude is what is wrong here. Jesus said *“Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets”* (Mat 7:12). The question is: “How would we like to be treated in a similar situation?” Would we want to be given just what was left in the back, or would we want something that most people would eat. A good rule is, if you won’t eat it, chances are good that the other guy doesn’t want it either. We should help the needy with the necessities of life, not set them up in all the comforts, but at the same time we should not give the leftovers. There is always a balance to what we as Christians are to do, and we must find that balance.

CHRISTIANS ARE TO HELP BOTH OTHER CHRISTIANS AND NON-CHRISTIANS.

Paul told the churches of Galatia *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith”* (Gal 6:10). We are to help both those who are Christians *“especially unto them who are of the household of faith”* and those who are not Christians *“let us do good unto all men.”* The word “all” is translated from the word “πᾶς pas **Thayer Definition:** 1) individually 1a) each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything 2) collectively 2a) some of all types” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon, e-Sword Bible Program*).

As Christians we have the obligation of helping everyone who gives us an opportunity to help, and especially if they are members of the household of faith.

CHURCH NEWS

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, 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, Adrian and Jean Swindler, Sandy Sarchette, and Olivia Shanks. Let us also continue to remember Andy Shanks, Nettie B. Shirley, Dixie Stacy, and Darrell Conley in our daily prayers. Logan Shanks went back for testing and they have been unable to find the cause of his problem. They think it may have been a virus he picked up. Olivia is on a stronger dose of her medication, let us keep them in our prayers. Chesley is in Frene Valley Nursing Home. We need to remember Delmar Backeus and Marvin Howard and his wife. Scott Thomas had back surgery, and we need to keep him in our daily prayers. Jerry McDonald is in the Methodist-Mansfield Hospital in Mansfield, TX with pneumonia. He and Thomas won’t be back until he is released. He is in room 331.

THOSE TO SERVE June 14, 2009 A.M.	THOSE TO SERVE June 21, 2009 A.M.
Greeters.....Andy Shanks & Elwood Runge	Greeters.....Jerry & Thomas McDonald
Announcements.....Danny Keeney	Announcements.....Jerry McDonald
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Taylor Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Taylor Shanks
Lord’s Supper.....Danny Keeney & Andy Shanks	Lord’s Supper.....David Shanks & Elwood Runge
Sermon.....Clifton Angel	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Gary Wallace	Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks
Sermon.....Clifton Angel	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald
Opening Prayer.....Taylor Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Taylor Shanks
Devotional.....To Be Announced	Devotional.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Andy Shanks	Closing Prayer.....David Shanks

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN’S HOME

The items for Fair Haven Children’s Home this week are “Cooking Spray,” “Instant Potatoes,” “Tomato Sauce,” and “Chocolate Chips.” The truck will be there June 18, 2009 to pick up the items we have for them.

OUT OF TOWN

Clifton Angel will be speaking again in Jerry’s place and there will be early afternoon services.