

### BUILDING CLEANING

We will clean the building following the evening services tonight. All who can are asked to stay and participate in this chore.

## Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
06/22/09 Monday.....	2 Kings.....21-23	Psalm.....115-116
06/23/09 Tuesday.....	2 Kings.....24-25	Psalm.....117-118
06/24/09 Wednesday.....	1 Chronicles.....01-02	Psalm.....119: 01-50
06/25/09 Thursday.....	1 Chronicles.....03-04	Psalm.....119: 51-74
06/26/09 Friday.....	1 Chronicles.....05-06	Psalm.....119: 75-100
06/27/09 Saturday.....	1 Chronicles.....07-08	Psalm.....119:101-125
06/28/09 Sunday.....	1 Chronciles.....09-10	Psalm.....119:126-151

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jerry@challenge2.org). His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is [thmcdonald10@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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<sup>rd</sup> 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 21, 2009

Number 25

## Christian Joy

Louis Rushmore

**M**ankind often seeks joys, pleasures, gratification, happiness and even thrills. It is not wrong to enjoy life on earth. Pleasure becomes sinful, though, when the activity from which one derives joy is itself sinful (e.g., adultery, alcohol) or when a right activity is abused (e.g., eating, sleeping). Something not itself sinful can also become sinful if family, employment or Christian responsibilities are neglected to seek pleasure (e.g., recreation, hobbies).

The ways in which Christians may find joy in life are nearly as numerous as people themselves; I find great joy in my family and I also enjoy writing, computers, model railroading and woodworking. However, besides the earthly joys Christians (or other people, too) may know, there are joys which only Christians can experience (Romans 14:17-18). The Book of Philippians is an epistle peppered with references to Christian joy (e.g., Philippians 2:16-18).

Among the joys enjoyed exclusively by Christians is the joy that arises from the forgiveness of sins. Following his baptism for the remission of his sins (Acts 2:38; 8:26-39), the Ethiopian noble continued on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39). With the apostle Paul and the Philippian church to which he wrote, we, as well as all other Christians, can "rejoice in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:3) because through Jesus our sins have been taken away (Acts 22:16). Further, through the blood of Jesus our sins are continually forgiven (conditional upon our continued espousal of God's Word) (Acts 8:22;

1 John 1:7-9; 2:1). This joy alone should pervade our every waking moment and offset a mountain of both this life's woes and mundane affairs.

Another joy experienced by Christians alone is fellowship with God and fellow Christians. The apostle John penned, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3). All men are called into this fellowship by the Gospel (1 Corinthians 1:9); unfortunately, many do not hearken to that call. The call is an unending call into the fellowship of Christ and other Christians that must ever be answered by 'walking in the light' (1 John 1:7). The lack of fellowship with God is one of the horrid characteristics of eternal hell (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). All troubles and even earthly joys pale in view of fellowship with God and His children.

The avenue of prayer to God is also a joy that belongs exclusively to Christians. Sinners do not have the privilege of conversing with God through prayer (John 9:31); "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination" (Proverbs 28:9). The law by which Christians are bound today is the "perfect law of liberty," James 1:25 — the Gospel. God does, though, hear "the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:29; 1 John 5:14) and He responds to such prayer (James 5:16; 1 John 3:22). What immeasurable joy it is to realize that we may always, anywhere talk to God.

The chief possible joy, again available only to the faithful children of God, will be eternal life in heaven in the very presence of God Himself. At the Great Final Judgment we long to hear addressed to us the words: "enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21, 23). Jesus described this joy as "mansions" in heaven (John 14:1-3), whereas Paul, James and John spoke of the commencement of this supernal joy as a "crown of life" (2 Timothy 4:7-8; James 1:12; Revelation 2:10). Certainly this is incomparable joy unending!

Present and future joys reserved for Christians alone far outweigh sufferings in this life (Romans 8:18), "the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:25) and even the temporal joys one may experience on earth. Christian joy has a solid basis, is enduring and is sufficient to carry us through earthly habitations to celestial shores. Christian joy, oh how precious! [http://www.bible-efonet.org/bin/short\\_articles/Living/Joy.htm](http://www.bible-efonet.org/bin/short_articles/Living/Joy.htm)

## 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 now home. He and Thomas got home yesterday evening.

THOSE TO SERVE June 21, 2009 A.M.	THOSE TO SERVE June 28, 2009 A.M.
Greeters.....Jerry & Thomas McDonald	Greeters.....Jerry & Andrea McDonald
Announcements.....Jerry McDonald	Announcements.....Thomas McDonald
Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald	Song Leader.....Andy Shanks
Opening Prayer.....Taylor Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge
Lord's Supper.....David Shanks & Elwood Runge	Lord's Supper.....Danny Keeney & Taylor Shanks
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney	Closing Prayer.....David Shanks
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald	Song Leader.....Andy Shanks
Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Thomas McDonald
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Closing Prayer.....Taylor Shanks
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Song Leader.....Thomas McDonald	Song Leader.....Andy Shanks
Opening Prayer.....Taylor Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge
Devotional.....Jerry McDonald	Devotional.....Thomas McDonald
Closing Prayer.....David Shanks	Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney

### **FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME**

The items for Fair Haven's Children's Home will be "Toilet Paper," and "Canned Chile."

### **CAMPAIGN RESULTS**

The campaign resulted in 7000 doors being knocked that ended in 74 Bible studies and 120 call backs that could very well result in Bible studies. There were 17 baptisms all together. There were nights that the attendance was in excess of 100.

Sermons for the Next Two Weeks:

The a.m. lesson for June 21, 2009 will be "So Great Salvation (Part 2)." The p.m. lesson for June 21, will be "So Great Salvation" (conclusion). The a.m. lesson for June 28, will be "The Purpose of Miracles." The p.m. lesson for June 28, will be "Faith and Love for the Brethren."