

# The Reminder

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, TX



**SUNDAY**  
**DECEMBER 7, 2014**

**BELLAIRE**  
church of Christ  
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## **Schedule of Services**

**SUNDAY:**  
9:30 AM Worship  
11:00 AM Bible Study  
5:00 PM Worship

**WEDNESDAY:**  
7:30 PM Study and Devotional

## **"Dealing With Pain and Suffering"**

"Into each life a little rain must fall," or so goes the saying. Sometimes it's a gentle shower, sometimes a torrent, sometimes it seems like a hurricane. When bad things happen to anyone we begin to question "Why"?, and too many times come up with no answer. Why the death of one so good, or young. Why sickness? Why divorce? There can be dozens of reasons, and we don't have the insight or wisdom to understand. Perhaps a better avenue of approach would be to ask, "What next"? How do we deal with this. Following Biblical concepts I suggest...

First, acknowledge it. After losing all his property and family Job "tore his robe and shaved his head and fell to the ground and worshiped" (1:20). It's so easy to try to be "tough". "Pain doesn't hurt me like it does other people. I can handle it". Solomon said, "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance" (Eccl. 3:4). Perhaps being able to tell time is a sign of wisdom. Allow yourself time to deal with the pain, embarrassment, suffering. Acknowledge it as genuine.

Then remember God. It's amazing how pain can shut the comfort of God out of your heart and life.

All we see or focus on is the pain. Part of Job's remedy was "worship". That doesn't mean "going to church". "He said, Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" (1:21) Part of this worship seems to be a realization of how we are blessed. If I've lost a child to death or sickness has robbed him of a bright future, nothing will make that go away. But there is still much in life to make it worthwhile. Being grateful to God by enumerating our blessings is a good place to start.

Then, focus on the eternal. We can read in James that life is a vapor that appears for a while and then vanishes. The same thought is expressed in the Bible over and over. But we don't have to read these words to know they are truthful. Death comes. Life is short. Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Is an "abundant life" 120 years as opposed to 70? Paul encourages those blessed with earthly wealth to "store up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so they may take hold of that which is life indeed" (1 Tim. 6:19) What's the difference between "life" and "life indeed"? A little meditation will point us to the eternal as opposed to this life which is short and sometimes painful. JLS

## Morning Lesson

"Ancient Questions for  
Modern Man"  
Jack Smith

## Evening Lesson

Song Service

## News and Notes:

We've had several out with various difficulties like allergies and what seems like flu. We've enjoyed the company of Beth and Tim Fuqua for a month or so. She's in an experimental program at MD Anderson. They have gone home (Tennessee) for December, but will return next month. Keep them and all our cancer warriors in your prayers.

It's a traveling month again. Steve and Muffy are in Lake Jackson today. Steve is preaching for the church there. Anita is in Kentucky taking care of some of our grand-ones for a couple of days. She should be back tonight. Just a week or two till our college kids come home for the Christmas break. Will be good to have them back. I believe Jasmine Holmes is about to leave us. She's been accepted into a graduate program in San Marcos. Been wonderful to have her for a couple of years. We wish her much joy and success in life.

There is a thank you note on the bulletin board from one of the preachers we support in the Philippines. We often forget how much the notes we send them can lift their spirits.

VOLUME XXXIV

## December 7, 1941 Beyond Pearl Harbor

Mitsuo Fuchida's was the voice that sent his aircraft carrier the message "Tora! Tora! Tora!" (Tiger! Tiger! Tiger!) indicating the success of the surprise mission at Pearl Harbor. Later, he too was surprised when he learned that, of the 70 Japanese officers who participated in the raid, he was the only one who returned alive.

By 1945 he had attained the position of the Imperial Navy's Air Operations Officer. On August 6 he was eating breakfast in Nara, Japan, where a new military headquarters was under construction, when he heard about a bomb dropped on Hiroshima. He flew to investigate, then sent a grim report to the Imperial Command. On the same day, an American P.O.W. named Jacob DeShazer prayed for peace. DeShazer had been in captivity since 1942, when, as a member of Doolittle's Raiders, he dropped bombs near Tokyo and then was forced to parachute into China. While imprisoned, first in Nanjing and later in Beijing, DeShazer had become a Christian. He found his heart softened toward his Japanese captors. After being liberated, DeShazer wrote a widely distributed essay, "I Was a Prisoner of the Japanese," detailing his experiences of capture, conversion, and forgiveness.

Fuchida and DeShazer met in 1950. DeShazer had returned to Japan in 1948 as a missionary. Fuchida had read DeShazer's testimony, bought a Bible, and converted from Buddhism to Christianity.

## ASSIGNMENTS

### MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Pharris  
Hymn Director - L. Williams  
Scripture Reader - D. Haley  
Matt. 27:25-31  
Opening Prayer - J. Knapp  
Closing Prayer - M. Pharris

### EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - G. Williams  
Opening Prayer - J. Moon  
Closing Prayer - M. Mann

### EVANGELIST

Jack Smith  
Steve Garrett

### ELDERS

Mark Mann  
Matt Miles  
Mike Pharris  
Jack Smith

### Bible Classes

Acts  
Holy Spirit  
Exodus and Deuteronomy  
Graded Classes for Children

DeShazer had recently finished a 40-day fast for revival in Japan when Fuchida came to his home and introduced himself. DeShazer welcomed the new convert and encouraged him to be baptized. While DeShazer continued to plant churches throughout Japan, Fuchida became an evangelist, spreading a message of peace and forgiveness in his native country and throughout Asian-American communities.  
[www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com)  
*From Pearl Harbor to Calvary*