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CHRISTIAN ARRAY

RESTORING THE RESTORATION
IN OUR GENERATION

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION IN SUPPORT OF STRICT CONSTRUCTIONIST BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

NUMBER 19

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 1991

"CHURCH GROWTH THRU GROUPS"

Being generally unimpressed with "church growth experts", it is refreshing to find someone who is really good at the subject.

John W. Ellas, D.Min., is an excellent student of the subject. He is the Director of the Center for Church Growth in Houston, Texas which helps churches of Christ to learn and apply effective methods for church growth.

John presented a one day seminar for the greater Houston area this summer. John's presentation was a most insightfully presentation on church growth. He had a good grasp of basic causes of church growth (and non-growth) and a credible plan as to implement the necessary changes to achieve church growth.

He did a good job of balancing the need to wake up leaderships with the need to respect the position and feelings of leadership personnel.

A large portion of his presentation centered around the need to assimilate members into smaller groups within the congregation, and the life cycle effects of such groupings.

If you are interested in assisting your congregation's growth, John can give you an excellent start. Call him at the Center for Church Growth at (713) 894-4391. They do (1) Individualized Congregational Growth workshops, (2) Church Growth Diagnostic Evaluations, (3) Regional Church Growth Seminars, and (4) Managing Home Groups for Growth Seminars.

A lot of the information is contained in his book CHURCH GROWTH THRU GROUPS, which is available from the Center for Church Growth, P.O. Box 591006, Houston, Texas 77269 for \$10.95 (including postage).

We would encourage your use of this valuable resource in your programs to achieve your part in the great commission.

IRS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS???

There have recently been some lessons and tapes delivered in congregations indicating imminent changes in the IRS laws and rules affecting charitable deductions. The general tenor of the lessons and tapes is that the IRS will no longer accept personal checks as proof of a charitable contribution. One statement was that the IRS would only accept accounting type statements prepared by a church which were reviewed by two independent members.

I have contacted 2 IRS special agents who are friends (and church members) to determine whether there is cause for concern. The answer was that there is no imminent change in the IRS rules or laws, and there is not likely to be any change which prefers account statements over cancelled checks.

The following is a quote from the current IRS Publication 526 titled CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS:

"RECORDKEEPING AND HOW TO REPORT

Cash Contributions. If you make a charitable contribution of money (including out-of-pocket expenses when

donating your services), you must keep one of the following for each contribution you make:

- 1) A cancelled check,
- 2) A receipt (or a letter or other written communication) from the charitable organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution, or
- 3) Other reliable written records that include the information described in (2). Records may be considered reliable if they are of a contemporaneous nature, if you regularly keep records or if, in the case of small donations, you have items such as buttons, tokens, or emblems that are given to contributors."

Both of the agents were quick to point out that the cancelled checks were at the top of the list and were the preferred proof of contribution. They said that occasionally an odd bill attacking fraudulent schemes gets introduced into congress, but that the likelihood of any proof being preferred over individual cancelled checks was extremely unlikely.

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CHRISTIAN ARRAY



SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY HOUSTON - 1991

YOUR CHANCE TO VISIT 7 CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
CAMPUSES BY VIDEO IN ONE SUNDAY AFTERNOON!!!

TALK PERSONALLY WITH COLLEGE COUNSELORS!!!

NOVEMBER 24 @ 2:00 - 5:30 P.M.

SCHEDULE

2:00-3:00 VIDEO PRESENTATIONS
3:00-3:15 REFRESHMENTS
3:15-4:15 VIDEO PRESENTATIONS
4:15-5:30 INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS
WITH COUNSELORS
& REFRESHMENTS

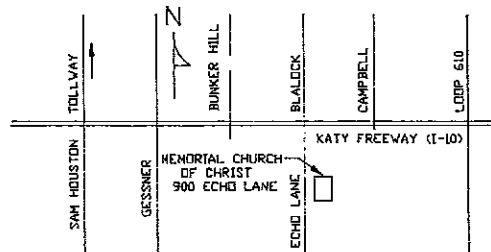
PRESENTING COLLEGES ARE:

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
DAVID LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY
FAULKNER UNIVERSITY
FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY
HARDING UNIVERSITY
LUBBOCK CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

HOST CONGREGATION:

MEMORIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
900 ECHO LANE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024

MARK WILLIAMS - YOUTH MINISTER
(713) 464-0271



PLEASE POST THIS ON YOUR YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD

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CHRISTIAN ARRAY

QUALIFICATION OF ELDERS

TO BE OR TO BECOME

We concluded last month that it is a qualification for an elder to have a plurality of children who are faithful baptized believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The present question is whether these are qualifications to become an elder, qualifications to be an elder, or are both.

What does the Bible say? I Timothy 3:1 says "if any man aspires to the office of overseer". Titus 1:5 instructs Titus to appoint elders who meet the qualifications. Certainly we can see from these that these are qualifications to become and elder.

The Bible does not directly say that after becoming an elder, any of the qualifications must be maintained. We have no Biblical examples of the removal or resignation of an elder.

It is frequently said of elder's children who leave home and then leave the church, that they are no longer his responsibility so he is not disqualified as an elder. This would mean that the only children that the elder is responsible for are the ones presently at home. Look at the other side of the question. Have you ever had a prospective elder who had faithful grown children away from home say he was not qualified because he did not have faithful children still at home. He is more than willing to recognize that they are still his children. The same would apply to children who died in the faith. They were blood relatives, and will remain the children of the prospective elder for all eternity.

Why would God allow you to take credit for children who remained faithful, but allow you

to wash you hands of children who did not remain faithful?

The children leaving the church is an area which a number of elders would not consider to make them unqualified to remain an elder. As a comparison, look at the other qualifications. Would you consider a person to still be qualified to be an elder if he:

1. Was no longer above reproach?
2. Married two wives at the same time?
3. Was no longer temperate?
4. Was no longer prudent?
5. Was no longer respectable?
6. Was no longer hospitable?
7. Would not teach?
8. Was addicted to wine?
9. Was contentious?
10. Was greedy for money?
11. Could not manage his own household?
12. Had a bad reputation outside the church?
13. Was rebellious?
14. Was self-willed?
15. Was quick to anger?
16. Did not hold fast the faithful word?

Can you honestly say that you would not howl with indignation if an elder was no longer within the bounds of these 16 other qualifications. Why would you overlook number 17? What kind of logic can you use to say that no. 17 is a special case for the church of Christ?

Surely, each of the qualifications to become an elder remain as qualifications to remain an elder. If an elder's life is in conflict with any of the 17 individual qualifications, he is no longer qualified to remain an elder in the Lord's church. If at any point in an elder's life he no longer has a plurality of faithful children, he is no longer qualified to be an elder.

Announcing a Dinner on the Ground you won't want to miss!

DINNER ON THE GROUND, a 304-page cookbook filled with recipes for delicious, mouth-watering dishes by Friends for CTCH is NOW READY. You need this wonderful book with 425 recipes of delectable dishes submitted by the best cooks across the country. Some of the recipes are new ones that will quickly become your favorites, and others are ones you'll recognize as those you've loved for years.

Friends for CTCH is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping provide for the needs of the children at Central Texas Children's Home.

DINNER ON THE GROUND sells for \$10.00 (including tax). Use the order form below to buy a copy for yourself and several friends. It will make a great gift for any occasion.

Please reserve _____ copies of *Dinner on the Ground* for me at the cost of \$10.00 per book (please add \$2.83 for postage and sales tax).

Name _____

Address _____

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My check for \$ _____ is enclosed. (Make checks payable to Friends for CTCH.)

Please charge my purchase of \$ _____ to my VISA MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

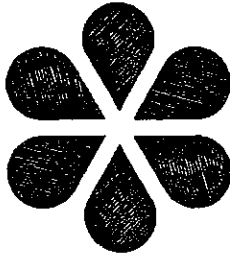


Return your completed
order form to:
FRIENDS FOR CTCH
P.O. BOX 502
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

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CHRISTIAN ARRAY

THE FLOCK



IT WORKS THIS WAY TOO!

* WE WANTED TO COMMUNICATE THE IDEA THAT CHURCHES CAN GROW BY HAVING LEADERS LEADING OR SHEPHERDING SMALL GROUPS. HOWEVER, WE COULD NOT DRAW A FIGURE WHICH DID NOT LOOK LIKE DIVIDING THE CHURCH INTO A BUNCH OF DENOMINATIONS. IF YOU CAN SUGGEST A FIGURE, WE WILL PRINT IT.

AREA WIDE EVENTS:

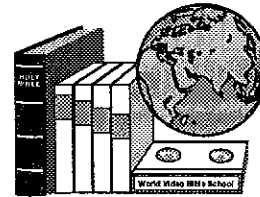
SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY
 Presentations of Christian education by Christian colleges
 11-24-91 @ 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Memorial, 900 Echo Lane, 464-0271

MEDINA CHILDREN'S HOME PICK-UP
 The Medina Children's Home truck will be in the greater Houston area on March 2-6, 1992 to pick up food and supplies for their children. If you would like to participate in the support of this program, call George Rose, 1-512-589-2871, or write to HCR 16, Box 75, Medina, Texas 78055-9615.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - \$100

This publication continues to make a standing offer of \$100.00 to the first person who can give any reason (1 or more) as to why atheistic evolution is a better explanation for the universe and/or life than creation by God; the father of Adam, Abraham, and Jesus; as revealed in the Bible.

Russian and Polish Language
 Personal Evangelism Courses
 are now available from WVBS



Walenty Dawidow, who was born in Russia and has preached the Gospel over thirty years, including many trips to Russia, recently taped a series of evangelism lessons in the Russian Language. His son Marek also filmed a series in the Polish Language. With Eastern Europe opening up, you now have a chance to be a part of saving souls in Russia and

Poland by sending these tapes containing the soul-saving Gospel of Christ. For more information or free catalog contact:

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