DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION



NUMBER 40 October, 2009

WHY I BELIEVE IN JEHOVAH

God certainly has the power to tap you on the shoulder and say "Here I am". However it is my conclusion that if anyone thinks this has happened to them, he or she is deluding himself or herself. If you are going to believe in God, it is going to involve faith rather than specific knowledge.

On the other hand, it doesn't have to be blind faith—there are reasons for faith in God.

All people who believe in God do so for a personal set of reasons. Accountants seem to believe in God because of the great order, lawyers believe because He is the great law giver, teachers because He is the great teacher, etc. This article is because He is the great engineer.

There are 2 stages in belief from an engineer's point of view:

- 1. Is there a God?
- 2. Is Jehovah that God?

First, Is there a God? It is abundantly clear that we are here because of supernatural forces. A supernatural force is a force outside the laws of nature—a god-like characteristic. When the children of Israel walked through the Red Sea—that was outside the laws of nature—a supernatural event—the sign of a god. I do not believe in God because the children of Israel walked through the Red Sea, I believe the children of Israel walked through the Red Sea because I believe in God.

There are many proofs of supernatural intelligence and supernatural intervention. Basically if evolution cannot explain it, it is proof of a supernatural being. A few of these point are:

- Stripes on a feather: See the next article in the newsletter for a discussion of the complex design in a simple feather.
- 2. Fingerprints: Much coding and design is require for fingerprints. There is no evolutionary mechanism or reason for fingerprints. It is mindboggling that God had the foresight to implement fingerprints so that we could distinguish individuals some 6000 years later. Makes you wonder what else He has done which we have not yet recognized.
- Senses: As will be discussed in coming issues each of the senses—hearing, sight, touch, taste, and smell are individually fantastic designs. Someone gave them all to us. It is naïve to presume that these are unquided acts of evolution.
- 4. That we violated the first law of thermodynamics and came into existence.
- That we violate the second law of thermodynamics and still exist.
- All ongoing articles in the "Impossible for Evolution" page of this newsletter address this point.

Second, which God?

If you have concluded that there is a God, you still need to identify the real God from all the claims of being a god.

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WHY I BELIEVE IN JEHOVAH

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ONLY CREDIBLE OPTION:

I have personally undertaken to try to look at other religions from an objective point of view and validate that Christianity is the proper place to be to locate the supernatural force. There is simply no other religion to compare to the Judeo-Christian religion. Most religions simply started out as a good idea by a wise person and morphed into a religion of good ideas over the centuries. If you want a religion which tells you where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going, Christianity is it.

JESUS: Jesus believed in Jehovah as is obvious throughout the New Testament. I believe in Jesus as discussed in last month's article, therefore I believe in Jehovah.

NOBODY WOULD MAKE THIS UP: Just like the last article on Jesus, the whole Biblical account is not something made up of human wisdom.

SCIENTIFIC REINFORCEMENTS:

Whereas the Bible is not a scientific text, there are several statements of science in the Bible which show knowledge which would not have been expected to be known by humans. Some examples of this are:

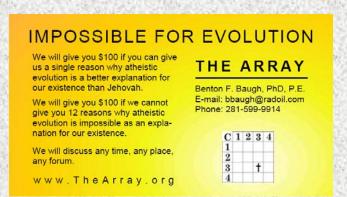
- Lack of contemporary myths. George Washington died of a contemporary myth that you could bleed disease out of a person. He was bled to death.
- "paths of the seas" in Psalm 8:8 and II Samuel 22:16 were disclosed in the Bible and confirmed by Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806—1873)
- "Singing of the stars" Job 38:7, confirmed by radio telescopes in our lifetime.
- 4. hangs the earth on nothing" Job 26:7. Not something you would expect someone to understand 3000 year ago.
- 5. "Springs of the sea" Job 38:16. In our lifetime it has been "discovered" that there are springs and geysers deep in the sea which support a strange variety of deepwater life. Job simply could not have known this on his own.

MONEY PAGE:

The primary intent of the Money Page of the newsletter is to communicate to our youth that God is real and that science is God's science. It is a one person campaign to counter the atheistic propaganda which our children (and adults) are exposed to.

Although that is the primary purpose, it has a second consequence. Every day that the challenges stand against the atheist who think they know everything, the more it demonstrates that they are wrong. The quickest way to find out if you are wrong is to tell someone else they are wrong. They will straighten you out in a heartbeat. "Impossible for evolution" is a direct statement that they are wrong. I am still waiting to be "straightened out".

At all times I carry personal business cards with the "Impossible for Evolution" challenge on them. The business card is shown below. If I meet an atheist, I immediately give them a card. I have passed out hundreds.



I still have my \$100.

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION: COLOR A FEATHER



We usually talk about what is impossible in this article, but this time we just want to talk about something difficult. I found the feather in the photograph above on my driveway. When I saw it I realized God was sending me a message.

The blue feather has graceful black arcs on it for only one reason—for God to tell us He is God. There is no evolutionary reason for feathers to have stripes. Blue birds survive quite well, as well as black birds.

Consider the planning and information it takes to go out the shaft of the feather 1.625" to the 104th barb, going out he 104th barb .225" and turning the blue coloration to black. After another .125" turn the black colorization back to blue.

Then go to the 105th barb and out .215" to start turning the blue colorization to black. After another .125" turn the black colorization back to blue. And so forth on every barb. Then do it for every feather and store all the information in the Bluebird's DNA. Do you believe this programming could be an accident?

These seem to be pleasant and valid statements. However, we want to provide some validation that this is true. Validation will be in the form of a challenge. A challenge not to make a feather, but rather to simply color one.

Remember that all programming for all parts of a bird are in the DNA which is in every cell in the bird, including every cell in this feather. The programming for the stripes in the feathers is in the DNA.

We are going to make a standing offer for \$100 to the first person who can simply write a Microsoft Excel cell to color the feather. It will be added to our Money Page until we give out the \$100. If we give out the \$100 because this is not impossible, we will be at least demonstrating how difficult the task is.

This is the challenge: Write an equation in cell A100 of an Excel Spreadsheet which will color the feather. The feather will start on the left end in cell A100 and end on the right end on cell AG100. If you accept this challenge, your entry into cell A100 will be copied to all cells from A1 to AG200 to produce the proper coloring pattern.

You are simply required to color the feather blue and put black stripes on it in accordance with the shape above. It is not required to produce the feather outline. It is acceptable if the stripes do not stop at the edge of the feather but rather go on to row 1 and row 100.

Just so you know, a Microsoft Excel cell such as A100 can only hold 256 characters, and that is likely not enough information to produce the feather pattern. The likely outcome of this is that this simplest of tasks for God is beyond the capacity of an Excel spread sheet.

You will be informed if anyone proves this wrong.

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Terrorist Groups Operating in Churches (Author unknown)

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in many of our churches. They have been identified as: Bin Sleepin, Bin Arguin, Bin Fightin, Bin Complainin, and Bin Missin. Their leader, Osama Bin Lucifer, trained these groups to destroy the Body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians and to work within the church to discourage, disrupt, and destroy.

However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the name Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along.

Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the Body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin, and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

Which cell group do you belong to?

And guess what.... no church is exempt!
However, you can spot them if you've "bin lookin".



Any More Ideas?



"Whatever we decide about the pastor's salary, let's keep in mind all those sermons last year on the simple lifestyle."



"Remember the good ol' days when we'd just give 'em a Gospel of John?"

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WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS NOT

A local group of Christians who believe that the Bible can be updated by contemporary council decisions.

A church which receives the permission from an earthly headquarters to plant a new congregation..

A church which attempts to duplicate a 19th or 20th century pattern for a church.

A church which believes you can pick and choose what part of the Bible you want to believe and follow only those parts.

A church which believes that we should judge that we are all in a community of believers as long as we say we believe in Jesus, irrespective of what we do and preach. A church which should assure all others that they are saved.

A group who makes decisions based on popularity rather than scriptural basis.

A group which simply skips over Acts 2:38.

A group which finds more convenient ways to simulate baptism.

A group which votes on what it suits them to believe and preach or a group which believes that they are still getting direct revelations from God.

WHAT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS

The church of Christ is a local group of Christians which try to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the first century pattern and teaching of the New Testament era at each location.

The church of Christ tries to reestablish the scriptural organization of the church at each location.

The church of Christ has members who believe they are following the scriptural teachings as best they can.

Church of Christ members believe that we should not judge others' eternal reward, but that it is not reasonable to give comfort to others who follow their own preferences rather than teachings of the Bible.

A non-instrumental body as instruments were available in the first century and not used, and not used for several centuries.

A group who teaches Acts 2:38.

A group which teaches baptism by immersion for the remission of sins as that is what is taught in the Bible.

A group which believes all revelation was given in the first century.



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MONEY PAGE

GUARANTEED CHURCH GROWTH

If your congregation does the following, BCE Publications guarantees that it will grow.

Poll your congregation three times at 6 months intervals with the following results:

- 50% of the members know who their elder is
- 50% of the members will say that a minister is their friend
- 50% of the members will say that they are uplifted by the song services
- 50% of the men will say that their input is considered before physical decisions are made
- 50% of the members will say they are an important part of the work
- 50% of the members will say they are aware of the goals of the congregation
- 50% of the members will say that they know what their part is in achieving your goals

GUARANTEE: For the first congregation which does this and does not grow by at least 10%, we will send \$1000 to the church related children's home of your choice in your name.

I have never met a person who said that if they did this their church would not grow. If your congregation is not growing, what have you got to lose? (Offer made since 2001)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION?

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the first law of thermodynamics and have come into existence without God.

We will offer \$100 to the first person who can explain how we could have violated the second law of thermodynamics and have existed forever without God. (Offer first posted 8/08)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

This publication continues (since 1991) to make a standing offer of \$100 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.

We will also give you \$100 if we cannot give you 12 reasons why atheistic evolution is impossible as an explanation for our existence.

We will discuss this any place, any time, and in any forum.

(Offer posed since June, 1991)

RUN AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT: We will offer \$100 to the first person who can refute the logic that a person can in fact run at the speed of light as presented in the Sept. 2009 issue of this newsletter.

COLOR A FEATHER IN EXCEL: We will offer \$100 to the first person who can color a feather in Microsoft Excel as presented in the October 2009 issue of this newsletter.

THE MONEY PAGE: This page may seem odd, even irreverent to offer money for something like this. It is 3 simple statements on church growth, that we cannot be here without God, and evolution is not possible. The steadfastness of putting money on the line for this is to try to be of assistance against those who would discourage church growth, believe in atheism, or promote



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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

AREA WIDE WORSHIP SERVICE

Fifth Ward Church of Christ and Memorial Church of Christ have been exchanging annual visits to each other's congregations for Sunday evening services. It is an activity well received by all members, and has included a meal prepared by the hosting congregation.

Discussions are underway between the congregations to sponsor an AREA WIDE WORSHIP SER-VICE, potentially once a quarter. A possible venue could be the 5000 seat Don Coleman Basketball stadium on Dairy Ashford in west Houston. Hosting a meal is probably not practical. If you have ideas on how to implement this, want to help implement this, would like to attend, or have other comments, send to info@thearray.org and we will forward them to those having the discussions.

YAHOO GROUP

HoustonCofC is a Yahoo group hosted by Steve Sandifer [steve.sandifer@sbcglobal.net] for the purpose of communicating Houston area news among the brethren. It is open to any member of the church at no cost.

The Christian Array Newsletter

This newsletter will be sent to members of the church on a monthly basis as an attempt to promote area wide activities and church growth. If you do not want to receive this newsletter, send an e-mail to info@thearray.org and it will be stopped.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, send their e-mail addresses to info@thearray.org. All past copies of the newsletter can be found on the website "thearray.org".

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A goal of this newsletter is to develop a mailing list of as many members of the church as possible and to communicate church related information to as many members as possible. In that light, we would appreciate:

- 1. Your forwarding the church member e-mail addresses which you have.
- 2. Sending the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have.
- 3. Give us an idea of how to collect church member e-mail addresses.

This information will not be sold or used for any purpose not mentioned herein.

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