

## A CHURCH GROWTH SURVEY YOU WILL LIKE

Many surveys are irritating because they ask questions and then grade you based on their perceptions. We have attached a survey to this newsletter which lets you set your own criteria, it just helps you do the math.

The method is to compare your present attendance with the attendance in some past year. It simply lets you say what you think is reasonable for various individuals to do and the compares the two.

As surveys can be complex if they consider every variable, some items are presumed, including:

1. Attendees are born at the same rate at which they die.
2. If a large portion of your population (i.e. 50%) moves out and your congregation attendance shrinks by 50%, it would be considered a 0% growth rate rather than a negative growth rate. In like manner, if your service area grows by 2% and your attendance goes up by 2%, it would be considered a 0% growth rate, simply swelling.
3. Number of ministers, elders, and deacons remains constant.

That being said, you fill out 10 cells with objective numbers and four cells with your personal opinion. Your personal opinion will be regarding the reasonable performance of your elders, ministers, deacons, and members. Your estimate of reasonable conversion rates per year are displayed as years between conversions at

This means that if you put 0.1 in as a reasonable conversions per year rate by a member it will be displayed as one conversion for every 10 years. You may consider that for the average member to convert one person every 10 years is too much to ask, or shows an inadequate commitment. It is your choice.

For simplicity the survey is annotated as if an elder were taking the survey based on the congregation's performance while he was an elder. It can be similarly used for the performance of the congregation for any period of time, for a minister's tenure, or a deacon's tenure.

During the present time when we are seeing no church growth on average, it is probably good to take a look at ourselves and see what we should be doing to do our part in the Great Commission.

The attached survey is duplicated on a second tab in case the first one has problems. If you need additional copies, e-mail to the address on the last page and we will send you an additional digital copy.

You may like the fact that this survey lets you input your own criteria, however, if you represent an average congregation and have any expectation of evangelism, you will not like what the survey says. The survey is simply a way to quantify that we are not succeeding. If you do not think the survey is reasonable, respond and we will print your comments. If you have a better survey, send it and we will print it. We must do our part to spread the Gospel during our generation.

## IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - WIND ENERGY?

Last issue we presented the complexity of coloring a feather which was not impossible, but simply difficult. There have been no takers on it.

The month before that we suggested that you could run faster than the speed of light. This is and was pure heresy for the believers in the religion of Relativity. A clear opportunity for them to bury us and get \$100. Since then we have endeavored to get the term "Speed of Light" as a paid search word on the side of the Google page. It seems to offend Google and they will not post it there, but we have still gotten more than 200 Hits on the term. You would presume that a majority of these hits would come from believers in the religion of Relativity. Still no challenges for the \$100.

The "Run Faster than the Speed of Light" is posted on the website "thearray.org" along with a new article titled "Wind Power Blade Efficiency Upgrade". Each of these are in a separate column on the right side of the page titled "SCIENCE".

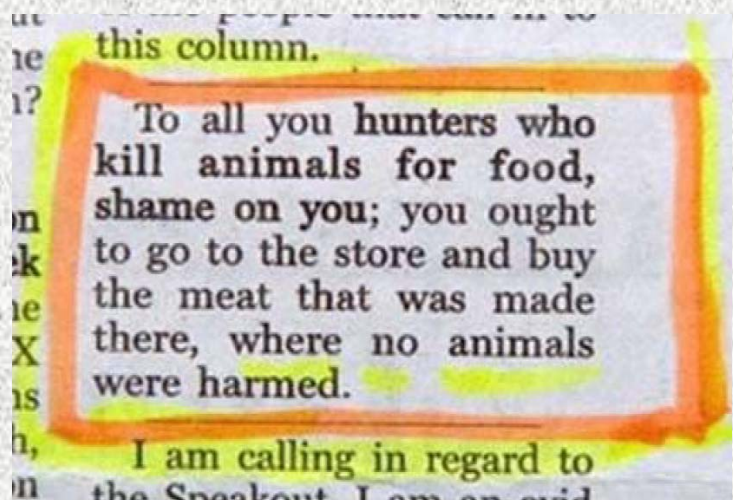
The bottom line to the "Wind Power Blade Efficiency Upgrade" paper is that wind farms appear to be so marginal that they depend on government subsidies, but if the experts would put 4 times as many blades on the wind turbines they would be 4 times as efficient. From marginal to four times as efficient should mean highly economic. Why wouldn't experts do that? The paper even goes so far as to demonstrate that a child's pinwheel is as much as 40 times as efficient as professionally designed blades.

The reason for putting this here is that it demonstrates what frequently happens. I have been preaching the blade upgrades for at least 16 years. I have preached to individuals as influential as the Chair of the ASME Wind Energy Division. It has never been suggested that I was wrong. Mostly I have gotten blank stares from individuals who continued to represent themselves as experts in the field, using 3 bladed wind farms.

The addition of blades to a wind turbine is so simple that even the smallest child can understand it. Every farmer knows it. The herd mentality of the experts seems to not allow the educated people recognize it.

Evolution and the Theory of Relativity are somewhat more complex to consider, but have a lot in common with the wind turbine blades. Many seem convinced because others seem convinced. Others remain convinced because the first ones seemed convinced. It is circular support or reasoning which is nothing short of a form of religion.

From a San Francisco newspaper:



No explanation is needed.

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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.

A group who believes we are here to entertain ourselves.

**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.

A group which believes we are responsibility to take the Gospel to the world.

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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 September 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 atheistic evolution.

The page is intended to be a continuing reinforcement.

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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 SERVICE, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

The Christian Array is dedicated to support the sustained scriptural growth of the churches of Christ. It is published by BCE Publications, a 501(c)(3) organization with Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. as editor. BCE is solely responsible for the content. Any announcements, requests for publication, or comments should be e-mailed to [info@thearray.org](mailto:info@thearray.org).