

DEFAULT MODE?

As we continue year after year in a church, we seem to go in a default mode. A particular congregation has a prayer, 2 songs, a prayer, communion, contribution, 1 song, sermon, etc. We become so acclimated that if someone were to suggest communion after the sermon, fights could break out in the aisles. Surely the second chapter of Jude or someplace says communion must be before the sermon.

If you go to church for 60 years and attend Bible class, Sunday morning worship, Sunday evening worship, and Wednesday night worship—you will have attended $60 \times 52 \times 4 = 12,480$ sessions. It is truly a tribute to the Bible and God that we could ask a person attend 12,480 hour long sessions and have an expectation that they will do it. Clearly God has put in us a tendency to worship or something.

Question is that if God has put in us a tendency to worship and we stage 12,480 1 hour sessions in a 'default mode', are we abusing the tendency to worship which God has put in our members?

Don't take me for a change agent liberal. In fact I heard a sermon last week where the preacher was proud that his church had been identified as the church who helped people. He went on to say that we still suffer under the reputation that we think we are the only ones who will be saved. It was difficult for me to not raise my hand and ask which denominations he was suggesting we could send prospects to and recommend that they would be saved there.

This means to me that not only are we in the default mode, but have also marginalized Biblical teachings so that we don't offend anyone.

That being said, we need to change. We need to change from a church which considers Christianity sitting in a pew and listening to someone talk (again) to a church which is characterized by doing acts of Christianity. How benefited will we be to hear repeat lesson 12, 481?

Imagine how different it would be that instead of one more Wednesday night service we open the church up to keep children during a local school parent/teacher night (even if it was Thursday). Imagine if we were to spend Sunday nights having a worship service at a local nursing home serving others.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - DEFENCE THEREOF

Occasionally I see someone promoting evolution and give them one of my yellow cards with the \$100 challenge to atheist. In July I saw a car with the fish with feet sign on the back at a red light. I tapped on his window and gave Mike a card. We have had the following e-mail communications. I have done them in reverse order for an e-mail trail to make it more readable.

From: Mike
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 6:35 PM
To: bbaugh@thearray.org
Subject: Your card

Good evening;

Some guy handed me your card while at a stop light today.
Is this a joke? You all will not pay anyone \$100 so don't lie.

Evolution is not a better explanation then your god....it is the truth.

of course it would be wonderful to imagine that some magic guy in the sky loves us and controls everything.....Pink unicorns that poop candy would also be wonderful...but sadly they are both fairy tales.

I searched for God for 30 years, and found nothing. I found the Buddha and science and realized what was true: Buddhism and Science are truth...God is a silly myth.

by the way, it has already been 100% proven that Jesus was a myth based on previous god-men who in turn were based on the Sun.

Evolution is a scientific Fact.

Try reading Charles Darwin's Book "On the Origin of Species" and it will give you 1000s of reasons why Evolution is a Fact and Creation is a fairy tale.

Don't be mad...you can keep your cute little fairy tale if you want...I prefer reality.

Regards

Mike

From: Benton Baugh <bbaugh@thearray.org>
Subject: RE: Your card
To: "Mike"
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2010, 12:09 AM

My only question is whether I need to raise the offer to \$1000 because I cannot get any atheist to take the challenge. I have made the offer repeated to every atheist I have found since June 1991. The only reason I have not raised the offer is that it is not simply about money.

You are mistaken that evolution is a scientific fact. It is only a theory.

My challenge is simple. If evolution is a fact, it should be easy to collect \$100. If "On the Origin of Species" is as you represent (and it is not), it should be really easy to collect the \$100.

If you don't think I am a credible person, Google me.

Regards,

Benton



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - DEFENCE THEREOF, P. 2

From: Mike
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 6:04 PM
To: Benton Baugh
Subject: RE: Your card

You are a fool and a liar. If you asked any Atheist you would have given out thousands of dollars..... Evolution is a FACT. Creation has been proven a silly myth.

Why do you fools hold on to your fairy tales so strongly????

My answer is science...science has proven Evolution to be a fact...

You do not pay the money to any atheists because you are a brainless loser and a fool.

Please do not respond to me...unless you are going to give me my \$100.

Bite me loser!!

(Not signed)

From: Benton Baugh
[mailto:bbaugh@thearray.org]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2010 10:03 PM
To: 'Mike'
Subject: RE: Your card

You have now called me a fool, a liar, one who holds onto fairy tales, a brainless fool, and have called creation a silly myth. In my experience, the tactic of intimidation and abuse is characteristic of those who defend evolution as a fact, so at least I am not surprised.

You have again erroneously stated that evolution (as in creation of species) is a fact.

What you haven't done is offer a single proof.

I have \$100 ready when you provide a single fact.

Regards,

Benton

From: Benton Baugh
[mailto:bbaugh@thearray.org]
Sent: Sunday, Sept 12, 2010 3:30 PM
To: 'Mike'
Subject: RE: Your card

You have not replied to this e-mail. Can I presume you are not going to?

Regards,

Benton F. Baugh
19210 Cohen Green Lane
Houston, Texas 77094
Home 281-599-9914
Cell 713-419-8683

 Please print this e-mail only if necessary



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - DEFENCE THEREOF, P. 3

Mike had a nice car and I am sure he is a nice person, although I have never met him. In his first e-mail he was pleasant enough, although somewhat condescending. He makes the standard statement that atheistic evolution is a fact, apparently unaware that it can only be a predominantly held theory. It can never become a scientific fact as what happened historically is not scientifically testable.

When I didn't accept what was obvious to him, his second e-mail is plainly belligerent. Still preaching that atheistic evolution is a fact but offering no proof. What I typically understand from this is that he is probably surrounded by people of similar beliefs who reinforce his beliefs to the point that it is hard for him to understand how anyone could believe anything else.

We all do some of this.

We have some congregations who don't believe it is right to have a kitchen in a church building. They go to church with people who similarly believe that church buildings should not have kitchens in them and are reinforced in that teaching. After a while, it is hard for them to see how anyone could believe anything else. They are absolutely sincere on an item to which most of us wouldn't give a moment's consideration.

Lest you get too condescending, think of the things which you do today that 20 or 30 years ago you were sure were wrong. I am not talking about changing the gospel, I am talking about changing customs. Customs which seemed scriptural at the time.

Some changes in customs I have seen which caused a stirring have been:

1. Communion before the sermon instead of after.
2. Communion served from the back of the auditorium instead of from the front
3. Sunday evening church on Sunday afternoon to accommodate a football game.
4. Stopping preaching that a social drink is a sin
5. Allowing clapping in the worship service, specifically after a baptism
6. Women wearing pants
7. Men not wearing suits to Sunday morning service

Some of these seem silly after the new custom is established, but have been real issues.

I am simply listing things I have seen which are custom and not a scriptural matter, although some would have been argued with the scriptures at the time. I am not talking about scriptural matters like bringing instruments of music into the worship or having women taking leadership roles.

"Mike" is now on the mailing list and will receive this newsletter. If he wants to comment further, I will include it in further issues.



Houston Area Churches of Christ Welcome You!

For directory
www.houstonchurchesofChrist.org

Brothers in Christ,

How much do you think it would cost to advertise on 10 highway billboards in the Greater Houston Area? Try \$20,000 - \$40,000 a month. One billboard costs \$3000 - \$8000, depending on the location.

What if we could advertise on 10 billboards for \$1000, \$500, or even as low as \$250 a month?

Impossible! You might say. Not so! The answer is really quite simple, **NUMBERS & UNITY.**

There are over one hundred Churches of Christ in the greater Houston area. If every church contributed to the effort, we could expose our message to over 27 million views (looks) a month for \$250 a month. Wow! Have we ever unified and made a bold statement to the city of Houston that the Lord's church is alive and well? You know the answer, don't you? Everyone else is making statements. We have the truth. Let's make a statement, a **BOLD** statement. We are God's vehicle to save the world.

What can we accomplish with a Billboard Campaign?

- Revive our members
- Give positive exposure to Churches of Christ
- Attract non-members
- Drive traffic to our websites
- Create more opportunities for conversations about Christ and his church
- Bring more unity & fellowship to our brotherhood
- Save Souls

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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Proposal:

Though 100% participation is ideal, 50 % participation would be fabulous.

100 churches - \$250 month for 4 months

50 churches - \$500 month for 4 months

30 churches - \$850 month for 4 months

25 churches - \$1000 month for 4 months

20 churches - \$1250 month for 4 months

- Every church of Christ in the Greater Houston area will be listed on the directory (www.houstonchurchesofChrist.org) with a link to your church website.
- The billboards will be located on major highways (59 north & south, 45 north & south, I-10 east and west, 290, Beltway 8, 610 loop, 225), and would rotate to new high traffic locations every 60 days.
- The pricing requires a four month commitment.

We are aware that the timing of this proposal may not be favorable for some. Please pray that God will bless our efforts. We want to avoid debating the merits of the proposal at this time, and if you choose not to participate, we fully understand. If we do not receive at least a 25% commitment of participation from all of the churches, we will not move forward.

With 25% or more participation, we will include **all** of the Greater Houston Area Churches of Christ in the directory unless exclusion is requested.

Who is the originator of this idea?

Brothers in Christ concerned about the Church of Christ, with no hidden agendas or financial motivation.

Questions may be directed to:

Gary Smith – Fifth Ward Church of Christ , 713-762-2654, garysmithdiscovery@yahoo.com

David Duncan – Memorial Church of Christ, 713-464-0271, dduncan@mcoc.org

John Tillman Jr. - Garden Oaks Church of Christ, call and get info to put in here.

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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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 responsible to take the Gospel to the world.

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.