

AREA WIDE EVENTS

There are few things which can reinforce and uplift brethren in the greater Houston area than participation in area wide events.

The church of Christ congregations are fiercely autonomous—as they should be according to the scriptures. We have a variety of opinions as to whether we should jointly support missionaries. Indeed a consideration for the split with the Christian Church in the first part of the 20th century was over missionary societies, although we mostly associate the split with instrumental music.

In a large city like Houston, this autonomy can make church of Christ congregations feel like isolated islands. Our tendency to not fellowship some congregations with divergent positions exacerbates the problem. Some of the dividing topics with no particular Biblical basis are Bible classes, kitchens in church building, and race.

We have a common fellowship and should have some fraternity with our brethren and sisters in the area. This must be accomplished while respecting the autonomy of individual congregations.

Voluntary cooperation in area wide events can do a part of filling this need.

When you saw some of the billboards that some of our congregations jointly sponsored, didn't it make you feel better?

Houston Area
Churches of Christ
Welcome You!
www.HoustonChurchesofChrist.org

Only a portion of our congregations actually supported the billboards this year, but all congregations benefited from the exposure. One of the larger local congregations had flat attendance levels the entire year before the billboards, and increased 10% in attendance during the display of the billboards. They could not say for sure that the billboards were the reason, but they could identify no other reasons for the sudden increase.

The predominantly black brethren had an outstanding area wide meeting at the George Brown Convention Center last summer which should be an example to everyone. Even their ads on the back of taxis reminded everyone that the churches of Christ exist.



March this year we had an area wide men's retreat at Trinity Pines Conference Center on Lake Livingston. The best example of the success of this event was that at the end of the event a list was passed around for volunteers to be the organizing committee for the 2012 event. Twenty five percent of the attendees volunteered to work on the 2012 committee.

Having seen a number of volunteer events, this is a truly an impressive volunteer percentage.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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AREA WIDE EVENTS P2

This leads us to the **rest of the story**. During the Area Wide Men's Retreat Gary Smith, pulpit minister of the 5th Ward Congregation suggested we have an **Area Wide Day of Good Works**. He suggested we rent Delmar Stadium (The HISD Football and Basketball facility near 290 and 610) and simply do good things.



Those in need could register at a local congregation for a service and simply show up on a given Saturday to receive it. Examples were Diabetes testing, clothing, diapers, eye exam, oil change, simple will, 1040EZ tax preparation, computer instruction, marriage counseling, and financial counseling. In large part we would be combining available volunteer services with community needs.

After explaining the program concept, the men at the area wide retreat were asked to volunteer to be on a committee to make this program a reality.

It was stated above that a 25% volunteer rate for the retreat next year was impressive. This event had a volunteer rate of over 90%. It was a qualified audience in that all the men were interested enough in the church to be at a retreat, however, the volunteer rate is still outstanding.

This picture is of the basketball area at the Delmar facility. Just imagine the basket ball floor is filled with tables providing services. Sections of the seats can be utilized for providing services, along with the areas under the bleachers.

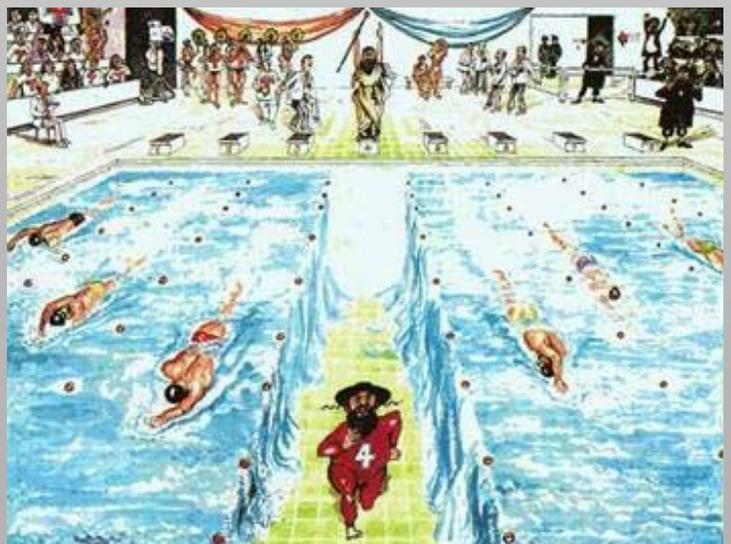
Similarly the areas under the football stadium seats can be used for services suitable for being outside.

This is just an idea at the present time, but there is



a sizeable group of our brothers committed to make it happen. If you would like to join the effort you can contact Gary Smith at 5th Ward directly, or respond to this e-mail and your name will be forwarded to him. His e-mail address is garysmith-discovery@yahoo.com.

One way or the other please pray for the success of this event.



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - HEBREWS 11:3

Heb 11:3 “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” Originally understood to mean from nothing – an adequate explanation when the words were written so it was not nonsense. In the 17th century, bacteria was seen under a microscope, from plaque around teeth. They were too small to naturally see, but we could “see” them with a microscope. In the 19th century we discovered atoms—things which exist but are too small to see at all. The prophecy still fit the situation and so it made sense.

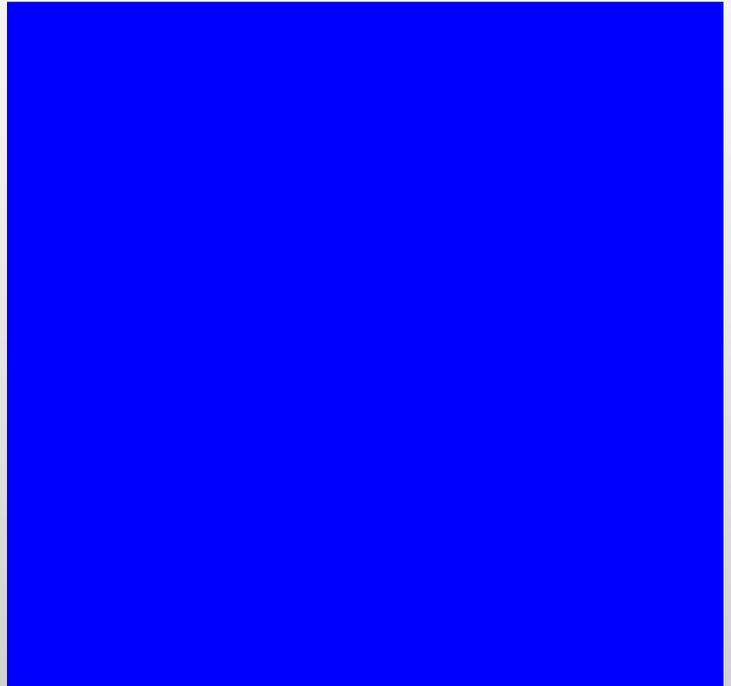
In our lifetimes (some of us) we have learned that in fact atoms are so small that they are smaller than the height of a light wave. Atoms are made of quarks, mesons, and the like. This means that it is literally impossible to see.

What this means is that God knew all the time.

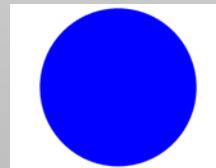
How to visualize this is difficult, as you can't see it. There was an assistance to visualizing this in a recent Southwest Airlines magazine. First, look at the next page and see if the pixelated picture means anything to you. It is 19 rows by 13 columns, or 247 pixels. Your TV screen or a normal digital photograph is thousands of pixels to give you a quality image. If you can't actually tell what the 247 pixels are telling you, get about 30 feet from your computer screen or from a print of the page and you will see who it is. If you don't know who it is then, ask any pre-teen and they will tell you.

That you can tell more from an image of 247 pixel from 30 feet than you can tell up close is very interesting, but not the present topic. The present topic is that functionally we see through the equivalent of thousands of pixels, and in some circumstances we can make sense of 247 pixels.

The present question is how much information you can get from 1 pixel, or potentially even less than 1 pixel. For illustration, consider the following to be one pixel such as one of the 247 on the following page, but the smallest possible and blown up to a large scale.



Pixels are by definition a single color and of a standard shape. Now consider the following to be the size of an atom relative to our single pixel.



The atom is smaller than a single pixel, or in other words smaller than the smallest light wave length height. Possibly the screen pixel shown is actually showing a hundred atoms. You simply don't know and have no means to know. We simply don't have any way to see it.

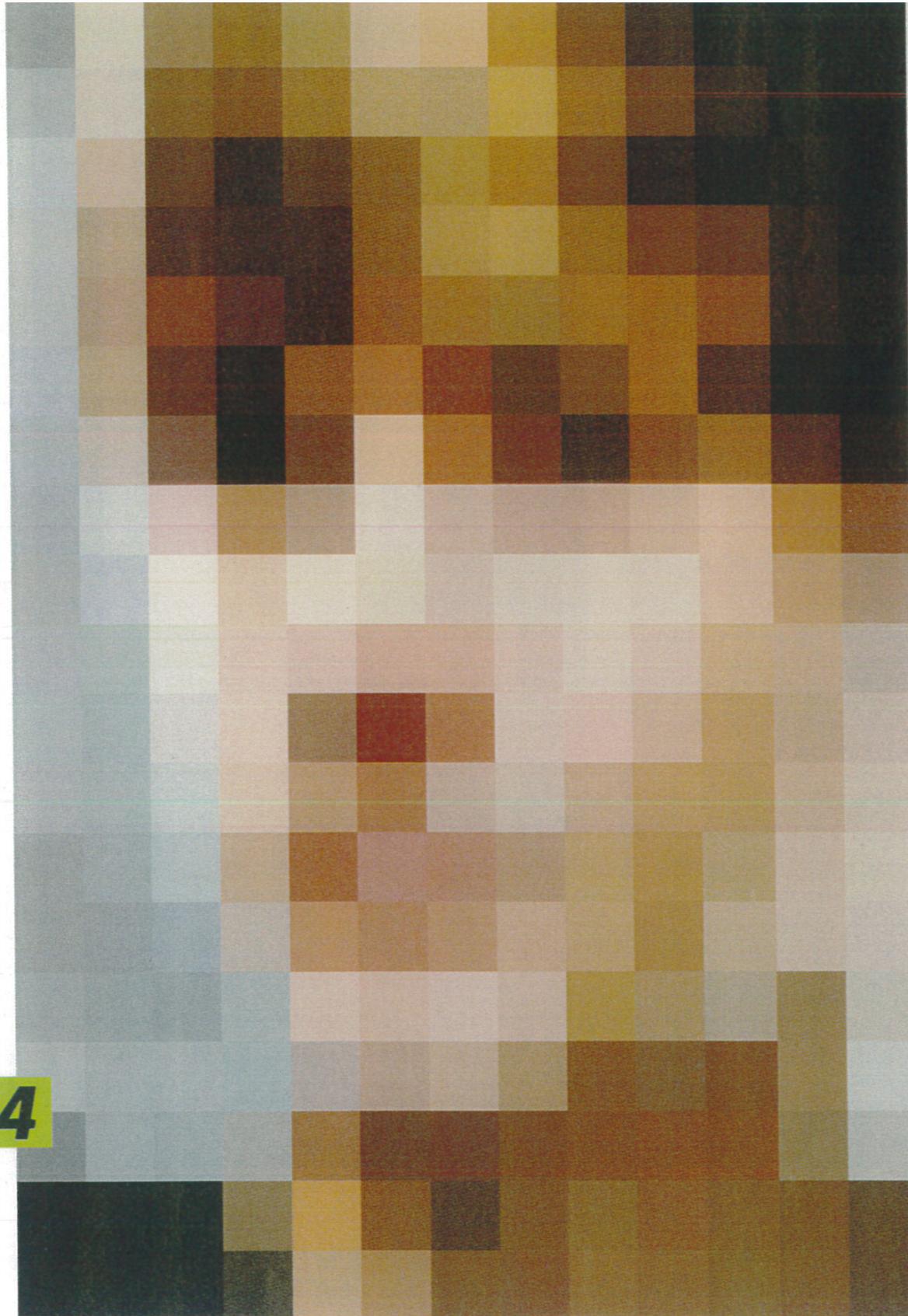
God did know. He told us in Heb. 11:3.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION! - HEBREWS 11:3, PAGE 2



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“Behold”!

***Ministers will be involved in
Counseling!***

***How you can assist couples
with their marriages!***

***How can you turn your
counseling efforts into
evangelistic studies!***

Tried! Proven! Effective!

***A Workshop, April 8-9, 2011
West University Church of
Christ
3407 Bissonnet St. Houston***

***Kirk H. Castleman, Evangelist, Counselor, Chaplain
19410 Gladewater Dr. Tomball, Texas 77375-7797
832-458-4470, kirk.castleman@gmail.com***

***Friday, April 8, 7-9 PM, Get Acquainted, M-B, T-JTA, Other tools
Saturday, April 9, 9 AM-3 PM, Prepare/Enrich: Certification***

Employment Opportunities Campus Minister

Arms of Hope – Boles Campus is seeking a youth and family minister who has a passion for serving at risk youth and families. At Arms of Hope, we have a unique opportunity to serve youth and single mothers who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and need spiritual leadership to bring them to Christ and guide them to a path of spiritual growth and wellness. We seek to nurture these youth and families educationally, emotionally and spiritually so they can develop and prosper. This key position will encourage and develop relationships with local congregation and coordinate activities with other ministries. This opportunity offers a competitive salary in addition to health insurance, a retirement plan, and vacation/leave time. Learn more about us at ArmsofHope.org or contact Ms. Allen Williams at lawilliams@armsofhope.org for more information.

AREA WIDE MEN'S RETREAT A HIT!

The Houston Area Wide Men's Retreat held at Trinity Pines conference Center on Lake Livingston was a hit with all attendees. Fifth Ward minister Gary Smith and Memorial minister David Duncan provided inspirational talks on Equipping the Saints and Wade Price coordinated outstanding singing.

Gary Smith challenged the attendees to start a "Day of Good Works" in 2012 to bring the Houston area churches of Christ together . Over 90% of the attendees volunteered to help organize that work.

Probably the best indication of success and interest is that the following 15 brothers volunteered to be on the organizing committee for 2012 retreat: Cleveland Joseph, Leo Johnnhy, Ed Redeaux, Herman Brown, Bencil Smith, Steve Matthews, John Melson, Gabriel Torrence, Wade Price, Gary Smith, William Hamilton, Larry Selvey, Jr., Larry Hamilton, Randy Shelby, and Benton Baugh.

SPRING BRANCH CHURCH OF CHRIST

Spring Branch had a dedication of their new facility at 5300 Hammerly last Sunday. It is about 1 block east of Blalock. They have Spanish, English, and Korean services

Bible Class is at 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship is at 10:00 a.m.
Evening Worship is at 6 p.m.

For more information contact Jim Culpepper at
jim@culpepperlaw.com

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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.

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.*

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

- 4/8-4/9** Counseling Workshop, West University, Kirk Castleman, 832-458-4470 or kirk.castleman@gmail.com
- 4/8-4/10** Speaking Where the Bible Speaks, Alan Highers, Katy Church of Christ, www.katychurchofchrist.com
- 5/17/11** Foster Home For Children Golf Tournament at Blackhorse, contact bbaugh@thearray.org
- 6/20/11** Arms of Hope Golf Tournament, Woodlands Country Club, Kevin McDonald [kmcdonald@armsofhope.com]
More information at: <https://aofh.siteblox.com/pages/events/item/2VMU27XGO6Q6/>.
- 2nd Tues.** Preacher's Luncheon at Golden Island Buffet, 901 N. Shepherd, confirm with Dale Foster at dalefost@gmail.com
- December Annual Sacred Harp Singing**

Texas Mentoring is recruiting for Foster Parents, in interested contact Victoria @ 713-432-0827

The Houston Area Wide Church of Christ Chorus

This outstanding chorus is considering expanding their performances to additional venues. If you have an event appropriate to a choral presentation, e-mail Wade Price at wprice@eprod.com for more information.

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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