

BOUND & DETERMINED?

In May 2011 when The Christian Chronicle published a glowing article about a new book, **Bound and Determined**, by Jeanene Reese it went to the top of the reading list. Having had heard second handedly that she was encouraging some women in the church to become preachers, it was of serious interest.

The entire article is posted on the website for your review. The article was written by Craig Cottongim who preaches for the Northeast Church of Christ in Kingsport, Tenn.

Some of his comments are:

“Reese wisely avoids a narrow-minded proof-text tactic.”

“Instead, she aims for a holistic moral, ethical and biblical-based view of how both sexes should view each other.”

“Reese’s thesis simply is this: Women and men are created equally in God’s image.”

“Here is a sample of what she sees in the New Testament: Women served as teachers, apostles, deaconesses, patronesses, prophets, evangelist, worship leaders and ministering widows.”

Reading the book pretty much confirms what Mr. Cottongim says in his review.

In case anyone is unaware, the approach of this publication tends toward the narrow-minded following of what the Bible says approach. In the following all text in blue will be direct quotations from the book. Text in red will be comments of this newsletter.

In reading the book, a new term is used which is important to the message. It is **Godly partnership**—first noted on page 32. Not exactly defined but is a basic theme of the book. A term not found in the Bible. Generally means a new and improved mutual cooperation of men and women on an equal basis to replace the Biblical instructions. Rather than arguing the merits of following Biblical instructions, Jeanene Reese simply defines a new term and preaches the merits of it. She defines that anything you do in conflict with her new term is a sin.

P. 32 “The question faced by men and women, then and now, is whether they chose (or will chose) to accept the model of **godly partnership** or continue sinning against God and one another?” **Our present organizational structure is a sin.**

P. 38 “Women served as teachers, apostles, deaconesses, patronesses, prophets, evangelist, worship leaders and ministering widows.” **Did a word search on worship leaders and didn’t find it.**

P. 40 “On behalf of women Jesus acted as the model human standing against the patriarchal system, bringing women into the new order where sex distinctions no longer determine rank and worth”.

P. 43 “Although discussions on women’s roles in worship and ministry are significant and should be conducted within the church, attention should also focus on how women and men might serve together as co-workers in **godly partnerships**. Scripture is full of such

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relationships, and it is clear that they were intended to be the norm of our life in the Lord.”

Discussion changed from ministry to Godly partnerships.

P. 52 “We must call each other to high standards of faithfulness as we develop principles that guide godly partnership.

Most of these principles can and should be derived from theological reflection on Scripture through examination of our many partnerships and how they function according to God’s intention, and through the witness of great men and women of faith who have served and worked together in the past. The temptation at this point is to move immediately toward discussing the principles and characteristics that are necessary for **godly partnership** to be formed and sustained. But something else must happen prior to the development of these principles.**repentance.**”

P. 54 “Women in our society do feel much freer to put men down and are quite intolerant of the reverse.”

P. 54 Faithful women who desire to grow in their partnerships with men should repent of the disrespect so often displayed toward men because they don’t think, act, and feel like women.”

P 64 “Churches in which masculine language and images are used exclusively also contribute to a sense of male entitlement that is simply unacceptable among Christian brothers and sisters.” **Somebody needs to tell Paul, and God.**

P 66. “The assumptions that many Christian men make in this regard are actually antithetical to biblical teaching. One such assumption is that all men hold positions of authority over all women.”

P. 66 “Christ’s headship of the church is not exhibited by the making of decisions about the well-being of the bride.....**In many ways, the reference to Christ’s sacrifice means that as the head, Jesus assumes an even more surrendered position than the church.**”

P. 66 “This understanding of male headship not only disallows male dominance, which is as damaging to men as it is to women, but it promotes the development of healthy partnerships of all kinds.”

Add the past 2 comments together and you get women as superior to male leadership and Christ’s headship.

P. 70 “In the world, and **unfortunately** sometimes in the church, men have historically wielded the most power.”

P. 70 “Christian men have nothing to fear in embracing the God-empowered, gifted, and called leadership of women.”

P. 72 “But this one single event and the message God spoke through me that day also serious altered how I think about partnership and how I try to live it out daily.” **She doesn’t need to be concerned about what the Bible says, God gives her personal revelations today.**

P. 83 “If, however, we see the overarching purpose of working with those who are different from us as an opportunity to grow more in love with God and with each other, we have found **our true center.**” **True center is found in the second chapter of Jude.**

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P. 93 “Just 2 years ago I was asked to speak on the ‘gravity of grace’ in chapel at my university.” Means that women lead in worship service at ACU.

P. 100 “From the moment we joined that congregation we were welcomed as valued colleagues and gifted ministers. We were only part time, and **I was among the first women to be hired as a minister,**” Any question about her intent now?

P 107: “If I primarily see **culture** as an enemy to be avoided, changed, or manipulated, then it would not be surprising that I reject current trends of how women and men interact with one another. Christians who choose these responses often hold to more hierarchical, patriarchal views of gender relationships. Men hold public, leadership positions and women do not, though they are often respected and appreciated in different ways.”

P 108 “**If I assume a more amenable response toward culture,** seeing it as something to be appreciated, even embraced, then I am freer to adopt a broader view of how men and women work together. In today’s democratic society in the United States, it is not surprising that our culture makes equality a high priority. If we adopt this viewpoint, men and women are able to function in any role with the church without discrimination.”

P. 108 “Neither does careful exegesis of relevant passages in Scripture lead to clearcut understanding about gender roles.” Most of Christendom doesn’t think Acts 2:38 is clear either.

MARRIAGE:

A discussion of marriage starts as chapter 5 on page 123. Jeanene Reese does not say what is right and wrong. She primarily says that some people disagree with some things, implying that some people agree with it, implying that it is simply a matter of choice.

P 125 “And too often, we portray marriage as the only appropriate, God-sanctioned partnership between men and women.” Doesn’t list the other options.

P 126 “common law marriage. While most Christians would find this view of relationship unpalatable, it is not without influence among us. She doesn’t imply it is wrong, just that some of us find it unpalatable.

P 139 “What we *were* able to tell him was that the word for obedience is not applied in Scripture to the marriage relationship except once.”

CONCLUSION—HER’S AND OURS

P 162 “Conclusion: These past several years, I have longed to be released from a directive from God to do this work.”

Seems to be saying that she is doing the direct will of God, so who are we to object to whatever she says. As it is contemporary revelation, it should replace whatever the New Testament says so we have no way to question it. To claim such a position leaves only 2 choices. She is 100% right or 100% wrong.

Her book is available on Amazon.com so you can see if any quotation is taken out of context.

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If you do not think the move to enfranchise women to preach in the Churches of Christ is moving forward, the following is the Women In Ministry Sub-Track at the ACU lectureship from September 18-21, 2011 should be of interest to you:

DATING JESUS

The Role of Women in the Church

Monday, 9-9:45 a.m. and 4-4:45

Susan Campbell

How long will women be expected to keep silent in the assembly? And to what end is that accomplished? We look at the role of women in the early church, Jesus' egalitarian attitude, and what it means for us today.

REMOVING THE GLASS CEILING

Nurturing the Voices of Women

Monday, 10-10:45 a.m.

Kathy Pulley

Considering the challenges facing the 21st century church, the church must discuss the current transitions regarding women's roles. Might the greater inclusion of women enhance the spiritual climate of churches? Is the church ready to know down the glass ceiling?

ENCOURAGED OR ECLIPSED?

School-Aged Girls' Experience of Gender Roles in Church Settings

Wednesday 10-10:45 a.m.

Cherisse Flanagan, Stephen Johnson

Girls attending gender exclusive congregations receive mixed messages about the role of females. This class reveals the dreams and disappointments of school-aged girls as they reflect on gender roles in church, at school and in culture.

BOUND AND DETERMINED

Christian Men and Women in Partnership

Tuesday 9:30-10:15 and Wed. 10-10:45

Jeanne Reese

Her book, *Bound and Determined*, explores a theology of partnership, discusses how godly partnerships are formed, and challenges churches to lead the way in nurturing partnerships. These two classes help Christians and leaders build strong partnerships between men and women.

SPEAKING OUT ABOUT SILENCE

Tuesday, 8:30-9:15 and Wed 9-9:45

Ken Cukrowski

Can one remain faithful to Scripture and advocate for gender equality? These classes explore two of the most difficult passages in the New Testament for advocates of gender equality.

PARADOX OF POWER IN RELATIONSHIP

Tuesday-Wed 4-4:45

Rhonda Lowry

There is much to learn from scripture and experience when it comes to gender roles and Christianity. Explore the paradox of power in relationship from a woman's perspective and from the garden of Eden.

THE IMPACT OF GENDER ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

From Administrators to Students

Tuesday 4-4:45

Mimi Barnard, Laura Carroll, Susan Lewis

Gender ratios in Christian higher education reveal a male majority. How do perceptions of gender impact leaders and student perception? Hear current research on gender composition and learn the leadership development initiatives of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION—TUBERCLES!

*a second look at a piece
of sculpture led to a
promising technology*



▲ Humpback whale breach.
Frederick Sound, Alaska

The above photograph is taken from a recent copy of Mechanical Engineering Magazine. It is of a Humpback Whale and is showing the Tubercles (bumps) on the leading edges of his (or her) fins. A couple of men named Frank Fish and Stephen Dewar have researched the whales for the past 30 years and have some interesting conclusions about the Tubercles.

Conventional wisdom was that the Tubercles were a form of Acne on the flippers, certainly not a plan.

A whale certainly cannot will bumps on the leading edges of his flippers. They are regularly spaced along the length of the flipper, so they are not common acne. Whales without them can swim, so it is not a survival of the fittest question.

In all the fluid dynamics genius we have, they were simply wrong. If the whale is displaying a better fluid or aerodynamics profile than we have on our most sophisticated aircraft and boats, surely that is a sign of a superior intelligence.

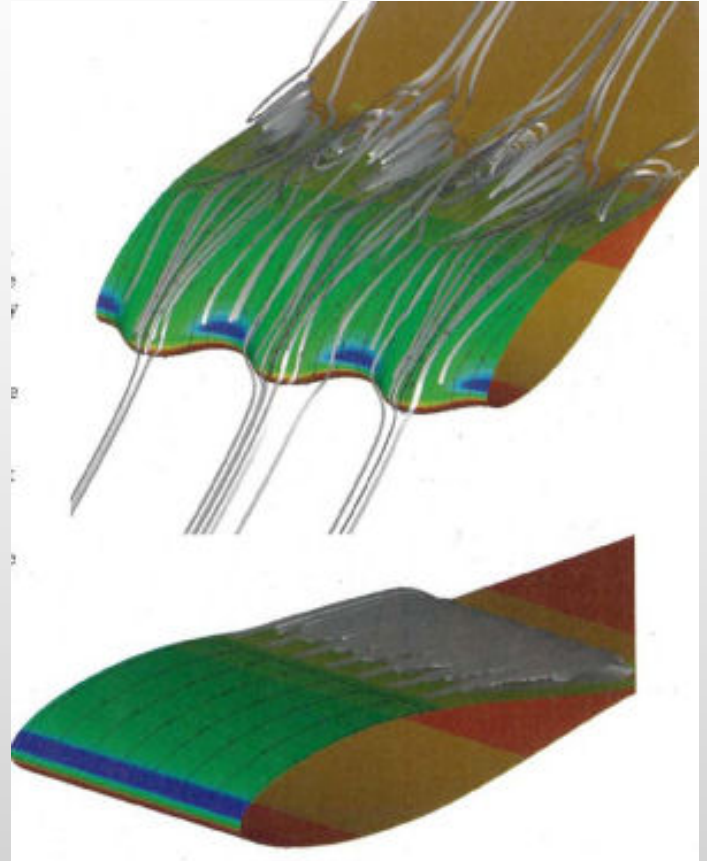
IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION—TUBERCLES! - P. 2



The photo above is a full size flipper utilized for testing.

The results were that fan blades based on the Tubercles:

1. Would move 25% more air
2. Would consume 25% less power



The above graphic shows how the air flows over an airplane wing with and without Tubercles. The results were that air plane wings based on the Tubercles:

1. Would generate more lift without causing more drag
2. Would postpone stall

As amazing as it is that whales have this technologically advanced feature, it does not work at all speeds. It is apparently most effective at whale speed.

It is amazing all the proofs of God which are all around us that we take for granted, or in a lot of cases don't even notice.

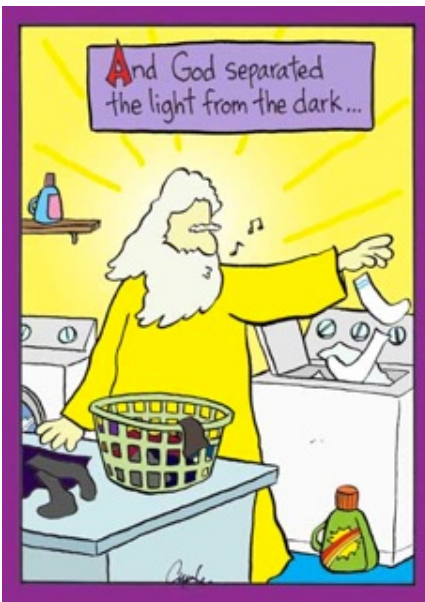
THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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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 congregations 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.



SPRING BRANCH CHURCH OF CHRIST

5300 Hammerly

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

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.

**NEXT MONTH: IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!
GRAND CANYON UPDATE!**

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.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

7/10—7-14 Sugar Land Church of Christ, Peter N. Martin, Jr. Speaking
7/23 Quarterly Singing, Dearbrook Church of Christ, 19730 Kenswick,
Humble, Tx, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., refreshments following
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

Mar, 2012 Area Wide Men's Retreat

May, 2012 Foster's Home for Children Golf Tournament, NW Houston

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

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".

If we are not a Christian nation, what are we?

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:

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.