

TEACHING SPECIALISTS ARE NOT ENOUGH!

In February of 2009 we featured an article on Teaching Specialists. The current concept is that we follow a 19th century Bible Class teaching model where a teacher prepares lesson after lesson for at least a quarter, sometimes for years. The teaching specialist concept is that a teacher prepares a single lesson and repeats that lesson through multiple classes to optimize the use of his time.

A class host would be in each class to maintain continuity in the classes as the teachers move about.

Memorial Church of Christ in west Houston is in the second month of such a program. Thirteen pairs of teachers were assigned a topic and instructed to make a 2 page handout in a common format. The teaching pair would take turns in the 12 classes participating, having one week off. A pair of missionaries at Impact Church of Christ near downtown Houston are literally one of the teams.

At this point, the coordinator of the program has had one negative comment about the program. A single person did not like the teaching style of a single teacher. This happens in all situations. The good news here was that all the person had to do was to wait a week and they would have another teacher.

All other comments have been overwhelmingly positive. Paraphrases of some of the comments are:

1. We are getting to become acquainted with a lot of the teachers we simply would not have heard otherwise.
2. This program allows a person to participate in teaching without having to prepare a separate lesson every week.
3. The teachers are presenting well thought out and prepared lessons.

This brings us to why this is not enough. What it means is that you have slightly better teaching with a more diverse teacher base, but remember you have been attending Bible class for a long time.

It is unreasonable to say that after a long period of time, the purpose of attending a Bible class is to be entertained or educated to any great amount. For every 10 years that you have attended church, if you attended the standard set of services, you have attended something like 2000 lessons/sermons. For most of us, if you haven't gotten it now you are not likely to ever get it.

Whereas a Bible Class should be interesting and educational, that should not be sufficient. Bible Classes are the ideal small group situation for promoting evangelism and supporting those around us who need congregational care. This is where a secondary program can eclipse the teaching specialist program in effectiveness for the church.

This secondary program is called herein as the Class Host program.

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A Class Host program can be called a lot of different things and can do a variety of things to support personal evangelism and members. Some examples are:

1. Be the infrastructure of the class so the visiting teacher doesn't have to be. When teachers are rotated on a weekly or quarterly basis and are expected to organize the class, they are the limit to the effectiveness of the class.
2. Coordinate class announcements on the health of class members and other similar news.
3. Coordinate calling of members who are absent.
4. Coordinate visitation of sick members.
5. Receive a list of members not attending any class and coordinate inviting them to your class.
6. Coordinate a quarterly social activity, emphasizing members inviting visitors.
7. Coordinate a quarterly service activity, emphasizing members inviting visitors.

Most classes have a member (or couple) who would be happy to provide the service of being a class host. Most would feel officious to simply start doing this as not being authorized.

Congregation leadership can spend a few minutes recruiting a class host and can receive countless hours of participation in return.

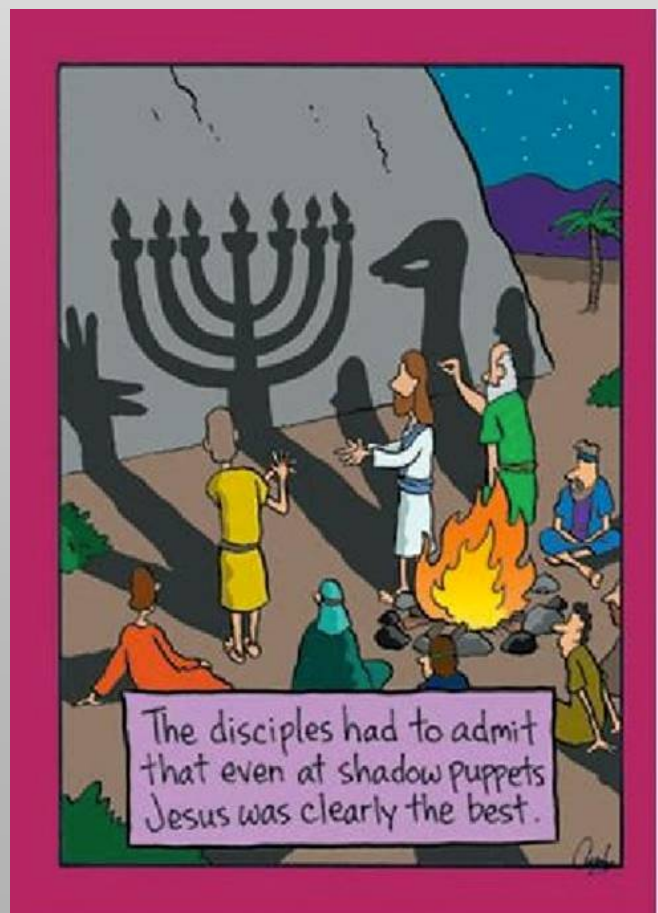
Would anyone question that if an effective class host program was in place, the church would be a stronger church which is more likely to be growing.

Zero cost, substantial benefits—do you have any other ideas with this kind of payback? If you do, do them also.

Whereas the Teaching Specialist Program has substantial benefits for a 21st century congregation, all of the benefits of a Class Host Program can occur with a conventional teaching program.

It is clear that if it's our objective to promote personal evangelism, a Class Host Program is likely as good an investment as can be made by a congregation.

It is also clear that business as usual is not working.



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION—THE GRAND CANYON!

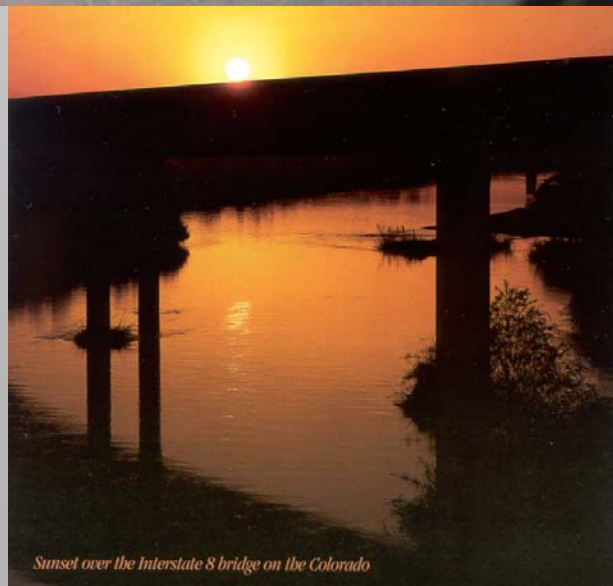


COLORADO RIVER UPSTREAM
OF GRAND CANYON

START OF GRAND CANYON

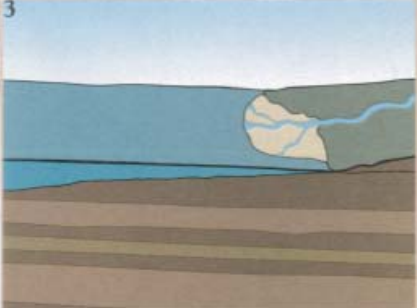
The above photograph is taken out the window of a plane over the Grand Canyon this summer. After collecting information for this article at the Grand Canyon, seeing this out the window was like a sign.

It was particularly interesting to see the thread like appearance of the Colorado River upstream of the Grand Canyon. The photo at the right is the shallow Colorado River downstream at Yuma Arizona.

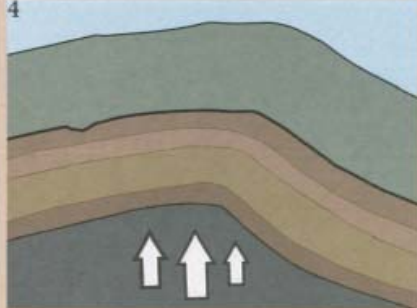


Sunset over the Interstate 8 bridge on the Colorado


IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION—GRAND CANYON, P 2



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Paleozoic Sedimentary Rocks
 Nearly horizontal layers of sedimentary rocks comprise the upper two-thirds of the canyon's walls. These rocks formed near sea level and at the edge of a continent. The remains of marine life accumulated on the ocean floor to form limestone. Rivers deposited sediments in swamps and deltas that then became mudstones. Dunes solidified into sandstone.

Uplift Occurs
The Colorado Plateau Rises
 About 70 million years ago the Rocky Mountains began to form, pushed up as the North American Plate overrode the Pacific Plate. In the process a large section of what is now Utah, northern Arizona, western Colorado, and a corner of New Mexico rose from sea level to elevations of thousands of feet, forming the Colorado Plateau. This uplift occurred with remarkably little tilting or deformation of the sedimentary layers.

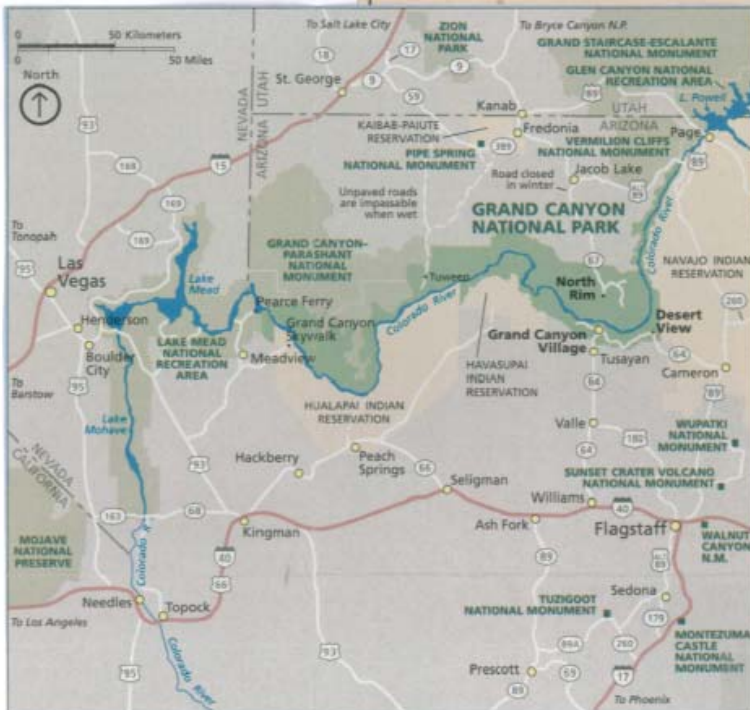
Erosion Sculpts
Canyon Carving
 By five or six million years ago the Colorado River flowed across the Colorado Plateau on its way from the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of California. Each rain washed sparsely vegetated desert soils into the river. A steep gradient and heavy sediment loads created a powerful tool for erosion. The river's volume varied seasonally and over time. As the last Ice Age ended 12,000 years ago, the flow may have been 10 times today's volume.

The stage was set for the carving of Grand Canyon.

Top photo: Grand Canyon and the North Rim as seen from Grand Canyon Village - South Rim. MICHAEL QUINN
 ABOVE ILLUSTRATIONS: BRONIS BLACK (GRAND CANYON ASSOCIATION)

As the river cuts down, the canyon deepens. Tributaries erode into the canyon's sides, increasing its width. Erosion carves faster into the softer rock layers, undermining harder layers above. With no foundation these layers collapse, forming the cliffs and slopes profile of the canyon. Erosion wears away the ridges separating adjacent side canyons, leaving buttes and pinnacles.

Age of Earth
4,500 million years



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION—GRAND CANYON - P. 3

The previous page is two parts of the official federal government literature passed out at the Grand Canyon.

It teaches (preaches) as a fact that:

1. The Colorado Plateau pushed up 70 million years ago.
2. 5 or 6 million years ago the Colorado River flowed across the Colorado Plateau carving the Grand Canyon.

The result of these teachings is a canyon as much as 10 miles wide as seen below.



It is incredulous that a person would claim that the tiny river you see in the Grand Canyon would carve the Grand Canyon, even with ten times as much flow.

A basic problem exists with this theory. Looking back at the previous page, you will notice that Page, Arizona is upstream of the Grand Canyon. The elevation of Page, Arizona is approximately 3700'.

The elevation of the North Rim of the Grand Canyon is about 8100', or 4,400' higher than the Colorado River at Page, Arizona.

For the Colorado to carve the Grand Canyon as officially taught in Federal Government Literature, the river had to flow uphill 4,400'.

Imagine instead that the Colorado Plateau was flat, and had a distance across the plateau. When the plateau mounded up, the distance across the mound was greater than the distance had been across the flat ground.

This means that either you stretched the rocks, or they cracked. Rocks don't stretch very well so presume they cracked. The Grand Canyon even looks like a big crack.

Considering this, the uplift and crack could have happened in an hour, a day, a week, or maybe a year. Certainly did not required 5 or 6 million years. Once the crack happened, the Colorado River simply flowed down the crack. Is that not a much more reasonable explanation, unless you are trying to prove that the earth is old enough to justify atheistic evolution?

Looking at the photo of the river at Yuma, Arizona, one would have to consider whether the great depth of the Grand Canyon proves how old the earth is, or whether the shallow depth of the river at Yuma proves how young the earth is.

In the ongoing government teachings, notice the small factoid on the lower right of the government literature—"Age of Earth 4,500 million years". Just a small fact to help keep you brainwashed.



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.

DEFINITIVE PROOF OF JESUS' RESURRECTION

Imagine that today you suggested at church that we should start going to church on Monday. The New Testament does not say to go to church on Sunday, it just indicates that they did. People would get highly upset at the heresy of going to church on Monday. We are so tradition bound that if we had mid-week service on Thursday night it would upset most people.

That being said, going to the synagogue on the Sabbath (Saturday) was so important that it made the top ten list (the ten commandments). It was really an integral and important part of Judaism.

Jesus was born, lived and died as a Jew. All the Apostles were born and lived up until Pentecost as a Jew. All the early converts were Jewish. Going to the religious service would be highly important and natural for them do on the Sabbath (Saturday). In spite of this, they started going to church on the first day of the week. Imagine how important an event would have to be for them to make such a drastic change. Human wisdom would have been to start a new religion on Saturday and not rock that boat. The Sabbath wasn't just a religious day, it was how the civil government functioned.

The only event identified of the required magnitude would be the resurrection.

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.

For those bound & determined to change the church of Christ to be the Christian Church, wouldn't it be easier to simply join the Christian Church.? Is the problem that your conscience won't allow you to join the Christian Church, but if you can reduce the church of Christ to being the Christian Church you will not offend your conscience?

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.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

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.