

WHY THEY LEFT THE CHURCH

A new book out is Why They Left The Church by Flavil R. Yeakley Jr. This is an extremely informative book by a long time soldier of the cross. It tackles a complex subject primarily based upon the interviews of 325 of those who have left the church, with a lifetime of other historical information and observations mixed in.

There is something for everyone in the book. Following in red are a few of the interesting comments copied from the book for your interest. Anything in blue is inserted by this publication.

Instead of feeling discouraged because 11 denominations have more adherents than the Churches of Christ, perhaps it would be more realistic to understand that 238 denominations have fewer adherents than the Churches of Christ. (19)

All who made fewer than three friends were in the "drop out" category. All who had made seven or more friends in the church were in the category for "still active church members". (86)

The practice of having the present elders select additional elders is one of the things that produce a kind of inbreeding. (137)

Continued on page 2.

The Body Exalts the Head

Church Family—we are looking for the body's contribution to the Campaign for Christ Endeavour. We are coming close to our August 4 date and we have broken down a simple plan to help us get there. Our Budget Gap is 260k. We have over a 100 Churches of Christ Involved.

We are looking for a 12 week donations of \$5 from 4,000 members and this 260k is done. This can be short simple accomplish, with the body exalting the head. Please contribute \$5 in addition to your normal giving and specify the \$5 on the giving envelope, this amount will go to the Campaign.

Or, feel free to write a check for the full amount of \$60. Your local representative will see that it get's the Campaign. Thanks for your support and prepare to search and save this August.

Richard Blount IV, Sugarland

SAVE THE DATE!
RALLY FOR HOUSTON AREA WIDE
CAMPAIGN FOR CHRIST @ MEMORIAL
CHURCH OF CHRIST
June 24, 2012, 6:00 P.M.
900 ECHO LANE
77024, SOUTH OFF I-10 WEST

WHY THEY LEFT THE CHURCH

Decision making is about all that many members of the church associate with the role of elders. (139)

My personal observation is that in far too many Churches of Christ, the elders are doing deacon's work, the deacons have very little to do; and the church-supported ministers do most of the pastoral work. (141)

Church leadership is not about the power of the leaders. Instead, it is about empowering the members. (143)

Mormons: We make one convert for every 3000 doors those young people knock on. So I asked him "Where is your growth coming from?" He replied "We are having more babies than you people are having, but the main thing we have found is that we make one convert for every two people we have into our homes for a meal." (155)

Many have accepted the world view of post-modernism and assume that there is no absolute truth in matters of belief, values, and morals. (156)

The New Testament clearly teaches that some who have fallen away cannot be brought back to repentance. (159)

We would suggest that this was a phenomenon of the first century church when one fell away after having tasted the miraculous powers and this does not happen today. It is not impossible for anyone to come back today.

The instrumental music was mentioned more than any other issue in the "Why I left the Churches of Christ" survey. Out of 325 who responded, 53 now belong to independent community-type churches and virtually all of these use instrumental music. (165)

It was not until after A.D. 1050 that the use of instrumental music became common in Roman Catholic Churches. The Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church continues to use singing without instrumental music (168)

At least one generation has grown up in Churches of Christ without a clear understanding of the instrumental music issue. (178)

It was, therefore, with deep regret that I learned about Abilene Christian University now having both a cappella chapel Monday-Wednesday—Friday and instrumental music in some of their small group chapels on Tuesday and Thursday. (179)

During the chapel part of their opening convocation last August, the band played while the congregation sang the Doxology. (179)

Mormons: We make one convert for every two people we have into our homes for a meal.

In a similar way, many people have become content with "bumper sticker" theology. They are more likely to base their decisions on their feelings than on reason. (179)

As I wrote this chapter, my wife and I have just recently celebrated our 56th anniversary. (186)

Congratulations.

You should start using once again the slogan that was popular in the early days of the Restoration Movement: "We do not claim to be the only Christians, but we are trying to be Christians only—" (197)

Continued on page 3

Why They Left, Continued:

Teach the difference between the kind of judging we are supposed to do and the kind of judging we are not supposed to do. (197)

Congregations with 100-200 members had the highest average involvement levels (209)

I have found a strong positive correlation between how involved the average member reports feeling and both the actual and perceived role-to-member ratio.(209)

This book is published by the Gospel Advocate Company and is available online. We would strongly recommend this for all members, deacons, preachers and elders to read. Flavil not only looks backwards on historically why some left the church, but also gives good counsel on what to do to improve "closing the back door" in the future. Everyone will get something different from reading the book, and there is something for everyone.

Foster's Home for Children

*"More than a home,
A sanctuary."*

Placement applications accepted.

Employment applications welcome.

Applications and donations available online

at

www.fostershome.org

Stephenville, Texas

FILL-IN PREACHERS AND SPECIAL SUBJECTS

The topics presented below are existing programs intended to be available at a moment's notice. All expenses are assumed to be taken care of by the speaker unless specifically otherwise agreed in advance. The speaker's home congregation is identified for your information, but it does not imply in any way that the home congregation is responsible for the content of the lessons.

If you have one or more (max. 5) lessons you would like to present on this basis, send the information to bbaugh@thearray.org and we will post it.

If you are interested in using the services of one of these brothers (or sisters in the appropriate context), contact them directly. If you use one of them, we would appreciate hearing of the results.

KIRK EASON, Memorial Church of Christ,
Sermons: "Report on the work of Southern Africa Bible College", First Five Chapters of Mark Wisdom Literature, Ephesians, Old Testament Narratives. Kirk is Director of Development for Southern Africa Bible College, cell 512-965-0382.
keason@southernafricabiblecollege.org,

KIRK CASTLEMAN, Spring Creek Church of Christ,
Sermons: "Set Forth To be a Propitiation"; "Christ and the Church"; The Theme of God's Eternal Purpose
Classes: God's Eternal Purpose; Personal Evangelism Training; Jude; Romans.
Tomball, Texas, [832-458-4470](tel:832-458-4470), Preaching and Mission Work since 1965.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES (IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION) Presentation of Biblical, scientific, and logic reasons to believe in Jehovah and Jesus. Presentation for worship service, Bible Class or youth group.

By Benton F. Baugh, Memorial Church of Christ, bbaugh@thearray.org, 281-599-9914 (Engineer)

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION—MEMORY

Waiting in a mall store as my wife shopped, it seemed like a good time to identify another characteristic which is impossible for evolution. She walked up with a pair of jeans which our granddaughter sometimes called “toothpick” couldn’t fit into, so it seemed like God was sending a message.

Turns out that the jeans had an interesting fold best described as the M on top of the W in the Men’s Warehouse logo, and so only appeared to have a 20” waist. It wasn’t impossible, it was only magic.

As I waited the characteristic did come to me—it was memory.

The term “impossible for evolution” presumes that all of God’s materials are here, the characteristic is not here, and evolution cannot create it. More specifically evolution has no mechanism to create it.

It is sort of like an invention. Most of us have few original ideas, and even fewer of us actually get patents for them. A test the patent office uses to determine if a new idea is patentable is whether it is “obvious”. Given that we know all about chairs, would it be obvious to put curved boards on the bottom to make a rocking chair, or would a rocking chair have been a new invention? It is hard for all of us, as well as patent examiners, to say if we had a chair but had never seen a rocking chair—that it would be obvious to make a rocking chair.

Memory likewise is obvious to us. Humans, animals, and most other living things have some sort of a memory. The question is whether if you had no memory, would you determine how to develop memory? This is given that you are a smart person, and not just some primordial

First, let’s discuss what memory is, beyond the obvious. Memory says you observe something (in itself a highly complex process) and then you store that information for future retrieval. Today we would relate this to writing on the hard drive. Maybe in another generation we would have said write it on a piece of paper for reading in the future.

Surely our brain has some mechanism for writing information to storage similar to a hard drive, but we have no clue as to how it is done. We are proud as a society when we figure out what part of the brain it happens in.

Someday we may figure out how it happens, but it will likely be a long time from now.

All that an atheist would ask you to believe is that a pre-memory living thing (George) figured out how to do it. “George” had no mechanism to determine the need to have a memory, even if it is obvious now. If “George” had determined the need for memory, he could not have remembered the need long enough to

have done anything about it. If “George” did for whatever reason address the problem, how could he develop this phenomenal mechanism and talent for memory when all our scientist can’t even explain how it works.

Our memory is simply one of the eloquent ways in which God shows us he is real.

Hope you remember this.



Houston & Surrounding Area

CHURCHES

of

for
Christ

CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN RALLY

to be held **JUNE 24**, 6pm at

Memorial Church of Christ

900 Echo Lane

Houston, TX 77024

The enthusiastic March 11 Campaign Rally at Garden Oaks featured Shelton Gibbs as the main speaker with 1250 in attendance.

Please join us as at Memorial Church of Christ for our second rally as we prepare for the August 4-8 Campaign for Christ.

www.houstonchurchesofchrist.org

Sharing & Serving



SPEAKER

KENT ALLEN

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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Houston & Surrounding Area

CHURCHES

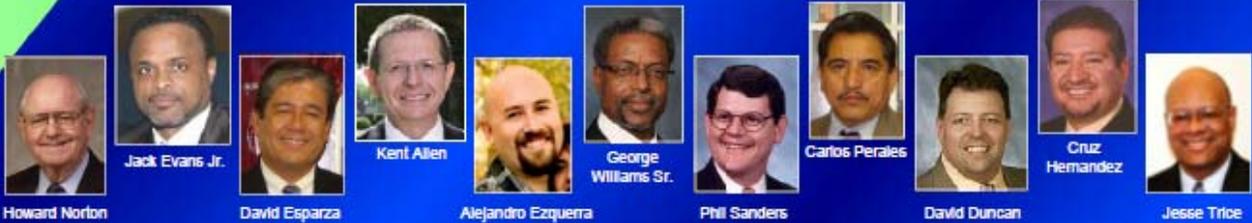
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Christ

Saving & Serving

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George R Brown Convention Center
Houston, Texas

- *Saving Souls!*
- *Encouraging the Saints!*
- *Helping the Needy!*
- *Unifying the Body!*
- *Bringing Glory to God!*
- *Letting Our Lights Shine*

Aug. 4 - 8, 2012
Sat. - Wed.

**LIKE
NEVER
BEFORE!**

1001 Avenida De Las Americas
Houston, Texas 77010
www.houstonchurchesofchrist.org

SERVE ONE ANOTHER



Why we serve: We serve because **Jesus set the example** for us. He did not come to be served but to serve. While others may lord it over their peers, the followers of Jesus seek to serve one another in love. (Matt. 20:26-28) We serve to **glorify God** "If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:11b)

Who we serve: It is important to remember that we are serving God, not man. We may grow weary of the inexhaustible, never ending need to serve others. It helps to remember that we have the privilege of serving our Lord and God through serving one another. "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." John 12:26 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**" (Col. 3:23, 24)

How we serve: Pray for opportunities to be of service to others, but pray more earnestly for the right attitude in service. Serving others requires humility and love. We are to serve wholeheartedly, cheerfully and diligently. God has given each of us gifts that we can use in serving others effectively. One may cook and another make calls of encouragement. Some may sing and others may sew, there are as many ways to serve as there are servants! We exhibit mercy and kindness our efforts to assist those in need. "**Serve wholeheartedly**, as if you were serving the Lord, not men..." (Eph. 6:7)

We serve one another: If the master of heaven and earth humbly came to serve us, then surely we can follow his example to serve one another. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of God." (Gal. 6:9, 10)

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, Texas



Foster's Home For Children

2012 GOLF TOURNAMENT



BlackHorse Golf Club

12205 Fry Road (1.4 Miles South of 290, Cypress)

11:00 Registration

11:30 Blackhorse Deli Lunch

1:00 Shotgun Start

5:30 The Mixed Grill Dinner and Awards

Sponsor a team: \$500

Individual Players: \$125

May 24, 2012

Includes: green fee, cart, range balls, snacks, lunch, dinner, and prizes

Reservations can be made by e-mail to BFore@thearray.org. Payment can be made by e-mail to BFore@thearray.org using Visa or MasterCard. Indicate card number, name on card, expiration

Organizing Committee:

Benton Baugh (Memorial)

Philip Uhrhan, (Jersey Village)

Bo Cox, Foster's Home Board

Mark Lambert (Memorial)

Matt Miller (Memorial)

Glenn Wolfe (Cinco Ranch)

Bron Fore, Treasurer (Memorial)

For information: bbaugh@thearray.org

Foster's Home For Children is a 501c3 children's care facility located on 55 acres northwest of Stephenville, Texas which has provided for the needs of more than 2000 children since 1960. It is supported by more than 300 Churches of Christ and numerous individuals. For more information visit [www. Fostershome.org](http://www.Fostershome.org)





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.

AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

May 22 Foster's Home for Children Golf Tournament, NW Houston

June 24 Rally for Campaign for Christ at Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane, Houston, Texas 77024, 6:00 p.m.

**Aug 4-8 Area Wide Campaign for Christ
George R. Brown Convention Center**

**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

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".

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.

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.