

A MUSLIM POINT OF VIEW

It is hard for us to understand how anyone would become converted to being a Muslim.

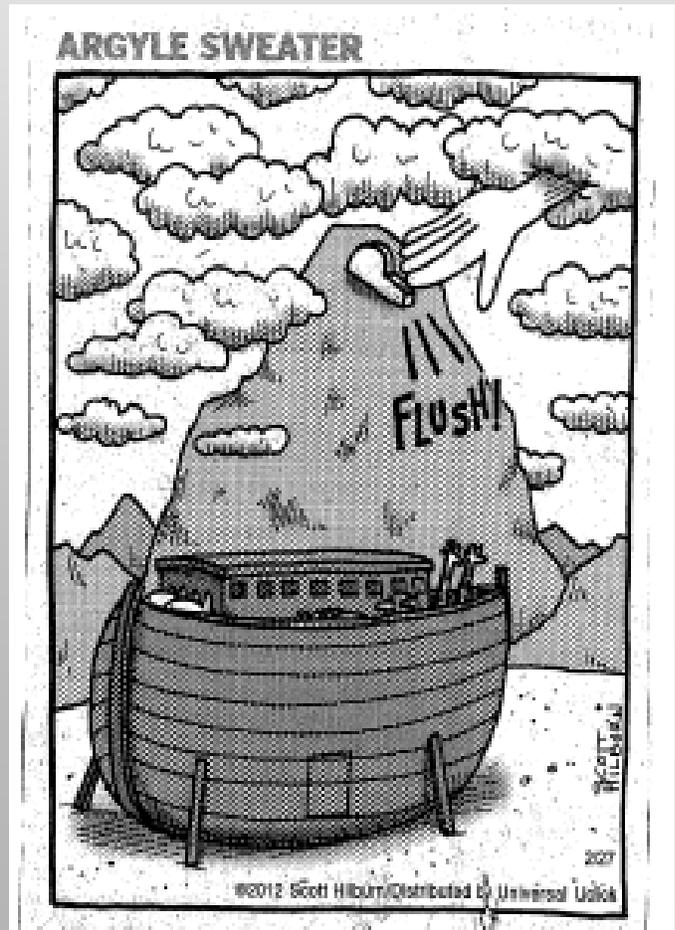
We see Jesus as “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” and we would see a really motivated Christian today as becoming a missionary.

We see the Muslim or Islamic religion as being started by a warlord who among other things attacked a Jewish settlement, beheaded all the men, and offered all the women for rape by his men. We see a really motivated Muslim today as a terrorist.

How can anybody see that and want to become a Muslim. Add to that Sharia law and women wearing tents and you have validated your dislike of the whole concept.

Oddly enough, that is not how they see it. The point of view of at least one Muslim was given in a recently read best selling book [The Anatomy of Peace](#) by The Arbinger Institute and Berret-Koehler Publishers, Inc. This is an excellent book to read on interpersonal relationships, and you won't likely become a Muslim because you read it. Before discussing the matter, it will be copied directly from the book, pages 20-25. The pages will follow without comment until the end.

As a little background, the people talking are in a group taking a child to a 2 month long wilderness camp to attempt to assist the children's difficult lives. Yusuf and Pettis are program coordinators who have found peace with each other. Yusuf is a Muslim who used to hate Jews and Pettis is a Jew who used to hate Muslims. Each of the other speakers are parents of a child being put into the program.



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The following is a copy straight from the book:

“In June of 1099,” Yusuf began, “Crusaders from the West laid siege to Jerusalem. After forty days, they penetrated the northern wall and flooded into the city. They slaughtered most of the city’s Muslim population within two days. The last of the survivors were forced to carry the dead to mass unmarked graves, where they piled the corpses in heaps and set them on fire. These survivors were then either massacred or sold into slavery.

“The Jews, although not so numerous, fared no better. In the Jewish quarter, the inhabitants fled to the main synagogue for refuge. The invaders barricaded the exits and stacked wood around the building. They then torched it, burning all but the few who managed to escape. These people were slaughtered in the narrow streets as they attempted to flee.

“The brutality extended as well to the local Christians who officiated at the Christian holy sites. These priests were expelled, tortured, and forced to disclose the location of precious relics, which were taken from them.

“So began nearly two centuries of strife between invaders from the West and the people of the Middle East. In the minds of many in the Middle East, today’s battles are a continuation of this ancient battle for the Holy Land. They view American and European powers as crusading invaders.”

“As the lone European in the room,” Elizabeth spoke up, “would you mind if I addressed the Crusades for a moment?”

“Not at all,” Yusuf said. “Please.”

I know a little of this history. To begin with, it’s important to understand the history of Jerusalem. It was Jewish through most of ancient times until Rome sacked it in 70 AD. Meanwhile, following the death of Christ, believers began to spread his gospel through the region. Christianity eventually became the official faith of the Roman Empire, and the faith quickly spread through all its territories, including Jerusalem. By 638 AD, the year Muslims captured Jerusalem, it had been a fully Christian city for three hundred years. So when the knights of the First Crusade took Jerusalem, in their minds they were retaking what had been taken from them. They, like the Muslims they were fighting, believed the city was rightfully theirs.”

“That doesn’t justify the atrocities, though,” Pettis interjected.

“No,” Elizabeth agreed, “it doesn’t.”

“Oh, but come on,” Lou said, “the Crusaders didn’t have a monopoly on atrocity. The Muslims’ hands were dirty too.”

“Were they?” Pettis asked. “I don’t know the history. I’d be interested to hear.”

“Lou is right about that,” Elizabeth said. “There is ugliness on all sides of this conflict. Yusuf has already given us an example of atrocities by Westerners. An early Muslim example would be the massacre of the Banu Qurayza, the last Jewish tribe in Median. In the earliest days of Islam, Muslim armies beheaded the entire tribe.”

“And today they blow themselves up in order to maim and murder innocent civilians,” Lou blurted.

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Unhappy with the interruption, Elizabeth's mouth stretched disapprovingly into a line.

"I agree with Elizabeth that there are sordid details on all sides of this history," Yusuf said. "What I would like to introduce you to, however, is one not-so-sordid figure.

"After taking Jerusalem in 1099," he continued, "the Crusaders took control of most of the coastal areas of the Middle East. They continued to hold these regions for about eighty years. They succeeded largely because of infighting between rival Muslim military and political leaders. This began to change, however, with the rise to power of the Turkish sultan Nur al-Din who unified the various peoples of Syria. The tide turned entirely in favor of the Muslim resistance under his successor, Yusuf Salah al-Din, or simply 'Saladin,' as he is known to the West. Saladin united all the Muslim peoples from Syria to Egypt and mobilized their collective resistance. His armies recaptured Jerusalem in 1197.

"Militarily, politically, and in every other way, Saladin was the most successful leader of the period. His successes were so surprising and total that historians sometimes invoke luck and good fortune to explain them. However, as I have studied Saladin, I am convinced he succeeded in war for a much deeper reason, a reason that won't seem at first to be related to war at all."

"What?" Pettis asked. "What reason?"

"To understand it," Yusuf answered, "we need to get a better feel for the man. Let me tell you a story. On one occasion, an army scout came to Saladin with a sobbing woman from the enemy camp. She had requested, hysterically, that the scout take her to Saladin. She threw herself before Saladin, and said, 'Yesterday some Muslim thieves entered my tent and stole my little girl. I cried all through the night, believing I would never see her again. But our commanders told me that you, the king of the Muslims, are merciful.' She begged for his help.

"Saladin was moved to tears. He immediately sent one of his men to the slave market to look for the girl. They located her within the hour and returned her to her mother, whom they then escorted back to the enemy camp."

Yusuf paused for a moment. "If you were to research Saladin, you would discover that this story is characteristic. He was renowned for his kindness toward allies and enemies alike."

"I'm not sure those who died at the end of his army's swords thought him kind," Elizabeth interjected. "But I agree that in comparison to others of the period, he did shine a little brighter."

Lou was unimpressed. His mind drifted back to Vietnam and to all the dead young men his regiment had to carry out of the jungles. When he had returned from Vietnam, Lou made a personal point of visiting the mother of each soldier who had lost his life under his command. Over a period of two years, he visited fifty-three towns, from Seattle and San Diego in the West to Portland, Maine, in the East and Savannah, Georgia, in the South.

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He sat in the living rooms of the homes these men never returned to and held their grieving mothers in his arms as he told them of the heroic deeds of their sons. He loved his men. To this day, he still dreamed of ways he could have saved more of them. Being kind and merciful is well and good, he thought, but they are traits that are poorly rewarded in wartime.

“With that bit of background,” Yusuf continued, “let me contrast Saladin’s recapture of Jerusalem with the Crusader’ initial invasion. In the spring of 1187, after the Crusaders had broken a truce, Saladin called upon the forces of Islam to gather in Damascus. He planned to march against the occupiers in a unified effort and drive them from their lands.”

If I might,” Elizabeth stepped in one more, “who was occupying whom was not entirely clear. As I mentioned before, each side viewed the other as an occupying force.”

“Right,” Yusuf said. “Sorry for the imprecision.” Resuming, he said, “Saladin sprung a trap on the occupying – err, rather Western- forces near the Sea of Galilee. A few escaped, including a leader named Balian of Ibelin. Balian escaped to Tyre, where via a messenger he made a surprising request of Saladin; he asked whether he could go to Jerusalem to fetch his wife and bring her back to safety in Tyre. He promised he would not take up arms in defense of Jerusalem. Saladin agreed.

“However, upon arriving in Jerusalem and finding there was no one to lead its defense, Balian begged Saladin to let him out of his commitment. He wanted to stay and lead the resistance against Saladin’s army. Saladin not only allowed it, he sent an escort to lead Balian’s wife from Jerusalem to the safety of Tyre!”

Lou let out an audible harrumph. “Yes, Lou, kind of hard to imagine, isn’t it?”

“She must have been a looker, that’s all I can say,” Lou said, looking around for a laugh. Miguel obliged him, his eyes dancing with mirth as his broad shoulders rolled with laughter, but for the rest the joke fell flat. Carol (Lou’s wife) shook her head ever so slightly and fought to remember that Lou was better on the inside than his outward bravado sometimes suggested. She knows that his behavior was being exacerbated by the stress he was feeling from having to be away from work when so much was going wrong there.

“The siege of Jerusalem began on the twentieth of September,” Yusuf continued. “Nine days later, Saladin’s men breached the wall close to the place where the Crusaders had flowed through almost 90 years earlier. Saladin put his men under strict order not to harm a single Christian person or plunder any of their possessions. He reinforced the guards at Christian places of worship and announced the defeated peoples would be welcome to come to Jerusalem on pilgrimage whenever they liked.

“As a way to restock the treasury, Saladin worked out a ransom structure with Balian for each of the city’s inhabitants. His men protested that the amounts were absurdly low. But Saladin was concerned for the poor among them. So much so, in fact, that he let many leave without any ransom whatsoever. He sent widows and children away with gifts. His leaders objected, saying that if they were going to let so many leave without any compensation, they should at least increase the ransom for the wealthy. But Saladin refused. Balian himself was allowed to leave with a rich sum. Saladin even sent an escort to protect him on his journey to Tyre.”

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What you have just read is a first class public relations presentation of the Muslim religion in a best seller book (which happens to be a very good book otherwise).

The Muslims have focused on one man who is credited with the wisdom of Solomon and the “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” teaching of Jesus. They have equated Christianity with middle ages Catholicism at its worst. It is probably reasonable to say that if you select the twelfth century, Islam did a better job of following the teachings of Jesus than “Christianity” did.

Unfortunately, the wonderful Saladin was not following the teachings of Muhammad. If you notice back on page 2 where it is mentioned that “An early Muslim example would be the massacre of the Banu Qurayza, the last Jewish tribe in Median”, the leader of this massacre was Muhammad himself. Not only did he have all the men beheaded, but he sold the women and children into slavery. He kept one woman himself as another concubine. That is what he was teaching his followers to do.

He specifically taught 66 Prohibition 9: “O Prophet, fight the unbelievers and the hypocrites, and be severe with them.” Doesn’t seem like Saladin was following his leader very well.

It is reasonable to compare Islam and Christianity according to what the originator said, not what some group did at a later time. It is certainly reasonable to characterize Jesus with his saying “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” and to characterize Muhammad as a vicious warlord. When that is what they taught, what you would expect today?

If you would like to know more about Jesus, read your [Bible](#). If you would like to know more Muhammad and original Islam, there is a complete copy of the [Koran](#) posted on the website [thearray.org](#) along with [Topical Verses from the Koran](#) which are grouped by topic. As always as the verses are listed individually, you may want to check to see if they are reasonably removed from their context.

The lesson to take from this is that even though the problems of the Muslim religion may be obvious to each one of us, after a lifetime of hearing the good points of Islam and the evil of Catholicism representing Christianity, many Muslims are going to have a hard time accepting Jesus.



THE ANNIHILATION THEORY OF HELL

There are those who would teach that in Hell we are simply annihilated. There is a good human logic to it—no great and loving God would punish anyone eternally. It is likely that if you were to make the decision, you probably would not punish anyone forever. Most of us would be satisfied with the good going to heaven, and the bad getting a short time of punishment and then simply being annihilated.

Turns out what we would prefer is not actually what is going to happen on judgment day. What will happen is God's choice, and all we know about it is what the Bible tells us.

What the Bible says is:

Matt 25:46 "and these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life"

Mark 9:43 "than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched, "

Mark 9:46 "into the fire that never shall be quenched;"

Mark 9:43 and the fire is not quenched."

Rev. 14:11 "and the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever"

Matt. 25:46, Mark 9:43, and Mark 9:45 are what Jesus was saying personally, so we would do well to listen.

As with most questions, you can get someone on both sides to defend the idea vigorously. Opponents seem to take a lot of comfort in the fact that every time the Bible talks of eternal life, it never talks of eternal death. (except Matt. 25:46 of course).

Although we would not believe in the annihilation concept, we would like to say "what if it were true"? Sometimes looking at the opposite side of a question is educational.

If the church were to start teaching this, we would be saying to our members that they have the following choice:

1. Spend an entire lifetime of resisting doing a lot of what you would like to do and you will go to Heaven.
2. Do anything you want to do, any time you want to do it, and the only consequence is that you won't know the difference. You will be like Rover—dead all over.

Can you imagine the church advertising, come here if you want to go to Heaven. But if you don't follow Jesus there is no consequence. Can you imagine God saying that?

If you want to know if God operates on our human logic—read the story of Jericho—the whole story. God moved judgment day up for all the inhabitants of the city in a very strict fashion.

Prov. 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; fools despise wisdom and instruction". For a lot of people, if there is no consequence for your actions either here or hereafter, why would you fear God? It would seem that the idea of the annihilation theory of Hell is foolishness as you would be despising the wisdom of God.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION—SQUID LUMINOUS SYSTEM

The luminous system on the bottom of a squid emits exactly the same amount of light as comes from the surface, making it virtually impossible for predatory fish below them to see them. We would show a picture of this, but you couldn't see it.

If you think a Squid could decide to do this without God, try to make your feet glow. If you do make your feet glow, remember the double whammy. We told you that something had glowing feet. Conventional invention is greatly facilitated when someone else does it first and shows you it is possible. The Squid would have both conceived **and** achieved.

It is completely unreasonable for one to teach that a squid decided to make his or her underside luminous to match the light above him or her. It is more than unreasonable—it is impossible for a squid to do this.



It would seem that Billy hasn't learned too much to have common sense. That is a really good question.

STARBUCKS

By [Jena McGregor](#),

Mar 25, 2013 05:12 PM EDT

The Washington Post Published: March 25

On Friday, [Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz was applauded](#) at the company's annual investor meeting for doing something chief executives rarely do: He told off a shareholder.

Granted, the shareholder in question was Thomas Strobhar, the founder of the [Corporate Morality Action Center](#), which states that its mission is to challenge corporations on issues like gay marriage, abortion and pornography. Last year Starbucks' [endorsed](#) a Washington state bill to legalize same-sex marriage, which prompted the National Organization for Marriage to organize a boycott of the coffee behemoth. So in last week's meeting, Strobhar criticized Starbucks' endorsement for hurting sales and profits in the first quarter of 2012.

The complaint may have been typical of a corporate gadfly, but Schultz's response was not. Rather than simply addressing the grievance, the coffee titan went further. He basically told Strobhar he could look to invest elsewhere if he wished: "If you feel, respectfully, that you can get a higher return than the 38 percent you got last year, it's a free country. You can sell your shares of Starbucks and buy shares in another company. Thank you very much." And in language one rarely hears from corporate executives, he said he was not putting concerns about any financial fallout first: "This was not an economic decision," he told Strobhar.

It would seem reasonable that we could assist Mr. Schultz by taking our business elsewhere.

THE POWER OF ONE

Let's take time to do one extra kind thing this week. Just one. We are already busy and do a jillion things, but this week, let's do one more. We can make it our secret mission, no one needs to know.

Look in the church directory and pick out someone you don't know very well. Pray that they will have a great week, that God will provide for their every need and that their spirit will be lifted. Not much, but maybe we can lift up the whole church, one name at a time. Maybe you could pray for a visitor or someone you know is having a tough time. But pick out one extra person to include in your prayers this week.

Send one more card. We have brothers and sisters struggling with health issues, relational problems, financial cares, loneliness, and many other things. Maybe that one card, sending God's blessings and your encouraging word, will be the one that gets them through this week.

Speak to one visitor. Just one. Don't worry if you introduce yourself to someone who's been here for five years! It's okay to speak to someone who is new to you. Visitors are God's gifts sent in disguise to check out our welcome matt. Be sure to invite them to come again.

Do one random act of kindness. Something only you can do. Make it anonymous if you wish. Just one. It might be a small gift left on the WINGS table or send a flower, bake a cake, or donate some clothing. Give someone a ride to church or to the doctor. Share something that comes from your heart.

Speak words of affirmation and encouragement to someone. We build up the church one person at a time. Just tell one person that you appreciate the job they are doing. Just one. No need to tackle the entire church at one time. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love,..." (Rom. 12:10)

Elizabeth Brown

THE BASIC PREMISE OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IS THAT:

- 1. ALL CHRISTIAN REVELATION WAS GIVEN IN THE FIRST CENTURY, &**
- 2. FIRST CENTURY REVELATION INCLUDES SOME INSTRUCTIONS WHICH ARE NOT OPTIONAL TO IGNORE.**

ANOTHER WAY TO SAY THIS IS "SPEAK WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS, AND REMAIN SILENT WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT".

ANOTHER WAY TO SAY THIS IS REV. 22: 18-19: ¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

The old law tells us of the seriousness of God's judgment.

The new law tells of God's expectations of us today.

The church of Christ attempts to follow God's instructions rather than contemporary preferences to be sure you will be pleasing to God on judgment day.

Would you want to be anyplace else?

All we need to do is to effectively communicate that.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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

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MISSIONARY WORK IN INDIA

Kirk Picker, minister at the Grace Chapel Church of Christ in Cumming, GA, gave an inspirational presentation on 12/3 on the amazing amount of missionary work which can be done in India for relatively limited funds. This can be a wonderful way for you to participate personally or congregationally in "taking the gospel to all the world"!

God opens doors of opportunity...



God's people respond with generosity!

INDIA WISH LIST

LOCAL CHURCH NEEDS	COST	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Telegu Song Books	\$2	2,000	\$4,000
Telegu Bibles	\$3	1,000	\$3,000
Telegu Sunday School materials for children	\$5	200	\$1,000
Books for WINGS Bible School Library	\$25	200	\$5,000
Telegu Bible Concordance	\$100	25	\$2,500
Communion plates (bread and juice - set of 4; 2 of each)	\$100	20	\$2,000
Widow's support in villages (Food & Cloths - \$20 per month - \$240 annually)	\$240	100	\$24,000
Lepers: Food, cloths, and medical supplies (\$25 per month - \$300 annually)	\$300	200	\$60,000
Student Preacher Support (2 year study - \$30 per month - \$360 annually)	\$360	50	\$18,000
Construction of Baptistery at existing church building	\$400	10	\$4,000
Surgery for poor church members (e.g. eye surgery, broken bones etc.)	\$500	10	\$5,000
Preachers financial support (\$100 per month - \$1,200 annually)	\$1,200	25	\$30,000
Motorcycles for preachers	\$1,500	10	\$15,000
Library for WINGS Bible School Construction	\$2,000	1	\$2,000
Establish 2 nd preachers school in W.G. District, Initial set-up costs.	\$3,000	1	\$3,000
Establish 2 nd preachers school in W.G. District - Annual Operational costs.	\$9,000	1	\$9,000
Construction of local church building with baptistery	\$20,000	8	\$160,000
TOTAL			\$347,500

Make checks payable to:
Grace Chapel Church of Christ
6755 Majors Rd.
Cumming, GA 30040

For more information contact Kurt Picker
Email: kpicker@gmail.com
Cell: 678-852-3201

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A sanctuary."*

Placement applications accepted.
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FAILING A TEST WITH DIGNITY

DO
YOU
BELIEVE
THE
BIBLE?

The Bible says that there is an ever-
lasting Hell

If your religious group teaches something else,
you might like to visit your local Church of Christ.

The Churches of Christ attempt to speak where
the Bible Speaks and remain silent where the Bi-
ble is silent. (Rev. 22:18-19)

Quotable Quotes

**Authority not properly
delegated is authority lost.**

MISSION WEBSITE

This mission website of the Upper
Valley church of Christ, Quechee,
VT is [https://sites.google.com/site/
themountainlight/Home/what-s-new](https://sites.google.com/site/themountainlight/Home/what-s-new)

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 a "technical paper" on our website. This strikes at the erroneous belief that of the relativity theory based on the "constant" speed of light.

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 21 Foster's Home For Children Golf Tournament @ Blackhorse

Aug 2014 Area Wide Campaign for Christ

2nd Tues. Preacher's Luncheon, confirm with Dale Foster at dalefost@gmail.com for address.

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 scriptural teachings, 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.