

THE 10% SOLUTION TO CHURCH GROWTH

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Speaking to the subject of church growth is something akin to tackling world peace in 1000 words or less. I am not competent to share much more than my thoughts and opinions. But, invited to share, most of us can find something to say. I trust God and I trust his Word and his ways. The following is what I think he says.

Our message from God is to plant the seed.

We plant, nurture and water the seed. God makes it grow. Further, his unerring promise is that we will reap exactly what we plant. When we become discouraged about the crop we may need to do some quality control on our planting and watering methods. Beyond that we can try the plus 10 percent solution. The solution is a metaphor for doing a little more, something extra, working a little longer, improving our efforts by a tiny percent. We can do this!

God has provided the perfect seed, the Word of God, and he will make it grow where it is planted in prepared hearts. "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

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CASTLEMAN COMMENT:

LEARNING TO PRAISE THE LORD

Asking Jesus to teach them to pray did not mean that the disciples did not know how to pray. The first Hebrew words spoken by a Jewish baby were words that acknowledged God's character and deeds. The disciples recognized that something was missing in their prayers. So they asked, "Teach us to pray."

Thus Jesus begins, "Our heavenly Father, may your name be set apart..." (Matt. 6:9, McCord).

Jesus' prayer began with praise. What a revolutionary concept that the high, holy and awesome God is addressed as "Our Father". The disciples must have shuddered some when Jesus spoke these words. A Jew would not speak of God in such familiar terms and praise him at the same time.

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The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." (I Cor. 3:6-9) God has provided the seed and the field, we are tasked with planting. Our task is urgent.

It is our job to warn of the coming judgment. Every person will face God's judgment whether they know it or not. "He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people ..." (from I Thes. 1:5-10) The gospel doesn't work without a knowledge of our awesome and powerful God. We need to move our message back a notch before we get to Jesus. We should begin by teaching accountability to the one and only true God, creator, sustainer and redeemer. Our compassion compels us to teach the message, we can do a little more.

Teacher training is essential. If we could simply keep all our children and grandchildren our churches would double in the next ten years. We would never draft a reluctant, untrained man to preach, but sometimes that is who we put in our classrooms. I believe that if we did a better job of teaching our teachers and our children, the church would grow. We can do better, at least ten percent better. It will take more than communication skills. They need context, the message in chronological and historical order. They need to know the background information associated with the summary statement, "Love God and your neighbor." Without a knowledge of the Ten Command-

ments they can make up their own rules for what it means to love God and neighbor.

We are poised for the next great surge of church growth. The first great surge of growth came with the invention of the printing press (1454 AD) and early translators who gave their lives to translate the Bible into the common man's language. William Tyndale (1494-1536) literally gave his life for translating the Bible into English. His desire was that every boy who drives a plow would know more of scripture than the clergy. Some are slow about moving the message into current language and communication tools. Our language radically changes every decade or sooner yet some are still trying to teach with the King James Bible of 1611. We can do more to help every child understand Scripture.



Note the complexity of a simple mushroom

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The internet will fuel the next great surge of church growth. Many are already working on utilizing the internet, YouTube and other media to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ. We should make our shovel every communication tool out there from the internet to phone apps. We can do 10 percent more, support good projects, and go the second mile. Maybe we could divert every jihadist to our site and tell him about God. Our God died for us, not the other way around. Not asking a lot, just a little more effort! Work faster, we don't have much time

“As each part does its work.” It's not about me, but my work counts, I want to do just a little more to advance the cause of Christ. “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Eph. 4:15, 16) Maybe we should stop counting and start planting. I believe our message should include accountability to God, belief in Jesus Christ, obedience to his message and the consequences for our choices. We need to say it clearly in today's language and methods. Everyone is not going to understand uniformly. God took that chance and we can too. Will you do your part, plus a little extra?

Elizabeth Brown

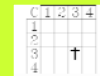
CASTLEMAN COMMENT. P. 2: LEARNING TO PRAISE THE LORD

Studying the model prayer and the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 6:8 helps us understand that prayer is worshipping God, not an information session to a heavenly grandpa. Worship is not about us, it is about God, so begin with adoration. God invites, commands us to make requests, confess sins, and intercede for others, but the initial emphasis is praise and adoration of the God who dwells in eternity. (Isaiah 57:15)

Let us take time to read and study the Psalms to learn the language of praise. Study the qualities of God so we can bow in adoration and worship, to truly “hallow His name”. Learn the Bible so well that when we pray our words will not be focused on us and our problems, but on the Father, the Abba Father, who listens, loves and acts on behalf of His children. Initializing and punctuating our prayers with praise and adoration of God will solve most problems anyway.

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56 IMPOSSIBLES

EVOLUTION IMPOSSIBLES (44)

CA15 FLIGHT
CA17 PLAYING POSSUM
CA31 THE START OF LIFE
CA33 DREAMS
CA35 BLIND COMPLEXATION
CA36 DNA
CA37 VISION
CA38 SAND SWIMMING
CA40 COLOR A FEATHER
CA42 RESORPTION OF ROOTS
CA43 WIND PROPAGATION
CA46 BALANCE
CA47 HEARING
CA49 AESTIVATION
CA50 DNA EVOLUTION
CA53 CUDDLEFISH
CA54 TUBERCLES
CA57 HORSE'S TAILS
CA58 THE INCREDIBLE EGG SHELL
CA59 THE INCREDIBLE EGG INSIDES
CA60 THE INCREDIBLE EGG BREATHING
CA61 TOUCH
CA63 MEMORY
CA64 HEARING
CA65 NEUROPATHY—BALANCE
CA66 FLYS ON THE CEILING
CA67 FISH IN MOUNTAIN STREAMS
CA68 COAGULATION
CA69 TASTE
CA70 SMELL
CA72 BOMBARDIER BEETLE
CA73 SQUID LUMINOUS SYSTEM
CA74 CILIA
CA78 MOTOR BOAT PROPELLER
CA79 SNAKE VENOM
CA80 STEREOSCOPIC VISION
CA81 ANGLER FISH
CA82 ELECTRIC EEL
CA83 CELL #2
CA84 AWARENESS

CA85 ANHIDROSIS
CA86 BLADDER COMPLIANCE
CA87 VENUS FLY TRAP
CA88 REPRODUCTION

PHYSICS IMPOSSIBLES (12)

CA27 TELLS (STRIPES ON A FEATHER)
CA28 LAWS OF THERMODYNAMICS
CA29 DESIGN OF THE UNIVERSE
CA30 SCIENTIFIC STATEMENTS IN THE BIBLE
CA32 PROBABILITIES
CA34 LIFE ON MARS
CA39 RUN FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT
CA45 THE BIG BANG
CA52 HEBREWS 11:3
CA55 GRAND CANYON
CA71 FLAT UNIVERSE
CA75 SAND

We have been offering "Impossible" in this newsletter since April of 1991 and have posted an offer of \$100 since 2008 if we could not present 12 "Impossible" for atheistic evolution.

A prime reason we do this is that many of our kids go off to college completely unprepared to face the atheistic professors they may have to face. They need to be exposed to this information to reinforce their Christian beliefs.

At the top of this page is listed the 56 impossible articles we have done to date. With 56 articles and countless business cards with the \$100 challenge, **we have had zero evolutionists or atheist respond to the challenge.** For all their confident assertions that they are right, we have found none willing to defend the position.

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION: REPRODUCTION

Just imagine that you exist as the first living thing in the olden days, really olden. Take it for granted that lightening struck Carl Sagan's primordial brew and suddenly life was electrocuted into existence. You were suddenly alive and automatically knew how to get food, oxygen, and get rid of wastes. Each a spectacular achievement in its own right, but we will just presume them for now. You did not have a chance to evolve them, you were just lucky.

Given that you are a one celled virus, bacteria, or the like, you have a zero I.Q. Maybe less than zero. Your next challenge is to reproduce.

In the simplest description, a cell decides to reproduce and splits into 2 cells. In actuality, the process is extremely complex. At this point we will consider the most obvious complication. Our DNA is a coded string, which in every cell is so small it is not visible to the human eye, it is actually a double helix which is 6 feet long. It is described as an auditorium full of speaker wire which untangles and duplicates for reproduction.

Granted, you as the first cell would not have to be as complex as human DNA, but on the other hand it couldn't be simple. Furthermore humans existed 6000 years before they even figured out it existed, but an evolutionist must believe that the first zero I.Q. cell not only knew it was there, but knew how to reproduce it.

Said more plainly to believe in evolution, you have to believe the first zero I.Q. cell was smarter than the smartest scientist 100 years ago. And that is just on this point. If you look at all the complexities of reproduction, you will learn that the smartest scientists today don't understand them all. In other words, if you be-

lieve in evolution, you are declaring that the first zero I.Q. cell was smarter than the smartest scientist today.

Doesn't it make more sense that the complex miracle of reproduction was designed by an intelligent designer, not happenstance by a first cell which was electrocuted to life? That intelligent designer is God.

It seems less of a miracle that God created everything than it is that someone could believe that it is just a series of lucky accidents.

56 IMPOSSIBLES, CONT.

The 56 "Impossible" are in 2 categories: physics and evolution. Evolution items are a natural for "Impossible for Evolution". Actually we are talking about atheistic macro-evolution. It is restricted to macro-evolution (the creation of new features, appendages, or systems) and does not consider micro-evolution (modifications of existing systems, such as getting fat). It is restricted to atheistic as if it were theistic evolution it would be God doing it.

That being said, impossible for atheistic macro-evolution includes physics impossibilities as they would be required to provide the materials and situation for the perceived start of life. It is not reasonable to claim to be an atheist and then use God's materials to start life.

You can use any of this information at any time, or the future articles. If you prefer and need someone to discuss the subject with anyone, send an e-mail at any time to: Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E., bbaugh@thearray.org.



A READY ANSWER: THE FACT OF EVOLUTION

The most effective tool Atheists have in dealing with Christians is a cold condescending look combined with a statement like “I thought you were more intelligent than to believe in religious fairy tales” or statements like “Religion is the opiate of the masses”.

A proper response might be:

Evolution is a theory of what happened in pre-history so it is unproven and is unproveable. It is naïve to believe that the spectacular design and complexity of all around us is simply a series of accidents. You can visit the website thearray.org for a list of more than 50 individual items which are clearly impossible for atheistic evolution to accomplish. If only one item is shown to be impossible for a theory, the theory is disproven. There is a posted offer since 2008 of \$100 for anyone who can disprove this. We still have our \$100.

That being said, an atheist is likely to use an example of micro-evolution to justify macro-evolution.

Everyone believes in what is called micro-evolution - generally that something that exists changes size, shape, or grows some. For example, feed a child a lot of ice cream and he will evolve to a fatter child. That is “evolution”, but that is not what is being discussed.

Macro-evolution is a being developing a new appendage or capability, and is the subject of the discussion. An atheist must believe that arms, legs, eyes, hearing, taste, touch, memory and a lot of other things could have been created by evolution. If any one of these can be demonstrated to be impossible to evolve by accident, then the theory of evolution is disproven.

DO
YOU
BELIEVE
THE
BIBLE?

The Bible teaches the only reason for divorce and remarriage is adultery (Matt. 5:32, Matthew 19:9).

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 Bible is silent. (Rev. 22:18-19)



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.

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 on the website thearray.org—OTHER STUDIES—”YOU CAN RUN”

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

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



AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

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

9/13/14 Women's Renewal Day, Conroe Church of Christ
<http://www.conroechurch.org/womens-renewal-day.html>

10/18/14 Area Wide Singing, Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane
6:00-8:00 p.m., for info: Wade Price, wprice@eprod.com

11/13-15 North Carolina State Lectureship (see attachment)

5/20/15 Houston Foster's Home For Children Golf Tournament—Blackhorse

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 E-Magazine

This e-magazine is 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 e-magazine, send an e-mail to bbaugh@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 bbaugh@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 it if you would:

1. forward the church member e-mail addresses which you have,
2. send the directory of the congregation you attend or any other directories which you might have, and
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 bbaugh@thearray.org.