



A FIRST POINT OF VIEW:

Have you ever noticed that when we want reassurance that our methods work, we send someone off to a third world country to demonstrate their effectiveness. We call that someone a "missionary".

It works too. Our methods are very effective in 3rd world countries, and so encouraged by the success we continue using them in our first world country, where they continue to not work.

An additional factor is that a typical missionary is a full time worker with nothing to do all day except personal evangelism work. A few of the things he is not burdened with are:

1. Facility maintenance (he doesn't have one),
2. Who won't speak to who (No years of member history),
3. Trying to think up another interesting sermon or Bible class lesson for a bunch of people who have already heard several thousand lessons,
4. Trying to deal with the bureaucracy of a local eldership (has a regimented amount of time to deal with foreign ones instead), and
5. Maintenance of a number of people problems which do not contribute to the Great Commission.

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NEED-TO-KNOW

The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge; the ears of the wise seek it out. (Proverbs 18:15)

In this information age we are all ignorant about a lot more than we know. It is not possible for one person to know everything about everything. So what is essential? What do we really "need-to-know?"

We need to know the truth about as much as possible. The Bible contains truth but that doesn't mean we automatically know or possess truth. We must train ourselves to distinguish good from evil. (Heb. 5:12-14) We must seek and accept the true facts in the spiritual realm and about the world around us.

"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her." (Proverbs 8:10-11)

We need to know we always have a choice and every choice has a consequence. God gave us choice as both a blessing and a challenge. Whether we make the decision or not, we have made a choice. Some simply wait for circumstances or others to make the choice. Either way, we are accountable for every choice and earn every consequence.

There comes a time when many of us become resistant to learning new things. But wisdom compels us to continue learning. *"Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning."* (Proverbs 9: 9)

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX



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A SECOND POINT OF VIEW:

A lot of the customs and traditions in the churches of Christ were established in the 19th century to fit the situation of the 19th century. Without saying anything about whether they are good or bad, they were molded in the 19th century for the situation in the 19th century. We are not referring to the Gospel, we are talking about the methods of proclaiming the Gospel.

A story was told recently that in some African villages, they understood that it was our custom to have 2 services every Sunday. It was a long way from some of the members to come on foot. They solved the problem by holding a normal morning worship service, and then immediately afterwards a second preacher held a second independent service. Problem solved. They had the required 2 services and then walked home.

Think of some of the differences between the 19th century and today. Cars, TV, I-Phones, movies, football, air conditioning, computers, the internet, and electric lighting are just a few of the things which allow us to cram more activities in our week. To a large extent in the 19th century the USA was a rural society with church being one of the most entertaining events happening. In the 21st century, that same church is slow paced in comparison to just about everything around.

Another factor common to both situations is that our churches tend to be more mature and larger. Both of these factors indicate different methods will likely be more successful.

The first point of view represents a fairly common situation. The example in the second is

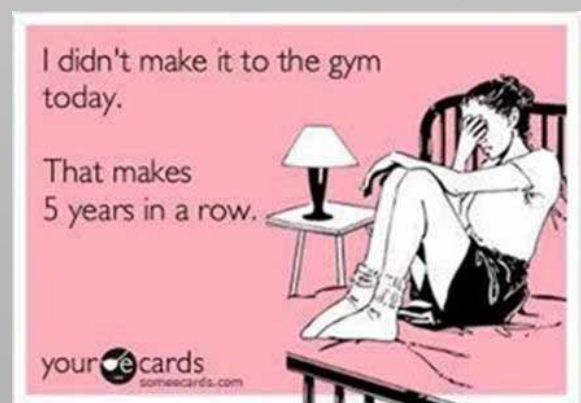
an extreme case. This is however not about whether or not we should have missionaries or 2 services on Sunday. What it should be is a wake up call to the fact that we need to make sure we are getting the 1st century message out in the best possible way in the 21st century to the situation in our own area.

Can you imagine going to judgment day as a leader of a congregation and saying that you diligently applied the methods which worked someplace else or at another time, so you thought you were justified as your congregation declined?

This article is not about offering solutions. We attempt that regularly in this publication and Oklahoma Christian University has set up a Church Growth Think Tank specifically to make suggestions to our 12,311 locally autonomous congregations.

If we are to return the churches of Christ to a growth profile in our generation, a whole lot of us are going to have to help.

The first help for each of us is to make our independent home congregation all that it can be. If you have additional ideas, time, or resources to participate in the Think Tank Efforts, contact the Think Tank at occgthinktank.org





IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #54: LANE MAINTENANCE

Texting while driving and driving automobiles between lane markers are things which happen suddenly in the present generation and in a single generation a couple of generations ago. Texting while driving is not a subject here, it simply distracts from the actual subject and is a bad thing to do.

If you drive from Houston to San Antonio, you keep your car between the lane markers and characteristically keep it very close to the center between the markers. Other than when you first learned to drive and when navigating a corner, you don't even think about it. Literally when the road curves, you don't need to think about it, you automatically stay between the lines.

Your brain goes on something like "auto pilot" and does it subconsciously. You can think about the weather or what you are going to do when you arrive at your destination. What you can't do is take your eyes off the road and text. You lose your "auto pilot" when you focus your brain and eyes on something else, like an I-Phone.

What is interesting is that in all of history, man has never had a need for this kind of capability. The need suddenly presented itself a couple of generations ago. The only thing we can think of similar to this is riding a bicycle. Similarly riding a bicycle requires an instinctive balance which was simply not required before (This article could have been titled Riding A Bicycle as well). You didn't have to balance a horse, it

did it for itself on four legs.

This did not evolve over a million year with not the fittest people crashing and burning in the development of this talent. Humans suddenly displayed this capability a couple of generations ago - in one generation. Clearly this capability was instilled in mankind a long time before it was needed, to be available when it was needed.

On the one hand, you cannot say this capability "evolved" as it happened in one generation. On the other hand, it is a spectacular proof of God. It means that He designed us before automobiles with capabilities required to operate them. A human (or evolution) could never have looked into the future and anticipated that such a need would exist.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.

AN APPLE A DAY WILL KEEP ANY-BODY AWAY, AS LONG AS YOU THROW IT HARD ENOUGH



"This church bulletin should be safe. I tried it on the crash test dummy."



OC LECTURESHIP 2015



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 4-6

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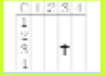
Mark your calendar for Oklahoma Christian University's annual lectureship, featuring inspiring lectures, informative classes, practical sessions and warm fellowship. Women's Day activities, an elders workshop, textual classes, and youth and family tracks complement the keynote lectures. This year, we are pleased that nearly all speakers are OC alumni. All sessions will be centered on "Opening Acts."

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#OCLectureship

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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



20 Houston & Surrounding Areas Churches of Christ City-Wide Youth Lectureship 15



August 9-13, 2015
7:00 pm
Southside Church of Christ
13835 Buxley
Houston, TX 77045
713.434.8111



Sunday, August 9, 2015
"Jesus Still Makes An ImpACT"
Living Our Lives as Jesus Did

Monday, August 10, 2015
"Peter Made An ImpACT Within"
Examining Ourselves to See God's View of Us

Tuesday, August 11, 2015
"Daniel and His Friends Made a Social ImpACT"
Making the Choice Not to Agree With or Participate in the Sinful Practices of the World



Wednesday, August 12, 2015
"Paul Made An ImpACT"
Always Be Ready to Spread the Gospel

Thursday, August 13, 2015
"Ruth Made An ImpACT"
Pursuing Relationships that Add God's Blessings to Our Lives





HOUSTON AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

8/9-13/15 Area Wide Youth Lectureship, Southside Church of Christ (See p. 5)

10/4-6/15 OC Lectureship - Theme is "Opening Acts" (See p. 4)

**11/14/15 OKC / OC Area Wide Elder's Workshop (Note date change)
Hosted by Southwest Church of Christ, OKC.**

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

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.