



RESPONSES TO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

ISSUE #100

On any given month with a mailing list of about 6000, we get an average of 6 cancellations. There would be various reasons, including someone doesn't like what is said.

Last month on the reasonably hot topic of instrumental music and having the membership of a congregation who uses instrumental music and another considering it in our mailing list, it was presumed we would get a lot of cancellations. We got 3. Not sure what to make of that, but are happy with it.

We also received two 2 responses from members, only 1 of which was from one of the cancellations. As they would represent questions interesting to a number of members, we are responding in this issue so that all can see the questions and answers.

RESPONSE #1:

“Your article states that the Greek Orthodox Church does not use instrumental music. That is true for some branches of it, but other branches do use instruments. See:

<http://www.stgregoryoc.org/article/article-archive/the-use-of-the-organ-in-the-orthodox-church/>”

Continued on page 2



IN THIS ISSUE:

Responses To Instrumental Music	1
Issue #100	1
Kindness Heals - Brown	4
Better Conference	4
OC Lectureship	5
Impossible for Evolution	6
Preacher and Cong. Questionnaire	6
Area Wide Activities	7

100 issues doesn't seem like a lot on one hand, and it seems like a lot on the other. Although monthly, we have never produced 12 in any one year, and we actually stopped for a while.

Continued on page 3



RESPONSES TO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!!! - P. 2

We appreciate your response and need to be as accurate as possible. My information was from the statements of a Greek Orthodox tour guide on a recent trip to Greece and observation of about a dozen Greek Orthodox churches. As a number of instrumental denominations have non-instrumental subgroups, it is not surprising to learn that some non-instrumental groups have instrumental sub-groups. It might be good to work on how to word this to reflect that some of the instrumental group's own people recognize that the first century church was non-instrumental.

RESPONSE #2:

"I too believe that we should 'Speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where it is silent.' That is why I am puzzled by your multi page discussion about instrumental music that concluded with what appeared to be your confident conclusion about what God thinks about the matter. Personally, I try not to speak conclusively on matters that God did not speak about.

My Truth Basis is to follow God's will as it is revealed in Scripture and therefore I cannot reach the same conclusions you have since God has not spoken on the matter of instrumental music. God bless you, but please remove me from your mailing list."

Your multi-page observation is correct in that I always try to have short articles, and that was one of the longest ever written - almost 2 full pages of typing.

I apologize for the misunderstanding that I was giving **"what appeared to be your confident conclusion about what God thinks about the matter"**. We have no way of knowing what

God thinks on the subject. Instrumental music may well not be an issue with Him at all.

What I am confident of is (1) God made limited use of instrumental music in O.T. worship, (2) instrumental music is not instructed to be used in the N.T., (3) singing was instructed in the N.T., and (4) it was several hundred years before instrumental music was introduced into the churches. Therefore I am going to submit to what the N.T. teaches by command, example, and necessary inference and attend a non-instrumental church.

If you choose to use take the risk and use instrumental music because it is not specifically forbidden, that is your choice as you are a free moral agent. Perhaps we will meet after judgment day. I am not prepared to take that risk nor will I be responsible to teach others to take that risk. Note to sender: Your name will be removed from the e-mail listing after this issue goes out.

When writing an article like this you do the best you can to say something useful to the reader, but are restricted by several realities of writing. Questions from readers are a valuable tool as to what people are actually thinking rather than what you think they are thinking.

As is indicated on the next page, if you have any questions on this or any other subject, let us know. We are planning a major effort to identify topics which will help members with their personal evangelism efforts.

The article on instrumental music can be found at <http://thearray.org/> and click on the Christian Array Newsletters, #99.

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



ISSUE #100 - P. 2

From the first issue in 1989 on starting Satellite Services in nursing homes (which continue to this day), we have had consistent themes of church growth, Impossible for Evolution, and multi-congregation activities.

We have built up to a 6000 e-mail database of members and congregations with Elizabeth Brown of Texarkana being our most regular contributor.

BACK ISSUES:

The 100 issues are posted on the website thearray.org along with other hopefully useful information.

ADVERTISING:

Our advertising policy continues to be free advertising for any scriptural multi-church event. We are happy to advertise events for one area in other areas as we think it is encouraging to all to see the activity of others.

FORMAT:

Mailings are typically in PDF in the lowest resolution possible so as to not overload recipient's inboxes. Most is available at a higher resolution in case anyone would like to print or use it otherwise.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

We solicit input from other members who would like to say something relevant to the brotherhood. We generally would limit information to 2 pages of single spaced typing for size considerations (about 1000 words). We do not need financial support contributions.

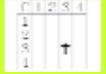
HELP NEEDED:

There are two basic types of help we need:

1. Researchers and writers: We work closely with and have very common goals with the OC Church Growth Think. It is generally a recognition that churches of Christ in the USA are presently in decline and we need to do what it takes to return to a scriptural evangelism growth mode. A very key component to this is to energize a large number of members to work towards this goal. If you are prepared to research a subject or write concisely about a subject, please let us know. The attached draft Preachers and Congregations Questionnaire is an example of the kind of work needed on a number of topics.
2. E-mail listing: The only practical way to communicate your good ideas to our 12,311 US congregations is to e-mail them. If you can imagine, a simple mailing to 12,311 congregations would cost at least \$12,311 per month, which could be spend better otherwise. What is in this e-mail would cost at least twice that much and just imagine to 1.5 million members. When you have an e-mail list, a mailing program, and a tolerant website, it is basically free. We have about 3000 congregations and about that many individual members presently in our listing. It is a tedious process of getting more e-mail addresses and Angela Conaway (ja_conaway@yahoo.com) is in charge of our e-mail listings. She can use your help in whatever area you live.

On to the next 100 issues!

Benton F. Baugh, Publisher



KINDESS HEALS

“The mind is a mighty force. When you close your eyes and imagine something stressful, research shows, your body reacts: Arteries constrict, blood pressure goes up, muscles tense, breathing rate increases. But if you think of something healing, healing tends to happen physiologically. This may explain why compassion and forgiveness are so powerful, not only for the recipient but also for the giver.

Our emotions resonate with one another, for better and for worse. My anger may raise my wife’s blood pressure as well as mine. On the other hand, my loving feelings may lower it in both of us. Acting in ways that are loving, forgiving, compassionate, altruistic and nurturing can help free us of disease and premature death. In short, we are hardwired to help each other. When we forget this fact, we suffer needlessly.” (Dean Ornish)

Dr. Ornish gives us a different perspective on something we already know. Attitude has serious consequences. Seek to do good and not harm to others by living in harmony and encouraging others with kind thoughts and words. Be devoted to one another in love.

“Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (Col. 3:12-14)

“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.” (3 John 2) Always pray and speak healing.

Elizabeth Brown

BETTER CONFERENCE

You preach and you want to be BETTER at it. If not, shame on you! But what are you going to do to be BETTER in 2015-16? Might we suggest the BETTER conference. A two day conference with the singular purpose of helping those who preach be BETTER at the specific art of standing in front of a crowd and delivering The Message of God.

WHERE: Lewisville Church of Christ - Lewisville, TX

WHEN: October 4-5. All BETTER Conferences begin at 1 pm on Monday and end at noon on Tuesday.

WHO: Jay Lockhart, David Shannon, Wayne Roberts, Ralph Gilmore, Gary Bradley, Paul Shero, Denny Petrillo, Jeff and Dale Jenkins

HOW MUCH: The \$25 cost is all inclusive. Also will include a copy of TJI’s newest book “Before I Go” and a drawing for a free iPad Mini. Scholarships are available.

WHY NOT: It’s worth a try - 100% refundable

For More Info or to register

www.PreachBETTER.com, 972 861-2434

Jeff A Jenkins Preaching Minister,
Lewisville Church

Mobile: 972-977-9871

Email: jeffajenkins@gmail.com

Address: 6305 Eagle Creek Dr. Flower Mound, TX 75028

Website: www.thejenkinsinstitute.com

Website: <http://lewisvillecofc.org/>



OC LECTURESHIP 2015



OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 4-6

www.oc.edu/lectureship

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."

www.oc.edu/lectureship

#OCLectureship



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION: THIRD CLEAR EYELID

“It’s called the nictitating membrane, a translucent inner eyelid good for cleansing, protecting, and many other uses. Camels rely on them during sandstorms. Frogs use them to squeeze their eyes inward, which helps with swallowing. Woodpeckers deploy them ‘like seat belts’ so their eyes don’t pop out,’ says Ivan Schwab, professor of ophthalmology at the University of California, Davis. A third eyelid is even found in the corner of the human eye, in a vestigial form known as the semilunar fold. - *Eve Conan*” from the October 2015 issue of National Geographic magazine, near the front, no page number.

The frog or Woodpecker would learn of the need for these when their eyes popped out and they were dying because of it. Not much chance to evolve it for a million years.

When the camel gets sand in its eyes, he or she will not die from it. If you presume the camels are in an all sand desert, they could keep their eyes open and have their vision seriously damaged by the blowing sand or keep their eyes closed and not know where he or she was going.

Alternately a camel could live near a desert and only occasionally be exposed to the need. When exposed to the need, the camel could say to itself “If only I had an extra clear eyelid to take the abuse of a sandstorm I would be better off. All I have to do is to take the general design of my current eyelids and combine it with the transparent characteristics of my eye lens and I would have it.

If you think a camel can do that, try it yourself. Clearly it took an intelligent designer to make this happen.



PREACHER AND CONG. QUESTIONNAIRES

A draft copy of a Preacher and Congregation questionnaire is attached. It was drafted as a starting answer to a request for a Minister Evaluation Form.

The general idea behind this form is that hiring a minister typically involves a move between cities and an interview process in another city.

Both of these are expensive, but not as expensive as a preacher and a congregation getting together who simply do not match.

If they do not match in general style, it is going to be expensive and difficult for both sides.

The forms are intended to be completed and exchanged so that both have an idea as to what to expect. If they seem compatible at this level, interview time can be

spent on more in depth discussions rather than learning the basics.

What we are asking at this time is for ministers and shepherds to look at the forms and let us know questions you do not think are appropriate to answer, or what else you would like to know before an interview trip is arranged. Send your comments to bbaugh@thearray.org.

As a starter for a Minister Evaluation Form, fill these forms out and see what you learn about both parties.



HOUSTON AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

10/4-6/15 OC Lectureship

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.