

3RD GENERATION

In a sweeping generalization, a friend Jack has often said “the third generation is not worth shooting”. Whereas this was an extremely broad generalization, what he was trying to communicate was that frequently a “first” generation starts with nothing and really works hard to establish itself financially. They suffer shortages and do without a lot simply to survive and to get going.

The “second” generation or their kids start with little also and are told “we cannot afford that”. However, as they grow up the family becomes more financially stable and benefit from the financial progress and frequently go on to college. When they leave high school or graduate from college they immediately get good jobs and have a strong financial basis to start with.

When the “third” generation is born, the “first” and “second” generations are financially set and don’t want the “third” generation go through the hardships they went through. The “first” generation are grandparents with surplus cash and love to buy things for their grandkids. The third generation has difficulty in being grateful for what they have, they more likely feel entitled to it.

So what has this to do with religion, or more specifically to the churches of Christ. What we want to suggest is that this is the “human condi-

2016 HOUSTON AREA WIDE CAMPAIGN FOR CHRIST

As will be noted in the attachment, the date for the 2016 Houston Area Wide Campaign for Christ is set for August 20-21, 2016.

It is the fifth semi-annual event with a new weekend format at the centrally located UH Hofheinz Basketball Pavilion to facilitate attendance from all areas of greater Houston.

Please reserve the date and get involved.

tion”, and the principle generally applies to many things.

Consider the church and specifically the post WW2 group. It was characterized as being smaller groups with limited resources. We are not even going to discuss a transitional “second” generation group, but go to the “third”.

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KEEPING UP TO DATE

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LEARNING BY EXAMPLE

Consider today that the churches of Christ as a whole are now a “third” generation group. Characteristics of such a group might be:

1. We worship in comfortable buildings and are so accustomed to it that it is hard to imagine going through the difficulties it would take to plant a new congregation,
2. We repeat the teachings of our parents, but haven’t actually become convinced with the logic behind the teachings to be able to effectively do personal evangelism,
3. We go to “church” and let the paid staff do our religion for us while we are simply observers,
4. We have become so politically correct that we don’t believe others are lost and so are not concerned about evangelizing them,
5. We feel we are entitled to be properly entertained at church rather than feeling we are supposed to be serving others, or
6. Do we go to Bible Class year after year with it becoming the objective rather than a means to do something. Do we ever graduate?

Each of these might be characteristics of a “third” generation attitude. We need to work on how to continually go back to “first” generation attitudes and seriousness if we are to fulfill our part of the great commission and be pleasing to Christ.

If it is reasonable to presume the rapidly growing post WW2 church was a “first” generation, it is probably also reasonable to conclude that the present declining church is a “third” generation. We need to get together and get busy. We will report on the use of our talents on judgment day. It should be scary to think of telling Jesus that the church declined in our generation.

Benton F. Baugh

When my granddaughter came for a visit, she wanted to make an outfit for school. She brought a pattern and fabric. I could have showed her the sewing machine and said, “Go right ahead and sew.” But of course I didn’t do that. We carefully cut out the pattern pieces, then the fabric and then she sewed a bit and I sewed a bit. I provided an example of what she should do next.

Examples are important. We may have a preferred learning style, but every one of us learns by the example of others. We should choose our examples carefully. One writer said, “I learned to be quiet from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, and kindness from the unkind.” Yet he was strangely ungrateful for his teachers.

Jesus said, “I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done for you.” (John 13:15) He didn’t tell them what to do and he didn’t write it down – he showed them by example. He really doesn’t expect me to do anything that he was unwilling to do. And beyond that he promised to be with me and help me every step of the way. Think how powerful that example was and is.

Paul said “And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

My granddaughter’s outfit is important to her now and will last a little while. Far more important is the patient example that she can put into practice with her daughter and granddaughter. “A good example is the best sermon.” (Benjamin Franklin)

Elizabeth Brown

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #57 & #58: NECTAR BATS AND BAT FLOWERS

In an article named “Nature’s inventiveness knows no bounds.” in the March 2014 issue of National Geographic Magazine, nectar drinking bats are described. The starting premise of declaring that accidental mutations provide unlimited inventions would be humorous, except evolutionists are actually serious. They believe and preach that zero IQ plants and animals create spectacular capabilities that we have difficulty in simply figuring out what they are doing.

Enough preaching, this is good enough for 2 impossibles. First for **nectar bats** (thumbsized *Glossophaga Commissarisi*). They use sophisticated frequency modulated sound calls which reflect back pictures that convey precise information about a target’s size, shape, position, texture, depth and other qualities only a nectar bat can interpret. Nectar bats can empty bat flowers in less than a fifth of a second.

Now for the **bat flowers** (*Mucuna Holtonii*), they hang down from vegetation for clear bat access and have an exact fit to match the bat’s head.

“The bat’s long tongue springs a hidden switch, exploding the pea-pod keel. As it laps deep in the flower’s nectary, spring-loaded anthers burst from the keel and gild the bat’s tiny rump

with a spray of golden pollen.” (p. 132, 2nd col, 5th pp)

Further the bat flowers shape their flowers to catch a bat’s ear. They provide rounded hollow forms to be easiest for a bat to find. They have waxy surfaces that are highly sound reflective and frequently have a sound absorbent “fur” background to make themselves easiest to find.

None of the flower characteristics are interesting unless a bat is available to take advantage of them. None of the bat capabilities are interesting unless there are matching flowers for them to use them on. The mutually beneficial relationships like this is called “chiropterophily”. It is the theory of evolution that each of these characteristics evolved over thousands or millions of years, being of no use until they reached the developed stage, and at the same time. And they would suggest it is hard to believe in an intelligent designer.



Their ending sentence is “In such intricate interactions, nature reveals its most profound magic.”

Our ending sentence would be this is positive proof of an intelligent designer, and that intelligent designer is Jehovah.

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

EEM (EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSIONS)

Can you imagine that in some former Soviet Bloc countries, the Bible is now being used as their primary text book.

Many Eastern European administrators, librarians and teachers believe giving the Bible to their children will change the future of their country. That is why they continue to ask EEM to put Bibles and biblical literature in their schools

What can you do?
You can supply Bibles and biblical materials:
For \$1000 for a school!
For \$150 for a class!
For \$50 for ten students!
For \$5 for a child!



Dirk Smith 501-2789-1728 dsmith@eem.org
Eastern European Mission 800-486-1818 MillionDollorSunday.org

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

Each Wed. Northeast Houston Preacher's Meeting, Darien Loop CofC, 7014 Darien St. 11:00—1:00, Contact Cecil Herndon, aj10@ridemetro.com for more details

2nd Tues. Northwest Houston Preacher's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Ranchero King Buffet, 5900 N. Fwy., confirm with Dale Foster at dalefost@gmail.com for info.

8/20-21 Houston Area Campaign for Christ, UH Hofheinz Pavillion
See attachments for details

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".

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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.