

WORLD CLASS SPEAKER FOR YOUR SMALL CONGREGATION

This article is at least in some part the result of seeing and ad in the Christian Chronicle for a preacher in a small congregation in Pennsylvania. One of the qualifications was the preacher must be self supporting. There are some willing to do that, but they are using a national search to find one who is not only self supporting, but will move his family there likely at his own expense.

In the nineteenth century the typical church of Christ was generally competing with farm work for level of interest. Functionally the bar for the local minister was not very high when it came to presenting the "sermon". However, the need for a minister to provide 2 interesting sermons every week is a major challenge in any situation.

Today every member of the churches of Christ have ongoing access to high quality programming broadcast thru various media into our homes. The challenge for the preaching minister is even greater today and he is functionally compared to high quality video coming in 7 days a week.

To make this worse, when a congregations is small and struggling, like the one mentioned above, simply getting a minister at all is a challenge, even if he happens to be boring.

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SHINE LIKE STARS

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever." (Dan. 12:3)

God created and placed each star exactly where he wanted them to be. He moves them in the exact path that he determined. "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth." (Psalm 33:6) In the beginning, God separated light from darkness with the sun, moon and stars. Today, he uses his children, shining like stars in the darkness to bring others to him.

As reflectors of Jesus, we are the light of the world. "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." (Eph. 5:8) How desperately dark the world becomes without Jesus. Jesus said, "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." (John 12:46)

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"Cheer up. Your life isn't meaningless. God put you on this earth for a purpose... to buy dog food and clean up after me."

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But the title of the article implies we are going to suggest a "world class speaker" for your small congregation. This is even though your congregation is small, limited on budget, and is in rural Pennsylvania.

The suggestion is that instead of competing with internet quality, take advantage of it. What we are suggesting is that your sermon each Sunday will be provided by a world class minister at no charge to you. All you have to do is recognize that some of our methods are the traditional way to do it, and are not a specific scriptural requirements.

A worship service is praying, singing, communion, offering, and preaching. Praying, singing, communion, and offering are reasonably simple to administer and are not very labor intensive. Preaching is the problem.

We are suggesting that your service continue exactly as it is, except when it is time for the sermon, you flip on the projector and start the sermon. When the sermon is over and the invitation is issued, turn off the projector and your shepherds stand up just like they do now and take charge.

On your sign out front you put "Dr. David Duncan" is your preaching minister and David delivers your sermon every week. You have the continuity of a regular preacher who presents an excellent sermon and all it cost was the price of a projector, which you likely already have. David is the Preaching Minister at Memorial church of Christ in Houston, Texas and is a quality main line church of Christ speaker. Every week he posts his sermons at www.mcoc.org with an invitation for you to watch. He even has a backlog posted so you don't have a problem if he goes on vacation.

You can put on your sign and in your bulletin that David is preaching on Sunday morning and Gary is preaching on Sunday night. You

don't have to have someone's "second class" Sunday night sermon, in both cases it can be their Sunday morning sermons.

You can google "church of christ video sermons" to see a list of congregations around the country who post their sermons. Three websites you can use are listed below, including on the first one a more direct link to David's sermons:

Memorial Church of Christ, Houston, TX
<http://www.sundaystreams.com/go/mcoc>

Lewisville, TX Church of Christ
<http://lewisvillecofc.org/spiritual-growth/sermons/>

Oldham Lane Church of Christ, Abilene, TX
<http://www.oldhamlanechurch.com/sermons/sermons>

Dr. James Nored also presents video lessons which are typically shorter than a sermon, Fairfax church of Christ, VA
<http://www.missionaloutreachnetwork.com/>

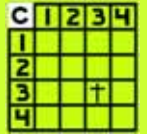
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CAKE OR DEATH

by alex tober



PETER AND PAUL WERE NEVER THAT CLOSE



WORLD CLASS SPEAKER FOR YOUR SMALL CONGREGATION, p. 3

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Whereas this may be a good idea for a lot of congregations, it is especially beneficial for smaller ones. Instead of your most active worker trying to come up with another interesting sermon, presume he can spend that time working with the rest of you on a active personal evangelism program.

In one step your congregation can:

1. Have one or more world class speakers,
2. Eliminate the stress of funding a preacher, and
3. Be absolutely scriptural although a little unconventional in doing so.

This may or may not be what your congregation chooses to do on a regular basis, but there are a number of options:

1. Replacement speaker when your preacher takes a vacation.
2. Special Sunday night series.

Nothing can replace the benefit of having a full time worker helping spread the Gospel, but we need to consider new methods to spread the first century Gospel when appropriate.

SHINE LIKE STARS, CONT.

We are to, "shine like stars in the universe." (Phil. 2:15) We boost our star power by living and loving in Jesus Christ. Stay out of the shadows, fulfill you mission and purpose by letting your light shine. "You are the light of the world...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:14-16)

"Lord, the light of your love is shining. In the midst of the darkness shining: Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us: shine on me. Shine, Jesus, shine."

Elizabeth Brown

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 shepherd 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
- 100% of the members are assigned to a Shepherd
- 100% of the members have had a 5 minute conversation with their Shepherd this year

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. We 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? Only the Great Commission is at stake.

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #66: RED BLOOD CELLS

Last month we discussed the blood circulatory system as something impossible to evolve, but simply having a critical circulatory system is not sufficient: Consider the red blood cells:

“Red blood cells are the key to life. They are constantly traveling through your body, delivering oxygen and removing waste. If they didn’t do their job, you would slowly die.

Red blood cells contain a protein called hemoglobin that gives blood its red hue. Hemoglobin contains iron, which makes it an excellent vehicle for transporting oxygen and carbon dioxide.

As blood passes through the lungs, oxygen molecules attach to the hemoglobin. When the blood passes through the body’s tissue, the hemoglobin releases oxygen to the cells. The empty hemoglobin molecules then bond with the tissue’s carbon dioxide or other waste gasses to transport them away.

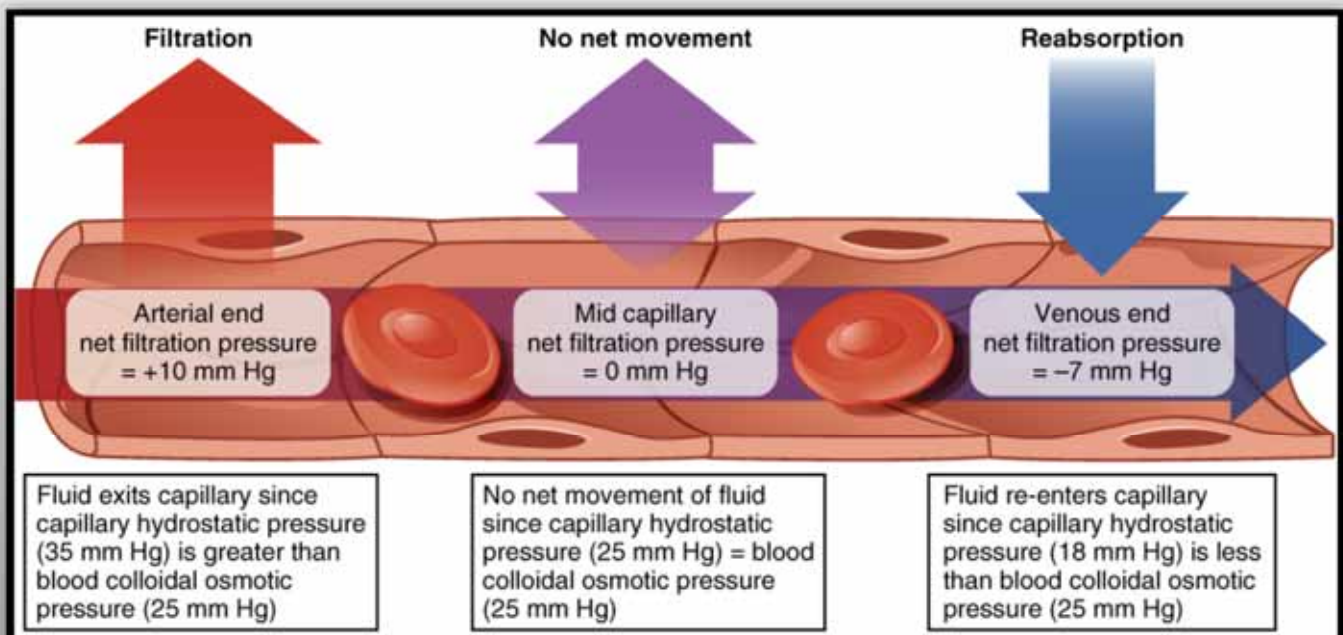
Over time, red blood cells get worn out and eventually die. The average life cycle of a red blood cell is only 120 days. But don’t worry!

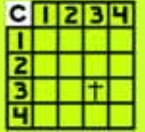
Your bones are continually producing new blood cells” From: <https://www.fi.edu/heart/red-blood-cells>

As indicated in the graphic below the situation in capillary tubes is that at one point in the lungs red blood cells must interact to receive oxygen and give carbon dioxide. At another point in muscles they must interact the opposite to give oxygen and receive carbon dioxide and wastes. Then while in the stomach system the red blood cells must receive nutrients from the stomach and intestines, and give oxygen. Then they must give wastes to the kidney, while giving it oxygen and nutrients. All this happens in capillaries which are only one red blood cell in diameter.

The zero I.Q. circulatory systems doesn’t get a million years to evolve these systems. If they don’t do it from the start, they die. Truly it took and intelligent designer to figure this out from scratch. Today we think we are really smart to determine what it is doing. That intelligent designer is Jehovah.

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





OCCG THINK THINK ELDER'S CG WORKSHOPS

Members of the OCCG Think Tank would be pleased to come to your area and present our Elder's Workshop with some of the information we have been studying and developing.

Real and practical suggestions will be made on how to better engage your members in accomplishing our part of the Great Commission in our time.

Workshops are formatted as:

Area Wide Elders CG Workshops at the location of a host congregation,
Or your Congregational Leaders Church Growth Workshops

If you would like to host a workshop for your area or would like one scheduled for your congregation, go to the occgthinktank.org website, contact us tab, and send your information.

THE CATALYST INITIATIVE

GOAL: Help the kingdom grow by encouraging those without a neighborhood congregation to start one.

PREMISE: The difficulty of doing personal evangelism is proportionate to the distance you are from your congregation.

If you live far enough from your established congregation that it makes it difficult to do personal evangelism and would like to consider starting a new local autonomous scriptural congregation, let us know.

We have experienced volunteers available to assist you in starting your new congregation or to discuss the possibility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE: www.thecatalystinitiative.org

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Foster's Home for Children

*"More than a home,
A sanctuary."*

Placement applications accepted.
Employment applications welcome.
Applications and donations accepted online
at
www.fostershome.org
Stephenville, Texas

GREATER HOUSTON CAMPAIGN FOR CHRIST AUGUST 2018

After a very successful 2016 Greater Houston Campaign for Christ, plans are underway for the sixth campaign in 2018.

If you would like to be involved in the planning and operation of this Campaign, respond to bbaugh@thearray.org.

We would also like to ask you to consider support for this work in your 2017 and 2018 budgets.



Meeting at Tom Wilson Elementary
5200 Falcon Landing Blvd.
Katy Texas, 77494.

Bible class at 9:00 am
Worship at 10:00 am.

Please plan to attend and tell your friends and neighbors. Most importantly, please pray for this mission effort.

www.nfbcoc.org

For more information, contact:
info@nfbcoc.org

Vacationers

As you travel this summer, you can be of assistance in local congregations in helping them to understand how they are seen by potential visitors and prospects.

On the occgthingtank.org website, Project Papers tab is a paper titled:
MYSTERY GUEST PROGRAM

This paper and the forms included will help you anonymously communicate with the congregation and improve their "curb appeal".

A project of the OC Church Growth Think Tank
www.occgthingtank.org

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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

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EEM (EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSIONS)

Many Eastern European administrators, librarians and teachers believe giving the Bible to their children will change the future of their country.

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



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

CHURCHES OF CHRIST DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT INC.

HELPING VICTIMS NATIONWIDE

When disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires and floods strike, we can bring prepackaged food boxes, personal hygiene boxes, infant care, cleaning supplies, bottled water, clothing and other supplies to a local Church of Christ congregation(s) serving that area.

Info or assistance call 615-833-0888 or 1-800-541-2848
Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc.
P.O. Box 11180, Nashville, TN 37222-1180
dsastrlf@aol.com www.disasterrelief.org



Jerry Heiderich: Director
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

311A East Calhoun Street
El Campo, TX 77437
Clinic 979-578-9091
Cello 214-862-8964

jerry@gulfcoastchristiancounseling.com
www.gulfcoastchristiancounseling.com



Lance Decker

Certified Grief Recovery Specialist

Tomball, TX

+1 (

832) 534-0730

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www.lancedecker.com

Grief Support/Recovery Groups meet at Spring Creek Church of Christ in Tomball, TX at no cost. Next group starts Sept 11, 2016 at 4PM

Individual programs available for a fee.

Programs

The Grief Recovery Method: For all Grief Experiences
When Children Grieve: Helps parents help children grieve

Pet Loss: Program specifically for the loss of a pet

Also available for speaking to groups/
congregations about grief.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

11/5-6 Praise and Harmony Workshop, Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane, Houston, TX, All are welcome, 5:30-7:30 on Saturday, during worship on Sunday

Each Wed. Northeast Houston Preacher's Meeting, Darien Loop CofC, 7014 Darien St., Houston, 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 Rancho King Buffet, 5900 N. Frwy., Houston, confirm with Dale Foster at dalefost@gmail.com for info.

8/2018 Greater Houston Area Campaign for Christ

When Kirk Castleman was in Cameroon last summer he told Paul Kee he would attempt to collect used songbooks to help support their work. Paul has done a great work there with 80 congregations established since 1983. If you are in the Houston area, you can bring any available to the Northwest Preachers Luncheon (see above). Otherwise contact Kirk Castleman <kirk.castleman1942@gmail.com> and discuss with him.

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.