

WE SEMI APOLOGIZE

NUMBER 134

NOVEMBER, 2018

This is issue #134 of the Christian Array which has at the most been issued 11 times in any given year, with some gaps in the middle for various reasons. It was started on issue #1 for reasons, and the reasons have not changed. The first issue was actually in 1989.

The first issue had "RESTORING THE RESTORATION IN OUR GENERATION" in the mast head and had an article on the topic.

This publication has basically obsessed for most of its publication life on two topics. The first is that the church needs to grow (the Great Commission), is not growing, and it is primarily a leadership problem. The second is the impossibility of evolution as a means to develop species. There have surely been some of those who have unsubscribed who are tired of hearing a focus on those same topics.

On the one hand we apologize for continuing to pursue those specific topics in various ways month after month. On the other hand we see them as crucial to the existence of the Church of Christ as we know it. Christ's church will survive with or without us, but it would seem to be good to survive with us.

Continued on page 2

AIM FOR MATURITY

*Solid food is for those who are **mature**, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong. (Heb. 5:14 NLT)* It's easy to become weary in Bible reading, Bible classes and all the things necessary to become a mature Christian. We might say it is a bit difficult to even know when or if we will ever arrive at the status of "mature." When do we graduate?

When we have attained unity in faith and the knowledge of Jesus Christ we are moving in that direction. When our lives become so much like Jesus Christ that others can barely tell the difference – then we might be attaining maturity in Christ. *"... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."* (Eph. 4:13 NIV) Until then, be open to the Holy Spirit's guiding in your life. Keep reading, studying, listening and learning.

Elizabeth Brown

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SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 23, 2019
AREA WIDE LEADER'S
WORKSHOP
HOUSTON, TEXAS
FIFTH WARD CHURCH OF CHRIST
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WE SEMI APOLOGIZE, p. 2

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

We will take the second topic first: Impossible for Evolution which doesn't just talk about evolution, but goes back to creation.

As we address this topic we see atheistic evolutionists attacking our children from all sides with "scientific facts". Our response has basically been either to "stick our collective heads in the sand" or let avid 24 hour creationists handle the arguments for us. We will address that next month.

"Sticking our collective heads in the sand" says to our children that we have no answers for the scientific advances being made regularly (as well as the scientific exaggerations and extrapolations). That may be good enough for some of us old gray heads who are not going to be shaken by current science, but results indicate that it is not working for our kids by the rate we are losing them.

Our 24 hour creationist allies fervently preach the gospel of scientific observations compatible with 24 hour creation days while smoothly ignoring the science which contradicts them. Again, they are convincing to the already convinced, but not to those making up their minds at this time.

What we absolutely know is:

1. The creation of matter was a supernatural event, or in simpler terms was a miracle. That alone proves there is a God.
2. Jehovah is the only pretender to be God who demonstrates that He is God by knowledge of the creation, provided His word without scientific errors, proved his word by scientific statements, and proved his words by prophecies. Not that He is the only one who did them all, He is the only one who did any of them.
3. Creation of species by evolution is impossible. That evolutionists can say that it happened by accident does not make it

true. There are numerous insurmountable challenges to creation of species by evolution from happening. We have listed about 100 so far in this publication.

We have the truth, logic and science on our side. We will not lose if we use it.

Presently most of us are not using it and we are losing our kids at a rapid pace.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

When Jesus issued the instructions for the Great Commission, it can reasonably be understood that typically a church is responsible to grow or plant. Funding missionaries is good, but that is sending money rather than actual personal involvement.

Three years ago the perceived growth rate of Churches of Christ in the USA was actually a decline -0.5%. It currently has accelerated to -1.71%. If our goal is to encourage church growth, we are not doing very well. We may not be doing very well, but there are few topics more important than the health of the church.

Continued on page 3

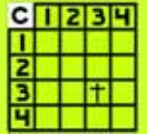
Vacationers

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**



WE SEMI APOLOGIZE, p. 3

If you start with the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 and go to the analysis of the congregation at Laodicea in Revelation 3:15-16 some 60 years later, it clearly indicates what when a congregation is no longer “hot”, it is in trouble. With the Churches of Christ declining at a rate of -1.71% per year, it would indicate that most of us are in trouble.

Clearly what we are doing is not working well enough. Our repeated efforts at thinking we didn't try hard last year and will try harder this year does not seem to be the solution. Having an increasingly unfriendly environment (in comparison to the 1950s) is not the problem. The church has faced much worse before, and will again.

With God's help, we can grow, and can do it scripturally. It may require letting go of some of our customs which are not scriptural requirements, which is always hard to do.

PATH FORWARD

That being said, we see the basic mission of this publication remaining the same. In spite of being tedious and repetitive to some, others give us words of encouragement to keep it up. We bring a particular set of scientific background and logic to the situation which we feel responsible to continue to use to search for how and what to say to revitalize Churches of Christ, and how to communicate it to over 12,000 of our congregations.

We will search for other authors to add diversity to the publication, offer free church related advertising, and increase our efforts to include links to other newsletters. We would appreciate your prayers, counsel, suggestions, thoughts, articles and any other way you can participate, other than your money. We are fully funded and prefer you make contributions to your local congregation.

Benton F. Baugh

Publisher and primary writer

THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW COMMENTS WE HAVE RECEIVED:

Love, THANKS, and prayers for a GREAT issue of CA!! Wow! Loved it! Keep up this great work! Always your brother, Kirk

I enjoy your E-Magazine. Jerrie

Please keep me on the list for a few new updated copies of 'IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION.' It is an amazing collection of evidences for a Supernatural Designer of all life and our environment. Thank you for your wonderful work here! Shawn

I've enjoyed your E-book and plan to share with the congregation I attend in Alabama., Linda

I enjoy reading about what is going on, what ought to be going on, etc.

Don't get to read every issue, but do enjoy the ones I get to read..

Enjoy reading it, Thank You!

Very much enjoy your publication

Thank you all very much for your great work. May God continue to bless you in everything you do for Him

Keep it coming - I Love it!

Contains some very insightful articles

So thankful to God for this newsletter.

Keep up the good work!

THANKS for the faithful work you brethren are doing!

Thx for sharing your news! God bless your efforts mightily! Bob and Jan

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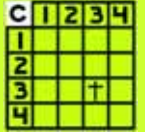
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I'm not interested in receiving it. Thank you!

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CAN A CHURCH BE TOO BIG?

I heard the discussion again recently. A person I respect raised a concern about any church that is larger than the size that an **undershepherd** (1) can adequately shepherd. Without yet revealing my own position, I'm simply restating these common arguments for your feedback:

1. **The shepherd should know every member.** If he does not, how can he genuinely shepherd them? "Shepherding a crowd" is not the same as "shepherding a church."
2. **The members should also know all the other members.** If they don't, then they really can't be "iron sharpening iron." A congregation that does not know one another is not really a New Testament church where the hand knows the foot, etc. (1 Cor. 12).
3. **A congregation should never be larger than one worship service can hold.** When they move past that point, they cease to be one church. No church that meets in more than one service or in more than one location can legitimately claim to be a united church.
4. **Large churches give too much opportunity for anonymity and unaccountability.** Members fall through the cracks in this kind of system, and we thus allow them to wallow in their faith or walk in disobedience. That's a risky position to put them in if we truly want them to follow God.
5. **These congregations almost require a pastor to be a CEO leader.** How else can a person lead a group of people who number in the several hundreds and thousands? He can't really be a **shepherd** who cares for and protects his people.
6. **Larger churches that grow at the expense of smaller churches actually hurt the work of other pastors.** Because we are all in this work together, **pastors** should not be building our own kingdom by draining other churches.

7. **The best kind of growth is churches growing to a certain point and then releasing groups of people to plant new churches.** That way, new churches extend the kingdom better than any single church can alone, and no single church gets so large that they don't know each other.

The larger the church is, the more likely it is that they are drawing from a large geographic distance. That means that they may have members who live so far away that they cannot be deeply involved beyond Sunday morning. That kind of connection is too loose for a strong family of local believers.

Okay – let us hear your thoughts!

By Chuck Lawless on Oct 18, 2018 01:00 am

(1) Mr. Lawless is a Baptist and this article is represented as it is of general interest. "**undershepherd**" is an unscriptural Baptist term. In the Baptist church there terms **Pastor** and **Shepherd** apply to the Pulpit minister. This may be more interesting that the actual information in the article. The red highlighting was not in the original article.

SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 23, 2019

AREA WIDE LEADER'S
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HOUSTON, TEXAS

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Thank you to all who attended the first Revive Us Again Workshop!

Here are a few of the comments we received:

"It was obvious that much planning and effort went into this Workshop. The best experts in the brotherhood. Best Workshop I have ever attended. Thank you for the work, expense, and time!" — T. Phillips

"You had a GOOD IDEA when you dreamed up the evangelism workshop!!!!"

- R. Oglesby

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Wes McAdams
Preaching Minister
Church of Christ
McDermott Road



C.L. Thomas
Instructor
SIBI



Dr. Bruce McClarty
President
Harding University

We were blessed with over 600 attendees from seven different states, and we expect next year to be even bigger!!

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REVIVE US AGAIN



Will you not revive us again, that your people will rejoice in you?

Psalm 85:6

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NINE UPDATED TRENDS ABOUT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

“Christmas Eve is less than a month away. Most churches have some type of Christmas Eve services, but we are seeing clear trends in how churches approach them. Every time we write or podcast something about these services, we get a lot of comments and questions. In that context, here is an update on nine clear trends we are seeing:

1. **It is growing in importance.** Non-Christians are more likely to come to worship services on Christmas Eve than any other day of the year, including Easter. Church leaders get it. They are putting more prayer, preparation, and strategic thinking into the services.
2. **There are three popular times for the service.** Whether a church has one or multiple Christmas Eve services, three times are more popular than others: later afternoon (typically for families with young children and for older adults); early evening (the more traditional time); and late evening (for empty nesters and families with teenage or grown children).
3. **The services are traditional.** They include traditional hymns and carols. They may include some time for the lighting of the final advent candle.
4. **The services are brief.** The typical length is 30 to 45 minutes.
5. **The pastor’s message is brief.** The typical length is 10 to 15 minutes.
6. **Most churches include candlelight services.** They are now expected by Christians and non-Christians alike.
7. **More unchurched are attending these services.** As I noted in the first item, one of the reasons for the growing importance of Christmas Eve services is the increasing number of non-Christians who attend. Anecdotally, they seem to be more receptive each year.
8. **Churches are building in processes for follow-up.** That means they have process-

es in place to get contact information, and processes to provide some type of non-aggressive follow-up such as a text message, an email or, most effectively, a handwritten letter.

9. **All ministry staff are expected to be there.** Because this day is the single most important day to reach unbelievers, more churches require an “all-hands-on-deck” presence.

Some of these trends have been around a while. Some are only recently growing in importance. Please share with us what your church plans to do for Christmas Eve.”

The article above was copied from the Thom Ranier website (Baptist).

Christmas eve this year is a Monday night. A key point to this may well be “**More unchurched are attending these services.**” You are probably wondering how to get some of your local residents into your building to hear some good acapella singing and start the evangelism process. Monday night is as scriptural as Wednesday night is.

Should we not do this because someone two generations ago didn’t like it, or do it because it will help us accomplish the Great Commission? In about 1975 we were invited to a Christmas program at a denominational church which was half the size of our congregation. It was a quality presentation. That congregation is now several times as large as ours.

Benton F. Baugh

IF YOU ARE TAKING THE GREAT COMMISSION TO YOUR AREA, IT SHOULD TYPICALLY SHOW IN NUMERICAL GROWTH

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION – SCARCE AS HEN'S TEETH

Having always heard the saying “scarce as hen’s teeth”, one would think chickens did not have teeth. Turns out they do have one for a very special reason.

“A mother bird delivers her young encased in an eggshell; an external protective covering consisting of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3). The shell protects the chick until it is ready to survive in the outside world. The chick breaks open the shell when it is strong enough and ready. Since the beak and the claws of the bird are not fully developed and cannot penetrate the eggshell, the “egg tooth” is the unusual structure that helps the bird break through the shell. It is only found in emerging chicks and lost soon after hatching, after it is used to penetrate the hard shell that once protected the embryo.

In birds, the process of breaking open the eggshell is commonly referred to as **pipping**.

Chicks have a pipping muscle on the back of their necks. It is this muscle which gives them the strength to force the egg tooth through the inner membrane of the eggshell.

When a chick becomes too large to absorb oxygen through the pores of its eggshell, it uses its egg tooth to peck a hole in the air sac located at the flat end of the egg. This sac provides a few hours' worth of air, during which the chick breaks through the eggshell to the outside. The egg tooth falls off several days after hatching.”
from Wikipedia

We have considered things as impossible if:

1. It was something from nothing,
2. It lasts forever
3. It involves blind complexation
4. Must have immediately on need

5. Simultaneous creation (irreducible complexity)

6. Compromising evolution, and

7. Required new computer programming.

This would qualify as impossible because of (4.) the chick doesn’t know he needs it until he is out of air in he egg shell so he doesn’t have a million years to evolve one and (7.) it is not a modification of something else but rather it is unique programming to create this tooth.

An added bonus is that when the chick must have more air than be obtained though the porous egg shell to do the work of breaking out, it has a supply of fresh air supplied in an air sac. That would also make it a (5.) for a simultaneous creation requirement.

The chick is like a person in a straight jacket trying to get out. It cannot spend a million years figuring it out. This shows the clear work and planning of a designer. And that designer is God.

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



www.sites.ext.vt.edu

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION is a 97 page 8 1/2" x 11" full color book by Benton Baugh which includes many of the "impossible" articles in this newsletter plus discussions on what impossible means, definition of terms, what evolutionists are going to teach your kids, and answers for evolutionists. Price: \$30.

WILL MAKE EXCELLENT CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR YOUR KIDS / GRANDCHILDREN!



To order this book go to:

www.thearray.org, BOOK tab

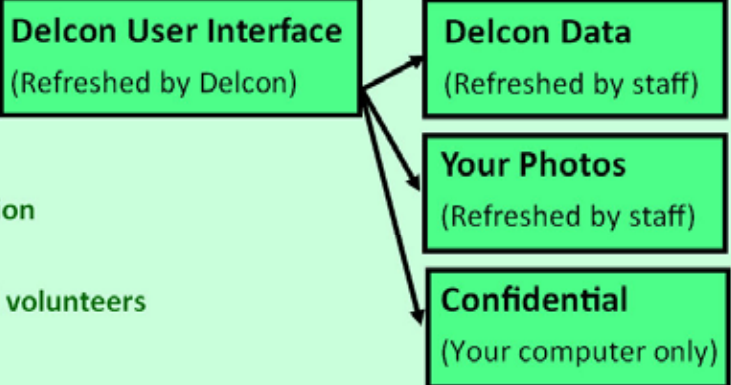
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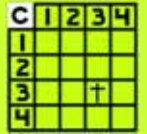
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Price: \$335.00 per congregation
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Annual License fee including support by email: \$100.00



PREACHING SPECIALISTS

There are several topics affecting our members which are detailed matters needing specialized studies in order to become prepared to make a presentation. It is unreasonable to expect a regular pulpit minister to be prepared to speak on everything. As a practical matter, if he spends the time to become a speaker on every topic he is probably neglecting other parts of his local role. For that reason, this publication advocates taking advantage of

specialized speakers for several topics. The listing on the following page under the same title is a list of some of these speakers.

Christian College courses are Bible focused as you would reasonably expect. However, many of the questions faced today are more varied. As an instance, the age of the earth is a Biblical topic, but the Bible doesn't say much about it. Benefits of actually attending a

Christian College relates to the Bible, but the Bible doesn't talk about the length of creation days at all.

The attached letter was received recently after making a GOD IS SCIENTIFIC / IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION presentation on Sunday night and is used as a testimonial that this practice can work.

If you are a congregation who would like to hear one of these topics, or if you are a speaker who would to add your topic to the list, let us know.

NORTHWEST CHURCH of CHRIST

6720 WEST TIDWELL at BINGLE HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092 • 713/462-4687 • nwchurchhouston.com

ELDERS—RICHARD BROWN • JULIO CEDENO • BILL VILLARREAL

MINISTERS — JIM T. MIDDLETON, Minister

Don't miss this!

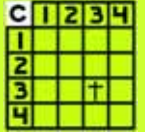
The Northwest Church of Christ had the privilege of hearing Benton Baugh present to us "Impossible for Evolution" at our youth devotional on Sunday November 4, 2018. This is an event that all need to hear.

I highly recommend that you contact Brother Baugh and set up this presentation for your congregation. This presentation generated a lot of discussion among our members and youth.

Richard Brown, Elder

Bill Villarreal, Elder

Jim Middleton, Minister



Why Worry?

Lord Jesus said it best, as recorded in Matthew 6:27: "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?."

He addressed the matter again in Matthew 6:34: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

His point seems to be that worrying is a waste of time.

What is worry? The worrier focuses his anxiety on a feared event or events which have not yet occurred. In most cases the feared event never will occur because excessive worriers are terrible predictors of the future.

Doctors and social workers note that worriers may cling to alcohol and drug abuse as a way to cope with worry. Of course alcohol and drugs just give the worrier something truly cataclysmic to worry about.

In the matter of excessive worry, as in everything else, Christ's wisdom prevails.

The only thing that worry changes is the worrier. For the worse.

John Black, MCOC, Houston

ADVERTISING POLICY:

We will advertise any scriptural event or service relating to more than one congregation at no cost.

PREACHING SPECIALISTS

Congregations sometimes need fill-in preachers and speakers with special subjects which are difficult for the local minister to become proficient in. Following are a list of speakers with topics which may be of interest to you. Each of the speakers are known to us and reliably present the Word.

If any of the topics are interesting to you, contact information is provided. Some speakers may require expenses and/or stipends.

- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON CHURCH FAITHFULNESS**
- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON MARRIAGE**

Kent Allen, Oklahoma Christian University
405-315-3008

- **CROSSING THE LINE IN ADDICTION**
- **GOD IS SCIENTIFIC**
- **IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION [1]**
- **WHAT ATHEIST ARE GOING TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN, WITH ANSWERS**

Philip Bailey, Memorial Church of Christ,
Houston, TX, 713-304-0011
Pbailey@gpbaileyconsulting.com

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.
Memorial church of Christ Houston, TX
713-419-8683
bbaugh@thearray.org

[1] Impossible for Evolution is a good topic for a youth event. If you arrange an event, we will provide the refreshments, wherever you are.

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Foster's Home for Children

In an effort to meet a growing demand for children needing out of home placement, Foster's Home for Children is expanding by three additional group homes in the summer of 2019. We will be interviewing and hiring caregivers for these three homes around May of 2019. If you are interested in being considered, it is not too early to submit your application. Consider serving with us as we provide sanctuary and healing to children of trauma. Applications can be found on our website at www.fostershome.org, and submitted to glenn@fostershome.org.

For more information, contact Glenn Newberry, President, at 214 536-6172.



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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



NORTH FORT BEND
CHURCH OF CHRIST

FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY

Join us for a time of Celebration and partner with us as we work to meet a need for Foster's Home for Children.

Requested Items: Canned Ravioli and Spaghetti O's
Please bring items on December 9th.

Sunday December 9th, 9:30-11:30 am

A representative from Foster's will give a presentation during class time and accept the donations.

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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.

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 Clinic 979-578-9091, Cell 214-862-8964



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THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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THE PLAN OF SALVATION

The following is a complete listing of all examples of conversion given in the BIBLE during the Christian dispensation, indicating the actual events recorded as occurring during the process:

SCRIP.	WHOM	HEAR	BEL.	REPENT	CONF	BAP.	RESULT
Acts 2:37-41	Day of Pentecost	Yes		Yes		Yes	Remission of sins
Acts 8:4-13	Samaritans	Yes	Yes			Yes	
Acts 8:35-39	Ethiopian Eunuch	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Rejoicing
Acts 9:18, 22:14-16	Saul, of Tarsus	Yes	Yes			Yes	And wash away thy sins
Acts 10:34-48	Cornelius	Yes				Yes	
Acts 16:13-15	Lydia	Yes				Yes	She and her household
Acts 16:25-34	Jailor	Yes	Yes			Yes	Rejoiced greatly, having believed, all household
Acts 17:22-34	Athenians @ Mars Hill	Yes	Yes				Says "some men joined him (Paul) and believed"
Acts 18:8	Corinthians Crispus, Leader of Synagogue	Yes	Yes			Yes	
Acts 19:1-6	Ephesians	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
GREAT COMMISSION							
Matthew 28:18-20	All nations (Gr. Comm.)	Yes				Yes	I am with you always
Mark 16:15-16	Every creature	Yes	Yes			Yes	Shall be saved

It is notable that of the five things which are considered to be in the plan of salvation (not a scriptural term), no example includes all five events. Only hearing is stated at all recorded conversions, but we presume all acts actually happened, just weren't recorded. Rather than allowing individual Christians to select which scenario to follow, we consider that the lists are abridged and that all of the events are required to follow the "Biblical example".



NATIONAL & AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

- 12/4-6/18** Seniors Ministry Conference, Abundant Living. Searcy, Ark.
gowen@harding.edu (See abundantlivingseniors.com)
- 1/18-19/19** Medical Missions Seminar. IHCF African Christian Hospitals, Springdale, Ark.
See ihcf.net
- 1/23-26/19** Sunset Vision Workshop, Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX
See sunset/bible/workshop
- 2/3-7/19** Freed-Hardeman Bible Lectureship, Henderson, TN. Contact Kristi Burleson
At lectureship@fhu.edu, see fhu.edu
- 2/23/19** Houston Area Wide Leader's Workshop
Fifth Ward Church of Christ, 4308 Stonewall St, Houston, TX 77020
- 3/27-30/19** Evangelism and Church Growth Workshop, Faith Village Church of Christ,
4100 McNeil, Wichita Falls, TX, 76308, see homemission.org for more
- 4/20-25/19** 75th Annual Church of Christ National Lectureship, St. Louis,
See national-lectureship.net, contact@nationallecureship.net
- Each Wed.** NE Houston Preacher's Meeting, Location varies, 11:00—1:00,
Contact Cecil Herndon, aj10@ridemetro.com
- 2nd Tues.** NW Houston Preacher's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. , Rancho King
Buffet, 5900 N. Frwy., Hou, confirm with Gerald Fruzia fruzia70@sbcglobal.net

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