

YOUR OBJECTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD INTERVIEW

NUMBER 138

MAY, 2019

All of your prospects for your achieving your part of the Great Commission are going to be from your general neighborhood. If someone comes from a great distance to attend your congregation, it is highly likely they are already members of the church or they wouldn't have come.

That being said it should be beneficial for you to have an objective understanding about your neighbor's impression of you. If they do not have a positive impression about you, they are not likely to consider learning more about you. It is a natural part of the evangelism process.

The OC Church Growth Institute paper OCCG-008 NEIGHBORHOOD INTERVIEW is attached to this issue specifically to help you in this process. This paper provides a questionnaire which will allow you to go to any venue in your neighborhood and get objective answers. Ice cream parlors, yogurt locations, Starbucks, McDonalds and similar places are good places to try this out. It will be good to have someplace where one or two people are sitting down in a relatively relaxed mode.

In this case it is easy to bring the form with you. You can show it to demonstrate it is short and is really an official thing to do. It is literally one page long.

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

Mission 2019 - Lights Shining Bright	2
Favoritism - Brown	3
6 Lessons from Turnaround Churches	4
Impossible for Evolution	5
Area Wide Activities	9

MISSION 2019

The thrust of the Mission 2019 on August 10 this year will be to go to and bring visitors to the Houston Food Bank. It will be a major project to help package meals for the needy in the greater Houston area. The goal of the is event is to get 1000 individuals to go and assemble meals for the needs on that morning. A secondary but equally important goal is for 100 of these individuals to be non-member prospects. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.

MISSION SPRING BRANCH

The Mission Spring Branch activities will be to have the congregations around the Spring Branch area to bring visitors to a breakfast of any sort at their congregation that morning and then carpool to the Houston Food Bank. The OC Church Growth Institute will reimburse the congregations \$20.00/prospect in attendance to fund the breakfast for the prospect and the inviter to encourage this personal evangelism piece. The OC Church Growth Institute will also make the same offer to any other congregation doing the same thing. Just send the names to info@thearray.org.

AUGUST 10, 2019

**GREATER HOUSTON
MISSION 2019**

LIGHTS SHINING BRIGHT

REGISTER @
www.houstonchurchesofchrist.net

GREATER HOUSTON AREA CHURCHES OF CHRIST

MISSION 2019

“Lights Shining Bright”

Saturday, August 10, 2019

Houston Food Bank
535 Portwall Street
Houston, Texas 77029



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO

*****Break the Meal Assembly Record*****

(Ages 6 to Adults May Volunteer)

Invite a Non-Member Guest

City-Wide Rally * June 30th * 6:00 pm

Memorial Church of Christ
900 Echo Lane * Houston, TX 77024

"Let's Join Together As One!"

- Mission Day 2019 • Saturday, August 10th -

7:45 a.m. - 12 noon • Houston Food Bank Assembly Warehouse
535 Portwall Street • Houston, TX 77029

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. • Lunch and Devotion at Fifth Ward Church of Christ
4308 Stonewall Street • Houston, TX 77020

Benton Baugh
bbaugh@thearray.com
Memorial Church of Christ
(713) 464-0271

Gary Smith
smithgarystriving@gmail.com
Fifth Ward Church of Christ
(713) 672-2654

Cruz Hernandez
cruz01@att.net
Hidden Valley Church of Christ
(713) 560-9080

David Duncan
dduncan@mcoc.org
Memorial Church of Christ
(713) 464-0271

Register Today For Free T-shirt at
www.houstonchurchesofchrist.net

YOUR OBJECTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD INTERVIEW, p. 2

Most of us are sure that we know pretty much what everyone else is thinking, but frequently that is not the case.

In one case the forms were taken to a Starbucks about a half a block from a congregation, with clear view of the congregation from the Starbucks. The congregation was across the street from a known landmark.

On asking a young man and a young woman whose backs were to the congregation what was across the street from the landmark, they both independently said a Presbyterian Church. Both of the individuals had repeatedly come down the street in front of the congregation to get to Starbucks.

From that it was for sure that they had no idea what the congregation did in the community.

This bit of information is not what is going to make or break a congregation, but it is a good piece of information to have. Further, it is an objective appraisal, which you cannot do yourselves.

We would encourage you to do this as it is easy for you to do. Also, like the Mystery Guest Program discussed before (also on thearray.com website at the bottom of the home page) they tend to give you an objective appraisal of your situation. In addition to that, they both have the potential of starting a discussion with a potential prospect. That is the basis of personal Evangelism.

The paper OCCG-008 Neighborhood Interview can be downloaded on the website www.thearray.org, bottom of the Home page.

FAVORITISM

“Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.” (Lev. 19:15)

Have you noticed that there is a lot of favoritism in our world today? It is accepted and expected. We have become so accustomed to favoring the disadvantaged and the advantaged that we barely calculate the injustice it causes others. We make exceptions and allowances for wrong doers according to their status and relationships.

God says favoritism is wrong and that he will have no part in it. He has instructed us not to show favoritism. “My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.” (James 2:1) Rather than accomplishing some ultimate social good, favoritism produces injustice and partiality.

When we begin to regard favoritism as benevolence it causes us to regard God as one who shows favoritism. After all we have a compassionate and benevolent God. Thinking that God will so favor us that he will ignore our actions is risky. God has made clear that he is not a God of partiality. “For God does not show favoritism.” (Rom. 2:11)

“Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.” (Col. 2:25) We are called to a higher standard of conduct and attitude. We are to be just, impartial, fair and to seek equity for all. “If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as law-breakers.” James 2:8, 9)

Elizabeth Brown

6 LESSONS FROM TURNAROUND CHURCHES

I love hearing stories of hope. Instead of waiting for the stories to come to me, I recently interviewed 19 pastors whose churches had moved from struggling to breakout. All of the pastors had been in the church at least four years, and all of them had reached points of frustrations.

Then their churches began to reverse their declines and stagnations.

None of the pastors I interviewed were new at their churches. None of the churches had relocated in recent years. And none of the communities in which the churches were located had grown dramatically.

So what happened at these churches?

All of the pastors were careful to give glory to God. Most of them articulated that their stories were not ones of mere methodological devices. But they did have six common themes worth noting.

1. They led the church to become highly intentional about starting new groups. The fewest groups started by any one of the churches were four in a one-year period. These churches were serious about new groups, and most of them saw that, at least from a human perspective, as the primary source of turnaround growth.

2. They led the church to a culture of inviting people. These pastors expressed amazement at how many people started coming to their churches simply because they were invited. To be clear, this type of invitation was personal, from a member to someone else. It was not some type of major commercial marketing initiative. Some of the churches had a big event, "invite-a-friend-day," to kickoff this new culture of inviting.

3. They began new member classes. These classes set the tone for new members. They established the expectations for new members. After a few months of these classes, many of the pastors begin to notice an attitudinal change toward the positive among the members.

4. They began a major community ministry. Some of the churches "adopted" local schools. Some of the leaders made appointments with key civic leaders to find out how their churches could best help the community. In all cases, church members got out of the comfort of the church buildings and went into the community to serve others.

5. They began to pray for the lost and unchurched by name. For many of the churches, this type of praying was a first. Most of them attested that it seemed awkward at first, but it later became a part of their Great Commission culture.

6. The leaders began to focus less on negative people and circumstances and more on God's possibilities. The leaders became, in God's power, people of faith instead of people of fear. This spirit of faith became pervasive in the churches. Many of the churches saw a negative and unbelieving church culture become a positive and faith-believing culture.

Nine out of ten churches in America are either declining or growing more slowly than the communities in which they are located. In other words, most churches are losing ground in their communities.

But, in the midst of all the bad news about churches, we do see more and more beacons of light. I was delighted and encouraged to hear these stories of turnaround churches and what they are doing. I plan to report on other churches in the future.

So what do you think of these turnaround factors? Have you seen them at work in other churches? Do you have any similar stories from your church? What is God using most effectively in your church to reach people with the love and the power of the gospel?

Thom Ranier, thomranier.com

<https://thomrainer.com/2013/05/six-recent-lessons-i-learned-from-turnaround-churches/>

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION – EPIGLOTTIS 2: GAG REFLEX

A few months back we discussed that you breathe through your nose and eat with your mouth, but at the back of your mouth all food and air pass the same location. Shortly after that the air you breathe goes down your Trachea and your food goes down your Esophagus to your Stomach.

Then we discussed taking large glass of water and drinking it all “at once”, which takes a little time. Between half your swallows you will automatically breathe in and in the alternate swallows you will breathe out. You don’t have to think about it, it just happens.

The water is automatically directed down your Esophagus and the air is directed down your Trachea.

Literally if the water goes down your Trachea rather than your Esophagus, you drown. With such an imminent danger you can do this task with the greatest of ease, and likely have never considered what is happening.

What is happening is your Epiglottis. It is a little muscular fold in your throat which knows how to do this. You can’t control it, it is an automatic function. When you have air and food both entering your throat, you don’t have a million years to develop and Epiglottis. It cannot be done by trial and error. As soon as your air and water or other food enter the same portion of your throat, your body knows how to do this or you die.

That is clearly an “impossible for evolution”, but what happens if the Epiglottis does its job well

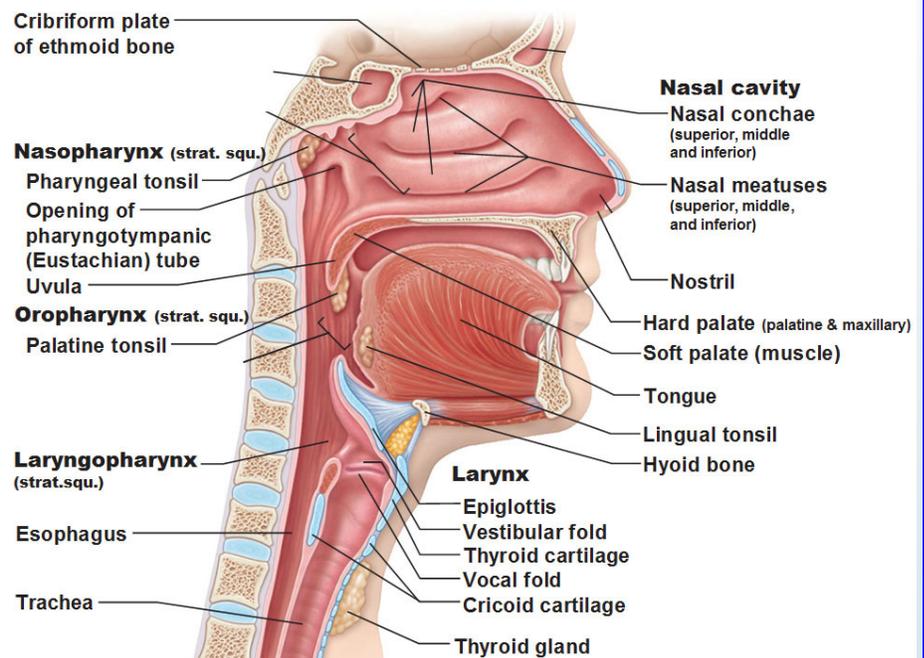
enough, but still leaks a little? Maybe you don’t die, you just get pneumonia.

If you leaked some water into your Trachea, you wouldn’t know it. It just fills you lungs up some. You don’t know how to evolve something better, you wouldn’t even know it is happening. Basically that would be a cure for a problem you didn’t even know you had.

Turns out we have that cure, it is called Gag Reflex, or more formally ???? You are acquainted with this. When we get some water in our air pipe we have an involuntary violent coughing session. Your designer is taking care of you when you wouldn’t even know you had a problem. It is our safety net behind our Epiglottis. Just another example in a long list of miracles we take for granted.

Benton F. Baugh

The Upper Respiratory Tract



Graphic from Matthew Edwards
Edwardsvoice.wordpress.com



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.



NORTH FORT BEND
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

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**
Philip Bailey, Memorial Church of Christ,
Houston, TX, 713-304-0011
Pbailey@gpbaileyconsulting.com
- **GOD IS SCIENTIFIC**
- **IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION [1]**
- **WHAT ATHEIST ARE GOING TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN, WITH ANSWERS**

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.

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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

C	1	2	3	4
1				
2				
3			+	
4				

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

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

ADVERTISING POLICY:

Any scriptural event relating to more than one congregation at no cost



Jerry Heiderich: Director
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

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

jerry@gulfcoastchristiancounseling.com



Lance Decker

Certified Grief Recovery Specialist

Tomball, TX

+1 (

832) 534-0730

lance@lancedecker.com

www.lancedecker.com

Grief Support/Recovery Groups
meet at Spring Creek Church of Christ in Tomball, TX at
no cost.

Individual programs available for a fee.



**MENTAL HEALTH
SOLUTIONS**

Mental and Behavioral Health Crisis Solutions

Jeremy Sprott LPC, Owner

Web: www.mentalhealthresponse.com Phone: (832) 518-7933

Email: jeremy@mentalhealthresponse.com



**CHURCHES OF CHRIST
DISASTER
RELIEF
EFFORT
INC.**

HELPING VICTIMS NATIONWIDE

Info or assistance call 615-833-0888 or 1-800-541-2848

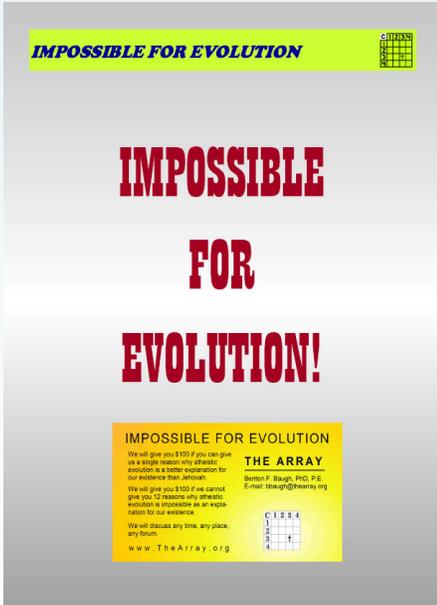
Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc.

P.O. Box 111180, Nashville, TN 37222-1180

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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

C	1	2	3	4
1				
2				
3			+	
4				



FREE E-BOOK: IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION

Go www.thearray.org, MAILING LIST tab and sign up again (or the first time) to receive this E-Magazine and you will receive a digital copy of the Impossible for Evolution Book.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION is a 97 page 8 1/2" x 11" full color book by Benton F. 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.

To order this book go to:

[Www.thearray.org](http://www.thearray.org), BOOK tab

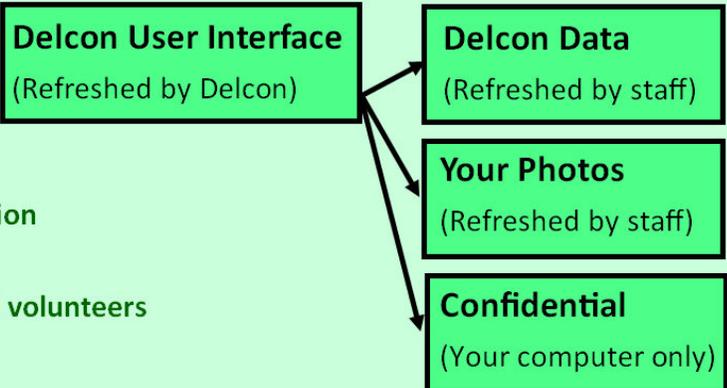
(All net proceeds go to Oklahoma Christian University)

New software specifically designed for the locally autonomous operating style of churches of Christ.

- Helps organize your missions and goals
- Organizes congregational information
- Prints Class rolls
- Tracks worship and Bible class attendance
- Collects and organizes membership information
- Tracks involvement, willingness and actual
- Provides complete job descriptions, staff and volunteers
- Provides picture and non-picture directories
- Provides regular reports to leadership
- Reports can be customized to your specific needs
- Assistance provided in setting up your congregation

DelCon

A CHURCH OF CHRIST DATABASE



Contact us at info@thearray.org

Price: \$335.00 per congregation
Installable on as many computers as needed
Annual License fee including support by email: \$100.00

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

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

C	1	2	3	4
1				
2				
3			+	
4				

AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

8/10/19 Greater Houston Mission 2019 - see page 2

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

A copy of this newsletter and all past newsletters are now posted to the OC Church Growth Institute website (now accessible at www.thearray.org)



Get the iPhone App?

To get this Web-App shortcut, go to thearray.org website on you phone.

Press on the middle button along the bottom menu of buttons.

Next, along the bottom row of options, just above the cancel button, scroll and press on the "Add to Home Screen" button.

There you go, you have the official app! As well, you can do this trick with other web-sites that you want to have a quick shortcut to.

For more information, contact chad.blythe@eagles.oc.edu

Permission to reuse information:

As our sole objective is to get good information out to church members, anyone is welcome to use any part or all of what is in the publication at any time. No permission or credit is required.

RENEW YOUR "SUBSCRIPTION"!!!!

Your free subscription can be renewed at www.thearray.org on the mailing list tab. When you "opt-in" to this email list you will receive the e-book #2 IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION.

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 info@thearray.org.

Circulation: 4587 congregations and individual members

Advertisements: Send to info@thearray.org