

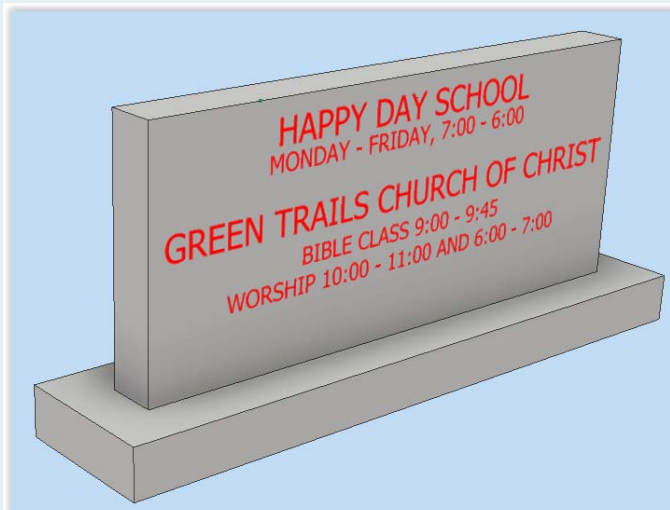
# WOULD YOU LIKE TO OWN A PRESCHOOL?

NUMBER 147

MARCH, 2020

The Catalyst Initiative would like to assist you in starting a preschool which you would own. The paper OCCG-24 Church / Business Start-Up describes a plan for starting a preschool and a congregation in a commercial strip center type location in a mutually supportive fashion. The paper is attached in this issue and is located at <https://occg.institute/papers/organization/>.

This cooperation will give you funding to help you start a business, some legal help in getting started, and likely some volunteer workers to staff your early stages. In return the congregation gets a home to start in, a sign to advertise the congregation 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, and a steady stream of young families who are prospects. Just imagine anyone who trusts the preschool to keep the children during the week would be inclined to take them to Bible School at the same place and likely with some of the same workers / teachers.



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## FIRST RESPONDER DISCIPLES

Many disciples are “First Responders” - rescue servants for the lost, injured, confused, despairing – prepared to “take a bullet” for Jesus whenever they are needed to reach out to those trapped in the snares of Satan to “Snatch them from the fires of hell” while enduring ridicule, mocking, slander, malice, and threats of being “unfriended”.

Rescue disciples are apt to be considered “crazy” for stepping out of the common “comfort zone” of contemporary worldview culture to willingly go and do what ought to be done that would likely be considered by

the public to be “none of your business – walk on by”. Many doubters are ambivalent or complacent, unresponsive, unaware or detached whenever the Spirit of God moves among those devastated by catastrophe of accident, addiction, loss, and depravity of the world, hearing their cries for mercy, hope and justice. However; a disciple knows the power of a kind word, a smile, a willing ear, an understanding, compassionate heart, and the compelling urgency to demonstrate the mercy and grace of Jesus who sacrificed himself to save “the least of these” that we encounter along our daily path.

Continued on page 2

## FIRST RESPONDER DISCIPLES, P. 2

## YOU TRADED FOR WHAT?

First responder disciples are infused with extraordinary sense of awareness and willingness to reach out in imitation of the Spirit of Christ to share the message of the gospel. They possess the “EpiPen” of Scripture that can energize, excite, engage, explain, exclaim, explore, examine, excel, exchange, exculpate, exemplify, exhort, expedite, expel, expose, expunge, extend, extol, exude, and exult in order to bring people to Jesus- Prince of Peace. The peace of Jesus overflows with calming, comforting assurance of God’s love, mercy and grace for all who trust in him.

Above all, first responder disciples reveal the servant’s heart for the Master described in Jeremiah 9:23;

This is what the lord says;

Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom

or the strong man boast of his strength

or the rich man boast of his riches,

but let him who boasts boast about this:

that he understands and knows me,

that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness,

justice and righteousness on earth,

for in these I delight,

declares the Lord.

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison, OH

Life is measured in minutes, hours, days and years. Each one flies by and is gone forever. We trade them for the substance of our life. And so, what did you get in exchange?

*“Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that’s the stuff life is made of.”* Benjamin Franklin

Those who are wise give some thought to the trade. How will I spend my time today to glorify God? Stewardship demands that we make the best of our life and time. We need to begin by asking, “What is the best use of my life today?” Do we really have a lot of life left over to spurge on foolish pursuits?

*“So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”* (Eph. 5:15-17)

That’s the next tough question. What does God expect me to do with my life? Consider one of his very clear commands. *“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”* (1 Tim. 6:18-19)

God creates each new day and gives it to us to use as we will. We can waste it or use it for good. But whatever we do, remember, we are trading a day of life for it.

*“Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.”* Carl Sandburg

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX

## Deborah and Jael

Two remarkable women almost single handedly destroyed the king of Canaan and all his host during the time of the Judges. We read about them—Deborah and Jael—in Judges 4.

For the evil they had done, the Lord sold the Israelites into the hand of King Jabin. The king’s captain of the army was Sisera. He commanded nine hundred iron chariots as well as a host of foot soldiers. For twenty years Sisera oppressed the Israelites.

“Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. She lived under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill-country of Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.” Judges 4: 4-5 (WEB)

Deborah called out Barak the son of Abinoam and told him the Lord had ordered him to Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 men of Israel with him. The Lord said, “I will draw to you, to the river Kishon, Sisera, the captain of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into your hand.” Judges 4: 7 (WEB)

Barak refused to go to war unless Deborah went with him. He apparently had no faith in the Lord’s statement that he would deliver Sisera to the Israelites.

Deborah said she would go with Barak, but he would receive no honor in the Lord’s victory. She added that Yahweh would sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.

Barak called out the fighting men from the tribes Zebulun and Naphtali, in all 10,000 warriors. Deborah came to him also.

It’s likely that Heber the Kenite, whose relatives had been allies of the Israelites for many years, was the first to tell Sisera that Barak had gone up to Mount Tabor with his troops. Heber the Kenite had moved to the north where King Jabin ruled, perhaps to become

an ally of the king.

Sisera deployed his 900 chariots and fighting men to the river Kishon.

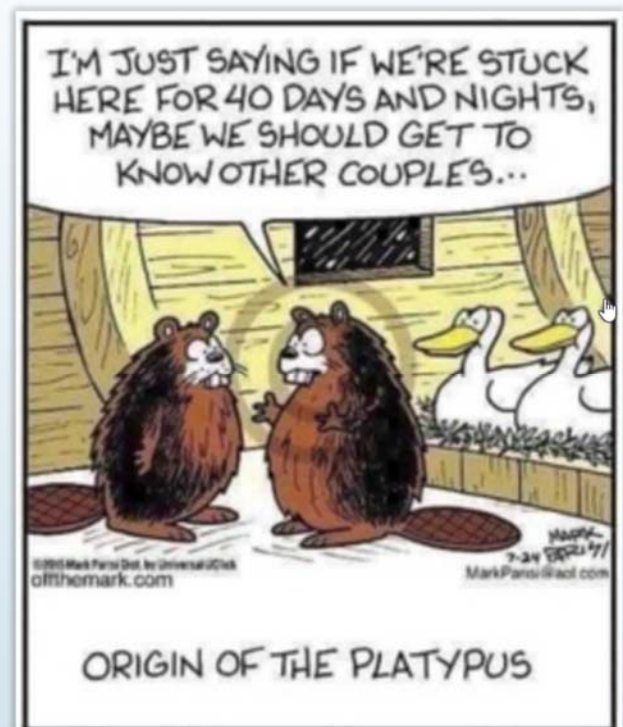
“Deborah said to Barak, ‘Up; for this is the day in which Yahweh has delivered Sisera into your hand; hasn’t Yahweh gone out before you?’” Judges 4:12 (WEB)

Barak lead his army down from Mount Tabor.

“Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles, to the river Kishon.” Judges 4:13 (WEB)

“Yahweh confused Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot, and fled away on his feet. But Barak pursued after the chariots, . . . and all fell by the edge of the sword; there was not a man left.” Judges 4:15-16 (WEB)

Continued on page 3





## Deborah and Jael, p. 2

“However Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite.” Judges 4:17 (WEB)

“Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, ‘Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; don’t be afraid.’ He came into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. He said to her, ‘Please give me a little water to drink; for I am thirsty’. She opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him.” Judges 4:18-19 (WEB)

Sisera fell into a deep sleep. Jael slipped away and armed herself with a tent-pin and a hammer. She softly returned to Sisera. She kneeled over him and placed the tent-pin against his temple. She hit the pin so hard that its point pierced through his head into the ground.

Barak was still pursuing Sisera when Jael came out to meet him. She urged him to come inside her tent, for the man he was seeking was there. Barak followed Jael and saw Sisera lying dead with the tent-pin in his temples.



“So God subdued on that day the king of Canaan before the children of Israel. The hand of the children of Israel prevailed more and more against Jabin the king of Canaan until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan”. Judges 4:23 (WEB)

Yahweh delivered Sisera and his army to the Israelites as he promised. Deborah and Barak sang the Israelites’ song of victory. In the song Deborah and Jael were praised, and they poured out their thanksgiving to Yahweh.

The land had rest for forty years.

John Black, Houston

## Do You Want to Own a Preschool?, p. 2

In the longer term, the congregation has use of the facility on Sundays and potentially some nights for their activities and shares the cost of the facility. The preschool has use of the facility on weekdays and shares in the cost of the facility. Just how these details are worked out in a particular location is up to the parties actually involved.

Starting a business and starting a congregation are both difficult tasks. This marriage of the two concept will make both easier to the benefit of everyone.

If you are interested in starting a preschool or congregation in your area, let us know at [catalystinitiative@array.church](mailto:catalystinitiative@array.church).

### THE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this work is evangelism, not simply helping someone start a business. The work of starting a small business and a congregation both represent a lot of effort.

Even if you don’t want to run a preschool or this doesn’t happen in your area, you can help. Some of the services many of us can provide are prayers, suggestions, legal services, marketing, location ideas, and of course funding (start-up and longer support).

If funding is your service, you need only to indicate your interest and general ability. No funds will be collected until a congregation is started, and will go directly and 100% to that congregation.

Alternately, if you are a congregation and would like to start a preschool or are a preschool and will help start a congregation for the evangelistic benefits, let us know and we will help.

If you want to help in this effort, contact us at [catalystinitiative@array.church](mailto:catalystinitiative@array.church).

# REFOCUS WEEKEND



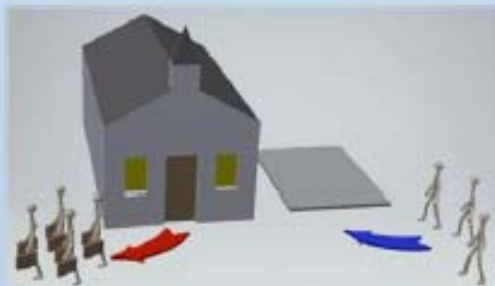
**PURPOSE:** To assist in returning Churches of Christ to a Great Commission growth pattern by providing information, discussions, analysis and systems relating to the scriptural growth of your congregation.

## SAMPLE WEEKEND PACKAGE:

1. **AREA WIDE YOUTH EVENT ON FRIDAY NIGHT AT YOUR FACILITY**
  1. Topic will be Impossible for Evolution or a similar subject with an Institute speaker
  2. The Institute will sponsor Pizza and cokes (or the equivalent)
2. **SATURDAY CHURCH GROWTH SEMINAR**

The presentation can be area wide, the entire congregation, the leadership, or specific individuals.

  1. Breakfast optional
  2. Presentations and discussion until noon.
  3. Lunch paid for by Institute
  4. Discussions from lunch until 2:00, or as long as discussions last.
3. **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**
  1. Lessons can be provided on the church growth theme in Bible Class, morning worship and evening worship.
  2. Discussion meetings with leadership Sunday afternoon.



We do not charge for our services.  
For more information, contact us at  
[info@occg.institute](mailto:info@occg.institute)

One or more of the following OC Church Growth Institute members will make the presentation at your congregation:



Kent Allen  
V.P. Advancement  
Oklahoma Christian U.



Dr. David Duncan  
Pulpit Minister  
Memorial Church of Christ



Gary Smith  
Pulpit Minister  
Fifth Ward Church of Christ



Philip Bailey  
Elder  
Memorial Church of Christ



Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D.  
Director, OC Church  
Growth Institute



## GUARANTEED CHURCH GROWTH!

If we provide a **REFOCUS WEEKEND** we will guarantee that **if your congregation does not grow 5% in 2 years, we will donate \$5000 to the Church of Christ related children's home of your choice in your name.**

### A REFOCUS WEEKEND IS:

- (1) Friday night: Area wide youth rally at your facility, we provide the pizza & cokes
- (2) Saturday 8:00 - 2:00: Church growth consultation
- (3) Saturday or Sunday Afternoon: Congregational Dream Session
- (4) Sunday Bible Class: A church growth lesson
- (5) Sunday morning worship: A church growth sermon

See <https://occg.institute/refresh/> for more specific information.



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[info@occg.institute](mailto:info@occg.institute)  
See website for cell phone shortcut!

Hello, this is Maxine -- I have questions!



If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

Do Lipton Tea employees take 'coffee breaks?'

What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?



## 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. 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](http://www.fostershome.org), and submitted to [glenn@fostershome.org](mailto: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  
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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](http://www.nfbcoc.org)

For more information, contact:

## Visitors

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

On the [occginstitute.org](http://occginstitute.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

## IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION – EAR LOBES

Being an equipment design engineer (which includes computer programming), it has always been a curiosity as to how many lines of DNA programming it took to make an eye, ear, tooth, or sweat gland. Nothing usually comes up from computer searches. If “they” know, they are not telling. It is our thought that it takes so many lines of DNA to make it unbelievable for atheistic evolution. Surely it is millions of lines of DNA programming.

A recent search turned up something on an ear lobe. In our definition of something being impossible for evolution being, the shape of an ear lobe would not fit any of the categories. It is just a size change like the size change on Darwin’s Finches on the Galapagos Islands.

These categories of impossible for atheistic evolution are (1) something from nothing, (2) lasts forever, (3) blind complexation, (4) irreducible complexity, (5) compromising evolution, (6) new DNA programming, and (7) non-physical (spiritual type).

In the November 2017 article in [https://www.nature.com/articles/titles/NUMEROUS\\_GENES\\_SHAPE\\_EAR\\_LOBES](https://www.nature.com/articles/titles/NUMEROUS_GENES_SHAPE_EAR_LOBES), it gave:

“Global data set reveals the complex genetic basis of ear-lobe attachment. Hundreds of genes influence whether ear lobes dangle or are attached at the base.

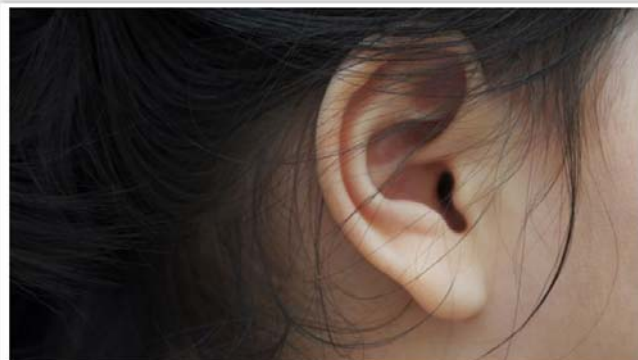
Ear-lobe attachment was once proffered as a textbook example of a trait controlled by a single gene. A new study provides the most detailed evidence so far refuting it.

Sijia Wang at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai, Seth Weinberg at the Universi-

ty of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania and their colleagues used genetic-sequencing data and ear-lobe observations from 74,660 people with European, Latin American or Chinese ancestry. The team identified 49 genome regions related to the trait, and then sequenced genes expressed in the ears of mouse and human fetuses, including genes affected by most of the regions identified in adults.

Better understanding the genes regulating ear lobes could help to treat developmental abnormalities of the ear, jaw and mouth.”

**The underlined sentence indicates that 49 genome regions affect the programming of the shape of the ear lobe.** “Genome Regions” appears to be an unclear term, but it has to reflect at least a gene.



Whether attached or free-hanging, ear-lobe style is regulated by a complex battery of genes. Credit: Getty

For a little tedious data, the human genome is basically all the DNA within each cell of your body. It is made up of 23 chromosome pairs with a total of about 3 billion DNA base

pairs. There are an estimated 20,000-25,000 human protein-coding genes. A chromosome can have up to 500 million base pairs of DNA. Gene will have from 1,000 — 1 million base pairs of DNA.

That says that at the least, the shape of your ear lobe is in the programming of at least 49 genes, each having from 1,000 — 1 million base pairs of DNA programming. And that is just your ear lobe which you take for granted. It has to be one of the simplest parts of your body. Imagine how much intelligent design goes into a much more complex component such as a sweat gland.

Benton F. Baugh



## Church / Business Start-Up Paper No. OCCG-024

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** A member's start-up of a local business in conjunction with the starting of a Church of Christ can be a marriage made for Heaven. Each can be supportive of the other and can together do what is difficult for either of them individually to do.

### KEY WORDS:

Church of Christ, Day Care, start-up, evangelism posters

### REPORT:

It is difficult for a start-up congregation to make the transition from an idea to a large piece of real estate with a major capital improvement such as a church building. It can and usually must happen in a series of steps.

A first step can be to meet in a rented space such as a public school or a hotel meeting room as they require little capital investment and no long-term commitment. The offset to this convenience is that they do not give the congregation a real "home" where they can put up a sign. It does give the members a chance to learn if they can work together before making larger commitments.

A 24/7 physical sign presence and a feeling that this is really your place are not critical, but the lack of them can seriously inhibit

your commitment and your evangelism and growth. It seems to be less of a problem for groups which provide a rock and roll show with their services, but it seems to be an obstacle for a Bible based church.

A second step in congregational growth can be to rent a space in a commercial building such as a strip center. This can frequently have the advantage of a congregation's use of parking space on Sunday morning, which is when most business don't use the parking spaces.

Rental of business type spaces is typically complicated with high rental costs, long term contracts, remodeling costs which are not recoverable, and landlords who don't want to deal with churches.

The question at this point is can you find a business which does not need the space on Sunday (or Wed. night) and can leave open floor

space. If such a business existed, the business could be the entity to engage the landlord and could time share the space with the congregation.

An arrangement like this can provide the location sign for the church 24/7, along with the 24/7 sign for the business as in the graphic on the first page.

One such business might be a Day Care or Pre-School. A Day Care or Pre-School facility can have a large open space for the



children to play in which can be converted into your “auditorium”. The Day Care or School and church can each have a reserved locked room which stores their equipment when not in use and acts as a classroom when they are active. A sample layout of that what this might look like is shown on the following figure.

This figure shows the room at the upper right being a classroom on Sunday and being used for storing the church furniture during the week. The class area below this room is always available for a classroom or office.

The upper left room shows the play school supplies and furniture being stored on Sunday and being deployed during the week.

There are obvious advantages of this symbiotic relationship beyond just saving money. Consider that the primary way to grow churches is through young families. Every customer for the Day Care or Pre-School is a young family. Every family is therefore an evangelistic prospect for your congregation which is brought to your facility multiple times every week. It is a deluxe Side Door Event (1). The premise of a Side Door Event is to bring prospects into your facility multiple times to give the personal evangelism process a chance to start. This program automatically delivers them to

you.

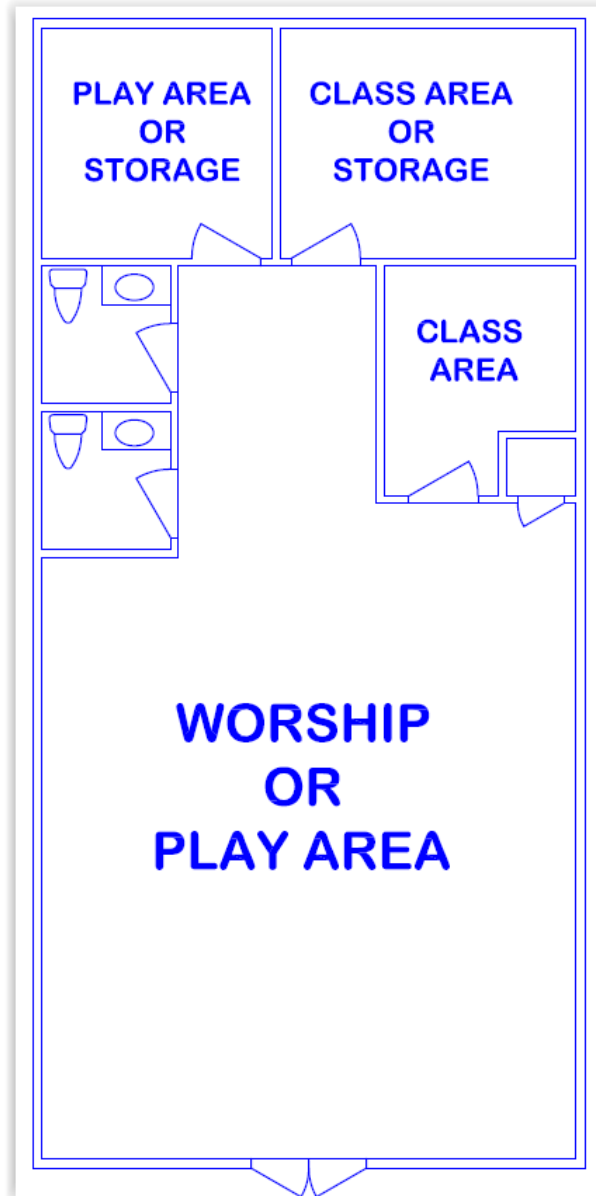
A particular benefit of a program like this on Day Care and Pre-School is that you can request that some of your member’s involvement time be spent working in the Day Care or Pre-School. Your members can work for free or at reduced wages to make the business a more viable start-up, while they make personal evangelism contacts.

Another advantage of this arrangement is that some of the decorations in the room can be evangelism related posters (2) such as on the following page. Some of these posters might be educational to some of the mothers bringing their children in, as well as some regular members.

Just imagine the probability that a young mother who trusts her children to a group 5 days a week, will also be inclined to bring them to Sunday School where the same teachers teach. If you can think of another program with a

better probability of success, please tell us and we will pass it on to others.

Other businesses/groups which might be a part of this program are an exercise studio,



study groups, coffee shop, or musical school. Any other of a number of businesses might be interested in cooperating such as a travel agency. Travel agencies tend to find it difficult to move furniture and files so that would need to be considered.

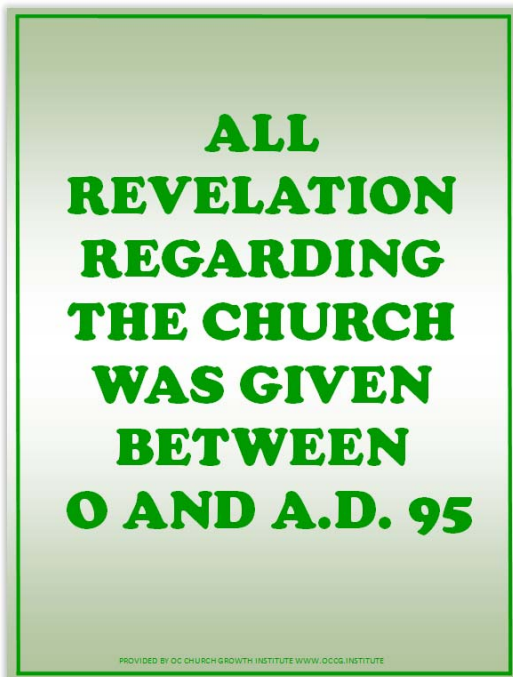
This is not a one size fits all idea. It needs to be tailored to match your area situation and your member's talents. Your members will be the best ones to tell you how to make it work in your area.

A second consideration is that if this is successful, it will have a lifetime limited by the size of the available space in your growing congregation. If you outgrow it and can independently afford a more conventional space, remember that this

was the engine which fueled your evangelism process. Do not then abandon this evangelistic work. Maintain it as an outreach method.

This paper is addressing start-up congregations. However, if you are an established congregation with no real mechanism for doing personal evangelism, consider this plan. If you have an appropriate facility, consider a day care at your facility. If it doesn't work at your facility, rent a space in a local strip mall and go to work.

What we simply can afford to do no longer is to keep doing what is not working and hope it will produce better results in the coming year.



Notes:

- (1) [www.occg.institute/PAPERS/MEMBER\\_INVOLVEMENT/SIDE\\_DOOR\\_EVENTS](http://www.occg.institute/PAPERS/MEMBER_INVOLVEMENT/SIDE_DOOR_EVENTS)
- (2) [www.occg.institute/PAPERS/TEACHING/TEACHING\\_POSTERS](http://www.occg.institute/PAPERS/TEACHING/TEACHING_POSTERS)

Reviewers: Philip Bailey, Benton Baugh



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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

## AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

Each Wed. NE Houston Preacher's Meeting, Location varies  
11:00—1:00, Contact cell (713) 201-2417, [marcusbarnum@gmail.com](mailto:marcusbarnum@gmail.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](mailto:fruzia70@sbcglobal.net)

**THE TWO ABOVE ACTIVITIES ARE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS AND ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

All past copies of this newsletter can be found on the website "occg.institute" under the E-MAGAZINE tab.

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#### For iPhone:

1. Visit the website on your mobile device, [www.occg.institute](http://www.occg.institute).
2. Along the bottom row of buttons, press on the middle button
3. The row of options just above the "Cancel" button, scroll to the right to the 6th button "Add to Home Screen", and press it
4. Press "Add", and you can move it around as you would a normal app



#### For Android

1. Visit our website on your mobile browser
  2. Click on the "Add Bookmark" button at the top right of the screen
  3. Press on the "Add To" drop down menu and select "Home Screen"
- The shortcut should appear on your home screen

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