

BAPTISM

NUMBER 152

AUGUST 2020

The world is in a strange phase right now. We are in a worldwide pandemic, racial tension is high, anger levels are escalated and we are nearing an election. Instantaneous media brings us stories of killer insects, asteroids and natural disasters. It seems natural that people would wonder if we are near the end of the world.

Even though the Bible tells us no one knows when the Lord will return, some of the events



listed do make me wonder sometimes if it is near. What I know for certain is I want to be ready for Jesus, whether His coming is today or a million years from now.

Continued on page 2

THE #1 ROLE OF STAFF

It has been said that a good staff person can replace the work of at least 20 volunteer members. Staff is more predictable, more time flexible, more controllable (you can fire them), and are usually more trained to do church work. That is the good news. This makes for easier workload on management.

The bad news is that characteristically a staff person will eliminate the involvement of 20 volunteer members. It would make sense that if the role is to replace the involvement of 20 volunteer members, the role of 20 volunteer members would be eliminated.

Continued on page 3

WALK IN WISDOM

Walk in wisdom towards those that are without, Redeeming the time .. Col 4:5

Apostle Paul, chosen to deliver the Gospel of Christ wrote this letter in prison. Though the rules of Rome was strict in proclaiming the Gospel, he was neither sad nor depressed to write this for the saints in Colossae.

Walk in wisdom towards those that are without, Redeeming the time .. Col 4:5

Continued on page 5

IN THIS ISSUE:

Baptism - Duncan	1
The #1 Role of Staff	1
Walk in Wisdom - Martin	1
Respect for Authority - Brown	1
Disciples, Make Your Call - Grubbs	6
10 Reasons Churches Don't Grow	7
Impossible for Evolution	9
What About Evolution - North	12
Area Wide Activities	18

RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

Respect is not a naturally occurring virtue, it has to be taught. It truly begins with the hand that rocks the cradle. One child at a time she civilizes the world. Without respect for authority we have chaos and anarchy in the home, church and country.

Continued on page 6

BAPTISM P. 2

In order to be ready, it is important to consider baptism. Why would I, or anyone else want to be baptized?

Perhaps the most basic reason to be baptized is because I want to be like Jesus. In Matthew 3, we read that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. The passage states that God spoke from Heaven and was pleased with Jesus for fulfilling all righteousness. Jesus was doing what His Father had prescribed.

Not only was Jesus baptized, he told us to baptize. The last words of Jesus before ascending back to Heaven, was a commission to the apostles to make disciples and baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Part of being a disciple of Jesus is being baptized.

Baptism also demonstrates my commitment and faith in Jesus. It is not done just to make our spouse or friends happy, it is done to show my faith in the Lordship of Jesus. In baptism an individual is saying to Christ, "I will do what you did, like you did, because I want to be with you. You are Lord."

My baptism is a declaration to the world that I belong to Jesus. As F. LaGard Smith reasoned many years ago, baptism is similar to a wedding ceremony. We are saying, "I do." We are stating that we will be faithful to Jesus in thick or thin. We are all in.

Some people wonder if sprinkling and immersion are both appropriate forms of baptism. Interestingly, no one asked about the mode of baptism on the Day of Pentecost, in Acts 2. They didn't ask because it only meant one thing to the ancient listeners, immersion.

The New Testament was written in Greek and the word for baptism, "baptizo," meant to plunge or immerse. Every time it is used in the New Testament it refers to immersion. One of the oldest examples of baptizo is from the hand of a scientist named Nicander writing around 200AD. In a recipe for making pickles, he wrote the vegetable is "baptized" in vinegar. Obviously, the submerging of the vegetable would make a permanent change while a sprinkling of the vegetable

would do almost nothing.

Jews understood the concept of immersion from the ritual washings that they regularly performed. Pilgrims to the city often immersed themselves in mikvahs before entering the city as well as individuals entering the temple would immerse themselves in ritual washings before worshiping.

Paul provided beautifully clear imagery in Romans 6 when he referred to baptism as death, burial and resurrection. Some have described baptism as drowning the past life as a new person rises to walk a new life.

The additional benefits of baptism are overwhelming. A few of them are: Sins are forgiven and believers receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), baptized individuals enter the Kingdom where God reigns (John 3:5). Baptism is our entrance into the community of Jesus.

What kinds of people have their children sprinkled? Most of them are loving, compassionate parents and grandparents that want their children go to Heaven. What great hearts! The beautiful thing they may not realize is their babies do not need to be saved because they are already safe with Jesus. They have no sin to be forgiven. They will grow and have actions to account for but not as small children.

Deciding to follow Jesus is a personal decision. Christian parents earnestly pray for their children to decide to follow Christ but it is one each individual must make for themselves. In baptism, a person is saying, "I choose you, Jesus, to be my Lord because you are the Way, the Life, Door, and the Truth."

Baptism is not a magic potion or a vaccination from sin. It is however, a central moment in the lives of believers to be

David Duncan, Houston, TX

THE #1 ROLE OF STAFF, P. 2

In a congregation where a large number of the members are no longer involved in the work of the church, the congregation is at best a lukewarm congregation. At worst it is somewhere between cold and dead. If several staff members are busy making a congregation look like a lot is going on, it can basically be a façade on a lukewarm church which is in disguise.

The church may have a very active social life, but if the processes associated with doing the Great Commission are neglected the congregation is in decline. It can be such a welcoming place to be that it is growing as it is in decline. The decline just isn't showing up yet. It would likely show up in the future as actual decline or apostasy.

For simplicity we are going to presume that there are 2 basic reasons for hiring staff: (1) to replace member volunteer work and (2) to promote volunteer work. Nothing is quite so simple as this, but we shall presume this for the sake of discussion.

What naturally happens?

If you hire a Personal Evangelism Minister, he should naturally want to do personal evangelism. If your personal evangelism is to talk with the few people who naturally visit your congregation, there is a natural tendency for the Personal Evangelism Minister to visit with them. He is school qualified to do it, is practiced at it, and better at it than most of the members. Most members are not practiced at it, are somewhat uncomfortable doing it, and are not unhappy if someone else does this task. There would be a natural tendency for member involvement in this to stop and the Personal Evangelism Minister to do most of it.

The point to this is that if you are not proactively doing something different, the natural

tendency is for staff to replace member involvement work. If you are not proactively doing something different, effectively your goal in hiring staff is to replace volunteer involvement activities.

What would proactive in this case mean?

1. What does the written job description say? Does it say that the staff role is to facilitate the involvement of members in the work of the church? The accountant's job description may not, but every other one should.
2. What is reported? When the staff person submits a regular report to leadership, does he or she report on how many members are involved in the work being done? It has been said that you measure what is important to you. It has also been observed that when something is going well people tend to measure it, but when it is going poorly people stop measuring. The simple observation of whether you are measuring this is probably a good sign of what is happening.
3. What is communicated? Are members regularly promoted to be involved in actual roles rather than just promoted to be generically involved?
4. Are all your ongoing activities reviewed for effectiveness in involving members and attracting visitors.

We looked at a Personal Evangelism Member above, but what about other staff members?

Continue on page 4

THE #1 ROLE OF STAFF, P. 3

Pulpit Minister: A clear case of displacing the involvement of several members in the preaching work of the congregation. On the one hand this can be a very good thing as presenting quality sermons takes a lot of preparation which can really tax the available time of volunteer members. On the other hand the Pulpit Minister has more “face time” with the congregation than anyone else and can expertly use his time to weave membership involvement themes into his sermons on a long term coordinated basis. He can be the spark plug which inspires much involvement work.

Involvement Minister: His very title should say that he is focused on making sure the maximum number of members are involved. As members who go into ministry are usually “people persons”, they are likely not also detail persons. An effective involvement program requires a lot of behind the scenes detail work. Most likely an Involvement Minister needs to team up with a detail oriented member to accomplish his activities well. The collection of available roles, talents of members, and matching talents to roles to achieve full involvement requires a lot of detail work. The availability of good congregational data can really help make an Involvement Minister effective.

Youth Minister: When there is no youth minister, there is a lot of member involvement in association with the youth group, usually from the parents of the current youths. Again, there is a natural tendency for the Youth Ministers to replace the involvement of the parents. For this to be prevented, the Youth Minister needs to clearly understand that coordination of parent involvement is an important part of his role.

In each of these cases, requiring the inclusion

in a monthly report the progress they are making on membership involvement clearly declares the intentions of leadership. Good membership involvement starts with clear measurable congregational goals, clear delegation of authority, and the regular monitoring of the results.

How do you know if you are hiring staff to replace member involvement or to promote member involvement? There is no magic formula. First see what the goal of your congregation is. Is your goal a measurable such as accomplishing the Great Commission or is it simply immeasurable warm and fuzzy statements. If it is warm fuzzy immeasurables such as “sharing God’s grace”, you need to get some actual goals. If it is measurable, measure it. The just look at the results.

If you as a leader went to another congregation, you would be able to see some things and give some good advice. Have you considered that someone else might be able to give you similar third party insights?

**“IT WASN’T A LIE,
IT WAS AN INCREMENTAL
ACCUMULATION OF
HALF TRUTHS.”**

**GOLDIE HAWN IN THE
OUT OF TOWNERS**

WALK IN WISDOM

Apostle Paul, chosen to deliver the Gospel of Christ wrote this letter in prison. Though the rules of Rome was strict in proclaiming the Gospel, he was neither sad nor depressed to write this for the saints in Colossae.

The key verse of this epistle is 1:18, "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the first born from the dead, so that in all things He might have the pre-eminence."

Paul's purpose for writing therefore, was to exalt the pre-eminence of Jesus over all things (1:15 - 23). He wrote to explain his Apostolic work of preaching the truth of the gospel in the world of false religion (2:8) and to exhort the Colossian disciples to maintain Christian principles in their behaviour (3:12-17).

In this concluding admonition, Paul exhorts masters (employers) to deal fairly with their bond servants (employees). Christian masters must understand that they will also have to give account of themselves before their Master in Heaven. Therefore they should deal with their bond servants (employees) in view of the fact that they will stand in judgement for their own behaviour (2 Cor 5:10). It is an exhortation that is based on the concept that they should do to others as they would want the Lord to do to them.

Christians should have an attitude at all times that is conducive to offering prayer to God. They are not only to pray continually, but they must be fervent in prayer with thanksgiving (4:2,3) that God may open to us a door. Paul affirms that if we ask God to open doors, He will open doors of opportunity for us to preach and teach the Gospel.

Paul and Silas were put in prison for preaching Jesus and troubling the Romans (Acts 16:23-40). They were put in inner prison and their feet were chained. At midnight, Paul & Silas prayed and were singing hymns of praises to God, and the prisoners heard them as well. Thus God delivered them from the hands of the jailer. The jailer and his household obeyed the Gospel of Christ preached by Apostle Paul. It seems that he taught to Caesar's household as well (Phil 4:22). They

walked in wisdom and made use of the opportunity.

All Christians ought to open their mouths for Jesus Christ. It is the obligation of those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb to proclaim to everyone that it is the answer to their problem of sin and eternal death. The fact that one has been saved out of his spiritual death in sin by the Grace of God obligates him to proclaim the mystery of Christ to others.

Christians should conduct themselves wisely before those who are still in the world (Eph 5:15,16). They should so conduct themselves in a Christ like manner, because their lifestyle communicates the effect of the Gospel on their behaviour (Rom 12:1,2; Phil 1:27).

Therefore the Christian should behave in order to stimulate questions concerning his HOPE (1 Pet 3:15), making the most of every opportunity. Christians must seize every opportunity to preach & teach the Gospel of Christ (2 Tim 4:2).

It should be the goal of each disciple to stand before God and say, 'I did my best' in manifesting his appreciation for God's Grace (2 Cor 4:15).

In conclusion, in this fast changing world, we need to walk in wisdom, making the best use of time and opportunity, this being the last days of the second coming of Jesus.

S.David Martin
Evangelist
Church of Christ YMCA Kilpauk
Chennai.10. India



RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY, P. 2

DISCIPLES, MAKE YOUR CALL

Respect is not a naturally occurring virtue, it has to be taught. It truly begins with the hand that rocks the cradle. One child at a time she civilizes the world. Without respect for authority we have chaos and anarchy in the home, church and country.

Some want to qualify the authority. Only respect those who deserve respect. But strangely enough, no exceptions were included in our instructions. You see, respect has more to do with my character than it does with who I respect. When I decided to obey God, that included respect for every authority that he instituted.

“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.” (Rom. 13:1)

It all begins with respect for our husband’s authority. Yes, God gave him authority in the family. Authority comes with the responsibility to provide for and protect the family. With practice he will live up to the respect we give him. This is the first example we set for our children.

Children must be taught to respect the authority of parents and others. The penalty for disrespectful children under the Law of Moses was death. (Deut. 21:18-21) While we are not under that Law today, it does give some indication of how seriously God feels about respect for authority.

We are to respect our male leadership in the church. (Heb. 13:17) Notice that authority always comes with a serious obligation to care for and protect those under their care.

It goes without saying that we are to respect our governing authorities. We can work toward the change of laws and government but we are under obligation to obey the law, with the exception that we are never required to do wrong.

It all begins and ends with the decision to obey God’s will in our lives. Civilization rests in our hands!

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana

Disciples must teach disciples only what they know to be true.

Leaders must lead only with knowledge of where they are going,

how to get there, and what they are doing.

They must rely upon others who are brothers

To warn about dangers of strangers and can lend a hand as we travel to lands in bands where we are sent to find the weak and weary, lost, alone and ensnared, waiting to be spared.

We cannot teach what we do not know,

We cannot lead to where we have not been.

Have you been where our Leader has been?

Has he led you to the foot of His cross?

It is there that he takes away our sin

So that we may live again, and lead others to Him.

Oh, pray that he will disciple us today, tomorrow and every day

Until we become one of His own.

He said that is how it will be known among men, that we belong to Him

Who is Father of all.

Now is the time to make your call.

Be careful that you do not slip and fall.

Reach out to others along the trail

For we are all weary and frail.

Oh, what joy it will be to see Him

waiting for me, at the foot of His tree,

The tree of life for you and me.

Larry S., Grubbs , Harrison, Ohio

10 REASONS WHY CHURCHES DON'T GROW PAST 200

It's common for churches to hover around 200 in attendance, bouncing slightly below and slightly above that number recurrently, but not moving beyond that level. Here are some reasons that plateau happens:

- Pastoral leadership style** – Pastors who must be involved in every member's life and who don't delegate ministry usually cannot shepherd a congregation larger than 200. Many pastors simply don't know how to change this leadership style.
- Building space** – Many churches build first or second buildings that will hold about 200 worshippers. If space is unavailable for future growth, that growth won't happen.
- Church expectations** – Some congregations simply don't want to be larger than about 200. They don't want so many members they can't know everybody, so outreach slows as the church approaches the 200 barrier.
- Church history** – In many cases, a church has a history of hitting 200, bouncing backward for a while, and then growing again up to 200. That's been their history, so 200 has become the height of "the good old days."
- Man-sized vision** – That is, the church leaders have no vision beyond the 200 barrier. They know they can get to this point, and that becomes their target. Nobody's thinking about God's doing something larger than that point.
- Poor preparation** – Some leaders don't think about addressing the 200 barrier until the church is at that level – which means they've made no preparation to push through the barrier. Their reactive leadership halts the church's growth.
- Ecclesiological choice** – For those pastors who believe they must know every member of their congregation well, maxing attendance at about 200 is intentional. Others are church planting pastors who've determined that anything beyond 200 is a call to send out laborers to start another congregation. In the latter case, growth is still occurring—it just

looks different.

8. **Burdening bureaucracy** – Churches that have numerous meetings, multiple committees, and slow processes often get stuck around 200. They're not prepared structurally to cross that barrier.

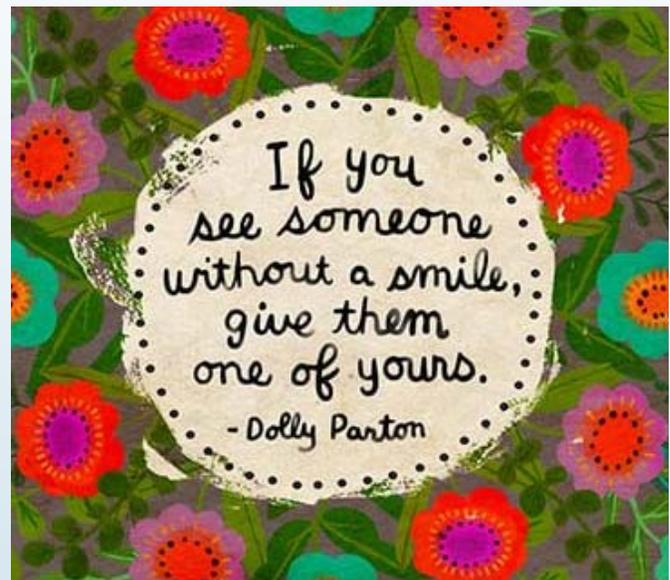
9. **Pastoral tenure** – If pastors don't stay at their church beyond 3-4 years, it's hard for the church to move past 200. Pastoral transitions tend to slow down church growth for a while.

10. **Poor discipleship** – Moving beyond 200 requires a church to have trained lay leaders to carry on the work of ministry. Churches that don't intentionally make disciples don't often have these workers.

What obstacles have you seen? Let us hear your thoughts.

Thom Ranier

(Note in the original the word Preacher was Pastor)



IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION # 108: PLATYPUS - DESIGN ON DISPLAY

The platypus, sometimes referred to as the duck-billed platypus, is a semiaquatic mammal endemic to eastern Australia, including Tasmania. It displays a unique combination of the properties of being endothermic (warm blooded), egg laying, venom producing, and electro-location.

The unusual appearance of this egg-laying, duck-billed, beaver-tailed, otter-footed mammal baffled European naturalists when they first encountered it, and the first scientists to examine a preserved platypus body (in 1799), judged it a fake, made of several animals sewn together.

ENDOTHERMIC: The species is endothermic, maintaining its body temperature at about 32 °C (90 °F), lower than most mammals, even while foraging for hours in water below 5 °C (41 °F).

REPRODUCTION: It lays one to three (usually two) small, leathery eggs (similar to those of reptiles), about 11 mm (7/16 in) in diameter and slightly rounder than bird eggs. The eggs develop in utero for about 28 days, with only about 10 days of external incubation (in contrast to a chicken egg, which spends about one day in tract and 21 days externally).

VENOM: While both male and female platypuses are born with ankle spurs, only the male's spurs deliver venom, composed largely of defensin-like proteins (DLPs), three of which are unique to the platypus. Although powerful enough to kill smaller animals such as dogs, the venom is not lethal to humans, but the pain is so excruciating that the victim may be incapacitated.

ELECTRO-LOCATION: Monotremes (Enchidas and platypuses) are the only mammals (apart from at least one species of dolphin) known to have a sense of electroreception. They locate their prey in part by detecting electric fields generated by muscular contractions in the prey. The electroreceptors are located in rostrocaudal rows in the skin of the bill. The platypus can determine the direction of an electric source, perhaps by comparing differences in signal strength across the sheet of electroreceptors. This would explain the characteristic side-to-side motion

of the animal's head while hunting. The cortical convergence of electrosensory and tactile inputs suggests a mechanism that determines the distance of prey that, when they move, emit both electrical signals and mechanical pressure pulses. The platypus uses the difference between arrival times of the two signals to sense distance.

DIET: Feeding by neither sight nor smell, the platypus closes its eyes, ears, and nose each time it dives. Rather, when it digs in the bottom of streams



IMAGE BY KLAUS FLICKR

with its bill, its electroreceptors detect tiny electric currents generated by muscular contractions of its prey. The platypus is a carnivore: it feeds on annelid worms, insect larvae, freshwater shrimp, and crayfish.

FEEDING YOUNG: The newly hatched young are vulnerable, blind, and hairless, and are fed by the mother's milk. Although possessing mammary glands, the platypus lacks teats. Instead, milk is released through pores in the skin. The milk pools in grooves on her abdomen, allowing the young to lap it up.

Each of these unique characteristics have actually been discussed in a prior issue of IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION, so they are not listed as an additional impossible. What is actually impossible is that a single animal evolved them all.

Benton F. Baugh

Information taken from Wikipedia and the following video:

<https://video.wvbs.org/video/wonders-of-creation-platypus/>



WINGS OF EAGLES VIDEO SERIES

Fifty years ago we could take it for granted that most people we met believed in God, were of the Christian religion, and that society in general supported church work. Today atheistic evolution is openly taught in schools and we are getting progressively less support for religious practices. After you have established a relationship with a prospect, this series will provide concise Christian apologetics.

This 3 lesson Wings of Eagles DVD personal evangelism series are addressed to our contemporary situation. They can be easily shown in a personal evangelism encounter or a Bible class lesson.

THE LESSON TOPICS ARE:

IF GOD?

A comparison of atheistic evolution with the reality of a god existing, leading to the conclusion that a god exists.

WHICH GOD?

A comparison of the various offerings to be the god, leading to the conclusion that Jehovah and Jesus are God.

WHATS NEXT?

A brief history of the world and of Christianity leading to a discussion of how to find Christ's church.

These lessons are available as a free download at occg.institute under the SERVICES tab. Additional supporting resources are on this website.

A FREE, FULL ONLINE RESOURCE
FOR 21ST CENTURY EVANGELISM

www.occg.institute

For more information, contact:
info@occg.institute
See website for cell phone shortcut!

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.



A FREE, FULL ONLINE RESOURCE FOR 21ST CENTURY EVANGELISM

www.occginstitute.org

Can we help you, can you help us?

For more information, contact:
info@occg.institute
See website for cell phone shortcut!

Hello, this is Maxine -- I have questions!



Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose cruel idea was it to put an "s" in the word "lisp"?



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, 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:

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 occgrowth.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

SUMMARY: Eight reasons to believe the Bible account of creation. Genesis 1 says God created human beings by starting with two fully-formed and functioning humans and placing them in a created universe. An eternal, intelligent, and powerful force, which we call God, created this finely tuned universe and highly intelligent creatures. This plan is much more likely to be correct than that there was nothing and suddenly there was something and from that something, entirely by chance, came a living cell which over millions of years produced complex, thinking human beings. Since the evidence for such an evolutionary explanation is badly lacking, the biblical account is far more likely.

Many say human beings are the culmination of millions or even billions of years of evolution starting with a one-celled organism which gradually developed into higher forms of life. Through all of those years, one “kind” kept changing into a higher “kind” until finally there was a human being. Such a view is often promoted as a scientific truth. But, let’s examine some of the facts. Here are eight reasons not to believe that such a process produced animals and humans.

1. Because no evolution can be observed in our day.

If evolution occurred for millions of years with one “kind” evolving into a higher “kind” through a series of intermediate, transitional steps, then still all around us we should be able to see millions of creatures in those transitional stages. We should see in our world today those part-frog/part fish or part chimp/part human. But not a single such form is anywhere to be seen. Did this process go on for millions and millions of years and then suddenly stop as soon as humans evolved? If so, why? If not, then where are organisms for us to see which are in the process of becoming something “higher?” If we can observe no cases of one “kind” changing into another “kind” in our world today, then it is not the case that such a process was going on for millions of years and then suddenly stopped.

2. Because the fossil record does not support evolution.

Billions of fossils have been found and, if evolution were true, then among them there would certainly be millions of transitional creatures showing one “kind” in the process of evolving into another. After all, think how many transitional steps there would be between a one-celled organism and a human. Such forms, however, are not to be found. Even evolutionary paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould admitted in an article in *Paleobiology* (1980): “The absence of fossil evidence for intermediary stages between major transitions in organic design, indeed our inability, even in our imagination, to construct functional intermediates in many cases, has been a persistent and nagging problem for gradualistic accounts of evolution.” While evolutionists point to a few cases among fossils which they think might represent a transitional creature, the vast number of intermediate fossils which would certainly be found if evolution were true are nowhere to be found.

As evolutionists have tried to find the missing link between humans and chimps or ape-like creatures, they have put forth several cases which they claimed were part ape and part human. Unfortunately for the evolutionists, however, further study has shown these to be false. The Piltdown Man, for example, which for years appeared in museums and in textbooks as a link between humans and apes, has now been found to be an intentional falsification by Richard Dawson. He connected a jawbone, some teeth, and part of a skull to “create” a human form which he called “Piltdown” because it came from that location in England. First presented in 1912, in 1953 it was discovered that the jawbone was from an orangutan and the skull from a small human. For generations, then, Piltdown Man was used to “prove” evolution, but it was a fake. It was no missing link at all. The Nebraska Man, also publicized for many years as the missing link, was developed from a tooth which turned out to be that of a pig. So again, not a form between apes or chimps and humans. A more recent case was “Lucy,” claimed to have been discovered in Ethiopia in 1974. Now it is recognized by most even in the evolutionary camp that Lucy is not a transitional figure between apes and humans but, rather, is likely composed of bones from two or three different creatures, none of which is human. Isn’t it strange that many world famous scientists keep being fooled by these frauds? In addition, scientists have now discovered that human DNA is different in important aspects from ape DNA. If, however, humans were descended from apes, then the DNA would show much greater similarity.

So, billions of fossils and among them not one conclusive case of one “kind” in the process of becoming a different “kind.” Instead of millions of fossil forms in the changing process, as would be the case if evolution were actually true, there is not even one case which conclusively shows one type of being becoming another. There are, of course, changes within a “kind” such as a beak growing longer or a change in a creature’s color, but no proof of one “kind” becoming a higher “kind.” While some of these “micro” changes are found in fossils, the intermediate transitions from one “kind” to another are not in the fossil record.

Just to be clear, minor changes within a “kind” are called “microevolution” or small evolution. Such changes do occur because there is built into each “kind” the capacity to adapt when in varying circumstances. “Macroevolution,” on the other hand, is a term to describe large evolution or transitions moving one “kind” into another “kind.” It is this type of evolution for which conclusive evidence does not exist.

Another factor in considering the fossil record is the Cambrian explosion. In the geological layer called the Cambrian, there suddenly appears a huge number of fossils representing a host of different creatures—in their fully developed and highly complex forms. The level below the Cambrian contains few fossils and certainly not prior forms of those creatures which suddenly appear in the Cambrian layer. This sudden appearance is, of course, not the way the evolution would have changed simpler “kinds” to more complex “kinds” through a process lasting millions of years. The world-wide flood of Genesis 6 was the major depositor of the fossils in the Cambrian as indicated by the fact that the fossils of many sea

creatures appear high on mountainsides. So, if the fossil record fossil does not show it, then evolution must not be true. And the fossil record does not show it.

3. Because evolution provides no satisfactory answer for how “nothing” became “something.”

Evolutionists must explain where the first cell came from which, they say, came the beginning of the evolutionary process. Since scientists generally agree the earth and its inhabitants have not always been here, there had to be a point of beginning. Two of the reasons we know there was a beginning are (1) because scientists know that energy moves from a more useful to a less useful state and if our system had always been here, we would be out of useful energy by now; (2) the sun is being used up and is decreasing in size so if it always been here, it would have been used up long ago.

So there was a beginning but, at that point, did “nothing” produce “something?” By what process would that be possible? Some evolutionists seek to answer their dilemma by saying that the substance to start the evolutionary process on earth came from outer space. Not only is there no proof of such an event, but that explanation still would not answer the original question of how did the first cell arise anywhere. Certainly no scientist has ever demonstrated producing something from nothing. So if something cannot come from nothing, then the evolutionary explanation does not work.

4. Because evolution provides no satisfactory answer for how non-life became life.

Even if there had been a primordial swamp, as some evolutionists use in their explanation, and this swamp produced a non-living cell, what evidence is there that a non-living cell could produce a living one. Many scientists over the years have sought to demonstrate how that could happen, but none of these many efforts to produce life from non-life has ever worked. If the greatest scientists in their sophisticated labs cannot produce life by using their vast knowledge and equipment, are we really to believe that life could appear from non-life entirely by chance? So if evolution cannot demonstrate how life could come from non-life, then it didn't actually happen.

5. Because evolution provides no satisfactory explanation for the process by which one “kind” can become another “kind.”

There are recognized types of animals—dogs, horses, elephants. An animal can reproduce with another of its own type, but cannot reproduce with a different “kind.” Within each “kind,” of course, lies the possibility of variations within that type. As mentioned above, this is called “microevolution,” and changes at this level can and do take place. Dogs, for example, can be bred to develop more or less fur, to have different colors, or whatever breeders think makes a better looking dog, but dogs cannot reproduce with cats or rabbits or horses. So breeders can vary the size or color within a particular “kind,” but they cannot breed across the line between them. Sometimes a new type of butterfly or beetle is discovered, something that has not been seen before. Darwin found variations, for example, among the

beaks of finches, but this does not prove one “kind” became another. It only shows that within a given “kind,” the possibility of adaptation is built in.

For evolution to be true, however, there would have to be a means by which reproduction could jump the “kind” barrier. Evolution’s explanation for this “process” is that a series of “mutations” transformed one “kind” into a “better kind.” Yet, there is no evidence of mutations in the past having changed one “kind” into another, and no scientist today can make that happen in the laboratory. And since mutations tend to produce less desirable rather than more desirable characteristics, this process is not a good explanation for such vast improvements as moving from a one-celled organism to the amazing functions of the human body and brain. In fact, not one mutation in a being’s DNA has been found to produce a better creature. Such mutations or mal-functions create problems rather than improvements: cancer, down-syndrome, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, color blindness, birth defects, muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis. Since evolutionists cannot offer a suitable process for how a lower “kind” can become a higher “kind,” then they have not provided a satisfactory explanation for the evolutionary process and it should, therefore, be rejected.

6. Because the second law of thermodynamics shows that all systems tend toward disorder.

Everything in nature moves “downhill.” Things in nature do not move toward becoming better but worse; they move from more complex to less complex, from more functional to less functional. A human body, for example, does not grow better as it ages, but worse. In view of this law for which there are no known exceptions, how likely is it that an evolutionary process at work in nature would move from a one-celled organism with no capacity to move or think to becoming better and better until a complex human being came about? And think just of the huge jump just from apes or chimps to man. They cannot speak or write or do complex thinking. If, then, the second law of thermodynamics, which has been demonstrated in so many ways, is true, then the development of a lower being into a higher one could not have occurred.

7. Because everything in the universe shows intelligent design.

No one could imagine a watch or a car or an airplane or a computer coming into existence with no intelligence behind it. If we cannot imagine these objects coming about just by chance and without intelligent design, how, then, can we imagine the human mind that made them coming entirely by chance? Picture the entire universe with its stars and galaxies operating according to fixed patterns and laws, as they do. Then ask, “Can something so far beyond human ability to produce or even to comprehend come into existence entirely by chance?” If a watch cannot happen by chance, then galaxies certainly cannot come about by chance. A great testimony to this truth came from a man who once was the world’s most renowned atheist, Oxford professor Anton Flew. Primarily because he

recognized DNA's complexity, Dr. Flew changed his mind and said "It is more likely that God exists uncaused than the universe [exists uncaused] (75, 144, *There is a God*, with Ray Varglese, 2007). Flew recognized that within a single cell, there is enough information to fill 1,000 volumes of an encyclopedia. His point was that many things about the universe, including DNA, are far too complex to have come into existence from nowhere with no intelligence designing them. So which is more likely, that human sight, hearing, and thinking came about through a powerful, intelligent being or that these amazing things came from nowhere entirely by chance?

8. Because the Bible says that God created everything.

The first chapter of Genesis says God created everything—the universe, the sun and moon, the earth, all the plants and animals, and, on the sixth day, two human beings with reproductive powers. Having seen that evolution does not provide a believable answer to where all beings came from, we turn, to a different possibility, the one presented in the Bible. It reports that everything came from an intelligence who has always existed and who alone has power to create something from nothing. As Dr. Flew said, it is easier to believe that an intelligent being has always existed than that all the elements of the carefully designed universe came into being from nothing and developed into their marvelous forms entirely by chance. Since the Bible has proven to be correct in so many things it tells about, it should not surprise us to find that its explanation for the origin of life and the beginning of the human race is the best possible answer. It says God created two grown human beings, a male and a female, and that from them came all other human beings. And Jesus agreed when he said that at the beginning God created them male and female (Matthew 19:4). In 1 Timothy 2:13-14, Paul speaks of Adam and the woman who sinned. So the Bible says that God began the human race by creating two fully-developed people. This scriptural account is far more in agreement with such matters as intelligent design and the fossil record than is evolution. The entire Bible story is built around its account that these two humans sinned which caused God to bring vast changes on the earth along with death for the humans he created for "in Adam all die" (1 Corinthians 15:22). If there were no Adam and Eve, then the entire basis for the Bible story would not exist.

Jonathan Sarfati has written *Refuting Compromise* in which he takes many of the above thoughts into much greater detail.

This article is provided by Dr. Stafford North of Oklahoma Christian University.

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

DIRECT LINK TO WINGS OF EAGLES VIDEOS

A direct link to the Wings of Eagles Videos is <https://occg.institute/videos/>.

If you go there by the direct link on regular navigation on the occg.institute website you can follow that procedure below for an icon which will take you directly to the videos when you are in a personal evangelism encounter.



GET A FREE PHONE APP FOR THE OC CHURCH GROWTH INSTITUTE

For iPhone:

1. Visit the website on your mobile device, 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

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 FREE "SUBSCRIPTION"!!!!

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

The Christian Array is dedicated to support the sustained scriptural growth of the Churches of Christ. It is published by the OCCG Institute with Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E. as editor and is solely responsible for the content. Any announcements, requests for publication, or comments should be e-mailed to info@occg.institute.

Circulation: 4200 congregations and individual members

Advertisements (no charge): Send to info@occg.institute