

FIND AN OBJECTIVE ADVISOR

NUMBER 166

NOVEMBER 2021

All people would do well to have an objective advisor in our church responsibilities. We have advisors on legal matters, financial matters, home improvements, beauty, our health and a lot of other areas which are simply passing things. What we do in religious matters is of much greater importance, so wouldn't it be appropriate to get the best scripture-based advice we can find?

Most of us will be responsible primarily for ourselves on Judgment Day. Most of us individually can go to a Shepherd or Minister expecting to find in him that scripture-based, reasonably objective advisor.

Continued on page 6

REVERENT FEAR

Pam Blythe, Houston

I have always had trouble understanding the feeling expressed in Scripture about being terrified to be in the presence of our God. I realize people in Old Testament times experienced a different relationship with our God than we are afforded now through Jesus, but still, it seems it would be overwhelmingly wonderful to be in the presence of our God. I am not dismissing the feelings of reverent fear and inadequacy recorded in the Bible, I've just never been able to translate that into something I fully understand. Until last week.

Continued on page 2

ROOT STIMULATOR

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught and you will overflow with thankfulness." (Col. 2:7)

Continued on page 4

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison, Ohio

TRUTH? Why are we the people of America so unconcerned about truth or consequences? It appears that we have become so accommodated to political correctness, wary of



"offensiveness", satisfied with a steady diet of half-truths, fake news, simulated food, virtual exercise and acceptive of perverse morality that we no longer comprehend any true "identity". We have spoiled ourselves with entitlements that we are routinely assured that we "deserve." So now that we have over indulged in pleasures and pastimes, we have lost track of time until "our time" may have passed.

Continued on page 5

IN THIS ISSUE:

Find an objective advisor	1
Reverent Fear - Blythe	1
Root Stimulator - Brown	1
Truth or Consequences - Grubbs	1
Personal Evangelism Tri-fold	10
Impossible for Evolution	14

REVERENT FEAR P. 2

I have always had a weird phobia of being near extraordinarily large things. Standing next to Transco (Williams) Tower one time in high school, I looked up only to nearly pass out. To get on a cruise ship, I have to look straight ahead, trying not to notice the immensity of the beast I'm boarding. I've never been to Johnson Space Center - spaceships are toooo big.

On a trip to Palo Duro, one night we went outside of our cabin on the rim of the canyon to look at the stars. I've been outside of the city and have seen stars, of course. But apparently never in such

a vastly open space where there is nothing but sky. When my eyes adjusted and I began to take in the enormity of what I was seeing, it literally scared me back inside the cabin. Or at least back under the safety of the porch where I could peek out from a relatively protected place.

I don't know if Tim or our friends noticed and I certainly didn't admit being scared by stars of all things. I keep thinking about why in the world I couldn't bring myself to turn my eyes onto the stars and appreciate their vast beauty when suddenly it occurred, dare I say, was revealed to me ... this must be my explanation of the feeling of reverent fear. Even terror. It was more than I could take. Now, I realize I'm still "weird" in this silly phobia, but at least I can see it has had some purpose.



I now have the slightest human, tangible grasp, for my own self, of the enormity and power and overall reigning majesty of the Creator. I know how to feel the love, the peace, the protection, the comfort, the joy, and now the reverent fear and majesty has become much clearer. Words are insufficient, but I pray I have expressed myself in such a way that someone else might seek and find their own moment of clarification and awe. (Psalm 8:3-9)

Align Myofascial Release
Tanya Torres, LMT, PTA
MassageBook.com/biz/AlignMyofascialRelease

Expert-level MFR Therapist,
the John F. Barnes Approach

439 Mason Park Blvd, Katy TX
936-244-0095

THE GREEN THING

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment.

The woman apologized to the young girl and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days." The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

The older lady said that she was right our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day. The older lady went on to explain: Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and re-filled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day. Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

But, too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then. We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw away kind. We

dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days.

Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power.

We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Continue on page 4

THE GREEN THING, P. 2

Continued from page 3

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing."

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

We made most things as repairable rather than simply disposable in favor of buying a replacement.

We made appliances to last a lifetime, not to die two weeks after the warranty expired.

We made cars you could maintain, not cars you had to drive back to the dealer for every problem.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smart aleck young person. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to irritate us... Especially from a tattooed, multiple pierced smart aleck who can't make change without the cash register telling them how much.

Ciao,

Don Sparachino

ROOT STIMULATOR, P. 2

Continued from page 1

Spring is the time to plant tiny little fragile plants. Seeds and plants may need help to get started in the face of erratic weather, [insects](#), and the blazing sun. A little root stimulator usually helps strengthen the roots until they grow strong and hearty plants. But we want more than strong roots and plants. We are looking for fruit, vegetables, or flowers.

Jesus knew that we would need deep and strong roots to remain faithful. How do we find root stimulator for our souls? "Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them." (Eph. 5:10, 11)

The worries and concerns of this world have a way of crowding out the nutrients, water and light required for growth. Carefully seek living water and avoid all the worldly things that damage roots. It is not enough to believe; we need to grow. "And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him." (Col. 2:6)

So how do we find out what pleases the Lord? Listen to his Word, the richest spiritual nutrient in the world. Accept no substitute. Live in the power of Jesus' love and the Spirit's living water. It is not enough to have just spiritual roots, we want to grow strong and bear fruit. "Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong." (Eph. 3:17)

Will you seek nourishment for your roots today?

Today, cut out one thing that harms your roots.

Open your heart to receive spiritual refreshing.

Elizabeth Brown

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

Continued from page 1

We no longer bear fruit of our guiding "Spirit" by which Truth we were conceived and which we held as self-evident as endowing us with rights to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We aspired to bear fruit of That Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. However; we as "one nation under God" have since abdicated responsibility for self-governance as a nation "Of the people, by the people and for the people" and cut ourselves off from the Trunk of Truth from which we sprouted and once produced light and the fruit of hope for the world.

Even now, as still living remnants of truthful people reach out and struggle to bring refreshment by showing the promise of vitality of life sustained by Truth, they are being smothered by the withered, dead, and dying in a swamp of complacency, apathy and apostasy.

America, we must prune ourselves of pride and futile thinking or our field of dreams will surely fade, giving way to desolation, despair and darkness determined to overtake the world. Who may "leave the light of truth on" for the wayfaring strangers to God? What will become of the once vibrant orchards where now we find only baskets of rotting apples?

Only ONE knows the truthful answer.

"If anyone has ears, let him hear." (Matthew 11:15)

Do we have eyes but fail to see? (Mark 8:18)

Do we have a sense of smell to distinguish between the smell of death and the fragrance of life? (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)

Are our throats too dry and hoarse to ask for a drink of living water? (John 4:10- 14)

Are we too bloated to hunger for living bread

which has been given for the life of the world? (John 6:51)

Are we too deafened and tossed by the storms wreaking havoc on our world to remember the One who stills them to a whisper? (Psalm 107:29)

Are we too frightened by crouching tigers to take comfort in the rod and staff of The Lord our Shepherd? (Psalm 23)

"For the law was given by Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17

"The LORD is near to all who call on him; to all who call on him in truth." Psalm 145:18

Let us come to Him while we may- to pray in truth or continue to suffer consequences.

Larry S. Grubbs

You don't have to win every argument.

Agree to disagree.

Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.

Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.

When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.

Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.

It's OK to let your children see you cry.

FIND AN OBJECTIVE ADVISOR, p. 2

Continued from page 1

Church leaders, appointed or otherwise, bear greater responsibility not only for themselves but also for those they lead. The greater your role, the greater your responsibility (Parable of the Talents).

In the extreme case, if you led a congregation in a decline in a service area with a growing population, things are not likely to go well for you on Judgment Day. Some with the gall to publish a brotherhood newsletter trying to influence others (e.g. what this article is doing) would also expect a strict judgment on Judgment Day.

Irrespective of who we might be responsible for on Judgment Day, we would all like to have a good outcome. Might you be a repeated sinner in denial, a leader who lords over the flock, a gossip, a negligent attendee, different on weekdays and on Sundays, or simply a social Christian? We all know of people who fit these categories, but who likely do not see themselves in this way. "Other people" seem to be in a sort of denial about their personal activities. Has it occurred to you that you and I are "other people" to someone else? Can other people see you in a more objective light than you see yourself?

Conrad Edwards (name changed) was an Elder at Heights Church of Christ from some time before 1960 with about 500 members until around 2000 when it had declined to 10-15 members. Heights, at 1628 Heights Boulevard in Houston, was in an area with a growing population. The last time I saw him he was high in a 3 story staircase painting the walls at the building. He certainly had sincerity, perseverance, and dedication. One can conclude that as he continued doing what he was doing until his death, he thought what he was doing was the appropriate

things to do. This is what you would call a subjective appraisal of his situation.

To me he was a grumpy old man who ruled autocratically (collectively with other Elders) from closed meetings and was a good part of the reason people were living.

Clearly, we had a different impression of his service to the church, with reality being someplace between the two impressions.

He is not going to take my impression to Judgment Day. He is going to take that he became an Elder in a congregation of at least 500 members and led them to being a congregation of 10-15 members in an area with a growing population. He may try to justify saying he repainted a 3 story staircase if he chooses to do so.

For sake of discussion, we are going to suggest that things will not go well for Brother Edwards on Judgment Day. He was an absolutely sincere member who was steadfast in the faith in his understanding. Surely he identified factors as to why Heights Church of Christ continued to decline, factors beyond his control. His co-elders were reinforcing his understandings all along the way.

Fifty years later, it is fairly easy to see what was happening. Likely no one would suggest that an eldership which took a congregation from 500-10 in a growing area would have a good outcome on Judgment Day. The question is how do you see it in real time? What could Brother Edwards and his fellow Elders have done at any place along the time-line to get a clear appraisal of his situation. If you have read the title to this article, you know the suggestion is going to be to get an objective advisor.

FIND AN OBJECTIVE ADVISOR, p. 3

First, we shall discuss who is not likely to be an objective advisor. A **fellow Elder** is not likely to be an objective advisor as he is in exactly the same position that you are in. If they are criticizing what you are doing, they are likely criticizing themselves. Few people are adept at that. If you are in a declining situation and fellow Elder would be a good objective advisor for you, he is likely out of step with the other Elders.

Church employees are not likely to give good objective advice as good advice would imply a criticism of what you are doing. That is functionally criticizing the boss, and that is a dangerous practice for employees.

Church consultants who are dependent upon getting a good review from you in order to get more consulting jobs can be more inclined to identify obvious symptoms of your congregational problems rather than the actual causes of your congregational problems.

BREAK THE PROBLEM DOWN INTO COMPONENTS

A first step for advice can be to divide the problem into components. It is much easier for someone to be objective about a component of a situation rather than the whole situation. You might use different people for advice on different pieces of the puzzle.

This is the approach taken in the recent OC Church Growth Workshop in Houston. It was styled in terms of seven keys for sustained church growth, including goals, prospect traffic, member involvement, 21st century learning, information systems, organizational changes, and knowing the importance of what we are doing. Consider you are specifically looking for advice

on those 7 pieces of the puzzle individually.

1. What is the appropriate goal for our congregation?
2. What do we need to do to generate prospect traffic to support personal evangelism?
3. What do we need to do to generate prospect traffic to support personal evangelism.
4. What do we need to do to involve our members in the personal evangelism process?
5. What do we need to do to equip our members with education which will assist them in the personal evangelism process.
5. What can we do to improve the information flow in our congregation to support personal evangelism.
6. How do we need to scripturally change our organization to make it strong enough to support our congregational growth goal?
7. Do we have customs and/or practices which inhibit the ability to do personal evangelism?

If the whole problem is overwhelming and seems impossible to resolve, take it a piece at a time. You would do well to take it a piece at a time, but do them concurrently. If you do it individually, it will likely take so long that the first part will likely need to be revisited before you get to the last part.

1. *Life isn't fair, but it's still good..*
2. *When in doubt, just take the next small step.*
3. *Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.*
4. *Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.*

FIND AN OBJECTIVE ADVISOR, p. 4

CONGREGATIONAL GOALS:

First, define what the advice is to be about. If your problem is that your congregation is in decline, a goal would be to state what you should be doing. Consider your setting a congregational goal of a 5% sustained annual grow rate while remaining scriptural. Then the advice you are looking for is what does your congregation need to do to scripturally achieve a sustained 5% annual church growth rate. That decision alone goes a long way to clarifying your situation.

If that is your goal, Brother Edwards, a fellow Elder, a church employee, a Deacon, or any number of the brothers or sisters in your congregation can have a good chance to give you objective advice on the topic. Everyone will not suddenly become a good advisor as the advice will be “thinking out of the box” at your congregation. Many people are simply not adept at thinking out of the box.

If you have individuals in your congregation who have shown a track record for thinking out of the box, you should put them on a long-range planning committee, even if they are an Elder or someone who is always trying to rock the boat. Just imagine someone who would be fulfilled by helping your congregations achieve a sustained 5% growth rate.

Someone who would be pleased by that goal would be Jesus. That was His Great Commission. You probably don’t need someone to advise you on this. Just think of what you would be pleased to tell Jesus on Judgment Day. However, if you would be happy to tell Jesus flatline or a slow decline on Judgment Day, you need to find an advisor now.

GENERATING PROSPECT TRAFFIC:

You cannot grow a congregation without pro-

spect traffic, whether it is at your worship services or personal contacts of members. It is likely that to grow a congregation you will need as many prospects during the year as you have members in attendance. Find someone who can advise you on how to find prospects.

INVOLVE OUR MEMBERS IN THE PERSONAL EVANGELISM PROCESS

We typically try to browbeat members into doing personal evangelism in spite of the fact that they are uncomfortable doing it. Consider that if a member is a happy engaged member of your congregation, you probably can’t stop them from telling others about it. Find someone who can advise you on how to make your current members feel more like they are an important part of your congregation.

EQUIP OUR MEMBERS WITH EDUCATION

Repetitive verbal classes may be somewhat entertaining, but do not provide a basis for members being comfortable they are equipped to do personal evangelism. Written, topical lessons which members can retain and readily refer to can build a substantial reservoir of member information. We support such a set of developing lesson at <https://occg.institute/bible-class-topical-lessons/> which you can use, help develop, and help edit. We also provide a free set of personal evangelism videos called Wings of Eagles which are online at <https://occg.institute/2-wings-of-eagles/>. Find someone who can advise you on how to develop or implement a program which members can graduate from.

FIND AN OBJECTIVE ADVISOR, p. 5

IMPROVE THE INFORMATION FLOW

It is critical for leadership to have a good supply of up-to-date information to make decisions to support personal evangelism and church growth. Find someone who can advise you on appropriate information to collect and how to efficiently to collect, summarize, and report it.

STRONG ORGANIZATIONS

An organization which is capable enough to handle the growth to a congregational size level is not likely suitable to get you to the next level. This is not a scriptural question as the scriptures don't give us much organizational information. Find someone capable of consulting with you on getting to the next organizational size.

CUSTOMS AND PRACTICES

Some of our customs and/or practices can inhibit the ability to do personal evangelism. Do we need to eliminate and/or change any of our customs, practices, and traditions, which are simply customs, practices and traditions? Consider that you have members who have attended for 50 years and you still want them to spend a fourth hour in education in Wednesday Night Service. At 4 hours a week for 50 years they have spent more than 10,000 hours in education and still haven't graduated. Consider changing to Wednesday Service Night instead of Wednesday Night Service and build your personal evangelism program. Find someone who can advise you on which of your activities are simply time-consuming habits and can suggest more appropriate activities for the fast pace of the 21st century.

CONCLUSION

It is said that the greatest fear of our leaders is that the church will fail on their watch. It seems somehow better for it to slowly decline than to rock the boat and try to make changes which

might disrupt the congregation. That is reminiscent of Revelation 3:15-16 where Jesus said he preferred they were cold than lukewarm. Would not flatline or a slow decline be a lukewarm congregation? Is not Jesus saying he would prefer a dead church to a lukewarm church?

Brother Edwards and his fellow elders allowed Heights to slowly decline from 500 to 10 and then disappear as a Church of Christ. It changed to a women led instrumental music group. Brother Edwards oversaw a 98% decline in Heights and will answer for it on Judgment Day. Will you be judged better if you only oversee a 10% or 20% decline in your congregation in a growing area? The parable of the talents would suggest that if you are simply flatline in a growing area your judgment will be in question also.

If you are doing the best you can and are overwhelmed by the process as a leader or an individual, get help. Find an objective advisor, or more than one.

If the advice you are getting is that it is O.K. to be in decline because the world is not as friendly to Christians as it was 50 years ago, consider that it has been more hostile towards Christianity for most of the past 2000 years than it is today. If you want to discuss hostility towards Christianity, consider the first century. The teachings in the first century were that they were supposed to be evangelizing. If your advisor is saying slight decline is O.K., get a new advisor.

If you do not have anyone who can think out of the box to help you, we can connect you with individuals who have a track record at doing it. We have workshops for it.

Benton F. Baugh

PERSONAL EVANGELISM TRI-FOLDS

Personalized personal evangelism tri-folds are a tool which has proven to be an effective way to begin conversations similarly to the Tent Cards discussed last month.

These cards not only tell the basics about Churches of Christ, but also can give location details and service times about your specific congregation. They can be edited to give whatever information you think to be beneficial for you're area and circumstance.

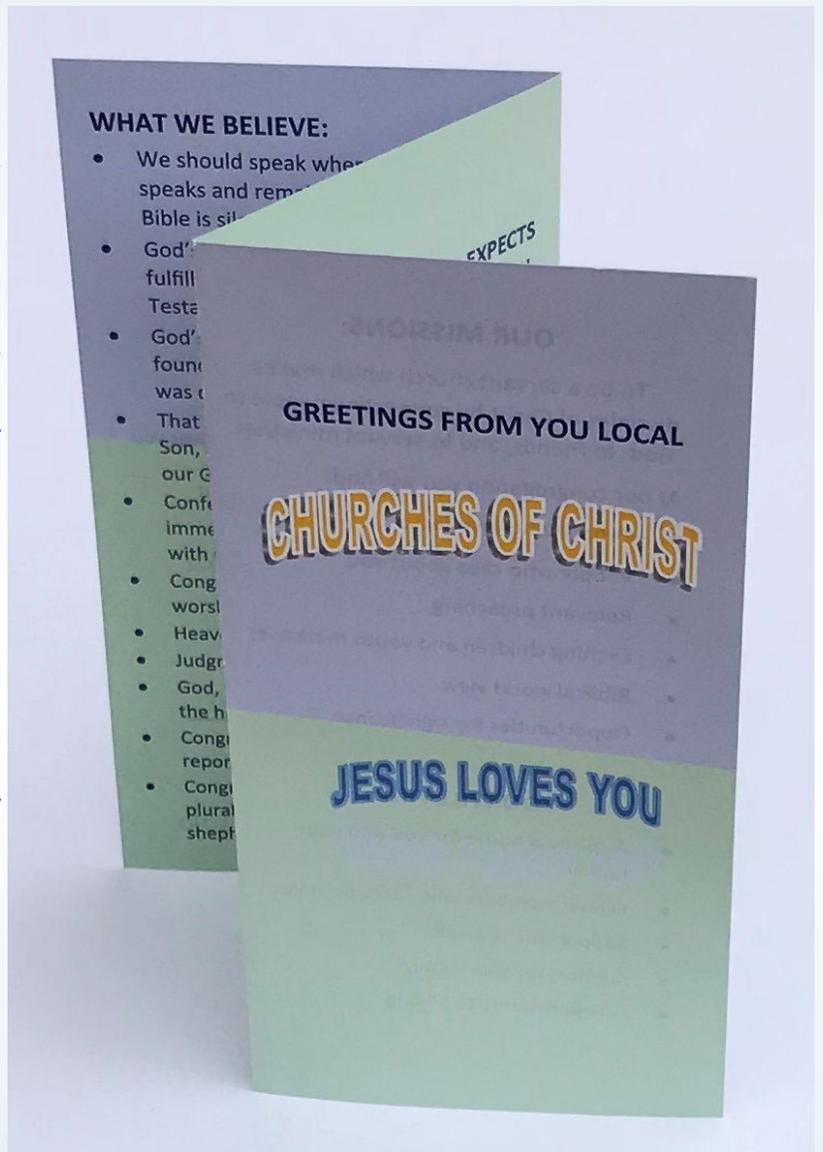
Cards similar to this can be obtained from a number of printers, with Uprint.com being the one we have used. In the example shown we used a 5.5" x 8.5" Z-Fold printed on the outside and inside in full color. It is found under brochures.

The following will give the base costs for the tri-folds, with shipping being extra.

100	\$37.19	\$0.38 ea.
250	\$106.31	\$0.43 ea.
1000	\$238.49	\$0.24 ea.
10000	\$1,074.46	\$0.11 ea.

You can go online and design any style tri-fold or other brochure you prefer. As an alternative, if you like the wording and style on the example shown, we will have them printed for you.

The following page shows the wording which was used for Memorial in Houston. If you want us to coordinate them for you, print the next page, mark it up as you like, and email it to bbaugh@occg.institute. Our part of the process will be a free service. You will pay only for Uprint's printing costs.



If you deal with them directly, they will send a free sample of your printing. As we have dealt with them before, they will not send us a free sample for you. We will send you a free sample which looks like the following page before anything is printed.

Hopefully this will be a method which will be of assistance to some congregations. If you have another idea we can publish in a future issue,

PERSONAL EVANGELISM TRI-FOLDS

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- We should speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent
- God's word in the Old Testament was fulfilled; and we now live by New Testament teachings
- God's complete plan for us today is found in the New Testament, which was completed in the first century
- That Jehovah the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit together are our God
- Confession of sins and baptism by immersion brings us into relationship with God as His adopted children
- Congregational singing is part of the worship of God
- Heaven and hell are real
- Judgment day will come for everyone
- God, the Intelligent Designer, created the heavens and the earth
- Congregations are autonomous, reporting only to Jesus
- Congregations are overseen by a plurality of scripturally qualified shepherds

WHAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE:

- Salvation by faith only
- The inability to fall from grace
- Substitution for the scriptural baptism by immersion (sprinkling, pouring, infant baptism)
- Purification in purgatory
- Divorce and remarriage of Christians other than for adultery
- Approval of extra-marital or homosexual conduct
- Judgment on the eternal destiny of others
- Updating the New Testament to match contemporary teachings

GREETINGS FROM YOUR LOCAL

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

JESUS LOVES YOU

OUR MISSIONS:

To be a servant church which makes disciples of Christ by connecting people to God, to friends, and to servant ministries.

At our congregation you will find:

- People who love Jesus
- People who care about you
- Relevant preaching
- Exciting children and youth ministries
- Biblical world view
- Opportunities for significance

YOU WILL FIND:

- A spiritual home for you and your family
- Fellow members who care about you
- Support for yourself
- Support for your family
- An opportunity to belong

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD EXPECTS US TO LIVE A GOOD CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE, ON SUNDAYS AND EVERYDAY:

We honor Christ's sacrifice by:

- Attending weekly worship services regularly.
- Learning His word and making friends in Bible classes
- Spending time daily with God, reading His word and praying
- Finding ministries where we can serve Him by serving our fellow man
- Sharing our faith.
- Financially supporting the work of the church.
- Growing in faith and love for God and each other

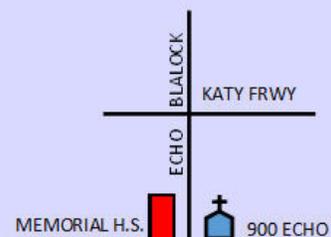
How can we help you?

Can we pray for you?
713-474-0271
elders@mcoc.org

A Church of Christ congregation near you:

Memorial Church of Christ
900 Echo Lane
Houston, Texas 77024
www.mcoc.org, 713-464-0271

Worship: 8:20, 10:30, and 6:00 p.m.
Bible Classes: 9:30



Church of Christ Matrimony

An online matrimony website exclusively for Church of Christ members

www.churchofchristmatrimony.com

FREE REGISTRATION

Online matrimony website exclusively for Church of Christ members

www.churchofchristmatrimony.com

Free Registration!

Align Myofascial Release
Tanya Torres, LMT, PTA
MassageBook.com/biz/AlignMyofascialRelease

Expert-level MFR Therapist, the John F. Barnes Approach

439 Mason Park Blvd, Katy TX
936-244-0095

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.

WE WANT TO BUY YOUR CHURCH!

If you are planning to close down your Church of Christ in the greater Houston area, we are interested in matching you with a good funding source.

If you know of someone else who is thinking about closing and selling their church, we would appreciate your telling us.

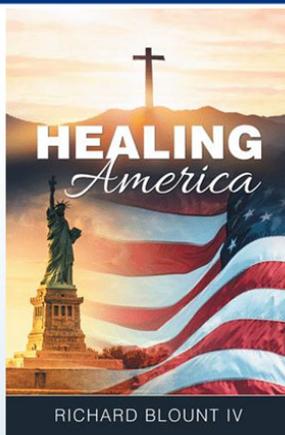
THE CATALYST INITIATIVE

PROMOTING THE GREAT COMMISSION BY ENCOURAGING STRONG MEMBERS TO START LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

bbaugh@thearray.org

HEALING AMERICA

A timely new book by Richard Blount IV exploring the problems, causes, solutions, and benefits of being an American.



He provides an intentional approach for the country's healing process and aims at healthy relationships and spiritual maturity as the ultimate goal.

This book can be purchased for \$19.95 at: Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, and Westbow Publishing

- 19 - If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
- 20 - Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- 21 - What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

Steven Wright

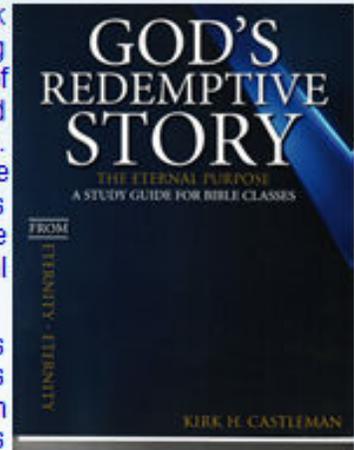
Need a hand with your student ministry? Here to help! Teaching, training, support and care for your ministers and volunteers. Twenty years in the trenches. Been there and done that. Let me know how I can serve and support your congregation.

Dave Blanchard

daveblanchard@fuller.edu

734-516-6008

A 13 lesson book written by a long time Church of Christ minister and servant of Jesus. Intended for Bible Class studies, this book can also be used for personal evangelism.



Most Bible class study books on this subject begin with Genesis 3. This study however, lays

the foundation by beginning with a basic study-outline of Biblical History, which is sorely lacking among many Christians today. Then after laying this foundation, it seeks to present a "Synthesis of Scripture" by asserting that the theme of all the Bible is Jesus, His Death, Burial, and Resurrection! The Eternal Purpose of God for Redemption is then presented with an in-depth study of Ephesians 1, and other New Testament passages which describe God's redemptive plan.

It is not until the fourth lesson that God's Eternal Purpose in Genesis 3 is presented. Then other Promises, Pictures, Prophecy, and Prep-

"AN EXCITING STUDY OF GOD'S POWER AND REVELATION IN HUMAN HISTORY"

aration, are fully described. This study includes a description of the Davidic Covenant, as well as a helpful approach to Old Testament Prophecy.

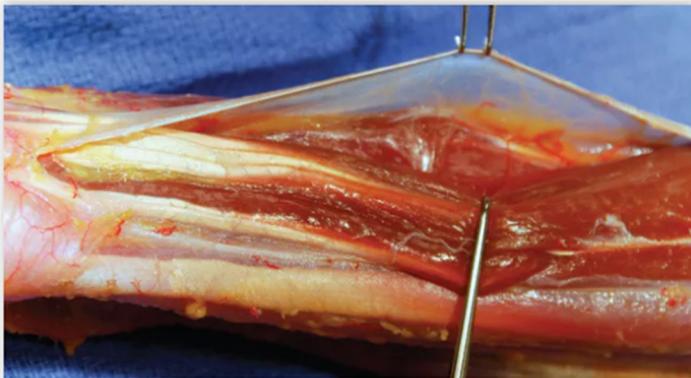
This guide is helpful for all Christians, but especially new Christians who need an understanding of God's eternal desire for all the world!

This book can be bought on Amazon for \$10.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #122 - FASCIA

As previous global body "impossibles" we have discussed nerves, touch sensors, pain sensors, blood circulation system, and the lymphatic system. Today we will discuss one you have probably never heard of - the fascial system.

Fascia is a three-dimensional web of connective tissue that runs, uninterrupted, from head to toe throughout the body. It surrounds and infuses every organ, blood vessel, bone, nerve, and muscle, down to the cellular level. It is a tensegrity model that provides structure to the body. When the fascia gets restricted, which can happen for various reasons, it causes pressure on the various structures of the body



(nerves, muscles, blood vessels, bones, organs, etc.) sometimes resulting in "unexplained" pain.

The following picture is a layer of fascia pulled away from the muscles.

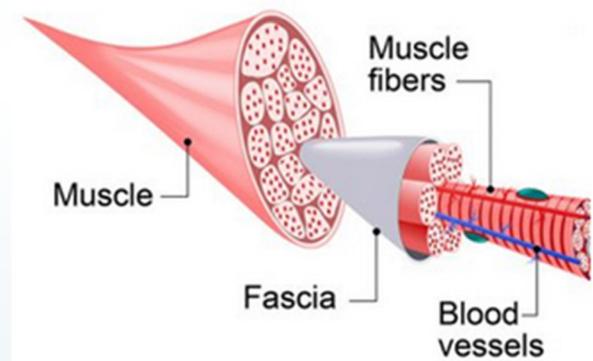
Superficial fascia is the lowermost layer of the skin in nearly all regions of the body. Deep fascia is the dense fibrous connective tissue that interpenetrates and surrounds the muscles, bones, nerves and blood vessels of the body.

Visceral fascial (also called subserous fascia) suspends the organs within their cavities and wraps them in layers of connective tissue membranes. Each of the organs is covered in a double layer of fascia; these layers are separated by a thin serous membrane.

The organs have specialized names for their visceral fascia. In the brain, they are known as meninges; in the heart they are known as pericardia; in the lungs, they are known as pleurae; and in the abdomen, they are known as peritonea

Deep fascia is a layer of dense fibrous connective tissue which surrounds individual muscles, and also divides groups of muscles into fascial compartments.

Fascia were traditionally thought of as passive structures that transmit mechanical tension generated by muscular activities or external forces throughout the body. We have subse-



quently learned important functions that muscle fascia play in reducing the friction of muscular force, providing a supportive and movable wrapping for nerves and blood vessels as they pass through and between muscles.

In the extreme complexity of the design of the human body, the fascia is one more system providing an almost-invisible function that is exactly what the human body needs to thrive and function effectively and efficiently.

Benton F. Baugh

Photo and information collected from Wikipedia



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 important-
ly, please pray for this mission effort.

www.nfbcoc.org

For more information, contact:
info@nfbcoc.org



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



**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



WINGS OF EAGLES VIDEO SERIES

Three new 20-minute videos which can be
used to assist in personal evangelism.
Available as a free download.

LESSON TOPICS ARE:

- (1) **IF GOD?** Atheistic evolution vs the reality of a god.
- (2) **WHICH GOD?** The various offerings to be the god.
- (3) **WHICH GROUP?** A brief history of the world and of Christianity leading to a discussion of how to find Christ's church.

Located at occg.institute, TOPICAL LESSONS , 02 WINGS OF EAGLES

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 \$5,000 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: Dream Session
- (4) Sunday Bible Class: A church growth lesson
- (4) Sunday morning worship: A church growth sermon

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

For more information,
contact:
info@occg.institute



**ALEXA,
FEED BY
KIDS**

*A lot of work is some-
times required to
make something look
easy.*

Barry & Ace

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HOUSTON PREACHERS AND LEADERS LUNCHEON Every third Tuesday except December,
For information contact David Wardrup - cell: (281)635-3135; davidcwardrup@gmail.com or Cruz Hernandez - cell: (713)560-9080; cruzalbertohdz2017@gmail.com

To post your event: info@occg.institute

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. Past copies can be found at occg.institute under the E-Magazine tab.

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: 4000 congregations and individual members

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