

# REVERSE BRAINSTORMING

NUMBER 193

November 2024

Normal brainstorming usually involves the steps of:

1. Identifying a problem,
2. Generating ideas to solve the problem,
3. Evaluating the ideas and
4. Implementing the best ideas.



Reverse brainstorming is a problem-solving technique that involves asking how to make a problem worse, rather than how to solve it. This technique can help identify the root cause of a problem and generate new ideas and perspectives.

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## “FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED.”

Let’s take the principles that Paul used in teaching about giving (2 Cor. 8:10-14) and relate them to giving our lives to God. Everyone should do their part so that everyone is blessed equally.

**First**, he says, *“Finish what you started.”* Be very careful about your commitments to God and others. Persevere through every difficulty to complete your goal. Without a goal there will be no resistance. But with a commitment there will always be a challenge to prevent you from finishing. Finish strong anyway! *“Now you should finish what you started.”* (2 Cor. 8:11 NLT)



**Second**, he says, *“And give according to what you have, not what you don’t have.”* (2 Cor. 8:12b) Instead of wishing we had more talent, time, money and knowledge, we need to take advantage of the abundant resources we already have. Start where you are without hesitation and get busy growing. *“Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly.”* (2 Cor. 8:12a)

Elizabeth Brown, Texarkana, TX

## ELECTION SERMON 2024

On any given month we get about 0.25% of our mailing list which unsubscribes for any number of reasons. We felt strongly that the information in Election Sermon 2024 was important to get out even though it was likely to get us a lot of unsubscribes. To our pleasant surprise, we got only the normal number of unsubscribes.

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## REVERSE BRAINSTORMING, P. 2

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Here are steps for reverse brainstorming:

1. Identifying a problem,
  2. Asking a reverse brainstorming question, such as "How can we intentionally reduce productivity within our team?",
  3. Generating ideas that would make the situation worse,
  4. Flipping the negative ideas into positive solutions,
  5. Evaluating the positive ideas and
  6. Implementing the best ideas.
- young adults and children.
  6. Have inadequate parking.
  7. Do not assign roles for young adults.
  8. Delegate roles verbally with the inherent scope drift over time.
  9. Do not let young adults participate in decision making at the congregation.
  10. Hide the budget Lets them know this is your congregation, not theirs.
  11. No playground equipment for the kids.
  12. Make the worship services boring for adults.
  13. Make the worship service boring for the kids.
  14. Have no youth minister



Consider as a congregational example of this process how can we get young families to attend our congregation?

The reverse brainstorming question would be how can we intentionally discourage young families from attending our congregation?

Some discouraging ideas might be:

1. Make sure they are not aware of your congregation.
2. Have poor signage.
3. Make the facility look old and dated.
4. Have all classes tailored to fit the interest of older members.
5. Have no special events which would interest

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I miss the 90s  
when bread was  
still good for you,  
and no one knew  
what kale was.

## REVERSE BRAINSTORMING, P. 3

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The following are the same reverse brainstorming ideas with a reversed answer inserted.

1. Make sure they are not aware of your congregation.

Advertise your congregation in newspapers, on billboards, and by the appearance of your facility.

Do community service projects which will acquaint others with your congregation.

2. Have poor signage.

Review your signage regularly and upgrade as required. Get third party reviews of your signage.

3. Make the facility look old and dated.

Have regular projects to improve the appearance of the facility. Put women in charge of the appearance of the facility. Have the women get third party reviews of your facility appearance,

4. Have all classes tailored to fit the interest of older members.

Involve and rotate younger members as teachers.

5. Have no special events which would interest young adults and children.

Most people are more likely to visit your congregation on special occasions like Christmas and Easter. Have special events to invite their attendance and meet and greet them when they come.

6. Have inadequate parking.

Increase your parking, with visitor parking well marked.

7. Do not assign roles for young adults.

Recognize that a part of leaderships responsibility is to mature the younger members. Assign roles to younger members and mentor them to be successful.

8. Delegate roles verbally with the inherent scope drift over time.

Delegate job descriptions in writing which are discussed and reviewed at least annually. Give them a known budget allocation.

9. Do not let young adults participate in decision making at the congregation.

Have regular open business meetings. Make sure that there is always something up for democratic vote on a non-scriptural matter, e.g whether to recarpet and carpet color.

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### Halloween in Florida



## REVERSE BRAINSTORMING, P. 4

Continued from page 3

10. Hide the budget Lets them know this is your congregation, not theirs.

Distribute detailed budgets and be open to discussing them in your open business meetings.

11. No playground equipment for the kids.

Have an outdoor playground set surrounded by a protective fence as a clear sign that you are a kid-friendly congregation.

12. Make the worship services boring for adults.

COC Worship Services can provide world-class speakers and song leaders in the smallest congregation. (See page 11)

13. Make the worship service boring for the kids.

Midway through the service release the children to go to children-oriented classes.

Implement children's giving which allows them to come and put coins in a box at the front of the congregation which is used to buy Bibles for the children in a children's home or a similar project.

14. Have no youth minister

With the availability of COC Worship Services, a youth minister may be more valuable to your smaller congregation than a more tenured minister. A youth minister can focus a majority of his time recruiting young families with or without children.

The question of how to invite young families turns out to be an overarching concept. Most of the questions and answers apply to most of us in several situations.

A reverse brainstorming process can be done in-

dividually, in a Shepherd's meeting, in a Deacon's meeting, or in a general business meeting of your congregation. They can all be effective, however, if you do it in a Shepherd's meeting you have to go sell your idea to others. A difficult process.

If you do it in an open meeting of the congregation and the congregation inputs the ideas, they are basically already sold on the concepts.

It is a basic business practice that people will work harder to make sure their own ideas work than they will to make your ideas work.

I Googled "**will people work harder on your ideas or theirs**" and got the following information:

### "AI Overview

Generally, people tend to work harder on their own ideas rather than someone else's, as they have a stronger sense of ownership, personal investment, and intrinsic motivation when it comes to concepts they've generated themselves.

Why people may work harder on their own ideas:

### **Personal connection:**

When you come up with an idea, you naturally feel more connected to it, leading to greater enthusiasm and commitment to see it succeed.

### **Pride and recognition:**

People often want credit for their ideas and are more likely to feel proud of the outcome when they are the originators.

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## REVERSE BRAINSTORMING, P. 5

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### Greater understanding:

The process of developing an idea deepens your understanding of its potential and challenges, making it easier to advocate for and execute it effectively.

However, there are situations where people might work harder on someone else's idea:

### Strong belief in the idea:

If someone truly believes in the potential of an idea, even if it's not their own, they may be highly motivated to see it through.

### Leadership and collaboration:

When a leader presents a vision that aligns with the team's values, employees may be more willing to put in extra effort to achieve the shared goal.

### External motivation:

Factors like rewards, recognition, or pressure from superiors can influence how hard people work on someone else's idea.

Key takeaway: While people generally show more initiative on their own ideas, fostering a collaborative environment where everyone feels valued and has input can still lead to high levels of engagement and productivity, regardless of who originated the concept.

Generative AI is experimental.”

### CONCLUSION:

An important point to this is that when leadership

does all the planning, they are looking through “their eyes” and are likely to see the same things as before. When the process is opened to a broader range of members, the congregation will likely be benefited by a broader range of ideas as well as greater commitment by the members.

### Resources:

A video presentation on reverse brainstorming can be found at <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/lskcqe3rs6kb1ylnadnq/Reverse-Brainstorming.mp4?rlkey=o3wz94hch0wjdnanrhgf2r75c&st=z2zb82rk&dl=0>

### YOUTH MINISTER OR INTERN NEEDED IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

**CONGREGATION WITH AGING MEMBERSHIP  
LOOKING TO HIRE A YOUTH MINISTER  
TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE.**

**Primary role will be to provide a welcoming and educational environment for young families and coordinate youth activities, classrooms, and VBS.**

**Some preaching may be required but the COC WORSHIP SERVICES PROGRAM will be used for the bulk of the preaching.**

**A degree from a brotherhood university would be good, but is not required.**

**CONTACT: Send resume to and/or contact [info@occg.institute](mailto:info@occg.institute) for more information.**



## LOVE OF GOD OR LOVE OF MONEY? PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVES

The love of God and one-another is supernatural power – characteristic of God Himself who loves and calls all to belief: “one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all who is overall and through all and in all”. Ephesians 4: 5-6

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money”. Matthew 6:24

“The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” 1Timothy 6:10

### How and why does this happen?

Money is only a medium of exchange useful to facilitate expressions of love, allowing people in a community to provide for one another’s needs (food, shelter, care etc.) each according to their respective gifts. All people must collaborate to share the great diversity of tasks required to sustain all within a nation.

When money becomes an instrument used to manipulate people who are dependent upon one-another, its purpose becomes perverted, giving evil a foothold in those who are no longer content with community sufficiency but desire more money for themselves to guarantee their sufficiency.

Withholding and “hoarding” of money gives rise to greed, envy and “inequality”.

In order for the greedy to protect their hoards, they consider it necessary to assert power over those weakened by insufficiency, which escalates to authoritarian domination by means of force (laws, regulations etc.) when the weak pro-

test.

As competition develops between greedy dictators of communities, corporations and nations, driven from evil to evil, they wage war upon their respective communities whose peoples become “collateral damage” from their leaders attempts to destroy the capacity for self-sufficiency by overpowering and looting the spoils of greed – even to the point of committing genocide.

To restore self-sufficiency, collaboration for mutual benefit and appropriate use of money as a medium of exchange based upon love, the People and their leaders must honor God the Father who loves them, turn away from greed, envy and evil ways, reject and frustrate the schemes of those who seek to manipulate them with the medium of money and place their trust in the grace of God and His promises to provide for all the righteous who seek Him.

From the perspective of this writer as regards America and the world of today, the sooner we turn back to God and place our trust in Him – the better!

Larry S. Grubbs, Harrison, Ohio



MY MIND IS  
LIKE MY  
INTERNET BROWSER  
19 TABS OPEN  
3 OF THEM ARE FROZEN &  
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE  
THE MUSIC IS COMING FROM

## IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #149: IN YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S WOMB

When the sperm engages the egg in the mother's womb, the resulting combination of DNA defines the physical characteristics of the resulting person. The combination of sperm and egg is called a zygote, which then attaches to the mother's womb, but has no connection to the mother other than the developing umbilical cord, which has no nerves. That cord is just a food supply and waste disposal means. The fetus already has all the design information it is going to get.

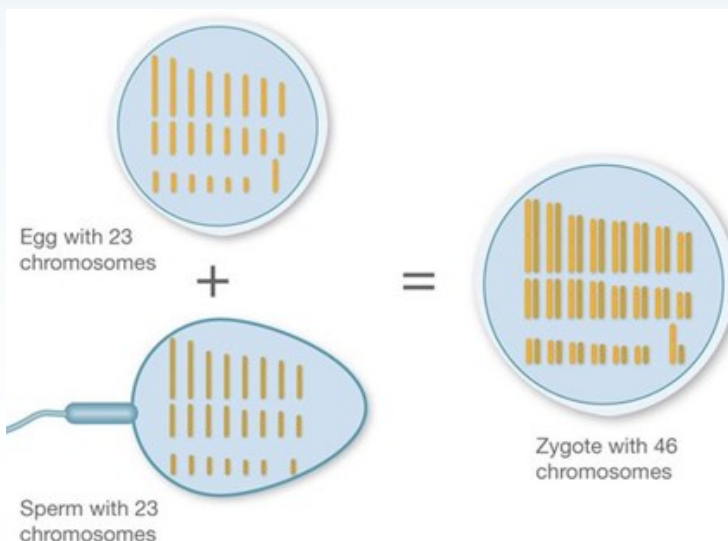
Atheistic evolution is dependent upon random errors in DNA to beneficially improve the zygote and therefore the resulting person—an impossible task, but not today's subject.

**All the eggs a woman will carry in her ovaries are formed when she is a four-month-old fetus. This means ½ of each of us will spend 5 months in our grandmother's womb.**

The highest number of eggs a woman will have is when they are a 20 week old fetus – about 20 million. At birth a girl has about 2 million eggs. At adolescence they will have 400,000. At age 37 about 25,000, and by age 51 when most women have gone through menopause, they have about 1000 eggs which are infertile. When a woman has a menstrual cycle, she

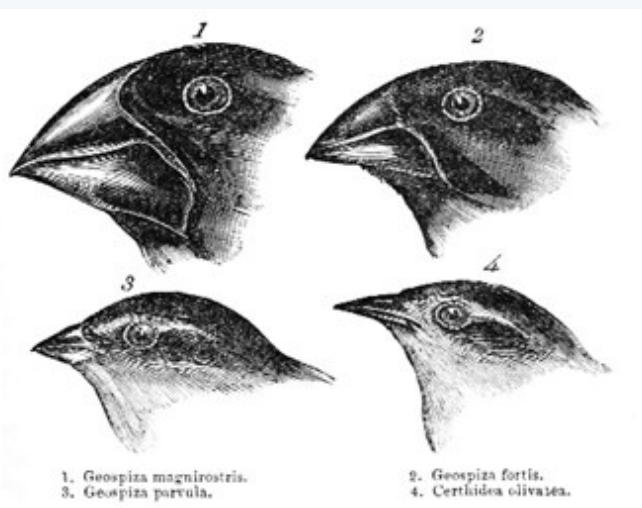
will lose about 1,000 immature eggs each month. Likely more details than you wanted to know.

**As the woman's eggs and the DNA from the mother's X-chromosomes in them are set in their mother's womb 5 months before they are born, there is nothing in their life they can do to cause reprogramming of the DNA.**



Darwin's finches on the Galapagos Islands could not have evolved stronger or bigger beaks (as is taught) in response to the food they were encountering.

The opposite had to be true. Living birds survived better because the beaks they had better suited the food that they encountered. In other words the variety of birds became restricted because the beaks they had did not match the available food supply. Instead of evolving, they de-evolved.



What this means is that your DNA being set in the 4<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy is one more insurmountable challenge to atheistic evolution. It

is not an insurmountable challenge to intelligent design; it is what God would do.

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## IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION #149: IN YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S WOMB, P. 2

**Now**, when a sperm fertilizes an egg, the DNA from the sperm aligns with the corresponding DNA from the egg, meaning specific sections of the sperm's chromosomes pair up with the same sections on the egg's chromosomes, allowing them to combine and form a complete set of genetic information for the developing embryo. Essentially, each chromosome in the sperm has a matching partner chromosome in the egg with similar gene locations, enabling them to align and exchange genetic material during fertilization.

This means that if the DNA in the sperm were to add some programming such as to develop a wing, it could not match the DNA in the egg and so would fail to reproduce and become extinct.

Do not look for backup for this conclusion in Google or your other search engines. The facts are there, but the conclusion is not. You have to believe this because it makes sense. If you do not think this makes sense, email us at [bbaugh@occg.institute](mailto:bbaugh@occg.institute) and let us know why.

This is one more spectacular proof that our Intelligent Designer, God, is taking care of us.

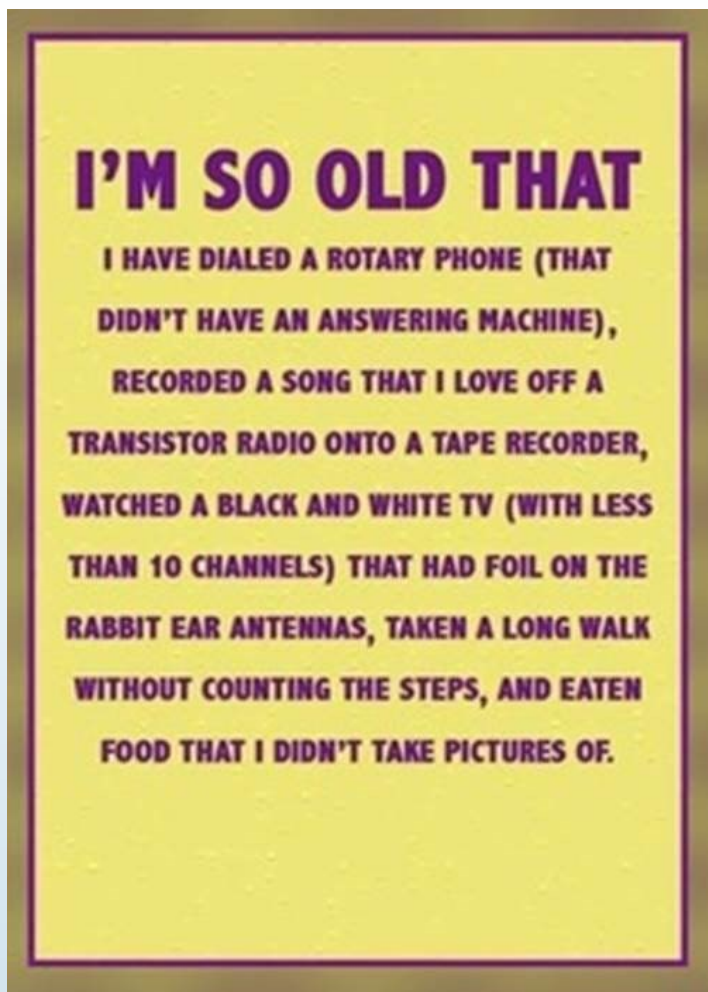
It should be noted that the genetic pattern or information for the female egg is in the grandmother's womb at the conception when you were conceived by your mother, although your mother's eggs were not full populated until four months later. Similarly the information for the male sperm is in your grandmother's womb when you are conceived, but the population of the male sperm does not happen according to that information until approximately puberty.

Sources:

<https://www.apricityfertility.com/uk/blog/how-many-eggs-does-a-woman-have>

Asked Google: "Does a part of the DNA of a sperm align with a similar part of the DNA of the egg?"

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





## STEVEN STOKES, YOUTH ENCOURAGER

Hello, my name is Steven Stokes. I want to share with all of you how bad decisions and the wrong choices I made in life led me down the wrong path. Also, how it affected so many others. Being an only child of a single 17-year-old mother who raised me the best way she knew how to. She spent most of her time at work trying to provide for us.

Yet when she was around, it was constant yelling, screaming, and complaining even after I washed clothes and dishes, vacuumed the apartment and cleaned my room. I had a job, stayed in school but after my chores were done, I would duck and dodge her as much as possible....Nobody wants to hear all of that especially as a teenager.

My three uncles and grandpa were my male role models growing up, and they had all been in prison for violent crimes. They taught me how to fight and never expressed any emotions. Make others fear and respect you, always make sure you win in everything at any cost! This attitude was passed on through generations. I was expected to be the same, and I chose to be the same. My uncles were into drugs-using and selling, heavy drinkers and besides being very violent men. I chose to follow suit.

At the age of 14 I was told I was now a man and started making my own name in the streets and in the gang life. That gave me an outlet to violence, stealing, robbing, drugs and making money. It gave me a sense of power, like I was in control and no one would tell me what I could or couldn't do. I really was lost, not caring about life, mine, or anyone else's. I had a lot of hurt inside of me be-

cause I never allowed myself to feel anything. This so called meanest, toughest, and smartest man on the streets was a mask of a person that was emotionless and not fazed by anything. I wasn't in control, but out of control and took my hurt out on others. Afraid to admit or talk about my pain and brokenness.

My family didn't talk about such things, or I would be considered weak or sensitive. Surely not by my homeboys, but I put on this role of being so strong and tough on myself. So, I chose to hold it all in, which led to my path of destruction. At the age of 18, two people lost their lives due to a drug deal gone bad and I was facing the death penalty twice or life imprisonment. Yet, being blessed, I only received one capital life sentence. Which I currently have served 27 years thus far.

Yes, I've been here 27 years of my life and that's longer than a lot of people have lived. So yes, I have had a lot of time to reflect on where I went wrong in life and what led me to all this. What could I have done differently? My choices! None of us are born as a bad child; we are all born innocent and good. We're God's greatest creations! However, the choices we make determine our life's course and the way people perceive us. Forget your past, let's work on today.

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## STEVEN STOKES, YOUTH ENCOURAGER, PAGE 2

If you are hurting, or need someone to listen and understand you, then talk to someone, you are never alone! You are in control of your actions! You are important, somebody special, and no one knows what you are going through, or what you have been through. If you keep everything in, it will eat you up inside and prevent you from making the right choices in life. When I gave my life to God, He opened my eyes and heart up to this. I couldn't blame others or my circumstances on anyone else; but I was given another chance. I was given the love, the love I was missing.

When you are loved, really loved, that person wants the BEST FOR YOU. That is what God's love gives us. For God made us out of LOVE. He made us all unique, with a purpose. Open your Bible and build a relationship with God. Stay in church, stay in the Word, and surround yourself with Godly people. You will see and feel His LOVE.

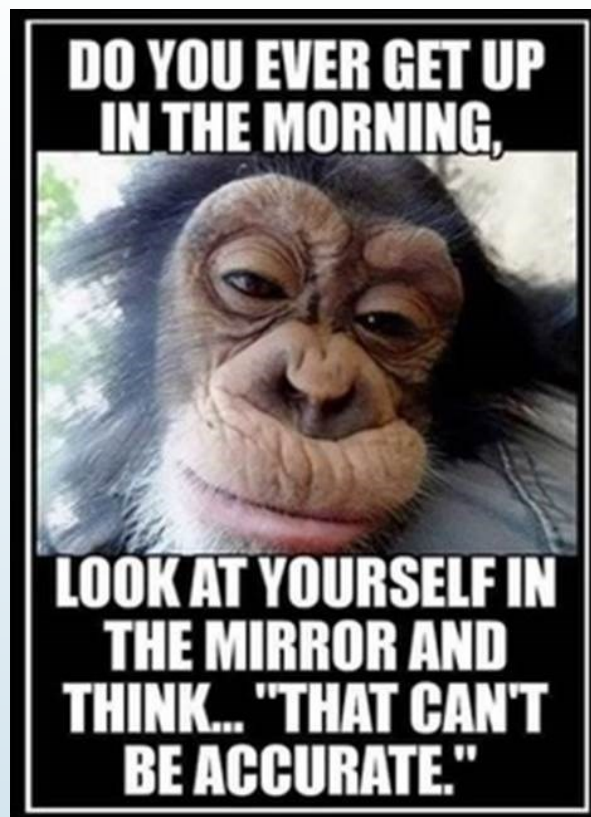
Psalms 8:3-8 "When I consider Your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, and the stars, which you have set in place. What is man that You are mindful of him? You made him a little lower than the Heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor!" "Yes, we are His greatest creations!" You made Him ruler over the works of your hands you put everything under His feet. "Yes, He is speaking of you and me!

God loves us so much He gave us the freedom of choice and the masters of our own destiny's. We all know good from bad, and right from wrong. Choose good, choose rightly. Greatness was already in you, promised, when you were born! On-

ly you can prevent yourself from achieving your full GREATNESS. You will never be alone, Brothers and Sisters, God speaks through us, His love for you is speaking through me right now to tell you the **GOOD NEWS!** God has blessed me with this opportunity to share my mistakes and bad choices to help you not to do the same. He never gave up on me, He will never give up on you either! We must choose His LOVE and RIGHTEOUS ways. We can all be free of whatever is stopping us from having and feeling His love. Together, choose love, choose yourself, choose God!

In God's Precious and loving name, Amen  
Your Brother that also believes in you!

Steven Stokes

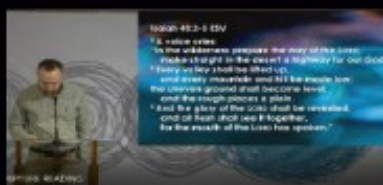


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*"The challenges ahead of you can only be measured by the ability inside of you."*

**Zone Leader: 7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones** is a field-guide designed to help you navigate change. Resistance and conflict occur anytime change is introduced, and leaders must have the tools and resources necessary to avoid the pitfalls that hinder real success. No matter where you find yourself in the four zones, the tactics discussed in Zone Leader will enhance your ability to lead through each zone. "The challenges ahead of you can only be measured by the ability inside of you. The more you put into developing your leadership, the greater your ability to deal with the challenges you face."

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Gerry Taylor, Executive Vice President, Prosperity Bank



Bob directs the Sunset Academy of Leadership Training. He is a coach, consultant, and full-time speaker, conducting workshops in leadership development. He is dedicated to helping leaders implement positive, transformational change and creating a vision to prepare the next generation of leaders. He lives in Virginia Beach, VA and holds a Doctorate in Intercultural Studies with an emphasis in adult leadership development from the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.



ZONE LEADER: 7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones

TURNER



## ZONE LEADER

7 Tactics for Leading in the Zones

**Dr. Bob Turner**

Author of  
*Essential: Building Blocks 4 Life and Leadership*

Foreword by best-selling author, Jeremie Kubicek, co-founder of GiANT Worldwide

An excellent book to read. Available on Amazon.

## House Church

**Defined:** Group that meets for worship in private homes.  
**Biblical;** 5 times mentioned in Bible. (Acts 1:13; I Cor. 16:9; Rom. 16:3; Col. 4:15; Phil 1:2)

### Advantages:

- Deeper fellowship. A close loving church.
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**Dr. Nancy Selvidge, homemaker, grandmother**  
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"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them."  
Matthew 18:20

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Certified Grief Recovery Specialist

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

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Check out our planned giving resources  
[fostershome.giftlegacy.com](http://fostershome.giftlegacy.com)



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**Spots available for new residents, apply to the SOAR Program now!**

**[www.fostershome.org/soar](http://www.fostershome.org/soar)**

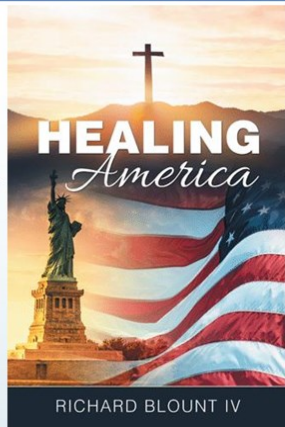


Safety | Ownership | Advancement | Responsibility

The SOAR program at Foster's Home for Children aims to provide young adults ages 18-22, who have aged out of foster care, a longer runway to successful independence. Our goal is to provide a base of support beneath them as they transition to life on their own.

## 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.

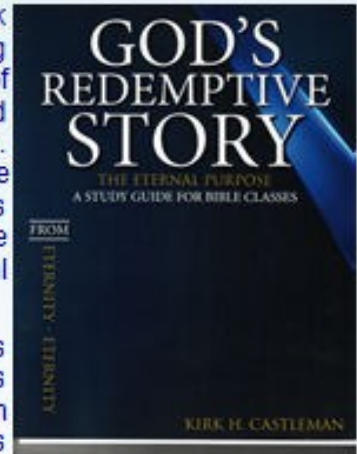
This book can be purchased for \$19.95 at: Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, and Westbow Publishing

### BULLETIN BLOOPERS! 😊

5. On a church postcard: I have received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I would like a personal visit.
6. Brother Lamar has gone on to be the Lord.
7. We want to pray for our unloved saved ones.

*From Ray Scott*

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.



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](http://www.nfbcoc.org)

For more information, contact:  
[info@nfbcoc.org](mailto: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](mailto:jerry@gulfcoastchristiancounseling.com)



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## WINGS OF EAGLES VIDEO SERIES

Three new 20-minute videos which can be used to assist in personal evangelism.  
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- (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](http://occg.institute), TOPICAL LESSONS , 02 WINGS OF EAGLES

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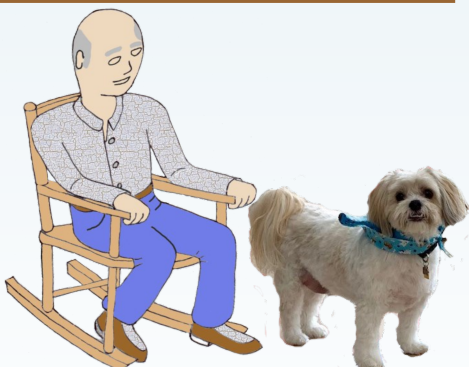
- (1) Friday night: Area-wide youth rally at your facility; we provide the pizza & cokes
- (1) Saturday 8:00 - 2:00: Church growth consultation
- (2) Saturday or Sunday afternoon: Dream Session
- (3) Sunday Bible Class: A church growth lesson
- (4) Sunday morning worship: A church growth sermon

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

For more information, contact:  
[info@occg.institute](mailto:info@occg.institute)



**Thou shall not try me.  
Mom 24:7**



*Believe you can and  
you're halfway there."*  
—Theodore Roosevelt  
*Barry & Ace*

Don't you just hate it when you wake up to find a Cat sleeping on the Roof of your Car?



**Can't believe we don't have world peace after changing the name on pancake boxes and syrup bottles.**

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