

He also claimed “birds are living dinosaurs.” It bothers the evolutionary *community* immensely because they cannot explain the sudden disappearance of this very successful part of the animal kingdom. Some try to blame an asteroid for suddenly wiping out the dinosaurs, but what about the “half bird” dinosaurs? This doctor theorizes that dinosaurs just “evolved” into hummingbirds! They are just one of those “missing links” which do not exist anymore.

The Biblical account of Creation makes far more sense than the speculation of the evolutionist. God spoke the earth and its living creatures into existence, including dinosaurs and birds (except man whom he “formed”—Gen. 2:7).

—Roelf L. Ruffner
Cheyenne, WY



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us pray for...

Rick & Sheila Beauchamp—his job hunt, mother, her ears
Waynette Davis, Karla Dobbs, Sharon Harp—health problems
Darrell Broking family—their job hunt
Lavonne McClish—macular degeneration treatments
Janice Parks—her health and family burdens
Rick Heimberger, Darrell Conley—health problems

Records you helped make...

Bible Class	13
Sunday AM Worship	13
Sunday PM Worship	13
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	11
Contribution	\$320.00
Contribution average (2009)	\$324.98

Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast via Internet, available at our Website, www.northpointcoc.com. The Sunday morning sermon begins at approximately 10:47 a.m., and Sunday afternoon at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Bible class teacher for September
Chairman of Men’s Meetings (July–September)
Preacher, Lighthouse editor

Jerry Smith
Rick Beauchamp
Dub McClish

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Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM

Wednesday

B.C./Worship 7:00 PM



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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“IT FILLS A SPACE”

I have been reading church bulletins for 50+ years. I have served as editor of church bulletins for almost 40 years. At one time I received approximately 150 bulletins each week. I have literally seen almost everything there is to be seen in church bulletins—the good, the bad, and the ugly. In one of the bulletins I regularly received a few years ago an article (actually, a “non-article”) appeared that prompted me to write a few lines on the subject. First, part of the article:

One of the great “privileges” of being a minister is getting to write a bulletin article every week. [When you forget to write your article]...you run up to the nearest typewriter, pray for few mistakes, and start writing an article about writing articles which has little, if any significance, but at least it fills a space. It’s a lot like eating “Fruity Pebbles” for breakfast—little if any nutritional value, but at least it fills your tummy.

This writer thought he was being humorous, but tears would be more appropriate than laughter at his pitiful lines. He need not have bothered; his readers would have been at least as well (maybe better) served if had left his space blank.

The foregoing article is illustrative of much of the material printed in church bulletins I have received over the years—it is silly drivel that fills the page and that is about all it does. There is nothing of merit, nothing to instruct, nothing to edify the soul. Some is even worse, teaching error and/or publicizing activities, events, persons, and institutions that brethren with one voice rightly opposed rather than encouraged a generation ago.

Like so many other things, a church bulletin can be a great tool for Truth and righteousness, or on the minus side, it can range anywhere from being a colossal waste of time, paper, ink, and postage to being a tool to weaken and destroy the church. (Perhaps 1/3 to 1/2 of the bulletins I have seen over the past 20 years fall into one of the two latter categories.)

I have some suggestions for bulletin editors:

1. Make the bulletin as attractive as resources allow (I assume you want people to read it) because it represents the church of the Lord. A shoddy, sloppy publication (even if it teaches the Truth) is worse than none.
2. Use it both as a teaching medium as well as a news medium.

3. Make sure that only the Truth is taught (both in original and borrowed articles) and that only Scripturally authorized activities are publicized.
4. Even if an article teaches the Truth, make sure its author is not a false teacher on other subjects. Publishing his article that teaches the Truth will give him credibility with spiritual babes when he teaches error.
5. If you are not good at writing and lay-out skills, seek help from those who are.
6. Give it the time and attention any worthwhile project deserves, and it will be a blessing to those who read it.

These few suggestions will produce an effective and attractive church bulletin, fully justifying the time and expense it requires.

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX



"BECAUSE I SAID SO"

How often have we, as adults used these words: “Johnny, come out of the water.” He answers, “Why?” We answer, “Because I said so.” Isn’t that enough reason for a parent to have? That should be enough of a reason for a child to respond. As they grow older, we parents may use a threat such as, “...or you will be punished.” It was a “whipping” in the old days. Things changed, and the sting was taken out of the threat. Now it is something like, “Go to your room.” What a punishment! Going to their room is like being sent to the toy store for their punishment. As they grow older we may use the “reward” system. Oh, the toys, food or the money that have gone for this cause!

God, in his wisdom, laid discipline out for us long ago. In Genesis 4:6–7, God was the one asking Cain, “Why?” He wanted an explanation as to why Cain was acting so. Cain was “bent out of shape” because his sacrifice had not been accepted of the Lord. In his answer to Cain, the Lord said, “If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And, if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.”

Isn’t this God’s plan for all mankind? In bringing the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage, did He not handle discipline the same way? “If you do such and such, you will be taken care of, but, if you do not obey me, then you will be punished.” All through the first five books of the Bible, that was the way God handled his children. And, on through the rest of the Old Testament, God’s plan was made known: “If you do such and such, you will be blessed, but, if you rebel and refuse my words, then I will do to you what I planned to do to your enemies.” Keep in mind, these were His chosen people that He was teaching. They were as stubborn and rebellious as our children ever have been. How much patience did He use with them? Over and over again He told them that if they would repent and come back to Him, He would take care of them. He taught them all through the Old Testament as a schoolmaster, to bring them to a new and better way.

He still uses the “if” word, but He expects his mature children to realize that there is punishment for our failures to obey Him. As children, we obeyed our parents “because.” Then, when we become adults, we do things to please our

parents because we love them. In the same way, we don’t do certain things because of the hurt it would cause them. Also, we obeyed God at first “because He said so.” Then later, we obey Him because of our love for Him, and we don’t do certain things because of the grief it would cause Him.

Have things changed? No, I don’t think so; “If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? If thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.” When our children become adults in the physical world, they are no longer under the parents’ rule. They each stand on their own and are responsible for what they do, or refuse to do, very much as Cain had to face his punishment for his own actions. I’m sure that it must have hurt Adam and Eve to see what Cain had to endure, but, he had to take his own medicine.

In the spiritual world, as children of God, we either obey His New Law or we don’t. We make our own decisions and the Lord will judge us individually according to that law. May God help us to be obedient to His new law and be blessed “because He said so,” and also because of our love for Him.

— Leta D. Fonville
St. Paul, AR



HALF BIRDS

Several years ago the media was a buzz with a report of the remains of a “bird-like” dinosaur found in Argentina. It claimed this creature could have flapped its forearms like a modern bird. Paul Recer, Associated Press reporter, quoted an Argentine scientist as saying, “This gives powerful new evidence that the gentle world of birds evolved millions of years ago from the ‘terrible lizards’” (“Bird-like Dinosaur Found,” *Wichita Falls Times Record-News*, May 21, 1997).

Once again we have a gullible, sensation-crazed press falling for the old evolutionary propaganda. A scientist finds fragments of bone, uses a flawed dating technique to make it *millions* of years old, and then proceeds to put the pieces together to explain an elaborate preconceived theory. No one doubts because he says he is a scientist!

The televised news conference revealed the silliness of this approach. The scientist had displayed a silhouette of what he hoped the animal had looked like. There was this huge outline of a dinosaur based on twenty bones (many of the bones were pieces or fragments of bone). How ridiculous! If you have a jigsaw puzzle of 100 pieces and 95 of them are missing, you cannot possibly claim to know what the completed puzzle looks like. But this shows the basic flaw of the evolutionist. His blind belief in the theory of evolution forces him to draw such unwarranted conclusions from meager to nonexistent evidence.

The alleged dinosaur was named *Unenlagia comahuensis*, which means “half bird from northwest Patagonia.” You may have seen half-of-a-bird, but have you ever seen a half bird? Did a mama dinosaur give birth to a half-bird dinosaur baby? The Argentine scientist claims that *Unenlagia* “lived on a dead end twig of the evolutionary branch, which led eventually to modern birds.” This was a convenient way for the “scientist” to cover his tracks.