

CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS

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Christ's Ambassadors is a ministry effort begun by Don Calhoun in 1992 that teaches church members, "not just to evangelize, but how to evangelize". The materials utilized in the Christ's Ambassadors program were developed by the late Chuck Thyne, a domestic missionary, sponsored by the Airport Freeway church of Christ. Christ's Ambassadors, the ministry resulting from Calhoun's efforts, is presently overseen by the Hillcrest church of Christ in Gainesville, Texas. This comprehensive evangelistic approach uses a non-confrontational method of Bible study that stresses practical ways to integrate Christians into a local congregation. (Cont. pg.2)

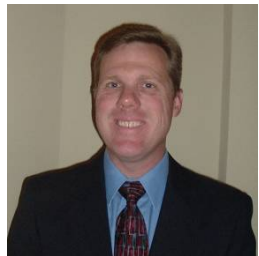
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I'm "UPPING MY GAME"

Steven Middleton,
Central Coordinator

What a great month! I'm working harder while generating less income, but the reward is far beyond monetary measure or material asset or gain. I've grown

closer to the Lord through taking a more active role in evangelism. And not only have I grown closer to Him, I have found deeper self-awareness and fulfillment. I have had my priorities backwards for far too long. I am at peace with myself once again. One must always be careful what he preaches and prays for. Last summer I participated with the Wednesday night guest preacher series at the Northwest congregation in Houston, TX. As expected from a C.A. instructor and *QFT* teacher, my topic was evangelism. I admonished the church members to "Up Their Game" in evangelism while vowing to do the same in my own life. Earlier this year I delivered the same

message to my home congregation at Lake Houston and reaffirmed my vow. To make matters worse (or better depending on one's perspective), I prayed to be more willing to share in the sufferings of Christ and conform more to His death (**Col.3:10**). I knew it was a dangerous prayer. The fact is, spiritual growth can only come through sacrifice. I recognized my need to grow. Can it be any wonder then that I find myself in full-time ministry again and utilizing the resources entrusted to me? Of course not. I ask then, why would the Lord not want more reapers in the field when He states the current number is too few (**Mat.9:37-38**).

Since last May, I have been blessed by God using me to be a part of His mission to seek and save the lost. Just this month alone I have taught 16 home Bible studies. (There would have been more had we not had two weeks of severe thunder storms.) I have been training eight people to be teachers. I have approached and DI'd (developed interest) in five other souls who have committed to start studying the Bible in their homes beginning in May. I lost count of how many Bible studies I taught since last May, but I am happy to report that I have baptized two souls into Christ using the *Quest For Truth (QFT)* series since then. Something else truly amazing - there are members of Lake Houston approaching me asking, "So, when are we going to have an *Equipping the Saints Course?*" I'm reserving my calendar for September through November. It is my prayer and goal to so mature in the Lord that I never let earthly fears hold me back from doing what I know is right. The Lord has promised to provide for all our physical needs while we concentrate on His work (**Mat. 6:25-31**). God has also boasted to be able to do far more than what we ask or can imagine (**Eph. 3:20, 21**) and He never lies nor fails to deliver on His promises. One of these days I am going to *truly* believe these divine guarantees. In other words, I am going to "Up My Game" in faith.

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God has revitalized my *"Quest for Truth"* and my desire to be a true *"Ambassador for Christ."*

Director Don Calhoun— Annual Report:

This has been an eventful year for Christ's Ambassadors and for me. I almost lost my life but in turn God has revitalized my *"Quest for Truth"* and my desire to be a true *"Ambassador for Christ."*

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the **Quest for Truth** (QFTs) on DVDs so they could be used like the **Jules Miller** film strips.

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The QFTs have already been proven effective in teaching God's word to literally thousands of individuals. I felt that DVDs could increase the number of people being taught by taking away much of the fear of teaching home Bible studies.

The person showing the DVD could instruct when needed and write down any questions the students might have and address them at a later date keeping the study on track. This is one of the primary differences in the approach used by the **Christ's Ambassadors Program**. Students see and learn the answers in the Bible verse for themselves as they read. Answers are read and learned directly from God's word by the student rather than answers being given to the student by the teacher.

I wanted the DVDs to have an interactive format. The student sees and hears the Bible verse. A question is asked and the student sees multiple choice answers and uses their remote control to select one answer. If the question is answered incorrectly the student is directed to read the Bible verse again. The Bible verse appears on the screen a second time. This time the answer in the verse is underlined and in bold type.

After completing the introduction, *What to consider when studying the Bible and QFT 1, Is Jesus God?*, on DVD I realized putting the studies directly on the web would be a much more economical approach. I am now in the process of getting the **Quest for Truth** studies on the **Christ's Ambassadors'** website at www.QFTs.org.

Although this is much more cost effective than making DVDs, the cost of the website will increase as the size of the website grows and additional pages are added. The number of hits (people using the site) also increase the cost of the website. It has been a real struggle for me to learn the computer language required for programming. Getting the lessons in Java script on the website is not an easy task.

God is the great provider, he uses us earthen vessels to do his work. With my health problems, I have to go the doctor to get an IV about once a month to keep from becoming dehydrated. I do not like going because it takes two to three hours. However, it has to be done. While there I heard the man in the chair next to me tell the nurse that he was a computer programmer. His name is Jonathan Leaders. He has helped me so much with this C.A. project. He directed me to www.W3Schools.com where I have learned HTML, XHTML and CSS (computer programming) free of charge. Now that is a good price! With the information on this website I found computer language easy to learn. I will also learn PHP to save money and download time as I add more of the **QFT studies** and the program gets longer. God has been good!

We ask that you help us by going to the **QFT studies** on the **C.A. website at www.qfts.org**. Go into the introduction to the Bible study. **Begin the lesson by clicking on 'A'**. I think you will like the format of the lessons.

As you can see I have been busy and God has been directing me along this path. Please support C.A. so we can save souls by increasing the work being done. This Newsletter introduces you to four men who are striving to work and grow the church - Eddie, Steve, Phil and Jerry. These men are devoting many hours to this great effort for the Lord's church without pay. They can do more if funds are provided. They are ready and willing to share their excitement about growing the Lord's work with you and your congregation. (Cont. pg. 3)

Don Calhoun's Story is such an inspiration for all of us.

Many men would have been discouraged after being in the hospital near death for several months. Don does not share that he has worn a ileostomy since leaving the hospital. It became obstructed while he was working at the East Tennessee Lectureship in March. When we become discouraged with smaller ailments we need to remember Don and his determination to teach God's word despite great discomfort. I'm sure his story below will move you to want to do more for the Lord as it has all of us working with C.A. Phil Smith

Dear Brethren,

I want to share the events in my life the past 18 months. I decided to have lap-band surgery on Friday, November 9, 2007 to help me control my weight. The surgery seemed to have gone well at first, but Saturday I started having pain in my chest. I called my doctor and he said it was normal and to just walk to get rid of the gas. Calling continuously over the next three days, his response was always the same. Finally I was in grave pain so I called and told him I was going to the emergency room and asked him which hospital to go to. In the Dallas area there are many and I needed to know which one he needed me to go to. He replied, "It doesn't matter." I told him I was going to HEB. He agreed that would be fine. My son-in-law took me to the emergency room at HEB Hospital where I collapsed. They began running tests and the attending doctor, admitted me. He called my doctor who then asked that I be moved to South West Surgical Hospital where he had done the lap-band procedure four days earlier. I was taken to South West by ambulance. The attending nurse at South

Believe me when I say , "You, your friends, your family, and I never want to go again where I have been this year—without a strong faith in Jesus— a faith that leads you to obey all His commands!!"

West was receiving instruction by phone from my doctor. After telling him how bad the situation was the nurse asked my doctor four times to come immediately to see me. He never came. The nurse called the doctor on duty in the ER and he examined and ordered me back to HEB immediately knowing that South West was not equipped to handle my critical situation. I was taken back to HEB by ambulance where my blood pressure dropped to 40 over 20. The ER surgeon at HEB had to do immediate emergency surgery on my stomach. The lap-band had opened and my body was septic. It took gallons of water to clean out my internal organs. Barely alive after seven days, I had a second emergency surgery to survive.

I was in ICU for four and half weeks, totally unconscious the first four weeks. Hundreds of Christians were praying for me. I did not see one bright light as some near death patients describe, but several lights—they looked something like the Northern lights dancing all over the sky in different colors. After a time the lights went out and I was in total darkness. I remember thinking "God what is going on, when will this end!" I was very frightened, but I remembered the verse, "Even though I walk through the dark valley of death, because you are with me, I fear no harm." (Ps. 23:4—*God's Word*) This verse gave me much comfort knowing that no matter what happened God and Jesus were by my side. Just as they had allowed me to choose to be on their side through the years. I was still very frightened, but comforted knowing that the Holy Spirit was there with me. I was finally moved to Ethicus Hospital where I recovered for an additional two and a half months. When released I had been in the hospital for over four months.

You can imagine how hard this ordeal was for my wife and family. The members at Airport Freeway church of Christ, my home congregation, were such a support for all of us. One night as my wife was leaving my room in ICU, my daughters, Donette and Deana, stopped her and said, "Mom prepare yourself - the waiting room is full of members from the church." Angela weak, but inspired, said "O.K!" Donette said, "Well we have so many here, we might as well hold service." There was literally standing room only! What an encouragement to my family! This event got the attention of the hospital staff in a very good way. Other patients and their family members in ICU asked our preacher to pray for them as well. I know the prayers that night and many other nights were answered. God was not through with me here on this Earth, yet! I have been growing stronger day by day, although I did have a setback while working at the East TN School of Preaching Lectureship in Knoxville, TN in March. I was in the hospital for two days with a blockage. God once again answered prayers and I was released and able to return home. I have two additional surgeries to be scheduled soon. Please continue to pray for me to be completely healed.

Good things that came from this situation: It gave many good brothers and sisters a blessing to serve. Phil Smith of Wapakoneta, Ohio became concerned about the future of Christ's Ambassadors. He called me and asked what would happen to C.A. if I were to die. I said, "I guess it will die with me." Phil did not want this to happen and told me, "C.A. is to good a program for the church to lose." Phil is devoted to seeing Christ's Ambassadors grow and thrive. Because of Phil's enthusiasm and its encouragement to me, I spoke to Steve Middleton of Houston, TX and Eddie Burden of Sacramento, CA. Both have also decided to devote their efforts to this great cause. All of us are striving to raise the funds to fully support the Christ's Ambassadors' Program. Due to my near death experience Christ's Ambassadors now has a West Coast, Central, and East Coast coordinator. Please pray that all of us can devote our full time efforts to the reaching of souls. Talk to your church leadership, church friends and members and tell them about the exciting growth taking place in C.A.

**In Christ we love and serve,
Don Calhoun**



Dr. Jerry Dyer
Director of Church Growth
& Conflict Resolution

LEARNING THE THINGS THAT LEAD TO PEACE: On the day before He died, Jesus wept over Jerusalem and said "If you, only you, had known this day what would bring you peace, but now it is hidden from your eyes". He then prophesied the destruction of the Jewish nation because they had rejected Him. In this study, we look at the things that **HINDER** and in some cases **DESTROY** our effectiveness in reaching lost people with the Message of Reconciliation when we do not apply Biblical teaching that creates an environment of **PEACE**. This

study teaches us how to develop a culture of peace among followers of Christ. Churches in crisis, churches who have split, and those who want to process conflicts in order to prevent splits have also benefited by this study. Christians learn how to live in the loving culture

of our Lord, while diverse, they strive for the unity Jesus wants for His followers.

BACK TO ZERO: This study helps us have a new **LOOK** at the **BOOK**. Many churches have become more of a restoration of a restoration than a **RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH JESUS BUILT**. There are many times in the scripture where God's people chose to follow their own wisdom and desires and then had to go **BACK TO ZERO**. They had to go back to scripture, for instruction and practice in order to please God. This study includes a study of **EVERY MEMBER EVANGELISM**, which is essential to obeying the Great Commission of Jesus.

DEVELOPING A CHURCH GROWTH CULTURE: Culture is "shared beliefs that lead to shared behavior". This study starts at the beginning of the church built by Jesus. We follow the commission of Jesus and the practice of the New Testament church's methods for local church growth and how that was expanded to the whole world. Paul was able to say by inspiration of the Holy Spirit that the whole gospel was offered to the whole world during his lifetime, something that has not happened again since. The objective of this study is to restudy and duplicate their teaching and practices that allowed them to say "we have taken the good news about Jesus to the whole World". We will show their path and their passion.

THE NEW TESTAMENT EVANGELIST:

This study looks at everything in the New Testament about the evangelist. It will give you a path to follow with specific scriptures to help develop Evangelists. We will compare the Evangelist, designed by deity, to today's "Pulpit Preacher" designed by men. The "Pulpit Preacher" does not come close to the role and ministry of the Evangelist. Evangelists along with Elders are the two gifts the Holy Spirit gave the church that it may grow. Our churches and colleges are not developing Evangelists. Scripture challenges us to return to ZERO, to the beginning and follow the path inspired by the Holy Spirit and tread by the New Testament church. Many early Christians warned about the clergy-laity and later about the developing "Pastor System". God gave His people Judges, but they wanted Kings. God gave us elders and evangelists and many today want pulpit preachers.

These studies will be presented on Power Point directly **FROM SCRIPTURE**. There will be as much time as needed for questions and discussion. We have a questionnaire that has been used all over the world with great success (people love to give their opinions) to find out where people are on their spiritual journey. Instead of teaching what we think people need to know, we must meet them where they are, hoping to teach them where they need to be. Our teaching is **"NEEDS"** and **"INTEREST"** based. Jesus talked to the woman at the well about water until He shared with her about spiritual things.

Look at the
number of times
where Jesus
started teaching
with questions.

Dr. Jerry Dyer holds a Master of Dispute Resolution from the Pepperdine School of Law and a Ph.D. in Dispute Resolution from Nova Southeastern University. He has conducted hundreds of mediations in civil court and scores of successful interventions within churches, families, businesses and individuals in conflict. He teaches at Ohio Valley University and works with churches who want to grow. His lifetime of experience and research has produced the following studies: **The New Testament Evangelist, Developing a Church Growth Culture, Learning the Things That Make for Peace, Back to Zero, and Every Member Evangelism.** His teaching is thorough, exhaustive and Biblical. Dr. Dyer is a practitioner, not a theoretician. He has been an evangelist and a peacemaker while planting growing churches in foreign countries, (including seven years in Australia), and many states in the USA.

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WALK the Talk

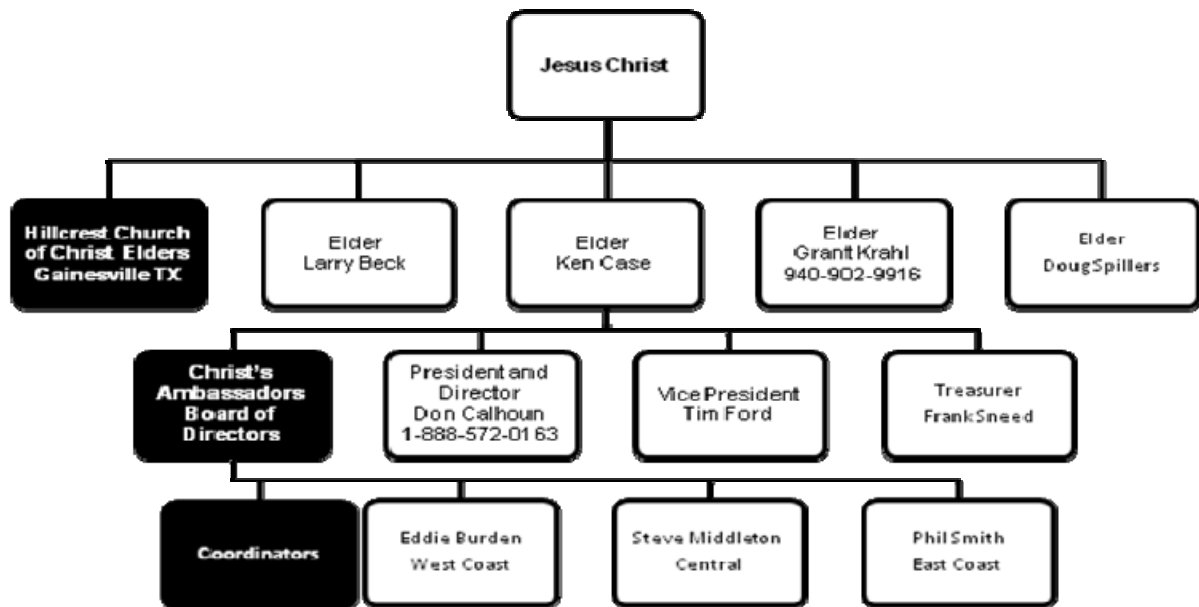
Phil Smith, D.Min., East Coast Coordinator

I have been preaching for forty-five years. Don and I have known each other for a number of years and I have been very appreciative of Christ's Ambassadors and the tools it gives us ministers to teach the word. This year because of Don's near death experience, Don has asked me to set several goals to help expand and fulfill the outreach of C.A.

I am firmly convinced that C.A. is the best program in the church today for teaching Christians how to develop interest in Bible Study and get friends, co-workers, and relatives to respond. C.A. teaches Christians how to study with others so that they truly learn and don't just accept what they have heard. Many Christians say, "I would like to teach someone, but I don't know what to say to get people interested in studying." C.A. teaches people what to say and then puts them into action doing what they are taught. Brethren, this program is an awesome opportunity for elderships and members to take advantage of growing the church.

- My goal this year is to contact as many churches and individuals possible who have taken the C.A. course to encourage these faithful individuals and churches to follow up with the lessons you were taught. We would like feed back on how your efforts are going and what problems you encounter as well as the successes and victories. We want to know what we can do to better the course and the teaching process.
- We would like to follow up with a refresher course at your church with the individuals who have taken C.A. along with others who would like to take the course for the first time. You may ask, "Why take the course again?" Because God works in us and through us slowly, growing us into people he can use. I have taken and taught the course literally dozens of times and each time it has grown me into a better preacher, teacher and evangelist for the Lord's cause.
- I would like to encourage each church and individual who have been involved in the Christ's Ambassadors program as well others to give at least \$1 a month to this effort. Of course \$5, \$10, or \$15 would be greatly appreciated but we are just asking for \$1. Your funds will go directly to the promotion of foundational Bible study in the churches of Christ to train members to develop interest and teach the lost. Each one of us as a Christian knows in our heart that this is what is going to grow and strengthen God's church—nothing else!
- I would like to participate in at least four seminars this year manning a Christ Ambassador's booth where leaders as well as members learn more about C.A. and how to teach personal Bible Studies. These will be "The Polishing the Pulpit Seminar" in Sevierville, TN, "The World Evangelism Forum" at Sunset Church of Christ, "The East Tennessee School of Preaching Lectureship" in Knoxville, and the "Ohio Valley Christian Lectureship" in Parkersburg, WV. Each of these programs have many ministers and elders seeking ways to mature their members and reach out to others in their communities.
- Don, Steve, Eddie, Jerry & I will all be preparing monthly reports in this Newsletter to let you know what is going on to further the teaching of God's word through Christ's Ambassadors.
- Last, but definitely not least in my goals for this year, is to prepare in each issue of these Newsletters an article called S.H.E.E.P. We are all sheep and Jesus is our good shepherd. We have to look to him for strength and endurance to battle Satan and fight the good fight of faith. S.H.E.E.P. is the acronym I am using for Solving Habitual Everyday Emotional Problems. Satan uses every arrow in his arsenal to strive to keep us from doing the good work the Lord has set out for us—TEACHING BIBLE STUDIES. This article will encourage you to fight the battle with the tools Jesus has given us personal Bible study time daily, prayer and fellowshiping with other Christians who are fervent in the work of the Lord.
- Brothers and sisters please take the time to read this newsletter because it will surround you with a positive message that will encourage you to truly be Christ's Ambassadors.

I am firmly convinced that C.A. is the best program in the church today for teaching Christians how to develop interest in a Bible Study ...



Christ's Ambassadors Organizational Chart - June, 2009

Phil Smith, C.A. Newsletter Editor

The Christ Ambassador's program changed my life as a Christian in the spring of 2000. I met Don Calhoun at the Lipscomb Lectureship in Nashville, TN. Don introduced me and my wife to a program that doesn't just teach Bible truths—it teaches us to "Walk the Talk". It starts at ground zero. (Read more about this in Jerry Dyer's article.) It teaches you how to develop interest with a relative, co-worker, neighbor, etc. It teaches you how to organize your life as a Christian ought to organize it—praying and asking God to send you souls to teach and to open your eyes to spiritual opportunities.

Each member, not just the ministers, elders and leaders, needs to be in God's word daily learning and instructing those around them. Young mothers and fathers should be instructing their children and teens in their homes. Christ's Ambassadors will give you the skills you need to grow personally as a Christian as well as a leader in God's church. God's church needs Christian men and women leaders. You will never experience a greater feeling than watching another person learn about Christ. Seeing a person desire to be baptized for the remission of their sins; knowing that you had a small part in that person's eternal destiny is the best feeling you will ever have. This world has nothing to offer that can equal this experience. Please become apart of this great effort by contacting any one of the coordinators or Don Calhoun and inviting them to come tell you more about this program and what it can do for your church. This program needs funds to continue getting the word out to churches, elderships and other Christians. Your hard earned funds will be used most effectively and frugally through the oversight and leadership listed above. Please include the men above in your prayers and the work of Christ's Ambassadors. Please help wherever you can to promote this effort in the churches of Christ to continue encouraging and strengthening our churches and members to study and teach the fundamental truths of God's word.

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TO THIS GREAT EFFORT BY MAILING A CHECK TODAY.

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE DONATIONS ONLINE WITH CREDIT CARD AT THE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS' WEBSITE.



All Donations Are Tax Deductible

