

the drums" before the brotherhood. We do not believe the early church wanted second-rate performance, but we note they also didn't whoop and yell about **the biggest, the greatest, the largest, and the most tremendous**. The inspired record never mentioned the 3,000 who were baptized on Pentecost after Acts 2. We can learn something from this in the age of high-powered promotions, sensationalism, and publicity.

— Bill Jackson
Deceased

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THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Let us pray for...

Sheila Beauchamp — recovering from shoulder surgery
Tonya Thatcher — difficulty with pregnancy
Judy Reid — treatment for auto accident injuries (sister in NJ, planning to move here)
Don Smith — faithful brother in Ohio prison who is teaching fellow inmates daily
Lester Kamp — fighting prostate cancer
Mike Mallett — fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)
Ken Chumbley — fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)
Ann Henderson — fighting cancer (Sheri Woodall's aunt)
Brian Ritter — fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
Tim Smith — fighting chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)
Samuel Bagsangi — Gospel preacher in Philippines we help support
Joshua Aidoo — Gospel preacher in Ghana we help support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	14
Sunday AM Worship	14
Sunday PM Worship	14
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	16
Contribution	\$713.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$925.50

Internet Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, www.northpointcoc.com.

Assignments...

Adult Bible class teacher for February
 Chairman of Men's Meetings (January–March)
 Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Rick Beauchamp
 Rick Beauchamp
 Dub McClish



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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Church Should Have Failed?

By all human standards, the church Jesus established through His apostles should never have "gotten off the ground." Everything seemed to be against its success and survival.

The men charged with establishing it all over the world were so few — only twelve in the beginning and a thirteenth added later. But what could such a small number of men do? Then there was the problem of the man behind it. Most people outside of the minuscule areas of Judea and Galilee had never heard of Jesus of Nazareth. Many who knew of Him despised Him or, at best, regarded Him with nonchalance, curiosity, or even disdain. He never held a public office, started a college, or wrote a book (in His earthly sojourn) or a song. The only thing He ever wrote, as far as we know, He wrote in the sand, and we do not even know what He wrote. To build something that would last, surely Jesus went about it in the wrong way.

Even if people would listen to the message of His apostles, how could these few men possibly accomplish the task? The fastest overland transportation was horseback, but which of the apostles could afford a horse? The most rapid travel by sea was by slow sailing vessels that moved at the mercy of the unpredictable weather. Communications were no better. The apostles could personally speak the message orally or they could write it and send it on its way by personal messenger. In either case, they were limited by the slow travel methods.

And what about the severe racial prejudice among the first converts, even affecting the apostles? Christ had sent them to all nations, but their Jewish background caused them to consider the Gentiles as unworthy of their evangelistic efforts for years.

Had it been but a human enterprise, then it would surely have failed. Herein lies a convincing proof that the New Testament church is indeed a Divine institution.

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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

Could it be that the Lord designed it to appear weak and foolish to men, so that its success would be indisputable proof that it was of God? Is not this hypothesis an illustration of the principle Paul stated?

But God chose the foolish things of the world, that he might put to shame them that are wise; and God chose the weak things of the world, that he might put to shame the things that are strong; and the base things of the world, and the things that are despised, did God choose, yea and the things that are not, that he might bring to nought the things that are: that no flesh should glory before God (1 Cor. 1:27-29).

If men would only listen, they would not marvel that the Gospel and the church that it produces are equally indestructible. Jesus built His church on the fact of His own Deity and promised that death, Satan's strongest weapon, would not prevail to prevent its establishment and perpetuity (Mat. 16:16-18). How foolish are men who try to "improve" it to make it more appealing to the masses. Wise men will not tamper with it.

Ought we not to press on in full confidence that Christ is with His faithful church, now and forever (Mat. 28:20)?

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX

For the Cause...

Many members of the Lord's church (including not a few elders and preachers) refuse to understand that the Lord's church is the Lord's army. We exist to **fight** for the right as the Bible defines the right in everything. In order to remain faithful, beginning with ourselves, we are to engage in spiritual warfare all day long, 365 days out of the year, as long as we are able, and until the Lord returns.

But the previously mentioned brethren hold the false view that if they can just get over the present problem/problems, whatever it/they may be, they will be forever out of the problem business. This false mind-set is one of the devil's greatest ploys to lull the church into a false sense of security. Once he accomplishes selling the church the error that holiness is harmlessness and whispering sweet platitudes to one another in order to make each other happy in our own conceits is the way to go, the father of lies has a much easier job getting us to digress from the Truth more and more.

In living the Christian life, we are in the process of getting over problems, or we are in the middle of them, or we are about to get into them. This is true of congregations as well as individuals and their families. Of course, this is not to say all problems are of the same magnitude. But, when we once realize that life is one problem after another, the better off we will be. And, when "... we know that ... the whole world lieth in wickedness [in the evil one, ASV-1901]" (1 John 5:19), should we not expect problems to abound?

The Lord never promised us a life without problems (Luke 9:23; 2 Tim. 3:12). To the contrary, Christians are promised many problems **because** of their faithfulness to Him. However, Jesus said He would give us the solution to those problems (1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Thus, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (Jam. 1:25).

A successful life is one lived on the Lord's terms. Although the world never will recognize it, when Stephen was stoned to death for his uncompromising stand for the Truth, he died a complete success (Acts 7:54-60). He lived and died governed by God's will. Stephen thereby continues to be an example to Christians in living and dying (Ecc. 12:13-14; 1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10).

—David P. Brown
Spring, TX

The Forgotten 3,000

We all know the church has entered the age of promotionalism—the age of drum-beating. We constantly hear of **the biggest, the most, the best, the greatest**; any triumph in one congregation gets the publicity experts at work to try and top that in some other congregation. The trumpets sound when some activity is successful.

We've said that to call attention to the fact that this very atmosphere is foreign to the New Testament. Acts 2:42 states: "...the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." This text refers to those who were baptized on the day of Pentecost. The interesting thing about this is the fact that it never was mentioned again in God's Word! Never once! We wonder why. We have the rest of Acts, twenty one other letters, and seven different congregations addressed in the book of Revelation—and never once did any of the inspired writers ask, "Why can't 3,000 more be baptized like that great number was on Pentecost?" It wasn't that the Jerusalem church was ignored in the New Testament after Acts 2, for it is frequently the subject of the remainder of Acts. It wasn't because the 3,000 were baptized near the close of the New Testament. It wasn't that no apostle knew of the events of that day, for the twelve were there at the time. It wasn't that the apostles didn't want the church to grow or that they weren't interested in baptisms, for the Great Commission put them into that business (Mark 16:15-16).

Again we wonder: why wasn't the success in Acts 2 mentioned in each and every epistle? Why didn't the inspired writers take advantage of this, whooping it up to all other congregations? Now, notice that this fits in with the low profile given to programs and successes in the entire New Testament. Every letter deals with the importance of study, growth, increasing in godly attributes, and the need for improvement in every spiritual area. However, very little in the way of publicity is given to sums and numbers, and certainly not in any way to "beat