

The Church has Always Been Wireless

By Doug Dingley

It was only a little over 50 years ago, in 1966, when Gene Roddenberry's *Star Trek* first came on the scene. And oh what fantastic and incredible, 'unthinkable' and 'impossible' science fiction advancements and ideas it featured! Doors that slid open automatically as people approached them; machines that delivered fully cooked, hot and ready meals in mere moments and without the benefit of fire; and then, there were those wireless 'communicators!' Surely such fantasy equipment as imagined in the mind and supposedly pictured on the screen could never actually come to pass...could it? Today, just 50 short years after such 'unthinkable' 'sci-fi' fantasies appeared on our television screens, many millions of people cannot even imagine or remember a world where automatic doors and microwave ovens were not the norm. And today's 'pocket computers' already far surpass the communicator-like 'flip-phones' capabilities of but a mere decade or so ago...

When "*The Running Man*" was released in 1987, its plot-line was developed from a video, wherein the hero in the film was framed for a crime he didn't commit, by the insertion of his image, in action, into a crime scene, doing things he didn't do. The movie's plot continued to utilize the idea of such things as "*digital body doubles*," in the name of seeking to satisfy America's insatiable appetite for "*reality television and televised violence*" [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Running_Man_\(1987_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Running_Man_(1987_film)). Today, just a short 30 years later (and in the very year that the movie supposedly depicted as it started), it is almost impossible to go to a movie that does not feature such computer-generated imagery (CGI) or "special effects." You can routinely watch human heroes battling forces, facing creatures, and fighting other-worldly creations which you know in your heart, simply do not exist in any form or fashion... But boy that movie star sure looks like they're locked in a real-life battle to the death against that fierce but fantasized non-existent foe, and in that computer-generated, non-existent environment!

Today's technological advances and innovations are able to transform what was only presentable by Hollywood movie-makers just a mere few decades ago, and turn them into today's realities. We currently have automobiles that can not only park themselves, brake themselves, and even drive themselves in some cases, but we can also - with the right gadgets and gizmos - turn our lights and televisions on and off in our living rooms from half a world away! (You know, with all of today's technology, perhaps we aren't too awfully far off from a Terminator-type, world cataclysmic event after all!)

But here's the thing. No matter how much the world changes; no matter how much showmanship and science fiction Hollywood produces; no matter how many technological advances may be made or made master over humanity; and no matter whether the earth is here for another two milliseconds or two million millennia; some things, will simply never change. God will never change (Mal. 3:6). His Son Jesus Christ will never change (Hebs. 13:8). Their word, the Bible will never change (Psa. 119:89). The one faith (Eph. 4:4), once for all delivered to the saints prior to the end of the first century (Jude 3) will never change. And neither therefore, can Christ's one, New Testament, first-century-established church, ever change (Eph. 1:21-22, 3:8-12, 4:4-6). Her faithful members can never, *must* never, *dare* never then, surrender or compromise for even one millisecond, to any new doctrine or dogma that has come along in the centuries since her divinely-appointed, first-century establishment (Rom. 16:16-20; 1 Cor. 14:33-37; Gal. 1:6-10, 2:4-5; Col. 2:4-10; 2 Tim. 3:12-4:4; Rev. 22:18-19). God's devoted New Testament people must surely have learned from the history of God's Old Testament people (1 Cor. 10:1-11), the awful and horrible consequences of not staying in and on the "*old paths*" of scriptural obedience, which their ancient, eternal, timeless and ever-present God, ever-presently requires (Jer. 6:15-19).

Therefore, the Lord's people must never seek to change or alter their steps from following His straight and narrow path (Matt. 7:13-14), nor should they even "*associate with those given to change*" (Prov. 24:21). Hence, they shall always seek to be the kind of worshippers the Father is seeking (Jn. 4:23-24). How? By not forsaking the assembling of themselves together no matter how easy modern technology may make it for them to stay at home and still hear a sermon (Hebs. 10:24-27). By singing without the use of mechanical instruments no matter how popular they may become in the modern-day, man-made, religious denominations and radio and satellite stations all around them (Eph. 5:15-19; Col. 3:16). By having only males serve in certain leadership positions no matter how far the feminist agenda may progress in other religions (1 Tim. 2:9-15). By not straying from God's plan of salvation (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-41; Rom. 6:1-23) no matter how many new, man-made churches, doctrines, religions and belief systems never seen in scripture may spring up over time (Mk. 7:1-13; Gal. 1:6-10; 2 Ptr. 2:1-3:18). And by loving, serving, and sacrificing for one another without regard to personal or ethnic differences (Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 2:11-22; 1 Ptr 1:13-2:3), despite however much hate and savagery might thrive in our world. Whatever changes the future may bring, the Lord's true church will remain the same.

Things you should know about...

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you want to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason. The next donation will be sent after the end of June.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Patsy Muter 6/29 Matthew Wilson 7/21 Anna Wilson 7/30
 Bryan Allen 7/9 Erica Schulze 7/22 Stephanie Bang 7/30

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Happy Anniversary!

Rick & Lois Ferris 6/25 Jerry & Carrie Thompson 7/4

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Ladies Bible Study - The God of All Comfort • THIS Thursday @ 6:45pm

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If you are able to teach Bible class next quarter see John or Dianna

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VBS - Calming Mt. Frustration Conquering Anger with Kindness Saturday, July 22nd, 9am - noon

If you are interested in helping please get with Chelsea, Stephanie,
 or Dianna, we have plenty of areas that need you!

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A **BIG** thank you to the team from Lebanon Rd.
 Church of Christ for all the work they did this weekend
 on the playground area!

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Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	June 25, 2023 AM	June 25, 2023 PM	July 2, 2023 AM
Greeter	Tom Muter	Jason Bang	Dustin DeSarro
Announcements	Jason Bang	Duane Kemp	Jason Bang
Song Leading	Lebanon Rd. Team	Lebanon Rd. Team	Owen Whittington
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Jason Bang	Lebanon Rd. Team	Seth Arrell
Lord's Supper Comments	Tim Bang	Lebanon Rd. Team	Tom Muter
Scripture Reading	Seth Arrell	Lebanon Rd. Team	Duane Kemp
Sermon	Andrew Thompson	Lebanon Rd. Team	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Duane Kemp	Lebanon Rd. Team	Tim Bang

This week's Bible Verse

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Romans 6:23

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**Lord's Supper Reflection**

*To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful Priest*

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16

**Offering Meditation**

*Do not Lose your Reward*

“And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.” Matthew 10:42

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Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Phyllis Caldwell - recovering from a fall
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - dealing with Parkinson's
- *Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - having a pace maker/defibrillator put in on 7/14
- *Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - having issues with her vision and dementia
- *Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- *Caroline Stine - health, recovering from a back injury
- *Tim Bang - health issues
- *Evelyn Lam - health/pain she's having in her joints
- *Pamela Illnick (Amie Allen's mom) - struggling with her health and faith

- *Terry McGiffin (John McGiffin's dad) - health & stability/balance issues
- *Nellie Hoff - Recovering from a fall
- *Teens going to Fort Hill Youth camp this week
- *Michelle Gasper - suffering from exposure to a poison sumac bush

How can we be praying for YOU?

Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

| Sunday, June 18 |    | Wednesday, June 21 |            |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|------------|
| Bible Classes   | 31 | Bible Classes      | 24         |
| AM Attendance   | 38 | Contribution       | \$1,135.00 |
| PM Attendance   | 16 |                    |            |

# Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



**June 18, 2023**

Worship Times:

- Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am
- Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

**We are excited to have Andrew Thompson and the team from the Lebanon Rd. Church of Christ worshipping with us today!**

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd  
Greenville, OH 45331

[www.greenvillecoc.org](http://www.greenvillecoc.org)

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us!  
If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.