

JULY 2023  
**BELL ROAD  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
JOURNAL**



**THOUGHTS ON A CHAT GPT PREACHER**

**BY PASTOR RYAN**

**THERE IS MUCH TALK IN OUR CULTURE ABOUT CHATGPT, THE ASTOUNDING, VERSATILE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM. CHATGPT CAN DO MANY TASKS AS WELL, OR EVEN BETTER THAN HUMANS. WHETHER WRITING CONTRACTS, PENNING RESEARCH ESSAYS, OR HAVING A TEXT CHAT, A.I. IS PLAUSIBLY PUTTING US OUT OF A JOB.**

**WHAT ABOUT PREACHING AND PREACHERS? COMMAND CHATGPT TO COMPOSE A MESSAGE ON A PARTICULAR TEXT AND YOU'LL HAVE A THEOLOGICALLY CONVENTIONAL SERMON THAT'S A BIT WOODEN. HEARERS WHO'VE WITNESSED SUCH A CHATBOT "PREACH" HAVE COMMENTED THAT THE MEDIUM AND THE MESSAGE LACK "SOUL." THERE IS SOME IRONY IN THE OBSERVATION. WHAT EXACTLY IS ONE SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE FROM SOMETHING LACKING A SOUL, MUCH LESS A BODY?**

**LAST MONTH, A LUTHERAN CHURCH IN GERMANY HOSTED A SERVICE PERFORMED EXCLUSIVELY BY A.I. SOME FOLKS WERE IMPRESSED, OTHERS LESS SO, THOUGH THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT SOMETHING WAS MISSING. THE TRUTH IS, THERE ARE MANY THINGS MISSING FROM A CHATGPT SERMON, EVEN ONE PREACHED BY A DIGITAL, PROJECTED PREACHER.**

**MONTHLY EVENTS**

- **Women's Breathe- 7- 8- Paint with Joan. 1-4 pm.**
- **4th Saturday- 7-22. Union Gospel Mission- Dinner at the Rosenau home at 5:30 pm. Leave/carpool at 6:30 pm Service at UGM from 7:30 pm-8:30 pm  
Call Wolfgang Rosenau for more info (916) 704-8837**

**Have you checked out [bellroad.org](http://bellroad.org)?**

**ONE CRUCIAL DIMENSION TO A GOOD MESSAGE IS "APPLICATION" WHICH INVOLVES SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES AIMED AT THE CONGREGATION.**

**WHEN I WORK ON THE DETAILS OF APPLICATION FOR MY SERMON, I KEEP IN MIND THE CARES, CONCERNS, EVEN CONVERSATIONS THAT I'VE HAD WITH MANY OF YOU. WHILE THE CORE CONTENT OF THE SERMON COMES FROM A BIBLICAL PASSAGE, THE VARIOUS WAYS THAT I CHALLENGE YOU TO "LIVE OUT" THE MESSAGE DEPENDS ON CONSIDERATIONS THAT ARE UNIQUE TO OUR CONTEXT.**

**IN FACT, ANY SERMON A PASTOR PREACHES WILL NOT MAKE COMPLETE SENSE WITHOUT THE LOCAL CONGREGATION WHO HEARS IT. SERMONS FROM THE PAST FEEL "DATED" BECAUSE THEY ARE. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS NOT ENMESHED IN A CHURCH AND THEREFORE, HAS NO EMBODIED PRESENCE. THE CONTENT FOR ITS SERMONS IS DRAWN FROM INFORMATION ON THE WEB. IN THIS SENSE, A CHATGPT SERMON CAN NEVER BE FRESH FOR IT IS ALWAYS GATHERING RECYCLED THEOLOGICAL CONTENT. IF THE SERMON SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'VE HEARD BEFORE, IT'S BECAUSE YOU LIKELY HAVE.**

**WILL A.I. TAKE THE JOB OF PREACHERS (AND OTHER PROFESSIONS)? THE BETTER QUESTION IS: WILL HUMANS BE SATISFIED WITH A.I. IN THE WAY THEY ARE WITH FLESH-AND-BLOOD PASTORS? MY GUESS IS NO.**

## **Musical Expedition Through Time- Kids camp**

What a great week we had as we learned of God's incredible love for us! We were visited by Mr. Handel, Mr. Mozart, Mr. Mendelssohn, and Mr. Gounod, superbly played by 4 of our men! We averaged 28 kids all week with about 25 leaders. God showed up as the kids memorized scripture, made musical instruments in crafts, and learned to glorify Him through song and dance! The kids memorized Psalm 8 and shared it in front of the church on Sunday, June 25th. They also sang four songs and led our church in worship. What a great job was done by Janai Rindels, who led us, and the 25-plus leaders who had various roles. God moved in a special way as we saw our kids enjoy music that glorifies God and learned of His wonderful words through scripture. Thank you to all who made this happen!



**PRAY FOR OUR KIDS AND LEADERS THAT THEY WOULD EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF GOD!**



### **LADIES SUMMER EVENTS**

- **JULY 8TH-** PAINT WITH JOAN 1-4 PM. RESERVATION REQUIRED- LIMITED SEATING. DONATION APPRECIATED. RSVP TO DIANA 530-613-1343
- **AUGUST 4-5** SLUMBER PARTY AT HIDDEN LAKES \$20 DONATION MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

**4<sup>TH</sup> OF July**

**Tuesday July 4th @ 10:30am**

**Parade Fun & Games Food Live Music**

**Parade starting @ 10:30am on Lincoln Way**

**Vendor Fair at the Fairgrounds @ 4pm**

**Fireworks at the Fairgrounds @ Dark**

**AUBURN Chamber of Commerce**

### **Summer Schedule**

**July 10-15-** Kids Camp  
**July 16th-** Youth Swim

**September 8-10-** Family Camp

**September 13-** Family Dinner and Bible Study starts up again