

A close-up photograph of a bamboo tube pouring water into a glass. The bamboo tube is light green and has a circular opening at the end. Water is being poured from the tube into a clear glass. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and green. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Wednesday Night Service

“A Discussion with the Pastors”

The Chinese Bamboo Tree



You prepare the soil, pick the right spot, and then plant the Chinese Bamboo Tree. You water it and wait. But you wait an entire year and nothing appears. No bud, no twig, nothing. So you keep watering and protecting the area and taking care of the future plant, and you wait some more. You wait another year and nothing still happens.

The Chinese Bamboo Tree

A close-up photograph of a bamboo stalk. A hole has been drilled through the center of the stalk, and water is dripping from the hole. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and blue.

Okay, you are a persistent person not prone to giving up, so you keep on watering. You water, check the soil, start talking to the ground, “ground, I command you to yield now!” maybe even do some kind of Holy Ghost dance. Another year passes and still no sign of growth. It’s been three years. Should you give up?

The Chinese Bamboo Tree



Someone told you that it might take a while to really see the fruits of your efforts, so you keep on keeping on. More water, more confessions, more dancing in the Holy Ghost. Those around you are wondering. Some have even got tired of waiting and have walked away. And another year passes. No tree.

The Chinese Bamboo Tree



You now make a decision. If there is no tree on this date one year from now you will stop watering. Period. So you begin year number five with the same passion as day number one. You water, you wait. You keep watering and keep waiting. You water some more and then, could it be?

The Chinese Bamboo Tree

A close-up photograph of a bamboo shoot being poured with water. The bamboo shoot is light green and has a hollow center. Water is being poured from the top of the shoot, creating a small waterfall effect. Below the shoot, a wooden spoon is resting on a surface, possibly a table or a tray. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

In fact you come back each day for about six weeks and finally the Chinese Bamboo tree stops growing—but it is over 80 feet tall! Yes, 80 feet in six weeks! Well, not really. It is 80 feet in five years.

The Chinese Bamboo Tree



Is it really? Yep, there it is, something sticking out of the dirt. You come back the next day and WOW it has really grown!

The point is simple. If you had given up for even the shortest period of time, there would be no tree. It took almost impossible persistence. The Chinese Bamboo tree is there for one reason and one reason only—because you never gave up on it.

Difficult Times Ahead – 2 Tim. 3

Don't be naive. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They'll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they're animals. Stay clear of these people.


(The Message Bible)

Ten Most Serious Issues for Lawton



1. Drug/Alcohol abuse among youth
2. Drug/Alcohol abuse among adults
3. Obesity in adults
4. Under age drinking
5. Removal of run-down buildings
6. Obesity in children
7. Help for families with children with disciplinary problems
8. Access to shelter for homeless
9. Student behavior in school
10. Shelter for frail, handicapped and elderly

Ten Most Serious Issues for South Central Lawton

1. Drug/Alcohol abuse among youth
 2. Drug/Alcohol abuse among adults
 3. Obesity in adults
 4. Under age drinking
 5. **Children health issues**
 6. Removal of run-down buildings
 7. Access to shelter for homeless
 8. **Affordable legal services**
 9. Help for families with children with disciplinary problems
 10. **Access to health insurance**
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WHAT CAN BE DONE . . . ?

IMPACT
YOUR CITY
YOUR WORLD

ZOE CHRISTIAN
CENTER

YOU

