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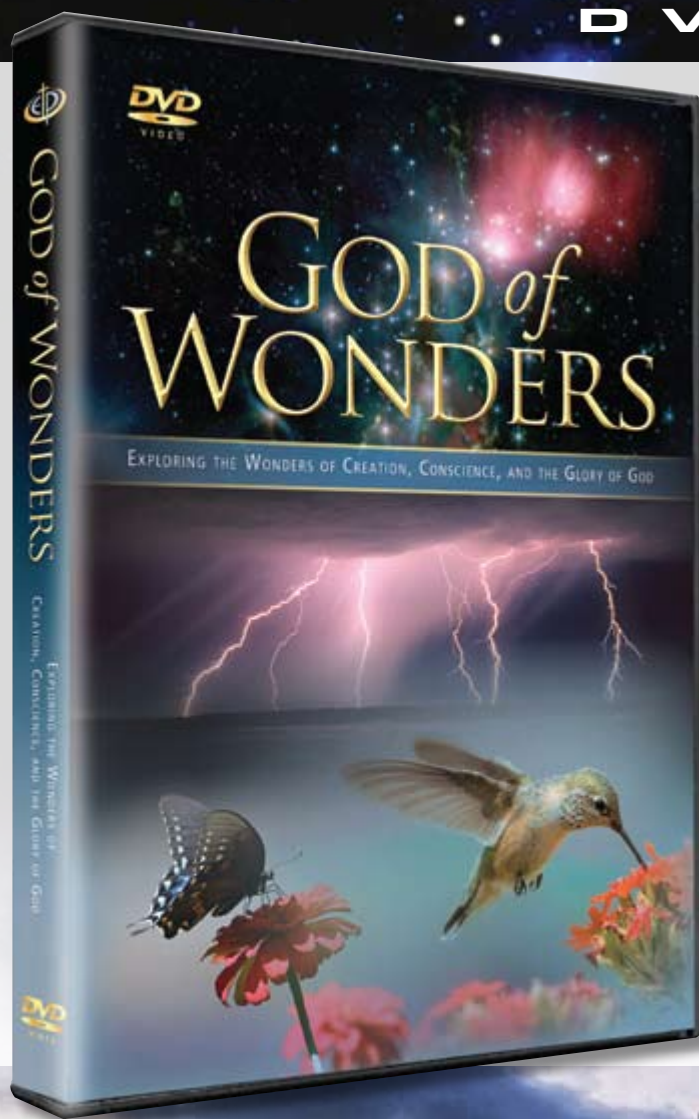


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A New Day, A New Year

With this first issue of *Acts & Facts* for the year 2009 comes a fresh round of thankfulness and optimism for ICR, as well as concern for the future. As has been often noted in these pages, we are locked in an ongoing battle with the Texas state education establishment, which is bound and determined to censor the ICR Graduate School (ICRGS) because we dare to claim we are teaching science and preparing science teachers from a creationist perspective. According to the self-serving definition of science in common use by the evolutionary elite, science must espouse a naturalistic (read “atheistic”) slant.

This exclusive insistence on naturalism is the same as being anti-supernatural, which is a decidedly religious stance. Ironically, ICRGS’ legal situation has nothing to do with trying to introduce religion into public schools or colleges; it is purely a matter of private sector freedom, something the First Amendment is supposed to protect. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that the ICRGS will be allowed to operate in Texas or that a new day of fairness is about to dawn.

Thankfully, we are buoyed along by the certain knowledge that God is still on the throne and we have access to Him. He has always worked strongly on our behalf, such as in the mighty victory He provided in the similar case against California’s Department of Education. At that time, the ACLU was labeling ICR as Public Enemy #1, but with God’s help we won three lawsuits: in administrative court, in state court, and in federal court. Then and now, our ultimate resources are

great, for we can “come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). This work of exploring and extolling creation is His work, and we have the utmost confidence in Him and His plan. As the favorite old hymn “Day by Day” puts it:

The protection of His child and treasure,
Is a charge that on Himself He laid.

Our mandate is to stay in His will, be about His business and diligent in our efforts, and trust Him for the outcome.

On the home front, ICR is now firmly established here in Dallas, with the last contingent finally migrating from San Diego. Those who could move have done so, and some who couldn’t have a new long-distance arrangement with ICR. The essential ministries of ICR will continue. Whether it is approved in Texas or remains in California, our Graduate School will continue to supply well-prepared teachers and scientists. *Acts & Facts* and *Days of Praise* will come as before (although now improved). The popular San Diego-based Museum of Creation and Earth History will remain where it is and be maintained by a local group. There is every reason to expect ICR’s next chapter to be even more productive than its early ones.

It’s a new year, but our God is “the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). Together, let’s march on to victory.

John D. Morris
John D. Morris, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT

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HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

2008:

Laying the Groundwork for Growth

L A W R E N C E E . F O R D

New Year's Day is one of the best days of the year. Not only do we take a much-needed rest before jumping into the next 364 days, but we have the opportunity to reflect on the previous twelve months and perhaps make some decisions (a.k.a. "resolutions") that will improve our lives in the coming months and years. This is true as individuals and as an organization like ICR.

Every year is exciting at ICR, full of new research, expanding education, and communication

with impact. For 2008, this excitement has been coupled with the transfer of ICR headquarters from California to Texas. Certainly, moving a large ministry operation across the country has its stresses, but in reflection, it is a joy to look back and see the hand of God upon this ministry through the year, not only sustaining us through the transition, but also preparing our steps for years of fruitful service to come.

Let me highlight a few examples of what's been happening at ICR.



Internet Ministries

Facebook, MySpace, podcasts, blogging—these are only a few of the many new features of the World Wide Web today. The Internet is now a dominant environment in which millions of people operate every day across the globe. Keeping up with the advances on the Web is a challenge, since change is the name of the game.

However, there is no doubt that the Internet holds tremendous opportunities for organizations like ICR. In a sense, the Web is the largest “library” in the world, with information accessible in just a couple of clicks. With ICR’s emphasis on disseminating science information, the Internet is one of the best tools we have for getting the right information out to teachers, pastors, science students, researchers, and many more people who need it. This is why ICR is committed to utilizing this tool in the most effective means possible.

Throughout 2008, ICR’s Internet Ministries group rolled out a series of upgrades on both of the major Web portals for the ministry—icr.org and icr.edu—with a new “look and feel,” as well as new stuff “under the hood,” where the programming apparatus of

ICR’s Internet home is located.

One of the major goals of these upgrades has been to enhance user experience with better menus and more emphasis on information, rather than on ads or other distractions that sometimes plague public Internet sites. In addition, much of the information housed at icr.org has been reorganized to better fit the mission of ICR and to make it easier to locate for the user.



In May, ICR launched a major addition to the website: Evidence for Creation—brand-new content that takes users through a logical order of thought on each of five major issues related to creation. This new Evidence site is also fully-integrated with the rest of the website, which now includes nearly forty years’ worth of articles and multimedia presentations on the Bible and science. Visit Evidence for Creation at www.icr.org/evidence.

Other advances on the website have included upgrades to ICR’s online store, the addition

of ministry-specific landing pages, an Internet-wide public relations campaign, and improvements to our online subscription and donation processes.

Communications

Communicating the wonders of God’s creation remains the central message for ICR. Developing scientific data through research, instructing students through our Graduate School, and translating both scientific and biblical evidence for recent creation into accessible publications, radio programs, and speaking engagements are the major areas of ministry focus for the Institute.

ICR’s premier monthly magazine, *Acts & Facts*, continues to grow, with new subscriptions now reaching 3,000 per month. With more than 150,000 copies mailed each month, *Acts & Facts* remains the most widely-circulated creation magazine in publication. The daily devotional *Days of Praise*, now with more than 350,000 copies distributed each quarter, is loved by many as their source of daily biblical encouragement.

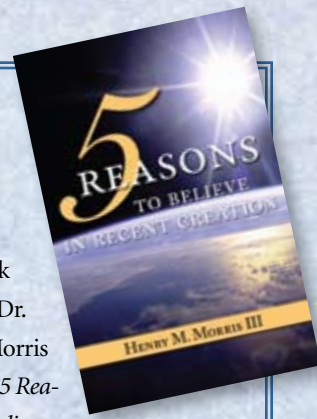
In the fall, ICR revised and expanded the book *Some Call It Science* by the late Dr. Henry Morris, ICR’s founder. In November, ICR published a

new book by CEO Dr. Henry Morris III titled *5 Reasons to Believe in Recent Creation*, expounding on the absolute incompatibility of evolution and the Bible. (Look for Dr. Morris’ most recent book, *Exploring the Evidence for Creation*, on page 19.)

Seminars and conferences have always been a significant part of ICR’s mission to communicate solid biblical and scientific data to the public. During 2008, ICR responded to many invitations to have our speakers teach about creation science to both lay and technical audiences in churches, schools, camps, science conferences, and other venues.

Additionally, ICR asked Dr. John MacArthur to be the keynote speaker to a packed house at the Pike’s Peak Center in Colorado Springs in July. More than 1,000 gathered to be taught the clear biblical and scientific evidences for creation.

In the spring, ICR took travelers on another Grand Canyon Creation Tour, providing expert teaching on geological





evidence for creation and the global flood. ICR has led creation tours to Yellowstone, Galapagos, Mount St. Helens, and other destinations that demonstrate the wonders of God's creation. Look for upcoming announcements for our Yosemite Creation Tour, scheduled for September 2009.

In August, ICR co-sponsored the 6th International Conference on Creationism (ICC), held in Pittsburgh. A premiere technical gathering of the top scientists committed to recent creation, ICC showcased the work of many ICR researchers in biology, genetics, astronomy, and other important scientific fields.

Every year ICR sends speakers to the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) conventions held across the country. In 2008, ICR increased its participation to attend 19 of these conferences, most of them held in the months of October and November. Teams of speakers and exhibit staff traveled nearly every week during that time to offer help and information to the more than 70,000 Christian school teachers who are members of ACSI. As a gift to these dedicated teachers, the ICR science staff developed another teaching poster to hand out at these conventions. This year's theme was Natural



Disasters. Excellent for classroom or home school use, the poster is available at the ICR online store.

In November, ICR held a ministry banquet at the Omni Hotel near its Dallas headquarters to officially launch the National Creation Science Foundation (NCSF), a new funding initiative that expands creation science research around the

NATIONAL CREATION SCIENCE FOUNDATION

globe. Speakers and special guests included Dr. Henry Morris III, Dr. John Morris, Dr. Duane Gish, Dr. Randy Guliuzza, and others who spoke on the work of ICR in research and ministry. The dinner was attended by over 300.

ICR Radio continues to expand its reach, with over 1,500 stations carrying one or more of our three programs. The radio studio in San Diego is being transitioned to the new Dallas campus.



Education

Many *Acts & Facts* readers have followed the progress of the ICR Graduate School (ICRGS) in its application to move to Texas with the rest of the ministry. The school, now operating for 27 years in and from the state of California, recently converted its resident program into a distance education program online.

ICRGS has been interacting with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in Austin, Texas, to

process its application for operational authority to grant degrees from the site of its new campus in Dallas. However, the publicity surrounding the anticipated move of ICR to Texas created



a firestorm of opposition from evolutionists and atheists, many of whom chided the THECB for allowing preliminary approval through their site team and advisory committee. These lobbying activities in 2008 pressured the THECB to negate the results of their own reviews, assemble

their own ad hoc committee of evolutionary scientists, and subsequently reject ICR's application.

Currently, ICRGS is pursuing an official appeal, having already attempted a judge-conducted mediation effort with officials in Austin in the fall. ICRGS remains in California during the appeal process and any state or federal litigation that may arise in the coming months. Students interested in the Master of Science degree in Science Education should visit www.icr.edu for more information.



ICR continues to offer non-degree students the Creationist Worldview online program of study. This popular, self-paced program allows working men and women the opportunity to tackle the subjects of worldview, biblical creationism, physical science, biological science, and the application of the Stewardship Mandate from the convenience of home or office. More information about the Creationist Worldview program can be found at www.icr.org/cw.

Science Staff

Three new science staff members have joined ICR to assist us in the continuing work of proclaiming the message of the Creator. Dr. Charles McCombs serves as Assistant Director of the National Creation Science Foundation. Dr. McCombs holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from UCLA. His wife, Janice, a former educator in Florida, works in curriculum development at ICR.

Dr. Randy Guliuzza is ICR's National Representative. A medical doctor with degrees from the University of Minnesota and Harvard, recently retired as Chief of Aerospace Medicine in the U.S. Air Force, Dr. Guliuzza's broad responsibilities will include speaking, teaching, and writing on various subjects in creation science. Be sure to read his article in this month's edition.



Dr. Jeff Tomkins joins ICR as Research Associate in life sciences. Dr. Tomkins is a

geneticist, recently on staff at Clemson University, where he managed a large gene sequencing laboratory. He will assist ICR in genetics research at its Dallas laboratories.

Creation Museum

Many have visited the Museum of Creation and Earth History at ICR's California campus and seen the growth of its offerings to adult groups and schoolchildren alike. ICR is committed to carrying on this



effort at its new 30,000-square-foot facility in Dallas, and has been busy acquiring new "residents" for this learning center.

In February 2008, ICR purchased several fossils at a natural history auction, including an 8½-foot-tall cave bear skeleton from Russia, a 5-foot-long mosasaur skull—from a 45-foot-long marine reptile—discovered in Morocco, and three fish fossils from Wyoming.

In November, a juvenile Edmontosaurus ("duck bill") fossil was added to ICR's col-



lection. This fully-articulated fossil, discovered in Montana, measures 10 feet long and stands 6 feet high.

Santee Campus

The transition of ICR to Texas is nearly complete, apart from the move of the Graduate School. All other operations and key ministry staff have been relocated to the new Dallas campus. In December 2008, ICR sold its remaining property in Santee, including the museum, which will remain in operation with the new owners.

Preparing for Growth

At the start of this new year, ICR is thankful to the Lord for His leadership of and provision for our staff and our projects. Looking back over what has been accomplished during these nearly four decades of ministry encourages us to move

forward with confidence, sowing the seeds of the creation message in churches, schools, and the world. There is no substitute for truth; no excuse for hiding it. ICR remains committed to the truth of Scripture and the overwhelming evidence from science that demonstrates the Bible's accuracy.



This promises to be a year of growth and expansion as we continue to herald the name of our wondrous Creator, Jesus Christ. Pray for the staff at ICR, that we will conduct His business in His way. And lend a hand as you are able, extending to this ministry the prayer and financial support that will allow us to seize each opportunity that God places before us this year and into the future. ●

Mr. Ford is Executive Editor.





ICR Research Advances with the NCSF

JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D.

CHARLES LYELL
PRINCIPLES OF GEOLOGY
 Volume 1

The research wing of ICR has an impressive slate of research projects underway. As announced in October, ICR has launched a new foundation, the National Creation Science Foundation (NCSF), which will consider research proposals and fund those deemed beneficial. Already several projects have been accepted and funded. Some of these projects were already in progress, while others are new and innovative.

For instance, Dr. Steve Austin has commenced a project in response to the upcoming 150th anniversary of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859. Evolutionists plan to make the occasion a major propaganda coup. Darwin started his voyage on the *Beagle* as a nominal Christian and creationist. But he took on board Charles Lyell's recently published book *Principles of Geology*, which espoused long ages of uniform processes. In Argentina, Darwin applied Lyell's thinking to a river gorge and concluded that it had taken long ages to form. (It is now known that this canyon was formed quickly by major Ice Age flooding.) Darwin applied this misinterpretation to his observations on the Galapagos Islands, and evolutionary uniformitarianism is the result. Dr. Austin proposes to show where Darwin went wrong, rightly interpret the evidence, and produce a short video for ICR that can be used in the ongoing battle for truth.

Dr. Austin will also continue his oversight of the Flood Activated Sedimentation and Tectonics (FAST) research project, which is investigating geologic evidences of the great Flood of Noah's day, mostly in the American Southwest. In November, the FAST scientists met in Nevada to report on progress. Of particular interest was a rather new idea in geology, that many deposits are the result of dynamic underwater mud flows. Dr. Austin recently studied evidence of this in Alaska, where a very thick sequence of exposed strata was formed by the collision of the North American Plate with the Pacific Plate during the Flood. The southerly ex-

pression of the collision can be seen in Nevada, the site of several research projects under FAST.

In a related project, geologists Roger Siggler and Van Wingerdon have been studying a major mud slide, embedded with large blocks of rock that reach up to 30 km in length! This slide likely occurred at the onset of the Flood, when "all the fountains of the great deep" broke open (Genesis 7:11).

Both Dr. John Baumgardner and Dr. Clarence Berg are conducting funded projects involving computer simulations of "superfaults." Dr. Baumgardner is examining the famous fault system that rapidly formed the mountains in Wyoming, including the enigmatic Heart Mountain, while Dr. Berg is preparing a numerical simulation of sub-aqueous debris flows. All numerical studies are being conducted on ICR's super computer "Epiphany" under Dr. Baumgardner's supervision. Geologist Dr. Tim Clarey will be looking at catastrophic gravity slides in the same area.

In the November meeting, Dr. Arthur Chadwick reported his studies on an extensive dinosaur fossil site. He sees little evidence of uniformitarian processes or vast spans of time. Rather, all the depositional markers speak of rapid catastrophic processes. Likewise, Dr. John Whitmore and Ray Strom are continuing their multi-year study of the Coconino Sandstone, prominent in Grand Canyon. Long thought to be a fossilized sand dune desert deposit, its formation is better interpreted as giant underwater sand ripples, requiring huge volumes of water flowing at great speeds.

In addition to these ongoing studies, ICR research also encompasses Dr. Dan Criswell's GENE project on genomics and Dr. Larry Vardiman's study of paleoclimates, including storm patterns during and after the Great Flood.

There have been numerous inquiries into the NCSF, and we are coaching new scientists through the process and evaluating their proposals. All-in-all, this is the beginning of a new and productive day in ICR research. ●

Dr. Morris is President and Director of Research.

ICR EVENTS

JANUARY– FEBRUARY 2009

January 15-18

Tucson, Phoenix & Mesa, AZ –
Genesis Presentations
(Sherwin) Tucson:
520.663.5626,
Phoenix area:
480.610.9090

January 25-30

Arcadia, FL – Creation
Education Vacation
(Parker) 863.494.9558

February 2-3

Mercersburg, PA –
Men's Conference
(J. Morris, Sherwin)
717.597.8127

February 5-6

Galveston, TX –
ACSI Convention

February 7-10

Nashville, TN –
NRB Convention

For more information on these events or to schedule an event, please contact the ICR events department at 800.337.0375 or events@icr.org.

For details regarding the Creation Education Vacation, contact Dr. Gary Parker at 863.494.9558, or visit CreationAdventuresMuseum.org.

Meeting Highlights

ICR Donor Banquet

The Institute for Creation Research held a donor ministry banquet on November 13, 2008, at the Omni Hotel near its Dallas headquarters. The event heralded ICR's new research initiative, the National Creation Science Foundation (NCSF), and it gave attendees the chance to meet in person many members of ICR's leadership and staff.

Among the speakers were Chief Executive Officer Dr. Henry M. Morris III, President Dr. John Morris, ICR National Representative Dr. Randy Guliuzza, long-time Dallas supporter Larry Neighbors, and ICR Special Events Coordinator Lalo Gunther. ICR's Senior Vice President Emeritus Dr. Duane Gish was also on hand to sign copies of his book *Evolution: The Fossils Still Say No!*, in which he presents a strong evidentiary case against evolution.

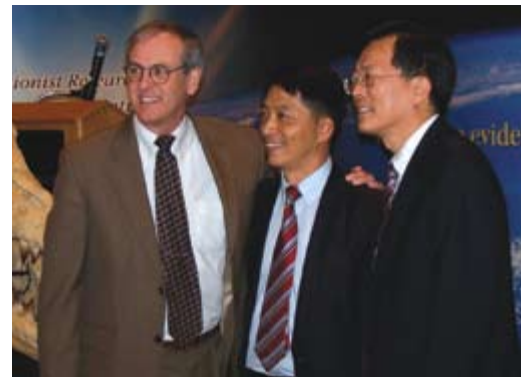
Over 300 guests filled the banquet hall and enjoyed musical and media presentations. Attendees were also among the first to view ICR's newest fossil, a fully articulated Edmontosaurus skeleton excavated near the Two Medicine Formation in Montana. Also

on display were Boris the cave bear skeleton and two pre-historic reptile skulls.

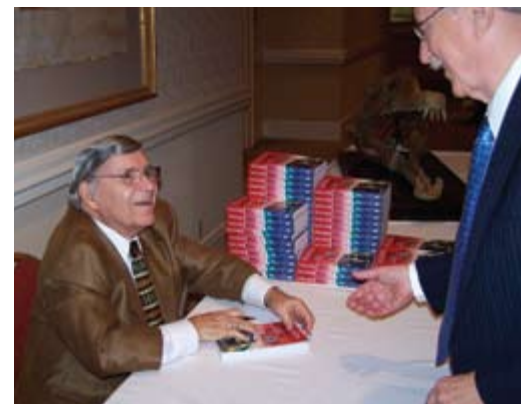
As a gift, attendees received the newly-revised *Some Call It Science*, the last book written by ICR founder Dr. Henry M. Morris. In it, he explains the true nature of evolution's belief system, using evolutionary scientists' own words to debunk the theory's scientific pretensions and reveal the impossibility of such a system ever producing order or life. Evolution is, Dr. Morris shows, a system of faith that is completely contrary to real science and absolutely antithetical to belief in the Creator.

Through this event, a substantial number of people—both those who were able to attend and those who were not—contributed or made financial pledges to the NCSF. The contributions will fund research projects around the world that are dedicated to uncovering the scientific wonders of God's creation and defending the accuracy of God's Word.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, and God bless you for your faithfulness.



ICR President Dr. John Morris greets guests at the Donor Banquet.



Senior Vice President Emeritus Dr. Duane Gish autographs his book *Evolution: The Fossils Still Say No!*



BENJAMIN CARSON:

The Pediatric Neurosurgeon with Gifted Hands

JERRY BERGMAN, P.H.D.

Introduction

Benjamin S. Carson, M.D., one of the world's foremost pediatric neurosurgeons, is professor and chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University Medical School.¹ Born on September 18, 1951, in Detroit to a single mother in a working class neighborhood, Ben showed promise from a young age.² A graduate of Yale and the University of Michigan Medical School, he was rated by a *Time* issue titled "America's Best" as a "super surgeon."³ Dr. Carson was also selected by CNN and *Time* as one of the nation's top 20 physicians and scientists, and by the Library of Congress as one of 89 "living-legends."⁴

Dr. Carson is a leading research scientist. A "voracious reader of the medical and scientific literature" from his graduate school days, he has long been very interested in scientific research and has been very active in this area for his entire career,^{5,6} with over 120 major scientific publications in peer reviewed journals, 38 books and book chapters, and grant awards of almost a million dollars. His achievements have so far earned him 51 honorary doctorates, including from Yale and Columbia Universities.

A Master Surgeon and Scholar

Ben Carson revolutionized his field in several areas, including hemispherectomies

(removal of half of the brain to prevent untreatable severe seizures, such as those caused by Rasmussen's encephalitis). He dramatically increased the safety of the procedure by developing several major surgical innovations, which include better ways of controlling bleeding and infection, as well as an innovative system of incrementally removing specific brain parts as units rather than in whole sections.³

Dr. Carson has also contributed to new techniques used for conjoined twin separation⁷ and accomplished one of the most complex surgical feats in history as the lead surgeon of a team that separated twins joined at the back of the head in a 22-hour-long operation. Known as the doctor who takes cases that no other doctor will risk, Dr. Carson has had outstanding success in spite of this challenge. For example, he has achieved an amazing 80 to 90 percent success rate for difficult-to-treat trigeminal neuralgia.⁸

A Creationist

After Dr. Carson reviewed in detail the evidence for design in nature, he concluded, "I just don't have enough faith to believe" that the living world happened by evolutionary processes.⁹ He added that 150 years after Darwin, there is still no evidence for evolution.

It's just not there. But when you bring that

up to the proponents of Darwinism, the best explanation they can come up with is "Well...uh...it's lost!"...I find it requires too much faith for me to believe that explanation given all the fossils we have found without *any* fossilized evidence of the direct, step-by-step evolutionary progression from simple to complex organisms or from one species to another species. Shrugging and saying, "Well, it was mysteriously lost, and we'll probably never find it," doesn't seem like a particularly satisfying, objective, or scientific response.¹⁰

Carson concluded that the "plausibility of evolution is further strained by Darwin's assertion that within fifty to one hundred years of his time, scientists would become geologically sophisticated enough to find the fossil remains of the entire evolutionary tree in an unequivocal step-by-step progression of life from amoeba to man."¹¹

As a neurosurgeon, he stresses the "factors that contribute to the failure to utilize fully the most amazing God-given resource, our brain, such as peer pressure and political correctness, which often limits our willingness, even as objective scientists, to have thoughtful, rational discussions about evolution versus creationism."⁹ It is even harder for him to accept how so many people who can't explain how evolution can account for all life claim that it is a fact, while at the same time "insisting anyone

“Evolution and creationism both require faith. It’s just a matter of where you choose to place that faith.”

who wants to consider or discuss creationism as a possibility cannot be a real scientist.”¹⁰

Taking the Risk

In Dr Carson’s latest best-selling book, *Take the Risk*, he discusses the need to balance the risks and benefits of any activity that one considers undertaking. For example, although Dr. Carson has addressed students and general audiences hundreds of times, he took a big risk to explain his creation views as the keynote speaker at the National Science Teachers convention in Philadelphia. He told the science teachers that “evolution and creationism both require faith. It’s just a matter of where you choose to place that faith.”

I find it as hard to accept the claims of evolution as it is to think that a hurricane blowing through a junkyard could somehow assemble a fully equipped and flight-ready 747...Which is why not one of us has ever doubted that a 747, by its very existence, gives convincing evidence of someone’s intelligent design.¹²

He then stressed the fact that the human body and brain are “immeasurably more complex, more versatile, more amazing in a gazillion ways than any airplane man has ever created.” In short, only an intelligent creator explains “how such a complex, intelligently designed universe could come into existence.”¹³

Talking to 15,000 science teachers about evolution and creation was a challenge, yet the most formidable audience Dr. Carson has ever faced was the ultra-prestigious Academy of Achievement, which invited him to be part of a panel discussion on “Faith and Science” during its annual International Summit. Dr. Carson writes that the membership was so imposing he had to ask himself whether he really wanted to discuss his spiritual beliefs in front of an organization that included every living former president of the United States, “along with numerous other heads of states and Nobel Peace Prize recipients.”

My years of membership in the Academy had provided some wonderful experienc-

es, and I had made a lot of friends whose opinions, goodwill, and respect still matter to me. But did I want to risk all that to share honestly with them my views on faith and science?¹⁴

He felt that the stakes were higher this time than in all of his previous lectures because of the possibility of embarrassing himself in front of numerous Nobel scientists.

Still, the same positive potential—the chance that this opportunity could open objective discussion and might help others find the courage to talk about what they truly believe—also seemed like a better *best*. That wasn’t...because I thought anything I said would change the thinking of the Academy’s distinguished members, but because we invite as guests to our summit each year three hundred or so of the next generation’s best and brightest (Rhodes Scholars, Fullbright Scholars, White House Fellows, and the like).¹⁴

The experience proved to be both very challenging and rewarding. One reason was that the noted paleoanthropologist Dr. Donald Johanson was one of the other panelists.

[Johanson] is famous for his claims that the fossilized specimen he discovered in Africa named “Lucy” represented an extinct species from which the human race descended. In the course of our discussion, he made...a condescending remark when he asserted that “true scientists” base everything they do and decide upon facts, unlike those people who choose to depend on God. So when it was my turn to speak, I made the point that “true scientists” often overlook many, many gaps in what they purport to be fact...when in reality some of their own theories require a great deal of faith to accept.¹⁵

The paleoanthropologist responded by jumping out of his chair and rudely interrupting Dr. Carson, who calmly responded by noting that he was

“only making a general observation based on my experience. But if the shoe fits . . .” Laughter rolled through the audience before I went on to say that religion and science both require faith, that the two

disciplines don’t always have to be mutually exclusive, that people have to choose where to put their faith, and that choice doesn’t make you superior to those who believe differently.¹⁵

Dr. Johanson’s arrogance was apparent in view of the fact that we know “next to nothing about” how the *living* brain actually works, not to mention that of our putative evolutionary ancestors.⁸ Dr. Carson concluded that the most affirming responses came from the graduate students who thanked him for his presentation. One scholar from Oxford even told him that, although an atheist, after hearing Dr. Carson’s talk he is now seriously rethinking his atheism. Carson concluded, “That seemed reasonable enough to risk *talking* about faith.”¹⁶

Conclusion

Ben Carson, one of the most respected and successful neurosurgeons in the world today, is a creationist who is not afraid of openly voicing his conclusions to august audiences the world over. Called the man with gifted hands for his surgical skill, his example of overcoming poverty to become a leading scholar and scientist has inspired millions.⁶ His openness about creation may inspire millions as well. ●

Note: I wish to thank Dr. Ben Carson for reviewing and correcting an earlier draft of this paper.

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Dr. Bergman is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Toledo Medical School in Ohio.



The Wax That Taxes Darwin

People are able to groom themselves in a way so as to keep external parasites (fleas, ticks) and other irritants at bay. But what about the inaccessible recesses of the ear, with its delicate eardrum? This auditory canal must be open to the world in order to take in sounds, but that means it is also vulnerable to potential pathogens. Thankfully, the Creator has provided a remarkable defense against the tiny invaders that occasionally find their way in.

Although the subject of earwax is likely to be off-putting to many, it nonetheless shows God's very intelligent design. Like all bodily functions and secretions, there is a very important purpose to this waxy, brownish-yellow substance called *cerumen*, produced by approximately 4,000 glandular cells. Indeed, two researchers said recently, "Cell secretion is an important physiological process that ensures smooth metabolic activities, tissue repair and growth and immunological functions in the body."¹ Earwax is far from being just a sticky secretion to eradicate. On the contrary, it is a highly complex substance that is designed to attract foreign debris and that contains antimicrobial proteins, squalene, long-chain fatty acids, and peptides (molecules consisting of two or more amino acids).

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.

Earwax protects the ear by trapping dust particles, bacteria, fungal spores, sand, and dirt, preventing them from entering inner recesses and possibly damaging the ear. If they do gain a "foothold," disease-causing microorganisms (e.g., *E. coli*) are subject to a veritable smorgasbord of defensive compounds such as lactoferrin, beta-defensin-1, cathelicidin, beta-defensin-2, lysozyme, MUC1 and secretory component of IgA (a major class of antibody) found in the cerumen.² These are highly complex compounds that defy a naturalistic origin explanation. But not only does earwax attract and trap debris—its bitterness also repels insects, mites, and other creatures.

Still, most people see this sticky substance as something to purge from the ear canal or risk social exclusion. They invite serious auditory damage by inserting a potpourri of probes into the restricted passage, including toothpicks, Q-tips, car keys, and the like. But there is a purpose to earwax, as there is for all the secretions, tissues, and organs of

the designed human body (Genesis 1:26-27).

This is also true when it comes to the auditory canal leading to the eardrum. As skin cells age, they cornify (convert to keratin) and are sloughed off. God designed the old, keratinized skin cells of the ear canal to peel off in a "c" shape—unlike the flattened skin cells on the rest of the body—so they will either literally roll out of the auditory canal (termed "epithelial migration") aided by the movement of the jaw, or will more easily become trapped in the cerumen.

Did the earwax produced by ceruminous cells and the complex antimicrobial molecules within the secretion, along with the unique manner in which old squamous cells slough off, come about through time, chance, and natural processes? Or was it by the purpose and plan of an all-wise Creator?³ ●

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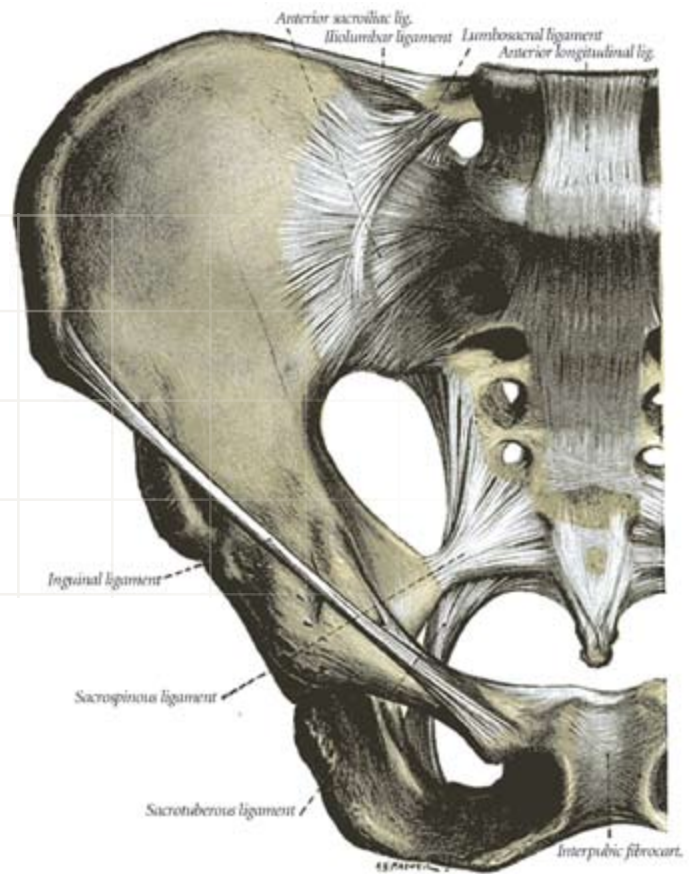
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Mr. Sherwin is Senior Science Lecturer.



Biological Belts

BRIAN THOMAS, M.S.



Reinforcing strap structures are found throughout the living world, holding critical biological systems together. Consider human hip structure. The pelvic girdle is comprised of the strongly interconnected bones ilium, ischium, and sacrum. These are gathered into a hoop that serves as the ideal anchoring structure for the thoracic trunk to the legs. During walking or running, more than the weight of the whole body is distributed over the breadth of this biological belt. Specific ligaments and tendons attach to points on the pelvic girdle, making bipedal locomotion not just operable, but efficient.

The cardiac muscle fibers (contractile tissues of the human heart) are connected to a tough, fibrous, protein-rich belt that is shaped in a curled figure eight, wrapped around the heart for precise muscle attachments. Coordinated to the timing of the wavelike contraction pulse, the size, strength, shape, and placement of the heart's belt together produce smooth, consistent blood flow. Without its belt, this organ would be a quivering muscular blob, incapable of maintaining blood circulation. If the belt were made of more rigid material like cartilage or bone, the heart would tear itself apart after years of pumping and abrading against such a stiff structure.

Certain cells are anchored tightly to one another with rows of protein "buttons" that form criss-crossing belts called "tight junctions." These serve to isolate specific membrane proteins to critical regions, as well as force outside substances to enter the cell bodies instead of leaking between the cells. Without tight junctions, our brain, testes, kidneys, and intestines would not function.

A new belt has just been discovered, the smallest yet.¹ Bacterial cell walls are held together by proteins connected to tough sugar molecules. Visualized for the first time by high-resolution cryotomography, the lead author of the recent study commented to the media, "What we saw were long skinny tubes wrapping around the bag [bacterial cell wall] like the ribs of a person or a belt around the waist."²

Biological belts can be observed forming according to biological instructions and machinery, but they have objectively discernible features that demand a more adequate causative explanation than just "natural processes." In many cases, they are part of irreducibly complex systems.

Removing just one breaks both its own system and the other systems that depend on it. Gradual, bit-by-bit accretion of parts could not have formed these belts, because there is no known mechanism that preserves, let alone adds to, such partially formed, effectively inoperative systems.

Many naturalists insist that because operational science works by observation and experimentation, origins science must also employ the same techniques. However, a broader suite of techniques is routinely and appropriately used in the scientific study of past events, as is portrayed on popular forensics television shows. Repeatable, empirical tests can answer the question "How does this biological belt work?" but forensic inferences are required to answer the question "How did the first of this kind of biological belt originate?" The *operations* of biological processes are the effects of preceding natural causes. But this does not also demand natural causes for the *origin* of irreducibly complex structures. In fact, since natural processes cannot adequately justify their existence, a supernatural cause is by far the most reasonable.

The parts of the first pelvic girdle, heart, tight junctions, and bacterial cell walls must have been formed at the same time, even as Psalm 33:9 states: "For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." Any substandard versions of these belts would render their whole organism immobile or dead. These and many other biological belts must have been instantly emplaced in the beginning, just as Genesis describes. ●

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Mr. Thomas is Science Writer.





Examining the complexities
of the human body

Human Reproduction

RANDY J. GULIUZZA, P.E., M.D.

A new life is started the moment a human sperm cell unites with a human egg. Sounds simple, doesn't it? A person can decide for himself, but he will need to follow along very closely to catch all of the details and carefully piece them together, just as he would follow a skillful mystery.

The voyage of a single sperm cell from production to fertilization begins with rapidly

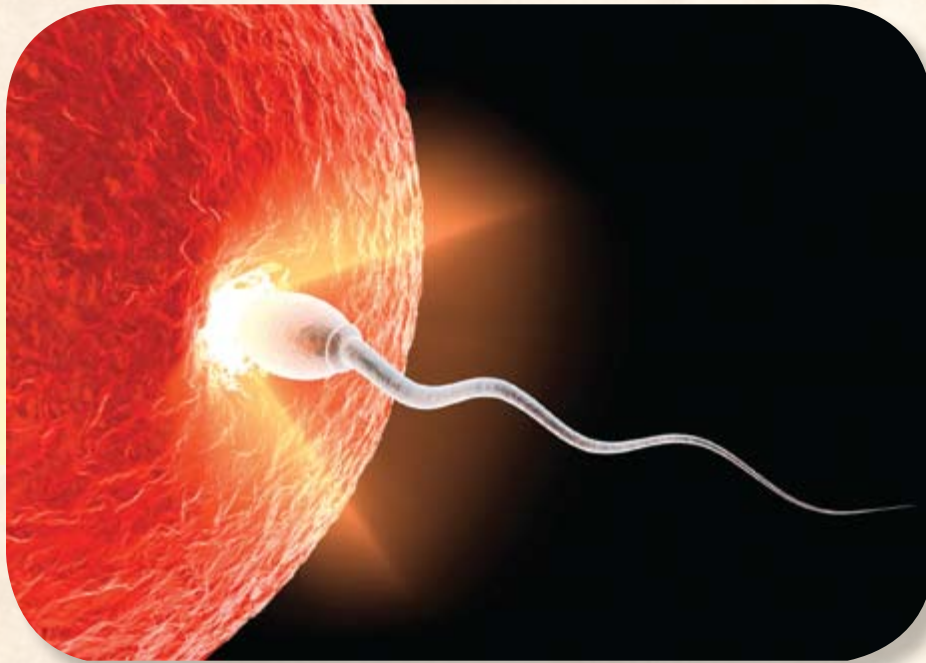
that will be expressed by the new person. The genetic combination in the newly-fertilized egg will be totally unlike that of any person who has ever lived before or ever will be born afterwards—truly resulting in an absolutely unique individual.

The sperm starts out as a round, immobile cell. It is surrounded by other cells in the testis called Sertoli cells, which function only to

the membranes around other cells—is made by Sertoli cells at the newly-developed head of the sperm and sealed in a protective coat.

A high concentration of the male hormone testosterone in the testes is essential to make normal sperm. Where does it come from? Far from the testes, the brain's hypothalamus will release "gonadotropin-releasing hormone," which stimulates the pituitary gland to release "follicle-stimulating hormone" and "lutening hormone." These make their way via the blood stream to the testes. Lutening hormone stimulates other cells in the testes called "Leydig cells" to manufacture prodigious amounts of testosterone. Follicle-stimulating hormone now causes the Sertoli cells to produce "androgen-binding proteins" that will bind the testosterone produced in Leydig cells and concentrate it inside, where it will have its effect on the developing sperm. As the testosterone level increases, it also circulates throughout the body. When the correct concentration of testosterone (along with a concentration of the hormone "inhibin," which is made in Sertoli cells) circulates back to the hypothalamus and pituitary gland of the brain, these structures are signaled to stop secreting their hormones. Without this stimulus, Leydig cells decrease production of testosterone until the circulating concentration drops to a level that will trigger the cycle to start all over again—keeping it in perfect balance.

Recall how the sperm are being kept from contact with the blood. They are locked behind very tight junctions between Sertoli cells that make a collective configuration called the "blood-testis barrier." Why? A male does not begin producing sperm until puberty, and the markers on the new sperm cells have not been programmed into his immune system. The male's immune system is programmed to recognize specific combinations of protein markers on the outside of his cells as belonging to his own body—but that programming takes



dividing cells within a testis called spermatogonia. These divisions are crucial to place in the sperm cell 23 chromosomes—exactly half the number within normal human cells. When the sperm fuses with the egg, which also has undergone divisions within the mother's ovary, the full complement of 46 chromosomes will be present. However, cellular mechanisms allow slight variations in the information contained on certain portions of the chromosomes to be shuffled during the divisions. This feature ensures that each sperm and egg carry the correct information to make a normal human, but each is different as to the exact traits

transform the sperm cell into a lean swimming machine that is capable of carrying its genetic cargo to the egg. Sertoli cells transfer nutrients to the developing sperm from the blood stream, since at this point in development the sperm must not be in contact with blood. Large amounts of cellular fluid within the sperm, called cytoplasm, are also removed by the Sertoli cells, and internal cellular components are precisely rearranged so that the sperm begins to take on the shape of a long and slender cell with a whip-like tail. An important structure, the "acrosomal body," that will eventually develop highly erosive enzymes—able to dissolve

The genetic combination in the newly-fertilized egg will be totally unlike that of any person who has ever lived before or ever will be born afterwards—truly resulting in an absolutely unique individual.

place while he is still in his mother's womb. Were it not for this barrier, sperm cells would be recognized as foreign cells by the male's own immune system and destroyed, rendering the male sterile. If the junction between Sertoli cells is broken, such as what happens when the testes become inflamed during an infection with Mumps virus, antibodies can make their way from the blood stream past the barrier and destroy the developing sperm.

Sperm placed inside a woman find themselves in a very hostile environment, with features that either destroy microscopic entities or block entrance into her body. The normal vaginal environment is very acidic (pH 3.5), which suppresses dangerous bacterial overgrowth but also kills sperm. Fluids produced by the male seminal vesicles are part of the semen and temporarily neutralize (pH 7.5) the acid. The neutral environment then activates the sperm. A thick sticky mucus plug also blocks the small cervical opening into the uterus. However, another product of semen called prostaglandins causes this mucus to become more liquid-like. Not coincidentally, the mucus may also have been made even thinner by an estrogen surge in the woman around the time she ovulates an egg. Now sperm are able to swim through the mucus into the uterus—all the while converting substances in the mucus to energy.

The uterus is protected by millions of cells of the woman's immune system that kill microscopic invaders. This obstacle is overcome by substances in the semen that have local, but very broad spectrum, immunosuppressive effects that blunt her immune response in the area of the semen. This may leave the woman vulnerable to infection, but another substance in semen, "seminalplasmin," can kill bacteria and has a protective effect. Normally,

coordinated movements of mobile hair-like projections called cilia on some cells lining the uterus, coupled with slight rhythmic contractions of the uterus, produce a defensive fluid current that pushes things out of the uterus—which would be impossible for the sperm to swim against. Yet another product of semen after making contact with the uterus causes these coordinated actions of the woman's uterus to reverse direction and pull the semen and sperm up into the uterus and assist the sperm on its journey.

Surprisingly, freshly-deposited sperm are incapable of fertilizing an egg. Many fea-

Surprisingly, freshly-deposited sperm are incapable of fertilizing an egg. Many features of the sperm are changed by substances that are made within the female reproductive tract.

tures of the sperm are changed by substances that are made within the female reproductive tract. Remember the sperm's acrosomal body discussed earlier? One of the most important changes, known as "capacitation," is when uterine secretions remove glycoproteins from the protective coat of the acrosome. This allows the erosive enzymes from many sperm (after contacting the egg) to break down a protective coat of cells around the egg and expose its cell membrane so that yet another sperm can make its way to the egg for fertilization. This elaborate coordination between female secretions and male sperm is protective for the male, since without the protective coat around the acrosome, high concentrations of sperm in a man's body could destroy the function of his reproductive organs if the erosive enzymes were released prematurely.

The acrosome is coated with the protein

"bindin" that will adhere only to special species-specific receptors on the egg, ensuring that only sperm from the same species can fertilize the egg. In less than a second after the sperm's contact, many channels in the egg's membrane open, allowing an inrush of positively-charged sodium ions. This creates an electrical charge across the outer surface of the egg that blocks other sperm from fertilizing it and inactivates all remaining "bindin" receptors on the egg. Concurrently, substances just inside the egg's cell membrane are released that bind up water molecules and cause the membrane to swell up to permanently detach any remaining sperm on the outside. These blocks prevent entrance of genetic material from any other sperm into the egg, which would be fatal to baby and may also be to mother. Once united, tube-like structures in the egg rapidly build and then project from the egg and pull the nucleus of the sperm into the egg—the first cell of a new person.

Amazing? Actually, the detail could go far beyond this simple description. As seen, the level of coordinated interaction to get any viable offspring exceeds the cellular level, extends past the reproductive system, pulls in the neurologic, hormonal, and circulatory systems, and demands substances that are produced independently by the male to modify the actions of the female body or the materials made by her—and vice versa. Evolutionary literature is rife with speculative stories about the origination of these processes, but devoid of any real scientific evidence to explain them. The only viable explanation is that these processes were placed by the Lord Jesus in the first parents, Adam and Eve, fully functional right from the beginning. ●

Dr. Guliuzza is ICR's National Representative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



As a high school biology teacher, I want to thank you for the ICR website. During my Evolution, I.D., and Creation Science unit, one of my assignments is to have my sophomore to senior students peruse the ICR website. They must select an article, print it, summarize it and share their thoughts. A few times, they have emailed questions to your staff. EACH TIME, they have received a quick reply. I am so thankful for this!

— C.H.

I'm writing to you now to tell you what an *outstanding* issue the November 2008 issue is. It's a real keepsake! Every article is *great*, but especially "Complex Plant Systems" and "Life in the Letters."

— H.H.M.

The information on *Science, Scripture & Salvation* is so incredible! I listen every week.

— J.S.

My wife and I just want to thank you for your ministry. We love your devotion to God's Word. Please never give up the fight. I know you face tremendous challenges in this world. Your faithfulness has been a great encouragement to us, and the *Days of Praise* we receive via email is a great blessing.

— B.&L.T.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has earned an award, for clinging so courageously and faithfully to the imaginary structure of evolution. The award is named "Academic Idiocy" and is coveted by all true evolutionists. Those poor souls do not realize they're in a battle, and on the wrong side. Enclosed [is] a check, very small, but on the winning side....I gave my copy of *The Long War Against God* to a fellow warrior. He is only 25, and I am only 96, and we're both aware of the fight we're in.

— M.C.W.

We love your magazine! And more recently, the Man of Science, Man of God articles....When we do our Science detective, we would like to learn more and the articles do that! I even save them out in a page protector and put them in our science file.

— I.F.

Editor's Note: Look for the new book about the men of science by Christine Dao, *Thinking God's Thoughts After Him: Great Scientists Who Honored the Creator*. Please see the ad on page 18 for more details.

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org. Or write to Editor, P. O. Box 59029, Dallas, Texas 75229.



This month on "Science, Scripture, & Salvation"

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 3

Did God Use Evolution to Create?

Because miracles are hard to understand, many people do not accept that God created everything in six ordinary days. Instead, they believe that God used evolution to create. But why would an all-powerful God need the process of evolution? Don't miss this eye-opening discussion!

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 10

Origins Controversy

Were we created or did we just accidentally get here? That is the question that has fueled the fire of the origins debate. But if opposing scientists see the *same* evidence, why the controversy? Tune in this week to discover the answer!

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 17

Victims of the Wrong Choice

Mankind is God's supreme creation, made in the Creator's own image, with souls that will exist forever. Why, then, does society place so little value on human life, destroying many children before they are born? Are their mothers also victims of society's disregard for the sanctity of life? This week we'll focus on abortion's victims of the wrong choice.

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 24

The Case of Roe vs. Wade

This month marks the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand. Why did seven justices pronounce a death sentence on millions of unborn children? Was history repeating itself? Join us as we discuss the evolutionary mindset behind two Supreme Court decisions that yielded serious nationwide consequences.

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 31

The Good Design of Natural Selection

For many Christians, "natural selection" is a negative term—not surprising, when you consider how it has been equated with the concept of evolution. But as creationists, can we deny something that is observed in nature? Listen in as we discuss natural selection and how it is powerful evidence *against* evolution!

To find out which radio stations in your city air our programs, visit our website at www.icr.org. On the Radio page, use the station locator to determine where you can hear our broadcasts in your area. You can also listen to current and past *Science, Scripture & Salvation* programs online, so check us out!

...“wait upon the Lord” (Isaiah 40:31)
to “supply all your need” (Philippians 4:19).

All Your Need, Version 2009

HENRY M. MORRIS IV

I am often asked about ICR’s current needs. With great joy, I have shared the many opportunities the Lord has opened for us. But while our agenda is positively bursting with new initiatives, we remain true to our founder’s vision to “wait upon the Lord” (Isaiah 40:31) to “supply all your need” (Philippians 4:19). As such, ICR will not proceed with any project until our Creator provides the resources to see it to fruition.

As we begin a new year, three issues have “risen to the top,” either due to their potential to impact the cause for Christ or their need for improvements. We offer them here with our earnest request for your prayers and support as the Spirit leads.

National Creation Science Foundation (NCSF)

For nearly 40 years, ICR has conducted scientific research mainly through the work of on-site scientists, consultants, and support staff. While our research has been incredibly fruitful, its scope and extent have been limited by our capacity to take on new projects. Not enough can be said about the sheer potential of the new NCSF to foster innovative research. Under the direction of Dr. John Morris and assisted by Dr. Charles McCombs, ICR seeks to fund worthy projects, with the prayerful goal of accelerating the discovery process to our Lord’s ultimate glory.

As far as we know, the NCSF is the only foundation in existence dedicated to creation science research. We are off to a good start—almost \$175,000 has been raised, but nearly all of it is earmarked for current programs. Project costs can range from just a few thousand dollars to several million, and future research will only be funded as proceeds become available. If you have a passion for creation science and wish to directly impact ongoing research, the NCSF is just the thing for you.

Graduate School

Since 1981, the ICR Graduate School has provided science training within a completely biblical perspective. The program has moved to an online format, and early results indicate this new environment will promote growth in the years ahead. After relocating to Dallas, ICR applied to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to grant degrees in Texas, but after approval by a THECB-appointed Site Team and the THECB Advisory Committee, the application was ultimately denied.

ICR appealed the decision and is currently following the administrative process outlined in state law. The school continues to operate under its California-based license while we pursue the appeal, represented by Jim Johnson, ICR’s Special Counsel and confirmation of God’s promise to provide “a very present help”

(Psalm 46:1). Expenses for the appeal process are unknown, but could run upwards of several hundred thousand dollars. ICR would be grateful for any support provided, but above all, we covet your prayers for wisdom and a clean testimony to represent our Creator well.

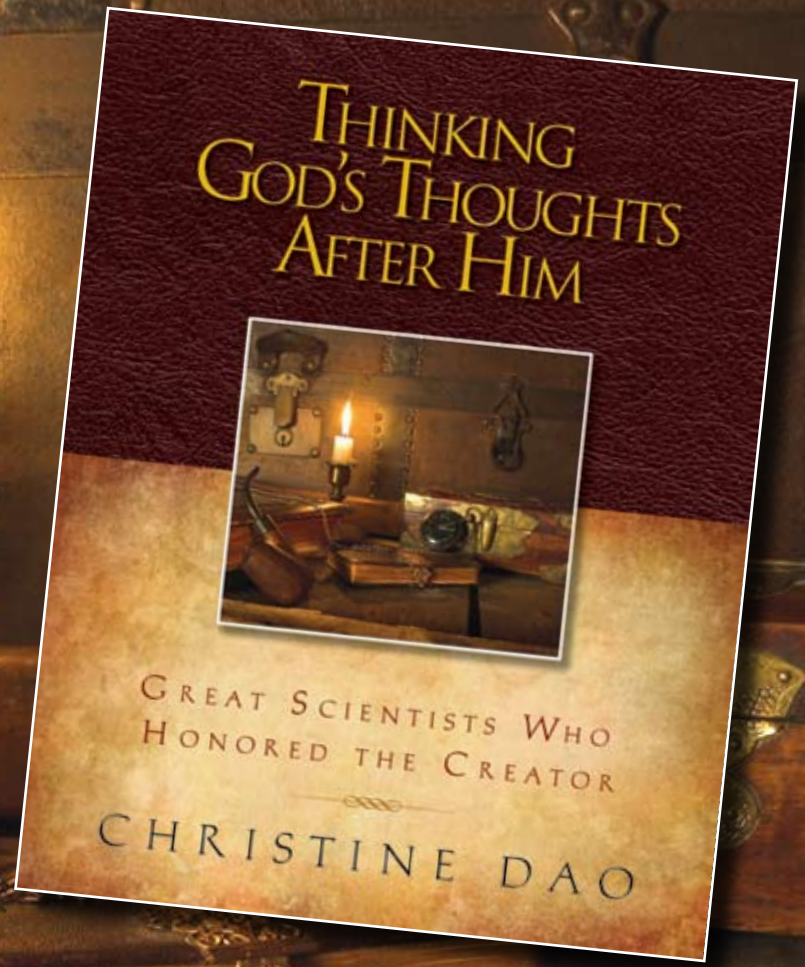
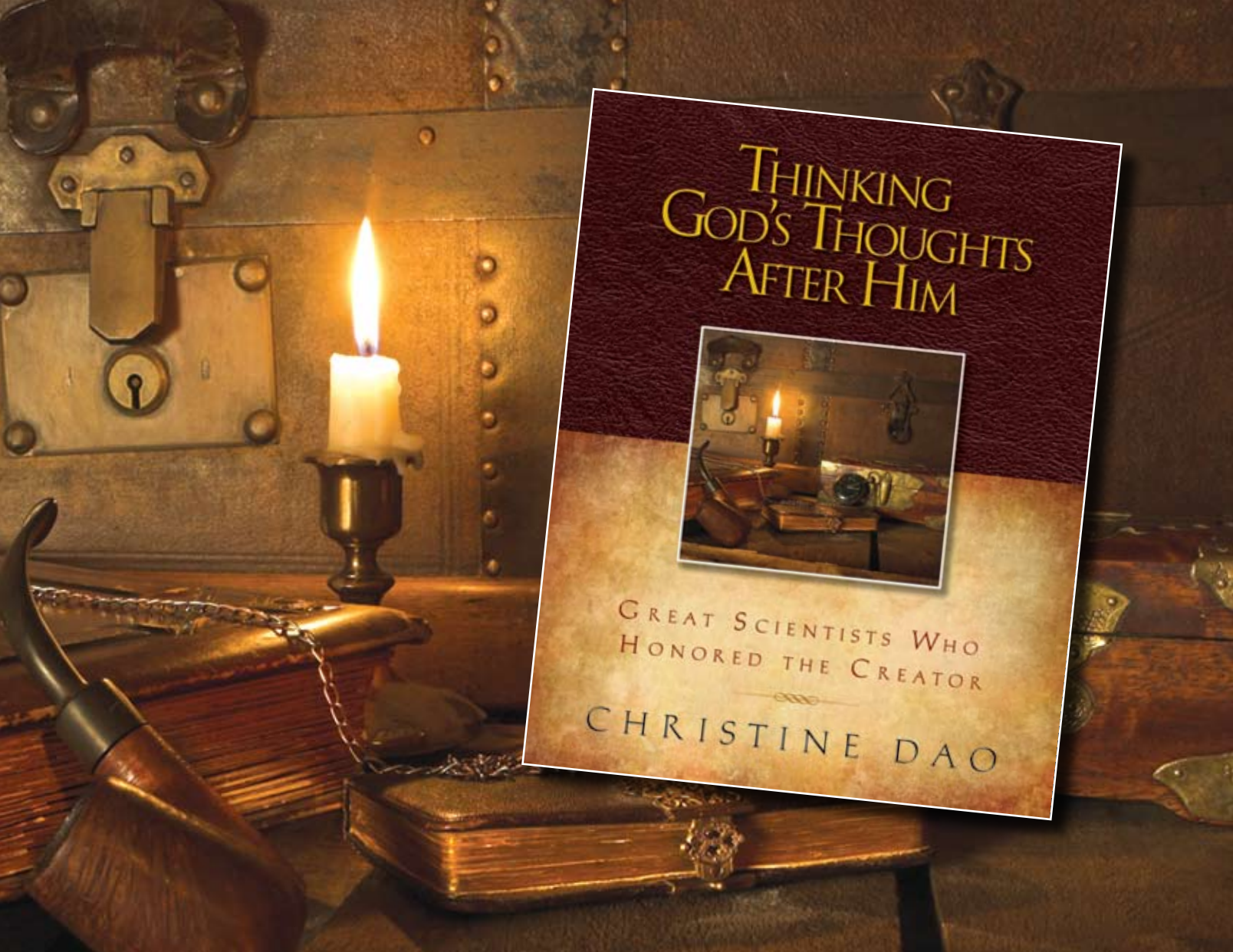
ICR Radio

Since our first broadcast from a single radio station in 1972, to now nearly 1,600 outlets across the globe, ICR’s radio ministry has reached countless multitudes with the scientific truths of biblical creation. But after years of fruitful service, our radio equipment is badly in need of replacement. Our radio staff has done wonders, but it is now clear they cannot carry on much longer without major upgrades in all areas.

We have the opportunity to build a functional studio on our Dallas campus, but we need help to purchase the necessary tools to continue this vital outreach program. Our best estimates indicate \$150,000 would be needed to cover the entire project cost, from equipment purchases to studio construction. If ICR’s radio programs have ministered to you, we invite your help to see them continue. ●

Mr. Morris is Director of Donor Relations.





THINKING GOD'S THOUGHTS AFTER HIM

GREAT SCIENTISTS WHO HONORED THE CREATOR

Ever wonder if the great scientists in history believed in God? The media today would have us think that “real” science can only be done from a “naturalistic” viewpoint. Real scientists are supposedly modeled by pontificates like Richard Dawkins, Steven Jay Gould, and Carl Sagan—all of whom deny the very existence of God. However, history tells a different story.

Well-researched and vividly presented, *Thinking God's Thoughts After Him* by Christine Dao unveils what the founding fathers of science believed about God as Creator. Explore the lives and accomplishments of these men of science who also were devoted followers of God. Can a great scientist be a great Christian? Absolutely. Read what they themselves testify about God and creation.

Included in this beautiful full-color presentation are the stories of Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Faraday, Pasteur, and many more who changed the world with their brilliant scientific achievements, but who also unashamedly declared their dependence on and allegiance to God, the Creator. While today's science establishment seeks to disavow the existence of God, Creator, or Designer, those great men of science humbly acknowledged both Creator and Lord. *Thinking God's Thoughts After Him* will give you a fresh reminder of what real science is all about.

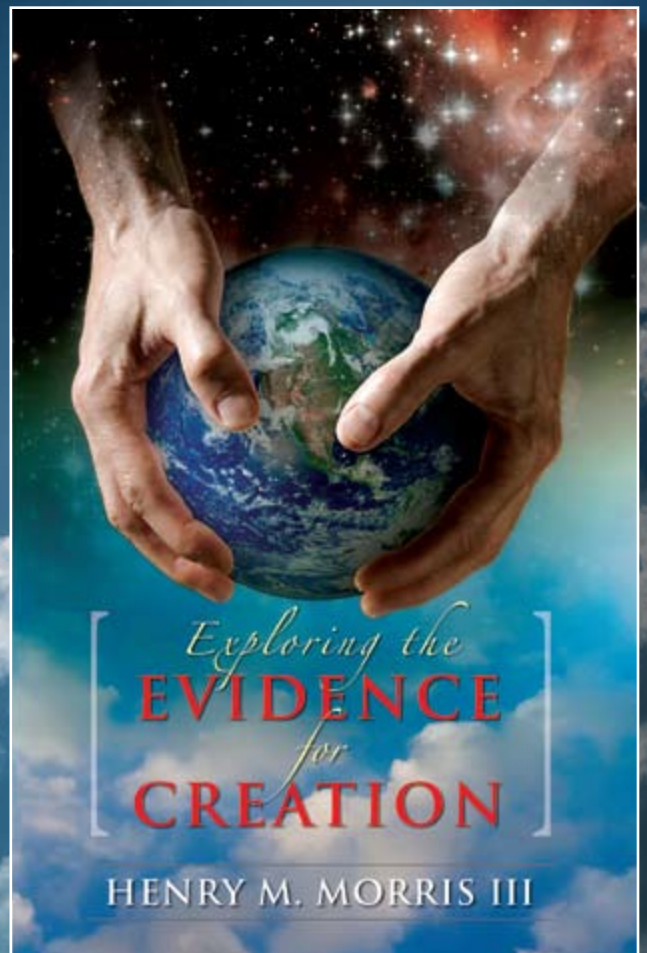
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- Is there really absolute truth? Can we even know how to recognize unchangeable truth? Are we obligated to abide by truth or is it meant to be adjusted for our circumstances?
- Nature is beautiful, but does it actually reveal anything important? Can we know truth through nature? Can we discover God when we look around us?
- The discoveries of science are supposed to be based on observable data, on evidence that cannot be denied. Is there real evidence that God created the world in just six days only thousands of years ago? Why is there so much controversy in science about how the world began and developed? Can we really believe in God as Creator and still be true to science?
- The Bible claims to be the book of God written for the people God created. Is it understandable? Is it accurate? And if so, is it authoritative? What is the evidence in the Scriptures that demands my belief in a Creator, and in a Savior?



Find the answers to these and many more questions in *Exploring the Evidence for Creation*, a powerful new book by Henry Morris III. Discover the evidence about creation and its Creator, about science and Scripture. And about truth, and who can know it. Follow the evidence where it leads.

Many scientists today approach their work already predisposed to reject certain evidences that clearly point to a Creator or Designer. Sadly, many Christians have abdicated their understanding of the bedrock doctrines based on what these naturalistic science “experts” report. *Exploring the Evidence for Creation* cuts through the arguments and lays out the evidence that is rational, scientific, and biblically-based.

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