

Acts & Facts



INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION RESEARCH

Facts
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RUSSIA ACKNOWLEDGES 2000 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY



Photo by Lolly Gish

As far as we know, Russia is the only country in the world to sponsor special activities recognizing 2000 years of Christianity. One of these activities was a conference held in Moscow, March 23–25, entitled “Christianity and Education.” Prominent educators and scientists from several countries and Russia participated in the conference. These included Dr. Duane Gish of ICR, Dr. Robert Beckett of Northern Ireland, Dr. David Rosevear of England, Dr. Paul Kienel, for many years the president of the Association of Christian Schools International, and Roger Oakland representing Canada. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Russian Ministry of Education and the

Kindness Foundation, a Russian Christian organization establishing Christian resource centers in Russia.

Dr. Olga Polykovskaya-Lutsenko, formerly Chief Specialist in the Russian Ministry of Education is president of the Kindness Foundation. She and her husband, Fred Lutsenko, helped, along with officials in the Ministry of Education, in arranging the conference. The purpose of the conference was to explore the importance and relationship of Christianity to education. As well as the attendees from other countries, educators and Christians from Russia participated in the conference.

The keynote speaker was Professor Dr. Nikolai D. Nikandrow, President of the

Russian Academy of Education. Chairman of the conference was Dr. Valeri Polyakov, Vice President of the Academy of Education. Dr. Paul Kienel described what he believed to be the role of Christianity in true education. Drs. Beckett, Rosevear, and Gish, and Roger Oakland each emphasized the importance of teaching Russian students the alternative of theistic, supernatural creation along with the non-theistic mechanistic theory of evolution.



Creation in a Russian Classroom

Each briefly described from their particular fields of science the scientific evidence that provides powerful, positive evidence for creation.

It is hoped that this conference will encourage educators and Russian authorities to carry out the goals expressed following a conference held several years earlier. At that time, Dr. Gish, Roger Oakland, and Ian Taylor met with Dr. Alexander Osmolov, a Deputy Minister of Education, Dr. Alexei Brudnov, Director of Supplementary Education, and Dr. Olga Polyskovskaya, Chief Specialist. Dr. Osmolov expressed their desire to end indoctrination of students and to teach alternatives, including creation, to restore a moral and ethical code in their schools, and to restore the students to their parents. It might be noted that these goals seem to be exactly the opposite to those supported by educational authorities in the United States. ☼

Radio Log

The complexity of the human body shows unequivocal evidence for design by our Creator. Please join us for our newest eight-part series, “The Human Body & the Creator” beginning June 10.

June’s “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”:

Weekend of:	Title/Topic:
June 3	“Language Sets Us Apart”
June 10	“Design of the Human Brain”
June 17	“Design of the Human Eye”
June 24	“Design of the Human Ear”

Evolutionists have a hard time explaining the origin of human language. Did languages evolve or were they always a complex form of communication designed by an infinitely complex Creator? Tune in!

Understanding the human brain is nothing short of mind-boggling! Did it evolve into the awesome thinking machine of today—or was it designed? Join us!

The human eye is more intricate and complicated than the most advanced camera. Does it provide evidence of being designed by our Creator? Look and see!

The human ear is capable of detecting changes in sound over a dynamic range. Was this incredible sensitivity to sound really brought about by years of mutations? Listen up! ☼

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To disseminate articles and information of current interest dealing with creation, evolution, and related topics. Sent free upon request.

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DR. VARDIMAN RE-ELECTED TO TRACS COMMISSION

Dr. Russell Fitzgerald, Executive Director of the Transnational Association of Colleges and Schools (TRACS) announced in April that Dr. Larry Vardiman, Administrative Vice President of ICR, has been re-elected to a fourth term as Commissioner by the presidents of the accredited member institutions.

TRACS is a national, Christian accrediting association headquartered in Forest, Virginia, which currently evaluates about 20 accredited colleges and 15 candidate colleges. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and has been authorized to apply for recognition by CHEA, a private educational association of regional and national accrediting agencies.

Accredited status ensures potential students of the school's academic excellence and renewal soundness. Other schools often use accreditation as the basis for acceptance of transfer credits.

The ICR Graduate School is an accredited member of TRACS. Dr. Henry M. Morris, President Emeritus of ICR, was one of the founders of TRACS in 1979 and a longtime commissioner.

Dr. Vardiman has been active in TRACS since 1989, helping evaluate candidate colleges as a member and chair of a dozen or more visiting teams. He has also chaired several self-study teams from Christian Heritage College and ICR which prepared for accreditation visits by TRACS and WASC, a regional accrediting association. Dr. Vardiman has contributed directly to TRACS by drafting some of its policy manuals and participating in the efforts to gain recognition of TRACS by the US Department of Education. In this new term he will continue his current role as Commissioner which evaluates and votes on the status of TRACS' member and candidate institutions. ❁



Wichita, Kansas

Drs. Paul Ackerman, Professor of Psychology at Wichita State University, and Dr. Duane Gish were the speakers at a creation science seminar in the facilities of the Rio Rancho High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 3 and 4. Dr. Ackerman described the basic issue and the real actions taken by the Kansas State Board of Education to somewhat limit the powerful domination of evolution in Kansas schools. He explained that, contrary to charges by evolutionists, the Board did not remove evolution from the curriculum nor did they suggest that creation be taught. Dr. Gish presented evidence for creation from evidence for design, the fossil record, and the laws of thermodynamics.

Omaha, Nebraska

Dr. Duane Gish was the Staley Foundation lecturer at Grace University of Omaha, March 14 and 15. He spoke twice at chapel meetings, in two classes, and gave an evening lecture open to the public. Dr. Stanley Udd had arranged this lecture series.

Boone, North Carolina

Dr. Duane Gish and Professor Frank Sherwin were the speakers at the creation seminar March 31 to May 1, held at the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church (Rev. Alan Blume, pastor). Pastor Blume had made considerable efforts to arrange a debate between Dr. Gish and evolutionists of the local Appalachian State University, but not one evolutionist was willing to participate.

Leawood, Kansas

Dr. Duane Gish spoke at three morning services of the First Family Church of Leawood on Sunday, April 9. That afternoon, he participated, along with Linda Holloway, in a meeting discussing the ac-

tion of the Board of Education of the State of Kansas relative to the way the theory of evolution is to be taught in Kansas schools. Mrs. Holloway is one of the six members of the Board that voted as a majority in modifying the recommendations of evolutionists presented to the Board. She described precisely the action taken by the Board and why such action was taken.

This action infuriated evolutionists even though evolution can still be taught and no mention of creation was included. Dr. Gish emphasized that even evolutionists have acknowledged that the scientific evidence for creation can be taught in pub-

lic schools. He briefly summarized the scientific evidence for creation. That evening Dr. Gish debated Dr. Fred Whitehead of the University of Kansas Medical School (described elsewhere).

Santee, California

Dr. Henry Morris spoke at the midweek service of the Sunrise (Baptist) Church on April 27. This church has experienced phenomenal growth since its recent move to Santee, with over 4000 attending its Easter worship service.

The over 400 in attendance at the midweek service responded enthusiastically to Dr. Morris' message on "Creation Evangelism." ❀



ORIGINS ISSUES

ANIMAL RIGHTS . . . AND WRONGS

BY FRANK SHERWIN

The lines continue to blur between you and your dog with the philosophy of evolutionism proposing that they be erased altogether.

As man continues to be denigrated as "a virus infecting Earth" by some environmental groups, his pets and non-domestic creatures are enjoying a new-found esteem. This is thanks in part to bizarre activist groups such as In Defense of Animals (IDA) and "animal-rights" law courses being taught at institutions like the prestigious Rutgers School of Law. Indeed, the San Francisco IDA would like to see the word "guardian" used in reference to pets rather than "oppressive terms such as 'owner' or 'master.'" One litigator and animal rights law professor went a step further calling for a granting of personhood to bonobos and chimpanzees! Philosopher Pete Singer maintains orangutans, gorillas, and chimps should have legal equality with man.

Another interesting story involves a legal organization representing prisoners. This "civil libertarian" group is currently engaged in a fight regarding the alleged harmful effects of chaining inmates together during work hours because it makes the convicts feel like animals. Why the fuss? Have not these malefactors and other members of society been constantly taught in public school that they are animals? We read in the taxpayer-funded 1994 textbook, *Biology: Visualizing Life*, that "you are an animal and share a common heritage with earthworms." In 1998 Bruce Alberts, President of the National Academy of Sciences stated: "In the last 10 years we've come to realize humans are more like worms that we ever imagined." How can being chained together with other people be any more demeaning than being told outright that we have worms as ancestors?

On one hand we see serious legal efforts to have people treat their animals virtually as equals, and grant chimps personhood, while on the other hand special interest groups are outraged because men are treated like animals. This quandary sounds similar to the child's dilemma: you can't have your cake and eat it too. ❀

ICR SCIENTIST HAS BUSY DEBATE SCHEDULE

During a period of 10 days, Dr. Duane Gish had two debates and a joint lecture program with a third evolutionist. The first debate took place on Friday, April 7, in the auditorium of the Dauphin Way Baptist Church of Mobile, Alabama. Dr. Gish's opponent was Dr. Massimo Pigliucci, a professor of botany and evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. This was the fourth debate between Gish and Pigliucci. The second debate took place on Sunday evening, April 9, at the First Family Church of Leawood, Kansas. Dr. Gish's opponent was Dr. Fred Whitehead, a professor at the Kansas University Medical School, Kansas City, Kansas. Dr. John Staver, Director of the Center for Science Education of Kansas State University, Manhattan, was Dr. Gish's opposite at the program held in the Student Union of Kansas State University on Monday evening, April 17. Dr. Staver had declined to debate Dr. Gish, but suggested that each give a lecture to be followed by questions from the audience. Dr. Gish was especially pleased for these opportunities in his home state of Kansas.

The debate in Mobile had been arranged by Peter Fiske and was moderated by Bob Allen, members of a creation science group of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Dr. Pigliucci presented his usual description and defense of neo-Darwinism theory of evolution, claiming that the small changes within species can eventually produce new species and higher forms. He claimed that 99.99% of scientists believe in evolution and that he had produced examples of favorable mutations in his laboratory. He stated that if mutations and natural selection don't produce new information, then why do genetic algorithms, utilizing computers, work? He claimed that if God created pseudogenes and "junk" DNA, He made the same mistake

over and over again and claimed the Bible has many inconsistencies. He presented other examples of what he considered to be evidence for evolution. He challenged Gish's evidence based on the laws of probability by asserting that based on probability considerations it would be nearly impossible for those present in the auditorium to be there at that particular time considering the fact that they are unique among the 200,000 people in the Mobile area who are not there.

Dr. Gish presented evidence for creation based on the metamorphosis of the monarch butterfly which, he claimed, could not possibly result from any evolutionary mechanism; the fossil record, emphasizing the total absence of ancestors and transitional forms for the complex invertebrates and for the fishes; the laws of thermodynamics and the origin of the universe; the origin of life and laws of probability; and evidence related to the origin of man. He pointed out that Pigliucci's example of probability based on the number of people present in the auditorium was actually a foolish argument since not one of them was there by chance. Likewise his argument based on genetic algorithms as played out on a computer was equally foolish because while evolution is random, without plan or purpose and has no goal, the programs utilizing algorithms (a repetitious process) are planned and designed by human beings who utilize an incredibly complex computer, and then program it to produce the desired results, all of which is the opposite of hypothetical evolutionary processes.

In the debate with Dr. Whitehead in Leawood, Kansas, Dr. Whitehead, whose Ph.D. is in English, utilized material provided to him by Dr. Pigliucci. He acknowledged that he is an atheist. He stated that the Kansas State Board of Education had effectively removed macroevolution from the schools, but Darwin's great accomplishment had been to show how microevolution, small changes within species,

croevolution, small changes within species, could give rise to macroevolution, the origin of fundamentally different kinds. He stated if evolution is not true, then why do animals appear as if they are part of an evolutionary tree? He asked the question, who designed the Designer? He claimed the working out of the human genetic system will give us information how humans evolved. He pointed out that previously the Catholic Church denied evolution (Pope Pius IX condemned evolution, both morally and scientifically), but the present pope has declared evolution to be more than a theory. He spent considerable time discussing Kansas history and attacked various things found in the Bible.

Dr. Gish presented much the same material he had used in the debate with Pigliucci. He pointed out that Darwin did not show how so-called microevolution (variations within species) could lead to so-called macroevolution, or origin of higher forms. Leading evolutionists, in fact, have stated that Darwin's book, *Origin of Species*, was not about the origin of species at all, since almost all of his evidence utilized variations within species. Gish stated that animals do not appear as if they were part of an evolutionary tree at all, because there are substantial, systematic gaps between all major kinds. Gish pointed out that, if evolution is true, the ultimate source of our origin had to exist forever because it is impossible for everything to have originated from nothing. Yet, by the entropy law, it is impossible that the universe and matter could have existed forever. There is only one other possibility, our origin was produced by God who has existed forever, just as claimed in the Bible. Nobody designed the Designer.

The discussion at Kansas State University was sponsored by Alpha Epsilon Delta, the pre-med fraternity, and had been arranged by Benjamin Stone, a pre-med student. By the flip of a coin it was determined that Dr. John Staver would

speak first. He professed to be a Christian who accepts the notion of theistic evolution, or the idea that God used evolution to create. He contrasted those who accept the Bible literally to those who consider the Bible to be true only in some spiritual matters. He stated that acceptance of the scientific method did not require complete acceptance of naturalism. He described what science is and insisted that creation science is not science. He described the tenets of Biblical creation, which he does not accept. He claimed that the majority of the Kansas State Board of Education wanted to change science to fit their ideas and intended to use an end run around the scientific community. He claimed that the State Board of Education "gutted education," making a mockery of their own instructions. He asserted that creationists seek to gain control of science education and appealed to those in the audience to help evolutionists maintain control.

In his presentation Dr. Gish described the requirements for a theory to qualify as a scientific theory. He asserted that neither creation nor evolution fulfills the criteria. They are theories about history, although they do have scientific character and can be discussed in scientific terms. Thus evolution is no more scientific than creation and is just as religious. Both should be taught in the tax-supported public schools, using only relevant scientific evidence, all of which is circumstantial. He then proceeded to present the evidence he maintained provides powerful positive evidence for creation, using much of the evidence he uses in his debates. He received strong support from the audience when he urged that the scientific evidence for both creation and evolution be presented in an unbiased manner in the public schools. He stressed the fact that just as Staver admitted, evolutionists are fighting bitterly to protect their control of science education which bars any scientific evidence that contradicts evolution and adamantly excludes any evidence that provides support for creation. ❄

STEWARDSHIP & TRUST SERVICES

Would You Like a Lift?

If so, you will enjoy reading the following praise-filled passages from I Chronicles 29:9–17. You will find David offering them to the Lord at the completion of the ingathering for building the Temple, and just prior to David's death.

9. Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.
10. Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our Father, for ever and ever.
11. Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.
12. Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.
13. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.
14. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.
15. For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding.
16. O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.
17. I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

When was the last time you were witness to this type of celebration over giving? If you have a hard time remembering when, take a few moments to study the passage; see what you come up with as to the “why” of such abundant joy. We will discuss this more next month. In the meantime, if you have insights into the “why,” I would enjoy hearing from you.

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