

Acts & Facts



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ICR BOARD APPOINTS NEW CHAIRMAN

In recent years, businesses have deemed it preferable that the chairman of the board be someone other than the company's president/CEO. At their last Board meeting, the ICR Board asked Dr. David Wismer, of Colorado Springs, to assume that role, and he has accepted.

The board of ICR (almost all of its members reside in other areas) performs oversight functions only and does not deal with the day-to-day operations. They focus on long-range priorities and programs, guaranteeing financial responsibility and adherence to the statement of faith on the part of the administrators. This change in Board leadership will not alter the way ICR operates, nor will it make any changes in ICR's administration, but it will enhance the Board's ability to act wisely.

Dr. Wismer is an excellent choice. He served as professor of systems engineering at UCLA before starting his own software company, and he brings that expertise to ICR. His recent retirement freed him



up for helping out. He knows the inner workings of ICR better than any other member, for two years ago the Board asked him to assist the administration in refocusing priorities and expenditures. With his counsel we were able to make ICR more efficient and effective. We expect his greater involvement on the Board will yield great dividends.

Dr. Wismer welcomes this opportunity. "ICR's ministry and

message has never been more vital. We stand ready to make an even greater impact on society and science, as well as the church. I pray this new arrangement will help spur both Board and staff on to achieve these goals."

Dr. Wismer will, of course, remain in Colorado. More frequent visits to ICR headquarters will be necessitated to keep him up-to-date on issues requiring Board involvement.

Join the ICR family in welcoming him to this strategic position and in praying God's very best on his efforts. ☞



President's Column

by John D. Morris

Along with the rest of the nation, ICR mourned the recent death of former President Ronald Reagan. From all accounts, he was truly a dedicated Christian, as well as creationist. We will see him again.

Surrounding his death has been a clamor for increased spending for stem cell research, touting its potential medical benefits, including treatment of Alzheimer's disease, from which President Reagan suffered. One of his sons even addressed the Democratic National Convention with this message.

To be sure, the disease is tragic. In fact, my own mother suffers from Alzheimer's and for several years has been slipping into her own special world. (Parenthetically my father's sacrificial care for her, honoring the vow he once made to her, has been an inspiration to the whole family.) An effective treatment would be such a blessing to many. No one resists efforts to discover such a treatment.

But "Stem Cell Research" is a multifaceted concept which needs to be dissected for a clear understanding. Stem cells are potent cells which can be stimulated to grow into any type of cell, including bone, skin, muscle, organ, brain, etc. In theory, they could even regrow a damaged brain in an Alzheimer's patient.

There are two basic sources of stem cells. In an early embryo, the cells have not yet differentiated into their specific forms, and can be "harvested" for other uses. Unfortunately, the embryo (i.e., baby) dies. Early attempts to utilize stem cells in needy patients have yielded questionable results.

Stem cells can also be obtained from an adult donor, with absolutely no harm done. They can be obtained from various organs and even from the "throw away" placenta

and umbilical cord. Stem cells reinserted into the donor's own body after stimulation and multiplication even circumvents the rejection usually faced. Adult stem cell research is widely pursued in Europe, with promising results.

In America, however, the clamor is overwhelmingly for *embryonic* stem cell research, with *adult* stem cell research barely mentioned. Why is this?

Remember, this is a country which votes on abortion. Acceptance of abortion has become the "litmus test" for politicians and judges. Those insisting on abortion also insist on sexual freedom for teens and oppose abstinence education. Slaying the unborn has seemingly become a "sacrament" in some circles. Similarly, assisted suicides are championed and unproductive elderly are in mortal jeopardy in some cases.

Without denying that circumstances can sometimes be tragic, and burdens borne by loved ones unthinkable heavy, I suggest we all remember that every human being bears "the image of God" (Genesis 1:27). None of us is the exact image, but we all carry it. How can one imperfect representation of that Image deem another imperfect representation unworthy of life?

Are we not justified in concluding that a "cult of death" has sprung up among us? Those fascinated with and insisting

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upon death all seemingly share a common perspective—rejecting the Biblical truth that we are created by God in His image. This leads to more than simply not honoring and protecting that Image, but a malicious desire to mar and destroy that reminder of the Creator’s authority over His creation. As Christians, and especially as creationists, we must march to a different drummer. ☪

ICR GRADUATE STUDENTS VIEW SUNSPOTS

by Dr. Don DeYoung



Dr. DeYoung shows the shadows of sunspots to students and staff .

Sunspots were first noticed by Galileo in 1610. They are large areas of magnetic disturbance which typically last for days or weeks. The spots appear as small “cool” black patches on the solar surface although they actually are hotter than a welder’s torch at about 3,500°C, and larger than the entire earth.

Recently there have been some major solar events. In October 2003, new sunspots were accompanied by large flares, regions of intense matter and radiation emission. Vast clouds of charged particles boiled from the sun at millions of miles/hour. These *coronal mass ejections* shot billions of tons of matter outward into space. The earth’s magnetic field is designed to protect us from this solar radia-

tion by deflecting it away. The main effects include increased aurora and electrical transients in satellites and power grids.

The July 2004 graduate astronomy class at ICR monitored the continuing unusual sunspot activity. The support staff also took an interest in viewing sunspots by projection of the solar image. Solar activity is a reminder of our vulnerable location, “just” 93 million miles from the sun. It is a vast power plant, giving off much more energy every second than mankind has produced during all of human history. Details of the sun including sunspots and flares are not well understood, but it continues as our pleasant, faithful “greater light that rules the day.” ☪

DR. MORRIS III KEYNOTES EMSI DEDICATION

The Evangelical Mission Seminary International in Towaco, New Jersey, founded by Dr. Moses Yang, had Dr. Henry Morris III as its keynote speaker at the dedication of their beautiful new auditorium and classroom complex on August 8, 2004. Dr. Yang has been a long-time supporter of the Creation issues and credits ICR’s founder with his zeal for Biblical inerrancy and his passion for evangelism. *Acts & Facts* readers will remember that Dr. Yang was responsible for recently completing the translation of *The Defender’s Study Bible* into the Mandarin language.

Dr. Morris III brought a challenge to the 1000 Chinese leaders present at the dedication ceremonies to keep a tight view of the inerrancy of Scripture, to submit to its authority, trust its accuracy, and embrace God’s supernatural preservation of His Word from human distortion and error. Dr. Morris III (who is an ordained Baptist minister) was privileged to later participate in the ordination council and in the laying on of hands as proven men were prayerfully sent out into the Kingdom work. ☪

RATE PLANS FINAL REPORTS

by Dr. Larry Vardiman

As the eight-year research RATE project (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth) sponsored by the Institute for Creation Research and the Creation Research Society nears completion in 2005, plans for final reporting of the results are being realized. The principal report will be a technical, hardback book written for scientists and reporting the findings and conclusions of the project entitled, *Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth: Final Results of a Young-Earth Creationist Research Initiative*. This book will contain ten chapters, each written by one member of the RATE team on a specialized topic. It will be similar to the first book published by RATE in 2000 which announced the planned research.

Because much of the terminology and detail of this technical book will be difficult for the general reader, a second non-technical, paperback book will be written by Dr. Donald B. DeYoung, a member of the RATE group and a well-known educator and writer of science books for lay audiences. The RATE group affectionately calls this book a “translation.” We sincerely hope that the significance and enthusiasm of the project’s findings will clearly come through to the interested reader.

In addition to the non-technical book, a video documentary of the eight-year effort is being prepared which will allow each RATE scientist to report the main findings of his research in an audio-visual form and highlight the significance of the results. The video documentary and lay book will both carry the same title, *Thousands not Billions: Tearing Down an Icon of Evolution*.

All three reports are expected to be produced and made available to the public at a one-day conference at Shadow Mountain Community Church in San Diego, California, on November 5, 2005. Presentations by each of the RATE authors and scientists are planned during the conference and the video documentary will be screened for the first time. The remaining financial need to complete the RATE project is estimated to be about \$150,000. 🌱



DR. SNELLING
TO SPEAK IN
GREAT BRITAIN

From October 26 to November 13, 2004, ICR’s Dr. Andrew Snelling will be participating in a speaking tour of Great Britain jointly with Professor Phillip Johnson of the University of California Berkeley and author of *Darwin on Trial*.

Together they will speak at church, public, and university meetings in London, Bournemouth, Cardiff, Oxford, Chelmsford, Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Belfast. Sponsored by Elim Churches and widely supported by Evangelical Alliances and national church associations, the tour will particularly target Christian leaders, pastors, and educators at special meetings. Dr. Snelling and Professor Johnson will be emphasizing the authority of Scripture and Jesus Christ’s testimony concerning origins. Dr. Snelling will also be presenting evidence for a recent creation and the Genesis Flood, highlighting results of the RATE (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth) research. 🌱



BIOLOGY AND THE AGE OF THE EARTH

Evolution means change, but when we look to the living world, we see no significant change (macroevolution). Consider the troublesome creatures that Darwin labeled “living fossils.” These are organisms that were supposedly extinct for many millions of years, only to appear in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries alive and kicking.

Australia is the home of a beetle discovered alive in 1998 but supposed by Darwinists to have been extinct for “200 million years.” It hasn’t changed at all. There are dragonfly fossils over “300 million years old” with wing venation virtually identical to dragonfly wings today. There is no change. Millipedes supposedly have been crawling around for “420 million years”! A fascinating plant example is the “150 million-year-old” Wollemi Pine discovered in 1994 and 2000 west of Sydney, Australia. One must ask: Is it logical to assume that a stand of trees can stay in one physical location for over 150 million years and not come to *any* demise? Those fortunate researchers obtaining permits to visit the secret location of the Wollemi Pine stands must first change clothes to avoid possible contamination of the trees with foreign bacteria, viruses, or spores. But why worry about contagion? The Wollemi Pine should be unbelievably hearty after all those millions of years. Random air currents and rains over the millennia should bring every kind of “bug” to infect these trees and their ancestors a hundred thousand times over.

Another young-earth indicator involves the degradation of organic compounds (i.e., protein) in a geological environment. There’s no question, even among some evolutionary naturalists, that unmineralized dinosaur bone still containing bone protein resides in many locations throughout the world.¹ This is amazing, and destroys the mantra of dinosaurs becoming extinct “65 million years ago.” Simply put, bone containing such well preserved protein could not possibly have existed for more than a few thousand years in the geological settings in which they are found.

In August of 2004 the BBC News reported the North Greenland Ice Core Project (NGrip) recovering what appears to be blades of grass or pine needles from cores two miles below the surface. While allegedly several million years old, the possible organic matter suggests the Greenland ice sheet formed *quickly*.²

Creation biologists view the age of the earth in terms of only thousands of years. Living fossils, ancient “plant matter,” and dinosaur protein are not a problem if the earth is young. Evolutionists on the other hand, must posit impossibly long periods of no evolutionary change when an “extinct” creature appears alive, and then make excuses why the creature never changed.



1. G. Muiyzer, P. Sandberg, M. H. J. Knapen, C. Vermeer, M. Collins, and P. Westbroek, “Preservation of the Bone Protein Osteocalcin in Dinosaurs,” *Geology*, vol. 20, pp. 871–874, 1992.

2. See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3572878.stm> 



This month on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation”:

Weekend of: **Title/Topic:**

Oct. 2 Grand Canyon Trip

It’s known as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, and its beauty is beyond compare! From its purplish hue in summer sunsets to its wintry snow covered ledges and trees, Grand Canyon is truly a sight to behold! Take a trip to Grand Canyon with ICR!

Oct. 9 Mutations

People often think of science fiction movies and cartoons when they hear the word mutation. However, evolutionary scientists believe life came to be through chance mutations. But are these defects in our DNA beneficial or harmful to us?

Oct. 16 Our Created Sun

Our life sustaining sun in all of its strength was created in just one day by the Lord Jesus Christ. But evolutionists believe the sun took billions of years to develop. We’ll challenge that claim and discuss scientific facts about our created sun.

Oct. 23 New Animal Species

We often read news reports of scientists finding new animal species. These range from dinosaur fossils found in remote places, to living sea creatures hidden in great ocean depths. Are all these finds really new creatures or just members of existing kinds?

Oct. 30 Feathered Dinosaurs

A debate is raging on the evolutionary battlefield over dinosaur and bird evolution. Believe it or not, evolutionists are not debating with creationists this time; they’re fighting amongst themselves. At issue are the so-called feathered dinosaurs. 🦕



Santee, California

Bible Missionary Fellowship (Pastor Phil Owens) includes many of Dr. Parker’s friends, former neighbors, and ICR co-workers. On August 8, he involved them in an interactive presentation using dinosaur models and real “petrified poo” (coprolites). Countering evolution’s millions of years of struggle and death, Dr. Parker used “Dinosaurs as Missionary Reptiles” illustrating God’s perfect world (creation), ruined by man’s sin (corruption), destroyed by the Flood (catastrophe), saved for new life (Christ).

Dallas, Texas

Grace Bible Church in Dallas, Texas, had Dr. Morris III as its speaker in multiple services July 25. Hayden Pitman, an elder and ICR supporter, had arranged for Dr. Morris to speak on “Creation Issues: Why So Critical?” Grace Bible has a number of Dallas Theological Seminary faculty on the staff and among the membership. Feedback from Dr. Morris’s message was strongly positive with many families wanting to get on ICR’s mailing list.

Dallas, Texas

The Conservative Theological Society and Tyndale Bible Seminary held its seventh annual three-day conference on “The War Over Creationism and Evolution” in Dallas, Texas, August 1. Dr. John Morris was one of several speakers and was well received by the 150 pastors and leaders attending the conference. Dr. Morris presented three scientific lectures, including an update on the RATE research, and participated in a panel that took open-ended questions from the very diverse audience. 🦕

WHY IS A CREATIONIST WORLDVIEW SO CRITICAL?

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).

These general principles of Scripture (Matthew 15:19; Proverbs 4:23; Romans 8:7–8) underscore the widely observed phenomena that behavioral lifestyles are the *result* of “values” held intellectually. Or put more succinctly: what you believe affects what you do.

TWO WORLDVIEWS: THEISTIC AND ATHEISTIC

The overarching and foundational premises upon which all thinking men and women build their lives are either theistic or atheistic. That is, they make the assumption (believe) that “a” god exists or that one does not. Being theistic does not mean that one is “Christian”—or even more important—that one believes in the revealed Word of a Creator God. But being theistic does mean that supernatural is probable and that “things” are sometimes unexplainable in natural terms. Such a “spiritual” view of reality is in direct conflict with atheistic and naturalistic science. Some try to blend the two views with various “paranormal” hybrids, but the “true” scientist rejects such efforts to blend atheism with theism.

THE BIBLE CAN NOT BE HARMONIZED WITH NATURALISM

Trying to make the words of Scripture fit the thoughts and ideas of godless men is not a new phenomena. Satan distorted the message of the Creator in the Garden. Prophets, kings, priests, pastors, sorcerers, alchemists, politicians, evangelists, pundits, scientists, and theologians have all tried to distort, deconstruct, and denigrate God’s Word in many different ways over the centuries. The common theme—the common methodology—has been to seek some hybridization of the words of God and the words of men. God must accommodate Himself to the “discoveries” and “knowledge” of men. As the apostle Paul said: “God forbid!” (Romans 3:4).

ICR WILL NOT COMPROMISE THE BIBLICAL MESSAGE

Our effort to uncover and present scientific evidence of the Bible’s credibility is with the expectation that God will use such “substance” and “evidence” to bring men and women to faith in Jesus Christ.

Please share your resources with us and enable us to stand.



Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR Executive Vice President for Strategic Ministries.
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