

Acts & Facts



Institute for Creation Research
www.icr.org

Facts Facts Facts

Vol. 34 No. 1 January 2005

RECAPPING 2004 AT ICR

As the year 2004 comes to a close, and the year 2005 brings new opportunities, we can only say with the psalmist, “This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes” (Psalm 118:23). For all these 34 years of ICR’s existence, He has supplied every need and given such victories that we can only stand in awe of Him, and express our thankfulness and praise. Let me recap some of what He has done this year.

His financial supply has been consistent and sufficient. ICR has no endowments sitting in the bank, or major donors underwriting salaries and expenses, but each month He provides through the sacrificial giving of His children. This year has been a financial adventure, especially as we have added staff and increased research, but we are not now nor have we ever been in debt. With year-end giving He graciously allowed ICR to finish the year with all bills paid, “This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.”

Strategies to communicate creation truth have shifted recently as America has changed. Large area-wide seminars are rare now, but opportunities to speak in churches, on university campuses, at conventions, on television and radio,



and a variety of venues have perhaps increased. Total numbers are estimates only, but we have probably addressed over 50,000 people this year. The message has gone to numerous countries as well.

ICR’s constant communication tool, *Acts & Facts*, is now more popular than ever.


In spite of regular purgings, it reaches 130,000 homes, *Days of Praise* readers twice that many. The radio outreach has continued to expand, with our various programs aired on approximately 2750 outlets—maybe many more in Spanish-speaking countries.

A major overhaul of our website has begun which should significantly increase traffic. At present an estimated 7500 visitors click in each day on average, downloading a vast array of information. We sponsored two field-study tours this year, to Mount St. Helen’s and Grand Canyon, respectively. Some of the 222 participants helped facilitate ICR’s ongoing research projects. Three books were published, including *The Ocean Book* by Frank Sherwin; *Miracles and For Time and Forever*, by Henry Morris. Seems like there’s an insatiable appetite for creation truth. “This is the LORD’S doing.”

The ICR Graduate School received a 5-year extension of its accreditation in 2004. Two students completed degree requirements this year, Peter Duncanson and Greg Copeland, each furthering creation knowledge with his research and writing.

On the scholarly side, ICR research enjoyed its best year ever. The RATE research on radioisotope dating achieved stunning victories, and several of the findings were presented in professional meetings. The nautiloid research has also continued. A technical paper on it has cleared peer review and should be printed within a few months. Plans to begin a new research initiative into the human genome are taking shape and should yield strong results. This is “marvellous in our eyes.”

Another way in which God has blessed is the unity of staff and consistency of message. Every one here is a committed Christian and considers their job their Christian ministry. Each serves ICR as if they were serving God, as indeed they are. There have been no outbreaks of heresy or sinful failure. Corporate and personal prayer has been answered.

Finally, we recognize the larger family of financial and prayer supporters. We know you make the ministry happen. We thank you, but most of all we thank our Creator, for, “This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.” 



Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona

Dr. Larry Vardiman traveled to Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, in October to speak to meetings of the Arizona Origin Science Association and the Raytheon Bible Club. He gave three talks about “Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth” and two talks on “The Big Freeze: A Biblical Ice Age.” Approximately 500 people attended the meetings.

The lectures in Tucson were held at Christ Community Church, Palo Verde

Baptist Church, and the Raytheon Corporation. Those in Phoenix were given at Northwest Community Church and Chandler Bible Church. Audience response was supportive and questions were enthusiastic.

Dr. Vardiman was able to renew many old friendships while in Arizona and make several other new ones. He also visited with his sister, Ann Kurtz and her husband, who live in Tucson and attend Christ Community Church. Thanks to Joe Sabeny of Tucson and Roger Heyen of Phoenix who did most of the transportation and setup.

Monrovia, California

Dr. Henry Morris was the key speaker at a meeting of the pastors of the churches of the Baptist Bible Fellowship of California on October 7–8. Because of the growing influence of so-called progressive creationism in the churches (as promoted especially by Dr. Hugh Ross), he was asked to speak on “The Importance of Teaching Six-Day Creation” on the evening of October 7, with a question-and-answer session the next morning. In addition to over 30 pastors plus three college presidents who attended, there was a capacity crowd of lay church members present in the 300-seat auditorium of the Calvary Road Baptist Church.

Riverside and Lancaster, California

In early November ICR zoologist Frank Sherwin spoke at Crest Community

Acts & Facts

PUBLISHED BY

INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH
P.O. Box 2667, EL CAJON, CA 92021
619/448-0900 WEBSITE: www.icr.org



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

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ICR SCIENTIST CARRIES CREATION MESSAGE TO PERU

Church in Riverside (Eric Sythoff, pastor) on the 1980 eruptions of Mount St. Helens. Attendees were fascinated as clear evidence for rapid, catastrophic sedimentation was presented, validating portions of the catastrophic Flood model.

On November 13 Mr. Sherwin spoke at the Antelope Valley Creation Science Association (Scott Rea and Don Kennedy, coordinators) in Lancaster, California, regarding the consequences of one's worldview. Among those present was a college professor, raised in a Christian home, but sadly become an atheist while attending a secular college. A spirited one-on-one discussion followed for 45 minutes after the presentation.

El Cajon, California

For three weeks beginning on October 21, ICR's Dr. John Morris taught a special topic Sunday school class at the large and dynamic Shadow Mountain Community Church, Dr. David Jeremiah, pastor. Under the leadership of Associate Pastor David St. John, the class convenes irregularly and covers subjects primarily of an apologetic nature. This is the fourth time an ICR speaker has been invited to speak on creation.

Shadow Mountain Community Church is the "mother" church of ICR. Under then Pastor Dr. Tim LaHaye, it sponsored the founding of Christian Heritage College and ICR in 1970, and has remained a good friend of the ministry ever since. 🙏



From Arkansas

Your teachings are having a profound effect on our congregation. . . . I've been using your materials for well over ten years now and cannot thank you enough for your pioneering work. You're in my prayers every day. 🙏



Dr. Duane Gish continues his role of international ambassador for ICR. He spoke in seven universities (some multiple times) and in five churches (three times in two) during his visit to Lima and Cuzco in Peru, October 5–16. The visit was off to a bad start when a thief shattered the window of the shuttle van and stole the purse of Mrs. Gish as they drove from the airport to their residence.

The Peruvian people were very gracious and hospitable, and the presidents and other high officials at each of the universities warmly welcomed Dr. Gish and others in his party and spent time learning about ICR and the local creation organization.

The visit had been arranged by Creous and Elizabeth Ramdath. Creous, a native of Trinidad, and Elizabeth, a native of Peru, who, working under the auspices of the Iglesia Biblica Cristiana de La Molina, have established the creationist organization, Centro Creacionista Latinoamericano Canopy. Christians in Lima are thrilled by this effort to equip them with the Biblical and scientific evidence for creation and are eagerly looking forward to future visits by creation scientists. 🙏



POST-FLOOD GLACIERS IN YOSEMITE

One of Dr. Larry Vardiman's ongoing research projects at ICR is studying evidence for a short-term Ice Age following the Genesis Flood. He recently returned




to Yosemite National Park with Drs. Steve Austin, Kenneth Cumming, and John Baumgardner to design a new ICR tour, spanning the biologic and geologic evidences from Death Valley to Mammoth Lake to Yosemite. While on the trip he collected photographs and documentation for the coverage and movement of glaciers in the Park.

The picture of Lembert Dome shown above looking eastward with Mount Dana in the background, provides evidence for estimating the depth and direction of the ice flow in Tuolumne Meadows five miles west of Tioga Pass near the crest of the Sierra Nevada. Lembert Dome is a geological feature called a *Roche Moutonnée*. It is a protruding knob of bedrock, in this case—granite—glacially eroded to have a gently inclined, striated upstream slope and

a steep, rough, and hackly downstream side. Ice moved from right to left in the picture smoothing the upstream surface and plucking blocks of granite from the leeside. It is believed that the glacier was about 2,000 feet thick in Tuolumne Meadows and moved toward the northwest at this location. The primary source of ice is believed to have been from the southeast near the high terrain of Mt. Lyell and the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne Valley.

The main glacial flow out of Tuolumne Meadows was through the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne into what is now called the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. The water from this drainage provides a main source of fresh water for the city of San Francisco. A secondary channel for the glacier was directly westward down Tenaya Creek past Half Dome and into the Merced River and through Yosemite Valley. The entire Yosemite Valley was filled with the glacier so that only the upper part of Half Dome and the other peaks surrounding the Valley protruded from the ice. The glacier extended westward to El Portal outside the Park. Upon deglaciation it left large blocks of debris and end moraines near the entrance.

Dr. Vardiman plans to model the precipitation patterns over Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada as he's done for Greenland, Yellowstone National Park, and Antarctica to validate a recent, catastrophic, Ice Age. He anticipates beginning these studies in 2006. 

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- List of creation scientists
- Coming events
- Online store for your purchases
- Research articles

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“GENE MUTATION MAKES TOT STRONGER”

Because mutations are random relative to need and because organisms generally fit well into their environments, mutations normally are either neutral or harmful; only very rarely are they helpful—just as a random change made by poking a screwdriver into the guts of your computer will rarely improve its performance.¹

This is a rather graphic description of the alleged beneficial work genetic mistakes perform. Therefore, whenever reports surface of a favorable mutation, it is followed with keen interest.


Almost five years ago a baby was born in Berlin with bulging thighs and biceps that were credited to a unique beneficial genetic event (the story may be read in the *New England Journal of Medicine* vol. 350:2642–44, June 24, 2004 “Powerful genes—myostatin regulation of human muscle mass,” E.M. McNally, M.D., Ph.D.). But just how “beneficial” is this mutation? It seems to be advantageous in the short run with the child able to lift seven-pound dumbbells with arms extended—but who knows what will transpire in the ensuing years? Dr. McNally was quoted as saying “the boy is still very young and that problems could occur later in his life.”² Scientists knowledgeable with mutations and diseases caused by them are cautious, expressing hope that as time goes on the child will be fine. But would any geneticist on this planet—given the choice—say yes to this particular mutation for their next child?

It was discovered the child has a mutation in the gene that produces a protein called myostatin. Some researchers are concerned that the child’s heart muscle could be damaged by an abnormal amount of this protein, although his cardiovascular system appears to be normal at present. Such apprehension is hardly what we should expect from a “beneficial” mutation.

How does this event relate to evolutionary theory? Let’s extrapolate. Is there any reason to think that after many generations, the progeny of this muscular child will produce a “new species” of person? No. His children (if he lives to bear any) may be more muscular—but then again, maybe not. With research experience biologists have had with mutations, there could be unseen genetic problems lurking within this child. Indeed, geneticists have found that people have much fewer—not more—genes than was suggested a decade ago. This means that single genes may have multiple functions or may interact with numerous other genes within the individual. Such a condition is called pleiotropy—a single mutated gene causing multiple phenotypic (physical) changes. Even if mutations could have beneficial outcomes, this “pleiotropic effect” would remove the advantage by damaging other organs and systems.

This brings us to a larger question: Is the evolutionary idea that “beneficial mutations” could somehow work their way in transforming one kind of animal, plant, or person into another, scientifically valid?

1. Ehrlich, P., *Human Natures*, Island Press, 2000, p. 21.

2. Gordon, S., June 23, 2004 [see www.healthfinder.gov/news]. 

Back to Genesis

Former ICR graduate student, Mr. Tom Draves, chaired the committee which sponsored a dynamic “Back to Genesis” Seminar on the campus of Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on October 22 and 23. Adjunct Professor Doug Phillips joined ICR’s Dr. John Morris for the weekend.

It all started with Dr. Morris’s presenting “Dinosaurs and the Bible” to grade school students including a showing of the popular ICR film, *Marty’s Fossil Adventure*. Imagine the students’ delight when “Marty” himself (Mr. Kim Elmore) showed up. That afternoon Mr. Phillips challenged local high school students to stand firm on the Word of God, especially as it relates to creation. In all, over 2000 students were present.

The Friday evening and Saturday adult seminar was likewise well received. A number of students from both Concordia University (a Missouri Lutheran, mostly creationist school), and the University of Michigan were present, leading to a wide variety of discussions.

One long-time supporter of ICR wrote: “After being brainwashed at university, it took me thirty years to walk out of the atheist woods. ICR was instrumental in destroying my belief in the materialistic creation myth, evolution. As a result, I came back to the faith and serve God with total devotion.”

On Sunday morning, Dr. Morris spoke to three services at the St. Paul Lutheran Church, and in the evening to the South Gate Baptist Church. In-between meetings Dr. Morris and his wife were able to spend time with their daughter, son-in-law, and six-month-old granddaughter. There remains good reason for him to return to Michigan. ☞



Radio Log

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

Weekend of: _____ **Title/Topic:** _____

- Jan. 1 Exploiting the Rock**
Ages Jurassic, Devonian, Cambrian. What do these all mean? Even if you’re a geology major, you may not know that these terms and the rest of the geologic record have been radically altered to fit evolutionary philosophy. How did this happen?
- Jan. 8 Stem Cells**
When we consider stem cells and the seemingly powerful potential they have in becoming medical miracles, we’re reminded of the greatness of God’s creation. So, why all the controversy surrounding stem cell research? Tune in!
- Jan. 15 Sanctity of Life**
Perhaps there’s nothing more precious in life than a newborn baby. Life is sacred and should be protected. But, what about legalized abortion and the so-called mercy killing of the sick and elderly? Is it acceptable to take a life that’s judged unwanted or hopeless?
- Jan. 22 The Case of *Roe v. Wade***
This weekend marks the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand. Why did seven of nine justices pronounce a death sentence on millions of unborn children? Was this history repeating itself? Stay tuned!
- Jan. 29 Migrating Birds and Butterflies**
God provides for all of His creation in many different ways. Migration is a way certain animals survive and reproduce. Some of the most fascinating migratory creatures are birds and butterflies. But how do they know where they’re going? ☞

OPPOSITION TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

“For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head” (Psalm 83:2).

It would be hard to miss the increase in vitriolic recriminations among the many news and pundit presentations these past few weeks. Although the political campaign stirred up personal hatred against the President, the rather surprising election majority—especially participation by the “religious right,” has opened up a fountain of hate mongering that has not been publicly aired for several decades.

EXPECT OPPORTUNITIES TO BLOSSOM

Yet during the most intense pressures to yield, God’s witness and His Church has thrived and grown. The light of the “glorious gospel of Christ” (II Corinthians 4:4) shines all the more brightly in the dark. Expect great doors to open up this year.

PRAY FOR STRENGTH AND BOLDNESS

History is replete with “seasons” of oppression and persecution of God’s people—all the way from the slavery of Israel in Egypt through the horrid bloodshed of the Middle Ages to the atrocities against Christians in the Middle East today. Paul admonishes us to don the “whole armour” (Ephesians 6:11) to protect us and David calls God to “Fill their faces with shame” (Psalm 83:16). Our aim is ever to win the lost and turn them to the “light” (Acts 26:18). But in doing so, we can expect opposition from those that hate the light (John 3:20).

HELP US FIGHT BEHIND THE ENEMY’S LINES

ICR’s unique battle position is an assignment behind the “front lines” in the very heart of the enemy stronghold. Surely it is clear that the “intelligence” of the enemy in our Western culture is founded on naturalism and evolutionary humanism. ICR’s job is to expose that awful “darkness” by turning on the “light” of a creationist worldview. We need God’s help. Pray for us. We need your help. Support us. Together we can “turn many away from iniquity” (Malachi 2:6).



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