

# Acts & Facts

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Vol. 34 No. 12 December 2005

## A FIRST “RATE” CONFERENCE!

by Mark Rasche



A sell-out crowd of around 2,300 people gathered at Shadow Mountain Community Church in San Diego on Saturday, November 5, 2005, to hear about the groundbreaking discoveries from the RATE research team (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth). The conference featured four of the eight RATE scientists (all of whom were present) who presented some of their most noteworthy findings, including Project Manager Dr. Larry Vardiman, who summarized the incredible results and implications from this monumental eight-year project.

Dr. Henry Morris, Founder and President Emeritus of ICR, opened up the conference in prayer, followed by ICR's President Dr. John Morris, who offered a few words of praise and encouragement

about this historic breakthrough in creation science. Dr. John recognized the RATE project as the most significant and successful research project in ICR's 36-year history, and expressed his thanks to God for bringing this enormous victory!

Dr. Russell Humphreys, Professor of Physics, was the first scientist to present his discoveries, sharing highlights from his research on helium diffusion that indicate that the age of the earth is only about 6,000 years, and explaining that the helium in radioactive crystals supports this contention.

Dr. Andrew Snelling, Professor of Geology, followed Dr. Humphreys, revealing his close study of radiohalos. His research showed that polonium radiohalos had to have formed rapidly

under catastrophic conditions and that their formation is strong evidence for accelerated decay in different periods during earth's history.

Perhaps one of the most amazing and surprising discoveries was presented by Dr. John Baumgardner, Professor of Geophysics, as he reported that large amounts of carbon-14 found in coal and diamonds supports a young earth and the Biblical account of Noah's Flood. Carbon-14 is a short-lived isotope used for dating organic materials like fossils and has a half-life of only 5,730 years, so finding C-14 in diamonds (as much as one hundred times the detection threshold) is very compelling evidence for a young earth.



Dr. Larry Vardiman, Professor of Atmospheric Science, recapped the results of the RATE research project with the following summary points and implications.

**Main summary points:**

1. A large amount of radioactive decay has occurred.
2. Conventional radioisotope dates differ radically.
3. Nuclear processes were accelerated during certain periods of earth's history.
4. Helium diffusion and carbon-14 in diamonds is strong evidence for a young earth.

**Implications:**

1. Creation and the Flood are genuine historic events.
2. The Bible is scientifically reliable—the Scriptures mean exactly what they say!



The conference culminated with the long awaited premiere showing of ICR's new "docudrama," entitled *Thousands . . . Not Billions*, a two-year video project (just recently completed) which combines drama, scientists summary reports, animations, and illustrations to tell the remarkable story of the RATE research project. The conference ended with a lively question and answer session, and a time of book signing.

The San Diego conference set the stage for future RATE conferences across the country in 2006 and beyond. Plans are already in place for conferences in the Fort Lauderdale, Philadelphia, and Houston areas with others to follow. ICR would like to encourage pastors and Christian leaders to collaborate with us to bring this faith-building message to as many churches as possible. For more information on hosting a conference in your area, please contact ICR's Director of Event Planning, Dave Evans, at 619/448-0900, ext. 6021. ☎

**Acts & Facts**

PUBLISHED BY

**INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH**

P.O. Box 2667, EL CAJON, CA 92021

619/448-0900 WEBSITE: [www.icr.org](http://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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by John D. Morris

The November 5 RATE Conference accomplished much more than simply presenting the stunning research results of the RATE Initiative. It was a time to look back and see God's mighty hand of blessing and favor. It was a time to give Him thanks and praise for all He had done.

During the introductory comments I rehearsed the initial meeting of RATE, and how the room full of Ph.D.'s bowed their knees and hearts to God, beseeching Him for guidance in this venture. The opening devotional of that first meeting eight years ago compared the overwhelming task of confronting the stronghold of radioisotope dating with David facing Goliath. We claimed his brave challenge as our own.


*Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand . . . that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel (I Samuel 17:45-46).*

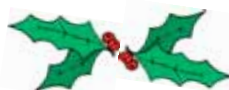
For too long evolution has hid behind the Goliath of radioisotope dating. Unable to present scientific evidence to document descent from a common ancestor, they have consoled themselves and intimidated the public with the seemingly unassailable claim "Radioisotope dating proves the billions of years claim. The Bible and creation are false."

Yet when dedicated creationists faced the giant in the name of the Lord, with full assurance that His Word is true, and in faith that there must be an answer, they were victorious. Every research project,


every investigation yielded another confirmation of Scriptural claims. In eight years, blow after blow was struck.

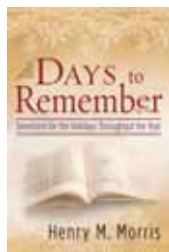
I wish I could say radioisotope dating is now "dead," but much remains to be done to complete the job. What can be said is that Goliath is severely wounded. Never again should a Christian be cowed into doubting the plain meaning of Scripture. Never again should a Christian flounder for answers to the questions of a skeptic. Never again should a witness to an unbeliever be stymied by the claims of radioisotope dating.

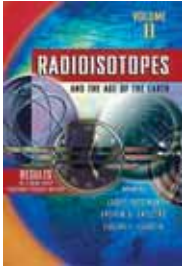
The holiday season is upon us, a time for reflection and thankfulness for all the Lord has done for us. This year we can add the RATE results to our prayers of gratitude. As the year 2005 comes to a close we can echo a theme of the conference. "Time is running out on the theory of evolution!" 



**DR. MORRIS  
PUBLISHES NEW  
BOOK ON THE  
HOLIDAYS**

*Days to Remember*, a unique new book containing 185 brief Bible-study devotionals has just been compiled and published by ICR's founder, Dr. Henry Morris. The devotional studies are centered around 16 major U.S. holidays and are designed to provide both information and spiritual blessing to any reader. The first 31 Bible studies relate to Christmas, for example, and the next 35 to Easter, so the book could also be an appropriate gift book for either Christmas or Easter, or just for general study or devotional reading. *Days to Remember* is published by Master Books, contains 224 pages and has a list price of \$12.99. 





### FINAL RATE BOOK COMPLETED


The eight-year RATE Project (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth) was officially completed with the release of the final technical book at the November 5, 2005, RATE conference. The 848-page book edited by Drs. Larry Vardiman, Andrew A. Snelling, and Eugene F. Chaffin was published jointly by the Institute for Creation Research and the Creation Research Society. Seven members of the RATE team—Larry Vardiman, D. Russell Humphreys, Andrew A. Snelling, Steven A. Austin, Eugene F. Chaffin, John R. Baumgardner, Steven W. Boyd—wrote one or more of the ten chapters of the book.

The first RATE book presented a survey of the field of radioisotope dating and proposals for the questions which needed to be addressed in the following five-year research phase. This second RATE book presents the results and conclusions from the five years of research ending in 2005. The three general geophysical conclusions of the project were:

- A large amount of radioactive decay has occurred.
- Nuclear decay processes were accelerated during episodes in earth history.
- Conventional radioisotope dates are therefore incorrect by large factors.

Two important doctrines were supported by hermeneutics:

- Creation and the Genesis Flood are genuine historical events.
- Scripture is scientifically reliable.


The final technical RATE book entitled, *Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth: Results of a Young-earth Creationist Research Initiative* is now available through ICR for \$79.95 as well as a 200-page non-technical version entitled *Thousands Not Billions*, published by Master Books for \$13.95. A 48-minute video documentary of the RATE project on DVD produced by ICR may also be purchased for \$19.95. 



### Tampa, Florida

Two churches, both of which are long-time friends and supporters of ICR, hosted Dr. John Morris on October 16. Bayside Community Church in the morning and Grace Community Church in the evening—a special time of ministry and fellowship with those of like, precious faith.

### Hutchinson, Kansas

On Sunday, October 16, Dr. John Morris had the privilege of ministering at Westside Baptist Church. Even though ICR had never been to the church before, several of the pastoral staff had heard Dr. Henry Morris in years past, especially at Baptist Bible College. Each of them sent their greetings, and testified how they had become absolutely convinced of the authority and inspiration of Scripture under his teaching, and how their pastoral ministries had continued that teaching. This is the lasting impact of Dr. Henry Morris as well as the Institute for Creation Research, which he founded. 



## TINY MACHINES, EIFFEL TOWER, AND GECKO FEET

Recently released science stories have not been kind to Mr. Darwin's strange theory. It seems everywhere one looks there are stories that are an affront to the just-so, natural-selection-did-it, interpretation. The following are three examples. The first involves tiny machines. As Bruce Alberts, an outspoken critic of creation, states in *Cell*,

The entire cell can be viewed as a factory that contains an elaborate network of interlocking assembly lines, each of which is composed of . . . large protein machines. . . .


Why do we call the large protein assemblies that underlie cell function *machines*? Precisely because, like the machines invented by humans to deal efficiently with the macroscopic world, these protein assemblies contain highly coordinated moving parts.<sup>1</sup>

More recently, two secular scientists discuss submicroscopic multicomponent machines such as sliding clamps and clamp loaders, involved with DNA duplication (see "Mending Mistakes," *Acts & Facts*, June 2004). They say this process is "far from simple" and that "for each question answered, 10 more crop up"—but they declare that *the machines themselves* have "evolved clever strategies to perform their function!"<sup>2</sup> Only an evolutionary worldview demands such an unscientific conclusion. Every child knows cars don't make themselves; neither do detailed enzymatic machines at the subcellular level.

The second story entails the lowly ocean sponge (genus *Euplectella*). It was found to have a complex glass structure causing one evolutionist to say, "I cannot imagine how a structure of this sophistication can be produced."<sup>3</sup> Her incredulity is warranted. Man can make glass—in a red-hot furnace. But the sponge not only *grows* this glass lattice, but a thousand times smaller (the nanometer scale) than what is seen in mechanical engineering. One secular publication said the construction is "remarkable," "ingeniously engineered," and "clever."<sup>4</sup> The natural "architectural wonder" is compared to the Eiffel Tower. Why, then, after reading of these glass fibers, is it so unscientific for the creationist to attribute such design to a master Designer?

Finally, people in tropical regions are familiar with the amazing agility of the gecko—a lizard able to scramble across walls and ceilings in its quest for insect meals or an insurance client. Scientists investigated this gravity-defying creature and discovered how it is able to run upside down and even hang by a toe—without glue or suction cups. The Creator has designed the sole of each foot with a half-million tiny hairs, with each hair in turn splitting into hundreds more. In the gecko's case, the ultra-tiny elastic hairs bond onto the surface, where attractive forces between the hairs and that surface are enough to support the creature.

Nature shouts creation!

1. Alberts, B., "The Cell as a Collection of Protein Machines," *Cell*, vol. 92, February 6, 1998.
2. Johnson and O'Donnell, "Cellular DNA Replicases," *Annual Review of Biochemistry*, 2005, p. 283.
3. Boyce, N., "Deep Sea Sponges," National Public Radio, July 7, 2005.
4. Halford, B., *Chemical & Engineering News*, vol. 83, July 11, 2005. 



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

**Weekend of:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title/Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dec. 3 God’s Treasures**

While gold, silver, and precious stones are of great value, there are other treasures talked about in the Bible that are far more significant. Have you ever considered the heavens as God’s treasury, as Job describes, and the elements found there as *treasures* that God shares with us? And what about God’s other treasures? Join us as we discuss the many treasures of God and their significance for us!

**Dec. 10 Hibernating Animals**

While walking through a snow-covered forest in the dead of winter, everything seems still and lifeless. But *life* is all around! Many of God’s creatures sleep through the winter slumbering in a snow bank, den, or cave. But, why do these animals need to hibernate, and what happens to them during this time? The Creator in His wisdom has given many animals the gift of hibernation. Relax and tune in as we discuss hibernating animals and their incredible gift to sleep and wake at just the right time.


**Dec. 17 Winter Wonderland**

In the chill of winter, we often are eager to see trees, plants, and flowers burst into bloom in spring. The bare, empty branches of trees in the winter season are a sharp contrast to the “life” they display other times of the year. Yet, while plants and trees may appear to be dead in their bleak surroundings, they are very much alive! We’ll take a closer look at dormant plants and trees on this week’s program!

**Dec. 24 The Creator at Christmas**


During the busy Christmas season it’s easy to get tangled up in commercialism and the secular “holiday” celebrations. And, each year the true meaning of Christmas is once again attacked as many try to secularize Christmas. Let us take the opportunity to consider who the babe in the manger really is—the Son of God, the Savior, the Creator of all! Join in as we honor and celebrate our Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ!

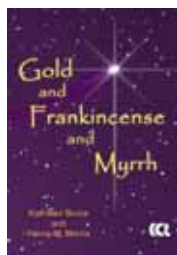
**Dec. 31 Creation Past, Present, and Future**

With the New Year approaching, traditionally people reflect on the past, consider the present, and plan for the future. But what about creation—what about its past, present, and future? The Bible tells us all about it! Don’t miss this exciting discussion! 



**NEW CHRISTMAS  
BOOKLET  
AVAILABLE!**

Each year since 1997 ICR has issued a new Christmas booklet written by Dr. Henry Morris, ICR’s Founder and President Emeritus. These have proved very popular with our constituents and are often enclosed with their Christmas cards. This year, the new booklet is entitled *Gold Frankincense and Myrrh* and is co-authored with Dr. Morris by Dr. Kathy Bruce, his daughter, who has served as a missionary linguist and teacher with the Wycliffe Bible Translators for over 35 years. It explains the mission of the Magi and their special gifts to the newborn Christ. The booklet is available from ICR for \$0.50 each (\$0.25 each in lots of 100 or more). 



*“Praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ” (Colossians 4:3).*

As you consider your special gifts this Christmas, we at ICR would ask you to remember our ministry in your prayers and with your support. Many of you have been of great encouragement to us over the years, and we rejoice with you in the impact that we have shared together in the Kingdom. Thank you for co-laboring with us.

The battle continues, however, and ICR has set in motion three major efforts that we believe will shape our work and broaden our impact over the next five years. The “GENE” research project will tackle the human genome to clearly demonstrate that there is no such thing as a “common” ancestor. Secondly, several geological and cosmological areas need to focus coordinated answers which will respond to scientific questions regarding a recent creation.

The third area is somewhat new for ICR. As much as our scientific research has helped many (and ICR will continue to be the main source for such information), we do want to broaden our ministry impact within Christian Leadership (pastors, teachers, influential professionals, etc.). With that in mind, we are in the process of developing Distance Education programs and courses (both degree and non-degree) that can be accessed by a much broader audience than we have been able to reach heretofore. We need your help in all of these areas—as well as in the ongoing support for operational function.

### **Would you consider a special gift to ICR this year?**

You may be able to give a greater gift than you think. Do you have stocks or mutual funds that you have held for several years? A gift of appreciated assets permits you to give more than you might be able to from your income or savings, and will provide an immediate tax savings as well. Dormant property can be turned into a significant gift to ICR turning something unproductive into financial benefits for both of us.

But please do not think that a small gift is insignificant! \$10 a week covers office supplies for one of our researchers. \$100 a month helps enormously with laboratory needs. Help where and how you can, but above all intercede for us with your prayers.



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