

Recapping 2005 at ICR

by John D. Morris

With the coming of each New Year we look back and take stock of what has been accomplished in the previous one. Thus we report to those who undergird us with gifts, prayers and service, focus on the year ahead, and give God the glory for it all. It has been a year of prioritizing and growth, punctuated by numerous wonderful accomplishments.

Research

The biggest research accomplishment was in the RATE research on radioisotope dating. To document changing decay rates knocks the billions of years claim into disarray. The results will be hard to ignore, although it will be a daunting task to make the secularists respond. Unfortunately, some of the biggest opposition has come from Christians who accept deep time. Why do they combat evidence which so clearly supports Biblical literalism?

Already more research projects are starting up: GENE on human genomics; FAST on catastrophic geology; and CLIMATE on the radical paleo climates of the Flood and after. Look for encouraging breakthroughs in each area.

The graduate research faculty has grown this year, with the addition of Dr. John Baumgardner and a new announcement next month in genetics. We've purchased a new super

computer "*Epiphany*" to facilitate all of the projects.

The ICR Graduate School has extended, with the addition of several of its science education courses being available online. Soon non-degree training in creation evidences will also be available. Through Dr. Baumgardner, we've also started a technical "mentorship" program for Ph.D. students and professors with the goal of training the next generation of creation research scientists.

The Graduate School sponsored a jam-packed and enjoyable tour to the Galapagos last spring, but a planned tour to England was cancelled due to international stability.

Outreach

The Outreach Division has adjusted to a changing "demand" in American churches. No longer is there much interest in large, area-wide seminars, but this has opened many doors for ministry in individual churches, conventions, and special meetings. The ICR speakers have been busy.

Some highlights: A presentation of the RATE research to the 2,500 pastors assembled at the Shepherd's Conference, each receiving a gift of the RATE DVD and a copy of *The Genesis Record*; the all day RATE conference with 2,300 in attendance; a convention of the 25th



anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helens with 1,000 present; and several pastor's conferences. Other types of lectures at churches, universities, seminaries, etc. number about 250 venues.

The creation message echoed internationally too, with ICR speakers in Peru, Bolivia, Honduras, Mexico, Canada, Korea, Japan, Germany, and Australia.

A major update of our website has brought many visitors, new and old, with approximately 3,000,000 visits. If you haven't seen it lately, check out www.icr.org. The update is extensive but only half finished, so mark the address.

The Radio Ministry of ICR continues to expand with 411 stations now carrying "Science, Scripture, & Salvation," 587 carrying "Back to Genesis," 332 carrying "DeRegresso a Génesis," and maybe twice that many "translators" or secondary repeating stations. A "special" broadcast of the RATE discoveries was aired this past fall on multiple outlets. Meanwhile the increased interest in creation kept the ICR scientists busy with TV, radio, and other media interviews.

The ICR Museum of Creation and Earth History expanded this year with three new sections and touch screens refuting evolution claims and highlighting creation evidence and research.

The Resource Development Department marshaled the three RATE products to completion: the technical RATE book; the layman's book, *Thousands not Billions*; and the docu-drama by the same name. They also produced the technical monograph, *The Frozen Record*, on a creationist understanding of the Ice Age.

Of course, our monthly newsletter *Acts & Facts* continued going to nearly 130,000 people while the quarterly *Days of Praise* was sent to over 315,000 with combined electronic subscriptions of the two publications over 28,500.

Administration

God allowed ICR to break even again this year. He is so faithful. ICR's budget has grown increasingly large, nearly all of it met through monthly donations. We are not, nor have we ever been in debt, nor do we have endowments underwriting the ministry. He supplies all of our needs according to His riches.

This year the ICR Board of Trustees named Dr. David Wismer as Chairman, and Dr. Larry Vardiman as Chief Operations Officer, relieving me of many of the burdensome administrative duties. My brother, Dr. Henry Morris III moved to Dallas to have a more central location to head up the Distance Education project.

ICR stalwart Dr. Duane Gish "retired" this year, although he comes into the office once or twice a week and still accepts speaking invitations and debates. My father, Dr. Henry Morris, also "semi-retired," maintains a welcome presence. Both are in good health and intend to continue as long as God enables.

All-in-all, it's been a very good year, with prospects for the year ahead strong. God is firmly enthroned in the universe and here at ICR, and we thankfully anticipate His continued blessings. 🙏



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President's Column

by John D. Morris

January 1st marked something of a personal milestone for me, the 10th Anniversary of my installation as President of ICR. They have been significant years, so please allow me this opportunity to reflect.



My father started ICR in 1970 on a shoestring. Actually, he was the only employee, and he divided his time between his duties of Academic Vice-President at Christian Heritage College (now San Diego Christian College) and his creation activities. Soon others came alongside. I started work at ICR/CHC in 1973, primarily involved in expeditions to Mt. Ararat in search of Noah's Ark and also worked as a college recruiter. I left in 1975 to return to graduate school for my Ph.D. and subsequently served in a faculty position at the University of Oklahoma and returned fulltime at ICR in 1984.


To some, it was a given that I would eventually assume the presidency, but I knew enough about the position to have some trepidation. I really enjoyed research, teaching, and speaking but didn't particularly anticipate or desire the administrative duties. My prayer at the time was that I would be of such value to ICR that when the time came for a transition, the Board would consider me. In 1995,

the offer was extended, and with mixed emotions, I accepted.

Looking back, I am convinced it was the Lord's will, and I am thankful. Surrounded by a dedicated and unified staff, much has been accomplished. The graduate faculty has grown significantly, research results have been stunning, the overall creation movement (which in many ways looks to ICR for leadership) is quite robust, lives are being changed, and the Creator is being glorified. Everyone here (especially me) recognizes the blessings of being in the Lord's work and making an eternal impact.

These 10 years have seen growth in almost every area of ICR. My favorite area is that of research. Not only does ICR dedicate a significant portion of its budget to scholarly research, but it now has in place a vibrant model for attacking major problems. We can expect future research gains which will rival the success of the RATE research.

One more true blessing. My father, my predecessor in the position, is still quite active in the ministry. It is a true joy to even know such a man as Henry Morris, but our relationship has grown from father/son to employer/employee to that of colleagues, and now, dear friends. He has shared his heart with me, passing on his vision, giving me direction for the task ahead. The plaque on his office wall "Perhaps Today" adequately reflects his expectant attitude regarding his Christian life, the work of ICR, and the Lord's return. With the solid foundation he has laid, the future for ICR looks bright. Through the decades he has been faithful in little things, and now the harvest has arrived.

Thank you, Dad, for your wisdom and counsel. Thank you, supporters of ICR, for your prayers and support. Thanks also to my colleagues at ICR; together we share the burdens and blessings. And thank you, Lord, for counting me worthy of the ministry. 



One of the new research projects which is planned to follow the RATE project and begin in 2006 is FAST (Flood-Activated Sedimentation and Tectonics) managed by Dr. Steve Austin, head of the ICR Department of Geosciences. FAST is a team of research scientists committed to developing new and groundbreaking ways of thinking about catastrophic geologic processes associated with Noah's Flood and Earth history—specifically sedimentary and tectonic processes. Sedimentary processes are those associated with particulates deposited by water. Tectonic processes are those associated with crustal upheavals like plate movements, mountain building, and volcanic events.

The primary focus of the FAST team's research is the stratigraphic record and three characteristics of the global flood.

- *Flood Processes:* Research designed to discover, describe, and interpret event beds within their regionally extensive strata sequences that formed by catastrophic, flood-activated sedimentary and tectonic processes.
- *Flood Patterns:* Research focused on measurement, correlation, and description of regional, continental, and global stratigraphic sequences that represent large-scale Flood products.

- *Flood Phases:* Research directed toward generating and applying boundary criteria for the placement of the pre-Flood/Flood boundary, the Flood/post-Flood boundary, and divisions within the Flood.

Because uniformitarianism has dominated geology, the FAST team is committed to developing an alternative high-energy, short-period approach to sedimentation, stratigraphy, and tectonics. If you are interested in supporting this innovative, catastrophic approach to geology, contact Dr. Vardiman at LVardiman@icr.edu or 619/448-0900. ☎



ICR in Peru and Japan

ICR was privileged to be part of the first Creation Conference of Lima, Peru October 16–21. Zoologist Frank Sherwin of ICR spoke, as well as ICR speaker Jim Gardner, AiG's David Menton, and other scientists and educators from America and Mexico. Through interpreters, speakers gave PowerPoint presentations and were part of a formal Q and A session. They were also shuttled throughout churches and universities in Lima, presenting the case for creation. The conference was a success by God's blessings and the tireless efforts of Creous and Elizabeth Ramdath.

The large American naval base at Yokosuka, Japan, was the site of a creation seminar October 27–30. Frank Sherwin spoke to a host of base personnel and their families regarding scientific and Biblical creation. The event was capped by a Sunday service of 600 where Frank spoke on "Creation Evangelism." Navy Chaplain Bob Freiberg, a long-time supporter of ICR, sponsored the event. ☎



Fruit Flies in the Face of Macroevolution

Since the early 1900s, the biological community has used the tiny fruit fly (*Drosophila*) to conduct thousands of experiments. Students in biology classes work with fruit flies, crossing various types to produce inheritance patterns. Today, there are many thousands of publications dealing with the fruit fly and to secular biologists, it is *the* creature for investigating evolutionary genetics. This insect is used because genetically it is relatively simple, having four pairs of easily observed chromosomes containing only 13,000 genes (DNA). In March of 2000 the entire genome (the totality of genes) of the fruit fly was sequenced.¹

Radiation such as x-rays will produce mutations and various frequencies and strengths of x-rays have bombarded these insects in the laboratory, producing, for example, wing abnormalities known as *apterous*, *vestigial*, *dumpy*, etc. Since 1910 geneticists have documented over 3,000 mutations in this creature, yet science journals have not documented a single fruit fly evolving into something else, no matter how often and badly they're mutated. Indeed, the late evolutionist Pierre-P. Grassé said, "The fruitfly (*Drosophila melanogaster*), the favorite pet insect of the geneticists, whose geographical, biotopical, urban, and rural genotypes are now known inside out, seems not to have changed since the remotest times."²


Hox genes: no help for macroevolution

As an embryo develops, its body plan arises under the direction of developmental control genes which includes a group called the homeobox, or *Hox* genes. The *bithorax* gene is part of the *Hox* genes which, if mutated, may produce a four-winged fruit fly (they normally have two). It is said that "in many cases, experimentally induced mutations in homeotic genes create drastic changes in the [basic body design],"³ and one non-creationist stated,

Control genes like homeotic genes may be the target of mutations that would conceivably change phenotypes, but one must remember that, the more central one makes changes in a complex system, the more severe the peripheral consequences become. . . . Homeotic changes induced in *Drosophila* genes have led only to monstrosities, and most experimenters do not expect to see a bee arise from their [fruit fly] constructs.⁴

Decades ago, an example of a "good mutation" was given by a Denver University biologist during a public debate with this author. It involved the *bithorax* gene that produces an atypical four-winged fruit fly. Unfortunately, the evolutionist failed to tell the audience that the fruit fly's ability to fly was severely impaired. What would natural selection do to such mutated creatures?

References

1. Adams, M. D., et al., "The Genome Sequence of *Drosophila melanogaster*," *Science* 287, March 24, 2000, pp. 2185–2195.
2. Grassé, Pierre-P. *Evolution of Living Organisms* (New York: Acad. Press, 1977), p. 130.
3. Campbell, Reece & Mitchell, *Biology*, 1999, Benjamin/Cummings, p. 460.
4. Schwabe, C., as quoted in "Hox (homeobox) Genes—Evolution's Saviour?" by Don Batten, answersingenesis.org/docs/4205.asp. 



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

Weekend of: **Title/Topic:**

Jan. 7 Evolution on the Defense

Creation-science and intelligent design have become increasingly popular. The origin of life argument seems to be the topic of discussion in many venues today. We hear about it in the news, on television and radio, and in courtrooms across the country. Why is the creation/evolution debate such a popular subject these days? To hear the answer to this question, tune in!

Jan. 14 The Importance of Being Human

Evolutionists claim that man is just a higher class of animal. They say we're nothing more than a glorified ape. But Genesis 1:27 tells us differently. It says: “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.” On this week's program, we'll focus on the differences between man and beast, and the dwindling respect for human life in today's society. Listen in to this interesting discussion!

Jan. 21 Answers to Unanswerable Evolutionary Questions, Part 1

In *Science* magazine, July 2005, 125 questions were posed that, according to secular scientists, have not yet been answered. Creation scientists, however, do have the answers to most of these “unsolved” mysteries! Join us for this exciting program as we look at some of these questions and hear creation answers to questions about the origin of life, alien life forms,

mass extinctions, and the “evolution” of flowers.

Jan. 28 Answers to Unanswerable Evolutionary Questions, Part 2

Secular scientists are continually searching for answers about human evolution. Although they haven't found the answers they're looking for, that doesn't mean their questions can't be answered. Join us for part two of this two-part series as creationists respond to questions about human evolution, race, language, and music!

If you would like to find out where you can hear these and other ICR radio programs, please e-mail radio@icr.org with your name and address and we will be happy to send you a radio station listing for your state or you can look it up on the web at www.icr.org/index.php?module=radio. If our programs are not aired in your area, we would be glad to send you a free demo packet for you to take to your local Christian station! ☪



From a radio listener in Alabama

Greetings to you and the great staff at ICR. We appreciate your wonderful ministry. As a 50-year-old pastor, I remember as a teenager the influence that you and your books have had on me through the years. Now, partly through radio, I have been able to teach others also. (II Timothy 2:2.) . . . Keep keeping on! You are making a great difference in peoples lives, like me!

From a radio listener in Micronesia

We wish to thank you ICR for the radio programs. They have been and still are very helpful for our youngsters who are being introduced and exposed to evolution theories through even the educational system. ☪



“But seek ye first the kingdom of God”

Matthew 6:33

New Year custom dictates that we review our lifestyle after our celebration season and make “resolutions” to correct behavior or focus goals for the coming year. Most of us who have spent some time with the Lord give acknowledgement to the custom, but usually also search our hearts to confess any lingering issues and renew our commitment to serve our King, the Lord Jesus.

May I suggest a few of the “bigger resolutions” to consider?

The First and Second Commandment (Matthew 27:37–39)

To love God wholly and then love others is the demanding summary of the Ten Commandments of God. None of us keep them continually, but all of us should renew our willingness to obey them (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

Judgment, Mercy, and Faith (Matthew 23:23)

All the “technical obedience” of the Pharisees was not enough to please the Lord Jesus. He considered all religious activity secondary to a lifestyle of holiness that reflected His own heart (Micah 6:8).

Kind, Tenderhearted, Forgiving (Ephesians 4:32)

Jesus told His disciples that the world would recognize our love toward one another (John 13:34–35). He also said that if we refused to forgive those who had wronged us, the Heavenly Father would not forgive us (Mark 11:26). This is supremely important!

Good Stewards of God’s Grace (I Peter 4:10)

The Stewardship principle has its foundation in the Dominion Mandate of Genesis 1:28, to care for God’s creation. The lifestyle requirement extends to our *use* of that which God has given us (Matthew 25:15–28; Luke 19:13–25) and to the *service* we give to God’s family with the gifts He has given us (Romans 12:3–11).

Sow Bountifully (II Corinthians 9:6)

There is much bound up in this command and promise: faithfulness in our church (Hebrews 10:25); consistent tithing (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:2); and generous offerings and alms (Luke 12:32–34). But it also covers all that we do in the Lord’s service, from the “cup of cold water” to the “ministry” to and for the saints. This “resolution” is most blessed when it is followed “cheerfully” (II Corinthians 9:7).



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