

Vardiman and Lisle Confront Ross and Rana on The Age of The Earth

by Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.

Dr. Larry Vardiman of ICR and Dr. Jason Lisle of AiG shared opinions on the age of the earth with Dr. Hugh Ross and Dr. Fazale Rana of Reasons to Believe on April 29, 2006, in Fullerton, California. The First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton sponsored the one-day event entitled, "A Question of Age." About 800 people attended.

Dr. Lisle led off with a presentation on Biblical creationism from a young-Earth perspective and Dr. Vardiman followed with experimental evidence for a young Earth from the RATE project. Af-

ter a short break Dr. Rana discussed the old-Earth view for the origin of man and Dr. Ross critiqued the young-Earth position. A 2-1/2 hour question and answer session was held in the afternoon during which each team offered five-minute responses to about 15 questions from the organizers and the audience.

The tone of the conference was cordial throughout the day, but it was obvious that the primary topic of discussion was to be the reliability of a literal interpretation of the Bible. Ross and Rana stated many times that they "take the



L to R: Drs. Jason Lisle, Larry Vardiman, Craig Hazen (moderator), Hugh Ross, and Fazale Rana.




Bible seriously and consistently,” but they believe it should not be read *literally*. Vardiman charged Ross with approaching the Bible with a preconceived scientific model and trying to fit Scripture into it. Ross denied this allegation but the audience had numerous opportunities to observe this approach being applied in his explanations.

One of the more disturbing misuses of Scripture by Reasons to Believe was their attempt to deny that the death of animals is a result of sin. Rana argued that animals are not really alive according to the Biblical definition of life. Therefore, there is no difficulty with the multitudes of fossils being formed over millions of years before man was created. Of course, all the Biblical geologies were considered to be inaccurate. Ross also denied the global Flood described in Genesis and even claimed that an account of creation can be found in Psalm 104 which is superior to Genesis 1:1–2:3. It is a violation of conventionally accepted rules of hermeneutics to use poetic passages to interpret prior narrative passages. Lisle repeatedly appealed to Ross and Rana that God’s Word should be read in the most straightforward, literal manner possible recognizing that there are poetic and allegorical passages which need special consideration. However, the response by Ross and Rana was one of profound disregard for such a simplistic belief in God’s revelation.


It was evident to many in the audience that the old-Earth position expounded by Ross and Rana gives little regard to God’s Word and was built primarily on the theories of man. It seems evident that Ross and Rana not only do not take the Bible *literally* and, although they claim to do so, they do not take it *seriously* either.


Many who attended the conference seemed to be encouraged by the deep regard Vardiman and Lisle displayed for

Scripture. However, others seemed confused when Ross and Rana frequently quoted from Scripture and then concluded that it didn’t really mean what it said. May many come to the conclusion that God’s Word can be trusted when read in a straightforward manner. 

RATE Results Reported in Roanoke, Virginia

Five members of the RATE team presented evidence for the young age of the earth at First Baptist Church of Roanoke, VA, on May 20. Drs. Russell Humphreys, Andrew Snelling, and John Baumgardner described the exciting results of the project to about 750 participants at ICR’s first RATE conference on the East Coast.

The crowd showed real enthusiasm for the studies on helium diffusion rates, fission tracks, radiohalos, and carbon-14 in coal and diamonds which support an earth $6,000 \pm 2,000$ years old. Drs. John Morris and Larry Vardiman also participated in the meeting and spoke on Sunday following the conference at First Baptist Church and Calvary Memorial Church of Roanoke. The next RATE meetings will occur in Lancaster, PA, on September 9, and Dallas, TX, on September 30. 



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President's Column

by John D. Morris

ICR just returned from Grand Canyon having completed another successful tour, with both a 10-day rafting option on the Colorado River and a 7-day bussing adventure throughout the American Southwest. Actually the ICR tours not only explore Grand Canyon, but also Mount St. Helens, Yellowstone Park, Galapagos Islands, and now the new tour to Yosemite accomplish several important goals. Some may ask, "Why does ICR offer such 'vacation' packages? Isn't ICR's mission an academic and research one?"

Several reasons come to mind. Most obvious, each of the tours are to areas of ongoing ICR research. From radioisotope dating of Grand Canyon rocks to genetic diversity in the Galapagos Islands, important creation questions are being addressed. Furthermore, since ICR receives no government funding for this research, the tours help facilitate and finance it. Often the ICR scientists will be on site a week before the tour arrives, financed by tour "profits," doing the important field mapping and sample collection.


A second major goal of ICR is communication of creation information. Through the tours, numerous Christians



Bill Hoesch gives a creation lecture.

have been more thoroughly trained than otherwise possible with first-hand knowledge gained from hands-on interaction with the sites and researchers involved. Tour veterans are thus prepared for a more effective ministry, and even have their own photographs and stories to tell.

Thirdly, these trained tour participants have tasted of the ICR passion for creation and received lasting input regarding creation's relevance to evangelism and society. Bible study and sweet fellowship impress these truths even more fully. These new ICR ambassadors leave better equipped to carry the ICR message into venues an ICR scientist might not reach.

Yes, the tours are a very important aspect of ICR's ministry. Join us if at all possible. The inaugural Yosemite tour this fall would be a good place to start! 



A smiling crowd of creation enthusiasts!



New Molecular Biology Lab at ICR

by Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.

During the spring of 2006 ICR refitted the graduate school biology laboratory into a modern molecular biology facility capable of conducting genetics research. Dr. Dan Criswell, head of the GENE project, acquired a new DNA analyzer and support equipment to begin the Mitochondrial Eve Project. Two laboratory technicians are also testing the equipment and optimizing protocols. The new lab will be able to:


- Extract DNA from any tissue type
- Target and amplify specific segments of DNA
- Identify differences in DNA sequences

The new lab essentially has the capabilities of a forensic laboratory which can identify differences between individuals from tissue samples such as skin or hair. The DNA analyzer is capable of sequencing and identifying polymorphisms (multiple changes or mutations in a DNA segment).

The entire human genome sequence has been obtained through an expensive international effort. ICR's research is similar, but not a part of the larger effort. We have access to all this data, but as creationists we wish to answer questions evolutionists are not investigating.

The Mitochondrial Eve Project is designed to look for differences in mitochondrial DNA sequences between members of a family. The mitochondrion is the structure in the cell which provides the energy and harbors a small genome believed to be derived only from the female side of the family.

We anticipate finding that the mitochondrial genome is very young—consistent with a young-Earth Biblical timeframe.

Extraction and amplification of mitochondrial DNA segments was begun in April and identification of differences should start this summer. If you wish to know more about the research project or wish to receive a prospectus, please send an e-mail to Dr. Vardiman at Lvardiman@icr.edu. 



Marty O'Connor pipetting DNA samples.

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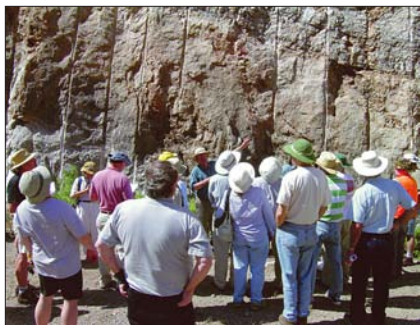
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ICR Research Groups Report Plans

by Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.

During the months of April and May research plans were formulated by three of the research groups at ICR. The Research Council, composed of the program managers for the six ICR research programs (GENE, FAST, EPIPHANY, RATE II, COSMOS, and COLUMN), met in San Diego on April 27 to overview the major activities of each program and address administrative issues. The Theory group of the GENE program met in San Diego on May 8-11 to discuss ongoing and planned theoretical studies. In addition, the FAST group organized a geological field trip in St. George, Utah, on May 14-17 to survey geological evidence in Southwestern America and begin planning for future field and laboratory studies on the global Flood.



Dr. Austin lecturing at the foot of the vertical cliff in the Virgin River Gorge.

Dr. Larry Vardiman, the ICR Research Coordinator, organized the third Research Council meeting in San Diego. He reviewed the distribution of about 400 thousand dollars which had been allocated to the six projects in January from designated donations to research at the end of 2005 and the tentative plans for another 500 thousand dollars received in early 2006. The

funds will be distributed among the six projects in order of priority by program as listed above. Funds will be used to purchase laboratory equipment and supplies, cover field expenses, portions of scientist's salaries applied to the projects, and subcontracts for laboratory analyses. For all six projects to receive approximately the same level of support that RATE experienced during the last half of its activity, the total research program will need about a million and a half dollars per year. This is a much larger financial effort than RATE.

The Gene Theory Team met to evaluate progress and plan succeeding steps. One of the main topics was a review of preliminary results and testing of a numerical simulation for mutation rates in organisms written by Dr. John Baumgardner. A new code has been developed which will allow input of multiple parameters relating to mutation processes from either an evolutionary or a creationist perspective. Preliminary results from this simulation shows that mutation occurs so rapidly that the evolutionary scenario is untenable. Improvements to the code were discussed and plans laid for publishing it.

Dr. Steve Austin invited about 20 geologists and associates to the first meeting of the FAST program in St. George, Utah. Six position papers were offered on Biblical and geological support for a global, life-destroying Flood. Field trips to study the geological features of the Virgin River Gorge along Interstate 15 near St. George and the Zion National Park region were conducted on three mornings of the conference. In the afternoons, presentations and discussion were held to develop an approach to the research effort over the next 5-6 years. It is anticipated that several major questions will be identified for resolution during the program and requests for proposals to conduct research will be forthcoming.

The new research programs at ICR are off to a good start. If the Lord provides adequate funding and inspiration, as He has done in the past, it is anticipated that exciting new results will soon be available from these efforts. Please pray to that end. 🛐



Pointing out a nautiloid in Virgin River Gorge.



ICR zoologist Frank Sherwin spoke at the Creation Science Fellowship at Costa Mesa the evening of May 6 (Jim Pamplin, host).

Crest Community Church (Eric Sythoff, pastor) was the site of several presentations by Frank including “Darwinism and the Fossil Record” and “Scientific Evidence for Creation.” The highlight of all sessions was the presentation Frank gave at a popular Christian fellowship on the campus of UC Riverside, arranged by Pastor Sythoff. Students heard the “Case Against Darwinism,” as described by evolutionists themselves in various secular publications. Later in the week other students were challenged to know why they believe what they believe not only in science, but other disciplines, as the war of the worldviews heats up. 🛐



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

Weekend of: **Title/Topic:**

- July 1 A Goodly Heritage**
Family heritage is often passed down from generation to generation. But, the best heritage is faith in God’s Word, starting with Genesis. Join us to learn the importance of passing creation to the next generation.
- July 8 Design of Symbiosis**
Looking at nature, it is amazing how many creatures and plants are interdependent. This is called symbioses. Some symbiotic relationships are quite intricate. Tune in to learn about symbiotic relationships and how they testify to the Creator!
- July 15 Miracles in Genesis and the Gospels**
Would you be surprised to know there’s a connection between creation and the miracles in the gospels? This week we will focus on the miracles of Christ and see how they relate to the miracle of creation.
- July 22 Is Creation Science Religion?**
Again and again—in the media and in classrooms—we hear that creationism is “just a religion” while evolution is “science.” Why is this? Has the term “science” taken on a different meaning to evolutionists? And what about atheism—isn’t it religious? Listen in as we discuss this topic.
- July 29 Are Humans Evolving?**
Every so often exciting news of a “missing link” discovery makes front page headlines and is lauded as proof of evolution. But, are they really the transitional forms of one creature to another? Join us!
- If you would like to find out where you can hear these and other ICR radio programs, please go to the radio page on icr.org for a station listing. 🛐



Why Bother?

“. . . the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth”
(Proverbs 29:16).

Rare is the saint who has not breathed the cry of David, “*LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?*” (Psalm 94:3). It seems like liberal and humanistic educators dominate and control the educational process. A humanistically trained population assumes influential positions in all branches of government which then make, execute, interpret, and enforce laws in conformity to humanistic agendas. The mass media spins liberal policy in a favorable light, conservative policy in an undesirable light, and Christianity as a radical right-wing extremism.

Perhaps more damaging to the Kingdom is the influence among Western churches of claims of personal revelation, a quest for subjective experience, and the rising influence of existentialism and postmodernism—all converge to foster a low view of Scripture.

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”
(Psalm 11:3).

The answers to these worldly observations, plaintive cries, and rhetorical questions that fret about the apparent power of the wicked, lie in the overarching eternal truths of Scripture.

- God is Truth, whether anyone believes it or not (Romans 3:4).
- God’s Word is sufficient to “answer” every man (II Timothy 3:16–17; I Peter 3:15; II Peter 1:3–4).
- God’s plan is for His saints to win! (Genesis 1:28; Isaiah 11:9, 55:11; Matthew 6:10; Revelation 11:15).
- Our trust in God’s Word and way will bring victory (Psalm 37).

ICR is committed to “preaching” the Word and “contending” for the faith—in every sphere of truth (science, technology, education, commerce, humanities). Your financial help strengthens our hands.



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