

CREATION MISSIONS: A LIFE AND DEATH ADVENTURE

The Institute for Creation Research has long been committed to foreign missions. Over the years, ICR scientists have traveled overseas on dozens of trips, not only taking the message of creation to many, but also aiding in the start-up of numerous local creation groups.

Such was the case on a recent creation “missions” trip to Brazil by Dr. Duane Gish, ICR’s most frequent missionary. From April 1, 2003, to May 2, 2003, he spoke multiple times in five major cities in churches, schools, and universities, at the invitation of Christiano da Silva, director of the Creation Science Association of Brazil, the local creation advocacy group, host of several of Gish’s earlier trips. The fruitful trip turned to adventure in Belo Horizonte.

Duane and his wife, Lolly, were settled in for the evening in a sponsor’s home as the family was out. When the wife and daughter returned and opened the garage door they were accosted at gunpoint by two thugs. Having relieved them of their valuables, the thieves demanded entrance into the house. One of the thieves put a gun to the mother’s head and she exclaimed, “In the name of Jesus I will not allow you into the house!” knowing that Duane and Lolly were inside. Repeated threats of death led her to yell, “In the name of Jesus you cannot

kill me, and I will not let you into the house!” And with that, the thieves sped away in her car, leaving all unharmed.

The adventure continued as the Gishes boarded their flight home. One of their hosts had given Duane a fossil fish, which showed up as something suspicious in the luggage x-ray. Security personnel promptly removed Lolly from the boarding area and took her with little explanation to another building. She, however, didn’t know the combination to Duane’s offending suitcase, so she was returned and they took him off of the plane.

Duane is well known for his amazing recall of scientific facts in his many creation/evolution debates. But wouldn’t you know it, he simply couldn’t remember the combination! After twenty confrontational minutes it finally opened. The fossil was confiscated, and they happily returned home. No doubt, the memories of this adventure will be lasting.

We can all be thankful for the bravery of the dear lady who risked her life to protect Duane and Lolly. And we can use it as a reminder to pray for the “adventurous” ICR scientists. No telling what they’ll be into next. ☠





METEOROLOGIST MIKE OARD VISITS ICR

Mr. Michael Oard returned to his home in Montana this April after spending three months at ICR working on a monograph about ice cores. He plans to complete the research and publish the monograph by the end of this year. The main contribution this monograph will offer is an evaluation of the results of new ice cores in Greenland and Antarctica from a creationist perspective and a comparison with other cores reported earlier in ICR monographs and research articles.

While at ICR Mr. Oard also worked on several other projects. He wrote an *Impact* article entitled, *Are Polar Ice Sheets Only 4,500 Years Old?* which appears in this issue. He gave a brown bag presentation at ICR during his visit, reporting on his ice core research. He conducted a literature search for articles on the escape of helium from the earth's atmosphere which may be used in updating the ICR monograph, *The Age of the Earth's Atmosphere*. And, he helped draft a plan on a potentially new research effort called CLIMATE (CLimate Models Applied To the Extremes). This latter effort, if adopted, would expand ICR's paleoclimate modeling capability by installing a new state-of-the-art, parallel-processing computer system and running conventional climate models under extreme Flood conditions.

Michael Oard's contributions this winter were significant and highly produc-

tive. His wife, Beverly, also added a pleasant presence to the staff as she assisted in various departments during the winter.

ICR may invite other scientists from time to time to work as visiting scientists on such high-priority projects. Our regular scientific staff is small and it is encouraging to have others with special training and talents that can support our on-going research spend extended periods with us. ☞

CREATION EVANGELISM IN TURKEY

In the September 2000 issue of *Acts & Facts* page 9, a short article mentioned ICR's "interest in promoting creation in the country of Turkey, [and] the greater need . . . for a breakthrough in Turkish evangelism."

ICR is pleased to announce that *Scientific Creationism*, 2nd edition, by Dr. Henry M. Morris, has finally been published by New Life Publishers in Turkey. This project took quite a bit longer than expected, but the final result is a completely new, accurate translation, rather than a simple revision of the first edition translated many years ago. Although it is not available through ICR, the international impact of creation evangelism is announced with great joy. ☞

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SCIENCE DOES MATTER!

While browsing through the stacks at the local library, I came across *Science Matters*, a book by two evolutionary naturalists.¹

Chapter 17 is entitled, “Evolution” and the following is found on page 243:

If you are a Creationist, the Bible—not nature—dictates what you believe. Creationists subordinate observational evidence to doctrine based on their interpretation of sacred texts. The tenets of biblical Creationism are not testable, nor are they subject to dramatic change based on new data. In other words, Creationism is a form of religion.

Let’s rearrange a few words that would make this paragraph much closer to the truth:

If you are an evolutionist, Darwin—not nature—dictates what you believe. Evolutionists subordinate observational evidence to doctrine based on their interpretation of On the Origin of Species. The tenets of evolutionary naturalism are not testable, nor are they subject to dramatic change based on new data. In other words, Evolutionism is a form of religion.

To those who would protest (too much!) the above restructuring, I would defer them to an introduction a British biologist wrote for Darwin’s infamous book:

The fact of evolution is the backbone of biology, and biology is thus in the peculiar position of being a science founded on an unproved theory—is it then a science or a faith? Belief in the theory of evolution is thus exactly parallel to belief in special creation—both are concepts which believers know to be true but neither, up to the present, has been capable of proof.²

The fossil record reveals an abrupt appearance of highly complex creatures—whether they are trilobites or whales—followed by stasis (no change). Science done in the laboratory (*observational evidence*) clearly shows there are natural limits to biological change. There simply is no indication of radical change (macroevolution) that Darwinism demands.

We now conclude that science—what we *really* know through empirical research—certainly **does** matter. Science shouts creation!

1. Hazen & Trefil, *Science Matters*, Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1991.
2. L. Harrison Mathews, Introduction to *The Origin of the Species* (reprint, London: J.M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. 1971), p. XI. 



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Napa, California

Henry Morris III and Frank Sherwin presented numerous scientific, theological, and practical ways to refute evolutionism to an audience of approximately 500 at the Grace Church of Napa Valley. Many commented on how easy the information was to comprehend.

One person wondered why “ICR did not speak at more churches?” The reply was two-fold: First, not very many churches realize what the religion of evolution does to their theology (and their youth), and prefer the word of human scientists over the words of the Creator who left “many infallible proofs” for the literal, six-day creation, as described in the first chapter of Genesis. Secondly, because ICR’s creation seminars are provided when requested, ICR must wait for churches to invite speakers to present these life-changing messages. ICR is thankful for the bold leadership of Grace Church that wanted its audiences to hear the pure word of God, unpolluted by the “wisdom of man.”

Elkton, Maryland

In March, Dr. Randy Guliuzza had an interesting opportunity to debate the National Association of Biology Teacher’s definition of evolution, stating in part that *the diversity of life on earth is the outcome of evolution, an unpredictable and natural process*. His opponent was Dr. Carlton Cooper, a biochemist on the faculty at the University of Delaware. Dr. Cooper spoke first and his arguments were based primarily on observed changes in HIV and influenza viruses. He was an articulate and polite speaker. Dr. Guliuzza then presented persuasive evidence regarding the random action of natural selection and mutations, the total inability of mutation as a viable mechanism for evolution, the subsequent

lack of evidence for evolution in the fossil record, and the materialistic bias of many researchers. By the end of the debate, Dr. Cooper openly conceded many of these and other points.

The debate was part of a three-day Creation conference hosted by Christ Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Maryland, Pastor Mike Chastain. About 160 people attended, including many youth.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

May 11–18 saw Dr. John Morris return to his old “stomping grounds” in Oklahoma where he spent 10 years as a graduate student and faculty member at the University of Oklahoma. For the first week he taught a class on creationism to students at the American Christian College and Seminary in Oklahoma City, culminating in an address to the graduates and families at a graduation banquet on Friday evening. ACCS is a member of TRACS and fully committed to creation.

On May 18, he spoke to Wildwood Community Church in Norman, where he served as elder for those years. What a blessing to refresh sweet friendships and learn of God’s faithfulness.

Worcester, Massachusetts

This year’s MassHOPE Homeschool convention was held on April 25–26, 2003. Mike Riddle was the Friday night keynote speaker before an audience of approximately 1500. Mike used apologetics in his presentation which established the superiority of creation over evolution, included evidences from geology, fossils, biology, probability, thermodynamics, and theology.

The audience’s appreciation for his dynamic speech resulted in a standing ovation. Mike Riddle is becoming very popular as a school conference speaker, in addition to conducting numerous ICR loop tours. The Riddles are eager to share their creation-evangelism message and truly fulfill the adage, “Have PowerPoint slides, will travel.” ☪



From Alabama

For a number of years now I have been receiving your *Acts & Facts* monthly newsletter and have appreciated it so much. . . . Many thanks for the good information ICR is planting in young minds (and old) today. We've had far too many years of evolutionary ideas crammed into our minds. . . . I keep praying that things are now changing back in the right direction. I think I'm seeing a glimmer of hope as more and more Christian ministries are reawakening people to the truth—God's Holy Word.

From Pennsylvania

I was home schooled as a child in San Diego. [The] church school we were affiliated with, went to your museum every year. I always looked forward to that trip and enjoyed it immensely. It made the Bible so much more real to me. I was very happy to find a website for you and think your ministry is so vital in this very misled world!

From Oregon

I have nearly finished reading your *Biblical Basis for Modern Science*, and without intending to sound patronizing, I want to tell you what a remarkable publication you have produced. . . . As autocratic as it may seem, if I had the power, I would compel everybody on earth . . . to read your books.

From Connecticut

Thank you ICR for your many years of selfless dedication to the Father. Through your research and willingness to educate, you have helped equip the saints to not only share the word with confidence, but also you have strengthened many with firm understanding to endure to the end. ☞

The Radio Department is pleased to present the final three airings of the eight-part series on Progressive Creationism.

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

Weekend of: Title/Topic:

**July 5 Progressive Creationism #6
—No Death before Adam**

The Garden of Eden was a place of perfection and beauty for Adam and Eve. Then one day, it all changed. What choice did Adam and Eve make that changed everything? And why do some argue that it didn't happen as the Bible says? Tune in!

**July 12 Progressive Creationism #7
—The Proto-Humans**

The Bible clearly says in Genesis 1:27, “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him. . . .” So why do some claim that God created man over and over until He got it right? Stay tuned!

**July 19 Progressive Creationism #8
—The Local Flood**

Much evidence has been found showing that the earth is young. The Bible points to the age of the earth as well in the passages about the worldwide Flood of Noah's time. But there are those that would say that Noah's Flood wasn't worldwide at all. Can that be true? Listen in!

July 26 Junk DNA

When we look at how God created the human body, we see many incredibly intricate details. One of the most detailed parts of the body is its DNA. But is all DNA good DNA, or is some of it just junk? Stay tuned and find out! ☞



VARDIMAN COMPLETES TENURE AS TRACS COMMISSIONER

ICR scientist, Dr. Larry Vardiman, completed ten years of services this June as commissioner for TRACS (Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools). He replaced Dr. Henry Morris in 1992 upon his departure. Dr. Morris was one of the founders of TRACS and one of the early commissioners who fought long and hard for its development and recognition. Dr. Vardiman was re-elected three times after his initial appointment and served on the Commission during the critical years when it grew from serving only a few colleges to its status today of almost 50. TRACS accredits Christian liberal arts colleges, Bible colleges, seminaries, and graduate schools which teach a literal, creationist understanding of the Bible. Federal funding to students is dependent upon a college receiving accreditation from a body like TRACS.

TRACS has truly been a witness to God's blessing struggling ministries which maintain a clear purpose and adherence to His Word. TRACS gained recognition by the U.S. Department of Education as a national accrediting association after ten years of rejection by several Secretaries of Education. Lamar Alexander, appointed as Secretary of Education by President George Bush near the end of his term, unilaterally recognized TRACS for an initial recognition period of 18 months after only one month in office.

TRACS was placed on probation at the end of that first 18 months and given one year to demonstrate compliance with Department of Education guidelines. There was resentment within the Department by the manner in which TRACS had previously gained recognition and there was also great concern over its Biblical standards. But, TRACS successfully demonstrated compliance and regained recognition with praise from the Department in 1996. TRACS has continued to develop over the years and has come to be recognized as a leading accrediting body by regional accrediting associations and Christian institutions as well.

TRACS was recognized by CHEA (Council on Higher Education Association) in 2001, the umbrella agency for all post-graduate accrediting associations. One reason for this recognition was that TRACS had successfully developed a statistical tool for evaluating the effectiveness of its accreditation process, a method now being adopted by other accrediting associations. The current Executive Director, Dr. Russell Fitzgerald, has been very active in developing standards and contributing to the programs of CHEA.

TRACS is now accrediting colleges internationally and has plans to begin accrediting elementary and secondary schools in the near future. TRACS' stated purpose is to *Enhance Quality Christian Education*. TRACS has a desire to assist small colleges in becoming more effective in their mission. The marvelous history of TRACS and its recent growth speak well for its future ministry. 

2003 ICC

International Conference on Creationism

August 4–9 in Pittsburgh, PA

ICC web site: www.icc03.org

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THE SHORT-TERM

There have been many articles and special programs during the past few months about what to do with money in the “short-term.” It seems, however, that the various opinions do not concur on the “term” of the short-term. We can chuckle at the lack of agreement and pass it off as typical pundits vying for recognition in the rather esoteric “science” of financial forecasting, but what *does* one do in the “short-term”?

THE DOUBTFUL DOLDRUMS

One common thread roaming through most of the prognostications is a concern for the strength of the global economic picture. One hears multiple warnings about the lack of support for economic growth in the “near, long-term” (whatever that means). No one really knows, but there does seem to be a consensus that those who are looking for a stable income for their retirement years may be under a serious challenge for the next few years. The Vanguard Funds, a large and widely respected mutual fund company, has recently recommended that older investors consider purchasing annuities to secure a reasonable rate of return on their retirement monies.

THE “CONFIDENT” CGA

Since the Christian’s “short-term” is considerably modified by our “long-term” view of eternal matters, it is encouraging to be able to accomplish both objectives. It is good to be able to secure a short-term solution that will enhance our effectiveness while we are still on Earth, and at the same time insure that our resources will continue to have a long-term impact participating with Kingdom ministries after we have joined our brothers and sisters in eternity.

If you are 70 or above, you might want to investigate the Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) from ICR. Depending on your age and whether or not you want to include another person as a continuing beneficiary, the interest rate could range from 6.1% to 12%. The CGA also allows an immediate tax deduction as well as actual tax-free sheltering of a portion of the income, making the effective rates much more favorable.

ICR can prepare a specific proposal for you to consider that can help you focus your planning. Check the “CGA” box on the donor envelope or call us directly.



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