

Acts & Facts



Institute for Creation Research
www.icr.org

Facts Facts Facts

Vol. 33 No. 5 May 2004

TWO DOCUMENTARIES TO BE FILMED IN GRAND CANYON



Recent years have seen ICR's research yield a great deal of newsworthy information, prompting ICR to plan two video documentaries. The RATE Initiative (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth) has received much interest among scholars and non-scientists. The information has been presented at professional meetings, in a technical book, and in technical papers. The researchers have recognized the need to present it at a popular level as well.

Similarly, Dr. Steve Austin's discovery of billions of two-foot-long nautiloid fossils in Grand Canyon and surrounding

states, has received significant scholarly interest at professional meetings and among the rangers at Grand Canyon. Thus, the need is realized for a popular level treatment, which would be appropriate for classrooms and television.

Both projects contain significant focus in Grand Canyon, so plans were made to include a film crew on the rafting tour through Grand Canyon in early May. ICR geologists Dr. Steve Austin, Dr. Andrew Snelling, and Scott Rugg will not only be leading the raft tour, but available for video interviews at numerous sites.

Mr. Al Magallon and his video crew from video production house, *10:31*, will be on hand to video the scientists examining fossils at Nautiloid Canyon, collecting volcanic specimens at Basalt Canyon, investigating the diabase sills and dikes within the Bass Limestone, discussing the amphibolites at Clear Creek and the basement rocks at Pipe Creek, and studying the lava flows into the river near the Canyon's end. Interview footage and general scenic shots will be acquired at numerous locations for both films and will incorporate the tour participants when appropriate.

Projects such as these take some time to produce, but acquiring footage according to a planned script is the first step. Readers of *Acts & Facts* will be made aware of completion dates.

Readers should also be aware that each project will be quite expensive, but should have enormous educational value. Designated gifts specified for these projects would be welcomed. ☪



Farmington Hills, Michigan

Farmington Hills Baptist Church was full, as a large group of friendly and enthusiastic learners gathered for two days to hear the "Case for Creation" beginning on March 19. ICR's Bill Hoesch and adjunct lecturer, Dr. Randy Guliuza, presented a seminar designed to bring a very high level of both scientific and theological materials.

A highlighted lecture covered the many anatomical and physiological features of the human visual and reproductive systems that demonstrate irrefutable evidence of supernatural design. Some of ICR's original research in Grand Canyon and RATE was showcased in several other lectures. The Lord blessed abundantly with many thankful testimonies and wonderful fellowship. ☪

FLEXIBLE PRESENTATION OF UNBENDING TRUTH

ICR President Dr. John Morris took the message of creation to three widely varying venues in mid-March. In each case the basic message was the same, but the level and content shifted to meet each group.

On March 8–11 he was in Newport Beach, California, as the main speaker at the annual convention of Chafer Theological Seminary of Orange, California. Founded in response to the liberal drift among major evangelical seminaries, its instructors and students asked deep and probing questions.

On March 12–15, he journeyed to the Wilds Christian Campground in the beautiful Smokey Mountains for seven lectures at a family camp affiliated with Bob Jones University. Most in attendance held to creation, but appreciated the "refresher course" and update on research.

On March 18–21, Dr. Morris and Frank Sherwin presented the "Case for Creation" seminar in Urbana, Ohio. Most in the sponsoring (First Christian Church) and participating churches had received little creation input, but knew that the Ohio School Board had been debating the issue, and were ready for answers.

In each location the Scriptures were upheld, the Creator was glorified, and Christians were equipped. The unbending truth of creation can minister at all levels. ☪

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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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President's Column

by John D. Morris

In March we reported on the attempted banning of the new creation book, *Grand Canyon: A Different View*, from bookstores in Grand Canyon National Park. Evolutionists exhibited either their arrogance or insecurity by their unwillingness to allow a creationist “foot in the door.” Thankfully, the book has so far remained on the shelf, although it’s selling so fast the stores can’t keep it in stock.

This newsworthy event was thrust on the national stage, completely surprising both author and publisher. The CBS Evening News with Dan Rather program even included interviews of me and several evolutionists to get our thoughts. My part, and the opening and closing pieces of the news item, were filmed in the Grand Canyon room of the ICR Museum. One evolutionary “expert” claimed that the book’s presence at Grand Canyon proved the Bush Administration has totally capitulated to America’s Christian right wing (insecurity) and another called a creation interpretation of Grand Canyon as “silly” as teaching polar bears were in the canyon (arrogance). Mr. Rather closed the program with the quip “A big Flood: Maybe yes, maybe Noah.” It will take more than a condescending air to stop creation.

It just goes to show that there’s still much work to be done, and the other side doesn’t fight fair. The “contraband” book is available through ICR, and even though it doesn’t go into great detail, the pictures will adorn your coffee table for a long time to come.

Speaking of Grand Canyon, as you receive this issue of *A & F* the ICR scientists are leading a study tour there. If you haven’t been on an ICR tour yet, you must plan to go on the next one, scheduled to Mount St. Helen’s in August. There’s nothing like it! ☸

JONATHAN PARK JOINS VISION FORUM

The ICR family recognizes the Jonathan Park video drama as one of its outstanding ministries. These “Creation Adventures” aptly teach Biblical and creation truth while holding radio listeners spellbound. Radio stations gladly aired them free-of-charge and eagerly awaited each subsequent episode.

A recent refocusing of ICR’s projects and priorities led the leadership to seek another home for Jonathan Park and his adventuresome friends, one which specializes in children’s ministry rather than scientific research. Just such a home was found in Vision Forum, under the leadership of popular “Back to Genesis” speaker Doug Phillips.

Vision’s ministry is to facilitate the restoration of the Biblical family, and creation outreach plays a big role there. They will not only continue the Jonathan Park radio drama but expand it, dedicating to it the necessary resources that ICR couldn’t.

Mr. Pat Roy, who for twelve years has been ICR’s Director of Broadcast Ministries and “father” of its radio drama will be leaving ICR to join the staff at Vision. He will continue the sound creation content the program has known. We thank God for Pat and his contribution to ICR, and wish him well. ☸



Pat and Sandy Roy, with Summer.

ICR Graduate School

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2004 SUMMER SCHEDULE

The schedule below gives the list of courses to be offered by the ICR Graduate School this summer. Interested students should write or call as soon as possible for further information and application forms. Go to <http://www.icr.edu> for more details.

Department	Course #	Course Name	Instructor
MODULE 0 06/14/2004–07/05/2004–07/26/2004			
Suppl. Crs.	501 (0)	Orientation and Seminar	Cumming
MODULE A 06/14/2004–07/02/2004			
Biology	507 (3)	Advanced Paleontology	Parker
Biology	510 (3)	Field Studies in Biology	Parker
Biology	501 (3)	Comparative Biochemistry	Anderson
Biology	509 (3)	Laboratory Studies in Biology	Anderson
Geology	502 (3)	Advanced Sedimentary Geology	Austin
Physics	501 (3)	Classical Mechanics	Chaffin
Sci. Ed.	502 (3)	Advanced Educational Psychology/Lab	Stark
Sci. Ed.	504 (3)	Applied Science Education Research	Nason
MODULE B 07/05/2004–07/23/2004			
Biology	502 (3)	Population Genetics & Speciation	Parker
Biology	508 (3)	Microbial Genetics	Francis
Geology	513 (3)	Igneous Petrology	Snelling
Physics	506 (3)	Intro to Theoretical Meteorology	Vardiman
Physics	509 (3)	Introduction to Astronomy	DeYoung
Sci. Ed.	501 (3)	Applied Statistics for Scientists	Deckard
Sci. Ed.	505 (3)	Curriculum Design and Analysis in Science	Nason
MODULE C 07/26/2004–08/13/2004			
Biology	506 (3)	Advanced Ecology	Parker
Biology	504 (3)	Advanced Comparative Anatomy	Cargo
Biology	509 (3)	Laboratory Studies in Biology	Cargo
Geology	503 (3)	Stratigraphic Analysis	Austin
Sci. Ed.	503 (3)	Instructional Design/Production	Nason
Sci. Ed.	506 (3)	Curriculum Implementation in Science	Deckard
MODULE D 06/14/2004–08/13/2004			
Biology	505 (3)	Biological Concepts	Cumming
Geology	506 (1)	Geological Field Studies	Austin
Suppl. Crs.	502 (3)	Advanced Studies in Creationism-Distance	Nason
Physics	580 (3)	Astro/Geophysics Thesis Proposal	Vardiman
Biology	580 (3)	Biology Thesis Proposal	Criswell
Geology	580 (3)	Geology Thesis Proposal	Austin
Sci. Ed.	580 (6)	Science Education Thesis	Nason
Geology	504 (3)	Earth Structures and Tectonics	Austin



HARSH, UNFRIENDLY MARS

There has been much excitement recently regarding the stunning successes of America's two Mars Exploration Rovers (MERs). Landing on opposite sides of the Red Planet, Spirit and Opportunity have functioned almost flawlessly. Now it looks like they have found signs of past water activity, sulfate minerals, and salts in some rock samples.

Unfortunately, evolutionary naturalists have equated this possible indication of water and minerals with life itself. Astronomer Stephen Squyres, principal scientist for the MER mission, declared that the area around Opportunity was “. . . almost certainly once habitable by life as we know it . . .”¹ Really?

Creation scientists urge caution, especially after the alleged “meteor from Mars” (labeled ALH84001) that supposedly contained “nanobacteria,” which were later found to be contaminants.

With information coming in from the Red Planet, it looks as though areas of Mars are toxic—hardly a place for delicate life to spontaneously appear from non-life. For example, a recent discovery of a noxious molecule in the Martian atmosphere has not helped secure hopes of past life on the Red Planet—

The researchers note that [hydrogen peroxide] is hazardous to microorganisms and so would discourage the existence of life on the surface of Mars.²

As the trillions of cells of animals and people metabolize, the byproducts include the toxic compound hydrogen peroxide. This chemical is dangerous and must be immediately neutralized before it can damage surrounding tissue. The Creator has designed enzymes to rapidly break down hydrogen peroxide into harmless compounds, except in some white blood cells where it is used to destroy organisms that invade our body.

Evolutionists active in this search for Martian life maintain that life is found in very inhospitable areas on Earth such as unique bacteria in the hot springs at Yellowstone National Park.³ If this is the case, they insist, then why couldn't life evolve from non-life on inhospitable Mars? And there's the catch. The existence of past and present heat resistant bacteria (thermophiles) here on Earth is a far, far cry from their evolving from non-life in the same harsh environment on either Mars or Earth! Put another way, because we observe brutal conditions on Mars (science reporter R.R. Britt speaks of “the harsh realities of a very unfriendly world”⁴), does this make it any more plausible that life evolved there? Quite the contrary. The spontaneous generation of life from non-life is easily the biggest hurdle for any evolution scenario, especially in harsh environments.

But let's suppose for a moment life is found on Mars. What then? According to an article in *Newsweek* magazine—

We think there's about 7 million tons of earth soil sitting on Mars, says [evolutionist Kenneth] Neelson. You have to consider the possibility that if we find life on Mars, it could have come from Earth.⁵

1. Petit, C., “Ancient water,” *US News & World Report*, March 15, 2004, p. 71.
2. *Chemical & Engineering News*, March 1, 2004, p. 27.
3. <http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=13809>
4. Britt, R., “Mars Underground,” *SPACE.com*, March 8, 2004.
5. Weingarten, T., *Newsweek*, September 21, 1998, p. 12.

“WHERE DID IT ALL GO?”

Most of us have voiced that question several times over the years—especially after we have filed our income tax reports. When we look at the money that the Lord has entrusted us with, it seems like we are seeing two entirely different pictures: the annualized sum often appears bigger than we thought, and the amount left over very seldom seems to be enough. That apparent paradox is even more obscure when we try to figure out how to provide for our retirement years or to plan for asset transfer whenever the Lord does take us home.

STABLE PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

One of the tools available for those trying to maintain a favorable and stable income during retirement years, is the Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). If you have cash in a savings account or non-income producing assets (like stocks or property), you should consider transferring some of those assets to a CGA. Essentially, a “gift” is made to ICR in exchange for a lifetime income (for one or two lives). The rate of return depends on your age at inception of the CGA. Right now the rates available are considerably better than can be gained from a CD or commercial annuity.

CAREFUL PLANNING FOR ASSET TRANSFER

Estate planning is not just for the wealthy! In fact, you may well be harming the very people you love the most by not planning for the transfer of the assets that the Lord has provided you. Estate laws can be complex, but they are also very helpful in making sure that the monetary value of your life-work is distributed in accordance with your desires. Basic will and trust documents are not that difficult to execute, and will protect your family from some unpleasant surprises should you leave without preparing them. You really should begin this process as soon as today.

ICR CAN HELP

ICR has several booklets available that will help you begin evaluating your present condition and future plans. ICR is qualified to issue Gift Annuities and various trusts, and would love to be included in your charitable giving plans, but we do not “write” wills or trusts. We can put you in touch with folks that we have learned to trust who do so. Let us know how we can help.



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