

Creation Museums: An Important Aspect of Creation Ministry

by John D. Morris

The Institute for Creation Research rejoices with our creation colleagues at Answers in Genesis (AiG) at the opening of their long anticipated Creation Museum. Built at their headquarters in Florence, Kentucky, it is easily the largest and most extensive of cre-



ICR's Museum Day, September 30, 2006

ation museums, and reasonably can expect a flourishing ministry for years to come.

It consists of numerous rooms depicting major events along the timeline of history, including Creation Week, the Fall, the Flood, and the redemptive work of Christ. Included are life-sized, animated dinosaurs, and activities for children. They have represented creation and Christianity well, and we wish them a fruitful tenure.

In recent years there have been numerous creation museums opened around the country and internationally, all inspired by the first such museum at ICR, which opened around 1975. It has expanded in several stages, but has always been organized along the timeline of history. Once

people understand the linear perspective of true history, they can begin to place observations into a real worldview, and evaluate claims accurately. Seeing Biblical events as reality elevates Christianity from an esoteric "faith" to actual truth. Knowing that scientific and his-

torical facts line up with the Bible encourages Christians to continue on a mature and effective faith.

ICR's Museum of Creation and Earth History has enjoyed a wonderful ministry and has seen adults and school children alike impacted. Often we have skeptics come to mock, but leave with a new-found appreciation for the Biblical worldview.

Creation museums now operate in dozens of locations in many states and several other countries. Some are "mom and pop" ministries, and some are extensive and well-equipped with fossil specimens and creation research discoveries. (See <http://www.nwcreation.net/museums.html> for a partial listing of museums.)



One thing is certain. Evolution has lost its stranglehold on education. For too long their monopoly has promoted the worldview of naturalism. Never again will the evidence for creation be censored. With credible and attractive museums and web sites, creation ministry will continue to expand. Many more Christians are learning to defend their faith in the public arena. The opening of the wonderful new museum at AiG stands as a major event in Christian history and will further efforts to bring the church and all of society back to a high view of Scripture.

We commend AiG for their outstanding work and value their partnership in the ministry. We pray God's very best on this new milestone. 🙏



Museum visitor from Pennsylvania

I was blessed with the opportunity to visit ICR's Creation and Earth History Museum in Santee this past summer, and I just want to encourage you to continue the wonderful work that you are performing for God's people and His glory. Thank you again. 🙏

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Global Warming in the News

by John D. Morris

The recent rush to enact legislation addressing "global warming" brings back memories, not all of them good. As has happened several times in the past, dire warnings of impending doom have predicted devastation to the planet, all backed up by pronouncements of scientists. While we recall them, let's remind ourselves that science and the opinions of some scientists are two different things. Often there seems to be a hidden agenda, either financial or political.

Of course, as we learned in last month's *Impact* article, threats of global warming are not baseless, for there are observations of fluctuations in parameters. Are they normal oscillations or long term trends? Are they due to human activity or natural causes? The best observations and speculations are that they are of natural origin, and the earth will readjust in time.

It reminds me of the time in the 1970s when I was ushered into the inner sanctum of the CIA in Washington, a meeting arranged by a highly placed government official interested in my search for Noah's Ark. I asked for the release of photos of

The logo for "ACTS 60 FACTS". "ACTS" is in a green, sans-serif font, "60" is in a green circle, and "FACTS" is in a larger, bold, green, sans-serif font. To the right is a circular logo for "ECFA" with "EST. 1978" below it.

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Meeting Highlights

Vernal, Utah

Mt. Ararat's ice cap during a year of extreme snow melt, hoping to see the Ark. According to our government's best intelligence, the earth was heading into a new Ice Age, and ice caps would probably expand for hundreds of years. We were entering into "global cooling," and man was to blame. Some in government wanted to pass legislation to "save the planet" by altering human behavior. Imagine the fix we would be in now if they had succeeded.

In the 1960s a similar scare predicted doom due to human overpopulation. Some wanted to governmentally limit family size, others wanted to eliminate the aged and infirmed. Famine and water shortages were touted as imminent. As before, man was the enemy and government needed to be expanded and empowered. Eventually the cries diminished.

Next came scares of acid rain, nuclear winter, Y2K, etc. Now we have the need for government-funded stem cell research. (Always the cry is for embryonic stem cells to be harvested, which destroys the embryo, not adult stem cells which do no harm to the donor.) In every case man is the culprit and an all-wise, all-powerful government is the solution while fringe science provides the evidence. A political agenda lurks behind it all. Many scientists see through the rhetoric, but they too benefit by government funding of their own marginally related research projects. Always the same big-government groups are behind them.

Let it be known that I am not overly concerned by global warming. I consider the scare as an effort to promote extreme political views. Some would fall under the label socialist, others Marxist, all desiring power vested in the hands of an elite few. The Creator designed the earth well, with built-in feedback mechanisms to handle any crises. There is coming a time, however, when excessive heat will be a problem (see Revelation 16:8–9), and these fluctuations may be a foreshadowing, but that too is in God's hands. 🌀

ICR's Dr. John Morris journeyed to this beautiful, geologically rich area to conduct a community-wide seminar on creation, March 25–27. Sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Vernal, and supported by numerous local pastors and churches, it attracted attendees from all over the area. An oil boom locally heightened the interest.

Pastor Randy Meyers hosted the meetings, held after hours in a local school. Each was attended by dynamic crowds vitally interested in the general creation/evolution issue, with lots of questions.

The trip was made even more special by a visit to an active underground coal mine, the site of rare dinosaur tracks in the mine's roof, discussed in the *Back to Genesis* section of this issue. They provide even more evidence supporting a recent global flood.

Antigua, West Indies

The Grace Institute of Biblical Studies in the Caribbean Islands held their annual training conference on March 11–18, culminated by graduation exercises for pastors on the 16th. ICR's Dr. John Morris was invited to be featured speaker at the conference and commencement service.

President Dr. Kortright Worrel has long had a burden to see local pastors receive more training in Biblical skills. This need, which exists worldwide, is especially crucial in the islands, where few churches can support a pastor, and few pastors have any Bible training. Seldom is a creationist voice heard at all. The dedicated pastors must support themselves in various jobs, but indicate a dedication and sacrificial spirit seldom seen among their more "professional" peers.

Dr. Morris was privileged to challenge them and be challenged by their commitment to the ministry. 🌀

ICR Research Council Holds Annual Meeting

by Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.

The ICR Research Council composed of program managers and administrators for the six major ICR research programs met in San Diego on April 12–13 to discuss progress on research for the past year and to develop plans for the next year. The program managers each presented results shown below.

The manager of the theoretical portion of the GENE Program reported that during the last year great progress was made in developing the software called *MACC*. This program has been thoroughly tested and has been shown to accurately track the accumulation of good and bad mutations within populations (either with or without selection). Theoretical “fatal flaws” in evolutionary genetic theory have now been empirically demonstrated to be both *real* and *fatal* to evolution.

During the last year, the Genomics Team began to discover evidence of genomic “words” that largely saturate the genome. The placement of these words, consisting of specific sequences of proteins, appear to occur in ordered sets, much like words in a paragraph. Several members were recruited for the Human Genetic History Team and have begun to plan several new lines of re-



Some of the scientists and Epiphany

search which bear upon the issue of the true genetic history of mankind.

The manager of the experimental portion of the GENE Program reported that 200 DNA samples have been collected and several mitochondrial DNA variations have been identified. The results from these preliminary data offer new insights into the stability of mitochondrial DNA and the origin of Eve. Each of these genetic projects hold great potential for demonstrating the Bible’s accuracy as it relates to creation.

The FAST Program (Flood Activated Sedimentation and Tectonics) is a team of twenty specialists that will conduct research to quantify and visualize the global Flood of Genesis. The team includes geologists, geophysicists, and Hebrew scholars with seven projects in a six-year field research effort in the southwestern United States. The team will attempt to answer questions like: Does Genesis include details that are pertinent to sedimentary and tectonic processes during the Flood? Do the dramatically

Program	Description
GENE	Theoretical and experimental research on genomics
FAST	Research on Flood-Activated Sedimentation and Tectonics
EPIPHANY	Creationist numerical simulations on ICR cluster computer
RATE II	Follow-up research from the RATE project on the age of the earth
COSMOS	Theoretical creationist research on cosmology
COLUMN	Using rock data to display global Flood evidences



Dr. Criswell spoke about genomics.

cross-bedded sandstones of the Southwest contain evidences of fast-moving water currents?

The manager of the EPIPHANY Program reported that several research programs have been installed and are operating on the ICR 44-processor computer cluster, including the development of a state-of-the-art population genetics program, *MACC*. This program tracks individual mutations and their effects in each individual of a population and tracks how these mutations are transmitted to offspring, for hundreds to thousands of generations. This detailed accounting program shows decisively that natural selection does not, and indeed cannot, eliminate most mildly deleterious mutations and, as a consequence, genomes inevitably deteriorate over time.

A numerical model of violent wobbling motion of the earth during the Flood was recently developed. The wobbling results from changes in the internal mass distribution in the mantle associated with rapid tectonic motions early in the Flood cataclysm and can potentially help explain the origin of strata during the Genesis Flood.

The manager of the RATE II Program reported that papers on significant concentrations of radiocarbon in diamonds and radiohalos in zircons at new sites consistent with earlier RATE findings are being prepared for publication. Literature reviews have continued, compiling radioisotope dates for meteorites and strategic rock units to document isochron discordances. New theo-

retical mechanisms for accelerated decay are being explored.

The manager of the COSMOS Program reported that an improved cosmology has been developed that builds on the Biblical phrase, "waters above the heavens." This new cosmology solves many of the questions left by the book, *Starlight and Time*, such as how we can see distant events like exploding stars that occurred after Adam's Fall. It has already made great strides toward explaining (1) a young cosmos, (2) the redshifts of distant galaxies, (3) the source of cosmic microwaves, (4) why all galaxies look the same regardless of distance, and (5) how post-Fall events like exploding stars and colliding galaxies can be seen from earth. Several peer-reviewed technical papers outlining this cosmology and a second astrophysics workshop are planned for the coming year.

Managers of the COLUMN Program reported that planning has continued for the eventual collection of local rock sequence data from around the globe and its input into software that will enable visualization of global strata patterns. The patterns of rock layer deposition and the geologic processes involved during the Genesis Flood can then be analyzed.

A budget of \$650,000 for the six research programs was presented to the annual ICR budget. The funds released for research will depend heavily on donations received during the fiscal year 2007. Because of priorities in the research strategy, not all projects will be funded. All ICR research proceeds from a literal view of Scripture, and desires to magnify the Creator as more is learned, and rescue many from wrong, evolutionary thinking. More details will be reported in future research columns.

If you have questions about research at ICR, need information on how to donate to research, or would like additional specifics about the research programs, please contact Dr. Vardiman at 360/631-5034 or LVardiman@icr.org. 

ICR Loop Tour a Success!

From March 19 to April 7, ICR zoologist Frank Sherwin, along with Bruce Wood, traversed the beautiful state of Oregon.

Frank started the tour with a special two-hour evening presentation to a creation-science group outside Los Angeles and ended the trip by speaking to a record number of people in Grants Pass, Oregon. Between these events were radio interviews, prayer breakfasts, and Christian school biology class lectures.

For a three-day period, Frank attended an annual entomology conference in Portland (as with all living things, insects appear *abruptly* in the fossil record—as predicted by the creation model). Oregon’s majestic, indigo Crater Lake was briefly visited. Its complex formation is the result of a post-Flood super volcano and extended catastrophic phases.

God gave the tour members safety and wonderful fellowship with believers of the Pacific Northwest.

Creation in the Northwest!

Foundations in Genesis of Idaho and Oregon sponsored two lectures by Larry Vardiman in late March. Dr. Vardiman spoke on “Thousands . . . Not Billions” at Treasure Valley Bible Church in Boise, Idaho, pastored by Dan Dougherty. The lecture on the age of the earth on Thursday evening, March 29, was attended by 156 people. On Friday evening, March 30, Dr. Vardiman spoke on “The Big Freeze” to 97 people at Treasure Valley Baptist Church in Ontario, Oregon, pastored by Chuck Deskins.

This lecture addressed an explanation for the Ice Age caused by the Genesis Flood within a Biblical time frame. Each lecture was followed by a question and answer period and a time of fellowship. Brent Carter, President of Foundations in Genesis, and his wife Beverly, graciously opened their home to Dr. Vardiman and his wife Jeannette during their visit to Boise. 🎧



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

Weekend of: _____ **Title/Topic:** _____

June 2 National Parks

Each year millions of visitors vacation at America’s national parks. But, have you ever wondered how such unique places like Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Yellowstone were formed? Listen in!

June 9 Clouds

As children we’d lie on our backs on a grassy patch and study big, puffy white clouds as our imaginations ran wild. But, even more fascinating than their beauty, is the way clouds work in our atmosphere. To learn more, tune in!

June 16 The Importance of Fatherhood

Throughout Scripture fathers are admonished to teach their children the ways of the Lord. But is the job of fatherhood more difficult today because of evolutionary philosophy? Join us for this helpful program!

June 23 Evolution, Prayer, and Religious Liberty in Public School

This month marks the 45th anniversary of a Supreme Court decision that outlawed prayer in public school. How has this affected our nation, and what about religious liberty for students? To hear the answer, join us!

June 30 The Human Genome

The human genome is an amazing creation. It took years for scientists to map the genome and gain an understanding of its complex workings. But, how much do we really know? Tune in to this interesting discussion!

Do you enjoy ICR radio programs in your area? Please let us know if we’ve been a blessing to you on your local radio station. We would love to hear from you and know what station you listen to! 🎧



Stewarding the Sciences

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (I Corinthians 4:2).

God’s written, historical revelation of truth—the inspired text of Scripture—provides a framework for numerous intellectual pursuits and a philosophy for understanding man’s role as *steward* over creation.

In the Genesis Mandate (Genesis 1:26–28), God directed man to “subdue” and “rule” the earth. After the Flood, God amplified this responsibility in His covenant with Noah (Genesis 8:20–9:17), which now extends to all the physical processes within our environment.

That covenant is *supernatural*, because God is “sustaining” and “preserving” the world (Colossians 1:17; II Peter 3:7). It is also *natural*, because God promises that “*seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease*” (Genesis 8:22).

Within the confines of the Noahic Covenant, the various disciplines of science find their spheres of research and technological applications. Consider these few insights for the life sciences:

Origin of Life. *Biogenesis.* Abiotic synthesis of cellular machinery is impossible and life consists of more than just its elemental components.

Units of Life. *Cell theory.* All organismal cell types are distinct and fixed (stasis), and come from similar pre-existing cells.

Origin of Species. *Speciation* is limited by the originally created gene pool with no new formation of genes.

Natural Selection. *Preservation, not creation.* Natural selection assists in selecting optimal habitats and enables the best genetic information to be passed from one generation to the next.

Fossil Record. *The fossil record* shows stasis, with loss of genetic variation between fossil variants and extant organisms.

While sincere Christians understand the importance of these foundational issues, this work is the special domain of those trained and called to explore science. ICR researchers are such *stewards of science* and are grateful for your ongoing gifts that allow them to continue ground-breaking work in these important fields.



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