

Acts & Facts



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Facts
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GALAPAGOS: WHERE DARWIN WENT WRONG

For the third time ICR sponsored a tour to the Galapagos Islands May 13–23. In addition to exploring nine of the islands that are part of the Galapagos archipelago, the 16 tour members visited historic sites in Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador. In Quito the group also visited HCJB Radio where Christian programs are broadcast in Ecuador, South America, and around the world. It was very encouraging for everyone to observe the effectiveness of HCJB in their efforts to spread the love of Christ and the knowledge of His saving grace to the people of Ecuador. After touring the islands the group stopped in Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador, and toured the beautiful parks and waterfront along the Guayas River before returning to the States.

On arrival to Baltra Island, the group was escorted by their Galapagos National Park Guide to the yacht *Floreana* and transported to North Seymour Island. Just hours into the tour of the

Galapagos Islands the group was experiencing the immediate impact of close encounters with the wildlife on North Seymour setting the tone for the wonderful experiences that were still ahead on the trip. Each day the members of the tour were treated to two different hikes on one of the islands where various species of birds, iguanas, Galapagos tortoise, and aquatic life could be viewed in their natural environment exhibiting natural behaviors not seen anywhere else in the world at such close proximity. Between hikes many of the group members went snorkeling to observe thousands and thousands of brightly colored reef fish swimming just below the surface of the clear, pristine water. On more than one occasion swimmers were accompanied by juvenile sea lions, and those who went snorkeling were able to spend several minutes swimming with large green sea turtles. Hammerhead sharks were spotted from the *Floreana* while traveling on the open sea.

Each evening Donna O'Daniel, a bird expert who spent many years living on Johnston Island in the Pacific, and Dr. Roger Sanders, a tropical plant specialist, and ICR biologist Dr. Dan Criswell provided seminars for the tour group. They explained how the plants and animals on the Galapagos Islands demonstrated the genetic variation that



exists within kinds of plants and animals, making it possible for them to adapt to the various subtle differences between each of the Galapagos Islands. Roger also explained how the formation of the Galapagos Islands was a recent geological event as was the colonization of the islands by the various plants and animals.



Discussing plants on Santa Cruz Island.

The trip to the Galapagos was more than a great biology field trip—several members of the group were refreshed in their commitment to a creation worldview and others were inspired by experiencing first hand the wonders of God’s creation unique to the Galapagos Islands. Even more exciting than all the experiences was the profession of faith in Christ made by an individual who was befriended by the tour group. It is truly remarkable to see how God uses His creation as a tool to bring people salvation. ☞



From Missouri

Because of your incredibly meaningful work at ICR through the years, I am steadfast and secure in my belief that the Bible is God’s inerrant Word and totally trustworthy. . . . you also cause me to realize how incredibly great God truly is. . . . Your presentation of the facts has been such an uplifting and faith-building blessing. God bless all of you. ☞



by John D. Morris

Those familiar with ICR know it operates within a well-established rhythm. Seminars and other speaking engagements are scheduled throughout the year, and tours are held in the fall and spring. In many ways, however, summertime is the most dynamic season, for the ICR Graduate School holds its classes in the summer. As students gather for training, and adjunct professors merge with the resident faculty for teaching, it’s a structured, but unpredictable time.

Perhaps the summer is also the most interesting time for ICR’s research program too. The variety of minds collected form a “critical mass,” and ideas flow freely. In July the RATE scientists gathered for the final time, with last-minute discoveries to share at the climactic meeting in November. Final touches are being incorporated into the RATE books and documentary, making flexibility a necessary commodity. Already the men are discussing follow-up projects to keep the momentum going.

In June a different set of scientists gathered at ICR; those strategizing for the upcoming research initiative in genomics.

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Worldwide discoveries have produced a wealth of raw genomic data just crying for a creationist interpretation. The human genome was decoded a couple of years ago, and now the chimp genome is available along with others. Already dozens of creationist genomists have joined up. Working on their own, little can be accomplished, but together a synergy is reached which has no limit.

The plan is to focus on analyzing the human genome, demonstrating the certainty that man and the animals have no common ancestor. A second goal is to establish the limits of the created “kind,” delineating the limits of biological adaptation. I really do feel that in genomics we can conclusively show that “evolution by modification from a common ancestor” did not happen!

The GENE project, as did the RATE project before it, began with a time of concentrated prayer. Collectively and individually, the scientists recognize that unless God blesses them with insights and success, nothing of lasting value will result. With His help, the satanic stronghold of evolution can be breached.

Might I ask the readers of *Acts & Facts* to join with us in prayer? We stand on the threshold of monumental advances, with the potential of bringing great glory to the Creator, and lifting Him and His Word high. Many will see what is done here and be introduced to His truth. Christians will be encouraged to see His Word so wonderfully illuminated. I am certain that much of eternal significance will be accomplished. Please partner with us in this great endeavor. 🌿

Moving?

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Whitewater, Wisconsin

On Sunday morning, April 10, ICR’s Frank Sherwin spoke at Whitewater Community Church, which rents space on Sunday from the local public high school. When the local evolutionists discovered an ICR speaker was going to address creation science at a high school (during *non-school* hours), they tried to get the Sunday morning service banned! Frank spoke on scientific evidence for creation during the service where even several members of the evolutionary community attended.

Honduras, Central America

June 15–20 saw ICR’s Dr. John Morris travel to Siguatepeque, Honduras, as a guest lecturer at the Ministerial Evangelica de las Americas (MEDA) in their training program for national pastors. About 60 pastors attended, many with little formal education but with a passion to teach God’s Word and reach their country with the Gospel. Few had a knowledge of creation evidences, but they knew what the Bible says and had a wealth of questions. Many attributed their misinformation to the Discovery Channel, which is just as pro-evolution in Honduras as it is in the U.S.

The training at MEDA is twofold, basic teaching and Bible study methods for pastors, and seminary-level instruction for those who have completed the basics. God is strongly at work in Honduras, and ICR is thankful to be included.

North Carolina

Thank you North Carolina! Jim Gardner completed a “Loop Tour” of North Carolina speaking 59 times in nine schools, two colleges, including the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, and 22 churches. Many questions were answered, and many believers had their faith strengthened regarding the truth of God’s Word.

Upon his completion of the tour Jim said, "I was overwhelmed by the fact that all across North Carolina so many people love, support, and pray for ICR."

Cookeville, Tennessee

ICR's Dr. John Baumgardner participated in a panel discussion on the creation/evolution issue at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee. Approximately 300 people (mostly students) attended. Sponsored by the TTU Collegiate Creation Research Club, participants on the creation side were Dr. Charles Jackson, a full-time creation lecturer, Dr. Alan White, a research chemist with Eastman Chemical, and Dr. John Baumgardner, geophysicist at ICR. Representing the evolution side were TTU faculty members, Drs. Larry Knox, Chris Brown, and David Crouse. Topics included: The definition of science; best evidences for creation and for evolution; micro vs. macroevolution; and radiometric dating.

The creation side emphasized the dramatic evidence for design in living systems at the molecular level and insisted that language, including genetic language, is a non-material phenomenon and requires a non-material explanation. They presented extensive documentation that transitional fossils simply do not exist and radioisotope evidence that the earth is thousands, not billions, of years old. The recent finding of flexible blood vessels containing red blood cells in *T. rex* bone also show support for a recent global Flood and a young earth.

The evolution side argued that evolution simply means change through time, and offered the appearance of new strains of *E. coli*, and changes in the decoration of shells of small crustaceans (known as ostracodes) as evidences for such change. Many of the Christian students in the audience seemed greatly encouraged by the generally cordial interaction. ☞



This month on "Science, Scripture, & Salvation":

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

- Aug. 6 Goodbye Dr. Gish**
He's defended the truth of creation in nearly 300 debates. He's lectured in over 40 different countries. Known as creation's bulldog for his passionate defense of creation-science, Dr. Duane Gish has retired. Join us to celebrate his service in creation!
- Aug. 13 Darwin's Fatal Bee Sting**
All creatures no matter how great or tiny testify to the Creator. The bee, a small creature has big design features. Can random evolution adequately explain away the design of bees? "Bee" sure to tune in to hear about this remarkable insect!
- Aug. 20 Molecular Clocks**
How do you convince people that they share a common ancestor with apes? Evolutionists use a so-called molecular clock based on evolutionary assumptions. Listen in as creationists explain the molecular clock and what makes it tick!
- Aug. 27 Recent Dinosaur Discoveries**
In March of 2005, scientists discovered flexible blood vessels and what appear to be red blood cells in a *T. rex* leg bone. Why are creationists thrilled about this discovery? Don't miss this interesting program!

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. 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! ☞



ALL OUT WAR IN THE CORNFIELD

A lazy summer day in an Illinois cornfield is the setting of an unbelievable altercation involving chemical warfare, field-wide alarm calls, and some of the most graphic violence seen on any battlefield. The battle rages. And yet, there are no sounds in this cornfield, save for the rustling of leaves and the occasional bird call.

One of the many “warriors” is a caterpillar that has a voracious appetite for corn leaves. As it munches on the leaves the corn plant responds by releasing a range of organic compounds called volatiles. Such compounds have a number of functions including warning other plants that in turn activate their own defense genes. Volatiles also attract parasitoid wasps. These predatory insects follow the biochemical signal right down the individual plant under attack. Once there, she finds the caterpillar and injects eggs under its skin. In due time the larvae develop and consume the host from the inside out.

But what if the corn leaf is just physically damaged due to wind or hailstones? Will the plant still release volatiles? No. The Creator designed the plant to recognize compounds in the caterpillar’s saliva as it is eating the leaf, in this way false alarms are avoided. It is this chemical plus the wounding of the plant that starts what scientists call a signal transduction pathway in the corn. The complex process results in the production and release of volatiles. One must ask, is this the result of nothing more than time, natural processes, and chance—or a Creator’s blueprint?

The fact that this battle hardly describes the “very good” creation that God completed at the end of the Creation Week has not been lost to ICR scientists. But it wasn’t always like this. Like so many other predator/prey relationships, the above description reveals the tragic corruption of the creation due to sin. Let’s remember that according to Scripture, plants are *not* alive as people and animals are. In the beginning plants were created as food for truly living plants and animals. In the very short time prior to the Fall, we speculate that parasitoid wasps did not engage in hunting for caterpillars (a clear predator/prey relationship). Instead, the wasps may have injected their eggs into protein-rich plants. Caterpillars probably fed from plants as they do today, as doing so would not contravene the “no death before the Fall” teaching. A variety of plant secretions probably directed the insects what to eat and what not to eat on the individual plant before the Fall and in so doing probably assisted the plant in a symbiotic relationship. Plant scientists are only now beginning to understand the complexity of these plant chemical defenses.

The complex process of signal transduction may have changed slightly after the Fall. In the Garden, caterpillars and wasps were herbivores and fed from plants, the wasp being “called” to the plant by volatiles secreted due to the caterpillar’s feeding. After the Fall when God cursed the earth, the wasp had to seek a more protein-rich source: the caterpillar. How? Like evolutionists, creation scientists can only speculate. Plants with their signal transduction pathway could generate a hypersensitive response against the wasp by way of R (resistance) proteins produced by a number of activated R genes after the Fall. The wasp, deterred by the production of protective molecules throughout the plant, turns to the caterpillar for its repository of eggs. The Creator equipped each with the necessary ability to adapt. ☞



MOUNT ST. HELENS 25th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE!

On May 20 and 21 in Longview, Washington, a fascinating two-day seminar recalled one of the most significant geologic events in American history. Dr. Steve Austin, Dr. Keith Swenson, Mr. Ed Osmond, and Mr. Michael Cairns presented fascinating talks regarding the Mount St. Helens eruption twenty-five years ago.

Prior to May of 1980, much of what creation flood geologists stated was openly ridiculed as “unscientific” by the uniformitarian community. This changed dramatically when, after over a century of inactivity, the eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington State was triggered by a 5.1 magnitude earthquake on the morning of May 18.

In Genesis 7:11 we read that God used tectonic and volcanic processes to initiate the devastating global deluge (Genesis 6–9). The Mount St. Helens eruption has given the flood geologist an outdoor laboratory to help better understand the volcanic processes initiating the Flood thousands of years ago.

A huge lateral blast of superheated steam producing massive debris avalanches, mudflows, and pyroclastic flows accomplished geologic work that once again vindicated the catastrophic model of geology. Accumulations of fine pumice ash laminae measuring a millimeter to one meter thick were formed in a few seconds to several minutes. Streams and

rivers around the blast zone became clogged with shattered trees and mud that took out dozens of bridges. Lakes were buried and forests flattened as the area took on an eerie appearance of a gray, lunar landscape.

Not only does the Mount St. Helens eruption provide insight to Flood geologists regarding rapid sedimentary stratification (almost 600 foot thickness of strata was formed between 1980 and 1986), but creation biologists are very interested in restoration ecology of the area, (see “Origins Issues,” December 2001 at: <http://www.icr.org/newsletters/afdec01.html>). Many scientists felt the entire area would be uninhabitable for many decades, but biological recovery of the area began almost immediately with tree seedlings whose seeds were stimulated to sprout by heat. Indeed, recovery of both land and plants has been unprecedented.



Presentation before a packed house.

The Lord used the eruption to stimulate our imaginations and strengthen our faith. We pray He used the Mount St. Helens 25th Anniversary Conference to the same ends. 🙏



MAJORITY “RULE”

“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets” (Luke 6:26).

A recent series of “religion” articles in secular newspapers lauded several of the more popular Christian books and web-logs (blogs) now available to the public. The essence of the comments was that “Christians” were becoming more “mainstream” and less “marginalized.” It would seem that many in the Evangelical world are trying hard to be accepted by those who are either apathetic or hostile toward Biblical “values” (what a terribly innocuous word), and are touting their popularity as a “good” thing. One Baptist preacher (evangelical, conservative) bragged to a major newspaper that he “cussed a lot” in his blog because that was more “real” to everybody than “pulpit” language.

One wonders how they “interpret” Jesus’ admonition:

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also” (John 15:18–20).

Truth is rarely “accepted” by the majority. This is especially so of the eternal truth of the Scriptures. The majority may have to submit to the “laws” of nature that the Creator established, but they will rarely submit to the “commandments” or believe the “message” that the same Creator graciously gave through revelation. Physical properties brook no exceptions. Purpose and meaning, aesthetics and preferences, goals and destiny can be widely different—depending on one’s “viewpoint.”

“THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT” (PSALM 19:7).

Our Lord is “longsuffering” (II Peter 3:9) toward those with different “viewpoints,” but He will not yield truth to the majority. ICR has long stood against the mainstream because *“Every word of God is pure”* (Proverbs 30:5) and we can do no other. Please share your resources with us that we might sow and reap together in the “fields ripe unto harvest.”

