

# Acts & Facts

INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH

# Facts Facts Facts

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## THE KANSAS TORNADO

A tornado swept through Kansas school-rooms this past fall. It touched down when the Kansas State School Board deleted those portions of the proposed guidelines for teaching science which enthroned evolution as a “unifying principle in science.” As might be expected, ICR soon found itself in the tornado’s vortex.

Remember that ICR is not a political organization. Nevertheless, we had been in touch with those involved in the decision, providing information as requested.

In September, some concerned citizens in Lawrence, Kansas (home of the University of Kansas), angered by the arrogant pronouncements of university professors, called ICR to schedule a seminar on campus. After much faculty opposition, it finally came to pass on November 13 at nearby Victory Bible Church.

Dr. John Morris and Mike Riddle of ICR were joined by Dr. Paul Ackerman, professor at Wichita State University. Dr. Ackerman had been involved in consulting the school board regarding the science standards and in writing a more acceptable document. In his firsthand report, he explained that the new standards which were adopted, didn’t ban evolution teaching; they merely allowed it to be taught in a fair and open-minded fashion. They



## & ICR

did delete the religion of naturalism, however, returning science to the classroom in the spirit of the most recent Supreme

Court decision.

Dr. Ackerman and Bob Williams had quickly coauthored a book (published by ICR) detailing the events of the recent battle and explaining the deletions from the evolutionary science standards. A rush shipment arrived the day of the seminar and were immediately acquired (often multiple copies) by those in attendance. It is a masterful document and will provide other states with clear insight into a winning strategy.

Both the book and the audio tape of Ackerman’s talk are available from ICR (see back page) along with a special radio program produced by ICR.

The Kansas decision may have forever changed the face of the debate. The issue now is whether or not a one-sided presentation of evolution will continue to censor contrary data and in violation of scientific evidence and court rulings. This action may be one of the most important events of this decade. ☛



## 1999 in Review

by ICR President John Morris

The Apostle Paul met with the brethren in Jerusalem who had sent him out and “declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord” (Acts 21:19,20). In that same spirit, let me report to you what God has accomplished through the work of ICR this past year, with the expectation that it will be as encouraging to you as it is to the ICR staff.

Speaking of the staff and faculty, we have added several, especially Dr. Andrew Snelling to the geology faculty. In all, the staff exhibits like-mindedness and Christian unity, making employment here a real joy. God has also granted us overall good health. I continue to marvel at the vitality and productivity of the two stalwarts of ICR, Dr. Duane Gish and my father, Dr. Henry Morris. Their many years of experience underscore our need to pray for their continued ministry.

It has been a good year financially, even with the uncertainties of Y2K. As of this writing, it appears that once again God will enable ICR to finish the year “in the black” as He has for its entire 29 years of existence, to His glory. In November, we broke ground on a new laboratory and warehouse building next door to our headquarters. Building debt-free will facilitate the ministry and save money now spent on leased space.

*Acts & Facts* now goes in published form to 147,000 homes, while 270,000 copies of *Days of Praise* are printed. Both are augmented by untold myriads of pieces of information downloaded from our web page. Never has there been such a demand for creation information.

The radio ministry of ICR continues to expand with “Science, Scripture, & Salvation” now being heard on 826 outlets, “Back to Genesis” on 1200 outlets, and De Regreso a Genesis on 91 stations. Three radio specials were completed this year, “Mystic Invasion,” “Apollo: Quest for the Moon,” and “The Kansas Tornado” reaching many. All of these broadcasts are aired free.

The seminar department was quite busy with 13 large-scale seminars, 250 or so publicized speaking engagements and school assemblies, Good Science and Days of Discovery meetings for students, four overseas lecture tours, three debates, two creation science camps, and numerous other lectures reaching an estimated 75,000 people. The Creation Presentation Tours was a new wrinkle, with five tours reaching 134 locations in five states. We returned to Grand Canyon and Mount St. Helens with the popular study tours with 220 attendees. The Museum of Creation and Earth History hosted 20,000 visitors. All in all, a very busy and productive year.

The Creation OnLine course for high schoolers is fully completed, and a second online course, Advanced Creationism, is now being piloted by ICR graduate students. It is the first of a planned new graduate major in Creation Studies which will be taught substantially over the web.

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Speaking of the web, our web site has been incredibly popular with some 280,000 visitors, 10.6 million hits, and 90 gigabytes of traffic this past year. It now offers all back articles, research papers, *Days of Praise*, radio broadcasts, and a new adventure page for kids.

Several new books have been written including *Defending the Faith and Origin of Earth and Its People* by Dr. Henry Morris; *Over the Edge* by Dr. Larry Vardiman; *How Firm a Foundation in Scripture and Song* by Dr. John Morris; *Jonathan Park and the Secret of the Hidden Cave* by Pat and Sandy Roy; *The Mythology of Modern Dating Methods* by John Woodmorappe; and *The Kansas Tornado* by Dr. Paul Ackerman and Bob Williams. Two new adventure videos for young people, "Marty's Fossil Adventure" and "Marty and the Last Dinosaur" have been quite popular.

The Graduate School has continued to thrive, with 20 courses being taught this summer by 15 faculty members, including newcomers Dr. Patty Nason and Dr. Joseph Mastropaolo. The Graduate School's accredited status was continued by TRACS, recognizing a job well done.

The full-time faculty participated in numerous research projects, on subjects related to radioisotope dating through the RATE initiative, fossil nautiloids in Grand Canyon, polystrate trees at Joggins, Nova Scotia, efforts to delineate the limits of the Genesis "kind" weather patterns during the Ice Age, and numerous others.

The listing of these activities and projects fails to tell the whole story, however, for each one implies people reached, minds changed, and eternal destinies affected. ICR's hand in the recent school board decision in Kansas and the resulting coverage illustrates the fact that the ministry here is impacting the world. These blessings have come about as many have given and prayed. Thank you all for co-laboring with us in these weighty endeavors. 🍀

## NATURE'S TREASURE CHEST

For 65 years, Erwin and Della Carls have been collecting, identifying, and displaying a huge natural history collection that contains some 250,000 specimens. Butterflies, moths, beetles, arachnids, sea-shells, fossils, minerals, and standard wood shakes were found, preserved, labeled, and placed in display cases for use in roadside museums and curio stores in California and Oregon over the last 50 years.



Now this extraordinary assemblage has been placed on permanent loan to the Institute for display and research.

Mr. Carls' hobby began in the 1920s and continued as he moved from Wisconsin to Colorado, to California, and finally to Oregon where he lives near his married daughter, Sharon Christian. Along the way, he set up museums which he called "Nature's Treasure Chest" in Palmdale, Panama, and Gold Hill. His full-time job was working with prison inmates as a vocational teacher. However, Sharon says that her father spent as much if not more time building and perfecting this collection as he did on teaching.

Sharon recalls that her parents took her and her brother on many weekend and vacation trips to the seashore, fossil beds, mines, and anywhere that there were great pickings. Sharon and her brother had their own collections by the time they were teenagers. It was not unusual to find live tarantulas on the kitchen table awaiting incorporation into the specimen jars. Her

dad was always looking for unique and perfect examples of various species. Her mom was a soul mate to the adventure and always added humor and surprises to the family fun.

Although the collection was of interest to schools and colleges, Erwin wanted the displays to be used to honor God as Creator of the world and Master Designer of living things. These were the themes and emphases he placed in his museum over the years. However, the demand for natural history displays has diminished except where special use for study collections is needed. ICR intends to use the material for research as well as display.

A friend of the Carls wrote a poem that they included in their museum brochure. It captures the delight of many visitors who viewed this rare display.

*God's Handiwork*

*Have you ever watched a butterfly  
Or a busy little bee?  
Have you ever picked a lovely shell  
From the sand down by the sea?  
Have you ever watched an egg hatch?  
Or a robin build her nest?  
Did you ever take a close look  
At the bugs most folk call "pests"?  
As you gaze upon these wonders  
Note the colors they display.  
Watch a spider spin a web,  
And cunningly stalk its prey.  
As you look through our museum,  
Think how lucky we humans be,  
God made all these little wonders,  
Just for you and me to see.  
The butterflies' wings, God painted,  
Seashells, He fashioned with His hands  
Rocks and minerals, God created;  
Gems to please the eye of man.  
Yes God filled this world with beauty,  
He makes the flowers grow,  
And every lovely thing you see,  
is there  
Because God made it so.*

*Composed by June Cash  
1971* 🍷



## Radio Log

January 2000

Over the last couple of months, we've been airing our "Science, Scripture, & Salvation" series on "The Myths of Evolution and the Media." An entire series of extended versions of these radio programs ranging from 23–30 minutes (including never-before-broadcast material) is now available for purchase.

The four audiocassettes include "Myth #1—There is a Proven Force Behind Evolution"; "Myth #2—The Myth of Transitional Forms"; "Myth #3—The Earth is Billions of Years Old"; "Myth #4—Simple Things Become More Complex without Intelligent Design"; "Myth #5—Creationists Cannot Be Real Scientists"; "Myth #6—Information is the Result of Random Chance"; "Myth #7—The Big Bang Has Been Proven"; and "Myth #8—Life Comes from Non-Living Matter."

This audiocassette series costs \$16.95. To order, please contact Customer Service at 1-800-628-7640, or order online at [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org).

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

**Weekend of:      Title/Topic:**

**Jan. 1 "The Problem of Evil"**

If God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and loving, why is there evil in this world? How could a good God allow the death, pain, and suffering we see all around us? This question has not only been a stumbling block for those seeking answers, but also to Christians trying to share the gospel and defending their faith. Let's go "Back to Genesis" for answers.

**Jan. 08 "Biological Indicators of a Recent Grand Canyon"**

Each year people flock to the awesome—Grand Canyon! Some

claim it took the Colorado River millions of years to carve this wondrous beauty. But is Grand Canyon really that old? We'll trek together to Grand Canyon looking at plant and animal life thriving there—and providing evidence for a recent Grand Canyon. Tune in!

**Jan. 15 “The Link Between Abortion, Creation, and Evolution”**

The subject of abortion is a sensitive one, and many of us tend to shy away from it. But what is our responsibility as Christians? And what's the link between abortion, creation, and evolution? Please join as we commemorate National Sanctity of Life Week.

**Jan. 22 “The Human Gnome Project”**

One of the challenges that creationists will have to face is how we respond to the issue of human genetics. The Human Gnome Project is mapping out man's genetic structure. The belief is if it's possible to isolate certain genes, such as anger or selfish genes, we can solve the problem of evil in our world. What are the moral implications and how does this all relate to creation? Tune in.

**Jan 29 “The Origin of Life”**

Can evolution really explain the origin of life or does the creation account in Genesis do a more convincing job? How could the chemicals and chaos resulting from the Big Bang produce the processes necessary for life? And how could the random chance of evolution develop into the complexity of a single cell, let alone plants, animals, or human beings? Listen and learn! 📺

## CREATION ADVENTURE TOUR PLANS

You may have wondered why there has been no announcement of an ICR tour for the spring of 2000. Originally we had planned to visit Israel for the second time, but after some consideration, decided

against scheduling such a tour. Although we at ICR expect only minor disruptions due to the Y2K problem in the United States, there may be more overseas. Thus we felt it prudent to delay the Israel tour until the spring of 2001.

We could have scheduled a Grand Canyon tour in its place, but the next tour to Grand Canyon may involve some major changes to our itinerary. The National Park Service plans to build a parking lot outside the entrance and bus all visitors to the scenic overlooks and displays—no other vehicles allowed. We don't yet know the impact of these plans on our tours, but there will be changes.

For your planning purposes, should you wish to participate in one of our upcoming tours, the next tour will be to Yellowstone from September 8–15, 2000, and to Israel in the late spring of 2001. We plan to return to Mount St. Helens in the fall of 2001, and Grand Canyon in the spring of 2002. If you would like to suggest a location for a new tour, please drop Tom Manning or Larry Vardiman a note with your thoughts. 📺

## CREATION MISSIONARY ACTIVITY

ICR is a multifaceted ministry, and its staff scientists wear many hats. We conduct scientific research and engage in scholarly activities, such as graduate school teaching, debating, and publications.

But first and foremost, ICR is a Christian ministry involved in fulfilling our part of the Great Commission. Thus, the call to minister in other lands cannot be ignored. The functions fall into two broad categories, evangelism and discipleship, with examples of both occurring on each overseas trip.

Consider the return trip to the Philippines by Fred Willson in late September. On it he encouraged the believers, empowered the local creation advocacy groups, assisted high schools and universities in

implementing Biblically based curricula and informed the unsaved on university campuses of the truth of God's Word.

Consider also the return trip to India by Dr. Duane Gish. His ministry was heavily on secular campuses and technical institutes, where he found the "fields white unto harvest," hungry for teaching that makes sense. Working through local Christian groups, he helped develop ongoing ministry. He also returned to groups he had met before, encouraging them to continue.

The Great Commission, in order to be fulfilled, takes the energies, talents, and expertise of each of His followers. ICR uses the tool He has given us, that of expertise in science, to do our part. 🛠️

## Tours "Я" His

by Mark Rasche, Outreach Director

About this time a year ago, a few zealous folks on ICR's seminar team determined that it was finally time to tackle a long-term outreach challenge. You see, there was this "big hole" into which countless creation enthusiasts kept falling because they lacked the resources and personnel to host a large creation event. In many cases, small churches would call us because they saw a critical need for the creation message in their community . . . but after evaluating the cost, they would graciously decline.

The Lord seemed to be prompting us to plug this hole. The concept started out simple—target a region, plot a road tour, announce a tentative itinerary through our newsletter, and offer free presentations to churches on a first-come-first-served basis.

How could we affordably reach out to the small churches without requiring them to help offset our costs? Who would serve as field administrators to set up equipment and creation resources? What if the towns didn't line up the way we had planned? This venture was loaded with formidable challenges.

However, God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8), and when the Lord is leading, we must walk by faith, not by sight (II Corinthians 5:7). God encourages us to trust in Him with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding, but in all our ways acknowledge Him and He will direct our paths (Proverbs 3:4-6).

So after prayerful deliberation, we decided to step out in faith as the Lord began moving all the right people into position like chess pieces. We watched God orchestrate many faithful servants and details as we launched the first-of-its-kind Creation Presentations tour in April 1999, paving the way for four additional tours in 1999.

All told, ICR's "Creation Bus" ventured out to five regions, 25 states, and 134 locations, reaching about 16,500 people this year! Praise God! (And our out-of-pocket expenses were covered by love offerings from the churches.)

We would like to express our warmest appreciation for those who helped make these presentations successful. Thanks to Mike Riddle, Frank Sherwin, and Bill Hoesch for doing an outstanding job of delivering the creation message. Thanks to the diligent planning and professional administration of the seminar staff (Dolly Willems, Connie Perna, and Connie Kotch) without whom these tours would never have come to fruition. And special thanks to our field volunteers who graciously offered their time and talents to handle all the field administration and book sales, Ed and Eileen Gross, Lesley Riddle, Steve Tecklenberg and his team, and Harold Felte.

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**Keep your eye on our monthly Outreach insert for tours in 2000. . . . The "Creation Bus" may soon be coming to your town!**

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We rejoice as we look back on the way the Lord has blessed this outreach ministry and pray for lasting fruit in these communities for years to come. 🛠️

# STEWARDSHIP & TRUST SERVICES

*The prayer that follows is one I brought before the Lord as we entered the last decade of the '90s; it seems appropriate to share it again (with a few modifications) as we enter a new century.*

## ONE DECADE, AND NOW ONE CENTURY, ENDS . . . ANOTHER BEGINS . . . LIFE GOES ON

Even as I read the above to myself, I sense something is wrong. Christians, of all people, can't tolerate that type of thinking. We have Jesus! Our Lord has come—paid the price for our sin and is returning soon to be the ruling King!

Yes, yes, Lord, all this is true, but, Lord, as I look at myself, I find that as a Christian I do tolerate that type of thinking. I see it in my actions, Lord. When I am honest with myself and you, I see so little urgency about the way I spend the time you allot to me. Oh, yes, there are periods of anxiousness, Lord, but seldom godly urgency—that burning urgency to be about things that count for eternity. The abilities that you have given me, Lord, you know that there have been significant changes in the way I use them, but even at times like this, when I see you working through me, I am woefully aware of how seldom those abilities are really committed to your service. Lord, the same holds true concerning money. I still, all too often, look at it in terms of today and tomorrow, instead of eternity.

Lord, you have brought me a long way since that day of my salvation in 1973, but there is so much more for you to do. Father, I rejoice in your goodness, your

faithfulness, and your merciful love. I thank you for my wife, children, and now, grandchildren—Oh, Lord—for so much. Most of all, I thank you for Jesus Christ. I ask you to place a burning urgency in my heart—an urgency that will be a constant reminder to me during the days or years that you have appointed for me—a reminder to be about your work. Father, I ask that your urgency spur me on to a greater willingness to die to myself and, in so doing, to present you an opportunity to reveal your wondrous glory through me to a lost and dying world—that many will be reconciled to you through the precious blood of the Savior.

Lord, make me quick to recognize when I begin to slip back into believing merely that “life goes on.” In Jesus' Name and for His sake! Amen.

Won't you join me in this prayer—that the God of creation, the perfect Lamb of God, and the King of eternity will so change us that many will come to know the Savior.

What joy it will be to enjoy the fruit of a life lived with a godly urgency: those precious words . . . “Well done, thou good and faithful servant. . . .”