

## RATE GROUP TO RELEASE BOOK



Radioisotope dating has been put on a pedestal far higher than it deserves by those who claim it proves the earth is billions of years old. Many have been intimidated into questioning the clear Scriptural doctrine of recent creation, relegating God's interaction to "long ago and far away." But how accurate is radioisotope dating?

For decades ICR and its associates have demonstrated that the method is based on three questionable assumptions: 1) a constant decay rate of radioactive atoms into daughter products; 2) a specimen that is closed to the environment so that contamination is impossible; and 3) the initial concentrations of isotopes can be known. Since assumptions 2) and 3) are easily critiqued, with many examples of faulty results, we have tended to grant that assumption 1) was reasonable. But now even that one is being questioned by researchers in all camps.

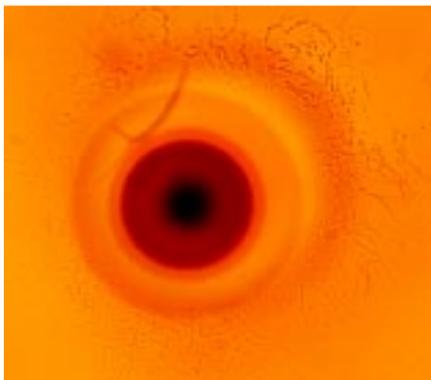
Now is the time to launch a frontal assault on this faulty concept which has done so much damage. Now may be the time to forever replace it with a better concept, one which handles *all* the data, and interprets it in a God-honoring and scientifically-satisfying fashion. True to its mission, ICR has stepped into the fray.

For the past three years, ICR has been hosting and facilitating a consortium of professional scientists jointly addressing the topic of Radioisotopes and the Age of the

Earth (RATE). This RATE group met in San Diego on June 5–6 for its fourth annual meeting to complete the final draft of its new book, "Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth: A Young-Earth Creationist Research Initiative." Each of the seven members of RATE wrote one or more chapters in the book, and all chapters have been reviewed by technical specialists. The recent RATE meeting permitted final revisions to all chapters by the authors.

Numerous changes were suggested to make the book more readable and to emphasize issues which need to be addressed in proposed research projects over the next five years. These editorial changes will be added during June and July and the book printed by the end of September. The hardbound book will contain a complete glossary and 700 pages of discussion on Radioisotope Dating, Radioactive Isotopes in the Earth, the Mineral Isochron Method, Geochemical Processes, Accelerated Radioactive Decay, and Radiohalos. Technical research proposals from each scientist comprise the appendix, and outline work yet to be accomplished. It should become a major source document for both the creationist and evolutionist communities.

The last afternoon of the meeting was spent discussing research findings and plans. Total donations of about \$135,000 had been allocated to the research projects at the



<sup>218</sup>Po radiohalo. Photo by Dave McQueen

January meeting of the executive committee of RATE and the expenditures made so far were reviewed. The helium diffusion experiment was once again recognized as the highest priority experiment in RATE and is designed to measure the diffusion rate of helium in the mineral biotite found in granite. Helium is produced by *alpha* decay episodes in radioactive atoms. If the measured diffusion rate agrees even roughly with the rate we estimate from published argon diffusion rates in biotite, then helium retention in Precambrian age biotite crystals should be dramatically smaller than is actually observed—if the earth is 4.6 billion years old. By contrast, the observed helium concentration in these minerals in granite minerals would be about right for a young earth.

Several other research projects have begun, including the study of theoretical mechanisms for accelerated decay and the study of polonium halos in granites. It was concluded during the discussions that we need to put more emphasis on meteorites. The primary method used to estimate the age of the earth comes from radioisotopic analysis of chondritic meteorites. If a large amount of accelerated decay and mixing have affected the earth, how do meteorites fit into this story? Do they reveal information about accelerated decay with no mixing processes? The RATE group decided to procure chondritic meteorite material and conduct its own laboratory analyses.

One of the current RATE working models for the history of nuclear decay suggests that a vast amount of apparent nuclear “decay” occurred during the first 2–3 days of Creation Week and then lesser pulses of accelerated decay took place in connection with the curse and Genesis Flood. Therefore, rocks created during Creation Week should show evidence of this vast amount of early Creation Week nuclear decay. Thus, the evolutionist, who insists on using present-day processes and present-day rates (uniformitarianism) to interpret the past, incorrectly infers that the evidence for a large amount of nuclear decay must imply billions of years ages for such rocks.

Another working model in RATE is that the signature of the Creation Week nuclear decay in the earth was significantly changed by the tectonic and geological upheavals of the Genesis Flood. That is, the intimate association of daughter elements such as lead, helium, strontium, and argon with their corresponding parent elements uranium, thorium, rubidium, and potassium was progressively lost as rocks experienced melting, metamorphism, and interaction with fluids in the Flood catastrophe. This original, prominent, primordial signature was blurred, but not entirely lost. The inheritance of the primordial parent-daughter correlations therefore commonly yields apparent ages in the range of hundreds of millions of years for rocks affected by the Flood. The

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inheritance of even a modest amount of the large Creation-Week signature can readily produce the ages the evolutionist expects, and then selects, for Phanerozoic rocks, while the blurring no doubt accounts for the many unusable apparent ages which are currently discarded by old-earth scientists.

The concepts of accelerated decay and inheritance are both beginning to show real promise in explaining why there seems to be an apparent conflict between the age of the earth stated in Scripture and simplistic (and selective) inferences based on measurements of radioisotope concentrations. It is too early yet to reach any firm conclusions, but key pieces of the puzzle seem to be fitting into place.

We believe that God is working through the RATE group to bring glory to His name in understanding His works in the earth. For the next five years we will be concentrating on research. In 2005 we plan to write a final report answering the questions raised by radioactive decay which have bothered so many for so long. The RATE group continues to solicit your prayers and donations toward this effort. 🌿

## ICR TO DEDICATE NEW BUILDING AT 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By happy coincidence (or, better, providential provision), ICR's new building will be completed and occupied at the same time as the first thirty years of the ICR ministry are being completed. A special celebration meeting, open to the public, will be held on the new parking lot on Sunday afternoon, October 29, at 3:00 p.m., with Dr. Tim LaHaye as speaker. Tours will then be conducted through the new building.

The Institute for Creation Research was originally founded as a division of Christian Heritage College in September 1970, when the college's first classes began. Both were sponsored by the Scott Memorial

Baptist Church of San Diego, of which Dr. LaHaye was pastor at the time. Dr. LaHaye has maintained a strong interest in ICR ever since its founding.

ICR became a separate institution in 1981, opening its unique graduate school of creation-oriented science at that time. Its present building (still highly functional, but outgrown) was built and occupied in 1985. Since that time, a goodly number of other creationist organizations have been started, at least in part as a result of ICR's influence, and the creation revival is now receiving national attention.

God's blessings on ICR have been marvelous in many ways, not only in terms of the many fine young men and women who have received their M.S. degrees in the graduate school, but also in terms of worldwide impact through our books and videos, creation seminars across the nation, ministries in over thirty foreign countries, radio network through some fifteen hundred outlets, the unique Museum of Creation and Earth History, the 100,000 *Acts and Facts* periodicals sent out free each month and the 300,000 *Days of Praise* quarterlies, also mailed free to all requesting them, the Good Science workshops held in many places, the annual field tours to regions of special creation interest, almost innumerable radio, television and newspaper interviews, and on and on.

To support all these activities, the Lord has raised up many concerned churches and individual Christians who contribute financially. ICR has been scrupulous in financial integrity, and with very low-key fund-raising appeals, has been able to operate in the black for all thirty years.

We are very thankful to God for His great blessings thus far, and—by His grace—hope to continue and even improve and expand the effectiveness of our testimony for whatever time remains until Christ returns. The continuing prayers and support of concerned Christian creationists everywhere are deeply appreciated. 🌿

## DISNEY'S *DINOSAUR*

Many have asked for ICR's evaluation of the new Disney movie *Dinosaur* for children younger than twelve years old. Should Christian parents allow children to see it?

Dr. Doug Phillips, Adjunct Professor of Apologetics at ICR, home school defense lawyer, and aggressive advocate of the Christian home, has written a thoughtful article listing several reasons why Christian parents should refrain from taking their young children to see this movie. According to Phillips, the film is "based on an inherent contradiction—the idea that the theory of evolution is really about peace, love and understanding." Instead, he rightly points out, it is "dominated by a vision of the earth, which if true, nullifies the validity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

His sensitive yet thought-provoking article, entitled "*Dinosaur* Through the Eyes of a Child," can be viewed on the ICR website at:

[www.icr.org/research/misc/dp-01.htm](http://www.icr.org/research/misc/dp-01.htm). 



### From Florida

"I am deeply grateful to ICR for delivering the church from bondage to evolutionism. Coming out of a liberal, mainline denomination, I was still suffering the effects of the evolution lie, when I learned of your organization. Your testimonies gave me great joy, so much so that I went on a tremendous buying spree of books and videos, with which to satisfy my hunger for the truth."

### From Georgia

"My life, like countless others, has been greatly blessed by the work you have been about. I'm thankful to God that you took the approach that the Word of God is correct and that science could only correctly understand the nature of the world by beginning with the Word. . . . I sincerely believe that the work you have done is the most important work done in this century." 



Sometimes free publications are offered at the end of the ICR broadcasts. Did you know you can access these same articles on our website? Simply go to [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org) and click on Publications. Click on either "Back to Genesis" or "Impact." There's even an Impact Subject Index and Search Engine if you're interested in a particular subject. You can also e-mail us with any questions you might have at [radio@icr.org](mailto:radio@icr.org).

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

**Weekend of:**

**Title/Topic:**

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#### Aug. 5 "The Sounds of Creation"

We often take for granted the sounds we hear all around us. Have you ever considered that God took pleasure in creating the sounds that make up our world? Could it be that He used as much artistic flare in creating our audio environment as in our visual surroundings? Tune in!

#### Aug. 12 "Genesis Prophecies of Christ"

The first book in the Bible—Genesis—means "beginnings." Not only is Genesis foundational to all we believe—and to the rest of Scripture—it reveals the earliest recorded prophecies concerning Christ. Why is knowing about these prophecies so important? Find out!

#### Aug. 19 "Scopes Trial"

Last month marked the 75th anniversary of the famous "Monkey Trial." Learn the truth about what really happened at the trial and its repercussions for today.

#### Aug. 26 "The Impact of Evolution on Society"

Evolutionary theory permeates every aspect of our society—even going so far as to infiltrate the church. How did our society turn from basically a God-fearing—into one that aggressively proclaims *evolution* as God? 

## Meeting Highlights

### **Oakland, California**

Dr. Duane Gish was one of the invited guests and speakers at the Center for the Study of Theology and Natural Science program on “Evolution and Providence” held in Oakland, California, June 8–13. The CTNS is headquartered in Berkeley. Speakers during the conference included Dr. Francisco Ayala, Dr. Ian Barbour, Dr. Margaret Burbidge, and Dr. Michael Ruse.

On Sunday afternoon, Dr. Gish was one of the panelists participating in a four-hour program on “The Creation/Evolution Controversy: A Philosophical Examination.” Panelists included: Dr. Eugenie Scott, Director of the anti-creationist organization, The National Center for Science Education; Dr. Michael Ruse, Professor of Philosophy of Science at Guelph University, Ontario, Canada, a hard-line Darwinist; Dr. Robert John Russell, founder and Director of CTNS; Dr. Stephen Meyer, a member of the Intelligent Design group of creationists; Marty Maddox, a graduate student at the CTNS and Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley; and Dr. Jeffrey Schloss of Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California. Each panelist had fifteen minutes for a presentation, followed by a discussion among the panelists and questions from the audience.

Scott and Ruse argued strongly for a non-theistic evolutionary origin, while Gish described the fact that neither creation nor evolution qualifies as a scientific theory, since they are theories about historical events not witnessed by human observation. He documented the contradictions between evolution and both the Biblical record and the attributes of God and argued strongly that the scientific evidence for creation should be taught in the public schools of our pluralistic democratic society. In the few minutes remaining, Gish presented the

evidence from the fossil record, which he maintained was incompatible with evolutionary theory but which powerfully supports creation.

Meyer described evidence for specified complexity which gives compelling evidence that complex systems, so pervasive in nature, had to be the result of intelligent design and therefore of an intelligent agent. Dr. Schloss discussed factors which can be useful in determining whether the evidences from biology are the products of a supernatural intelligent creator or merely the products of natural forces still present today.

A lively discussion among the panelists followed these presentations. Undoubtedly, many in the audience heard for the first time a presentation of creation science.



*Dr. Morris with a home-schooled family at a recent seminar*

### **Oklahoma City**

Dr. John Morris was reminded just how good it is to “go back home,” as he spoke at the dynamic Heritage Baptist Church in Oklahoma City on June 2 and 3. Not only had Dr. Morris served on the faculty at nearby Oklahoma University before joining the ICR staff in 1984, but he had on several prior occasions addressed this church, and maintains close friendships with individuals on the church staff and leadership.

Three Sunday morning services on “The Biblical and Scientific Evidences for Creation” were preceded by a Saturday morning mini-seminar on “Evidences for the Young Earth.” An unusually high

percentage of scientists and medical doctors attend Heritage, and the messages were quite well received.

One visitor, herself a medical student, exclaimed, "I've been a Christian for several years, while training in biology and now medicine. I've been taught that evolution was a fact, and that creationists were idiot fundamentalists. I just figured that God used evolution to create. When I saw the ad for your lecture in the paper, I just had to check it out. In just one hour you overcame ten years of evolution teaching. Suddenly the Bible has come to light and I realize it can *all* be trusted. Thank you so much. My life in Christ will never be the same."

### Glen Rose, Texas

Dr. Duane Gish was the speaker at the creation science seminar in Glen Rose, Texas, Saturday, June 3. The site was the beautiful, 2000-seat auditorium of the Glen Rose High School in this community of about 2200 people. The sponsor was the Creation Evidence Museum, under the direction of Carl Baugh. Almost five hundred were in attendance.

The Creation Evidence Museum is known for the excavation of dinosaur footprints along with footprints that resemble human tracks, the discovery and excavation of a dinosaur fossil, and research under hyperbaric conditions. The museum has new facilities under construction, including a hyperbaric chamber 62 feet long and 11 feet in diameter, in which the activities and growth rates of various animals and plants will be studied under atmospheric conditions that may approximate those of the pre-Flood environment.

An added bonus for Dr. Gish was the pleasure of meeting Robert Summers, a Christian and world-famous artist and sculptor. Among his more famous works are the statue of John Wayne and his horse at the John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California, and the spectacular "Cattle Drive" in downtown Dallas. ❀

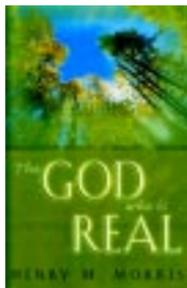
## THE GOD WHO IS REAL— UPDATED EDITION

A updated edition of *The God Who is Real*, by Dr. Henry Morris, has just been published by Master Books. Originally published in 1988 by Baker Book House, it has gone through numerous printings and has been widely recommended for use in witnessing to people with a skeptical attitude toward Christ.

Subtitled "A Creationist Approach to Evangelism and Missions," it follows the methods of Paul when approaching people who neither knew nor believed the Old Testament Scriptures. The first chapters give the evidences against both atheistic and pantheistic evolutionism, then follow chapters showing the scientific and logical arguments supporting special creation.

Finally, the overwhelming evidences for the substitutionary death and bodily resurrection of the Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ, are given, followed by a cogent presentation of the gospel of salvation with an invitation to receive Christ as Savior and Lord.

*The God Who is Real* is 118 pages long and can be ordered through ICR for \$8.95. ❀



## ICR GRADUATE IN WHO'S WHO

Clifford Paiva, who received his M.S. in Astro-Geophysics from the ICR Graduate School in 1988, has had his biography included in the 2000 edition of the prestigious reference volume, *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*. Mr. Paiva has had a productive career as a government physicist and is currently with the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Virginia. The ICR faculty and staff congratulate him on this distinctive recognition. ❀

# STEWARDSHIP & TRUST SERVICES

*“For this ye know, that no . . . covetous man, who is an idolater,  
hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

*Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things  
cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*

*Be not ye therefore partakers with them.”*  
*Ephesians 5:5–7*

**Covetousness:** “(Heb. *hamad*, to desire; *besa*, dishonest gain; Gr. *pleoneksia*, the wish to have more), an inordinate desire for what one has not, which has its basis in discontentment with what one has. It has an element of lawlessness, and is sinful because it is contrary to the command, ‘be content with such things as ye have’ (Hebrew 13:5), it leads to ‘trust in uncertain riches,’ to love of the world, to forgetfulness of God, and is idolatry (Colossians 3:5), setting up wealth as a focus instead of God. It ranks with the worst sins (Mark 7:22; Rom. 1:29). Our Lord especially warns against it (Luke 12:15), as does St. Paul (Ephesians 5:3, etc.). A man may be covetous, eager to obtain money, and not avaricious or penurious, i.e., unwilling to part with money, or sordid and niggardly, i.e., mean in his dealings. He may or may not be miserly.”

*Unger’s Bible Dictionary*  
Merrill F. Unger, Th.D., Ph.D.  
Moody Press, 1957

Oh, Lord, that our hearts would be so singularly after you that all else will take its proper place! Continue to draw us close; to persuade us that all the “more” that what we so often “need” will one day testify against us if we have not been content with that which you have provided. Lord, convince us of the certainty of your Word as preserved for us in Romans 8:32: “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” Thank you, Lord, for Your most Precious Gift; we know, having given us Him, You cannot withhold anything we need that is of lesser value. In this we can be content—for Jesus’ sake and in His name.

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