

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



Loyal supporters of creation evangelism, over 500 strong, gathered at ICR on October 29 to recognize ICR's 30th anniversary and dedicate ICR's new research laboratory building. A thrilling time of remembrance, dreaming, and challenge was coupled with hearty singing and sweet fellowship to honor the Lord for His mighty acts on ICR's behalf.

Nearly all of the staff and faculty were present, as were many of ICR's key friends and supporters for the joyous occasion. It all began as Dr. Duane Gish, after a few opening remarks, led the assembly in a rousing rendition of the favorite hymn, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, setting the stage for a rehearsal of our Lord's wonderful faithfulness.

This was followed as ICR's founder and President Emeritus, Dr. Henry Morris, cited major milestones in ICR's history, including numerous books and videos produced, important lectures, seminars, and debates, the radio ministry, and

of course, the graduate school and the significant research which it has fostered. Truly, "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes" (Psalms 118: 23).

ICR's current president, Dr. John Morris, continued with a look at the future, first speculating on the expected uses of the new building, noting that it contains much room for ministry growth and expansion. He listed some of the research gains anticipated from current and proposed projects. He dreamed of an ability to minister to Christians and seekers





fellowship of like-minded saints. A video “souvenir” of the program, complete with clips of the building

world-wide, especially in former Soviet countries, through distance education. He revealed plans for an expanded museum, and more effective ways to communicate creation truth. He asked for prayer that ICR’s leadership would exercise wisdom in prioritizing projects, for faculty additions, for research breakthroughs, and for God’s continued financial provision. Much remains to be done, and by His grace, it will be done!

Thirty years ago ICR was the research branch of Christian Heritage College, founded by Drs. Tim LaHaye, Henry Morris, and Art Peters. Thus it was a special blessing as Dr. LaHaye addressed the assembled supporters, encouraged them with his certainty that our Creator/Savior is returning soon, and challenged ICR to continue their important work until He comes. He concluded with a moving petition for God’s blessing on the new buildings, dedicating it to His service.

All in attendance were able to tour both the new and existing building, visit the creation museum, talk with the scientists about their research, get their books autographed, and enjoy the special

through-out construction has been prepared. It captures the thankful tone of the day and the expectant dependence on the Lord for the future. Although not broadcast quality, it will be an encouragement to many. If you would like one, simply write ICR. We will be glad to send you one for free

The entire staff and faculty of ICR wish to express their gratefulness for the tens of thousands of friends and supporters who joined us in spirit and prayers for this special day of celebration and anticipation. 🙏

Acts & Facts

PUBLISHED BY

**INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH
P.O. BOX 2667, EL CAJON, CA 92021**

To disseminate articles and information of current interest dealing with creation, evolution, and related topics. Sent free upon request.

Editor: John D. Morris
Co-Editor: Henry M. Morris
Managing Editor: Donald H. Rohrer

No articles may be reprinted in whole or in part without obtaining permission from **ICR**.



The newest radio adventure “Jonathan Park and the Adventure on the Aucilla River,” will air this holiday season. Episode 2 features information about the Tower of Babel, evidence for the ice age, sophistication of ancient man, origin of the races. Call your local radio station to see if they’re planning to air the broadcast. If not, contact us at 619-596-6059 for a demo CD to hand carry to your station’s manager. You can get a taste for the broadcast by calling our special preview line at 619-448-8198. And don’t forget to visit our Jonathan Park website at www.icradventures.org.

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

- | Weekend of: | Title/Topic: |
|--------------------|--|
| Dec. 2 | “Atheists Turned Creationists” Atheists deny the very existence of God and say they base their beliefs on “science.” They seem like the last people who could ever be talked to seriously about the Biblical and scientific evidence for creation. Meet former atheists turned creationists. |
| Dec. 9 | “The Water Cycle” Water—we couldn’t survive without it—the perfectly designed system that brings it to us is called the water cycle. Did this miraculously efficient watering system come about by chance—or did a God who deeply cares for us—create it? |
| Dec. 16 | “Design of Flight” Watching a bird in flight is always an amazing sight. Our modern aircraft are patterned after these creatures—and yet fall far short of duplicating any of their complex design. Did the bird’s navigational system evolve—or was it created by the Master Flight Engineer? |

Dec. 23 “Christmas Prophecies of the Coming Messiah”

One of the most popular Christmas carols of all time—“Silent Night”—recounts the birth of a baby, born of a virgin. This wondrous gift from God fulfilled ancient prophecy.

Dec. 30 “Soft Dinosaur Parts”

Over the years paleontologists have discovered thousands of fossilized dinosaur bones, and on rare occasions, even dinosaur organs. How could soft tissues have been preserved over millions of years? 🧩

ICR APOLOGIZES

CAUGHT BY AN APRIL FOOLS JOKE

On September 9, 2000, the Institute for Creation Research released an episode on *Science, Scripture, & Salvation* titled, “Neanderthals.” During the broadcast, one of our guests cited evidence that Neanderthals may have produced musical instruments including a tuba-like instrument made from a mastodon tusk, a bagpipe made in part from an animal bladder, a triangle, and a xylophone made from hollowed out bone.

It has come to our attention that this information was taken from an article published as a practical joke in *Discover* magazine. The magazine did not identify this as a joke and unfortunately it found its way onto our broadcast. We deeply apologize that our program conveyed incorrect information.

However, on that same broadcast, we presented another artifact that resembles a flute carved from the thighbone of a bear. This information has appeared in such journals as *Science* (April 11, 1997, p. 205) and *Scientific American* (September 1997, p. 28,) as well as others. The evidence remains strong that Neanderthals had musical abilities. So while the information from *Discover* magazine was incorrect, the notion that Neanderthals produced musical instruments is not invalidated by the *Discover* hoax. 🧩



THE NEVER-ENDING PROBLEMS IN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

In 1995, a reviewer of the book, *Darwinism Evolving: Systems Dynamics and the Genealogy of Natural Selection* by Depew & Weber said, “. . . evolutionary biology remains a turbulent, dynamic area of biology and of science in general” (American Library Association, choice card #356-57, v. 33). Many unsolved problems in evolution thinking were listed, and the problems continue for scientific materialists. Consider the following “problematic” quotes:

One of the most difficult problems in evolutionary paleontology [the study of fossils] has been the almost abrupt appearance of the major animal groups (A. G. Fisher, evolutionist, *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, 1998, fossil section.)

The formation of species has long represented one of the most central, yet also one of the most elusive subjects in evolutionary biology (Palumbi, “Marine Speciation,” *Annual Review of Ecology & Systematics*, 1994, p. 548.)

As Darwin noted in the *Origin of the Species*, the abrupt emergence of arthropods in the fossil record during the Cambrian presents a problem for evolutionary biology (Osorio, Bacon & Whittington, *American Scientist*, May/June 1997, p. 244.)

How natural selection operates at the molecular level is a major problem in evolutionary biology (Yokoyama, “Color vision of the Coelacanth,” *Journal of Heredity*, May/June, 2000.)

Genetic variability is an open problem within Darwin theory (David Berlinski, *Commentary*, September, 1996, p. 38.)

Indeed, the fact that dioecy [female & male flowers are borne on separate plants] has evolved from hermaphroditism [both female & male reproductive organs on the same flower] repeatedly distinguishes it as a central problem in evolutionary biology (Tia-Lynn Ashman, “A prescription for gender study in the next century,” *American Journal of Botany*, January 2000, p. 147).

Thus we see formidable and fundamental problems of evolutionism. We suspect these “problems” of secular biologists derive from the fact that they are looking at the evidence from the wrong perspective. There *is* a better alternative, one which fits the evidence—that of sudden creation of each basic type at some unobserved event in the past. Today we see the separate groups, and variation within each group, but their origin was accomplished by some another process. 🧩

A SURPRISINGLY PRODUCTIVE “MINI-SEMINAR”

The face of the American church is changing, with the lives of Christians so over-booked and with decades of indoctrination in evolution and relative morality. In many big churches people seldom commit to more than one hour a week in a church-related activity.

That’s the reality at the new, large and rapidly growing Colorado Community Church in Denver, with a total of 4000 attending the three Sunday morning services, but only about 250 in Sunday school. The pastoral staff, especially associate pastor Paul Flannery, wanted to find a way to have more input. They strategized that since people have already committed to coming on Sunday, perhaps they could be convinced to attend a “mini-seminar” running concurrently with the two later services. And so Flannery linked with ICR Board Member Jim Mather and invited ICR’s Dr. John Morris to Denver to present the biological case for creation concurrent with the second service and the geologic case for a young earth in the third. Much to everyone’s surprise, nearly 1500 people gathered in the fellowship hall, hungry for training in this controversial subject.

Since members in this church are typically well educated, often previously unchurched, disagreement was expected, but any antagonism melted into welcome surprise as information which made good sense was presented. Most had never been exposed to such a wealth of material which supported the Bible, and they gladly received it.

This lengthy recap may serve to encourage other similar churches to launch similar “minimal extra time” seminars. If it works like it did in Denver, people will grow in their knowledge of and confidence in, God’s Word, as well as their attitude toward church involvement. If ICR can be of help, just let us know. 🌟



PROGRESS ON RATE RESEARCH

Following the editing of the book “Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth” planned for release soon by the RATE group, several of the researchers have begun work on the experimental and theoretical aspects of the project. Discussions of the research experiments have previously been reported in Impact article #314, August 1999 and on the RATE book in the lead article of *Acts & Facts*, vol. 29, no. 8, August 2000.

Laboratory experiments have now begun on the highest priority, helium diffusion rate measurements. A sample of biotite from one of the oldest outcrops in North America has been collected, prepared, and sent to a laboratory. Measurements of the rate of helium diffusion from this sample at several different temperatures typically observed underground have been completed. The laboratory has reported that the sample was well prepared and the experiments produced good data.

Dr. Russell Humphreys has begun comparative analysis of these data with



*The Institute for Creation Research
Wishes you a wonderful
Christmas and New Year*



previously reported rates of argon diffusion in biotite. A second sample of biotite from another locality has been acquired and will be prepared for the laboratory this winter. A third sample may be acquired next year, if the first two experiments go well. Preliminary results support our hypothesis that helium produced by the decay of uranium diffuses rapidly through the biotite in granite. If these results are confirmed, there should be little helium remaining in rocks if the earth is billions of years old. Yet, helium concentration is found to be high in granite, implying that the earth is young.

Drs. Andrew Snelling and Steve Austin have started preparation of a rock sample for laboratory analysis of a Precambrian diabase collected from a sill at Bass Rapids in Grand Canyon and a sample of a gabbro from the Triassic Somerset Dam intrusive near Brisbane, Australia. The Precambrian diabase is a rock from just beneath the sedimentary layers produced by the Genesis Flood and the gabbro is a rock which has been intruded into Flood-deposited sediments and volcanic layers near the earth's surface from the mantle deep within the earth.

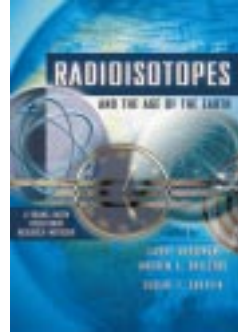
The laboratory analyses of these and other samples will help Dr. Snelling in searching for the chemical signatures of originally created rocks and changes which may have subsequently occurred. It is hypothesized that catastrophic processes during Creation Week and the Flood may have mixed and processed the originally created rocks in such a way that the parent and daughter elements give a superficial appearance of old age.

Two scientists have been contracted to help Dr. Snelling search for mature uranium-thorium radiohalos in Phanerozoic granite. Several samples of these rocks, formed during the Flood, are now being examined. Few, if any, such radiohalos have been reported in the literature. Dr. John Baumgardner hypothesizes that if

radiohalos are absent in these rocks containing significant quantities of uranium and thorium, then radioactive decay is much less than current estimates. This would mean that the 500 million years evolutionists require since the Cambrian Epoch for life forms to evolve did not exist.

Dr. Gene Chaffin spent a portion of the summer of 2000 exploring theoretical mechanisms for accelerated radioactive decay. Part of his effort was spent searching the literature for conventional approaches to modeling nuclear decay. There are many theoretical concepts found in the physics literature which suggest that nuclear decay could be accelerated if certain conditions are met. Many of these conditions have cosmological implications which may provide hints to events during Creation Week or the Flood.

Other research has also been started but is waiting for additional funding before committing to large expenditures.



This is the first year of the five-year research phase of RATE. It's obviously much too early to draw any firm conclusions. However, donated funds were sufficient to begin many of the re-

search efforts. The original estimate for the total project was \$500,000. Donations of about \$150,000 given to the RATE project through the end of June 2000 have been distributed to various research experiments. About \$35,000 will be needed to print the first RATE book. RATE needs an additional \$75,000 each year for the next five years to be able to complete the effort. If you wish to help, please contact Mr. Tom Manning or Dr. Larry Vardiman at 619/448-0900. 🍀

Stewardship & Trust Services

From Bethlehem to Calvary to Mount Zion

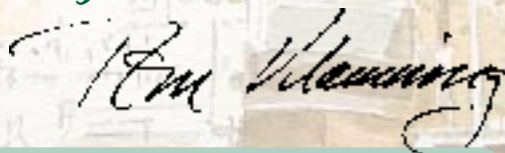
*“For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Savior, which is
Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11*

May our hearts and minds be so solidly grounded on the certainty of the Savior having come, His finished work on the Cross, and the certitude of His coming to reign as King, that the clamor of a secularized Christmas season . . . even the rattle of tanks on the outskirts of Bethlehem . . . not distract us from this precious opportunity to truly worship the Holy God from whom this most precious of Gifts has come!

Come, again, quickly, Lord Jesus!!!

May we be found ready.

Merry Christmas!



As the Lord leads you to worship Him through a year-end gift to ICR or another Christ-honoring ministry (such as your local church) that does not have someone on staff to answer questions relative to the gifting of securities or other assets, I am as close as a phone call. I am (and all of us at ICR are) here to serve as an extension of your ministry—to your greater effectiveness—all to the glory of God!

Tom Manning, ICR Stewardship and Trust Services, P.O. Box 2667,
El Cajon, CA 92021. Phones: ICR, 619-596-6007; E-mail tmanning@icr.org