As a former youth director, I’ve often wondered why children, especially teens, struggle so intensely with the purpose and meaning of life. Why are they so often directionless, or able to hurt others—possibly even taking other students’ lives on the school campus?

Now that I work at the Institute for Creation Research, I understand more clearly than ever that our value isn’t based on our intelligence, our looks, or even our talents—and in truth we are undeserving of such favor shown to us by God. The reality is, however, He did make us in His image, and because of that we are valuable to Him.

When I first began to understand the full significance of this, I would return to public high schools and ask students if they believed in creation or evolution. Most of the students did believe in creation, but when I asked them why, most had no reason—except they had been raised that way. I realized they had no foundation for their belief in creation. Evidently the students’ parents and churches were failing to give them the Scriptural and apologetic support for their faith. When I visited college campuses, I found most students I talked to believed in evolution. Something happened from high school to college. Students who once believed they were created—but didn’t know why—were now studying the so-called “facts” for evolution and had given up faith in the Creator. Their Christian foundation had been washed away and built on the worldview of evolution.

After hearing about the horrid shooting at Santana High School, my mind drifted back to the day that I stood on that very campus talking to a group of students who believed in evolution. I asked them what purpose they had in life if we were simply the products of evolution. They admitted, honestly, that if random chance evolution is what made us, there was no
purpose in life aside from what we made it to be. How sad that only a few years later, nihilism based on evolution would be played out to its logical end as one Santana student took the lives of others.

Can you imagine how different things would be if every child, every student, every one of us lived with the true perspective that all people are made in God’s image? How different a child’s life would be if, instead of believing they evolved with no purpose, they understood that they were made by the Creator of the universe who loves them and has an ultimate purpose for their lives!

That is why ICR has sought to reach kids in new ways with unique adventures such as the Jonathan Park radio project. These stories (aired worldwide) grab the attention of children and pre-teens, and teach them they have purpose in life. Each episode contains an action-packed story designed to teach creation apologetics as well as deep Biblical lessons. Parents can use these stories as a way to build Biblical and scientific foundations so children can know why they believe they were created.

These radio programs have been developed into a four-cassette audio series costing just $16.95. Our desire is to make a tool that parents can use in their cars, as “bedtime” stories, or family “quality time” that will teach Scriptural truths.

Please join with us in prayer as we produce materials which teach children that they can trust God’s Bible—especially when it says that we are made in His image! Also pray that parents will use these tools that will equip children for a lifetime of living for the Creator!

ICR’s four new audiocassettes are available for $16.95. To order call 800/628-7640.

JONATHAN PARK CASSETTE SERIES NOW AVAILABLE!

The Secret of the Hidden Cave—I & II. In an attempt to survive a bad storm, two families seek safety in an underground cavern that holds a life changing secret!

Adventure on the Aucilla River—I & II. The Eagle’s Nest Gang witnesses a robbery at a museum and it’s up to them to catch the thief. Also, the Park family has been called to the Aucilla River to find artifacts that hold clues about our past.

Disaster at Brenan Bluff—The discovery of a dinosaur graveyard turns into a nightmare when the cliffs above the site collapse!

African Safari—Why has the evil Dr. Cassat asked the Parks to go on a fossil dig? The answer is found out on a wild journey into the wilderness of Africa!

Escape from Utopia—The Park and Brenan families are on their way to a museum when their car breaks down near a retreat center. They discover the center is run by Utopians—an alien cult that wants to keep them there. The two families must find a way to escape from Utopia!

The Clue From Nineveh—A school bully just can’t seem to leave Jonathan alone. The battle finally rages, leading to a “show down” at the Santa Fe Museum of Ancient Art that could get dangerous!

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Weekend of</th>
<th>Title/Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>“The Search for Noah’s Ark”&lt;br&gt;Over the years, numerous reported sightings of Noah’s Ark fueled much speculation and numerous search attempts. Eyewitness accounts sound strikingly similar. Is it possible the Ark is lying preserved beneath ice and snow on Mt. Ararat? Don’t touch that dial!</td>
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<td>June 9</td>
<td>“Is Anybody Out There?”&lt;br&gt;Our modern-day culture exalts this idea of extra-terrestrials and UFO’s so much that the thought of life on other planets seems plausible—even to some Christians. But did God need to create life elsewhere? Listen and learn!</td>
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<td>June 16</td>
<td>“Our Creator Father”&lt;br&gt;Many of us didn’t grow up with a father who protected, encouraged, disciplined, loved, or provided for us. This, of course, is not God’s plan. How is our Heavenly Father the best example for earthly Dads?</td>
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<td>June 23</td>
<td>“Marriage Made in Heaven”&lt;br&gt;June is the most popular month for weddings. It’s one thing preparing for this really big day, and yet quite another carrying out this lifelong commitment. Why do so many marriages end in failure?</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
<td>“The Creator &amp; the Declaration of Independence”&lt;br&gt;How did the belief in a Creator influence the writing of this historic document? Tune in to find out!</td>
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For some time there has been a need for a short, but hard hitting treatment of the scientific case against evolution—a booklet that could be used as a witnessing tool, easily given away. A new 24-page booklet by Dr. Henry Morris does just that, summarizing the scientific case (as distinct from the Biblical case) against evolution. Showing that there is no genuine scientific evidence that macroevolution has ever occurred or could occur, the case is firmly documented by statements from leading evolutionists, with no Biblical references or quotes from creationists at all. Thus evolution is merely a religion that many people believe, but cannot prove.

The booklet (which is essentially a composite of three recent “Impact” articles published in Acts & Facts) is intended for use with people who would not be swayed by Biblical arguments and who are not willing to read larger books on the scientific evidences. It can be ordered from ICR at 50 cents per copy or 30 cents per copy in quantities of 100 or more, plus shipping and handling.

Moving?
Please mail your new address along with your old mailing label to:

Institute for Creation Research
P.O. Box 2667
El Cajon, CA 92021
Tour to Great Britain Scoped Out

Three ICR tour leaders traveled to Great Britain in April to organize an ICR tour for September of 2002. Dr. Kenneth Cumming, Dr. Larry Vardiman, and Tom Manning spent ten days in England and Wales visiting prospective sites for a tour next year. They spent five days in London and five days in Brighton, Portsmouth, Cardiff, and Oxford visiting museums, castles, and churches. During the first Sunday in London they worshipped at the Metropolitan Tabernacle Church (pastored by Rev. Peter Masters). On the second Sunday they worshipped at the Heath Evangelical Church in Cardiff, Wales (pastored by Rev. Vernon Higham). Both churches warmly welcomed them, and at the Metropolitan Tabernacle they even met missionary friends who were visiting on the same Sunday.

The tour planned for late September of 2002 is designed to visit key historical sites that illustrate the movement toward secularism experienced in England and search for a solution to stopping or reversing the same trend in the United States. The British Enlightenment and the New Science derived from it appear to be part of the key to the movement away from the Bible in England. Originally quite religious, only about 3% of the English population now attends church anywhere. However, a few evangelical churches such as the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London and the Heath Evangelical Church in Cardiff continue an effective witness. Ongoing revivals in Wales seem to be holding the line against apostasy there. We hope to learn and be encouraged by these examples.

Tentative plans for the tour next year are to visit the British Museum, the Greenwich Royal Observatory, the Science Museum, and the Natural History Museum in London. In addition, we plan to visit many cultural sites such as the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and Buckingham Palace. During a swing through southern England, we plan to visit Darwin’s home in Kent, the battle-ship Victory at the Maritime Museum in Portsmouth, the creation museum in Portsmouth, Queen Victoria’s summer home on the Isle of Wight, and Oxford University. During our tour through southern England we plan to visit geological sites as well, such as the chalk cliffs near Brighton and a series of geologic strata on the Isle of Wight. Many of the names used for geological strata in the conventional geologic column are derived from locations in England. A couple of free afternoons are planned to allow guests to visit sites of their own choosing.

Keep your eyes open for announcements in Acts & Facts about the England Tour starting in the spring of 2002. The tour will probably be about 10 days in length and begin in the last weeks of September or the first week of October of 2002. Cheerio, until next spring. ☑
Eureka College Presentation and Sandwich, Illinois “Case for Creation” Seminar

Zoologist Frank Sherwin spoke on “Scientific Evidence for Creation” at a Campus Crusade for Christ meeting on the campus of Eureka College, April 5. Christians were present as well as a goodly number of advocates for evolutionism.

During the break while question cards were being filled out, evolutionists distributed anti-creation literature. Typical straw man arguments were drawn up and then “answered” under the heading “Scientific Responses”—which really means “materialistic responses.” None of the 10 arguments listed, supposedly by creation scientists, were referenced. They were made up, complete with sarcasm, by the author of the flyer.

During the question/answer period after the presentation Sherwin was able to share the unique nature of the Christian faith (Biblical prophecy and fulfillment, the Resurrection, etc.) to the gratification of some and irritation of others.

The following evening Dr. Henry Morris III and Frank Sherwin spoke in beautiful Sandwich, Illinois at a “Case for Creation” seminar at Northside Baptist Church (Bob Johnson, pastor). Dr. Morris addressed the dangers of compromise and issued a powerful challenge on how to win the case for creation. Sherwin spoke on the fossil record and scientific evidence for creation.

Pensacola, Florida

Dr. Duane Gish, Dr. Joseph Stowell, Sr., Dr. Clyde Box, and Dr. Ray Barber were the speakers at the Annual Bible Conference held on the beautiful Pensacola Christian College and Seminary Campus in Florida March 14–16. The conference was attended by more than 4,000 students, faculty, and visitors. An auditorium (seating 6,000), two wedding chapels, and other facilities are scheduled for completion in October. The college and the associated Christian school of 2,400 students were founded by the president and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Arlin Horton.

Fairbanks, Alaska

ICR President, Dr. John Morris, journeyed to the “far north” for a series of lectures at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and several area churches on April 1–9, 2001. Hosted jointly by the Hamilton Acres Baptist, McGrath Road Baptist, and the Bible Baptist Churches and especially Dr. Karl Sapp who heads a student creation group on campus, the series created quite a stir in the local newspapers and on campus.

Numerous students and professors attended the four lectures on campus, dealing with the fossil record, the weaknesses of evolution, the evidence for creation, and the young earth. Each 2-hour session included a lengthy question and answer period, during which most of the questions from evolutionists regarded misconceptions regarding Biblical doctrine. The few which related to science were based on handouts from the National Center for Science Education, an openly naturalistic, anti-creationist group dedicated to minimizing the effect of creation teaching.

On the evening following Morris’ lectures, during a time when Morris was lecturing elsewhere, evolutionary professors held a meeting to do damage control. Creationists, among the few in attendance, were easily able to counter the few claims made. Interestingly enough, handouts, falsely “documenting” misquotes by Morris contained blatantly false misquotes of his statements.

It becomes increasingly obvious that “the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not” (II Corinthians 4:4).
THE UNASKED QUESTION

Limits to evolutionary thinking are clearly seen when secular scientists posit questions, but not the question, as they conduct investigations related to macroevolution.

S.B. Carroll, writing in *Nature* magazine (v. 409) states, “Traditionally, evolutionary geneticists have asserted that macroevolution is the product of microevolution writ large, whereas some paleontologists have advocated the view that processes operating above the level of microevolution also shape evolutionary trends. Is one of these views wrong, or could they both be right?” Good scientific inquiry would ask an additional conspicuous question, the question never considered by a naturalist, and that is: *could both of these views be wrong?*

Such a heretical question must never be proposed, for to do that is to question the very foundation of the secular worldview.

Evolutionist Trisha Gura wrote a fascinating article in *Nature* magazine (v. 406) regarding “a debate that is raging within systematics [biological diversity in an evolutionary context].” The war is between those who study biological molecules (DNA and protein) vs. paleontology that is based on morphology (the study of structure and form). The conflict is described succinctly, “Evolutionary trees constructed by studying biological molecules often don’t resemble those drawn up from morphology.” But the title of the article reveals the self-imposed limit of secular investigation, “Bones, molecules . . . or both?” Sound scientific inquiry would tack a tag on the end of the article title, “or neither?”

After reading Gura’s article, one can see how each of the above camps demolishes the other—all the more reason to ask if they both might be wrong. But macroevolutionists simply refuse to submit the glaring—unasked—question.
We remember this passage (I Kings 18:21) as Elijah’s condemning challenge to God’s people living under the godless, or, better, the multi-godded reign of King Ahab. Remembering the drama—the showdown—of chapter 18—Israel, in the third year of a God-appointed drought, His judgment, gathered at Mount Carmel where Baal’s priests had erected an altar unto him, and Elijah, unto the living God. As we read this account, we are in awe of Elijah’s faith as he ridicules, then taunts the priests of Baal. Our hearts are challenged by Elijah’s single-minded faith in God as he has his offering double-drenched and then calls upon his God to glorify Himself by sending fire to the soaked altar. We are blessed as we witness our faithful God’s response to His servant—not only did He send fire, He sent it in such abundance that it consumed the entire altar—wood, meat, rocks, water—EVERYTHING! . . . and Israel fell on its face.

This brings us to the point of this column last month: Who, or what, has our heart—who, or what, are we “on our face” before? Are we as Elijah, single-minded toward the Lord, or are we as idolatrous Israel: not rejecting God, but not rejecting those things which others around us worship, either.

Remember, an idol is anything that has our attention at the expense of our devotion to God; idols do not have to be evil images housed in shrines. In our day, idols can be things that God would otherwise consider good—our loved ones, jobs, homes, recreation, reputation, investments (or lack thereof), etc.—the things to which our mind naturally goes when we are quiet. Please don’t misunderstand—God does give us great latitude to enjoy the life/possessions He provides. My point is that He gives us NO latitude to enjoy them at the expense of our devotion to Him!

The reminder, then, again this month: we can’t have it both ways. Our choices today (toward the Cross or with the crowd) do make a difference with the Lord. By His very nature, He must either commend or condemn them. The opportunity and responsibility remain ours.

“. . . choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . ” (Joshua 24:15)