

ICR Educational Mission

by John D. Morris

Winning hearts and minds to creation involves a long-term strategy, particularly as it relates to the school system. Political and legal victories are typically of short benefit and often turn into lasting defeat. ICR has chosen the steady tack of education instead.

We believe that an individual, textbook writer or instructor forced to include creation in their teaching against their conviction, will not present it fairly. A harmful caricature of it may result. How much better to provide quality creation education to all who will listen, at all levels and in all related disciplines, demonstrating not only the logic of creation thinking but the benefits as well. Does this not have a better chance for long-term impact?

While many educational leaders, school boards, legislators, and court systems have set themselves up as evangelists for the religion of naturalistic evolution, seeing to it that our schools and universities have become bastions of anti-Christian and anti-creation instruction,

we still have a voice. Some people still go to church, some to Christian schools, some home school, some get on the internet; some faithfully operate as Christians in secular settings. And these each have their sphere of influence. If we can convince individuals of creation in such depth that they can impact others, much lasting good can be accomplished. ICR pursues this goal on numerous fronts.



As revealed in the May 2006 issue of *Acts & Facts* we are nearing full implementation of our Distance Education curriculum. Soon science teachers in Christian schools will be able to enhance their skills with graduate education in creation

teaching, all from their own homes. Think of the many students this will reach. Similarly, a masters degree in general creation studies will be available, producing a plethora of knowledgeable creation enthusiasts, available to reach schools and churches everywhere.

We will, of course, continue the ICR Graduate School in the sciences, thoroughly equipping and discipling select



students to further creation thinking and conducting cutting-edge research. Additionally, a new “mentorship” program is in full swing, where ICR professors come alongside Christian doctoral students in secular universities, helping them complete dissertations in creation-related areas. The next generation of fully qualified creation scientists will result, each poised to impact their disciplines. The ICR dream of a world class university built around Christian/creationist principles may be still a long time off, but we can make an impact now.

A consortium of Christian colleges is also taking shape. ICR is spearheading efforts to provide specialized creation training to creationist Christian Bible and Liberal Arts colleges who may not have creation scientists on their faculty. Such a consortium may have the combined breadth and clout of a major university.

ICR recommends the use of creation-based textbooks written by sister organizations for use in Christian and home schools. We recommend supplementing them with creation-specific books and workbooks from ICR. To facilitate this, we have started producing study guides for several creation classics and new products. For instance, the recently completed RATE research on radioisotope dating now offers a companion study guide for the non-technical book, *Thousands . . . not Billions*.

Meanwhile we don't neglect the “person in the pew,” with pulpit supply, seminars, and less technical materials available. Many churches have adopted non-Biblical concepts and need to be guided back to a God-honoring position.


These long-range efforts seem to be paying off. Forty years ago, when the modern creation movement “started,” there were almost none who knowledgeably believed in a literal, Biblical approach to origins. Now, polls show that the vast majority of Americans hold to

some form of creation. The blessings of God can be expected to follow when His Word is honored, and its doctrine guarded. ICR's commitment to this will not waiver. 🌿

Museum Day at ICR Saturday, September 30!

For the second year ICR will hold a Museum Day in conjunction with the nationwide Smithsonian Museum Day sponsored by *Smithsonian* magazine. Along with those that love the Creation and Earth History Museum, we hope people that are not familiar with creationism will visit us when they see our name in the list of participating museums in *Smithsonian*. As the creation/evolution debate has heated up around the nation, we have been visited by some people that wouldn't ordinarily visit us. Most of these are young people from the many colleges and universities in San Diego and Los Angeles because of assignments given by their professors to find out what creationism is all about. Perhaps the same thing will happen in September.

We have many special events on Museum Day. Our scientists will be on site giving talks and answering questions. There will be special sales, refreshments, and free giveaways. Please join us if you're in the area. 🌿



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ICR has entered a very dynamic stage of its ministry. It's a wonderful time, but full of crowded schedules and exploring new territory.

One of the transitions regards the homegoing of my father, ICR's founder, Dr. Henry Morris. He stepped down from the active presidency in 1996, but had maintained a productive writing schedule until his death early this year. His fertile pen continued up to the very last as he completed a short book summarizing creation evidences and evolution's impact while on his deathbed. (We are finalizing the manuscript and will make it available soon.) He was not only my father and good friend, he was also my mentor on many matters, and I often regret not being able to simply walk down the hall and access his wisdom.

As well documented on these pages, ICR's research efforts have begun to snowball into major discoveries in several areas.

The stunning success of the RATE initiative on radioisotope dating foreshadows even greater advances in the FAST (on the great Flood and geology) and GENE (on human genetics) projects. All of these projects are facilitated by the new super computer "Epiphany." Already several articles are being prepared for the standard scientific journals. A new day has arrived in creation research and understanding.

Each of the ICR scientists could be fully involved in productive speaking, but we try to guard their time, focusing it in areas where they can have the most impact. Only a few trained and credentialed scientists can do the basic research, while many can digest the information and pass it on to others.

My own speaking and travel schedules have continued to increase over the years, even as my administrative duties swelled with ICR's staff and research. Recognizing that administration was not my strength, the ICR Board asked ICR Astrogeophysics Chairman, Dr. Larry Vardiman, to accept the role of Chief Operations Officer (COO) at ICR, handling day-to-day administration, especially while I'm on the road. This new arrangement has been a true blessing.

Unfortunately, Dr. Vardiman's new administrative duties, coupled with his role of "shepherding" the RATE research team lessened his own research output. After two years defining this new role he has asked to return to research and scholarly efforts. Thus, the Board has contracted with long-time ICR associate Dr. Ed Miller to continue the COO role on a contract basis for the foreseeable future. Dr. Miller's specialty is in education administration and research coordination. His presence here will make all of ICR more productive.

My father frequently told a story about the early days of ICR, when he and Duane Gish were the only two contributing scientists. Asked how it was going, he would answer, "It's like being on a train racing down a steep hill with no brakes. All you do is 'hang on.'" It seems we have topped the next hill, so hang on.

To the larger ICR family I ask for your prayers and support. The days ahead promise a wild but productive ride. "All aboard!" 🚂

Moving?

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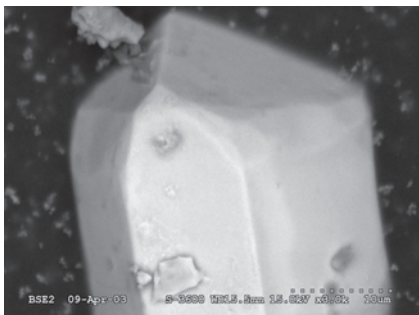
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by Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.

Dr. Humphreys responded to two questions from the audience at the first RATE Conference in the February 2006 Research Column. He addressed questions about the concentration and leakage of helium from zircons and their importance in dating granite rocks. In this issue he will answer three more questions about uranium, lead, and heat in zircons.

1. *What is the role of lead found in zircons?*

Besides telling us how much helium the nuclear decay of uranium deposited in the zircon originally (see the February Research Column), the lead gives us the conventional uranium-to-lead age for the zircons of *1.5 billion years* for the granite. That age depends on assuming that today's decay rate, determined in the laboratory simply by measuring how many decays occur in uranium during a short time, has never been substantially different in the past.




Photomicrograph of a zircon provided by Mark Armitage.

2. *Why do you assume zircons started off with a lot of uranium and not much lead?*

First, because experiments show that happens. Second, because of basic chemistry. Dissolved in molten rock, uranium

atoms normally lose four of their outer electrons. Lead atoms usually lose only two electrons. So, surprisingly, the electrically charged atoms (called *ions*) of uranium are *smaller* than lead ions. These facts mean that a zircon attracts uranium ions into its lattice as it forms, but rejects lead ions. In contrast, biotite does not attract uranium ions as it forms around the zircon.

3. *Wouldn't accelerated nuclear decay generate a lot of heat? Is that a problem?*

Yes, it's a problem we've been thinking about from the beginning of the project, and we have the beginnings of some answers. We have several lines of observational evidence that *volume cooling*, unusual removal of heat from the entire volume of a rock, occurred at the same time the accelerated decay was occurring. A little-known feature of Einstein's General Relativity Theory suggests that such cooling resulted from a cosmological effect, the rapid expansion of space during the same periods as rapid decay happened, such as during the Genesis Flood. I discuss these matters in both Volume I (pp. 369–373) and Volume II (pp. 67–74) of the RATE technical book series. 

ICR Online Distance Education

M.S. Degree in Science Education

Information at:

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936/560-4239 or e-mail at:

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Meeting Highlights

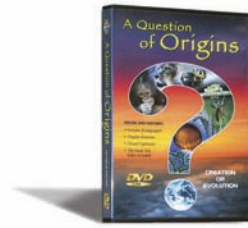
Battleground, Washington

ICR's missionary mindset came into play over the June 1 weekend, but didn't entail a trip overseas this time. The Russian speaking Slavic Bible Church and its Word of Grace Bible Institute hosted ICR's president Dr. John Morris for an extensive seminar on Creation and the Flood.

Friday evening, all day Saturday, and morning and evening services in the church on Sunday saw Dr. Morris speak on numerous subjects. The church is within sight of Mount St. Helens, but few in the 1000 member church, almost all of whom had immigrated from Russia since the eruption, knew of the mountain's creation/Flood implications.

Pastor Alexey Kolomiitsev is to be commended for the deep spiritual mindset readily seen among the members. Fellowship was sweet, as God's Word was honored and accepted.

The Christians were amazed to discover that many "evangelical" Christians held to any form of evolution or old Earth. They knew too well that both are cornerstones of wicked Communism and contrary to the plain reading of Scripture. To the adults, evolution was not an issue. As their children in high school heard the lectures and began to speak up about what they were being taught, the parents clearly recognized the importance of creation to Christianity and to the spiritual life and health of their children. 🙏



A Question of Origins Translations

The ICR distributed DVD, *A Question of Origins*, has been quite well received. It is a good introductory look at creation evidences, and concludes with an effective salvation message. An "extra" entitled, *The Good Test* questions dozens of people and reveals their "goodness" as falling far short of God's requirement. *The Good Test* uncovers humanity's heart condition and the hope that is available.

Among other "experts" interviewed in the feature film is ICR President Dr. John Morris, discussing the great Flood of Noah's day, its evidences and necessity.

The producers of the film, Eternal Productions, have translated the main portion into eight languages all included in the DVD, accessed simply by a "click" at the start. They are searching for qualified translators who could translate it into other languages as well. Those interested should contact:

Jim Tetlow at Eternal Productions
www.eternal-productions.org
jtetlow1@rochester.rr.com
Phone: 585/248-2010

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

Weekend of: **Title/Topic:**

Aug. 5 Are Humans Evolving?

Evolutionists make sweeping claims about the origin of life and how everything came to be without a Creator. They insist that all living things, including human beings, got here by changing from one creature into another. They also claim that humans are still evolving! But, is this what we see? Join us for this interesting discussion!

Aug. 12 Students’ Rights

It’s that time of year again when young people leave summer vacation behind and head back to school. But, does attending a public school mean you have to leave your faith at home? As our young people return to school, parents, students, and teachers need to be aware of the legal rights of students concerning their faith. Listen in as we learn about students’ rights!

Aug. 19 Dinosaur Dossier

They’re the stuff of legends and the objects of terrifying science fiction movies. With vivid imagination we’ve managed to turn dinosaurs into huge ferocious eating machines that dominated an ancient world, but what were they really like? Tune in as we take a look at fossils and Biblical and secular history to peer into the fascinating world of dinosaurs.

Aug. 26 Basic Laws of Nature

Contrary to what some believe, the basic laws of nature do not leave room for evolution. These scientific laws are stable, were made by God, and were put into motion in the beginning. But, do they testify of a recent creation? Please listen in as we address this question!

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! 📻



Acts & Facts Reader in Connecticut

It is so wonderful to get the *Acts & Facts* each month. It is full of such good reasoning to help fully appreciate our origins and our magnificent Creator God. I try to understand all that we are and do and the world around us in the light of His mighty creative touch. Thank you for your help in this. I enjoy sharing *Acts & Facts* with others.

Days of Praise Reader in California

Thank you for *Days of Praise*. I love each day’s message and pass it on to other people at the school where I work. It encourages me and gives insight into the passages.

From a Radio Listener in Peru

I encourage you in the Lord to continue broadcasting His precious message to the world. I desire with all my heart that God bless your ministry through the program that you direct.

Praise Report from a Seminar

We had four receive Christ as their Savior during ICR’s seminar!

From Arizona

We thank God for your *clear* bold voice for truth! *You have stood true* in face of the many pressures to compromise! We so appreciate your stand!

Only eternity will reveal all the effect and impact of your faithful labors for Christ! 📻



Carrying Your Weight

“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee” (Genesis 12:1).

When God called Abram to leave his home and go to Canaan, He knew every detail of Abram’s journey. Abram, of course, did not. He didn’t even know where Canaan was (Hebrews 11:8), let alone understand how God would make of him *“a great nation.”* And yet, he packed up everything and began the journey. Hebrews tells us that Abram followed the Lord *“by faith,”* not by sight. Through his faith, a new nation was born. Through his faith, the great King was born—the eternal King that would redeem the world.

Abram did not complete his journey without problems. Occasionally, he tried to operate God’s plan by his own *“sight.”* Rather than be *steward* of God’s promised plan, he attempted to implement plans of his own. However, God’s gracious patience with His *“Friend”* (James 2:23) resulted in Abram’s enduring faith, and the fulfillment of God’s promises.

Flexible, Adaptable, and Teachable (FAT)

God’s accounting of Abram’s life demonstrates to us that Abram was unusually FAT. In humility, Abram adjusted his own life—his own way of thinking—in order to fulfill God’s directives. But from Abram’s perspective, that obedience required him to flex with radical course changes on his journey, learn new ways of living, and adapt to very new surroundings.

As the pace of the world quickens every day, we sometimes feel like we are being left behind. But God is sovereign and in control. He never changes (Hebrews 13:8). And what He leads us into will result in blessings to us and to all those we obediently influence for His Kingdom.

ICR is committed to remaining faithful to God’s leadership. We understand ourselves to be stewards of the knowledge and truth discovered through the Scriptures as well as through science. The *“facts”* ICR uncovers through its research have meaning only in the context of Scripture and in their undergirding and application of our witness for the truth of the *“glorious gospel”* (I Timothy 1:11).

ICR, the Lord enabling us, will be Flexible, Adaptable, and Teachable as we seek to serve His Kingdom. Please share with us.



Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR Executive Vice President

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