

ICR Opens Office in Dallas

by John D. Morris

A grand plan to expand the ministry of ICR has been launched! The rising interest in web-based education and short-term professional training, coupled with the long-standing priority of ICR founder Henry Morris to influence leaders in science and education,



prompted the board of directors in June 2006 to formally launch the Henry M. Morris Center for Christian Leadership.

Located in Dallas, Texas, the new Morris Center will combine various aspects of ICR's national ministry and education in this new facility. Already in Texas, Dr. Patricia Nason, head of ICRGS Science Education Department, is the architect of our online master's degree programs. Dr. Henry Morris III previously moved to Dallas to evaluate the potential for this expansion, and Richard Pferdner, Director of Internet Ministries relocated to the area in June. Additional staff members have since been recruited from the Dallas area.

An open house was held in ICR's new facility in concert with the September 30 RATE seminar in Dallas. Friends and donors of ICR were invited, along with

several ICR staff and RATE scientists. All were challenged with the brand new vision and opportunities for the Dallas office.

Numerous people expressed their love and appreciation for ICR. Some related how ICR's work had been instrumental in their salvation and

growth in Christ. Several volunteered to help in the days ahead. All felt that the tribute to Dr. Morris was proper and carried great potential.

A memorial room for him contains his San Diego desk, library, and file cabinets, along with other personal items. Visitors will appreciate his dedication and humility as they see tokens of his simple lifestyle and life-long study of God's Word and creation.

Dr. Henry Morris III has been appointed to direct the Dallas work, leading the effort to realize the full vision of ICR's founder. Located about 10 miles from the Dallas/Fort Worth airport, the Morris Center invites friends of ICR to visit the new facility. Please join us in prayer that the new thrust will be faithful in accomplishing the Stewardship Mandate of Genesis, the great passion of our founder. 





President's Column

by John D. Morris

During this Christmas season, as we ponder things for which we are thankful, let us not forget the opportunities to minister creation evangelism. Remember as we give gifts to those we love that “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son” for our salvation (John 3:16), and allows us to be His ambassadors, taking the gospel message, which includes the good news of creation, to a world which needs it so. This is a precious calling, to have a part in something special He is accomplishing. In particular I am thankful that we are able to minister internationally, without the difficulties of overseas travel. Opportunities abound here at home to impact other cultures, as representatives from around the world come to us. Let me tell you of several recent contacts.

We start with the expanded and improved website of ICR, a library of creation information. Available around the world, it provides instant access for many.



For informational brochures about ICR's distance education programs and the new Dallas Center call 800/337-0375.



Bea, an ICR Museum Tour Guide leads the first tour ever given at the museum entirely in the German language.

We also offer graduate web-based education for science teachers and interested creationists, equipping them for effective ministry.

Our Creation Museum continues to be a real draw for international visitors. In October we were blessed as over 125 foreign missionaries visited, in town for a missions conference hosted by Grace Community Church in the Los Angeles area. We provided books and materials to help them accomplish their tasks. Similarly, we are often on the itinerary of Grand Canyon trips hosted by the Southern Californian branch of the Korean Association of Creation Research.

As mentioned in previous *Acts & Facts* issues, we have launched a graduate-level

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Cindy Carlson (right) leads one of many tours for 125 missionaries in October.



by Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.

Dr. Andrew Snelling will answer questions asked at our “Thousands . . . Not Billions” conferences about radiohalo formation during the next two months in the research column.

Please explain in more detail how plutonium radiohalos form in granite.

Radiohalos cannot be observed with the naked eye, nor with a magnifying glass. A microscope is needed with magnification 50–100 times. Radiohalos are actually spherical because the α particles produced by radioactive decay in the centers of the radiohalos are shot out in all directions to damage the host crystal. However, to study the radiohalos, the host biotite flakes have to be peeled apart until they are thin enough to be transparent, and then mounted on a glass microscope slide. So, when viewed through the microscope, the radiohalos appear as planar sections cut through the original spherical halos.

Wherever uranium decays, the α -particle radiation etches or damages the surrounding host crystal, but it takes a lot of uranium atoms to decay before such damage becomes visible. It is only where the uranium is concentrated in tiny zircon crystals that the surrounding radiation damage in the host biotite flakes can be seen as the halos. It is estimated that it takes 500 million–1 billion α -decays to make a visible, dark uranium radiohalo. Because uranium decay is so slow today, the estimated half-life is very long (more than four billion years). Such an estimate assumes that uranium has always decayed at today’s measured slow rate. Thus it is assumed by most scientists that dark, visible uranium radiohalos took at least 100 million years to form.

mentorship program to help graduate students from major universities accomplish creation-useful research, thus training the next generation of creation scientists. Many of the students now involved are international students, free from the shackles of American secularism. A student led group of these budding scientists have now banded together to reach out to young scientists in Europe and Asia, affording worldwide access to some of the best creation minds. The goal of these students is to change the way the world thinks in regard to creation, and to reach their countries for Christ using the tool of creation, all the while providing answers to deep creation problems.

Time will only tell what will come of this. Initial forays are promising indeed. As you pray this year end, let me add this to your prayer list. Pray that God will grant lasting success to this effort, both in increased creation understanding, and in lives and destinies changed for Christ.

In closing, let me remind you of the financial needs of ICR and how year-end giving is so important in empowering ICR to accomplish these vital goals. ☪

Moving?

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Polonium is one of the elements produced by the radioactive decay of uranium. There are three isotopes of polonium produced by this radioactive decay, and these make characteristic rings in uranium radiohalos. However, halos with ring diameters matching these three isotopes of polonium are also found in the same biotite flakes as the uranium radiohalos. However, halos with ring diameters matching these three isotopes of polonium are also found in the same biotite flakes as the uranium radiohalos, often separate from them but right alongside them. These polonium radiohalos require that polonium had to be concentrated into discrete tiny locations adjacent to the zircon grains (at the centers of the uranium radiohalos) so that the polonium could generate only the polonium rings to form polonium halos.

The only nearby source of polonium is in the zircon grains in the adjacent uranium radiohalos, produced by the radioactive decay of the uranium contained in the zircons, which also produces the uranium radiohalos surrounding the zircon grains. In the radioactive decay sequence from uranium to polonium, the element preceding polonium is radon, which is an inert or noble gas. It does not chemically bond to any other atoms inside the zircon crystal and so is free to easily wriggle or diffuse out of these tiny zircon crystals, which it does rather quickly because the zircon crystals are so tiny. Radon only has a half-life of 3.8 days and by the time these radon atoms reach the edges of the zircon crystals, some of them have already decayed to polonium.

The host biotite flakes formed in granites as they cooled and hot water released by the cooling granite circulated through the biotite flakes in its passage out of the granites into the surrounding rocks. This hot water is known to be capable of transporting both radon and polonium atoms, which it then carries the short distances within the biotite flakes to the decay locations. Here the chemical conditions are right for the polonium atoms to concentrate in sufficient quantities to form new radioactive centers that produce polonium

radiohalos. Sulfur and chlorine atoms are known to be occasionally present between the biotite sheets, and these atoms are chemically attractive to polonium atoms. This explains where the distinct polonium radiohalos come from.

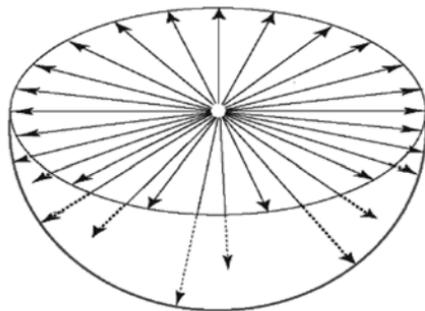


Figure 1. Sunburst effect of α -damage trails. The sunburst pattern of α -damage trails produces a spherically colored shell around the halo center. Each arrow represents 5 million α particles emitted from the center. Halo coloration initially develops after 100 million α decays, become darker after 500 million, and very dark after 1 billion (after Gentry [1988]).

Next month Dr. Snelling will continue his discussion of polonium radiohalo formation and the significance of their short formation time to the age of granites. 

ICR Online Distance Education

M.S. Degree in Science Education

Next Quarter begins January 8, 2007

Information at:

www.icr.edu/se

or contact Dr. Patricia Nason at

936/560-4239 or e-mail at

pnason@icr.edu



Record Attendance at ICR's Second Annual Museum Day!

Held in conjunction with the nationwide Smithsonian Museum Day, ICR's Museum of Creation and Earth History had three times the attendance of last year's event—the day was informative, fun, and a huge success!

Fifteen minutes before opening, the museum patio was filled with a youth group from Arizona and throughout the day there were visitors from Illinois, Washington, Ohio, and Oregon. One couple from Massachusetts (visiting relatives in San Diego) said that Museum Day at ICR was the highlight of their vacation. Along with people who have supported ICR for decades, there were first-time visitors who did not know there was a museum that demonstrates the Bible as being accurate historically and scientifically. One young man came, not believing in God: he was writing a paper for school entitled, "Did We Invent God or Did He Invent Us?" When he left he told us that he needed to rethink his position.



Dr. Steve Austin presents information about Mount St. Helens to an overflow crowd.

In addition to strolling through the museum exhibits, visitors listened to presentations such as, "The ICR Gene Project," "Mount St. Helens—Explosive Evidence for Creation," and "Design in Nature." Many thanks go out to all who attended and those who contributed to the success of the second annual Museum Day. 📺



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

- | Weekend of: | Title/Topic: |
|--------------------|---|
| Dec. 2 | Evolution and World War II
World War II was a horrific episode in world history. Millions died as Germany and Japan tried to conquer the world. Could the evolutionary worldview have played a role? Tune in to hear the answer! |
| Dec. 9 | Another Gospel
Man's rebellion against God's Word has not only led to the rise of evolution, but to other false belief systems like gnosticism. Is gnosticism influencing our society today? To learn more—listen in! |
| Dec. 16 | The Wonder of the Evergreen
The earth is full of natural wonders designed by God. One wonder is the majestic evergreen which remains beautiful, even in winter. Why do these trees stay green while others lose their leaves? Tune in to this interesting discussion! |
| Dec. 23 | Unto Us a Child Is Born
Many Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth with joy and thankfulness, but are we forgetting the miracle that took place before the nativity? Join us to consider the incarnation of Christ and celebrate His coming to redeem man. |
| Dec. 30 | The Plight of Pluto
Earlier this year, Pluto was downgraded from a planet. Do you know why? Tune in to hear creation scientists explain why Pluto was left out in the cold. |
- If you would like to find out where you can hear these and other ICR radio programs, you can look it up on the web at icr.org/index.php?module=radio. 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. 📺



Buffalo, New York

On Saturday, October 7, about 320 attended an all-day creation seminar in Buffalo, New York, featuring geologist Bill Hoesch as the main speaker. The event kicked off a week-long series of meetings that included Christian schools, churches, and a very successful one-day creation tour of Niagara Falls (80 attended). Thanks to the sponsoring committee for their fantastic hospitality, to committee chairman Ken Handyside for outstanding organization, and to Terry Kanouse, whose leadership made for a great Niagara Falls tour. Jerry and Linda Hensler of Warrensburg, New York, also ministered effectively to youth at all the meetings with a wonderful traveling exhibit that features a scale model of Noah's ark. The spectacular weather of the first several days was balanced by a freak October blizzard on Friday that unfortunately cancelled meetings on that day.

Vista, California

ICR zoologist and speaker Frank Sherwin spoke to the Community Bible Church of Vista, California, October 14–15. The mini-creation seminar included topics such as “Mount St. Helens,” “Dinosaurs and the Flood,” and “Creation-Science, Evolutionism, and the Bible.” There was much interest as well as an excellent question and answer time afterward.

Calistoga, California

Napa Valley Fairgrounds was the venue for the family-oriented “Rock of Ages” event. Christian music groups performed throughout the day while many organizations ministered to the participants. Visitors to the ICR booth took advantage of many discounted products and received answers to questions about creation-science. ☸

ICR's first ever “Tour of All Time” to Death Valley and Yosemite last fall provided creation information and equipping for all who attended. Here are some testimonies of encouragement that came from the tour.

[The faculty] gave me the first Flood model I can stand on as a scientist . . . and made real to me how I cannot remain on the fence as a Christian any longer.

You are the most God-honoring organization I have been involved with and your work has had major impact in areas you will never fully realize.

What a blessing this trip has been. All the staff (faculty and planners) were wonderful and very competent.

I am excited about all the ICR projects and will continue to support them in prayer and financially.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. We love all of you.

This is my third tour and all are wonderful and life changing.

I feel humbled and blessed to be among such pioneers.

I came on this trip an old Earth creationist . . . [and] have been deeply challenged this week.

Thank you for challenging me beyond where I thought I could go as a follower of Jesus.

My perspective on what I see in the Bible and the world around me is being redeemed. ☸



Celebrating a Kingdom Christmas

"Therefore take no thought. . . . But seek ye first the kingdom of God"
(Matthew 6:31, 33).

Christmas is a great time to reflect on Kingdom matters, bringing us all welcome relief from a stressful election and having to tolerate the constant barrage of "bad" news from across the globe.

Kingdom Priorities

Our Lord's command, of course, was *not* for us to dwell on the evil surrounding us, but to remember that He is intimately aware of us, and that He will supply *all* our needs. The caveat is: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness . . ." (Matthew 6:33).

Kingdom Treasures

Christ emphasizes in the Sermon on the Mount that the places and things we treasure will determine the focus of our hearts (Matthew 6:19–21). We cannot—must not—have "two masters." Luke records the parable of the rich man who hoarded his wealth, only to forfeit his soul before he could take his "ease" (Luke 12:16–21). Surely all of us understand that true riches (Luke 16:11) are not found in the wealth of the world, but in heavenly treasure (Mark 10:21). *Kingdom* treasure is the dividend for a life of trust and obedience (Philippians 2:12–13).

Kingdom Gifts

My Family—I Timothy 5:8

My Church—I Corinthians 16:2; Hebrews 10:25

Other Christian Ministries—I Timothy 6:17–19

General Charity—II Corinthians 9:8–9

The ministry of ICR is sustained as the Lord's people share their God-given resources. As you wrap gifts this season for your loved ones, please consider a special year-end gift (mature assets, gifts-in-kind, etc.) along with your regular giving. Merry Christmas!



Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR Executive Vice President

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