

Creation and the Kansas Schools

President's Column by John D. Morris

Several years ago, a group of “elitist” scientists in California (under the direction of the bigoted foe of creation in general and ICR in particular, Dr. Bill Honig—then State Superintendent of Public Instruction) crafted a set of “guidelines” for use in California’s science classrooms. This “Science Framework” elevated evolution to a status it did not deserve, insisting that the “truth” of evolution be made the foundational principle under which all science courses be taught. The key concept was that of “naturalism,” the idea that only natural processes (like natural selection) have ever occurred, and that they alone have produced the universe, life, and man. “Supernatural” happenings, which while not openly denied, were declared to be outside the realm of science—something other than truth.

ICR has always agreed that the universe operates today by observable natural processes, but it also recognizes that today’s natural processes neither create nor evolve anything. Thus, origins events of the past must have been accomplished

by supernatural processes which are not now observable. ICR, along with many other citizens of California, pleaded with the school board not to adopt this Framework citing its scientific overstatements and its contempt for those harboring views which included the supernatural.

We were assured that the Framework was just a set of optional guidelines for science teachers and would not be mandated. We knew at the time (and suspect they knew) that this was not their intent at all. And sure enough, the Framework, in an even more offensive and less scientific form, was later adopted for use throughout the state. It has been used as a basis for terminating science teachers and for selecting textbooks.

Even worse, it has been used as a model for other frameworks across the country. Even the prestigious National Academy of Sciences published their National Standards, proclaiming evolution to be a “unifying principle” of science, and that all of science must be interpreted within the secular evolutionary worldview.



The schools of Kansas have, for several years, applied those national standards. School children in Kansas have been taught, as if it were proven, that they are the mutated descendants of animals, and that there is no reality other than the here and now. Meanwhile Kansas taxpayers began electing state school board members with perspectives which mirror their own, until a majority desired to remove religious macroevolution from the classroom.

Over several months, the board rewrote the guidelines for their science classes. They neither included creation nor eliminated evolution, but they did remove evolution from its lofty pedestal as a “unifying principle” of science, and instructed that scientific information contrary to evolution no longer be censored from the science classroom. Concepts of “microevolution,” including mutation, adaptation, variation, and genetic recombination would continue to be included. Missing would be the philosophical claim that these small observable and undisputed changes have, over time, changed fish into people.

Reaction to the 6–4 favorable vote on August 17 was predictable and vicious. The media totally misrepresented the bill, claiming its intent was to reintroduce Biblical creation and delete evolution. Even though ICR had only peripherally been involved (providing scientific information to individual staff writers upon request), scores of newspapers, radio talk shows, on-air radio and TV debates, etc., wanted ICR’s perspective. (I was surprised when CNN scheduled a “debate” between Harvard Professor Steven J. Gould and me, knowing that for over a decade Gould has refused to debate a scientist. Unfortunately, just one hour before recording time, I was replaced with Dr. Jerry Falwell. A further disappointment came a few days later when Dr. Gould and ICR’s Dr. Duane Gish were scheduled for a “dialogue” on ABC TV. But shortly before air time, Gish was scratched and Gould was allowed to continue without opposition.)

Through the aggressive media attention, the creation message came through. Likewise, the arrogance of the elitist scientific organizations was on display. They must have felt threatened with loss of their monopoly on education and reacted emotionally, often with condescension. The Governor of Kansas even threatened to rewrite the state’s constitution to take authority over the schools away from the elected school board.

We at ICR predict that the ruling will have a hard time being implemented. Lawsuits and ridicule will follow any who dare question the evolution worldview. Liberal teachers’ unions and textbook publishers have too much at stake to allow the will of the people to prevail.

Yet the school board’s guidelines are sound. They return good science to the classroom, removing only the harmful philosophy of materialism and its attendant, unsupported history of the evolutionary development of the Kansas school students from lower forms of life.

Kansas taxpayers desire that a higher view of life and reality be taught their children, one which doesn’t require the censoring of contrary data. They desire one which does not replace instruction time spent on scientific content with false historical worldviews. We applaud the Kansas School Board for their wise and courageous step. 🍌

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New Faculty at the ICR Graduate School

The 1999 summer teaching session for the ICR Graduate School ended in August with students sharing and comparing the results of their research and teaching. Thirty-two students, some from Norway, Korea, and Japan, took courses this summer.

The ICR Graduate School is fortunate to be staffed with outstanding creationist science faculty members. Joining this summer's resident ICR faculty were a number of adjunct faculty from around the country. Regulars included Dr. Don DeYoung of Grace College, Dr. Russel Humphreys of Sandia National Laboratory, Dr. Steve Deckard of Trinity College, Dr. Danny Faulkner of the University of South Carolina, Dr. Eugene Chaffin of



Bluefield College, Dr. Gary Parker of Clearwater Christian College, and Dr. Jim Stark of Christian Heritage College.

Teaching sessions at ICR are truly dynamic times, with students and faculty alike brainstorming about creation ideas and research. New discoveries were made and discussed. Without a doubt the future of the creation movement lies with the training of new

scientists and educators filled with information and enthusiasm.

Two new visiting faculty were introduced to the student body this summer. These are Dr. Patricia Nason who taught Curriculum Implementation, and Dr. Joseph Mastropaolo who taught Advanced Comparative Physiology.

Dr. Nason received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University. She served as Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for several years, recently joining the faculty at Steven F. Austin University in Texas. The emphasis of her work has been on science education, and she has numerous publications and paper presentations related to the implementation of science and technology in the curriculum. This past year she received the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" award at her university.

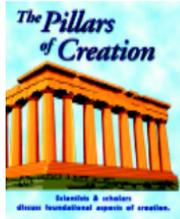
Dr. Mastropaolo has a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa and has completed graduate work at the University of Chicago Medical School. He recently retired as Professor Emeritus in Exercise Physiology and Biomechanics at California State University at Long Beach, and has served in research positions at the University of Illinois, the University of Iowa, St. Cloud University, and Western State College. He has received numerous fellow-

ships, awards, and grants, and has published extensively in the subjects of physiology, kinesiology, and sports medicine. His most acclaimed project was on the "Gossamer Project," the construction of ultra-light, man-powered aircraft.

ICR is very grateful to have had these talented professors as a part of the staff this summer. 🍀



Last month, we concluded our series on *The Pillars of Creation*. Extended versions of these radio programs ranging from 22–30 minutes have been produced and assembled into an audiocassette series. These presentations include information not aired on “Science, Scripture, & Salvation.” Topics include:



- Creation: What Does It Matter?*
- The Bible Tells Me So*
- Science or Folly?*
- Ex Nihilo*
- Order and Design*
- The Fossils Agree*
- Catastrophes and Geology*
- No Compromise*

This series contains helpful information about many of the basic concepts of creationism, from Biblical relevance to scientific arguments that support the Biblical account. This series is a wonderful tool for anyone interested in learning about the many aspects of this controversial topic. Please contact ICR’s Customer Service Department, 800/628-7640, to order this audiocassette series.

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

Weekend of: Title/Topic:

Oct. 2 “Distant Starlight and the Age of the Earth”

Using powerful telescopes, we can see stars and galaxies billions of light years away. With our current understanding, this would mean it took millions, even billions of years for this light to reach us. But if the earth is young, as the Bible seems to indicate, how is this possible? Join us as we look at the creationist response to this baffling question!

Oct. 9 “Creation in the Schools”

Now that the school year is under way, many students are being challenged in their faith, while parents desire to protect their children. With the anti-Christian ideas that students are taught, what can we do to protect these future generations? Tune in as we learn about the Constitutional rights of students and teachers in the public school system. We’ll also discuss what students, parents, and teachers can do to stand for truth in this battle ground for the mind and America’s future.

Oct. 16 “Evolution and Critical Thinking”

When you talk to educators, there is great concern that schools are not producing students that can think critically. In many circles, we hear that as a society, we have lost this important ability. What is critical thinking? Join us as we look at critical thinking and how it affects creation and evolution!

Oct. 23 “Little Change, Big Change”

Throughout evolutionary textbooks and in discussions with evolutionists, there is a major assumption—that little changes (or *microevolution*) can add up to big changes called *macroevolution* or the development of new creatures. Is this assumption based on fact and what we observe in the real world? Or is it the stuff that evolutionary dreams are made of? Tune in!

Oct. 30 “The Myth of Credible Means for Evolution”

This program is the first in a series of broadcasts dealing with both assumptions of evolution and how they are propagated in the media. On this first program, we will look at the supposed mechanisms for *macroevolution*. We will also discuss their validity and compare evolution’s claims to the laws of science. Join us! 🍷

Baraminology '99

Just what are the limits of the “kinds” created by God in Genesis 1? Many modern “species” are known to interbreed (such as camels and llamas), leading to the speculation that they are adaptations stemming from the same created kind.

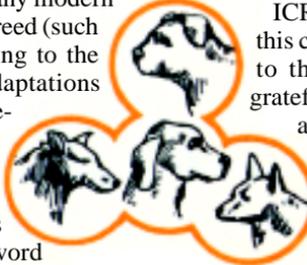
A new term was coined in the 1960s by Dr. Frank Marsh to encourage research on this subject. Placing the Hebrew word for “create” (*bara*) and “kind” (*min*) together, he proposed the “baramin” as the basic created unit, within which much variety is possible, and within which hybridization (in principle) can occur. But now, so many years after creation and the Flood, much uncertainty exists.

To address this issue, 24 invited scientists and creation specialists met at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, August 5–7, 1999, for a conference and teaching workshop on baraminology. Dr. Terry Spohn of the Department of Biology and Chemistry hosted the Baraminology Study Group (BSG), claiming “As Christians and scientists it is important to develop an active network to discuss, research, and plan for the next century” to solve the remaining pieces to this puzzle. Guests including Dr. Ken Cumming, Chairman of the Biology Department at ICR and Dr. Todd C. Wood of Clemson University gave introductory lectures to this unique gathering.

The conference was divided into three sections: (1) theories and methods relevant to baraminology, (2) a case study of camel baraminology, and (3) planning for the future. Presentation titles were: “Systematics and Phylogenetic Inference” (D. Ashley Robinson); “Introduction to Baraminology” (Dr. Kurt P. Wise of Bryan

College); “Biblical Studies in Baraminology” (Dr. Pete J. Williams); “Design Theory and Baraminology” (Dr. Paul Nelson of Discovery Institute); “Applying Baraminology” (Wise); “Spinning an Evolutionary Web” (Robinson); and “Phylogenetic Distortion” (Wood).

ICR applauds the organizers of this conference for their attention to this important issue and is grateful that each participant fully accepts the Biblical record of recent creation and global flood, and is committed to constructing their model within that framework. As God is honored and Scripture is upheld, we can expect to see God’s rich blessings result. 🌟



Meeting Highlights

Rancho Santa Fe, California

Approximately 1500 people heard Dr. Henry Morris speak on “Creation Evangelism” in the two morning worship services at the Horizon Fellowship Church in this elite community in north San Diego County on August 15. The church was established just five years ago and has beautiful facilities and an active program of evangelism and missions under the leadership of Pastor Bob Bottsford. 🌟



Testimonies

From a Pastor in Singapore

Thank you for the first consignment of *Days of Praise* received. The *Days of Praise* is very Scriptural and divinely thought-provoking. We praise God that we have found *Days of Praise* for our spiritual enrichment. 🌟

New Book Available from Henry Morris

ICR is pleased to announce the publication of a new book by Dr. Henry Morris, Founder and President Emeritus of ICR. The book is *Defending the Faith* and will be available around September 15. It also contains a Foreword by Dr. Emmett Williams, President of the Creation Research Society.

The book is a reasoned and well-documented defense of the Bible and the Christian faith in general. There is, of course, also a strong defense of scientific Biblical creationism against both

naturalistic evolutionists (in biology, astronomy, geology, and the social sciences) and also the various compromises suggested by theologians.

The book should be especially helpful in responding to the abuse heaped on Christian creationists by the educational establishment and news media in the wake of the recent Kansas school board action regarding evolutionism. *Defending the Faith* is fully indexed, contains 256 pages, and sells for \$11.95. 📖



Origins Issues

A Culinary Conundrum by Frank Sherwin

The latest conflict between evolutionists regarding our alleged primate origins can only be termed silly. Two new competing theories of human evolution now have *food* as the foundation. “The process of human evolution had much to do with food and how it was prepared,” states Gregory Laden, an evolutionist of the University of Minnesota. Such statements demonstrate the weakness of the overall theory.

Vegetables enter the fray with advocates claiming that early man discovered how to cook roots and other portions of plants, causing our rise from the animals. Dr. Laden states: “However you put meat in, it doesn’t fit.” He further states that, “If you are an ape with fire, there is a much longer list of foods you can eat” (CNN August 11, 1999). So, prehumans became humans by cooking their vegetables.

But another researcher states otherwise in a 1999 book published by Princeton University Press entitled, *The Hunting Apes: Meat Eating and the Origins of Human Behavior*. Author Craig Stanford says that it was meat-sharing that made our ancestors develop an enlarged brain and thus became the humans of today. Which caused human evolution, meat or vegetables?

A reviewer of the above book, Christophe Boesch from the Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, enters the food fight by saying this is “a theory that’s hard to digest.” He is puzzled as to how sharing meat would produce the mind of modern man. Dr. Boesch goes on to ask: “What makes us human?” and “How did we become so?” [These] remain among the most exciting questions to be studied, and many more books will have to be written to find convincing clues” (*Nature*, v. 399, p. 653).

No doubt many books will continue to be written regarding this strange subject. As the prophet of old said, “*of making many books there is no end*” (Ecclesiastes 12:12). But for those who are actively seeking answers to the questions Dr. Boesch asks, there is a Book that has been available for centuries. It’s called the Bible! 📖

Stewardship & Trust Services

“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which He hath given thee” (Deuteronomy 16:17).

Giving as we are able . . . what a wonderfully freeing thought. No heavy-handed, guilt-riddled arm twisting . . . but giving as we are able. Notice, however, that even as we are “freed” we are compelled. We see that, “Every man *shall give* [emphasis added].” But, even as we must give, nowhere in Scripture do we see God extracting gifts from unwilling hearts; we all know that quite the opposite is true. God wants gifts from joyful hearts (II Corinthians 9:7). He knows that we *will* have joyful hearts as we realize that *all we have and are* has come “according to the blessing of the LORD (our) God” (text).

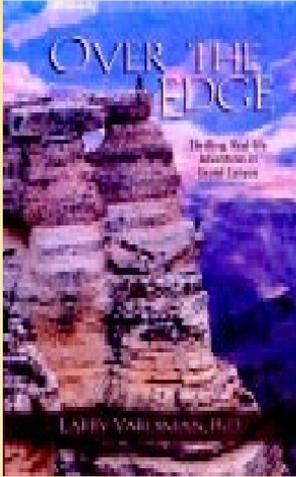
It seems to me, then, that one of God’s tests of our hearts is in how and what we give from what He has given us. Many of us pass that test well as we give a portion of His blessing that has come through wages, salaries, bonuses—even an inheritance. But, how well are we giving from the “blessing” evident in the phenomenal growth of assets that many of us have experienced these past years as the stock market has “soared”? (Keep in mind “soaring” of Proverbs 23:5.)

It is my experience that God’s faithful have no trouble gifting a portion of His blessing when they sell an appreciated asset, but what about the growth that is not sold? Does God’s blessing become His provision when we decide to use it, or as He provides the increase?

If you are among those who have seen your riches increase, and have yet to demonstrate your thankfulness to God for His blessing, won’t you consider doing so now?

Anticipating that there are many readers who would be interested, we have prepared and inserted a brochure with this month’s *Acts & Facts*. We hope you will find it helpful. If you have questions, please call or write.

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Over the Edge

by Larry Vardiman, Ph.D. (160 pp.)

Cut into the landscape of the great American West is a canyon so immense and imposing that it simply had to be called Grand.

For decades, some of the country's top scientists have come under the increasing conviction that the mile-deep Grand Canyon was formed by cataclysmic flood waters, and not by river water meandering through for "millions of years."

In this adventure-filled book, you can experience many of the annual backpacking trips taken to the site by members of the Institute for Creation Research. The trips are well-planned and give the average person

the chance for great adventure. The true stories in *Over the Edge* might parallel your own story, because after reading them, you'll have to go, too! Available after September 15, 1999.

\$9.95

New Books From ICR

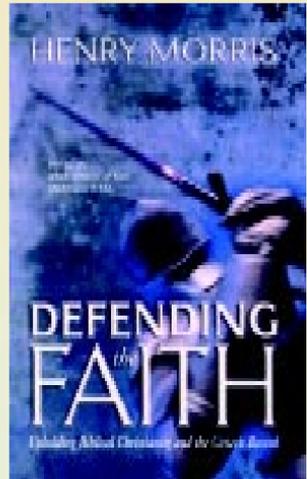
Defending the Faith

by Henry M. Morris, Ph.D. (250 pp.)

The defense of the Christian faith has been the life-long passion of Dr. Henry Morris. Known as America's foremost expert on Christian evidences, scores of books have flowed from his pen, each one filled with thrilling insights from God's Word and His Creation, along with useful quotes from experts in many fields.

And now, *Defending the Faith* continues that tradition, updating convincing arguments and breaking new ground, especially in the mush-rooming field of astronomy.

This book is a must read for the serious Christian. It can help each of us to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you . . ." (1 Peter 3:15). **\$11.95**



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