

## CREATION'S "BULLDOG"

ICR stalwart, Dr. Duane Gish, turned 82 on February 17, but he's not noticeably slowing down! He even still debates whenever an opponent can be found.

Veteran of over 300 formal creation/life evolution debates, he recently received a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Sonrise Community Church, a large church just two blocks from ICR headquarters. Darwin had his "bulldog" in Thomas Huxley, who strongly promoted evolution for decades after Darwin's book was published. Thus, Dr. Gish was introduced as Creation's "Bulldog" for his tireless efforts in defending creation.

Associate Pastor Jeff Stine prepared both a video tribute to Dr. Gish and a large commemorative plaque (almost as big as Duane) that read, in part:

In recognition of over forty dedicated years of service to our Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of creation science. . . .

The time of recognition was soon followed by a test of its deservedness, for a debate was scheduled for the next Friday night, January 24. Dr. Gish's very able opponent was Dr. Edward Max, a geneticist with the National Institute of Health.

It was the second time the two had debated, and both were well prepared. Dr. Gish's presentation included the lack of transitional forms in the fossil record and the thermodynamic barrier to evolution, while Dr. Max focused on micro-



evolutionary changes as precursors to macroevolution and the genomic similarities between animals. The debate remained cordial throughout and instructive to all who attended.

The annual Board meeting for ICR was held the next morning, so many of the Board members were able to attend and see the "Bulldog" in action, too.

The larger ICR family joins Sonrise Community Church in recognizing Dr. Gish's yeoman-like work in defending creation, and thankfulness to God that He has sent such a "Bulldog" our way. ☞



## President's Column

by Dr. John Morris

Our thoughts, we are told, should always be focused on eternal things, but unfortunately, the affairs of life often crowd in and wrest our attention away. Several recent events have especially occupied our thoughts, but instead of being a distraction, they have forced our entire nation to reconsider weightier matters.

One such event was the untimely death of the shuttle crew, as the Columbia spacecraft disintegrated upon re-entry. We grieve with the families and friends, but rejoice that several of the crew were strong Christians, and pray that their witness reached the others. The ongoing witness at the memorial service, from family members to President Bush, brought issues of eternity to the fore. His Word will not return void.

Meanwhile, we wonder what the long-term impact on our space program will be. The shuttle's work involved, for the most part, useful scientific investigation, with spin-offs of benefit to all, but the discovery of a naturalistic origin of life somewhere, somehow, sometime dominates much of NASA's work. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the lasting impact of the Columbia's last voyage was a redirection of America's premier science research body into useful work, and get the government out of the religion business.

War in the Middle East and terrorism on our shores likewise demand our attention, but these too are driving many to prayer. Our nation's security comes only from the Sovereign Creator of nations, and His mighty plan is unfolding. What a joy, what a stabilizing factor to know we are safe, no matter what happens, in His mighty hands. What an impetus to further ministry. What an incentive to let all know.

The recent ICR book, *God and the Nations*, presents the clearest picture of current events that I have seen. Yet it scarcely deals with today's "news," just Biblical teachings on the nations. On what basis does God allow the birth and blessing of a nation, or its death? I'm so glad we have the perspective of God at our fingertips.

This Easter season we can all find refuge in Him and His plan. A mind fixed on Him and a mindset firmly planted in truth will get us through difficult times. Couching the Easter message in its proper creation context gives it even greater fullness, and helps us keep our eyes on His Kingdom.

In the beginning, the Sovereign, transcendent Creator called the universe into existence, for His glory and according to His will. He fashioned the earth as His handiwork, and fitted it for man. Lastly He created man in His own image, male and female, and gave them stewardship over His creation which was originally "very good"—deathless and sinless. Mankind was in perfect fellowship with God and each other.

But man rejected God and His authority over them, bringing upon themselves the just "wages" of their sin, spiritual and physical death, and upon creation, the "bondage of corruption." Separated from God by our sin and locked in death throes, we are unable to help ourselves.

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## RATE SCIENTISTS TO SPEAK AT ICC

by Larry Vardiman



The Creator, however, desires fellowship with man. His holiness demands sinlessness in His presence and His justice demands sin's penalty of death be paid. So, in the fullness of time, He took upon Himself the form of a man, lived a sinless life for whom no sin penalty was necessary, and died a sacrificial death for sinful man. The wages of sin was paid as Christ died for our sins. God's holy justice was satisfied by this fully sufficient, substitutionary Sacrifice. When all was accomplished, He rose from the dead in victory over sin and death, offering eternal life to all who believe.

This same Creator now represents us before the Father as our advocate, and energizes us with His Spirit to live a life pleasing to Him. Daily He accepts into His family those who come to God through Him and welcomes into His presence His children who suffer the indignities of physical death. One day soon He will return to Earth to bring to fruition His eternal plan, and creation will be what He intended it to be, before it was ruined by sin. We will join Him forever in the new heavens and new earth, "wherein dwelleth righteousness" (II Peter 3:13). There will be "no more death, neither sorrow, no crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

We can surmise that the Christian astronauts turned to their Lord as they plummeted to Earth, and we can confidently rest in Him as we face the uncertainties of war or terrorism. We can do so because He has told us of His plan, of how He redeemed fallen creation, and the just basis on which we are offered eternal life. Creation of which we are a part, was ruined by sin, even our sin. Yet the Creator Himself has died to pay the sin penalty of rebellious creation. Rising victorious over sin He clothes us in His righteousness, faultless to stand before a Holy God. Creation. Ruined, redeemed, restored. That's His plan, and we're included. ☪

The RATE project, an ICR effort to study Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth, will be well represented at the Fifth International Conference on Creationism (ICC) in Pittsburgh this summer. Eight papers have been prepared by members of the RATE group. All were accepted for publication in the proceedings and for presentation at the conference.

Young-earth creationists will gather from around the world for the six-day meeting on August 4–9, 2003, at Geneva College just north of Pittsburgh. The ICC convenes about every four years and provides a peer-reviewed international science conference at which extended technical presentations are made on advances in young-earth creationist research.

The RATE papers may be presented during specially-organized sessions of the conference. The RATE project will be summarized in a lead paper which will briefly introduce the others on the latest status of research on helium diffusion through minerals in granitic rock, accelerated nuclear decay theory, radiohalos, isochron discordance studies, case studies in rock dating, and carbon-14 in deep geologic strata.

The papers given at this conference will report the early results of RATE and begin the process of writing the final project report planned for 2005.

Individuals interested in attending the conference may log on the Internet at [<http://www.icc03.org>]. Proceedings are also available for purchase at the meeting and afterward. ☪



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

**Weekend of:**            **Title/Topic:**

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**April 05   Ayer’s Rock**

When we look at the desert, we often find many strange plants and animals. But something very different and truly amazing is found in the Australian desert known as the Outback. What’s out there that’s so strange? Tune in!


**April 12   Darwin’s Voyage**

Before Charles Darwin first developed his theories on evolution, he took a voyage to the Galapagos Islands. There he found what he thought was evidence for evolution. But what exactly did he find and what did it show? Stay tuned!

**April 19   Darwin in Doubt**

Much of evolutionary theory has been developed as a result of Charles Darwin’s ideas. Some evolutionists though, have turned solidly away from Darwin. Why is that and what does it mean? Listen in!


**April 26   Human Skin**

The human body is truly amazing in its detail. Its parts all work in harmony for the good of the whole. The skin is one of these amazing aspects of the body. What makes it so unique in its design? Stay tuned and find out! 

## EXCITEMENT HITS NASHVILLE AS PRESIDENT BUSH ADDRESSES THE NRB

Pat Roy, Cheryl Maggio, and Ham Richardson, three of the five members of the ICR Radio Ministry, recently attended the National Religious Broadcasters’ Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. It was an exciting and adventurous time as the three flew to Nashville for the convention which started February 8 and ended February 11. They were joined there by Dolly Martin who translates for ICR’s Spanish program, *De Regresso a Génesis*. With over 5100 people attending and approximately 250 exhibitors, including ICR, promoting their ministries, it was a busy and productive time for the team. In addition, Roy, Maggio, Richardson, and Martin handed out 2000 copies of *Straight Answers to Tough Questions* and encouraged new radio stations to carry ICR’s broadcasts.

But the most exciting part of the NRB was not in the convention hall. The Radio team waited for five hours on Monday morning to see the President of the United States, George W. Bush, address over 5000 in the Presidential Ballroom of the Opryland Resort. In his opening statements President Bush said, “I’m honored to be with so many of you who have dedicated your lives to sharing the good news.” He shared his ideas about “faith-based” groups and their responsibilities, the looming threat of terrorism, and the pending war with Iraq. The President’s own faith in God came through clearly in all his comments. One of his closing statements was this, “Let us not pray for tasks equal to our strength. Let us pray for strength equal to our tasks.”

Many great contacts were made at this year’s NRB Convention and numerous testimonies were heard about ICR’s impact on people’s lives. What an awesome opportunity it was for ICR to be represented there in Nashville. 



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- List of creation scientists
- Coming events



## SPECIES—A MOST ELUSIVE SUBJECT

As evolution continues to be replaced by good science, Darwinists are programmed to see *any* change—no matter how slight—as positive evidence validating their tenuous position. Such is the case with California biologist Cristina Sandoval researching the spindly walking stick insect.<sup>1</sup> Coloration of these creatures and which bush they prefer was the main reason for this study as well as possibly observing the splitting of the walking sticks “into two distinct species.” Ironically, the research by Sandoval uncovered evidence “quite to the contrary” of the long-held view of speciation via “some singular chance event.”

Speciation may be defined as the change in populations of organisms within a species into discrete species themselves that can no longer interbreed. But evolutionists are not sure what a species *is*, so how can one say Sandoval’s work is close to observing “biology’s biggest leap”—speciation? Harvard’s Steven Palumbi (a staunch anti-creationist) wrote, “The formation of species has long represented one of the most central, yet also one of the most elusive subjects in evolutionary biology”<sup>2</sup> and D.C. Presgraves said, “Few topics in evolutionary biology inspire as much controversy as the causes of speciation.”<sup>3</sup> Whatever the cause, Sandoval’s investigation supports the creation model, for speciation among walking sticks may *not* take an “imponderable period of time.” In other words, the originally created kinds of plants and animals we read about in Genesis were able to produce a wide variety of subtypes or subspecies within a short time period.



The issue of speciation regarding walking sticks is much like the 13 “new species” of finch on the Galapagos Islands off South America. Taxpayer-paid biology texts gush that the subtle beak variations (measured in millimeters) of these birds authenticate Darwin’s theory. *But just as walking sticks remain 100% walking sticks, finches stubbornly remain 100% finches.* A secular news magazine quoted two evolutionary biologists who have researched the Galapagos finches for decades as saying, “foreseeing how a species is going to evolve is as difficult as predicting the weather.”<sup>4</sup> In fact, an evolutionist admitted, “Back in 1983, for instance . . . a male cactus finch on Daphne Major, a *scandens*, courted a female *fortis*. . . . like Romeo and Juliet: they belonged to two different species. Yet during the chaos of the great flood [on the Islands in the 1980s], they mated and produced four chicks in one brood.”<sup>5</sup>

Science shows that whether they are vertebrates (finches), invertebrates (walking sticks), or even bacteria—any observed change is minor and horizontal in nature, with *no net increase in genetic information* leading to large (vertical) change, or macroevolution.

1. Franklin, D. “Net Gains,” *Smithsonian*, October, 2002.
2. Palumbi, S. “Marine Speciation,” *Ann. Rev. of Ecology & Systematics*, 1994, p. 548.
3. Presgraves, D. “Postzygotic Isolation,” *Evolution*, 56(6), 2002, p. 1168.
4. Guterl, F. “Evolution: Birds Do It,” *Newsweek*, May 6, 2002, p. 11.
5. Weiner, J. *The Beak of the Finch*, 1994.

## Meeting Highlights

### Rancho Bernardo, California

Dr. Mark Eastman (adjunct professor for ICR) spoke on “Creation, Evolution, and the Problem of Evil” at the Sunday



evening service of Maranatha Chapel on January 19 with approximately 750 in attendance.

Dr. Eastman delivered a solid, well-communicated lecture about the complex nature of living systems (in particular the cell), complexity of the eye, the nature of information and meaning, as well as the incredible attributes of a personal God. He talked about the wisdom of God in creation and the love of God in redemption through Jesus Christ.

### San Diego, California

ICR Founder and President Emeritus, Dr. Henry Morris, doesn't travel and speak much anymore, but he gladly accepts local engagements when asked. And so it was on February 9, at College Avenue Baptist Church in San Diego as speaker for the Creation Resource Group, an apologetic ministry within the church.

The meeting had been widely publicized around town, and some 350 people packed the fellowship hall for the meeting. College Avenue is also home to Bethel seminary, well known for its non-adherence to the recent creation view of

ICR, giving the meeting a “charged” atmosphere. Dr. Morris's lecture emphasized the total lack of evidence for “macro” evolution, both in the present and in the past, and that natural law forbids it. Furthermore, the Bible clearly teaches creation while evolution yields evil fruit. (“By their fruits ye shall know them” [Matthew 7:20]). Numerous questions were entertained from the floor and conversation continued long after the meeting concluded.

The sponsoring Creation Resource Group (which includes ICR's Dr. Steve Austin) exists to be the creation voice in the church and regularly schedules special meetings. One of the members set up a large telescope in the parking lot for viewing afterwards and lines formed to take a look. Truly “The heavens [and all of creation] declares the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1). Saturn was spectacular! 🌀

## Testimonies

### From Maryland

*The Defender's Study Bible* has been a real blessing to me and an encouragement to study God's Word. Also I appreciate your devotional booklet; while I was in evangelistic work, I showed it to many pastors, and I know quite a few are now getting it for their people.

### From Tennessee

Everything you produce and publish is wonderfully wise and helpful in every day living, but the Fall 2002 *Days of Praise* is almost beyond belief! It bears keeping as an invaluable part of my permanent spiritual help library.

### From California

Dr. Morris wrote what I think are the finest commentaries on Genesis and Revelation available today. 🌀

## 50 YEARS AGO

Hailed in 1953 as “the most important zoological discovery of this century,” a rather strange looking fish had been caught off the coast of Madagascar. This five-foot, 100-pound creature had been missing for 75 million years! Evolutionary scientists had used the fossil remains of *Coelacanth* as evidence for the evolution of fish to amphibians, and were, needless to say, somewhat surprised to find this “extinct” animal alive and well in the Indian Ocean.

This illustrates a foundational reason for ICR’s continued ministry. The evolutionary system of thinking is often *surprised* when truth is exposed and *blinds* even the keenest minds to truth.

*Scientific American* had a feature article (February 2003) on the evolution of computer software. The opening statement was: “*Evolution is an immensely powerful creative process. . . . [it] achieves these feats with a few simple processes—mutation, sexual recombination and natural selection. . . .*” Several pages were then devoted to show how computer engineers (who were equated with evolution’s “design” capability) are setting up software “primordial ooze” to “create” new programs and integrated circuitry. Although the article was replete with the design features and praise for the intellect of the engineers, the overall thrust was to show how “evolution” (the blind, mutating, recombining, naturally selecting process) was “creating” new and better designs!

The creation issue is not just a Genesis thing. Although it is certainly critical that Christians be brought back to a confidence in the Genesis record, it is equally critical that we be “*ready always to give an answer to every man . . . a reason of the hope that is in you*” (I Peter 3:15).

Please help us combat the evolutionary “thinking” that shuts out the liberating truth (John 8:32) of the Creator. Perhaps you could help us become a part of your church’s mission budget. Let us know how we can make application to your board, commission, or committee. We would be delighted to respond to inquiries or to make a personal presentation to those responsible. The work is great and complex. We need your co-labor to continue.



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