

TACKLING THE BIG PROBLEMS DR. RUSS HUMPHREYS JOINS ICR

by John D. Morris

Over the years, through the work of ICR scientists and others, the scientific case for creation has been honed into a defensible, credible model. But some tough questions still need better answers. How does light from distant stars reach us in a young universe? How about radioisotope dating? What scientific evidence is there for the young earth?

No creation scientist has been more committed to deriving convincing, technical answers to these tough questions than physicist Dr. Russell Humphreys. From his current position on the research staff at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico, Dr. Humphreys has accomplished a great deal, but now he has agreed to join the full-time faculty of ICR on October 1, 2001, in order to devote all his ample energies to creationist research.

I first met Russ on an ICR trip to Grand Canyon in 1985. Fourteen years before, Russ had turned from atheism to Christ as his Savior and was already fully interested in bolstering the young-earth argument related to magnetic field decay.



Since that time, his participation in creation research has been stellar, and increasingly fruitful.

In particular, he has collaborated with ICR's Dr. Steve Austin in developing the air-tight argument for recent creation regarding introduction of sodium into the ocean. He is a major contributor to the RATE research (Radioisotopes and the Age

of The Earth), most recently demonstrating both theoretically and physically that alpha decay products are incompatible with long-age ideas but fully supportive of the young-earth position.

His most interesting and promising work, however, is in regard to starlight from distant stars. His unique solution to this sticky problem is found in his book, *Starlight and Time*, available from ICR for \$6.95. We look forward to his increased availability to further buttress this issue as well as others.

This is a step of faith for ICR, for our financial picture hardly warrants addition of Dr. Humphreys and his research costs. I had been anticipating a major gift to

“endow” his position, but this has not come through. However, I believe this step will further creation ministry significantly, and that God is pleased with this desire to understand Him and His mighty work more completely.

Thus, I ask all the ICR family to support this step with your prayers and gifts. If you know of possible large donors or foundation grant sources of funding, please help by putting us in contact with decision makers. With your help, much can be accomplished. 🙏



by **David Oberpriller**

Dr. Michael Shermer, founder of the Skeptics Society and Skeptic magazine, was Dr. Duane Gish's opponent in the debate held in the auditorium of Calvary Community Church in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 1, 2001. On a hot Phoenix evening, over 900 people packed the auditorium to overflowing. The debate was sponsored by the Creation Research Society and the Arizona Origin Science Association and was audio-broadcast live on both KFLR 90.3 Christian radio and through Calvary Community Church's website.

Dr. Shermer claimed that he was formerly a creationist and had been “born again” while in high school, though he later gave up on both creation and Christianity. Throughout the debate, he insisted that there are many different positions within creation and evolution. He stated that creation was not science but religion and that creationists do not do scientific research. He discussed the results of a Y-chromosome study published in the current issue of *Science* magazine and claimed that the human eye was designed wrong. He cited as evidence for evolution the inability of introduced rock wallabies on the island of Oahu to breed with original populations in Australia.

Gish began by asserting that there were only two possible positions—creation or evolution. Evidence against one was evidence for the other. He stated that neither creation nor evolution was a scientific theory, but both dealt with history. While pointing out that evolutionists do not own the public schools, Dr. Gish asserted that evolution is taught in the public schools as scientific fact. He presented the Cambrian explosion and the lack of ancestors or intermediate forms of fishes in the fossil record as evidence that the created kinds appeared fully formed—evidence for creation and against evolution—evidence which must be answered. Dr. Gish ended by addressing the various hominid fossils that have been touted as ancestors of man, including the Australopithecus “Lucy.”

In his first rebuttal, Dr. Shermer attempted to survey the audience as to which of many creation myths of different cultures they were willing to teach in the schools alongside of the Bible creation story—insisting that if they were to teach Biblical creation, they would have to provide equal time to the others. He presented examples of how scientists can be wrong and can even admit it. In Dr. Gish's first rebuttal, he reiterated his challenge of the Cambrian explosion and fish origins and stated that Dr. Shermer had failed to address those issues. He

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discussed the monarch butterfly life cycle as evidence for design and explained how the Second Law of Thermodynamics made evolution impossible.

In Dr. Shermer's second rebuttal, he discussed gaps in the fossil record and transitional forms, stating that it was not necessary for features to serve the same function while they were forming as when they were fully formed. In Dr. Gish's second rebuttal, he again challenged Dr. Shermer to respond to the Cambrian explosion and fish origins. He also briefly responded to a number of Dr. Shermer's points including the design of the human eye, the Oahu wallabies, and vestigial organs.

In closing Dr. Shermer stated that the earth was an open system with the sun as energy source—thus the Second Law of Thermodynamics did not apply to evolution and read his own parody version of the Genesis creation account.

In Dr. Gish's closing statement, he asserted that energy was not sufficient to cause increasing complexity in an open system, but that design and control was also necessary. He also pointed out that it is not just Christians that accept the truth of creation, but cited his several invitations to speak on creation to Muslims in Turkey and to Jews in Jerusalem.

The debate closed with questions from the audience directed alternately to each debater, allowing further lively exchange. At one point, after a flurry of questions from Dr. Shermer of the form "Why would a good God . . . ?" allow bad things to happen, Dr. Gish responded by stating that Dr. Shermer had stopped asking scientific questions and was now asking theological questions—and he would respond in kind. This allowed Dr. Gish to briefly present the gospel message starting at the perfect creation and the fall of Adam as the real reason for the bad things happening, and then describe the solution as presented in Scripture. ☞



IN SEARCH OF NAUTILOIDS

Twelve researchers spent 13 days of May 2001 on the Colorado River in Grand Canyon looking for evidence to support a young-age creation interpretation of the formation and history of the Canyon. Dr. Steve Austin headed up this historic research trip; previous river studies were conducted incidental to education tours for 367 rafters over a 15-year period. Dr. Ken Cumming and Bill Hoesch came from Santee, CA; Dr. Andrew Snelling from Brisbane, Australia; Dr. Kurt Wise from Dayton, TN; Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Lalomov from Moscow, Russia; and five students from the ICR Graduate School: Dallel Gates, Alicia Hoesch, Blair Redfearn, Marcia Talvitie, and Sandra Waresak.



The research trip launch at Lee's Ferry.

A 37-foot-long DIB S-rig with 30 hp motor carried most of the passengers. Because some hikes required technical climbs up cliff faces, James Terrell of Mt. Hermon Christian Camps was employed to facilitate the hazardous steep ascents.

The primary purpose of the research raft trip was to survey fossil nautiloids (shelled cephalopods) at several outcrops within Grand Canyon National Park. To

that end, a “special use permit” was sought and received from the Superintendent. The float trip began at Lee’s Ferry near Lake Powell and made overnight stops at Little Redwall Cavern, Little Nankoweap Creek, Little Colorado River, Mile 91 Creek, Blacktail Canyon, Kanab Creek, National Canyon, and Parashant Wash; the research team disembarked at Diamond Creek on the Hualapai Reservation near Lake Mead.

In addition to the nautiloid inventory, Drs. Wise and Snelling hiked to the Precambrian Sixtymile Formation at Nankoweap Butte (possibly the earliest Flood stratum) and the Chuar Group below with its huge stromatolites (possibly pre-Flood). Subsequently, Dr. Snelling



Steve, Lew, and Tom secure the raft rigs.

collected rock samples from the Precambrian crystalline basement (pre-Flood and possibly Creation Week rocks) in the Canyon’s Inner Gorge at Clear Creek (amphibolite, ie., metamorphosed basalt), Pipe Creek (pegmatite), Bass Rapids (diabase), and Blacktail Canyon (amphibolite) for radioisotopic dating investigation. Dr. Cumming made observations of the distribution, abundance, and age of the *Tamarix* tree which is an exogenous phreatophyte (plant whose roots reach the water table). Dr. Wise also made observations on the distribution of a unique plant, *Flaveria*, that may be a remnant species from former lakes filling the

canyon. The new nautiloid finds extend the database for Dr. Austin’s catastrophic debris flow model for the formation of the Whitmore Wash Member of the Redwall Limestone. The other studies will enhance our understanding of the history of the Canyon. 🌿

✓ Meeting Highlights

San Antonio, Texas

June 21–23 saw ICR President Dr. John Morris in San Antonio as main speaker for the Christian Chiropractors Association annual convention. Dr. Morris spoke on “Evolution, the public schools, and good education,” “How old is the Earth?” and “The global flood of Noah’s day, a necessary perspective for science and Christianity.” The highly trained group of professionals was, in general, thoroughly committed to God’s word, but only marginally familiar with creation thinking, and really seemed to appreciate the input.

Interestingly enough, the rest of the convention was taken up in reporting on and planning medical/chiropractic mission trips to many third-world countries. The reports were truly thrilling. The CCA can be contacted at P.O. Box 9715, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

On Sunday, Dr. Morris spoke at Boerne Christian Assembly where ICR adjunct professor Doug Phillips is co-pastor. 🌿

Institute for Creation Research's
Museum of Creation and Earth History



If you are in the San Diego area,
come visit us at:

10946 Woodside Avenue North • Santee, CA 92071
Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–4 p.m.



E-mail from Zimbabwe

“Just a brief note to say a big ‘thank you’ to you all in appreciation for your radio program which I listen to. Although I accept the truth of the Bible completely, I don’t always have the proper answers to give to people especially when discussing subjects such as creation versus evolution or the age of the earth, etc. Your talks are very helpful and reassuring in this way.”

From Germany

“I just wanted to take the time to write and say how thankful I am for all of those at ICR. I am so thankful for your commitment to Scripture in light of so-called scientific “facts.” I don’t understand as much about science as I do about the Bible, but I know that I can trust your website when I have a question regarding science. Please keep up the good work. God bless you all!”

E-mail from Singapore

“Thank you for your sharing each day (through your *Days of Praise* articles). (Each entry) speaks much to my heart and imagination as I write and broadcast over the air from Indonesia, the only Christian station that reaches Indonesia and Singapore. It is such a privilege to be able to do this, and I pray that each (message) that God gives me, through His word, through your writings, and wherever He directs me, will be received with praise and touched with hope in Him and enveloped in His love . . . especially in (the) parts of Indonesia where there are killings of Christians and others. May God bless you as you continue to share His word.” ☪

CREATIONISM IN POLAND

Recent issues of *Acts & Facts* (see the March and July 2001 issues) have made mention of creation science found world-wide. How encouraging to hear about yet another organization that is making strides within the creation movement! The Polish Creation Society has monthly publications with some ICR materials



translated into Polish. Kazimierz Jodkowski may be reached through e-mail at kazjod@lord.wsp.zgora.pl for further information about these creation resources available beyond American borders. ICR is so thankful that he is multiplying the ministry in these ways. ☪

Moving?

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

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“CREATION ADVENTURES MUSEUM” OPENS

Exciting and educational “creation adventures” are now available for residents and visitors to fabulous southern Florida. Hands-on workshops, fossil digs, fossil-hunting canoe trips, and overnight camps are offered to church, school, and home school groups by the “*Creation Adventures Museum*,” which also conducts three-day and week-long family camps and church retreats plus courses for college and CEU credits, especially during the spring break season. Longer adventures include trips to the beach and Everglades and snorkeling/diving in the Florida Keys! All programs explore the wonders of God’s world in the light of God’s Word.




Children at camp.

The Museum, located among the riverside marvels in the Peace River Campground near Arcadia, FL, was founded by Dr. Gary Parker, creationist author and speaker and Professor of Biology at ICR, and his wife, Mary, avid fossil collector and former curator of ICR’s Museum. They are joined by chemist Dr. Charles and teacher Mrs. Janis McCombs. The two “creationist couples” also do “Genesis Family Seminars” together. Contact Parkers and McCombs at 941/255-0726, or click on “Creation Adventures Museum” at www.genesisministries.com. (Earn a discount when you tell them ICR sent you!) 



The two newest episodes in the Jonathan Park series recently debuted on radio stations around the country. Join the Parks and the Brenans for lots of action, creation science, and Biblical lessons from each of these new radio adventures!

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

- | Weekend of: | Title/Topic: |
|--------------------|--|
| Aug 4 | “Evolution of Abstract Thinking”
When we meditate on such things as the existence of God—or eternity—we use something uniquely human—abstract thinking. Did abstract thinking simply evolve—or was it part of the Creator’s design to connect with us? Tune in! |
| Aug 11 | “Kingston Mountain Range”
A mountain range in the Mojave Desert of California is of special interest to geologists who are young-earth creationists. They believe it actually contains evidence pointing to the first few seconds of Noah’s flood. What do the rocks of the Kingston Mountain Range tell us? Listen and learn! |
| Aug 18 | “Kingdoms of the Earth”
Evolutionary thought has turned a once fairly simple system of classifying organisms into something so confusing—evolutionists can’t agree on their own classifications. Does the evolutionary tree of life need pruning? |
| Aug 25 | “Tree Rings”
Tree ring dating has placed the age of our oldest living trees between 3,800 to 4,400 years old. These dates sound remarkably close to the time creationists believe a worldwide flood took place. What can we learn about the age of the earth from these trees?  |

Stewardship & Trust Services

Dear ICR,

Do you have a scholarship fund to which I could contribute (the enclosed) \$1,500.00? I would like to give it in memory of my husband, Ed, who died unexpectedly on 2-14-01 at the age of 36. He could not believe the Bible was true because he could never believe Genesis 1 was true. If he is in heaven now, God got through to him at the last possible moment.

If your work can break through this same barrier for just one "Ed" who is still among the living, thanks be to God.

If you don't have a scholarship fund to assist your graduate students, perhaps you would consider starting one. Otherwise, please use the funds as you see fit for the Graduate School.

Please acknowledge receipt of this gift for tax purposes. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. E.R.
Oshkosh, WI

We were able to tell this dear friend that we *do* have a scholarship fund to assist our graduate students and that we were/are very grateful for her help! We share her conviction, of course, that equipping future Christian leaders with the compelling message of Creation and the Cross will be used of the Lord to reach many "Eds." But, how do we even begin to convey the heartfelt sympathy that rose up in each of our hearts on reading this letter? Even as we had to acknowledge our inadequacy, we were reminded, once again, that each of us who are part of the ICR ministry are engaging the enemy in a life-and-death battle for the souls of men. With your help and with God's blessing and to His glory, the battle can be won.

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