

Acts & Facts

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Facts Facts Facts



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CREATION INTERNATIONAL

Creation doctrine knows no national boundaries. As has been demonstrated many times on these pages, it forms the necessary foundation of a logical Christian faith. While belief in creation is not essential for personal salvation, without it many cardinal doctrines of Christianity flounder in illogic. All nationalities need creation truth.

Thus, ICR's ministry knows no national boundaries. Obviously our primary focus is here in America, but we often assist movements in other countries. And then we rejoice in the victories, as can you, our larger family. These last few months saw much international fruit of our labors, which we would like to share with you.

Perhaps most significantly, Dr. Duane Gish visited Kiev, Ukraine, for a seminar on October 8-9, the theme of which was, "Values of Christian culture as the factor of moral-ethical formation of the person." The seminar was jointly sponsored by The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Academy of Pedagogical Science of Ukraine, and the Kindness Foundation, a Christian organization whose major efforts have been in Russia. Dr. Gish's topic was freedom of choice and tolerance in the educational system (with special emphasis on inclusion of creation science). The emphasis of other speakers, including Ukrainian, was on the importance of Christian moral and ethical values in education.



The opening address was given by Dr. Vitali S. Zhuravsky, State secretary of the Ministry of Education and Science and one lecture was by Dr. Nikolai D. Nikandrov, President of the Russian Academy of Education, Moscow. Dr. Gish had previously been given a mandate by the Russian Ministry of Education to co-author a textbook on creation to be used in Russian public schools under the auspices of the Kindness Foundation headed by Fred and Dr. Olga Lutsenko. This book will be co-authored by Roger Oakland, long time friend of ICR. The cost of printing and distribution must be partially borne by designated gifts to ICR, so there's more than one way *Acts & Facts* readers can participate in the blessings.

Several eastern European countries, especially Romania have seen blossoming creation movements, and ICR has helped with library materials, research information, and encouragement. We've been active in western Europe too, as the recent ICR tour to England and meetings

with creation leaders in England, Scotland, and Ireland testifies. Following the tour, Dr. Andrew Snelling lectured about a dozen times on university campuses and to church groups, featuring results of his radioisotope (RATE) research. Field research with members of the local creation group will add to RATE knowledge. In France, we've helped launch a creation work with colleague, Dr. Andre Eagen, a highly placed genomist.

A "branch" of ICR has been formed in Turkey, headed up by a graduate of Christian Heritage College and student of ICR apologetic courses. Creation may hold the key to ministry among Turkish university students, and now several ICR books have been translated into Turkish.

The same could be said for the ICR "branch" in Bolivia. Another CHC graduate, Tim Nyquist, maintains a fine Christian/creation witness primarily among university students, as well as "off the street" viewers of the many locally excavated dinosaur bones on display in their office window.

ICR's Frank Sherwin just returned from Trinidad, where he teamed with ICR colleague Jim Gardner in teaching at churches, schools, youth groups, university classes, and a creation class to equip local pastors (on board the missionary ship Logos II). Under the direction of Rennie Rampersad, they launched a permanent creation voice under the name of Caribbean Creation Science Centre.

ICR's sister organization in Korea continues to flourish. The Korea Association of Creation Research, KACR, commenced in 1981 with ICR help, now blankets the country with the creation message. The former President of KACR, Dr. Young Gil Kim, recently founded Handong Global University, an aggressively Christian/creationist university of technology, which now sends trained professionals throughout Asia armed with the full Christian message. ICR speakers have been there on numerous occasions,

and when KACR started a branch to minister to Korean churches in California, ICR provided free office space to its representative, Jaeman Lee, an ICR graduate student.

With ICR's help and council the Hong Kong Association of Creation Research formed in 2001 and is in the process of constructing a Noah's Ark pavilion in a new Christian theme park there. The official launching of the group is planned for this coming spring and ICR will be there.

Other recent contacts in Brazil, Mexico, Philippines, Canada, Peru, India, and elsewhere, demonstrates ICR's truly international ministry, often leading to a fully functioning, locally controlled creation ministry. And let's not forget the ICR website on the "worldwide" web! Or the radio programs, now broadcast around the globe in English and Spanish.

God is strongly at work throughout the world, and He uses ICR in many ways to do His will. All this is done without diluting ICR's American work; indeed it often energizes it! From geologic field investigations to international collaborators in research, ICR benefits in many ways from this broader vision and wisdom. What a privilege to be in His service and participate in the fruit. Thank you too, for all you do, in making this harvest possible. 🌱

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To disseminate articles and information of current interest dealing with creation, evolution, and related topics. Sent free upon request.

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A Stunning Christmas Present

by John D. Morris



Especially during this time of year we remember with eternal thankfulness that God, the Creator, loved His fallen creation so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die on its, (on *our* behalf,) so that we could be reconciled to Him. He continues to give us blessings of His grace, and eternity with Him is on the horizon. Meanwhile, we continue to serve Him as He leads. Mainly in discovering and communicating creation knowledge. As the year 2002 draws to a close, we can recognize some truly wonderful gifts, which seem to open the door to better communication in the public schools in regards to teaching origins.

The first gift was opened in January, when President Bush signed into law the new education bill, entitled “No Child Left Behind.” It contained powerful language in the conference committee report encouraging teaching the “full range of scientific views that exist” on controversial subjects such as “biological evolution.” Creationists may have wanted more, (and indeed the stipulation was originally contained in the bills main body) but the nation’s schools were notified that more openness was desirable. No longer would exclusive teaching in evolution and “religious and philosophical claims made in the name of science” hold such total monopoly.

Evolution advocates deny the authority implied by the committee’s language, but explanatory reports such as this give the sense of the bill and guidelines for its implementation. It has no force of law, but does contain useful and helpful information for both teacher and judge.

Even before the federal bill was passed, several states were moving to do what they could. In particular, the state of Ohio wanted better, less dogmatic education for their students. On October 15, after months of deliberation, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt new science standards, which proposed that Ohio students be able to “describe how scientists continue to investigate and critically analyze aspects of evolution theory.” It left great latitude up to the individual school districts as to whether or not teachers can include scientific evidence against naturalistic evolution and/or for intelligent design, but insists that critical thinking skills be developed.

Perhaps more important it uses a new definition of science. “Science is a systematic method of continuing investigation, based on observation, hypothesis testing, measurement, experimentation, and theory building, which leads to *more adequate explanations* of natural phenomena.” This statement replaced one asserting that “Scientific knowledge is limited to *natural explanations* for natural phenomena.” All along, ICR and other advisory groups have insisted that science is limited to observations of the nature of the universe and processes operating within it, but speculations regarding unobserved origins events are quite different. Our best understanding of scientific law indicates that other processes, evidently supernatural processes, were involved in its origin. We demonstrate that evolution is really the religion of naturalism masquerading in scientific garb, and evolution interest groups seek to maintain their exclusive position by force of law, intimidation, and false definitions. These wording changes may seem small, but they do address the core issues.

Early in the year, soon after the Federal bill had been signed, a bill was introduced in the Ohio Legislature, which goes right to the heart of the matter. Quoting from the proposed bill:

“Sec. 3313.6013. It is the intent of the general assembly that to enhance the effectiveness of science education and to promote academic freedom and the neutrality of state government with respect to teachings that touch religious and non-religious beliefs, it is necessary and desirable that ‘origins science,’ which seeks to explain the origins of life and its diversity, be conducted and taught objectively and without religious, naturalistic, or philosophic bias or assumption. To further this intent, the instructional program provided by any school district or educational service center shall do all of the following:

- (A) Encourage the presentation of scientific evidence regarding the origins of life and its diversity objectively and without religious, naturalistic, or philosophic bias or assumption;
- (B) Require that whenever explanations regarding the origins of life are presented, appropriate explanation and disclosure shall be provided regarding the historical nature of origins science and the use of any material assumption which may have provided a basis for the explanation being presented;
- (C) Encourage the development of curriculum that will help students think critically, understand the full range of scientific views that exist regarding the origins of life, and understand why origins science may generate controversy.”

This bill has not yet passed through the education committee, but of all proposed actions, this one should receive court approval, if and when it is passed and challenged. It strictly prohibits introduction of religious views into the classroom, including Biblical creation and evolutionary naturalism, but does allow the presentation and critical analysis of all scientific evidences related to the origins issue. We support this bill wholeheartedly.



Meanwhile, another action has traversed numerous obstacles in Cobb County, Georgia, in suburban Atlanta, the state’s second largest school district. Early in the year the school district had decided to include a disclaimer in its science textbooks which reads: “This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully, and critically considered,” following similar wording adopted in several states.

Immediately the ACLU filed a lawsuit. The National Academy of Science joined the fray on the side of evolution, as did several other national organizations. This set up even more discussion and School Board deliberations, and on September 26, the School Board voted unanimously to adopt a broader policy.

As stated in Policy 1A, Philosophy, it is the educational philosophy of the Cobb County School District to provide a broad base curriculum; therefore, the Cobb School District believes that discussion of disputed views of academic subjects is a necessary element of providing a balanced education, including the study of the origin of the species. This subject remains an area of intense interest, research, and discussion among scholars. As a



New York

Bill and Alicia Hoesch are grateful for all who made the New York State Loop Tour a success. Bill gave 48 lectures over the 31-day-long tour, from the eastern shores of Long Island to Niagara Falls, and from the Palisades of the Lower Hudson River to the north woods of Quebec. Along the 3100-mile route, 28 meetings were held in which skeptics were challenged, scholars confronted, and saints encouraged in churches, universities, Christian schools, and a woman's home Bible study group.

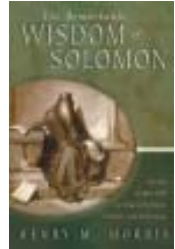
In particular, we are grateful for the hard work of volunteers Steve Tecklenberg and Tim Morgan of Eagle's Nest Ministries of the Baltimore, Maryland, area who worked the book tables and assisted in a hundred other ways. Alicia Hoesch helped entertain restless children with balloon animals! And Kay Garreau ably interpreted one lecture, including some technical geological jargon, to a French-speaking audience in beautiful Lachute, Quebec.

Many invitations were extended to return to minister again in New York, especially on the university campuses. We invite your prayers in this regard.

Washington

Approximately 850 attendees heard Dr. Henry Morris III and Dr. Mark Eastman at the Calvary Chapel in Everett, Washington (Senior Pastor, Kelly Taylor), on the weekend of September 27–28. Both spoke in a *Case for Creation* seminar (Jim Jacobson, Chairperson) with Dr. Morris speaking in the two Sunday morning services. Listeners enjoyed the precise scientific knowledge, theological relevance, and humorous comments from both speakers. 🌿

The Remarkable Wisdom of Solomon
—by Henry M. Morris,
Master Books, 2001,
240 pp.



Subtitled “Ancient Insights from the Song of Solomon, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes,” this work . . . challenges the fabled King Solomon’s Mines for the gold that is mined in its pages.

After reading this book, it became quickly apparent that Morris used much of the insight and knowledge garnered over a 60-year career in teaching and ministry to create what to me is the definitive study of Solomon’s writings. . . . Throughout he weaves in historical and personal background, bringing the reader closer to the mind of the man who, while writing some of the most quoted books in the Bible, stood before man and God on his own “feet of clay.” . . . Morris has truly managed to plumb the depths of the wisdom of Solomon and expose a gold far more meaningful than that of the fabled mines. . . . This work is a rarity in that it is an interesting read and not at all a dull history of the times.

This book is one that I can enthusiastically recommend to both lay and clergy interested in a more complete understanding of these three books.

Carlsbad journalist 🌿

Stewardship & Trust Services

“. . . for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?" (Matthew 23:19).

“Tis the Season . . .”

December is connected with gift-giving—sometimes for the wrong reasons. All of us have felt the pressure to “buy” something for family and/or friends. Our private conversations sometimes bemoan the obligations we feel to “get something” for so-and-so. Churches, mission organizations, humanitarian endeavors, endless charities—all try in one way or another to tweak the subtle pressure of “the season” in their respective favor.

The celebration of our Lord’s physical birth into this world is certainly worthy of remembrance. But most of the world only “remembers” that the wise men from the east brought gifts to the baby Jesus—and use that event as justification for the Christmas celebration. But the reverential honor of the wise men is a far cry from the excessive and self-serving practice that now dominates the “Christian” world.

ICR would ask you to remember why and to Whom we give.

Jesus reserved His harshest criticism to “religious” practice that was either hypocritical or misdirected. In the Matthew 23 passage cited above, He pointed out that the gift itself had replaced the reason for the gift—and the motive of the giver. Perhaps it is worth reviewing some basics of discretionary giving.

The gift should **be** “unto the LORD” (Leviticus 23:38; Colossians 3:23). Sounds simple, but this calls for conscious dedication and a willing heart.

The gift should be **for** “the glory of” our Lord (I Corinthians 10:31). Again, sounds simple, but requires us to be careful what our gift may be used for in the hands of others.

The gift should **do** what “the LORD had commanded” (Numbers 36:2). This may be a little more complicated to insure, but our discretionary giving needs to be placed with those whose heart and ministry is clearly driven to implement and honor God’s Word.

Please know that ICR will honor your gift as though it came from God’s hand.



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Donations can be made on-line at www.icr.org/contribute.html