

SHARING OUR CREATOR'S MESSAGE— ONE CHURCH AT A TIME!

by Mark D. Rasche



Mike and Lesley Riddle live out I Peter 3:15, striving to “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh . . . a reason of the hope . . . with meekness and fear.” And those who have met the Riddles quickly learn that they are not only ready to give an answer, but also to prepare others as they fulfill their unique calling to equip and train Christians with creation apologetics. Mike and Lesley are passionate about equipping God’s people with solid Biblical answers about God’s creation and are eager to exhort all of us to defend our faith and lead others to Christ through creation evangelism.

Through ICR’s “loop tours,” the Riddles have partnered with ICR to take the creation message to over 55,000 people over the past three plus years. Speaking mostly to relatively small churches, Mike and Lesley have faithfully

traveled across many regions throughout America, encouraging Christians to stand firm for creation and to discover how science supports Scripture. ICR continues to receive many powerful testimonies from people whose lives have been impacted by the Riddles’ heartening ministry. Dr. Robert Compton, from Midvale, Idaho, recently wrote: “In my estimation, Mike Riddle is one of the most effective speakers on this topic. Through the efforts of ICR, Mike has had the opportunity to share the Genesis message to hundreds of churches throughout the United States.”

There are no gimmicks, bells, or whistles to the Riddles’ grassroots approach—just a zeal for the Lord and a desire to strengthen the body of Christ. They work remarkably well as a husband-and-wife team, with Mike serving as the speaker and Lesley managing the administration and communication with ICR seminar staff. Mike, a former Marine officer and olympic decathlon athlete, has 25 years experience as a technical trainer for corporations such as Microsoft, US Sprint, and Unisys. He holds a masters degree in education from Pepperdine University. Mike has been one of ICR’s primary speakers for many years, lecturing at seminars and Christian Leaders’ Meetings and has recently

agreed to serve as ICR's keynote speaker for home school conferences. The Riddles continue to update their dynamic creation equipping course, designed for both high school students and adults. *The Origin of Life Equipping Course* is offered through ICR and is highly recommended for individuals and churches who desire to build a broad base of general creation apologetics.

There is no cost to churches that schedule the Riddles or any of our other speakers through ICR's loop tours. If you are interested in having one of our tour speakers visit your church, please watch the *Acts & Facts* Outreach Section for upcoming tours or call ICR's Seminar Department to be considered for a future tour. Please join us in praying for the Lord's blessing on the Riddles and the tour ministry in general. ☞



THE CASE FOR ICR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ICR is best known for its "meaty" books on creation, written for the non-technical but interested reader. Weaving Biblical thinking and scientific information together, these foundational books have led the way in creation ministry.

But the creation movement has come of age, with many qualified scientists building on that solid foundation, and we are becoming more and more known for our scientific research and technical writings. The ICR Graduate School continues to put out well-trained disciples, and more and more of them are acquiring terminal degrees and influential positions in education. This represents the cornerstone of our long-term strategy. Influence the influence makers while buttressing many at the grass-roots level.

How then do we view our growing children's ministry? Actually our most

popular books and videos are for young people who aren't yet to the point of understanding deep research nor do they teach others. Should ICR invest its resources of time and money in things that other creation groups can do, or should we limit our projects to those things which only ICR, with full-time staff of professional scientists can do? As you might imagine, these questions are often discussed among ourselves. Let me relate my directive on how we choose activities and allocate resources.

The "meaty" and the technical projects are our core. We can never abandon this long-range view for immediate product sales. As Christians, we are in a sometimes brutal fight for Biblical authority and inerrancy, with the science of origins as a major battlefield. Losing here would entail great casualties at the grass roots and the children's level, and we must not lose. With the Biblical worldview informing our research, and Christian convictions energizing our efforts, we will not lose, as God grants the victory.

In general, my rule is that children's ministry and products will not divert our attention from the long-range winning strategy. They can supplement but not supplant our efforts to reach scientists, teachers, theologians, etc., nor divert support for the research which undergirds all we do. Never sacrifice ultimate victory for short-term gains.

Acts & Facts

PUBLISHED BY



INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH
P.O. Box 2667, EL CAJON, CA 92021
619/448-0900 WEBSITE: www.icr.org

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

Editor: John D. Morris

Co-Editor: Henry M. Morris

Managing Editor: Donald H. Rohrer

Assistant Editor: Kelly Griffin

No articles may be reprinted in whole or in part without obtaining permission from **ICR**.



But these short-term gains are not to be ignored. Children are born with an intuitive understanding of creation. It takes years of evolution “education” before they really believe their ancestors were fish. If we reach them with truth before the education system reaches them with foolishness, we will have won a long-range victory. Furthermore, proceeds from the sales of children’s products helps fund the more in-depth research and writing. They feed each other.

Perhaps our most successful creation tool for children is the Creation Adventure Series of “Marty” videos. In January we announced completion of the third video in this series, “Marty’s Grand Adventure,” which was filmed in and around Grand Canyon. A feature length film, it cost quite a bit to produce, and although much of its cost was through gifts designated for this purpose, it did involve an investment of resources. This will rapidly be recouped, however, through sales, if initial interest continues.

And it should continue. The main story line sounds like an ICR lecture on Grand Canyon’s formation, presented in a way young viewers can understand. We’ve already had many letters from parents who finally understand the concepts too, as they watched with their kids. It’s an adventurous (comical at times) teaching tool, which packages creation information in a winsome way.

It focuses on Dr. Austin’s discovery of billions of fossilized nautiloids in the Grand Canyon region. He is now publishing this stunning research in technical journals and thus the kids are getting a first-hand look at a major Christian creationist victory in a format they can grasp.

ICR’s long-range goal would be to strengthen ties with this upcoming generation, which would serve to continue both research and communication into the future. Far from being a distraction, children’s ministry might be considered an integral part of our long-term strategy. 🌐

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

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

- May 3 Bible Beasts**
The Bible speaks of many wonderful and mysterious creations. Two of those amazing creations were huge beasts that roamed the Earth long ago. What were these creatures and what does the Bible say about them? Tune in!

- May 10 Volcanoes**
Our world has many amazing and incredible features. They range from the sublime as in the beautiful rose, to the terrifying sights and sounds of a volcano. So where do volcanoes come from and why do they exist? Stay tuned!

- May 17 Human Memory**
The human body is a remarkable creation. All of its specialized functions work together in a beautiful way. But what about human memory? How does this complex function of the brain work? Listen in!

- May 24 Ancient Civilizations**
Around the world there are some amazing places that give us a glimpse into the past. These are ancient ruins of past civilizations. So what do these ancient ruins show us about the history of man? Stay tuned and find out!

- May 31 What is Progressive Creationism?**
For thousands of years, Christians have held onto the truth of God’s Word as the foundation for their belief in creation. Some though have altered His Word to say something very different about the origins of the universe. What are these changes and how have they affected Christianity? Join us and find out! 🌐

DR. GISH AND A WIDE VARIETY OF AUDIENCES

ICR's Dr. Duane Gish continues to amaze many with his energy and stamina. Seldom does a week fail to see him traveling and speaking somewhere, to someone. Consider a recent three-week flurry.

February 21–22, Dr. Gish was one of the speakers at the Worldview Apologetics Conference sponsored by the Antioch Bible Church of Kirkland, Washington. His five lectures on aspects of Biblical and scientific creation laid a firm foundation for the Christian worldview as presented by several well-known speakers.

The Pacific Northwest has a long-standing reputation as being resistant to the Christian message in general, and the creation message in particular. But for this weekend (augmented by Dr. Gish's two sermons on Sunday morning), the 600 attendees received a healthy dose of Biblical authority and scientific reality, arming them for the battle ahead.

One week later he was back in the Northwest, this time in Portland, Oregon. Long-time creation advocate and friend of ICR, Dr. Dennis Swift, annually arranges a creation conference in Portland, which are always well attended. Dr. Gish was one of several creation speakers before an audience totaling about 2000. Many of these were knowledgeable creationists, who welcomed training at a deeper level and on more subjects than a usual creation seminar.

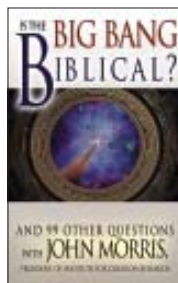
Just one week later Dr. Gish journeyed to the Amish-Mennonite country of Pennsylvania for a unique creation science seminar sponsored by the Ephrata Christian Fellowship. Dr. Gish covered creation topics while Paul Shirk lectured on the inerrancy of Scripture.

While the church itself ministers to the entire community, many from Amish and Mennonite backgrounds attended. Perhaps more than most families, they are concerned for their young people, often

unprepared for evolutionary indoctrination in the education system. Everyone was most appreciative that an ICR scientist would present a seminar in their small community.

At each location, Dr. Gish received word from many who had been positively affected by the ICR ministry, including the following: "Although I had grown up in a Christian home I struggled greatly with my evolutionary training. It wasn't until I attended an ICR seminar and read books by ICR scientists that I fully accepted Scripture and God's authority over my life and mind. Thank you so much for what you are doing. And please do keep it up!" Knowing Dr. Gish, he will indeed, keep it up. 🌐

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE FROM ICR



One of the most appreciated sections in *Acts & Facts* is the one page article by ICR President, Dr. John Morris, in which he answers relevant questions regarding creation and its "Back to Genesis" application in family and society.

Often these questions come from recent science claims regarding evolution, providing a timely creationist perspective. Others have come through the mail or web. Each gives a creationist answer to a question of current interest.

Master Books has gathered 100 such answers into a useful new book entitled, *Is the Big Bang Biblical?* It addresses questions from many fields: geology, biology, and the Bible. Answers typically weave material from science and Scripture together for a full understanding.

Written for non-technical readers yet "meaty" in its content, it is sure to be a useful tool for all, especially students. Available from ICR at a cost of \$12.95, it contains 224 pages. 🌐



THOSE HILARIOUS CREATIONISTS

Evolutionist M.V.K. Sukhdeo of Rutgers University was quite amused to find a creation publication citing work done by evolutionist Janice Moore,

One cannot help but chuckle when reading that [Moore's] work was cited by the Creation Research Society Quarterly⁽¹⁾ as evidence of divine [sic] design . . .²

Sukhdeo's merriment obviously leaves one with the idea that creationists' citation of scientific works to illustrate their platform is not to be taken seriously. However, his evolutionary colleagues (and I would imagine Sukhdeo himself) were alarmed enough that a resolution was passed by the American Society of Parasitologists condemning creation science, saying, "The 123-year history of creationism clearly shows it to . . . be overwhelmingly rejected by the majority of Christian denominations and by scientists of all faiths."³

This is hardly surprising as many major denominations have forsaken a literal understanding of many basic Biblical tenets such as the book of Genesis, the virgin birth, and the physical resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and have adopted evolutionism. But let's take a look at evolution's explanation of parasite origin. One of the largest parasite phyla is the Nematoda (roundworms). Is their view more credible?

A lack of clearly homologous characters and the absence of an informative fossil record have prevented us from deriving a consistent evolutionary framework for the phylum . . . although nematode parasites are generally assumed to have evolved from free-living ancestors, the precise origin and free-living sister taxa of each parasitic group are unknown.⁴

Creationists maintain nematodes have always been nematodes, changing only from a free-living stage in the soil to a parasitic stage after the Fall. Even evolutionists agree that all parasitic nematodes probably arose from terrestrial free-living groups. Additionally, parasites in general exhibit very high speciation rates, certainly no problem for the creationist and in keeping with a young earth paradigm.

Both evolutionists and creationists agree that in order for a creature to become a dependent internal parasite, two kinds of changes must take place. Each one of these dramatic changes (one morphologic and one physiologic) involves the loss of not only structure and physiology on the part of the would-be parasite, but the very genetic blueprints that produce these characters in a free-living organism. For example, the thorny-headed worms (Phylum Acanthocephala) are essentially a bag of reproductive structures with a spiky holdfast on one end and must depend wholly on their hosts for sustenance. Some creation scientists have presented a model of parasite origin based on loss of genetic information after the Curse (Genesis 3:17–18). Such genetic deficiency is what we can see and measure in the biological world. However, what is difficult to explain on the basis of degeneration, is how these now parasitic organisms can exist inside another as a foreign body and not evoke an immune response. One wonders what parasitic creatures may have been before the Fall.

1. Armitage, M. 2000. "Trematode Parasites: what is their genesis?" *Creation Research Society Quarterly* 36(4): 183–193.
2. Sukhdeo, M. 'Book Review' *Journal of Parasitology*, 88(6) 2002, p. 1214.
3. National Center for Science Education, Inc., Oakland, CA, *Voices for Evolution*, p. 38.
4. Blaxter, M., et al., "A molecular evolutionary framework," *Nature*, v. 392, 1998, pp. 71–75.

Back to Genesis

The ICR “Back to Genesis” speakers, Drs. Doug Phillips and John Morris, teamed up for a delightful and fruitful seminar in the Atlanta suburb of Truckee, Georgia, on March 14 and 15. As usual, Phillips covered Biblical issues and the relevance of creation, while Morris spoke on scientific topics. But that’s where the similarity stopped.

It all began at the Friday morning school assembly when “Marty,” star of the ICR creation adventure video series lectured to grades 1–6 on dinosaurs. Obviously, “Marty” (in reality Mr. Kim Elmore) was a big hit! In the afternoon Doug Phillips addressed the older students, relating a field excavation of an allosaur skeleton (similar to a T-Rex) he had led with a group of home school students in Colorado. This too was a big hit. Many of the students wanted to know where to sign up. Nearly 2000 students attended.

The Friday evening adult session hit a snag with Dr. Morris’ opening lecture as the computer froze, interrupting his PowerPoint presentation. While it was restarting, several people in the audience spontaneously rose to testify of ICR’s ministry in their lives, from salvation to Christian maturity. These unexpected blessings set the tone for wonderful seminar sessions attended by about 1000.

On Sunday afternoon and Monday, Dr. Morris was given an inside look at several nearby sites of geologic interest by creationist colleagues, Carl Froede and Jerry Aldridge. He was also treated to an after-hours tour of a brand new creation museum in the city of Stone Mountain, Georgia, by owner/curator Mr. Joseph Hurt.

Following the lead of ICR’s well-received Museum of Creation and Earth History, several creation museums are

now in operation or under construction. However, this one is different. Labeled the “Gallery of Creation,” it presents the absolute beauty of creation and the majesty of the Creator. Each display of interesting animals, or intricate sea life, beautiful flowers, or dazzling minerals is designed, as their stated goal; “To present examples of God’s creations in such a beautiful manner that one is inspired to have a better appreciation for God’s handiwork and a deeper love for our Creator.”

ICR is thankful for each creation colleague, creation organization, museum, and educational center. The Gallery of Creation is worth a visit, in person or on the web at [www.josephhurtstudio.com]. ☪

A TIMELY TOUR

The ICR Museum of Creation and Earth History had a pleasant surprise when a busload of senior saints (snow birds from around the U.S.) arrived on Thursday, March 13. The snowbird adventure started in the Phoenix area with the San Diego harbor as the point of destination. Realizing that the time change gave them an extra hour, the director of the group decided that a tour through the ICR Museum would be the perfect way to get their visit off to a great start. The group went on the “Journey Through Time” of the museum and enjoyed talking with one another and the museum staff. It was a blessing to have 33 new friends come in for an afternoon visit. ☪



“It’s about time . . .”

Usually, that little cliché is heard from a background of exasperation. Or, as we have often learned too late, we should have taken action before an event precipitated the consequences that we regret.

Biblically, the emphasis is on the careful *use* of our time (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5; Psalms 90:12), so that we will *not* regret the consequences whenever an unexpected event takes place. The most unexpected and uncontrollable event, of course, is the moment when God calls us into His eternity and presence.

Since we know that the event will take place, but not when, our preparation for that event should be carefully planned. Have you done so?

Did you know . . . ?

1. If you don’t have a will, your State will invoke its “descent and distribution” laws. Your heirs will have no say at that point, and many will have to pay fees and expenses that could otherwise be avoided with a will.
2. The smaller the estate the more important it is that it be settled quickly. Delays are often very costly. A properly prepared will or trust is the best way to avoid delays and additional expenses.
3. Careful planning before you visit an attorney can often reduce the cost of having a professional will or trust executed. Do you know what is needed?
4. Even a small portion of a typical estate can be a very meaningful gift to a charitable interest that has been an important part of your life. Charitable bequests aren’t always left by the wealthy.
5. Sometimes it is better to distribute assets while you are still able to make changes. Charities can shift in focus or potential heirs can reveal directions that do not coincide with your wishes. There are estate and financial instruments that provide for “revocable” gifts as well as sequential gifts.

Let ICR help you get started.

ICR has prepared several booklets and worksheets that can help you focus your planning. Check an appropriate box on the donor envelope or call us directly.



Dr. Henry Morris III, ICR Executive Vice President for Strategic Ministries.
P.O. Box 2667, El Cajon, CA 92021; Phone 619/448-0900; E-mail: hmorrisiii@icr.org
donations can be made on-line at www.icr.org/contribute.html