

## DR. GISH ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

by Henry M. Morris



*Creation's Bulldog in his element.*

That vast “Whew!” sound emanating from the nation’s halls of academia may be a giant sigh—a sigh of relief from the proud strongholds of evolutionism at the news that their nemesis—Dr. Duane Gish—has finally retired! The clear victor in almost 300 scientific debates with leading evolutionary scientists all over the world, Dr. Gish has earned a reputation as the world’s leading debater for scientific creationism, and he has finally (at age 84!) announced his imminent retirement from the fields of battle.

Well, maybe! He plans to quit traveling (except to visit his grandchildren!) and speaking, but will try to write a book or two and also continue to advise other creationist scientists on how to win debates (the secret, of course, is to know the facts, and he does!). He may even accept a few special invitations to speak.

In addition to his debates, Dr. Gish has lectured on creation in hundreds of schools and churches just about everywhere—more than 40 countries and 49 states in this country (what is the matter with Maine?). And he is already a well-known author. His booklet, *Have You Been Brainwashed?* has been read by millions. There are also his many books, among which are: *Evolution: The Fossils Say No*; *Creation Scientists Answer Their Critics*; *Evolution: Challenge of the Fossil Record*; *Speculations and Experiments on the Origin of Life*; *Evolution: The Fossils Still Say No*, plus a number of books for children. *Dinosaurs: Those Terrible Lizards* was the progenitor of many “copycat” books by other authors. *The Amazing Story of Creation from Science and the Bible* has been especially appreciated by many and was followed by *Dinosaurs by Design*. There are others (some are out of print—see ad section for products that are still available), not to mention dozens of articles, not only about creation but at least forty journal articles in his own field of biochemistry.

Dr. Duane Tolbert Gish was born in Kansas in 1921, attending high school and junior college in Dodge City. His education was interrupted by World War II, during which he served with distinction as an Army officer in the South Pacific. After the war, he attended UCLA,



receiving his B.S. in chemistry in 1949, then a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley in 1953. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow (1953–56) as well as Assistant Professor (1956) at Cornell University Medical College, then returned to Berkeley at the Virus Laboratory of the University of California as Research Associate in biochemistry (1956–60). He had the unique opportunity of collaborating with two Nobel Prize Winners, Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud at Cornell and Dr. Wendell Stanley at Berkeley. He then worked as a Senior Research Associate in biochemistry for eleven years at the Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Dr. Gish had been a Christian since childhood and never doubted the Biblical record of creation. However, he became an active anti-evolutionist largely as a result of a booklet written by a Canadian physician, Dr. John Howitt. As a member of the American Scientific Affiliation, he opposed its drift toward theistic evolution. Finally, he joined with other creationist scientists in forming the Creation Research Society in 1963. There he met Dr. Henry Morris, also a member of its founding board, and they served together on the C.R.S. Board for many years.

When Dr. Morris left his position at Virginia Tech to work with Dr. Tim LaHaye in founding Christian Heritage College and its creation research division in 1970, Dr. Gish felt the Lord might be calling him also into a full-time creation ministry. He wrote to Dr. Morris suggesting such a possibility, and just a year later joined him on the College faculty, also becoming Associate Director of what

soon became the Institute for Creation Research in 1972, and then Senior Vice President when ICR became a separate Graduate School in 1981.

He is widely recognized and honored by Christian creationists in many lands. One such honor came when he was given the Luther Sunderland Award at the quadrennial international gathering of creationist scientists at the International Conference on Creationism in Pittsburgh in 1994. He was given the Issachar Award by Cornerstone University (formerly Grand Rapids Baptist College and Seminary) May 7 of this year, 2005. Although his ICR colleagues and fans will miss him very much, he has certainly earned retirement status, and we all wish him God-speed and ongoing blessings through his unique legacy. 🙏



## Acts & Facts

PUBLISHED BY

**INSTITUTE FOR CREATION RESEARCH**

**P.O. Box 2667, EL CAJON, CA 92021**

**619/448-0900 WEBSITE: [www.icr.org](http://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**.



## President's Column

by John D. Morris

As noted in the lead article of this month's *Acts & Facts*, Senior Vice President, Dr. Duane Gish has retired from full-time activity at ICR. You can well imagine that this announcement was received with mixed emotions.

On the one hand, we rejoice with Duane at this milestone. Certainly he deserves a little less stress in his life. He has had enormous impact on the creation movement, joining ICR's staff nearly at its inception, he became known as Creation's Bulldog, a champion for its defense, and a tireless proponent of its validity. This early partnership with my father, Dr. Henry Morris, put ICR on the map and raised creation thinking to respectability.



*Drs. Duane Gish and Henry Morris at the groundbreaking ceremony for its administration building, 1984.*

He will be especially well remembered for his prowess in creation/evolution debates. I can't imagine how anyone could understand more issues, control more data, remember more sources, and articulate them more clearly than Duane Gish. He will be sorely missed. Already we are finding him impossible to replace.

Much has been made of his numerous debate victories. I can remember one he did not win. In preparation for my first formal debate back in 1985, we

held a mock debate before the ICR staff. Playing the part of the evolutionist, he pulled every dirty trick on me that had been pulled on him. Thankfully I had been to lunch with him enough to know the answers to the tricks. Most thought the debate ended in a draw. Even with Duane Gish as an advocate, evolution is a loser.

There have been many dirty tricks and cheap shots leveled at Duane Gish over the years, but to his credit he always responded as a Christian gentleman. Often this even carried the day, as personal attacks were rebutted with gracious logic and scientific data.

Actually, his career is far from over. Duane has plans to update his current books and write at least two more. He just completed another grueling debate with geneticist Dr. Ed Max, enduring personal insults and debate tricks, while answering all serious arguments. Appropriately, he is to receive the Issachar Award this month from Cornerstone University. The Award is named after the "Men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do" (I Chronicles 12:32), which is awarded to "one that not only grasps the meaning of a Christian worldview for their own good, but also exercises a leadership that applies their Christian values for the good of others. Issachar awardees are in the best sense men and women of God. They know the truth and seek to make it known."

Every encounter with Duane Gish has been an enjoyable one, full of good humor, warmth, and Christian fellowship. He will now have the title "Emeritus Vice President" of ICR and retain an office just down the hall from mine. He will still speak and write for ICR as often as he cares to, so you haven't heard the last of him.

Duane, we thank God for you and all you've done. He has used you mightily. We pray God's very best for you in the years to come, until He returns. ☪



### ICR PRESENTS RATE RESEARCH TO PASTORS

The Shepherd's Conference at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, has become one of the nation's premier pastor's conferences. ICR had the privilege of presenting the results of its RATE research during this year's conference held on March 2-5, 2005, where a record capacity crowd of approximately 3,300 pastors and Christian leaders gathered from all over the world.




Throughout the four-day conference, many of ICR's core resources were on display and discounted generously to encourage pastors to include them in their libraries. Numerous heartening testimonies were shared by Christian leaders from different parts of the country about how ICR's resources have impacted their lives and thinking about creation.

Perhaps ICR's most well-received contribution was the distribution of 3,253 copies of *The Genesis Record* as complimentary gifts to the conference attendees. Many seemed almost overwhelmed to receive this classic commentary on the book of Genesis and expressed their sincere gratitude to ICR staff for their generosity. ICR's founder, Dr. Henry Morris, attended

the conference and made himself available to sign copies of *The Genesis Record* and many of his other books on creation.

On the last full day of the conference, Dr. John MacArthur gave a very warm and honorable tribute to Dr. Morris for his faithfulness in launching the modern creation movement, stating that "we all stand on his shoulders" for the work he has done for creation and the book of Genesis. When Dr. Morris was introduced and asked to stand, the packed auditorium of pastors instantly rose to their feet to express their appreciation and thanks for his many achievements and life-long commitment to defending the faith.

After the tribute to Dr. Morris, ICR presented a special 14-minute promotional DVD at a breakout session. The DVD featured highlights of the upcoming documentary (the final version will be approximately 50 minutes) on the RATE (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth) research project. Also announced was the upcoming RATE conference at Shadow Mountain Community Church (David Jeremiah, pastor) on Saturday, November 5, 2005. A very enthusiastic crowd of about 600 people watched the film and received a complimentary copy of the promotional 14-minute DVD to take back to their churches.

Incidentally, ICR has a few hundred remaining RATE promotional DVD's for anyone interested in providing a copy to their pastoral staff. If you would like your church to receive a complimentary promotional copy on DVD, please have someone on the church staff call ICR's Customer Service Department at 800/628-7640 as soon as possible. Supplies are limited. 





## THAT TROUBLING LARYNGEAL NERVE?

The recurrent laryngeal nerve (RLN) in man is found branching off the tenth cranial nerve (vagus) in the chest cavity. The twelve cranial nerves are part of the beautifully designed autonomic nervous system (ANS) that controls involuntary body processes, including digestion, heart rate, and respiration. Evolutionists claim the Creator is a bad engineer, having the RLN dropping into the chest and looping around a ligament of the lung before going back up to the larynx (voice box). Evolutionist Michael Denton states, “The recurrent laryngeal nerve loops around the aorta and back up to the larynx instead of taking a more direct route.”<sup>1</sup> In other words, “Why not just have the nerve extend directly from the brain to the larynx?”

Before answering this, creationists are reminded of other past “bad design” arguments used by evolutionists that have since received good, scientific answers. Examples include the poorly designed thumb of the panda bear. The late S. J. Gould<sup>2</sup> repeatedly cited this allegedly corrupt feature, but he ignored the fact that panda bears have been doing just fine with this supposedly inferior structure. (For a fascinating discussion of this “pseudo-thumb” see *Nature* 397:309.)


In past decades, evolutionists, such as Richard Dawkins, have maintained the retina of our eyes was actually “wired backward.” If a Creator existed, He certainly would not have done it that way with photoreceptor cells oriented so their sensory ends are directed away from incident light. Today we hear virtually nothing about this allegedly imperfect manner of wiring. Why? Because scientists have shown our retinas are designed exactly the way they should be in order to receive photons (light) and direct the impulses via the optic nerves to the back of the brain where they are made into images. Indeed, if the eye was designed to Darwinist specifications, we would be blind. (See also: <http://www.trueorigin.org/retina.asp>)

Why did the Creator design the loop of the RLN? To the secular biologist, it is both strange and unnecessary, basing these judgments on the corrupt philosophy of Darwinism (macroevolution). But creation scientists and medical doctors are investigating and have several ideas. There are branches of the RLN going above and below the larynx (both branch off the vagus) that would allow some preservation of function if either one is severed. The RLN passes tightly under the aorta (the large, main artery coming from the left ventricle of the heart). Perhaps variation in the diameter of the aorta could alter the function of the RLN.

Of course, the amazing and complex field of neuroanatomy and physiology itself is an affront to Darwinism. The origin (not the present operation) of life’s amazing complexity is seemingly not within the reach of merely natural processes. Let the evolutionist explain the origin and gradual evolution of our 3-pound brain from “simple” life forms while the creationist continues to investigate the puzzling RLN route. I believe we will have our answer first.

---

1. Denton, Michael J., *Nature’s Destiny*, Free Press, 1998, p. 260.

2. Gould, S. J., “The Panda’s Thumb of Technology,” *Natural History*, January 1987, p. 14. 



### Portland, Oregon

Drs. Randy Guliuzza, Gary Parker, and Duane Gish were the speakers at the 2005 Northwest Creation Conference held on February 18–19. Dr. Guliuzza presented fascinating lectures on the human reproductive system and the human eye, explaining the irreducible complexity of these systems which required creation by an intelligent agent. Dr. Parker’s lectures described his pathway from an atheistic evolutionist to a Christian creationist and scientific and Biblical evidence for creation. Dr. Gish conducted a workshop on debating evolutionists and presented lectures on fallacies and weaknesses of evolutionary theory and concluded the conference in a debate with Dr. Edward Max.

### Lake Arrowhead, California

On February 26, ICR zoologist Frank Sherwin spoke to the Calvary Chapel creation group—headed by John McIntosh. An audience of over 40 people braved heavy fog and snow to learn of the Flood and fossils and then of the demise of Darwinism. Frank and his young daughter, Llynea, enjoyed the snow and fellowship before and after the event.

### San Diego, California

On March 6, Dr. Dan Criswell spoke at Alpine Christian Fellowship in the San Diego area. About 200 people were in attendance to hear about Biblical and scientific evidence for the existence of Adam and Eve and how they must have been the progenitors of the entire human race. Dr. Criswell also emphasized the relationship, described in Romans 5, of Adam the “first man” in whom all men die and Christ as the “second man” in whom all men live. Attendees expressed a desire to learn more about Genesis and how creation truths could be used to witness to others. ☮



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

#### Weekend of:                      Title/Topic:

- May 7      Mitochondrial Eve**  
In Genesis we read that all mankind descended from one woman, Eve. Interestingly, due to DNA research, many evolutionary scientists also believe that all people stem from one woman. They’ve named her mitochondrial Eve. Don’t miss this interesting discussion!
- May 14    Mount St. Helens**  
This spring there have been rumblings in the Pacific Northwest from Mount St. Helens—but nothing comparable to the eruption that occurred in 1980. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Mount St. Helens volcanic eruption that left a 230 square mile trail of destruction. What have geologists learned from this catastrophe? Stay tuned!
- May 21    Tsunamis and the Great Flood**  
An earthquake in the Indian Ocean December 2004 caused a tsunami which brought death and destruction to southern Asia and east Africa. It was the most deadly tsunami in recorded history. But, as devastating as it was, is it possible that there have been greater and more destructive tsunamis in the past? Listen in as we talk about tsunamis!
- May 28    Australian Geology**  
From the colossal Ayer’s Rock in the middle of the desert to amazing giant kangaroo fossils, Australia is home to many fascinating geological discoveries. Do these features show evidence of creation? Join us as we speak to Australian geologists about the geology down under! ☮

*“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11).*

## **NATURALISTIC SCIENCE CANNOT ACCEPT A CREATOR**

There can be no question that God formed “things” in such a way that we can understand much of His nature from what has been created (Romans 1:20). But what place do they hold in understanding truth? Are we to gain insight to the meaning of everything from the study of geology, biology, physics, astronomy, etc.? What relationship does the tangible play with the intangible? When does the “language” of the creation shape the “words” of Scripture? Which carries more weight when they don’t seem to agree?

## **WHAT DOES GOD’S CREATION PROVIDE US?**

Even though God insisted that His “good” nature was revealed by the creation, there is much about this universe that evidences a lot of “bad.” How can we differentiate the original “good” from the fallen “bad?” The overwhelming message in the Bible deals with the redemption of the creation—the age-long plan of God to bring about a “new heavens and new earth” that is in total submission to His holiness (II Peter 2:13). How do we sort out the differences? What does the revealed nature of God furnish that will permit us to evaluate what we observe?

## **GOD’S INERRANT WORD IS THE TEACHER**

All our studies regarding the Creation should flow from how we view Scripture. The higher our regard for the words of the text, the more careful we would be with the interpretation of the text. The more we use other words and passages of Scripture to define and clarify a given text of Scripture, the less we will be inclined to allow human reasoning to alter the obvious meaning of a word or a passage. The farther away from the clear reading and face-value of a passage an interpretation seems to be, the more likely it will be subject to human error and come into conflict with other teachings of God’s Word.

ICR is pleased to request your support of our ministry. We are committed to the authority of Scripture. Science will not override the Word! Invest with us in this challenging work.



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 online at [www.icr.org/contribute.html](http://www.icr.org/contribute.html)