

A THANKFUL LOOK BACK AT 2000

John D. Morris

The beginning of a new year always brings a thankful look back at the previous one. At ICR it means recapping God's blessings, reporting on them in, *Acts & Facts*, and standing in amazement at what He has done.

This year celebrated thirty years of God's blessing on ICR. At an October 29 gathering, we recounted the many victories in education, evangelistic outreach, and breakthroughs in research which embolden us to continue. God's financial provision of 30 years "in the black," convinces us that in Him, our faith is well-placed.

One major milestone this past year was the completion of a long-needed laboratory, distance learning, and book warehouse building adjacent to our present administration building. This was dedicated at the October meeting and over the Thanksgiving weekend the older building was painted to coordinate with it. Come see us when you can.

This has been an outstanding year for ICR research. A total of thirty-four students were enrolled in various stages of our Graduate School this year, and ten students earned their Master's degrees, including six who completed research theses. Several of these have been reviewed in *Acts & Facts* with others to follow.

Faculty research was impressive, especially the RATE project on Radioisotope Dating and the Age of the Earth. The

700-page technical summary of their first three years' work was published as the year came to an end. The investigators are all ICR faculty and adjunct faculty, and the work they have done has the potential to overthrow a widely held but fatally flawed theory—one which has damaged science and many people.

Dr. Steven Austin and his graduate students have done some especially exciting research at Grand Canyon, well received even by the Grand Canyon research staff. The discovery of an estimated one billion, 24" long nautiloids in the Redwall Limestone has the potential of changing all of geology!

The Graduate School completed its web-based course "Advanced Studies in Creationism" required of all its graduate students, and now available to others. The School was blessed to receive continued accreditation for five more years by TRACS.

In addition to the RATE book, several other books and videos have been published.

- 1) *The Kansas Tornado* by Dr. Paul Ackerman detailing events of the Kansas State School Board.
- 2) *The Human Body: An Intelligent Design* by Alan L. Gillen, Frank J. Sherwin III, and Alan C. Knowles.
- 3) A chapter in *The Fundamentals for the Twenty-First Century* by Henry Morris.

- 4) *Jonathan Park and the Mystery of the Hidden Cave*, book and radio CD by Pat and Sandy Roy.
- 5) *A Trip to the Ocean* by John Morris.
- 6) *Creation or Evolution: What's the Difference?* a video by ventriloquist Rick Thompson.
- 7) *The Riddle of Origins* four-video series by Mike Riddle.
- 8) *The God Who Is Real*, updated edition by Henry Morris.
- 9) *Treasures in the Psalms* by Henry Morris.
- 10) *The Geology Book* by John Morris.
- 11) ICR books translated into Turkish include *Scientific Creationism*, *The Fossils Say No!* and *The Bible, Science, and Creation*.
- 12) Booklets by Henry Morris *Christ our Life* and *When They Saw the Star*.
- 13) *Songs in the Night, The Human Body and the Creator* and, *Myths of Evolution and the Media* audiocassettes.

ICR speakers were quite active this past year, with far-ranging lecture tours, seminars, and workshops reaching about 88,600 people. Interestingly, six debates were held with Drs. Gish, DeYoung, Mastro Paolo, and Sherwin holding forth the truth of creation. Dr. Gish even held a debate workshop, instructing others in the skill. The busy speakers essentially covered every part of our country, and traveled as far as India, the Middle East, South America, and Asia. The same faculty granted some 125 media interviews and appearances this year also, fueled by a great hunger for creation information.

Meanwhile, *Acts & Facts* continues to print 150,000 copies each month, while 320,000 copies of *Days of Praise* each quarter are all sent free of charge. The web site's growth is phenomenal, with our site easily the largest and most visited creation site. Did you know that you can now receive *Acts & Facts* and *Days of Praise* over the Internet? Many are taking advantage of this opportunity.

A wonderful tour to Yellowstone was enjoyed by 78 attendees. Meanwhile, preparations were laid for a tour to the Galapagos Islands on an exploratory trip there by Dr. Cumming.

Our media outreach has continued to blossom, with the "Back to Genesis" radio programs now heard on 1,358 outlets, "Science, Scripture & Salvation" on 816, and "DeRegesso Genesis" on 135.

Our Public Information Services Department continues to be inundated with questions and requests for material. In all, an estimated 4000 such requests were processed this year.

In recapping the year, I should mention that both my father, Dr. Henry Morris (82), and Dr. Duane Gish (79), are still going strong. Unfortunately, their wives have had some health difficulties and would appreciate your prayers.

Although the final tallies are not all in as of this writing, it does appear that year-end giving has once again allowed us to finish "in the black." Other ministries are shocked to find that ICR is not "endowed" with large sums of money, but God has met every need, month-by-month out of the mailbag. The staff is quite large now and the expenses have so increased that it would be frightening without firm knowledge of our great Savior's care and the many dear Christian friends like you who partner with us. So we thank Him and thank you for all that you do. 🙏

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Creation Studies at the Galapagos

When you think of geological evidences for creation, the Grand Canyon comes to mind first with its magnificent exposures of the stratigraphic record, fossil layers, and research history. On the other hand, biological evidences for variation are best presented in the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador. At that place Darwin gathered specimens and observations to support his grand theory of evolution by natural selection. And there too are the best evidences for creation: specialization, homeostasis, extinction, and cyclic succession.

An interesting example of many of these principles can be found in the famous Galapagos tortoise. Of course no one knows how long these land turtles have been on the islands, but whether a long or short time has transpired, no multiplication of species has occurred. In spite of discrete separation into 14 historic varieties (subspecies), there is only one species (*Geochelone elephantopus* [*G. nigra* per Pritchard, 1996]). Three different anatomical types are recognized due to the form of the carapace (shell). Saddleback tortoises have a large elevation over the shoulder that allows the animal to extend its head in a wide arc. The dome shape is characteristic of turtles found on Santa Cruz and Isabela islands. An intermediate form shell shape is present on Santa Fe and at Wolf Volcano on Isabela (Constant, 1994).

While we toured islands in May of 2000, the trained naturalist made a remarkable statement. "Remember at Charles Darwin Station you saw two types of shell on the giant tortoises—the one with the rounded shell and the one with the saddleback? These have evolved depending upon the food that is available. On Española Island the vegetation is very scarce. That's why they develop larger legs and very long necks. And the front part of the shell is elevated so that they can rise

high in the air and reach the high vegetation." Surprisingly, Harris (a creationist) made a similar statement in his book written in 1976. This certainly sounds like an affirmation of Lamarck's discredited theory of acquired characteristics. Because the turtles repeatedly reached for their food over many generations, they adapted genetically to have larger necks and legs as well as develop a facilitating arch over their necks. Could this be true or are the data simply expressions of carapace alleles?

Here then is a simple research question that might be examined. Do the morphological differences between domes and saddlebacks constitute an evolutionary event? Intraspecific breeding would seem to confirm local variance within one discontinuous population. Still one has to ask how much variance can occur leading to dramatic dimorphism. This kind of experiment is just one of many fascinating projects that ICR scientists are exploring at the "enchanted isles." A videotape of the familiarization trip is in preparation. Look for an announcement in future issues of *Acts & Facts*.

Pierre Constant, *Ecuador Archipel des Galapagos un guide sur l'histoire naturelle* (Paris, France; Twin Age Ltd., 1994), p.300.

Lester E. Harris, Jr., *Galapagos, A Creationist Visits Darwin's Islands* (Nashville, TN, Southern Pub. Assoc., 1976, p. 126).

Peter C.H. Pritchard *The Galapagos Tortoises: nomenclatural and survival status*. (Chelonom Research Monographs No. 1, July 1996). 🌀

ICR SCIENTIST TOURS BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA

Dr. Duane Gish paid his fourth visit to Brazil September 20–October 13 and his first visit to Argentina October 14–23. His lecture tour in Brazil was arranged by Christiano da Silva, the Director of the Creation Science Association of Brazil of Belo Horizonte. Dr. Gish spoke in schools, universities, and churches in the cities of Florianopolis, Blumenau, Porto Alegre,

Caxias Du Sol, Gramado, São Paulo, and Belo Horizonte. He was also the featured speaker at the 74th Anniversary celebration of the Colégio Batista of Porto Alegre.

Along with Rev. Jerry Burton of the Calvary Baptist Church of Rittman, Ohio, Dr. Gish was one of the two speakers at the Congresso Internacional Fund-amentalismo 2000, the annual meeting of fundamental Baptist pastors and Christian workers of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Chile held in Rosario, Argentina, Tuesday through Thursday, October 17–19.

Each speaker spoke at the morning and evening sessions of the conference. Rev. Jaime Strickland, pastor of the Iglesia Bautista Biblica, was the chairman of the Congress and who arranged for Dr. Gish's visit. Dr. Gish spoke at the church on Sunday, October 15. On Sunday, October 22, he spoke at the morning service of the Iglesia Bautista Biblica of Buenos Aires (Rev. Richard Todd, pastor) and at the evening service of the Iglesia Bautista Fundamental of Buenos Aires (Rev. Alberto Mular, pastor). ☞



Origins Issues

by Frank Sherwin

SCIENCE VS. MACROEVOLUTION

One finds many in the secular community constantly equating the word science with macroevolution, or large change. This has led to gross misunderstanding of those who are trying to fathom the origins issue. *If* macroevolution and science are used synonymously, then of course creation science would be “anti-science.”

Let's address this issue by first defining our terms. Although many definitions have appeared, science can be described as what we really know to be true mainly through observation. The late G. G. Simpson of Harvard stated in *Science* magazine that “it is inherent in any definition of science that statements that cannot be checked by observation are not really about anything . . . or at the very least, they are not science.”

But the origins debate centers around macroevolution, and macroevolution has *never been observed*. One of the architects of neo-Darwinism agrees: “It is manifestly impossible to reproduce in the laboratory the evolution of man from the australopithecine, or of the modern horse from an Eohippus, or of a land vertebrate from a fishlike ancestor. These evolutionary happenings are unique, unrepeatable, and irreversible” (Theodosius Dobzhansky, *American Scientist*, December 1957).

One can clearly see that according to secular sources, macroevolution and true science have nothing to do with each other. Unfortunately, this misunderstanding continues to be propagated by those who should know better and they perpetuate it for their own secular agenda.

For example, staff writer John Tedesco of the *San Antonio Express News* reported (11/08/99) Nobel laureate Steven Weinberg as saying, “I personally feel that the teaching of modern science is corrosive to religious belief, and I'm all for that.”

John Maddox, the former editor of *Nature* magazine, observed, “. . . it may not be long before the practice of religion must be regarded as anti-science.” This is true, if by the word “science” Maddox means “macroevolution.” True Biblical worship has never meshed with the particle-to-people philosophy (macroevolution). Indeed, not long ago a creation scientist (and Nobel prize winner) stated, “Science is the glimpse of God's purpose in nature. The very existence of the amazing world of the atom and radiation points to a purposeful creation, to the idea that there is a God and an intelligent purpose back of everything” (A. H. Compton [d. 1962]). ☞



Denver, Colorado

An enthusiastic crowd of nearly 1000 warmly received the “Case for Creation” on Friday and Saturday, October 13 and 14, presented by ICR’s John Morris and Doug Phillips. The seminar centered around the theme, “War of the Worldviews,” and contained not only scientific insights useful in the war, but Biblical exhortation to strive valiantly for the truth.

The seminar was co-chaired by ICR graduate students, Bill Browning and Phillip Gilliland, and was jointly sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Creation Fellowship—an unusually active and knowledgeable local group of creationists.

While in Denver, Dr. Morris spoke to about 50 students of nearby Denver Seminary, not known for an unequivocal creation position. Morris presented the “big picture” of an originally “very good” creation ruined by Adam’s fall, restructured by the Flood and redeemed by Christ. They were able to perceive its obvious application in theology and counseling. Professor Gary Huckabay hosted the meeting, opening his Old Testament theology class to other students.

Fall seminars in Lapeer, Michigan & Parkersburg, West Virginia a Success

ICR’s Dr. Duane Gish and zoologist Frank Sherwin were privileged to give two November “Case for Creation” seminars in Michigan and West Virginia.

Both audience numbers and interest were high in Lapeer, Michigan, where over 500 people came from at least a dozen local and distant churches to hear how the “War of the Worldviews,” creation science, and evolutionism, affects society. Pastor Arnold Bracy of Calvary Bible Church and his brother Don were instrumental in providing all the needed


equipment and materials that make for a very successful seminar. Dr. Gish spoke on how fossils reveal destruction and death, not emergent evolution. He also showed how the very laws of science validate the creation model.

Pastor John Lands of Fellowship Baptist Church sponsored the seminar in beautiful Parkersburg, WV. Sherwin spoke on compelling scientific evidence for creation, showing how God’s creation is “clearly seen” (Romans 1:20). The seminar ended with an exhortation to win the “War of the Worldviews” through creation evangelism. The following Sunday service, Sherwin spoke on “Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe and Christ.”

“Case for Creation” seminars are very instrumental in answering many of the questions people have regarding the vital issue of origins. Matt, a biology student from a local college in West Virginia, said he now knew how to clearly answer alleged evidences for macroevolution in his classes.

ICR Scientist Speaks in the Middle East

Dr. Duane Gish spoke to a group of teenagers of the Evangelical Church of Muscat in the sheikdom of Oman, Friday evening, November 17. He then flew to Abu Dhabi, one of the United Arab Emirates, where he presented a creation science seminar on the evenings of Saturday through Tuesday, November 18–21, at the Evangelical Community Church. These states are the oil-rich Arab states located at the foot of the Persian Gulf. Steve Hillis, who teaches English to the soldiers and officers of the Abu Dhabi military, arranged the meetings.

The citizens of these Arab states are Muslims and all those attending the Christian churches there are expatriates, that is, foreigners from the United States, Canada, India, Philippines, Australia, England, and other countries. Only expatriates are allowed to attend Christian churches and constitute about 75% of the residents of these states. 

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM AVAILABLE ONLINE

With a new year we often think of goals and aspirations. Consider signing up for the new graduate level distance-learning course, *Advanced Creationism*. This online course is offered to graduate level science students (as well as non-science students who have a bachelor's degree) to continue their growth in creation thinking. The *Advanced Creationism* course (not to be confused with the *Creation OnLine* course) is a more intense and comprehensive course offered at the graduate level.

Those who have attended our creation seminars and workshops, will find that this Internet course will provide them with more tools to help expand their knowledge of creation and evolution at a higher level. The twelve-module course is designed to equip students with information about the Biblical and scientific evidence for creation and help them understand the arguments used on both sides of the creation/evolution debate. Students will study the origin of the universe, earth, life, and man. There are also modules on Noah's Flood, dinosaurs, and the fossil record, as well as evidences for interpretation in the Grand Canyon and Mount St. Helens modules.

This advanced online course can deepen one's knowledge of creation thinking as it supports Scripture, answers questions, diffuses doubts, and removes roadblocks in sharing the gospel. It is also intended to glorify God by acknowledging Him as Creator and in witnessing to others about His creation.

The program combines Internet study with a video lecture series and textbooks. The cost of \$450 includes a set of 12 one-hour video tapes, the Trilogy book set, hundreds of online pages of reference material, and a student guide. For those taking the course for graduate credit, there is a monitored final exam that in-

cludes multiple-choice questions and several essays. Please contact the Registrar of Graduate Studies, Jack Kriege at jkriege@icr.org for registration materials and further information. 📞



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

<u>Weekend of:</u>	<u>Title/Topic:</u>
Jan. 6	“Creation Scientists Around the World” Many evolutionists are fond of saying that all “real” scientists believe in evolution as they attempt to make evolution look both scientific and true. But are there scientists who believe in creation? Tune in & find out!
Jan. 13	“Sun, Moon & Stars” So many things about our solar system cannot be explained by evolutionary theory. Earth is amazingly designed to maintain life—and although we’ve searched for years—no other planet can match it. Did this happen by chance? Listen & learn!
Jan. 20	“Abortion & Evil” The subject of abortion is a sensitive one, and many of us tend to shy away from it. But what is our responsibility as Christians? And what’s the link between abortion, creation, and evolution?
Jan. 27	“Soft Dinosaur Parts” Over the years paleontologists have discovered thousands of fossilized dinosaur bones, and on rare occasions, even dinosaur organs. Is it possible these soft tissues could have been preserved over millions of years? 📞

STEWARDSHIP & TRUST SERVICES

MANY “LITTLES” MAKE A LOT

As we enter a new year, we at ICR are reminded of the debt of love we owe those of you who make this ministry possible. Whether it be in the time spent before the Throne of Grace or partnering with us financially (or both), we are truly thankful for each one of you.

The lives changed during these past thirty years and those who *will come* to know God as their Father, are rich treasures deposited into the heavenly account of each one of you. We thank our gracious Lord for prompting you to be a partner with us; we thank you for responding to His prompting.

If you are not yet part of our team, it may be that you are reluctant to send us “too small” a gift. I have tended to rationalize in the past that . . . “unless I can commit to significant monthly giving, I won’t give at all.” Let me share how the Lord has challenged me in that regard—it has come from two fronts:

First, *Pride*. Well concealed pride hasn’t allowed me to write a check for less than the level I have wanted to give as a donor. I have covered my pride by rationalizing, “What good would such a small amount do, anyway?”

Second, *Compounding*. I was astounded when I examined ICR’s situation. Allow me to share a couple of examples.

Those of you who have requested our material and are not yet part of our financial team, please know that if only 10% of you were to give \$10 per month, the Lord would use you to provide almost *one and one-half million dollars* (\$1,416,000 to be exact) by the end of 2001. If every one who receives *Acts & Facts* and is not currently giving were able to give just \$5.00 per month (we do understand that some are not), our resources available to do the Lord’s work would more than double! Many “littles” make a lot!!

As you make your plans for 2001, will you prayerfully consider whether our Lord would have you join us? **Your help will make a difference!**

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