

RATE SCIENTISTS MEET AS CLIMACTIC YEAR BEGINS



The RATE Group met in San Diego on July 8–10 for its annual meeting to review research results and formulate plans for the next year. RATE is an acronym for Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth, a research project which is exploring an alternative young-earth approach to radioisotope dating. Drafts of ten chapters of the final technical RATE book have been received and the review process started. RATE plans to complete a second draft of the technical book by October and then send it out for external technical review over the winter. The final technical book is anticipated to be released next year.

During the three-day conference an interview with each author was video taped. Their explanation of the scientific approaches and conclusions will be in-

cluded in a non-technical video documentary of the project. Video footage of several of the scientists was shot earlier in May during the ICR Grand Canyon raft trip. Computer graphic sequences will help visualize the difficult concepts discovered during the eight-year initiative.

The film will actually be a “docudrama,” with a 10-minute dramatic sequence included. The film will start with a Christian father sending his son off to college, but the young man begins to question his faith under the onslaught of evolutionary/old-earth teaching. Thankfully he hears of the RATE discoveries, and his faith remains strong. Editing of the documentary will begin this fall. The Lamb’s Players—a local Christian Theater Company—will be offering their acting services.

In addition to the technical RATE book, a video documentary and a lay version of the RATE book (written by Dr. Don DeYoung) are planned for release on November 5, 2005.

RATE is nearing the conclusion of its research and reporting phase. It has about a year to go. During this time research is continuing which will wrap up



Dr. Andrew Snelling makes a presentation.

some of the loose ends. But, most of the remaining effort will be spent on writing and editing the two books and the video. We estimate a need for an additional \$150,000 to complete the final year of research, editing, and video production. It has been an exciting project, watching the Lord provide the funding, the intuition, and the results!

All RATE scientists will present their findings at a one-day conference in San Diego which will be open to all who wish to see and hear the first complete public release of the results. As readers of *Acts & Facts* and friends of ICR, it's not too soon to make plans to join us for this historic conference on November 5, 2005, at Shadow Mountain Community Church, Dr. David Jeremiah, Pastor. ☞

President's Column

by John D. Morris

“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20).

The Bible teaches that by studying the creation, we can discern something of the character of the supernatural Creator. We can see the exquisite design of living systems, the irreducible complexity of the “simplest” single-celled organism, and even the stunning precision of the cell’s components—nothing within the reach of natural selection. To assign His exquisite work to undirected natural causes is “without excuse.” The rest of the chapter contains a list of “reprobate” evils which befalls an individual or society which makes such a logical disconnect with reality.

First on the list is homosexual behavior (vv.24–28), followed by “all unrighteousness,” including a preoccupation with sexual matters, wickedness and greed, a desire to injure, even murder others, and a host of traits which sound much like the daily newspaper (vv.29–32). From immorality in high places, to cor-

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porate embezzlement, to abortion clinics, to suicide bombers, we can attest to the outplay of wrong thinking.

Make no mistake; our world is dominated by wrong thinking, and according to Paul, denial of creation leads the way. Western education has for decades based itself on naturalism, and even though such an origins view runs counter to intuition, people have heard it so often they are starting to believe it. Certainly most intellectuals and politicians have adopted it and thus base their teaching and policies on a wrong foundation. Predictably, society suffers.

In November, Americans go to the polls to elect leaders; at least some Americans go. Sometimes we are forced to choose between the lesser of two evils, but thankfully some candidates with a Biblical worldview do run for office. Is there a legitimate reason for a Christian interested in impacting the world to neglect this opportunity?

Let me use this column to encourage all who read it to vote in the upcoming election. As you read this there is still even time to acquire an absentee ballot, so there is no valid impediment. Above all, as you vote, *vote Kingdom votes*. Evaluate candidates and propositions for their agreement with Scripture and their opposition to the list of consequences to wrong thinking. It may be, in a given political race, that none of the candidates entuse Christians, but certainly one is better than the other. It has been calculated that, if all Christians voted, and voted Kingdom votes, that virtually every office would soon be characterized by those who employ right thinking.

ICR cannot, and does not endorse political parties or individual candidates, but it does advocate Biblical thinking in all walks of life. Since, as we see in Romans 1:16–32, wrong thinking starts with a rejection of the Creator and His creation, our call to go “Back to Genesis” should ring true. 🌐

YEOMAN CREATIONIST NOW WITH THE LORD

Dr. Walter Lang, founder of the Bible-Science Association, entered into the presence of his Creator/Savior on July 10, 2004, at the age of 90. ICR joins his family and many friends in celebrating his life and ministry.

As a Lutheran pastor (Missouri Synod), Dr. Lang recognized creation truth as a vital doctrine for the church and mindset for the Christian. Once he read *The Genesis Flood* in 1961, the seed thought for an organization to promote creation truth in the churches began to take shape, and the Bible-Science Association was initiated in 1963.

A tireless warrior for the truth, he traveled the world promoting creation and Biblical inerrancy everywhere he could.

He carried and sold many creationist books with him wherever he went. He also organized a number of creation tours (such as Mount Ararat and the Holy Land), as well as several creation conventions. The current robust nature of the creation movement is a testimony to his decades of faithfulness. 🌐



DR. VARDIMAN AND DR. HUMPHREYS SPEAK AT ID CONFERENCE

The Community Bible Church of Highlands, North Carolina, Steve Kerhoulas, pastor, sponsored an Intelligent Design Conference on June 24–26, 2004. The conference was entitled, “Dispelling the Myth of Darwinism.” ICR faculty members Dr. Larry Vardiman and Dr. D. Russell Humphreys participated along with several members of the Intelligent Design Community. Dr. Michael Behe, Dr. Kenneth Boa, Mark Eckel, Finn Laursen, Dr. Hugh Ross, Dr. Charles Thaxton, and Dr. Thomas Woodward were on the program.



This was the first time ICR speakers have appeared on the same platform with Intelligent Design speakers. After a bit of trepidation by some organizers and a few participants, the conference turned out well. The intelligent design argument is an apologetic effectively used by young-earth creationists, progressive creationists, and theistic evolutionists alike. Dr. Vardiman and Dr. Humphreys spoke from a young-earth position and used Biblical as well as scientific arguments. Their evidence was warmly received by both the audience and most of the other speakers. During the question-and-answer sessions, Dr. Ross and the two ICR speakers exchanged comments about scientific data, but both sides stayed within the conference ground rules of debating issues, not attacking personalities.

Dr. Vardiman and Dr. Humphreys discovered that the presentation of objective evidence from the RATE project permitted a non-confrontational approach in this setting. They were able to avoid the rhetoric which often occurs in such a mixed setting. They presented evidence primarily from the helium diffusion work of Dr. Humphreys, the radihalo work of Dr. Andrew Snelling, and the Carbon-14 work of Dr. John Baumgardner.

Approximately 500 people attended the conference in the beautiful mountain community of Highlands in southwestern North Carolina. Over 20 people traveled from other countries. Chuck Colson gave an encouraging address on Thursday night of the conference. The Annie Moses Band performed several times during the conference and was appreciated greatly. ☞



From a reader in Virginia

I appreciate your dedication to our Lord and sharing with us the wonders of His creation. Thanks for giving intelligent, and up-to-date information about what is happening in the scientific community. Thank you for your faithfulness.

From a reader in Canada

You have been sending me the *Back to Genesis*, *Impact*, etc. information for years, and I absolutely thoroughly enjoy them. Your articles are so timely and informative. I thank God every time I get to read them and other literature ICR has produced over the years. . . . I can only hope and pray that ICR will continue to grow to the extent that all those whose eyes have not been opened to the truth will have their eyes and hearts opened by the Holy Spirit to realize what a wonderful God we have and that His creation is absolutely marvelous. Keep up the good work and may God bless all of the people at ICR. ☞



RUNNING COUNTER TO EVOLUTION

One of the many beautifully designed bio-mechanical systems in the living world is the countercurrent exchanger. This mechanism is a “wonderful net” that involves the movement of fluid in opposite directions through vessels positioned side-by-side. In an article, evolutionist P. F. Scholander spoke of this exchanger as “. . . a truly remarkable piece of biological engineering.”¹ There are numerous examples of countercurrent exchange in aquatic creatures.

The flukes and fins of marine mammals, such as dolphins and whales, have been designed with countercurrent heat exchangers so these thin structures do not freeze in icy waters. Whales have thick insulating layers of blubber that effectively offers protection, but the massive mouth could be a potential source of significant heat loss because it cannot be lined with blubber. Since its mouth is constantly awash with frigid water as the whale feeds, the Creator placed countercurrent exchangers in the massive tongue of some baleen whales such as the grey whale.

These exchangers in the tongue contain a network of small veins surrounding larger and warmer arterial vessels coming from the body core. The veins contain cooler, venous blood going toward the heart by way of the jugular vein. Dozens of these heat exchangers allow the shift of heat from warm blood coming from the body’s interior to the adjacent venous blood returning from the extremities. As a result of this exchange, only a small amount of the animal’s heat is lost to the cold waters (see *Science* 278:1138–1139).

Conversely, right whales must rid themselves of dangerous excess heat as they undergo physical activities in warmer waters. Once again, countercurrent exchangers are used. They are in the upper jaw in the form of a device (the basalcranial rete) that radiates body heat into the water before such heat could damage delicate brain tissue.

Fish gills also have countercurrent exchangers designed to ensure the most efficient extraction of oxygen from the surrounding water. Water flows across capillary beds in the gills that are just a cell thick. The capillaries contain main afferent (“toward the center”) and efferent (“leading away”) blood vessels. This flow of blood in the fish runs counter to the water surging through the gills, resulting in a much greater saturation of the fish’s blood with oxygen—extracting about 80 per cent of the oxygen from the water! The efferent artery then carries oxygenated blood throughout the animal.

Scholander concludes his article by saying, “We cannot fail to be impressed by the marvels of bio-engineering that nature has achieved in its development of ‘the wonderful net’.”² The creationist gives no credit to “nature”—but to “the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein” (Acts 14:15).



1. Scholander, P. F., *Vertebrate Structure & Function*, 1974, W. H. Freeman and Co., p. 125.

2. Scholander, p. 131.



Radio Log

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

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

Sept. 4 Why We Must Work
Work. Whether it’s cutting the grass or leading a multi-million dollar corporation, work is something that cannot be avoided. We must work in order to survive. But did man always have to work, or is this a result of Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden?

Sept. 11 Compassion
Compassion can be defined as sympathy for those who are hurting, care, concern, and kindness. But is compassion an attribute given only to mankind by the Creator God? And if so, why do we see such hatred and terrorism worldwide?

Sept. 18 Global Greenhouse
Climatologists have been studying the atmosphere and warning of a possible greenhouse effect for years. While the planet is warmer than it was 200 years ago, is there really cause for alarm? And, why has global warming turned into such a major political issue?

Sept. 25 A Visit to the Zoo
The zoo is an exciting and fun-filled place for people of all ages. And even though we see evolution promoted there in everything from exhibit signs to animal shows, we can still enjoy seeing and learning about God’s wonderful creation of animals! ☞

THE WONDERS OF CREATION: THE OCEAN BOOK

ICR’s Frank Sherwin has recently finished a creation-based book on the world’s oceans. The *Ocean* book was released by Master Books in June of 2004 and will join the other books in the Wonders of Creation series—*Geology, Weather, and Astronomy*.

As with the origin of anything, evolutionists see the origin of the earth’s oceans as a mystery. “No one knows for sure” states the Environmental Literacy Council website. Some theories postulate the abundant water came from tiny ice comets that bombarded the early earth. Meanwhile, Scripture is clear regarding the origin of our oceans.

The *Ocean* book discusses everything from currents and tides to coral reefs, weather patterns, marine life, and the Genesis Flood. It is a foundational book for the young and the not-so-young, as they build their creation worldview. ☞



El Cajon, California

A number of the ICR staff regularly attends nearby Faith Community Bible Church. Adjunct faculty and graduate students often attend during the summer. Recently a series of creation lectures were scheduled on successive Sunday nights, comprising a beneficial creation seminar.

It began on July 11 with Gary Parker lecturing on “Dinosaurs and the Bible.” Soon Frank Sherwin spoke on “Scientific Evidence for Creation,” Bill Hoesch on “A Tale of Two Fossils,” John Morris on “Creation and the Second Coming” and Dan Criswell on “Why Search for Life on Mars or Titan—Why Not look in the Bible?”

Not only were the regular attendees edified, a notice in the paper brought new visitors, many of whom heard the evidence for creation for the first time. ☞

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DISTURBING DAYS

“Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (II Timothy 3:13).

Often one hears the comment, “Our country is going downhill fast!” That is true from our perspective (in light of the few decades that most of us have been alive), but history offers both verification of our observations and hope for God’s intervention in the affairs of men.

LEADERS CHALLENGE, RESTORE, OR DESTROY.

Political leadership has always impacted the morality of a country. *“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Proverbs 29:2).* Bible history tells us that there was a great revival under Hezekiah, followed by an awful 55-year rule under Manasseh, a bloody murder of his son, Amon, soon after, then a great revival under Josiah that impacted the next 30 years. Habakkuk agonized about “things” as Josiah’s rule was ending, asking God; *“O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention” (Habakkuk 1:2–3).*

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP REQUIRES A LONG VIEW.

“. . . let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith . . .” (Hebrews 12:1–2).

We are told that our warfare is not “fleshly” (II Corinthians 10:3–4) and that we are not to “look” at the temporal things (II Corinthians 4:18). We must, of course, be alert and “sober” (I Thessalonians 5:6)—make sure you vote intelligently in November! However, our role is to “seek ye first the kingdom” (Matthew 6:33) and pray for the day when God’s will is “done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

ICR IS COMMITTED TO UNDEVIATING BIBLICAL INERRANCY.

ICR seeks to uncover and present contemporary scientific evidence of the Bible’s credibility. Please share your resources with us and enable us to stand.



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