

NEW FROM DR. JOHN MORRIS!

Thousands or Billions?

Does it matter?

Did the earth come to exist in six days or six billion years? Did God create this planet *ex nihilo* or did He set in motion evolutionary processes that have lasted eons of time?

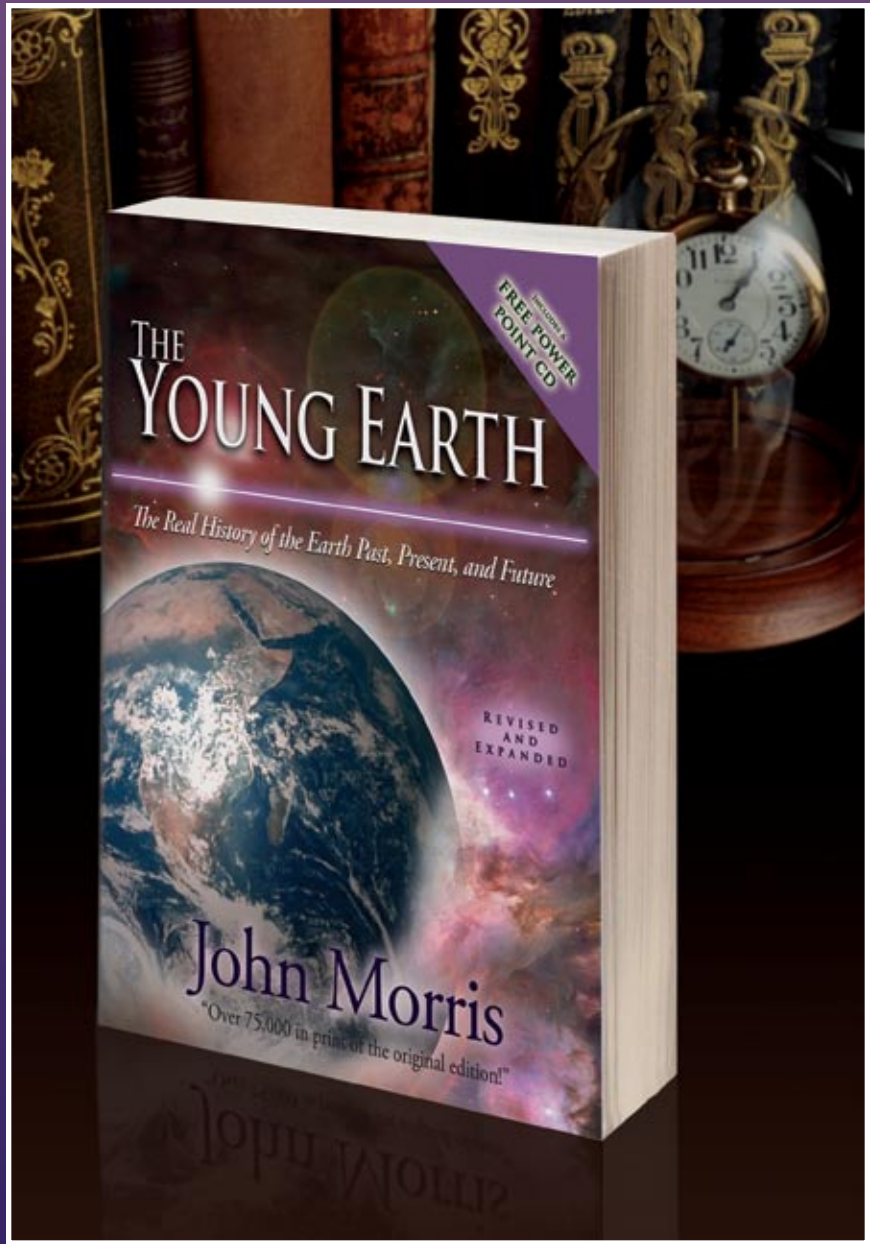
According to Dr. John Morris, the answers to these questions are vital to understanding not only earth science, but also the biblical record of Genesis.


In this newly revised and expanded book, Dr. John Morris sets the record straight on the age of the earth. Complete with multimedia presentations, *The Young Earth* details the evidence that counters naturalistic interpretations in science, once again demonstrating the veracity of the biblical account of creation.

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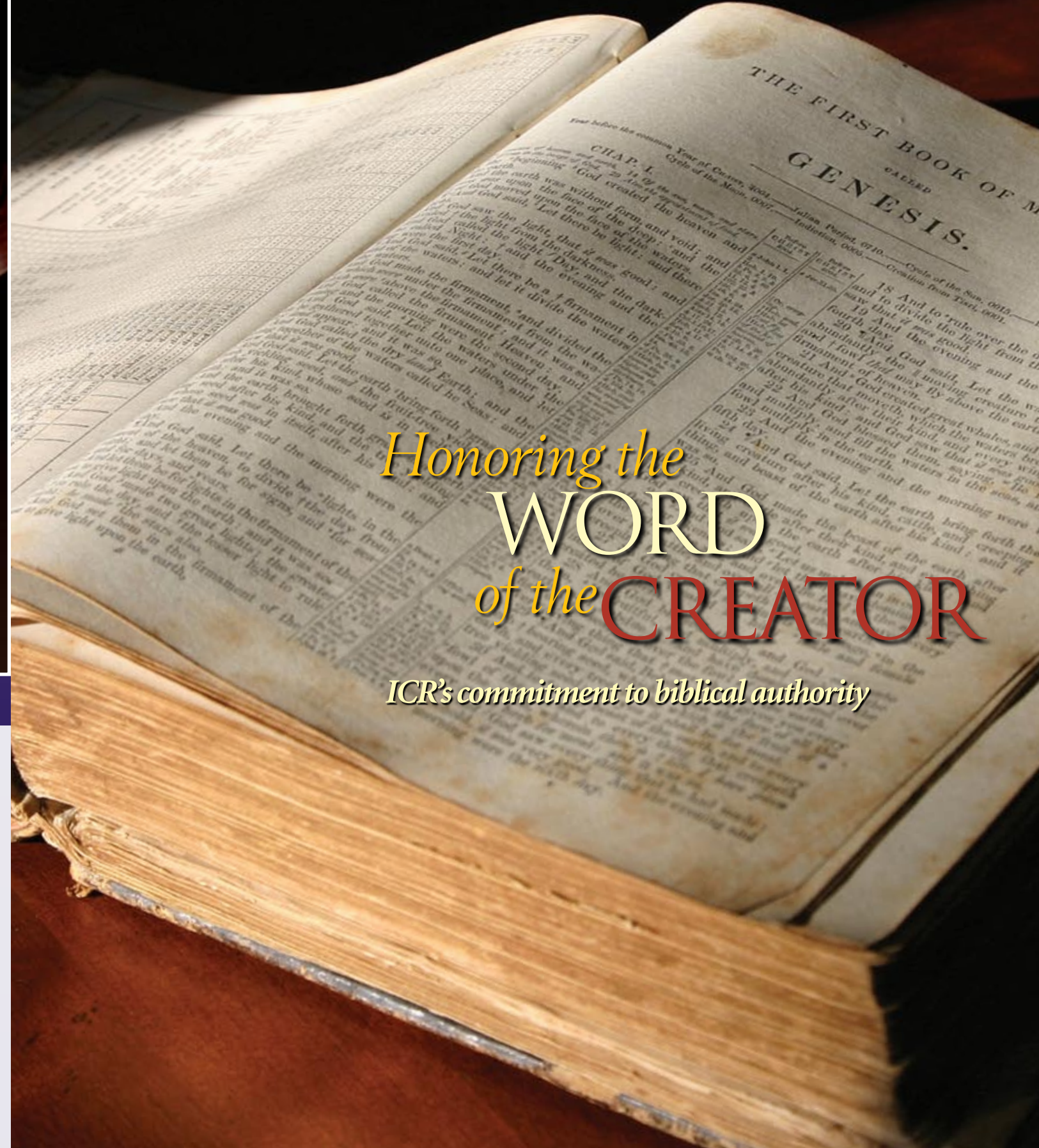

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Honoring the
WORD
of the **CREATOR**

ICR's commitment to biblical authority

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



A Season for Every Purpose

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that all things must change. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). This is true for *Acts & Facts*, the publication by which we have proclaimed creation truth for over 35 years—relating the "acts" of the science staff along with the "facts" as they were uncovered. It has been the way we reported to the larger ICR family the blessings and victories God provided, and the tool by which we communicated ICR's various needs and priorities.

Acts & Facts has been exceedingly well-received over the years. People often tell me they have saved each issue, some from the very start, keeping them neatly cataloged and passing them along to others when needed. It has served as ICR's only fundraising tool, and even though we refrain from high pressure appeals, friends of the ministry have graciously responded to meet our every financial need, keeping us out of debt and facilitating great growth.

As you read in last month's *Acts & Facts*, ICR's offices and personnel will gradually be shifting to the

new ICR center in Dallas, providing an opportune time for *Acts & Facts* to receive a needed facelift. Previously, minor changes involved length, color, and type style, but it retained a decidedly '70s look. The August issue launched the new *Acts & Facts* magazine, with a much more appealing look to those not yet familiar with ICR. And while we labor to spread the truth of the Creator to many more who need this message, *Acts & Facts* will have the same great content, with columns and authors you will recognize. It will, of course, still come to you free of charge.

In some ways it seems like saying goodbye to a faithful friend, but I am confident these changes signal a new chapter of fruitful ministry for ICR. God's hand of blessing has been apparent on *Acts & Facts*, but we can expect Him to sanction this new venture only as long as we stay faithful to Him and His Word. And that we'll never change.

John D. Morris
John D. Morris, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT



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Hearts of Gratitude

EILEEN TURNER

Director of Administrative Services

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. JAMES 1:17

The Lord has given His children so many “good and perfect” gifts. Stewards have never been more needed than in this day, this hour, this moment! Not reluctant, apathetic stewards, but stewards with eager, grateful hearts who long to serve Him, preserve His Word, and share His love. Consider how much God gave:

- His Son, our Living Water (John 4:14; John 7:38)
- His Word (John 17:8, 17)

- His Instruction (Exodus 31:18; John 12:47-50)
- His Covenants (Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 10:12-18)
- His Precious Gifts: time, talents, resources (Isaiah 44:3; Philippians 4:19)
- Power over Satan (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 4:4)
- Peace and Rest (Psalm 4:8; Matthew 11:28, 29)
- His Commandments: the Law (Psalm 19:7-11)
- His Preserving Care (Genesis 28:15; Philippians 1:6)
- Our Inheritance (Ephesians 1:11; 1 Peter 1:3-5)
- A New Heart (Psalm 51:10; Ephesians 4:24)
- All Things (Acts 17:25; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

God commanded us to be *faithful* stewards (Luke 12:35-38, 42 and Titus 1:7), not *embezzling* stewards (Luke 16:1-12), and not *unjust* stewards (Luke 16:1-9). We are to be stewards of *all* He has given us—by our faith, by our obedience to His Word, by the way we use His gifts, by the exercise of His power through prayer, and by appropriating His peace, His care, and His promises.

Every gift from Him requires our faithful attention. Thank you for sharing your gifts with ICR on the Lord’s behalf. Pray that we will tend them well and so honor Him! ●

Leaving a legacy is often said to be the labor of presidents and rulers. How they govern their subjects and citizens will determine just how favorably their legacy will be judged. Some leaders work hard to ensure their contributions rise to prominence in the annals of history. This is called “legacy building.”

Parents also leave a legacy to their children and grandchildren. Whether it is a good one or not depends on the manner in which they raised their children, but more importantly it rests on the principles and convictions they established within their home.

This can be true of organizations, too, particularly those—like the Institute for Creation Research—that were founded by a visionary leader. And for ICR founder Dr. Henry Morris, his one certain foundation was the Word of God.

A gifted scientist and researcher, Dr. Morris was admittedly much more in love with the Scriptures than with the disciplines of science. And so it is no surprise that any compromise of the Bible, by scientists or others, affected him deeply.

Determining Authority

Is the Bible trustworthy or not? More importantly, is the Author of the Bible—God—trustworthy or not? If so, then God is supremely and exclusively authoritative on all matters about which He writes.

In other words, since God is the Author of all

truth and no untruth, then the very text of Scripture is purposefully and supernaturally inspired and trustworthy, even on matters of science.

Man, when faced with truth, must decide whether he will submit to the Author of truth or reject both truth and God. There is no middle ground or compromise.

More particularly, the Christian must decide what constitutes his authority when reading and communicating the truths of Scripture. The Bible or science? The Author of the Bible or the experts in science? Again, there is no neutral position.

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, founder and long-time president of Dallas Theological Seminary, wrote in the opening pages of his eight-volume *Chafer Systematic Theology*:

Certain well-defined articles of faith concerning the Scriptures have been and are held by the orthodox Protestants:

- The Bible is the infallible Word of God.
- The Bible is the only rule of faith and practice.
- Human reason and knowledge should be wholly subject to the Scriptures.¹

Chafer continues with his list and defense of the integrity and authority of the Scriptures, in which he stated that while the Spirit of God may lead believers in matters of conduct, He does not do so “in the formulating of doctrine which might be superimposed upon the Word of God.”²

Enough said. Don’t tamper with God’s Word!

LAWRENCE E. FORD
Executive Editor

Honoring the WORD of the CREATOR

Creation Advocate at Home with the Creator

Norma Gabler, co-founder with her husband Mel of the conservative Christian organization Educational Research Analysts (ERA), went home this past July, joining her husband and youngest son in the arms of our Lord. The Gablers were long-time friends of the Morris family, as well as passionately devoted to combating error in the realm of public school textbooks. They founded the non-profit ERA in the early 1960s to examine textbooks that were eligible for adoption by the Texas State Board of Education, using meticulous reviews of their academic content to confront publishers with factual errors or misleading content. The ERA website, www.textbookreviews.org, lists the organization’s particular areas of concern as:

- Scientific weaknesses in evolutionary theories
- Phonics-based reading instruction
- Principles and benefits of free enterprise



- Original intent of the U.S. Constitution
- Respect for Judeo-Christian morals
- Emphasis on abstinence in sex education
- Politically-correct degradation of academics

As listed above, one critical ERA task has been to combat the referencing of evolution in biology textbooks as scientific *fact* rather than as theory. As the website’s FAQ section states, “Textbooks’ treatment of evolutionary theories is about the art of persuasion, not the science of biology.” The analysts at ERA work to unmask the “rhetorical stealth phrases” that are used to disguise evolution’s scientific weaknesses and mislead students. This work has national relevance because the selection of Texas schoolbooks is accomplished at the state-wide level. Therefore, so many books are purchased that publishers write them to Texas standards and sell them across the country.

Under the direction of Neal and Judy Frey, the analysts at ERA continue the work so diligently carried out by the Gablers. May God’s comfort be with Norma’s family during this time.



Subscribers comment on the new Acts & Facts

I love the new format! I didn't like all the little loose pages to keep up with and really like the new magazine format. Keep up the good work.

— Missouri

Looks more like a magazine.

— Mississippi

ICR is to be commended on the exceptionally high quality of the re-designed *Acts & Facts* publication, which I look forward to receiving each month. As the Lord provides, we will continue to support the work and mission of the Institute for Creation Research.

— Ohio

Love the new layout.

— Kansas

I really like it; sending it to 20 friends.

— New York

Wow! I like the new magazine-size *Acts & Facts*! What a beautiful photo on the cover.

— Texas

The new format of *Acts & Facts* is more eye-catching and exciting.

— Ohio

Just looked at the August 2007 issue of *Acts & Facts*—after mistaking it for a completely different publication at first. Wow!

— Texas

The magazine format is wonderful except for one thing: I have years of Impact articles and Back to Genesis items which I have been able to separate each month. In this new format, I can no longer pull them out and keep them filed. Oh, well, all things change (except the Word of God).

— Florida

Editor's note: This is a wonderful comment from our friend in Florida. As Dr. John Morris has stated in his President's Column this month, this is a time of change for ICR and, in particular, for *Acts & Facts*. We are all adjusting to these changes, but we remain prayerfully confident of the direction God is taking us. It is God's ministry, not ours, and as our reader has so marvelously reminded us, the works of men may be altered from time to time, but the Word of our Creator will never change. *LF*

Have a comment? Email us at editor@icr.org.

Radio
Log



This month on
"Science, Scripture,
& Salvation"

WEEKEND OF SEPT. 1

Will You Bee Mine?

Of all God's little creatures, one of the least appreciated is the bee. In the garden, children will duck and run when a bee buzzes by. But bees are amazing insects that help provide for our survival.

WEEKEND OF SEPT. 8

The Dead Sea Scrolls

In the Judean desert, a treasure trove of ancient documents was hidden in caves for nearly two thousand years. Of great importance to both Christians and Jews, what can we learn from the Dead Sea Scrolls?

WEEKEND OF SEPT. 15

Deadly Ocean Creatures

The phrase "deadly ocean creatures" may bring to mind the shark. However, there are many other denizens of the deep just as dangerous, though they lack the teeth and bite of the shark. What are they?

WEEKEND OF SEPT. 22

Origins Controversy

Were we created or are we here by chance? This question has fueled the fire of the origins debate, but if opposing scientists see the same evidence, why the controversy?

WEEKEND OF SEPT. 29

Rocks Rock!

We walk on them, admire their beauty, use them in buildings, and tell our children not to throw them! Though rocks may not be exciting to everyone, they are a fascinating part of God's creation.

To find out where you can hear ICR broadcasts, please email radio@icr.org with your name and address. We will gladly send you a radio station listing for your state. If our programs are not aired in your area, we would be happy to send you a free demo packet to take to your local station.

An Unwavering Commitment

Several years before his passing, Dr. Morris published a devotional article based on Acts 4:24:

"And...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is."

Commenting on the issue of Christian unity and the fact of creation, he stated emphatically:

...Christians do not speak with one accord today, even on this most basic of all truths, the fact of creation. Instead, many choose to dissemble and equivocate and compromise, inventing such self-contradictory concepts as theistic evolution, progressive creation, process creation, and such like, wistfully seeking approval from those who deny that the God of the Bible created all things and thereby doing great harm to the faith of many. Like the men-pleasers of old who "loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43), they seek academic approval rather than biblical authority and scientific factuality. Being of one accord with the intellectual establishment carries more weight than unity with Christian brethren who believe the Bible means what it says.³

Years later, Dr. Morris reminded believers that God will require an answer for one's words and works on earth:

We suggest that those Christians who ques-

tion the truth of any portion of the Bible or who try to "wrest" the Scriptures (2 Peter 3:16) to make them accommodate some current scientific claim or some "private interpretation" (2 Peter 1:20) ask themselves if they are prepared to explain to the Lord their reasons for doing so. Remember that "every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). Would it not be better in that day to have believed and taught what Christ believed and taught? With respect to the great historical records of early history, we need to remember His rebuke of the religious leaders of the time when He was on Earth. "If ye believe not [Moses'] writings," He said, "How shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:47).⁴

No Middle Ground

When it comes to biblical authority, there is no middle ground. Either the Christian places his unwavering trust in the Scriptures or else he elevates himself above the Author of the Bible. Muddling the interpretation of the Creator's words with a man-made template called "modern science" denigrates God's ability to compose and communicate His message in a clear and consistent manner that demonstrates absolute integrity from Genesis through Revelation.

Question the creation account because of man's discoveries and one might as well question the virgin birth or resurrection or even the deity

of Jesus Christ.

As ICR "rounds the corner" with renewed vigor in research, education, and the dissemination of truth, the foundation upon which this ministry was established more than 35 years ago remains solid.

New "movements" may continue to rise up, garnering temporary popularity and "success," only to fade away as quickly as they appeared—often due to their weak scriptural foundation.

Some attempt to add to the Scriptures based on natural revelation. But God's creation cannot contradict God's Word. Others refuse to name the One who designed it all in order to gain acceptance among men. Jesus had a few direct words in Luke 9:26 about those who are "ashamed" of Him.

While the generation of Dr. Henry Morris is passing, the legacy he has left to his family and his ministry continues in the tradition of unashamed commitment to the Word of the Creator. ●

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- 1 Chafer, L. 1980. *Chafer Systematic Theology, Volume One*. Dallas, TX: Dallas Seminary Press, 15.
- 2 Ibid, 15.
- 3 Morris, H. 1995. *Creation and United Prayer. Days of Praise*.
- 4 Morris, H. 1999. *The Bible and Jesus Christ. Back to Genesis*.

San Diego to Host International Creation Conference in 2008

LARRY VARDIMAN, P.H.D.

Professor of Atmospheric Science and Director of Research at ICR

The sixth gathering of the International Conference on Creationism will be held next summer in San Diego on August 3-6. Nearly 100 abstracts have been accepted for the conference by the peer review committees, which will evaluate each manuscript for clarity and accuracy before final editorial selections are made.

Themes in this research conference will address:

- Foundations of Science
- Life Sciences
- Astro-Sciences

- Earth and Planetary Sciences
- Social Sciences and Humanities

Each evening a keynote presentation will be presented by a leading creationist researcher who will survey the progress made in broad areas of creation science over the past 20 years.

The University of San Diego, which overlooks Mission Bay and San Diego, will host the conference as well as provide accommodations and meals. USD is only a short distance from the San Diego Zoo, Mission Bay Park, Sea World,

Scripps Aquarium, and the beaches near La Jolla. Nearby hotel accommodations are numerous. Details about conference registration and accommodations will be available soon.

If you're looking to discover what cutting-edge research is currently being conducted by leading creation scientists, put this conference on your calendar and plan to bring your family to enjoy a wonderful week in San Diego. While in town, don't forget to stop by the ICR Museum of Creation and Earth History. ●



Debating Design: The Bacterial Flagellum

FRANK SHERWIN, M.A.
Science Editor

Molecular motors—machines made of protein on the submicroscopic scale—are *clear* evidence of creative design (Romans 1:20).

However, scientists who approach the data from an evolutionary perspective are quick to counter such design in the evidence. They insist that blind chance, mutations, and natural selection are all that is necessary to make a constant-torque, liquid-cooled, proton-motive force-powered rotating motor such as the tiny bacterial flagellum.

Did the flagellum have a purely naturalistic origin? Consider these two contradictory evaluations from secular scientists:

Natural selection thus accounts for the development of flagellum-driven bacterial motility.¹

Natural selection can act only on those biologic properties that already exist; it cannot create properties in order to meet adaptational needs.²

Creation scientists do not object to natural selection in principle; however, it operates only on the information that is already present in the genes. Natural selection does *not* produce new information that would be required to make, for example, cyanobacteria.

A recent article sets out to counter the Intelligent Design argument of bacterial flagella's "irreducible complexity" by proposing that fla-

gella developed as modular systems.³ The authors highlight an F-type ATPase—an enzyme clearly evidenced by design—and appeal to structures that are "equivalent" or "homologous" to other closely associated enzymes (e.g., homo-hexameric (FliI)₆ ATPase of the flagellum and subunits of the F-ATPase). This is merely an extension of the evolutionary argument of homology—that similar structures share a common developmental origin. Creation scientists state that these subunits do not have the same evolutionary descent, but rather the same Designer. In other words, God uses the same materials (N-terminal and C-terminal subunits) to make different micro-machines in His creation (such as those found in mitochondria, chloroplasts, and bacteria). Put another way, there are many different bridges throughout the world, but a closer look shows that most of them use the same types of bolts, girders, and cables.

The authors use phrases such as "may have been" and "possibly arose"—hardly the definitive declarations one should use to document the "fact" of evolution.

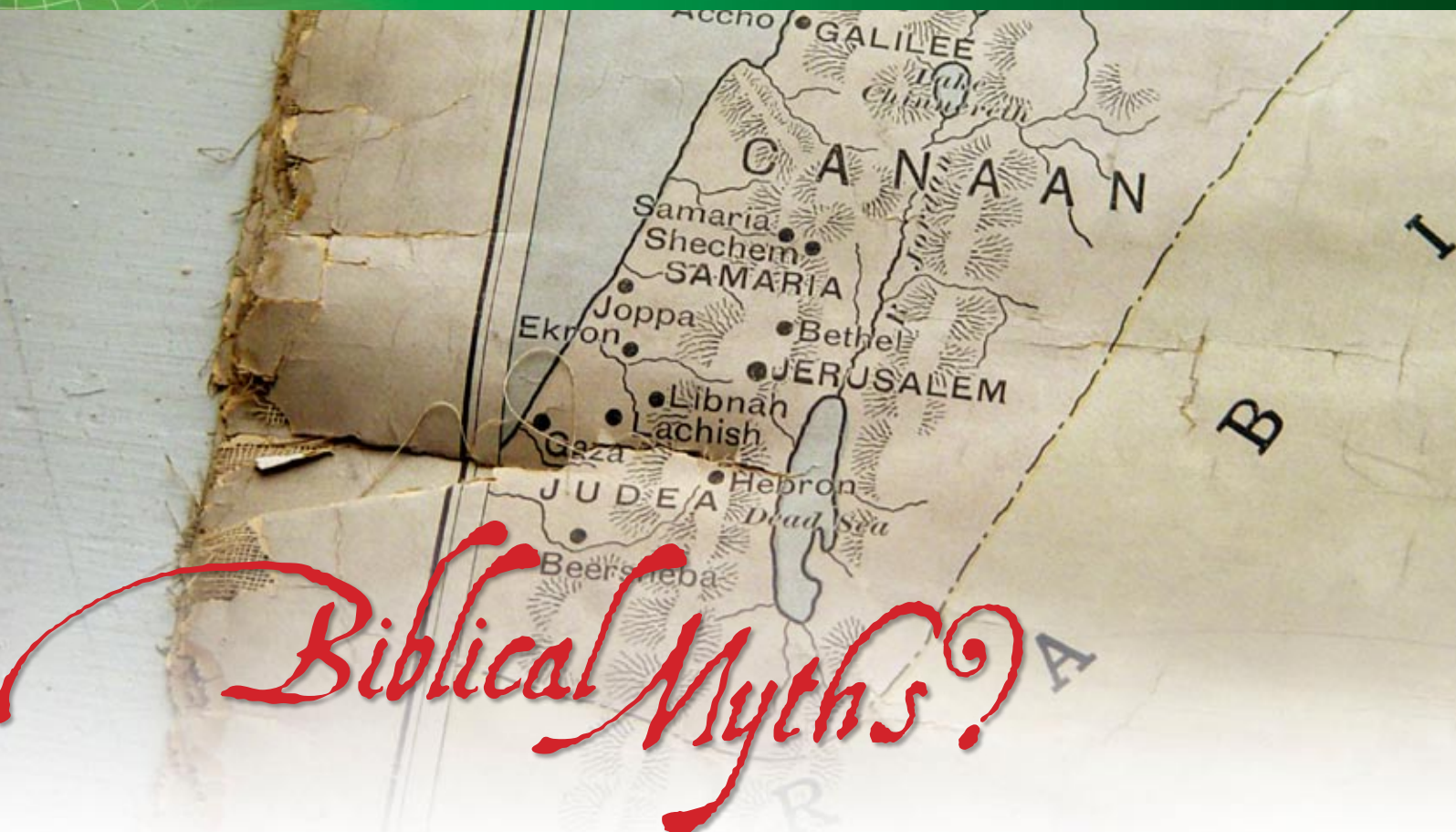
Concluding their arguments, the eight authors reveal their main objection to the design argument:

The English playwright Oscar Wilde said, "Science is the record of dead religions." In terms of the intelligent design case regarding [the bacterial flagellum], the current factual analyses force this example to exit the realm of religion and return fully to the arena of science.⁴

The refusal to allow the evidence to speak for itself is simply unscientific. Creation and science are not incompatible. And, quite unaware, these scientists are actually unlocking the mysteries of creation. ●

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- 3 Wong et al, 335.
- 4 Ibid, 339.



JOHN D. MORRIS, PH.D.
President of the Institute for Creation Research

Throughout the Old Testament, God often reminded His children to remember His mighty acts on their behalf. Sometimes visible memorials were set up to facilitate their recall, such as the pile of stones taken from the middle of the Jordan River when God held back the waters to allow them to enter the Promised Land (Joshua 4:6). This extraordinary event really happened, and God desired them to remember it forever. He based important commands on true events, not myths.

But there were two greater events in history that God most often used as an impetus to praise, faith, and trust. These He expressly wanted us to remember.

Commemoration of the Exodus was primarily intended for Israel, His chosen people. They had fallen into cruel slavery in Egypt, yet had been delivered and molded into a great nation. Often they were told: "Remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm" (Deuteronomy 5:15).

Unfortunately, many scholars today—even

Israelis and evangelicals—deny this event actually took place. The seeming disharmony of biblical history with secular Egyptian chronology as established by archaeology causes most scholars to fully discount Scripture.

At a recent archaeological convention, Jewish lecturers taught that the nation of Israel has no recorded history. Attendees rightly asked, "If the Exodus isn't history, then who are we? What right do we have to exist?" God had told them to remember, but many have forgotten.

Here's the dilemma. If the Exodus and Israeli history are mythological, how can they be remembered? Only true events can be remembered. If God has based His commands on myth—which are not to be taken as literal truth—then evidently they are not to be obeyed either.

Even many evangelical seminary professors, to their shame and the detriment of the church, teach that the Exodus did not actually take place as Scripture records, that it was allegorical at best. Mainline denominations have long denied Israel's identity. Must literalists join them?

The second primary "remembrance" of

Scripture involves creation. Inscribed in stone, the fourth commandment reads "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day" (Exodus 20:8, 11). All of creation was commanded to set aside this day to remember. Yet as a people and church we have forgotten, in direct disobedience to the Creator's command.

As with the Exodus, most Christian leaders today do not believe creation took place as Scripture records, and feel that they must twist or supplement or ignore the plain sense of revealed history. Most leading evangelical seminaries today teach The Framework Hypothesis, which holds that Genesis only vaguely implies God's involvement and contains no true history. Such teachers cannot rightly obey the fourth commandment for they consider the creation account to be merely figurative, and you can't "remember" an indefinite event.

The time has come for Christian leaders to "remember" that they serve a God of truth Who acted in true history, and not a mythological god of fantasy. ●

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- **Oct. 27**
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Scientists Convene Genome Meeting



The genome is the genetic blueprint for life. Given that the theory of evolutionary progression is based on random genetic mutation, the science of genomics (the study of the entire DNA sequence of an organism's genome) opens new fields of possibility in creation science. The Genesis account of origins presents each life form as being created according to its distinct "kind," as opposed to evolution, which would link all life together through some far-distant common ancestor. Can differences in kind be detected at the genetic level? Do humans carry any genomic characteristics that are markedly different from those of animals? What new things about God's creation are waiting to be discovered?

Genetic research is a complicated undertaking. Although the complete human genome was published in 2001, only a portion of this genetic code is understood. A great deal of work remains to be done, and an abundance of raw data waits to be interpreted. ICR joined the field in 2005 with its GENE project, with a goal of analyzing the human genome in order to demonstrate that humans and animals are not distant cousins who sprang from the same microbe living in the primordial soup millions of years ago.

New equipment and software continue to be developed to aid this investigation. For instance, bioinformatics offers the use of techniques such as applied mathematics, statistics, and computer science for the investigation of such aspects of genomic research as DNA sequence alignment, protein interactions, and prediction of gene expression. A team of scientists from around the country met in July to discuss ICR's genome project and the computer software and bioinformatic approaches that will best support their research efforts. The meeting also allowed the scientists to share updates on their current work and discuss directions for future investigation. The research is meticulous and time-consuming, but the new opportunities are exciting. Look for progress reports in *Acts & Facts*. ●

ICR Celebrates National Museum Day

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Speakers, refreshments, face-painting...and creation science! For the third year, the Museum of Creation and Earth History will celebrate Museum Day in conjunction with the nationwide Smithsonian Museum Day, as announced in *Smithsonian* magazine.

What is the primary purpose of the museum? Here's an excellent definition from the Museums Australia Constitution:

A museum helps people understand the world by using objects and ideas to interpret the past and present and explore the future. A museum preserves and researches collections, and makes objects and information accessible in actual and virtual environments. Museums are established in the public interest as permanent, not-for-profit organizations that contribute long-term value to communities.



redemptive plan: the Cross.

A special emphasis at the San Diego museum is placed on science, since ICR uses scientific facts and research to support the Bible's authoritative accounts of early history. Natural history museums may feature the same basic evidence—fossils, the variations of living things, mutations, archaeological data—but the interpretations of that evidence are vastly different for people



method—and demonstrates how the early founders of science based their understandings on a Christian worldview. Trace the clash of creationism and evolutionary theory to the present day, ending with “Creation Science in the New Millennium,” a special exhibit prepared by ICR scientists with displays presenting their current scientific research on origins.

Museum Day, September 29, would be a great day to see this for yourself. From 9 am to 4 pm, you can experience history and science from a biblical perspective—and best of all, creation scientists will personally present their research and demonstrate how their findings confirm Creation! There will also be special sales in our bookstore, refreshments, free giveaways, and face-painting for children of all ages. Please join us if you are in the area! ●

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619.596.6011

whose worldview is founded on the Bible versus those who subscribe to evolutionary theory. Unafraid of scientific evidence, ICR places side-by-side the interpretations from both views so that visitors can see those differences and decide for themselves which explanation best fits the facts.

As part of ICR's mission to equip Christians to understand and intelligently convey the scientific facts that support creationism, the Museum of Creation and Earth History details the beginnings of modern science—which was brought about by the development of the scientific

the phenotype or body of the animal. These mutations can only be detected by DNA sequencing and are not candidates for evolutionary processes at all. Since there is no phenotypic change, natural selection cannot even remotely select for them. And they are not totally neutral, but are rather subtly deleterious because they degrade the genetic code. A better term for these neutral mutations is “near-neutral.” Research is demonstrating that the “near-neutral” mutations are accumulating far too rapidly for organisms to have avoided extinction if they indeed have existed over the millions of years claimed by evolutionary biologists.¹⁰ Harmful mutations destroy the individual organism, preventing the gene from being passed on. The “neutral mutations” will ultimately destroy entire species, because the mutated genes will be passed on and accumulate.

Evolutionary science teaches that all the wonderful organs and enzymes in humans and animals—eyes, hemoglobin, lungs, hearts, and kidneys, all coded with DNA—arose totally by random chance through mutations in DNA. Consider the construction and operation of a machine. If random changes are made to a machine or the blueprint that codes for the construction of the machine, will that help its function? Absolutely not. Random changes occur every day that destroy the manufacture and function of machines. Likewise, random changes to information destroy the function and outcome of that information.

Observational (i.e., scientific) evidence, as seen in medical research every day, leads one to be skeptical of the claims of evolutionary biology. How does science explain that mythical first bacterial cell three billion years ago? Did it transform itself—by random mutations in the DNA—into all the “wondrous profusion” of life forms (one million species), and all their wondrous functional organs, over an imaginary time period? The evidence says no.

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Carl Sagan stated that evolution was caused by “the slow accumulations of favorable mutations.” While this may be the current popular theory, real science disagrees.

Firing a Gunshot

“A mutation that alters a protein enough to affect its function is more often harmful than beneficial. Organisms are the refined products of selection, and a random change is not likely to improve the genome anymore than firing a gunshot blindly through the hood of a car is likely to improve engine performance. On rare occasions, however, a mutant allele [gene] may actually fit its bearer to the environment better and enhance the reproductive success of the individual.”¹¹

While instructing students that harmful mutations were more numerous than “beneficial” mutations, this textbook failed to disclose that even equivocally beneficial mutations (which still have a downside) are extremely rare (about one in 10,000), and that unequivocally beneficial mutations are nonexistent in nature. There may be a few times when the gun was fired through the hood and resulted in no immediate harm to the engine. However, *improving* the engine in this manner would be impossible.

In the twentieth century many genetic researchers tried to “accelerate evolution” by increasing mutation rates.¹² This can be accomplished with ionizing radiation, like x-rays, or chemical mutagens. Researchers gave plants and fruit flies very high doses of radiation or other mutagens in hopes that new life forms, or at least improved organs, would result. Decades of

this type of research resulted in repeated failure. Every mutation observed was deleterious to the organisms' survival. In the fruit fly research¹³ various mutations occurred—like legs coming out of eyes—but not one improved mutation was observed. Why? Because radiation is harmful, as the signs in hospitals warn pregnant patients. The pre-born child is more sensitive to mutagens, and thus has a higher likelihood of being harmed.

Conclusion

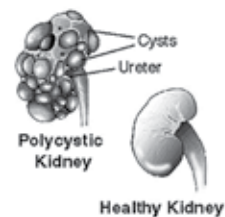
Carl Sagan, in his *Cosmos* program “One Voice in the Cosmic Fugue,” stated that evolution was caused by “the slow accumulations of favorable mutations.” While this may be the current popular theory, real science disagrees. The perpetuation of the Darwin myth clashes with reality—the God-created reality—where living things and their genomes were *created* “very good” and have degenerated from there. Genetic science demonstrates that the absolutely essential ingredient for the origin of life is an infinite Intelligence. Of all the origin stories, only one contains this essential ingredient—Genesis 1. ●

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badly damaged they can't even survive gestation. However, the biology textbooks, when discussing mutation in evolution, only discuss the very rare "positive" mutation, like sickle cell anemia. The fact of some 4,000 devastating genetic diseases is suppressed from publication.

Mutations: the Human Toll

Polycystic kidney disease is a common mutation in humans. It is inherited in autosomal dominant fashion,⁶ meaning that one copy of the relevant gene received from the parents was mutant and the other copy was normal. The sufferers who inherit the mutated gene may die of kidney failure by late middle age if they don't receive dialysis or a kidney transplant. As the disease progresses, the kidneys are gradually replaced by functionless cysts, which can cause continuous pain and enlarge the kidneys to the point where they bleed, get infections, and may even interfere with breathing.



From www.kidney.niddk.nih.gov

Another instance of genetic mutation is cystic fibrosis, which is inherited in autosomal re-

cessive fashion, meaning that both of the relevant inherited genes are mutant. Patients with this condition are burdened with mucous-plugging defects in their lungs and pancreas. Beginning in childhood they remain susceptible to frequent, sometimes very dangerous, pneumonias. Insufficient amounts of pancreatic enzymes are available to properly digest food, requiring pancreatic enzyme replacements. Sufferers of cystic fibrosis are usually sterile, and may die in young adulthood even with expert medical care.

One top geneticist recently conducted a computer analysis to quantitate the ratio of "beneficial mutations" to harmful mutations.⁹ Only 186 entries for beneficial mutations were discovered (and even they have a downside), versus 453,732 entries for harmful mutations. The ratio of "beneficial mutations" to harmful mutations is 0.000041! Thus, even if a very rare mutation is "beneficial," the next 10,000 mutations in any evolutionary sequence would each be fatal or crippling, and each of the next 10,000 imaginary mutations would bring the evolution process to a halt.

Equivocally Beneficial

Virtually all the "beneficial mutations" known are only equivocally beneficial, not unequivocally beneficial. In bacteria, several mutations in cell wall proteins may deform the proteins enough so that antibiotics cannot bind to the mutant bacteria. This creates bacterial resistance to that antibiotic. Does this support evolutionary genetic theory? No, since the mutant bacteria do not survive as well in the wild as the native (non-mutant) bacteria. That is, the resistant (mutant) bacteria will only do well in an artificial situation, where it is placed in a culture medium with the antibiotic. Only then can it overgrow at the ex-

pense of the native bacteria. In the wild, the native bacteria are always more vigorous than the mutant bacteria.

In humans there is one equivocally beneficial mutation, out of 4,000 devastating mutations: sickle cell anemia. It is inherited in autosomal recessive fashion and occurs mainly in individuals of African descent. It has been traced to a mutation of one nucleotide in a gene coding for hemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen in our blood. Normal red blood cells may sickle in the heterozygote (sickle trait, with one mutated and one normal gene) or the homozygote (sickle disease, with two mutated genes), but sickling is more likely to occur in the homozygote. Normal red cells are round, but sickled red cells are misshapen, like sickles. Sickle crisis occurs when red cells sickle and clog the arteries to parts of organs. Organs then undergo infarction (death from lack of blood supply). Without medical support the homozygotes are likely to die in young to middle age.

But there is one positive. Heterozygotes in Africa, where malaria is endemic, are more resistant to malaria than people with normal hemoglobin, and the heterozygote genotype may have a survival advantage, but only in those areas. Could this be a limited example of evolutionary progress? Not really. When the mutant sickle gene is latent (i.e., sickling isn't occurring), there is a survival advantage in areas with malaria. But whenever sickling occurs, in the heterozygote or the homozygote, it obstructs blood vessels and causes pain and death to organs.

According to evolution, all genes that are expressed are merely mutations. Actually, the *expression*, not just the latency, of all our genes is positive when expressed. Sickling is always *negative* when it occurs, so it remains a very poor example of evolution, and in fact refutes it. Evolution theorists have yet to demonstrate the unequivocally positive nature of a single mutation.

Random Change Destroys Function

The mutations described above are those that, when expressed, cause phenotypic (physically observable) changes in organisms. However, the majority of mutations are "neutral mutations" that do not cause any detectable change in

Dallas Campus Offers Strategic Opportunities

HENRY M. MORRIS III, D.M.I.N.
Chief Executive Officer

The Institute for Creation Research was founded on a commitment to affirm the authority of God's Word in all areas of life, including the sciences as they relate to the Creation and the Flood. The focus of our research is to conduct the highest quality scientific investigation and to explore this world prepared for us by our Creator.

The mission of ICR could perhaps best be illustrated with a three-tier bull's eye. The heart of our work lies in scientific re-



search, conducted by scientists with superb credentials. This is what sets us apart from other creation ministries and it underlies every task we undertake. The ring lying just outside of research is education. There is a tremendous need to recruit and train a new generation of creation scientists, as well as Christian leaders who can then convey these vital truths to the people within their spheres of influence. The final tier on our target is communication, getting the word out through speakers, publications, the Internet, and any other means at our disposal.

This is a time of change for ICR. Last month, I told you about our board of directors' approval for the move of our main offices to Dal-



las, Texas. Currently, we are preparing for the relocation of many of our ministry's functions to the new Dallas campus. As with all transitions there are challenges and opportunities, but it has been wonderful to see the Lord's provision and the ways He has opened the doors for us as we work through the myriad details involved in a cross-country move.

Our new Dallas offices are part of the strategic changes that are taking place in this ministry. North Texas offers the economic advantages of a less expensive area in which to live and do business, and the cultural benefits of being situated in a conservative area with large churches to which we can carry our mission. And since we are a national ministry, a central location is logistically effective in terms of time differences and air travel, with DFW International Airport just down the road from us.



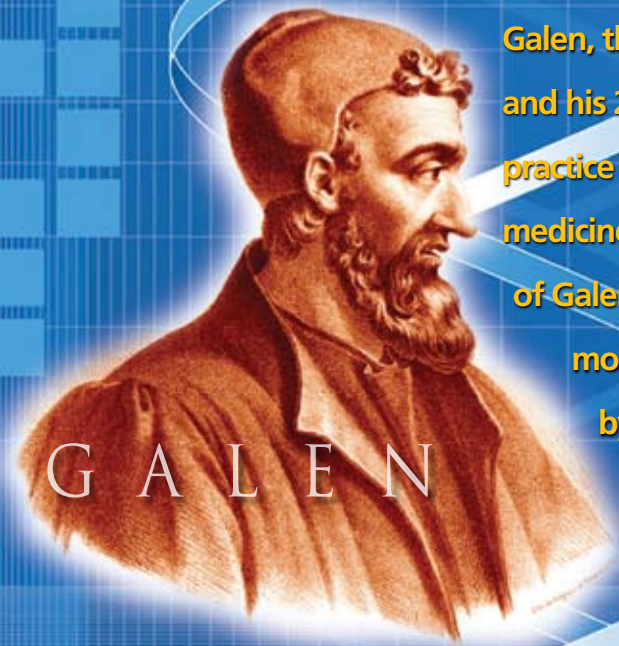
The move to Dallas is just part of this overall strategy. We are currently working to relocate our life sciences laboratory so that research can proceed from this central location. Dr. Dan Criswell, Assistant Professor of Biology, has already moved here with his family, and other professors will follow soon. Our graduate school staff is also exploring to see what new educational

opportunities are available in the area.

The most visible change to our work will come with the most external aspect of our ministry: communication. Readers of this publication were introduced last month to its new format, which is larger than the previous version to allow for more graphics and to provide greater flexibility in how we lay out the information we want to convey. We also want to increase the visual appeal of our message as we continue to reach out to those people who may not yet be aware of the vital importance of a literal six-day Creation to the authority of the Bible and its testimony of the redemption and reconciliation extended to us by our Creator.

There is a great deal of work ahead of us in the coming months, and we would treasure your prayers as we make decisions and lay the groundwork for all the opportunities the Lord will provide as we settle in to our new home. Thank you for your faithful support and for remaining partners with us in the work of ICR. ●

Mutations: The Raw Material for Evolution



G A L E N

Galen, the personal physician to Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, and his 22 thick volumes of medical treatises dominated medical practice for 1,300 years. In many ways his legacy was disastrous for medicine because *no one challenged his teachings*. In fact, several of Galen's errors [in blood circulation] were not pointed out until more than 1,200 years later with the publication [of works by the founder of modern anatomy Andreas Vesalius in 1543]...[T]hus began the first renaissance of medicine.¹

B A R N E Y M A D D O X , M . D .

The first anesthetic for surgery was delivered in Boston in 1846. Prior to that time patients endured surgery awake and in agony. Imagine if after 1846 surgeons in one state outlawed anesthesia, forbid its practice during their operations, and flunked medical students who promoted anesthesia. The mention of anesthesia would be stricken from medical textbooks, except for derogatory references. The operating room would be a tragic scene of violent thrashing and screams. Surgical complication rates would rise, since surgeries would have to be performed very quickly. When challenged, these surgeons would reply, "Galen said it, I believe it, and that settles it," or "That's the way we've always done it."

Fortunately, the opposite occurred after 1846. The use of general anesthesia caught on very quickly. Today's operating room is calm and efficient, and surgical complication rates are much lower than before 1846, since advances in the science of anesthesia were rapidly applied to surgery.

Correct application of the latest knowledge and techniques in surgical science works today. So why not make similar applications in the forensic science of origins? Darwin published his *Origin of Species* just before the Civil War. Numerous advances in science since that time bring into ques-

tion the validity of Darwin's theory, yet biology textbooks today maintain the Darwin mantra, "Darwin said it, I believe it, and that settles it."



Genetics and Evolution

In 1986 I read my first creationist article, written by a biologist. By the time I finished, I knew I could no longer justify my evolutionary thinking. Was it Scripture that convinced me? Actually, no. The author did not mention God or the Bible once. She simply pointed out, armed with modern scientific facts, that practically everything I had learned in medical school—especially in genetics—directly conflicted with Darwin's theory. Consider the fact that Darwin was completely ignorant of genetics, having died before this field was established as a science in 1900. In ignorance, Darwin believed in the inheritance of acquired characteristics—that is, if an animal acquired a physical characteristic during its lifetime, it could pass that characteristic on to its progeny. Of course, it is an established fact that living things can only pass on the genetic information they inherit from their parents. Will a man who loses a leg in an accident have one-legged children? No, his children will have two legs, because although the man's body (or phenotype) changed, his genotype (or DNA) remains the same.

One biology textbook states that "an important point to remember is that the variety of genes carried by all living species is the result of millions of years of random mutation, natural selection, and genetic drift."² But natural selection only explains survival of the fittest; it fails to explain *arrival* of the fittest. Natural selection, i.e., the forces of nature, does not change the DNA of the individual animal at all, and can only change the total gene pool of a species by eliminating

unfit individuals (leading to the loss, not gain, of genetic information). Genetic drift, or gene shuffling, only involves the shuffling of *existing* genes within a kind. It does not explain the *origination* of any gene. Another textbook states: "New alleles [genes] originate only by mutation."³ The only way for organisms to acquire DNA other than what they inherited from their parents is for their DNA to change, or mutate. If their DNA doesn't change, living things could never change regardless of how much time passes. Lizards could never become chickens and monkeys, and fish could never become philosophers. Since evolution rejects purposeful design, genetic change could only be random, or accidental.

"Positive" Mutations

The underlying genetic mechanism of evolution is random mutation, and specifically mutation that is beneficial to life. Biology textbooks in theory present positive and negative mutations to students as though these were commonplace and roughly equal in number. However, these books fail to inform students that unequivocally positive mutations are unknown to genetics, since they have never been observed (or are so rare as to be irrelevant).

The biology textbooks in *other chapters* teach that most mutations are pathologic, or disease-causing, but they don't apply that information to evolution. The worst diseases doctors treat today are caused by genetic mutations. Nearly 4,000 diseases are caused by mutations in DNA.⁴ "The human genome contains a complete set of instructions for the production of a human being.... Genome research has already exposed errors [mutations] in these instructions that lead to heart disease, cancer, and neurological degeneration."⁵ These diseases are crippling, often fatal, and many of the affected pre-born infants are aborted spontaneously, i.e., they are so