



Think & Believe

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Science or Faith?

(by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting)

In July we attended the Third International Conference on Creationism in Pittsburgh. Over 300 scientists and interested laymen from various parts of the world gathered to hear professional papers and discuss the latest creation research. We were impressed with the caliber of many of the researchers and the papers they presented.

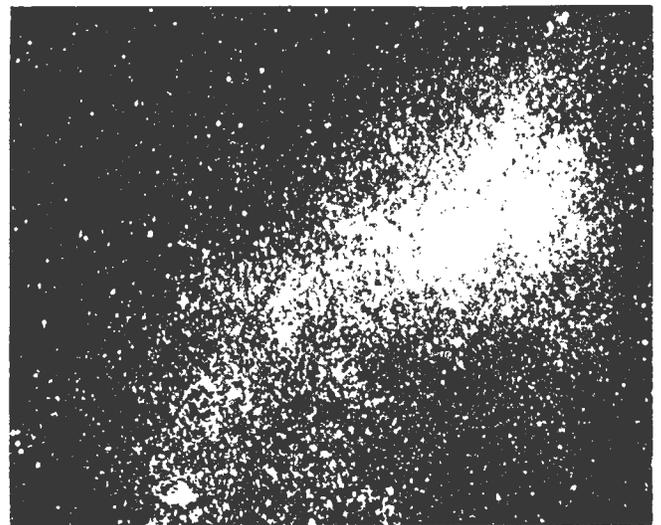
The final presentation by Dr. Siegfried Scherer, a respected biologist from Germany, provided a fitting challenge for all. After carefully describing his specialized research, he startled the crowd of creationists by presenting his results which were consistent with **evolutionary** predictions. Then he asked, "What would **you** do?" He concluded that he had to honestly publish the results even though they seemed to contradict his position.

Dr. Scherer then addressed the sometimes apparent conflict between science and faith. He asked, "Are there any arguments in favor of evolution?" and answered, "Yes, and some are quite good." He continued, "Do they make me believe in evolution? No, because I am a creationist and a Christian." Does this mean that Dr. Scherer is being a poor scientist and ignoring valid research in favor of blind faith? Not at all! He explained that doing good science means knowing and discussing **all** the data, including that of the competing model. Doing good science requires competence, honesty, and esteem of competing viewpoints.

What do you do, then, with good arguments in favor of evolution? Dr. Scherer reminded us that we know creation from faith (Heb. 11:3), and that our faith should be based on a daily life with Jesus. Recognizing God as Creator depends on the **heart**, not on a detailed understanding of science.

People can **deny** God is Creator by naturalism, trying to explain **everything** by science. However, it is impossible to **prove** creation **or** evolution by looking at only a tiny part of nature. Scientific data as such mean nothing -- they need to be interpreted. Dr. Scherer illustrated how a scientist's worldview can affect his interpretation of data. Using a set of letters to represent "data," he showed how an evolutionist might interpret this "data" by filling in the gaps to arrive at the sentence, "Death is the destination." Then, using the same "data," but filling in the gaps differently, he reinterpreted the "data" to say, "Give praise and honor to God." The point was well stated. Science alone is not enough.

Dr. Scherer is a scientist at heart, but he is also a convinced Christian, walking with the Lord Jesus Christ by faith and marvelling in the wonders of His creation. Praise God for honest, God-fearing scientists like Siegfried Scherer.



**Big Bang Move Over! A New Cosmology.
See Spotlight on Science**

NOTES & QUOTES

■ **The Third International Conference on Creationism** was held in Pittsburgh in July. Over 50 technical papers were presented during the week-long conference. The official proceedings and audio/video tapes are available from Creation Science Fellowship, Box 99303, Pittsburgh, PA, 15233-4303. A synopsis of selected sessions follows.

■ **Several papers and much discussion** centered around the attempt to define and delineate the "Genesis Kinds." Some scientists favor working within the accepted classification system (genus species, family, etc.) but adding a notation "bt" to indicate the "Basic Types." Others prefer to use different terminology (e.g., "Baramin," meaning "Created Kind") and grouping baramins by some other scheme (perhaps ecological). When it comes to identifying these "Genesis Kinds," several lines of evidence were suggested: hybridization, embryological studies, structural similarities, etc. One researcher emphasized using discontinuities as well as similarities in arriving at these kinds. Researchers in Germany have been tackling the problem by detailed research into specific groups. Much more research is needed!

■ **Walter ReMine, M.S.**, presented his "Biotic Message" theory which claims that life was reasonably designed for survival and for communicating the message that life is the product of a Single Designer. Furthermore, life was intentionally designed to resist all other interpretations of origins. Mr. ReMine's book, **The Biotic Message**, details his theory and shows how it offers a rebuttal to common evolutionary arguments against design.

■ **Richard Lumsden, Ph.D.** demonstrated the amazing complexity and design of the cell membrane, and showed how uniquely suited it is for selective permeability. Nothing else, manmade or natural, even comes close.

■ **Kevin McLeod, M.D.**, orthopedic specialist, showed how human knees are efficiently designed for upright stance and stride. A flexed knee gait puts tremendous stress on the knee and can lead to permanent changes in bone structure. Quadrupeds have different knee structures and neural control pathways than bipeds and there is no evidence of knee evolution in the fossil record nor in embryological studies.

■ **John Woodmorappe, M.A.**, gave an interesting talk on the biota and logistics of Noah's Ark. He attempted to answer many of the common objections to the credibility of the Ark by performing calculations on the number of animals on board; amount of food, water and living space needed; and problems of feeding, care and waste removal. He based his calculations on very reasonable assumptions and offered some creative solutions to demonstrate the feasibility of the Ark account.

■ **John Baumgardner, Ph.D.**, gave a presentation entitled, "Runaway Subduction as the Driving Mechanism for the Genesis Flood." His slide-illustrated program substantiated a need to take all the data into consideration when arriving at flood models. One observation is the recent age of the seafloor which evidently postdates the deposition of the fossil-bearing strata. A second is the observational support for the presence of cold, dense material near the base of the lower mantle in a belt surrounding the present Pacific Ocean. He says that "such a spatial pattern is consistent with subduction of large areas of seafloor at the edges of a continent configuration commonly known as Pangea."

Subduction or diving of seafloor under the present continent has long been part of plate tectonic models. The mechanism that Dr. Baumgardner is suggesting calls for catastrophic rates of sinking of large blocks of dense material into the mantle. Computer simulations of the conditions which would follow such an event were presented. He showed how this would not only provide a mechanism for the onslaught of the Genesis Flood waters but also for the breakup of the continents.

■ **Steven Austin, Ph.D.**, and **Kurt Wise, Ph.D.**, gave a joint paper in which they outlined the necessary criteria to differentiate between pre-flood and flood boundaries in the geologic layers. They then applied their criteria to recognized geologic layers. They concluded that the familiar distinction between Precambrian/Cambrian was not going to work for flood geology but rather boundary lines that cross "time" boundaries even if they dip deep into Precambrian strata. Utilizing their criteria, they suggested that the Sixtymile Formation is the oldest preserved Flood deposit in the Grand Canyon of Arizona and that it should be correlated to what they suggest signals the beginning of the flood strata, the Kingston Peak Formation, in the Eastern Mojave Desert region of California.

■ **Frank Maas** presented a paper entitled the "Immune Functions of the Vermiform Appendix." He suggested that even though the appendix is considered by evolutionists to be a vestigial or left-over organ with no use today, it certainly has a use in fighting lower intestinal infections. Incidental removal of the appendix should be stopped since it may be an important component of the immune system.

■ **Larry Vardiman, Ph.D.**, presented two papers which were crucial to understanding the formation of massive ice sheets during the "Ice Age." His models account for the ice flows and "varves" within a young-earth scenario. His ideas will be condensed in a future issue of **Think & Believe**.

■ **Many other papers were presented at the conference.** We will discuss some of them in future issues.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

A New Alternative to the Big Bang

The Big Bang Theory is probably the only model for the origin of the universe that most school children have heard. It assumes all the matter in the universe came as a result of a giant explosion of matter 16 billion years ago. In actuality, the model demands a 4 dimensional system with our universe existing on the surface of a giant 4 dimensional bubble which is expanding. (Proponents can only hope their bubble doesn't pop.) Since it is 4 dimensional (and we only think in 3), even the giant bubble concept, or the simpler exploding egg popularization is very simplified. The Big Bang is purely mathematical and **virtually impossible to visualize.**

The theory has become so ingrained in our society that **many Christians have fallen into the trap** of claiming this is proven science. Some have even gone so far as to say we have to try to interpret Scripture to fit with this "modern science." When some are asked why they are so ready to forget what the Bible actually says, they have responded that the Big Bang equations are the only equations which describe all the observable facts of the universe.

We have maintained that there just might be other equations which also fit the data but which are also wholly consistent with the Scriptures. For example $6 + 11 = 17$, but so does $30 - 13$ as well as $5 \times 3 + 2$. Our challenge to cosmologists is to find other sets of equations which describe the "data of the universe" within a Biblical framework. **One such set has now been derived.**

At the Pittsburgh conference, Dr. Russell Humphreys presented what he called, "Progress Toward a Young-Earth Relativistic Cosmology." His model is such an attempt to reconcile observable physical phenomena with a straightforward understanding of the Bible. This new model accounts for the evidence usually advanced by Big Bang proponents, while at the same time staying within the framework of clear Biblical statements. When done it is also consistent with a young age for the earth.

As with all cosmological models, Dr. Humphreys makes certain underlying assumptions. His main assumptions are that the universe has finite boundaries and that the earth is near the center of the universe. He believes these assumptions agree with Scripture and known data. These assumptions go counter to Big Bang models, which require an unbounded universe with no center.

According to Dr. Humphreys, "If we put those boundary conditions into the equations of Einstein's general theory of relativity, we get an expanding cosmos

in which clocks (and all physical processes) tick at different rates in different parts of the universe." Near the center of the universe, clocks run slowly; further out they run progressively faster. (This apparently has something to do with "gravitational time dilation" and seems to fit experimental observations: atomic clocks in Greenwich run 5 microseconds per year slower than in Boulder, Colorado.) Thus, Dr Humphreys suggests that one day on earth could be the same as long periods of time far out in space where clocks tick so much faster.

Psalm 104:2 says "[God] stretcheth out the Heavens like a tent." This would be consistent with an expanded universe. Dr. Humphreys postulates that the universe must have come out of a "White Hole" (a Black Hole running in reverse). This rapid "stretching" would produce the red shift and the cosmic microwave background radiation often listed as evidence for the Big Bang. The material which emerged last must be closest to the center and would have the slowest running clocks. Thus, according to Dr. Humphreys, at the end of creation week, the universe would be 6 days old (Earth Standard Time), but clocks in the outermost reaches of space could register billions of years.

We are not saying we endorse this model. Yes, it does present a **unique approach** to the age of the universe question. It **does explain** 3 large scale astronomical puzzles for young-age models (**light from distant galaxies, red shift and background radiation**) while also explaining some things the Big Bang doesn't (e.g. superluminal quasars). But, Dr. Humphreys readily admits it is **just a beginning and needs lots more work.** He invites serious review by those having the background to understand the mathematics and physics involved. (Contact him at Box 10550, Albuquerque, NM 87184.)

We need to remember that **even if** the equations work, they might not be "God's" equations. After all, **God says in Isaiah 55:9: "For as the Heavens are higher than the Earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."** God can merely speak and things come into existence. Physics equations are hard to write to express that.

Whether or not this model stands up to scrutiny, it is significant in that it is a serious attempt by a qualified physicist to derive mathematical equations utilizing accepted modern physics concepts which are consistent with observable data and also with a straightforward reading of Scripture. Thanks for your work **and your commitment to Scripture, Dr. Humphreys.**

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)
("J" indicates Johnsons, "N" Nuttings, "B" both)

- Sept 25: Grand Junction, CO:** St. Paul Ev. Lutheran (B)
Contact church, 303-243-3626.
- Sept 26-27: Delta, CO:** Delta Home Educators Creationfest (B)
Contact Robin Donahue, 303-874-5361
- Oct 2: Buena Vista, CO:** First Baptist Church (N)
Contact Church, 719-395-2242.
- Oct 3,4: Pueblo, CO:** School & Parents' Seminar, Trinity Luth (B)
Contact School, 719-542-1864.
- Oct 3,4: Pueblo, Co:** Freedom Outreach & Christian Fam Ed. (B)
Contact Ava Jay, 719-948-9712.
- Oct 5,6: Salida, CO:** Area Seminar, First Baptist (B)
Contact Church, 719-539-2693.
- Oct 9: Rifle, CO:** First Christian Church (B)
Contact Church, 303-625-2902.
- Oct 15-19: Prescott, AZ:** Grand Canyon Tour and Teaching Home
State Leaders Conf. (B) Contact Sue Welch, 503-253-9633.
- Nov 2,3: Salt Lake City, UT:** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (B)
(Tentative) Contact Jeff, 801-255-8181.
- Nov 6,7,8: Kennewick, WA:** Colombia Bible Church (B)
Contact Church, 509-545-8179.
- Nov 9,10: Marysville, WA:** Location TBA (B)
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- Nov 13: Bothell (Seattle Area), WA:** Cedar Park Assembly (B)
Contact Church, 206-488-3600.
- Nov 14,15: Chehalis, WA:** First Baptist Church (B)
Contact Church, 206-748-8628.
- Nov 16,17: Port Angeles, WA:** Independent Bible Church (B)
Contact Church, 206-452-3351.
- Nov 20: McMinnville, OR:** St. John's Lutheran Church (B)
Contact Church, 503-472-6677.
- Nov 21,22: Eugene, OR:** Garden Way Christian Academy (B)
Contact School, 503-683-9538.
- Nov 30, Dec 7: Cedaredge, CO:** First Baptist Church Awanas (J)
Contact Church, 303-856-3830.

Please keep This Schedule & Pray For Us.

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Alpha Omega Institute

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

In This Issue:

- International Conference on Creationism
- New Cosmology Model
- Summer Report
- Update notice enclosed

JOHNSONS COMPLETE FIRST SUMMER WITH ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE!

It was a busy and exciting summer for Lanny and Marilyn Johnson and their daughters as they got their first taste of really living "on the road." God used them to impact many lives with the creation message. The Johnsons started the summer with a small Vacation Bible School in Debeque, Colorado, followed by a fast-paced week of VBS with over 350 children in Montrose. Next, they hit the road for a homeschool seminar in Salt Lake City and a VBS in Mt. Shasta, California and back to Colorado to cross paths with the Nuttings at the Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure. Junior high week at Tee Pee Bible Camp, VBS in Idaho Springs, Colorado, and a couple days at Grand Mesa Bible Camp came next. They rounded off the summer back with us for two weeks of Alpha Omega's Redcloud Family Mountain Adventures and Labor Day Week-end Family Camp at Id-Ra-Ha-Je East. You thought **you** had a busy summer!

This summer's VBS and camp programs with puppets, crafts, skits and slide shows **went great!** The Johnsons worked with over 800 children (plus many parents, VBS workers, and helpers). Of these, they know of 39 who prayed for salvation and are now entrusted to the local churches. **Pray** these children will grow and become mature disciples of Jesus.

There is a great **need** for this ministry and **God is blessing it.** We are excited to see how He has worked through the Johnsons this summer. **Pray** God will bring in the needed finances so the work can go on.

Special Need: Grand Junction Area Readers!

The **Think and Believe** mailing list has grown. That's exciting, but it's putting a real burden on our secretary to get it stuffed and mailed. If **you** could **help**, please **call** us: 303-245-5906. It would require only about 1/2 day, 6 times per year if we get enough helpers.

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