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We pray that you and yours are well as Thanksgiving approaches. We at SABBSA have much to be thankful of with our ministry continuing to expand. We are currently in talks with three new organizations for a host of creation seminars we are to be a part of this spring. Please pray that God’s will be done in all of these talks and God’s creation message goes forward as He wills! Also, SABBSA Board member Terry Read has just published a new book titled **“Why Should I Believe? Why Should You Believe?”**

This month‘s Communiqué includes two articles from two very different points on the creation compass, but both focus on our home, the planet Earth. First, we have an article describing a debate within young Earth creationists over how old the Earth actually is. Second, we have an article by Dr. Daniel Harris, mapping out how special a place the Earth is and how improbable it is that it occurred by chance.

As always we have a full rundown on all of the creation offerings coming to the greater San Antonio area. We pray that you find this newsletter edifying and informative. Happy Thanksgiving and remember that it is the Lord who gives it all to us!

**How Young is Young?**

As we have said before, our ministry would be very acceptable to the world if we would but compromise on two issues. If we would agree that the world is 4.5 billion years old and that Noah’s Flood was a local event, we could have a much wider following and more universal acceptance. Since our goal is to reach people for Christ with His word, why then we will we not make these compromises just as **Reasons to Believe** and the **Discovery Institute** have done?

The reason is in the middle of that question. If we are to reach people with the word of God we must trust in His word as the literal and inerrant word of God. We do not get to pick and choose which parts to believe and which to either discard or rewrite to our own desires.

What’s both interesting and sorrowful is that knowing this, Young Earth Creationists are even divided on how old the earth is. Early on in this debate this was not a problem as the **Institute for Creation Research (ICR**) and others seemed willing to go with any interpretation of science and scripture which led to an interpretation of the world as being less than 20,000 years old. And since there is such a wealth of data to support this claim and since such timelines seemed consistent with Biblical reading, this for a long time was a unifying factor within young Earth creationists.

In the last few years however, **Answers in Genesis (AIG), Creation Ministries International, Search for Truth** and to some extent **ICR** have committed themselves to a 6000+ year time frame as shown by a literal reading of scriptures and in agreement with Bishop Ussher’s math. **AIG** is particularly devoted to this timeframe. The question is where this division is coming from and should it be that divisive?

To answer that question we need to examine both the scripture and the scientific evidence cited by adherents to both positions. First let’s examine why a young Earth position is even viable in, light of contemporary societies’ universal conclusion that the world is 4.5 billion years old.

That figure of 4.5 billion years for the Earth’s age is based on a set of measuring systems called radiometric dating. For rocks this includes the uranium/lead, potassium/argon, rubidium strontium and other methods (but for this purpose not Carbon 14). All of these methods are calibrated using the uranium /lead system, so if it falls, all the others do as well.

It has been shown by creationists that all of these systems are based on three assumptions: that the rate of decay has remained the same for the past 4.5 billion years (not only do we have only about 100 years of data on this subject –essentially none, but we have archaeological and experimental data which shows that decay rates have changed over time and this assumption is false from the beginning); that there were no daughter elements in the original rock when formed (this assumption not only violates logic, but is falsified by observational data we have of seeing rocks form from lava flows); and that these rocks were located in a closed environment which would not induce varied decay rates or other variables (since no such environment naturally occurs on Earth, this assumption too is easily seen as false from the beginning except by those who are desperate to believe in long ages).

Pair all of this with the fact that NO rock of known age when dated radiometrically has ever given an even close to correct age, how then can we have any confidence in these methods at all? Creationists conclude that we cannot!

Conversely, we have dozens of scientific clocks which point to a young Earth. Just one of these is the amount of helium in our upper atmosphere is far less than 1% of what a 4.5 billion year old Earth should have, but the amount there correlates well with an Earth somewhere between 6,000 and 15,000 years old.

With this data in hand, creationists go to the word of God which clearly describes a world which has been around for only several thousand years.

Why then has a division occurred? It is really a question of interpretation of scripture and how literally we can treat the biblical texts.

 AIG and others today take a very literal and “word for word” interpretation of scripture. They cite the fact that if you do add up all of the ages as put down in the Bible for the ages of the Patriarchs (as Bishop Ussher did) you do come up with a creation date for the earth of 4004 BC and thus an Earth which is a little over 6,000 years old. This dating seems straight forward from a literal reading of the text and easily falls within the dozens of young Earth scientific clocks like upper atmosphere helium which confirm the world is less than 15,000 years old.

So why have organizations such as ICR and others not fully committed to this time line? The answer to that question is twofold. One is Biblical exegesis and the other is the writing style of the time of Moses.

Bishop Ussher

Ussher was using the King James Bible which was dependent on the Messoretic text (a text handed down and protected by Jewish scribes for thousands o f years). If you use the Septuagint text (a Greek copy of the biblical text) it adds several people between the Patriarchs both in Genesis and in Luke. These additions push the creation date back to about 5500 BC and the age of the Earth gets pushed to about 7500 years using this text.

Also, there is an apparent inconsistency in the Bible between Genesis and Luke which challenges a literal interpretation. The genealogy in Genesis detailed all of the patriarchs from Adam to Noah. The genealogy in Luke describes all of the descendents from Adam to Christ. Along the way there are discrepancies even in the Messoretic text. One of those occurs between Genesis 10:24 and Luke 3:35-36.

In Luke 3:35-36 it lists “…the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad,…” but, in Genesis 10:24 it says, “Arphaxad begot Selah, and Selah begot Eber, …” (where is Cainan?).

This is the type of biblical inconsistency which skeptics hop onto and claim that the Bible is full of errors and how could be the product of a perfect God. This second group of young Earth believers however has an answer for this apparent inconsistency.

In Genesis 32:9 Jacob said. “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac…” Now, Abraham was not Jacob’s father, but this points to a writing style of the time upon which those I call the “writing style literalists” hang their arguments.

In that time archaeologists and linguists have identified a writing style or peculiarity. It was a time of patriarchal domination and only the father and first born counted in terms of not only speech, but legal rights. It has been demonstrated by these academics that the writings of Moses times and before would not only call all of your previous forefathers as your father, but would on occasion omit some of your lineage who were “minor players” in your lineage.

Let me give you an example of how this worked. My dad (Lawrence) was the superintendent of three school districts and one of the most recognized educators in this area for more than three decades. I (Scott) was just a run of the mill school teacher and coach. My son Tommy hopes to be the first man on Mars! Under this Old Testament writing style, it would not be unusual for it to be said that “Lawrence begot Tommy.” I could be written out since I was not a major contributor in the lineage. It is assumed from looking at not only the Messoretic and Septuagint texts, but also many others that several of these “writing style” exclusions or “skips” in true genealogy were inserted. If true it means that neither the Genesis nor the Luke passages cited were in error, but one simply used the writing style of the ancient time to exclude unimportant players in the lineage. But, if this is the way the genealogy in Genesis was written, it means that we may not be able to arrive at a definitive date for the creation of the world as Ussher did and in fact we may not be able to confirm that Luke’s genealogy includes all of the members of the true genealogy as well.

Thus, these “writing style literalists” would say that due to this writing style there is no inconsistency between the two accounts in Luke and Genesis, but also we cannot therefore due to this writing style do simple math to get the exact date of the creation. They do acknowledge though that whatever deletions occurred could not add more than a few thousand years to the total genealogy of the world and thus they would agree that the Bible infers that the world is something less than 15,000 years old which agrees with both the wealth of scientific evidence available as well as agreeing in principle with the “word for word literalists.”

Even so AIG and others stick staunchly to the 6000 year time frame and it is understandable why they do so since much of theirs (and in fact all of our ministries) are dependent on a faith in the absolute inerrancy of scripture and a faith that God intended for the common man to be able to interpret the scripture fully for himself without a huge amount of academic research needed to interpret the text.

How then should we resolve this “in house” debate? I believe w e should return to the wisdom of compromise which pervaded young creation circles for decades and accept any timeline as possible which describes an Earth of less than 15,000 years. Not only is this how this dispute was successfully handled for decades in creation circles, but it is also I believe biblical. In Romans chapter 14 Paul wrote,

“**14**Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over **disputable matters**. **2**One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. **3**The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. **4**Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

**5**One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. **6**Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. **7**For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. **8**If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. **9**For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

**10**You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28291a)]? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat…

**13**Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister…

**19**Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. “

From this scripture I believe the Lord would tell us that it is alright for us to debate this topic as long as we do so in Christian love and with full knowledge that we are already in 99% agreement and that this, as the Bible says, is a disputable matter and one which is not central to the faith and should not divide us. Woe to us if we give Satan a foothold in such a minor matter. Let us research and debate all we desire and are led to, but keep in mind that above all we should respect our brothers who also seek after God’s truth.

**Highly Improbable Earth!**

Daniel H. Harris, Ph.D.



Believers in Naturalism (that natural law explains all things **without God)** have long supposed that **there is** **nothing unusual about Earth**, **or our Sun.** If on the other hand, our Earth and Sun are improbable, then the door is open to suppose that **since** **the Earth is special it must have a purpose.** In May, 2013, this bulletin presented strong evidence that **our Sun is very special,** unlike any other known, **ideally suited for the nurturing of life on planet Earth.** This article will therefore focus on **our unique planet Earth.**

Among planetary systems in our Milky Way Galaxy, it is now estimated that only about 10% of systems having planets have planets near to the size of Earth. Since only about 30% of stars have planetary systems, Earth sized planets can be found orbiting only about 1 in 30 stars. And we know that **only Earth sized planets are likely to have the right conditions for life.** These conditions include an atmosphere of the right thickness giving the right surface pressure and having an abundance of Oxygen transparent to visible light. Of the thirty major bodies in our Solar System, only Earth has the right kind of atmosphere. Thus we can estimate that only 1 in 900 stars in our Galaxy should have Earth sized planets with transparent Oxygen atmospheres.

For life to prosper on a planet the distance to its star must be right, to give the right temperature, not too hot, not too cold, but just right. Astronomers call that perfect distance from a planet to its star **“the goldilocks zone.”** Of course Earth is in **“the goldilocks zone”** of our Sun.

For a planet to be protected from high energy radiation and particles injurious to life, the planet needs a substantial magnetic field. In our Solar System most small rocky bodies like Earth don’t have significant magnetic fields. Such **magnetic fields are rare.**

To have a temperate climate over a good fraction of its surface an Earth like planet needs to have, 1) **a large moon** to stabilize the tilt of its rotation axis, 2) a **moderate rotation** rate, and 3) **a balance between land and water covered surface** 4) and **a nearly circular orbit.**

It is also critical that the planet and nearby bodies have stable non-crossing orbits.

The total number of these kinds of critical factors necessary for an Earth like planet to sustain higher life forms is now estimated at about 20. If each factor on average has a probability of 1 in 10 of occurring among stars of our Galaxy (a conservative estimate), then you would need to look at about one billion galaxies like ours to have a 50% chance of finding a planet suitable for higher life. A more careful look estimates that we would need to look through much of the universe to have a chance of finding one Earth like planet. Indeed it seems there is just one Earth.

Since our Earth seems to be unique and **so** **ideal for sustaining higher life**, we are lead to surmise that this **remarkably improbable planet** **must be designed exactly for that purpose.** Any other highly functional machine like a jet engine we see immediately as the work of high intelligence.

Pratt &Whitney

PW2000 Turbofan Engine

43,000 lb Max Thrust

With our increased understanding of stars and planets it is now quite reasonable to look at **our Highly Improbable Earth** and recognize the **absolute necessity** of a high intelligence to have brought together the many improbable factors and circumstances needed to sustain higher life. **The Holy Bible** speaks clearly to this issue, indeed, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth,” Genesis 1:1.**

**Another Pope Friendly to Evolution**

In the past couple of weeks the Pope has reiterated that the Catholic Church sees no inconsistency between God’s creation story in the Bible and the theory of evolution. The Catholic Church has been a stalwart in upholding the basic tenants of Christian theology. They have held the line on abortion, divorce, homosexuality and a host of other places where many protestant denominations have long since compromised. It is sad to see this illogical and purely politically motivated concession come from a group which is to be admired for their bold belief in the inerrancy of scripture and faith in the Creator in so many other ways.

**Prayer Needs and Praises!**

I copied this from Frank Mayo’s newsletter from the Greater Houston Creation Association. Thanks Frank for keeping up with all of these needs which affect people at the forefront of the Creation ministry. Please pray for God’s people!

**John Morris**is recovering from a stroke as he continues a long term battle with muscular dystrophy. John is President of the Institute for Creation Research, a PhD Geological Engineer, and one of the most prominent writers, researchers, and leaders in creation science. Pray for miraculous healing!

**Sue Stepanek** is battling cancer. Surgery went well but recovery is slow. Sue is the wife of Richard Stepanek who speaks for Alpha Omega Institute. Pray for complete recovery.

**Roger Sigler, David Shormann, Fred Bauhof, Tony Comeaux, Pete Moore**: pray for these and other GHCA members working to do research, publication, or local teaching ministries in creation science. They all need the Lord's guidance, enabling and funding.

**Jobe and Jenna Dee Martin**  have both had recent surgery. Jenna Dee is recovering from back surgery and Jobe is having a second cataract surgery on Nov 6. Pray for healing and enabling.

******New ICR video series to be shown at FEAST!

 This year our FEAST Science Workshops will feature the new 12-part series from the Institute for Creation Research entitled “Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis.” Viewing this series, you’ll walk away with a fresh understanding of the sometimes difficult-to-comprehend issues surrounding creation. Our dynamic host will lead you through discoveries of truth in awe-inspiring locations around the country. We will visit gardens and nature sites throughout Texas, the Grand Canyon, Dinosaur National Monument in Utah, and the Matanuska Glacier in Alaska.

From discussions on dinosaurs to the Ice Age, the series covers the origin of the universe, the origin of man, design, fossils, Noah’s Flood, the age of the earth, ancient civilizations, and more. We invite you to spend fourth Mondays with us at 6:30 pm for this series of videos with two episodes shown each night along with expert commentary and question and answer sessions from the staff of the **San Antonio Bible Based Science Association.**

Our first two sessions this fall were attended by groups of more than 50 people with a host of young kids in each seminar. We are viewing two episodes each night with very engaging question, answer, and discussion sessions following both videos.

Below is the list of topics to be covered this spring:

**January 26, 2015 Noah’s Flood.**  **Age of Earth.**

Young Children’s topic: **"How do you feel?"** We'll explore a touchy subject: the
tactile world.

**February 23, 2015 Dinosaurs.** **The Ice Age.**

Young Children’s topic: **"Fossils: Can you dig 'em?"** The annual chocolate fossil blow
out.

**March 23, 2015 Ancient Civilization. Origin of the Universe.**

Young Children’s topic: **"Wind beneath my wings"** Demonstrating the power of the air.

**April 27, 2015 Uniqueness of Earth. The Big Picture**

Young Children’s topic: **"The strength within"** Unleashing the power within common
substances.

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**Humor Corner**

**Around Texas**

**Houston:**
The **Greater Houston Creation Association** (**GHCA**) meets the first Thursday of each month. They meet at Houston's First Baptist Church at 7 pm, in Room 258. After the presentation, there will be refreshments, fellowship and creation science materials for all to enjoy. For more information go to [www.ghcaonline.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bztaencab&et=1103662222545&s=545&e=001xF-6WOYzM5Yyre44Ea_qUjH5EOT_fFIGjrfpfa5h-rD53IlUVbz3Vc0Dp47_VEwW3iQQ6F1b6K0EtKc_vUxYKpzN_8V2upXFbsOScvUeD92nJdUTjDIFeg==).

**Glen Rose:**
Dr. Carl Baugh gives a “***Director’s Lecture Series***” on the first Saturday of each month at the Creation Evidences Museum just outside Glen Rose, TX. The new and improved museum is also a great and beneficial way to spend any day. Presentations are at 11 am and 2 pm. For more information go to [www.creationevidence.org](http://www.creationevidence.org)

**Dallas-Ft Worth:**
The Metroplex Institute of Origin Science (MIOS) meets at the Dr. Pepper Starcenter, 12700 N. Stemmons Fwy, Farmers Branch, TX, usually at 7:30 pm of the first Tuesday of each month.

**Lubbock Area (Crosbyton):**
All year: Consider a visit to the Mt. Blanco Fossil Museum, directed by Joe Taylor. The Museum is definitely worth the visit if you live near or are traveling through the Panhandle near Lubbock. If you call ahead and time permitting, Joe has been known to give personal tours, especially to groups. For more information, visit [http://www.mtblanco.com/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bztaencab&et=1103662222545&s=545&e=001xF-6WOYzM5bqqt6T1G_CwJWJosrOSIhLAagtnP0Z504J-gEROEBe22S3gq720x6ofjFVqK-AfJcsjrsuQyRtoepYiAQVVUFC-cF56fLwwBJ0SQ-44KlLmw==).

**Greater San Antonio area:**

Listen to **Answers with Ken Ham** online at the address below. (No nearby station for this broadcast). <http://www.answersingenesis.org/media/audio/answers-daily>

To hear program from the **Institute for Creation Research**, listen online at this address. <http://www.icr.org/radio/>

Also, tune in KHCB FM 88.5 (San Marcos) or KKER FM 88.7 (Kerrville) for **Back to Genesis** at 8:57 AM Mon-Fri, then **Science, Scripture and Salvation** at 1:30 AM, 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM on Saturdays.

**Last Month at SABBSA**

The apologetics classic**"The Case for Christ"**

In October we watched Lee Stroebel's the **"Case for Christ"** and found it to be a great apologetics tool for evangelism.

A seasoned journalist chases down the biggest story on record in **The Case for Christ**. Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, former Chicago Tribune legal editor Lee Stroebel cross-examines a dozen experts with tough, point-blank questions in search of credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth was positively the Son of God. This compelling video follows Stroebel's two-year investigation of the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ. Topics included: the historical accuracy of the Gospels, the personal claims of Jesus, and His resurrection from the dead.

Although Stroebel is an old Earth creationist, there is no hint of such beliefs in this video.

**Next SABBSA Meeting:**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2014, at 7 pm**

**Brian Mariani of Alpha Omega Institute**

***The 5 Common Deceptions in Our Culture***

regarding God, the Bible, science, and Creation. This presentation will create audience interaction in covering questions like:

*Why is Creation important?*

*Do we really believe God and the Bible?*

*What can you do about spreading Creation?*

*How Big is Your God?*

Within this presentation, AOI speaker, Brian Mariani will be sharing his personal testimony and passion for Creation Training. He will explain why he is in the creation evangelism ministry and will present Alpha Omega Institute’s vision for their new training program, the Discover Creation Training Institute (DCTI).

Brian and Aimee Mariani

As always, we will meet at the Jim’s Restaurant at the corner of San Pedro and Ramsey at 7 pm. Please join us for good food, fellowship and impactful Christian apologetic teaching.