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It’s October. We hope you and yours are enjoying the coming of fall. This month’s **Communiqué** contains an article not only covering new challenges that **Answers in Genesis** is encountering with their **Ark Encounter** project, but also tracing many of the challenges that the creationist movement has encountered since its inception.

We also have an article covering a noted evolutionary scientist and atheist who has given us a glorious example of how we cannot trust any scientist to be truly dispassionate and not show their biases in their work. Moreover this article will show us how we are unthinkingly and slowly replacing God with science in the psyche of our culture.

We of course also have the rundown of all of the creation events this month in the greater San Antonio area and we hope you find this edition profitable for you. You will note several online links in this month’s articles. These links not only serve as the citations for the statements made in these articles, but also give you a chance to examine the rest of the article this information came from if you choose to do so.

**AIG under Attack! So what’s New?**

**Answers in Genesis** is undergoing yet another round of attacks as it tries to complete their “Ark Encounter” project in Northern Kentucky. But, before we tell you of their latest challenge, let’s give you the background of how Satan has challenged creation ministry for the last 150 years.

After Bishop Wilberforce lost the debate over creation and evolution to Julian Huxley at Oxford in 1859, clergy and Bible believers spent the next 100 years in full scale retreat, finding ways to compromise what the Bible said with the supposed “truth” of evolutionary science. It will not be until 1961 and the publishing of the book “The Genesis Flood” by Dr. Henry Morris and John Whitcomb that scientists stood up and said with any force that the Bible can be read and believed literally without compromise!

Since the advent of the Creationist Movement in the early 1960’s, the attacks on creationists have abounded. At first the evolutionary community accepted the challenge of creationist’s ideas openly and would debate creationists often since they believed their position unassailable. The results of such debates however were not what the evolutionists expected. The evolutionists invariably lost most debates. They blamed this not on their lack of evidence, but in most cases they attributed it to the fact that the creationists came at them with evidence from so many fields and their expertise as scientific professionals was almost always in a single field.

After two decades of frustration with losing such debates and the public debate as most Americans still believed in God’s creation, the evolutionists and atheist then found a realm they could win in. It was the courts.

The ground for this had already been laid in the early when 1960’s when the courts struck down the rights to voice public prayers in school and banned devotional Bible reading. In **Arkansas vs. Epperson (1968)** the Supreme Court struck down laws many states had forbidding the teaching of evolution in schools. These laws likened to the one Tennessee had in the Scopes trial.

What followed was suing to strike down **“balanced treatment”** laws enacted in many states in reaction to the evolutionary emphasis in schools and society. In the landmark case of **McLean vs. Arkansas in 1982**, the trial court held that laws such as this, which said that if evolution was taught, that creation had to be presented as well were unconstitutional. While it would not be this law, but a Louisiana balanced treatment law which would go before the Supreme Court and be struck down, it was this trial which has established a precedent followed in creation vs. evolution trials ever since. It is the practice of the court declaring at the start of the proceedings that evolution is established science and creationism is religion with no scientific basis. Thus, evolution is assumed true by the court and creation must be proved, which is a ridiculous legal burden and an assumption not supported by scientific evidence.

In **Edwards vs. Aguillard (1987)** the Supreme Court struck down the Louisiana and all other balanced treatment laws when it followed the precedent of Judge William Overton in the Arkansas case citing that Creation Science is not science but religion, not because it does not have scientific evidence for it, but because its inspiration was from Genesis!

In the late 1970’s and 1980’s two other types of opposition to creation crystallized. The first was the purging of creationists from academia. Lloyd Dale a South Dakota High school science teacher, Dr. Jerry Bergman, and Dr. Robert Gentry are just the tip of the ice berg of creationists who lost their jobs during this time due exclusively to their commitment to creation. Dr. Gentry in particular was a tragic case. He was the foremost authority in the world in the field of Paleochloric Haloes. He was dismissed from his position at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory because he testified for the creation side in the Epperson vs. Arkansas trial in 1982.

This pattern of academic bias has continued over the last 35 years. Examples of this include Dr. Harold Slusher at the University of Texas at El Paso who was denied tenure for years at UTEP due only to his creationist’s beliefs. An editor of the Smithsonian’s’ publication was dismissed for allowing the publication of an article which was even slightly critical of evolutionary thought and supportive of creation. The firing of David Coppedge by the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, California is just one of the most recent cases.

All of these are representative of dozens of dismissals based on creation beliefs which have had three effects. First, it has eliminated these creationists from academia. Second, it has set an example, chilling the discourse throughout academia as scientists are fearful of expressing any creation supportive beliefs (even supported by evidence) for fear of losing their jobs. And, third, because of all this it has sent many scientists and academics that hold creationist beliefs “into the closet” to protect their careers. Our own Dr. Daniel Harris, an original SABBSA Board Member has been subject to just this type of workplace discrimination.

In 1981 the **Institute for Creation Research (ICR)** opened a graduate school in southern California which offered Masters Degree programs in Creation Science which were originally approved by the state. In 1988, under the auspices of California Superintendent of Instruction Bill Honig, ICR’s graduate school was forced to go under a “recertification” process to keep their state certification. The accreditation team first voted 3 to 2 to keep ICR’s certification, but this was reversed when Honig pressured one of the accreditation members to change their vote. Thus, their certification was suspended by that same 3 to 2 margin.

ICR tried to work with the state to regain accreditation through them, but was thwarted. At this same time in 1990, ICR’s graduate school received accreditation through a new accreditation association of Christian schools call TRACS. When the state still would not budge on re-accrediting the school, ICR brought suit claiming “infringement on religious liberty” since they did not take a dime of government money and were being denied operation for the religious beliefs. They won this suit and stayed in operation in California.

ICR, like AIG would move their operations to a more central part of the U.S. to take advantage of lower living and building expenses as well as being in a “hub center” for travel and distribution of materials. What they did not know when they did this is that the **Texas State Higher Education Coordinating Board** would be bombarded with pressure from mainstream academia to deny them accreditation for their graduate school as had been tried in California. <http://www.icr.org/article/3471/>

The state of Texas denied accreditation in 2008 in spite of the fact that a team from **Southern Association (SACS)** which evaluates all universities in Texas and most of the schools across the country had submitted a report recommending accreditation. This denial of accreditation by the state of Texas was the one and only time in history that the Texas Higher Ed. Coordinating Board had ever voted to not follow the recommendations of SACS. ICR sued in court, but lost in Austin in 2010 and closed their external graduate school. However, they still offer Masters of Christian Education degrees through their online school started in 2009. <http://creationwiki.org/ICR_Graduate_School>

Another whole segment of this story has been the efforts of Phillip Johnson, Michael Behe and others including the **Discovery Institute** pushing the theory that life demonstrates irreducible complexity and hence in itself is evidence of a designer. This form of creation thought known as **intelligent design (ID)** was universally opposed in the public realm as was fully fledged creationism. In fact its critics said that it was only “creationism in disguise!”

A 15 year fight ensued over getting intelligent design arguments into public school curricula or offer it as an alternative to evolution in public school libraries. This fight basically was concluded in 2005 with the Dover decision which labeled ID as religion not science and barred it from the classrooms in Dover, PA. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intelligent_design>

You can get quite discouraged when hearing about how creationism has been opposed at every turn as it has been. But, do remember one fact. Over the entire course of this battle from the 1960’s to today, well over 70% of Americans tested in Gallop polls each decade have stated they believe God created the universe and man! In spite of all of this resistance, the message of our Creator is getting out! The fight is worth it!

Finally, we come to all of the challenges that **Answers in Genesis (AIG)** has faced in building and expanding its ministry in northern Kentucky. In the mid-1990s, AIG was searching for land in northern Kentucky upon which to build a **Creation Museum** and new headquarters. The ministry was constantly in the local news due to strident opposition from evolutionists/secular humanists and others opposed to the two land rezoning efforts. The controversy soon made national and even international headlines (e.g., *The Times*of London). Opposition to the museum project had one local newspaper reader (who did not know AIG very well) so concerned about the way AIG was being attacked that his family gave a $1 million museum gift. The attacks became completely nonsensical and hateful with Ken Ham at one public meeting be called the next “Jim Jones!”

It would not be until 2007 (12 years later) that the AIG museum could be constructed after having to give up on one land site which they pursued and were denied by the county and going through 9 years of legal and political wrangling with Florence county Zoning and Fiscal Boards that they even got approval for the purchase of the land for the purpose of the museum. <https://answersingenesis.org/museum/docs/news4054.asp> <https://answersingenesis.org/museum/docs/news3-6-2000.asp>

During this time we saw how flawed even creationists can be as mortal humans when **AIG and Creation Ministries International (CMI)** split off from one another in a messy set of circumstances which resulted in a lawsuit between the two organizations in 2005.

The objections to AIG have begun all over again with the building of the full scale Ark at the **Ark Encounter** site in Northern Kentucky. As occurred the first time when they built the museum there are wild allegations being tossed around that they are violating church and state separation by even building the Ark. They received, as most all new business do in Kentucky which hope to bring in new tourists to Kentucky, a state tax incentive deal to rebate some tax revenues given to the state through taxes back to the generating establishment to induce them to build and operate in Kentucky. This has again riled those who believe the state of Kentucky is now sponsoring this endeavor with state money which is technically not true, but it makes for great headlines if you are against AIG. Now, in the past week we have the latest in this saga as reported below from OneNewsNow.

**The Noah's Ark project planned in Kentucky is now receiving opposition from the state in a clash over freedom of religion.**

[Noah's Ark Encounte](https://arkencounter.com/)r, a project of Answers in Genesis, received tax incentives for the park from the state tourism agency in 2011 but because of cutbacks had to reapply with a smaller scope.  Ark Encounter Executive Director Mike Zovath tells OneNewsNow they received tentative approval but later received a notice from the state.

“They decided arbitrarily to add a requirement to our application that they don't require of anybody else, and it was basically they want us to eliminate religion from our hiring requirements,” he says. That's in spite of the fact that it is a Christian organization. Zovath was asked if the situation was perhaps created by pressure on the state from Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

“Yeah, I think they use a lot of bullying tactics because they really recognize they don't have a legal position to stand on,” he says. “You know we're in the middle of a political year, an election year, and I think they use that to try to make as much noise as they can.”

The Kentucky and U.S. Constitutions protect religious freedom. Ark Encounter will stand on the organization's rights and is waiting for clarification from the state

<http://onenewsnow.com/culture/2014/10/10/noah%E2%80%99s-ark-project-singled-out-for-requirements-by-state#.VDhTaWddVOQ>

What are we to learn from all of this strife which all of the creation movement has endured over the past 50 years? First, we should recognize that our ministries are bringing fruit. This opposition is directly sponsored by Satan himself as we are doing God’s work and we should expect Satan and his followers to oppose us. That is biblical. Second, the gallop polls show that we are getting through with our message. If we were not so successful, then the opposition would be happy to ignore us, but we are making an impact and it bothers them in spite of controlling public schools, universities, government grants and the media for more than 50 years that still 70% of Americans believe they were created by a Creator!

Finally, we should recognize that these challenges will never stop till Christ returns. What will be next? Well maybe it is the cry by Bill Nye the Science Guy who wishes to spread the mythology that if you teach your kid creationism, send them to a Christian school which does so or to home school them that you are engaging in child abuse! You don’t think that will gain traction? Just think how short a time it has taken for society to decide marijuana is alright, spanking your kid is a crime and homosexuality is acceptable. If we are not vigilant, rights we cherish will be taken from us because there are those sponsored by Satan who believes they know better than Christians how to live and run this country and they hope to force their belief systems on us. Indeed, this is a never ending struggle. But, one worth fighting and winning!



**Neil deGrasse Tyson and Bad Science**

If you do not know who **Neil deGrasse Tyson** is let me introduce you to him. Dr. Tyson is an American astrophysicist, author, Director of the Hayden Planetarium at Rose Center for Earth and Space and a science communicator on shows such as “The Universe” and “Cosmos: A Space Time Odyssey.” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neil_deGrasse_Tyson>

In addition to these notable accomplishments, he is an avowed atheist and a denigrator of scientific creationism. He uses his appearances on multiple shows and news reports to espouse evolutionary theories and, when asked, to denigrate creationism.

He also now has been caught with his foot in his mouth and it’s taken more than a decade for him to recognize it and even try to extricate that foot. You see Dr. Tyson was not a fan of former President George W. Bush, in spite of President Bush appointing him to NASA planning committees and awarding him a distinguished science medal. His disdain for the President is such that for years on his presentations he has misquoted the President on a speech he gave right after the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster and incorrectly interposed those comments as said by the President after the 9/11 disaster.

What President Bush said 18 months after 9/11 and in the wake of Challenger was this. “In the words of the prophet Isaiah, ‘Lift your eyes and look to the heavens. Who created all these? He who brings out the starry hosts one by one and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.’ The same creator who names the stars also knows the names of the seven souls we mourn today.”

 Dr. Tyson paraphrases (as he calls it) in his lectures like this. He says the President said: “our God is the God who named the stars,” and then Tyson immediately notes that 2/3 of all star-names in the night sky are Arabic. He then goes on to say how this exemplifies not only the Bible and the President’s ignorance of the naming of the stars, but also shows the President’s Islamaphobic nature.

He has taken the President’s words out of context and accused him of saying things he did not say in a context he did not say them for a decade and it has taken intense pressure from the right and the left in the past couple of years to get him to begrudgingly admit it. <http://www.breitbart.com/InstaBlog/2014/10/02/Neil-deGrasse-Tyson-finally-kinda-sorta-admits-he-got-that-Bush-quote-wrong>

Well, so what. He’s stubborn and prideful. So are most academics, politicians and celebrities, as are many of us. The problem is that he not only claims to be, but is also recognized as a leading scientist. Our culture incorrectly attaches to scientists some “saints in white robes” detachment that they will look only for truth, pay attention only to verified data, and base all of their conclusions and statements on their dispassionate evaluation of that data.

This whole episode shows that even the supposedly best and leading scientists are human and fully flawed as each of us are with a host of our human biases. He has not only been proven wrong in this one instance of misquoting and mischaracterizing the President’s comments, but he vehemently denied his mistakes for a decade. If he can do this with verifiable facts of history, how can we trust him or any other scientist not to ever play favorites with how they are treating the data they see to try and make it fit the explanation they want rather than what the facts truly reveal. The honest answer is that we cannot. We need to learn from this episode that scientists are as flawed as we and giving them any type of special credence as dispassionate is unfounded and indeed dangerous. When scientists with agendas such as Dr. Tyson, or in the case of East Anglia and the falsified global warming data and in so many other cases, it is our duty to ourselves to examine the data on which they supposedly base their conclusions on and see if they really say what these “experts” say they mean.

One problem in our society today is that we are so enamored with science that we are giving it supernatural sway in our lives. We all too often trust the advice of our medical doctor over the power of prayer. We, instead of praying for long life and health, are secretly hoping that medical science will have the answers to keep us alive in the future. Instead of improving our own lives we too often today hope that scientific advances will bring us new technology and gadgets which will improve that life. We are in fact close to replacing God in our minds with science and that is a dangerous place to go, especially noting the kind of people like Dr. Tyson who control most of what we hear about science.

**Coming to SABBSA in November**

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

******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 session on Monday, September 22 was attended by a group of more than 50 people with a host of young kids in their seminar. We covered the first two episodes **Design—Chaos or Creation?** and **Origins of Life—Plants and Animals.** With a very engaging question, answer, and discussion sessions which followed both videos.

In subsequent months we will cover the following topics in this 12 part series concluding in the spring of 2015.

**October, 27 2014 Topics: Origins of Life—Humans. Fossils.**

Young Children’s topic: "Sound Foundation" Discussing the wonders of our ears and
that hearing isn't all there is to it.

**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.

**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**

**How do Alien Encounters Fit in a Biblical Worldview?**

At our September meeting, we watched the video**"Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind, A new theory about alleged alien abductions"**by Gary Bates of Creation Ministries International.

As a renowned Christian researcher into the modern cultural phenomenon of UFOs, Gary has met and counseled numerous people who have seen strange things in sky or have claimed interaction with alleged alien beings. How can we explain these experiences, which can be real, but are not of an extraterrestrial source? Are such occurrences mere fantasies, encounters with aliens or something else entirely within a spiritual realm? Gary’s hypothesis is groundbreaking, yet straightforward, using phenomena that are known and understandable to us.

This video showed Mr. Bates’ presentation as given at the US Super Conference in 2010.

**Next SABBSA Meeting:
Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at 7 pm**

**Coming to SABBSA in October**
The apologetics classic **"The Case for Christ"** by **Lee Stroebel.**

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 Strobel 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 include: the historical accuracy of the Gospels, the personal claims of Jesus, and His resurrection from the dead.

Although Stroebel is an old Earth creationist, we intend to watch his highly impactful videos critically over the next few months to see what is there of value and what we will have to correct in them to the viewing public.

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.