Communique'

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**July 2016**

We hope you are having a great summer! My wife and I will be taking a trip Branson later this month and then on to the ArkEncounter in Williamstown, Kentucky. We would encourage you to plan such a trip this year. What Answers in Genesis has constructed is not only the biggest wooden structure in the world today, but it has the possibility of being a great evangelical tool, as well as a boon to getting out the word on creation science.

This month’s **Communique** has an article on the work of three Nobel laureates who have shown that life on this planet could not have occurred by chance. It shows that the mere structure of our world, the chemistry and physics with which our reality are made of precludes anything but a designer for life to exist!

Also, since this newsletter is coming out just after the 4th of July, we added an article telling of a time in our nation when we thought of ourselves as a “Christian Nation.” Unfortunately for us today, that time seems long past. As usual we will have a full run down of the creation teaching opportunities across Bexar County and Texas.

Nobel-Winning DNA Research Challenges Evolutionary Theory May 30, 2016

In 2015, three scientists won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for decades of research into DNA—research that reinforces the idea that evolution is mythology and makes the modern evolutionary theory of abiogenesis seem more and more indefensible. It turns out that DNA is inherently unstable, and the preservation of genetic information requires a complex symbiotic relationship between the cell and DNA that is so interdependent that neither could have arisen independently of the other.

**New Insight into DNA and the Cell**

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) is the giant organic molecule which carries and preserves an organism’s genetic information. DNA is essential to the growth and reproduction of life-forms because precise copying and self-replication of DNA is a critical part of the process of cell division.

Tomas Lindahl, the first Nobel laureate, has demonstrated that the rate at which DNA decays should have made the development of life on Earth impossible.1 The Nobel Committee expresses this on a personal level: “you ought to have been a chemical chaos long before you even developed into a foetus.”2

So why doesn’t our genetic material disintegrate into complete chemical chaos? It is because of molecular repair mechanisms within the cell. The three Nobel laureates “mapped, at a molecular level, how cells repair damaged DNA and safeguard the genetic information.”3 They found that a multitude of molecular systems constantly monitor the genome and repair any damage.

One such mechanism discovered by Lindahl is base excision repair, which explains why our DNA doesn’t collapse. A base of a nucleotide often loses an amino group and becomes unable to form a base pair, thus breaking the DNA chain. But an enzyme detects the error, and other enzymes repair it so that the DNA can replicate properly.

Paul Modrich, the second laureate, discovered another molecular mechanism called mismatch repair. Replication errors often occur as the DNA is copied, but Modrich found that enzymes continually detect most of these errors, and other enzymes repair them. The Nobel Committee says this “reduces the error frequency during DNA replication by about a thousandfold.”4

One further issue that DNA must contend with is mutations, caused by DNA damage due to radiation and a variety of mutagenic substances. For example, radiation might make two base pairs bind to one another incorrectly. But the third laureate, Aziz Sancar, discovered that through a mechanism called nucleotide excision repair, enzymes will cut out, remove, and replace a damaged DNA strand.

We have long known that the cell could not reproduce without DNA, but we now know that DNA would self-destruct without the cell. It is this complex symbiotic relationship between a cell and its DNA that makes the modern evolutionary theory more difficult to defend.

**Climbing Mount Impossible**

The theory of chemical evolution or abiogenesis suggests that life arose spontaneously from nonliving matter. Earth is approximately 4.5 billion years old, and life emerged about 1 billion years after Earth’s formation. Our earlier article on abiogenesis discussed calculations by several scientists who have shown that the probability that the chemistry necessary for life self-assembled in only 1 billion years by undirected, random processes is so infinitesimally small as to be essentially impossible. And those calculations don’t even take into consideration the four-letter molecular language (genetic code) with 20 “words” (each representing an amino acid) through which DNA carries the organism’s genetic information. Even simple languages are usually associated with an intelligent agency—not undirected, random action—as is illustrated by the SETI program’s search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

Furthermore, life is more complex than mere chemistry. The life-forms in our world are self-sustaining and self-replicating, and unless these features were in place when the chemistry of life assembled, any life which appeared could neither grow nor reproduce. Self-preservation instincts go beyond the competence of mathematical probability calculations. It seems a miracle would be necessary for all this to come together by undirected, random processes over a timespan of only 1 billion years!

Yet the 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry now raises the bar even higher. This research shows that for abiogenesis to occur, undirected, random processes must have anticipated the inherent instability of DNA and assembled the cell with the variety of enzymes necessary to prevent the self-destruction of DNA. Additionally, the cell’s chemistry, the self-preservation instinct, and anticipatory DNA repair mechanisms must have all come together at the same instant in time within only 1 billion years; otherwise, any nascent life could not have survived. If the probability barrier to evolution seemed like climbing Mount Improbable before, it has now become climbing Mount Impossible.

Could simple single-celled life-forms emerge and evolve into more complex life? Single-celled life-forms are not so simple. For example, the genome of an aerobic hyper-thermophilic crenarchaeon (a thermophilic archaea, a type of bacteria) consists of 1.7 billion base pairs, which is almost 60 percent of the 2.9 billion base pairs in the human genome.5

How does this impact the modern neo-Darwinian theory of evolution? According to the Nobel Committee, “if genetic information were too unstable no multi-cellular organisms would exist” because evolution requires mutations.6 Yet the DNA repair mechanisms limit the number of mutations.

Although the mutation frequency varies between species and site, it is uniformly quite small. As an illustration, the average mutation rate in humans has been estimated to be only ~2.5 x 10-8 mutations per nucleotide. Most mutations have no effect, and approximately 3 percent are harmful.7 A study of mutation fitness found that advantageous mutations are rare.8 An earlier article estimated that less than 50 new mutations per generation occur in the genes governing human intellectual ability. Of these 50 mutations, one to two are deleterious, and a vanishingly small fraction increase fitness. In other words, the number of favorable mutations—upon which natural selection can operate—is extremely small, and this Nobel-winning research seems to provide an explanation for this.

The discoveries made by the 2015 Nobel laureates serve as another example of how modern science is bringing more and more questions into the theory of naturalistic evolution, adding support to the idea that everything on Earth was created by a higher intelligence.

Authors – **Hugh Henry and Daniel Dyke**

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Daniel J. Dyke received his MTh from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1981, and currently serves as a professor of Old Testament studies at Cincinnati Christian University in Cincinnati, OH.

**Endnotes**

1. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, “The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015,” news release, October 7, 2015, http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2015/press.html.
2. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, “DNA Repair—Providing Chemical Stability for Life,” October 7, 2015, http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\_prizes/chemistry/laureates/2015/popular-chemistryprize2015.pdf.
3. Royal Swedish, “Nobel Prize.”
4. Royal Swedish, “Nobel Prize.”
5. Yutaka Kawarabayasi et al., “Complete Genome Sequence of an Aerobic Hyper-thermophilic Crenarchaeon, *Aeropyrum pernix K1*,” *DNA Research* 6 (April 1999): 83–101, 145–52.
6. Royal Swedish, “DNA Repair.”
7. Michael Nachman and Susan Crowell, “Estimate of the Mutation Rate per Nucleotide in Humans,” *Genetics* 156 (September 2000): 297–304.
8. Adam Eyre-Walker and Peter Keightley, “The Distribution of Fitness Effects of New Mutations,” *Nature Reviews Genetics* 8 (August 2007): 610–18, doi:10.1038/nrg2146.

**America, Christian Nation or Not?** 

We just past the fourth of July, which brings about a lot of Patriotic fervor. We rightly honor the sacrifices our military have given for us on this day. But, President Obama was oft quoted in his first year of office for a comment he made saying that America is “not a Christian Nation.” This statement fired off a lot of negative reactions from conservatives and Christians, but it may well be the truth today as our nation becomes ever more secular. When I was growing up, the by words were always “God and Country.” Boy, how that has changed!

The amount of people of going to church of any kind is going down, while the amount of people who espouse no faith is going up. Our government laws and policies are starting not only to not reflect Christian values, but seem aggressively against Christian values. The Supreme Courts’ defining marriage as a legal right between same sex couples, as well as the Obama ruling requiring all public facilities to honor transgender restroom choices stand out as grand examples of this. This anti-Christian environment makes teaching creationism all the more difficult.

Our question is, was it always so? Yes, we hear that things have changed, but was the supposed religious backdrop of our country just a few decades ago just a façade and has America really always been more secular than we remember?

Those of us who are over fifty can testify to the fact that America has become increasingly more secularized over the past five decades. If you watch old black and white movies you will see a respect for religion and God not shown in films today for the most part. In fact, one of the real clues to what has gone on in the past fifty plus years is to see how anti-religious films have become.

This respect of God, laws and country in old films did not happen by chance. From the early 1930’s to 1968 production of Hollywood films were governed by the **Motion Picture Production Code** established by the film industry to try and stave off federal, state and local regulation. The code was divided into two parts. The first was a set of "general principles" which prohibited a picture from "lowering the moral standards of those who see it", called for depictions of the "correct standards of life", and lastly forbade a picture from showing any sort of ridicule towards a law or "creating sympathy for its violation". The second part was a set of "particular applications" which was an exacting list of items which could not be depicted. Some restrictions, such as the ban on homosexuality or on the use of specific curse words, were never directly mentioned, but were assumed to be understood without clear demarcation. Depiction of miscegenation (i.e. marital or sexual relations between different races) was forbidden. It also stated that the notion of an "adults-only policy" would be a dubious, ineffective strategy which would be difficult to enforce; however, it did allow that "maturer minds may easily understand and accept without harm subject matter in plots which does younger people positive harm". If children were supervised and the events implied elliptically, the code allowed "the possibility of a cinematically inspired thought crime".

The production code sought not only to determine what could be portrayed on screen but also to promote traditional values. Sexual relations outside of marriage—which were forbidden from being portrayed as attractive or beautiful—were to be presented in a way that would not arouse passion or make them seem permissible. All criminal action had to be punished, and neither the crime nor the criminal could elicit sympathy from the audience, or the audience must at least be aware that such behavior is wrong, usually through "compensating moral value". Authority figures had to be treated with respect, and the clergy could not be portrayed as comic characters or villains. Under some circumstances, politicians, police officers, and judges could be villains, as long as it was clear that those individuals portrayed as villains were the exceptions to the rule. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motion\_Picture\_Production\_Code)

You can see how different these standards are from what is portrayed routinely in films today. By the 1950’s pressures from television and foreign films broke down this system and by 1968 it was scrapped and replaced by the rating system like what we have today, which essentially allows almost anything to be put onto the screen. It is labeled with ratings today, but the boundaries of those ratings have been highly blurred over the years to where they are almost meaningless.

What many do not know, is that prior to sixty years ago it was natural to call America a “Christian Nation.” So much so that the Supreme Court did so on two occasions. Most people do not know it, but there was a 150+ year history in this country of not only acknowledging that this was a Christian Nation, but that we tried to operate using Christian values.

Prohibition in the 1920’s showed how influential religion was in America during those days. Also the “blue laws” which were in place until the 1970’s showed a reverence for the Sabbath and Christian values when some business had to be closed on Sundays and shops could not dispense alcohol on Sundays. These laws and the respect for Christian values is missing today, but it was a staple in America in yesteryear.

Prior to the 1960’s the Supreme Court decided three cases which became known as the “Holy Trinity” of legal cases. These cases not only defined America as a Christian Nation, but openly espoused Christian values and endorsed their use in all phases of society and in schools.

In 1844 the Supreme Court decided the case of Vidal v. Girard. In this case using Bible verses to teach English and morality in public schools was challenged in 1844. Since the Bible had been the principle educational textbook in most school houses throughout America’s history, this was a great departure even to suggest it could not be or should not be used to teach morals.

A Philadelphia school wanted to teach morals without using the Bible. The Court said, “Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament, without note or comment, be read and taught as a divine revelation in the college; its general precepts expounded, its evidences explained, and its glorious principles of morality inculcated?”

You see even though the legal concept of separation of church and state was introduced not in the constitution, but by a letter written by Thomas Jefferson in 1802 to the Danbury Baptists and into Supreme Court writings in 1892, it was still clear to jurists closer to the start of our country that the establishment clause was not meant to bar religion and Christianity from the public square. But rather to simply ensure that no religion became sponsored over all others by the government. In 1844, they saw no constitutional issues with having the Bible openly read in class and used as a textbook recognizing this book not only as God’s word, but as the backbone of western civilization.

In 1892 in the case of “The Holy Trinity v. the United States” it was decided by the court that not even immigration laws could trump religious freedom. A church had hired a pastor from abroad to come to America and be their preacher. There were protectionist laws which prohibited contracting labor from outside our country and immigrating them to America. The court found in this case that such laws were unconstitutional without a religious exception because no law, as the constitution says, can be made which in any way restricts religion!

In this case the Supreme Court cited document after document from American history and concluded, "There is no dissonance in these declarations (meaning between the establishment clause and the supposed wall between church and state – edit mine). There is a universal language pervading them all, having one meaning; they affirm and reaffirm that this is a religious nation." The ruling states bluntly, "This is a Christian nation.”

Another immigration case in 1931 came to the same conclusion in the United States v. Macintosh. And again the justices used the explicit wording that America is a “Christian Nation.” Most people today have no clue that such decisions existed in our nation’s history. These stood for more than 100 years as a guide to schools and society that religion, and specifically Christianity, had an open space in the public square.

What has happened to us that we no longer bear a resemblance to the Christian Nation we once were? Surely Satan and man’s rebellious natures are involved, but this is a complex question with a long and complicated history attached to it. It is the subject of the presentation we will be giving at FEAST on September 26. We invite you to attend.

**Ark Encounter is Here!**

Have you got your tickets for the full size Ark being built in Williamstown, Kentucky which opened July 7? If not, you can go to <https://arkencounter.com/tickets/> to buy tickets today.

**SABBSA on KSLR**

Please join the San **Antonio Bible Based Science Association** as we are now “on the air” each Saturday afternoon with “**Believing the Bible!”**

Join us **Saturday afternoons at 1:45 pm on radio station KSLR 630 AM**.

Here is our schedule of program topics for July:

July 2 - **Living Fossils**
July 9 - **Pre-history of Evolutionary theory**
July 16 - **Jay Seegert - Creation Education Center - background**
July 23 - **Jay Seegert - Creation Education Center - mission**
July 30 - **Missing Links**, **part I** August 6 - **Missing Links, part II**

There are several ways you can help with this exciting new endeavor. One and always first is pray for this program, for its content and impact. Second, become a sponsor as many of our board members have done and help us defray the $60+ per week costs of putting this program on the air. Third listen to this show on the air and tell your friends and family members so this can reach as wide an audience as possible. Fourth, help us with scripts. We are hoping that our board and other interested and knowledgeable members will both tell us what they would like to hear in future programs as well as help us by writing future scripts and coming on the air with us to make this truly a group effort.

Also, we now have an opportunity to take this program and broadcast it in radio stations across the country. To do that though we need sponsors to underwrite it at the very modest cost of $110 per month. Contact us at 210-861-0454 if you would like to help and expand our ministry in this way.

This program is available on podcast.  Go to the KSLR website at KSLR.com and click on "KSLR Podcast" and scroll down until you find us.  This will give you the opportunity to share on Facebook or Tweet.  Please join us each Saturday at 1:45 pm on radio KSLR 630 AM for **“Believing the Bible.”**

**Science Workshops at FEAST in Fall 2016 **

SABBSA president **Scott Lane** will present selected portions of his creation series to audiences at the FEAST Science Workshops in 2016 and 2017. All presentations will be at 6:30 pm on the fourth Monday's of each month. A companion young children's "hands on" program is also provided each night. The fall schedule is shown below:

September - **"The DeFaithing of America"** - This multimedia presentation gives participants an understanding of how two societal shifts played out in America over the past century. How did we go from a nation where in 1925 it was illegal to teach evolution in public schools to today where it is illegal to teach God's creation in schools? Parallel to this phenomenon another societal shift was happening. America was undergoing a systematic move to eliminate God from all phases of our society. How did that occur? We examine that parallel societal shift as well.

October - **"Introduction to Creation Theories"** - this presentation covers the full continuum of theories between evolution and creation. It includes capsules on the compromise theories of scientific creationism, gap theory, day/age theory, intelligent design, progressive creationism, and theistic evolution. It sets the stage for all further presentations. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Prayer Needs and Praises!**

**Answers in Genesis** Praise God also for the fact that AiG has completed the Ark and opened to the public! Pray for those individuals gathered there who are protesting what they call the “Genocide and Incest Park.”



**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 143. After the presentation, there will be refreshments, fellowship and creation science materials for all to enjoy. They are currently in the midst of a seven-month series of teachings. Their meetings can be streamed live! 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.

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**Last Month at SABBSA**

**Testing Evolution: Exposing Flaws**

Are humans and chimps only 1 to 2% different?
Is the human genome 98% junk, as claimed?
Is Mitochondrial Eve evidence for evolution?
What are some recent discoveries regarding our chromosomes?
What should be done about creation in public schools?
Does the creation topic really matter?

Evolutionary thought has changed a great deal in the last few years. It was once thought that human DNA is primarily junk. For many years Mitochondrial Eve was presented as compelling evidence for evolution. In addition, the 1 to 2% difference between humans and chimps was declared as fact. However, recently these arguments have been completely reversed. This video reveals the rest of the story. Jim Bendewald, M.Div., interviews Dr. Kevin Anderson in this video revealing the amazing turn of events.

We viewed this video in June and found it to be very enlightening. It got us current on many of the evidences for creation and against evolution from the biological sciences. One fact from this video which you will not hear discussed in the media, is that evolutionists will not even talk about the "Eve Syndrome" evidence anymore because it so damning for evolution. The Eve Syndrome evidence uses mitochondrial DNA to show that we all came from one first woman, just as the Bible describes. However, this data does more than that. The change in female mitochondrial DNA, when compared to known mutation and variation rates gives a date of just 6000 to 8000 years ago that Eve lived and the human race began! This data is so pro-biblical creation and against evolutionary theory that evolutionists will not even bring the subject of Eve up today!

This and much more was in this video, which we recommend.

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**Next SABBSA Meeting:
Tuesday, July 9, 2016, at 7 pm**

**Coming to SABBSA in July**

**"The Rocks Cry Out" Lesson 1**

Very, very few people have ever seen a fascinating, visual presentation of the evidence supporting a Biblical creation viewpoint. The Rocks Cry Out creation curriculum provides the perfect tool for you to change this for your church or small group. "Search for Truth Ministries" spent $30,000 filming the first six lessons of "The Rocks Cry Out" creation curriculum. They believe this will be the most impactful creation curriculum ever produced. This curriculum works equally well as a church class for youth/adults or as a study for home schoolers and small fellowship groups. It is also enjoyable to simply watch with family and friends.

This is not just a class on the evidence for creation. The goal of this study is to increase participants trust in the reliability and accuracy of God's Word. In this way they are far more likely to share their faith with others.

In July we will view Lesson 1 of this exciting new DVD series. Lesson 1 covers how the most basic laws of science confirm the absolute fact that there is a creator responsible for creation. Using visual demonstrations of how we can know that neither the universe nor life could have made itself, this lesson reveals how leaving this reality out of our thinking ultimately destroys a culture's trust in Christianity and blinds people to the truth.

Please join us on July 12th for creation science and biblical apologetics teaching you will find nowhere else in Bexar County. As always, we will meet at the Jim’s Restaurant at the corner of san Pedro and Ramsey.