Communique'

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**June 2018**

Well, as predicted here last month, the South Texas heat is upon us. We hope you are staying cool!

Our **June Communique'** features three articles ripped from this past month’s headlines in the fields of space exploration, and genetics. Our first article examines the very recent announcement by NASA of the **Curiosity Rover’s** finding of organic molecules and methane on Mars. As they admit, these could have been produced from nonliving chemical reactions and their fervor in this announcement reveals an interpretation bias we will explore.

Our second article deals with the provocative stories being floated around right now about **Octopus’ intelligence and their DNA** show that they may have been transported here as aliens from space! This ridiculously sounding claim is being argued by genetics researchers today and we will have a biologist come and give us the background on this discussion as well as how the Octopus DNA falsifies evolution and points to a Creator in our July meeting!

Finally, we have an article which explores a supposed **Y-chromosome bottleneck** some 5000 years ago which may have a very biblically supported reason for its existence in our DNA.

As always, we have a full rundown of all the creation science education opportunities in the greater San Antonio area and Texas. These include an exciting new **“Taking Us to the Stars!”** program we will host at FEAST this coming school year. We pray that you find this newsletter of value.

**NASA’s Curiosity rover has found organic molecules on Mars**

During a press conference at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Goddard, Md., and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., scientists announced, “We found organic molecules in rocks from an ancient lake bed,” explained Jen Eigenbrode, research scientist at Goddard. A variety of molecules were identified, she added.

While NASA was at pains to explain that it has not discovered life on Mars, the organic molecules could provide vital clues. “Organic compounds are fundamental to our search for life,” said Paul Mahaffy, director of the Solar System Exploration Division at Goddard.

Described as the most technologically advanced rover ever built, Curiosity launched on Nov. 26, 2011. The rover landed on Mars' Gale Crate on Aug. 6, 2012, with the goal of determining whether Mars was ever able to support microbial life.

Eigenbrode explained that the organic molecules found on Mars are not specific evidence of life. "They could have come from things that are non-biological," she said.

Nonetheless, the molecules could provide a vital guide for scientists in their search for life on Mars. "All life that we know of is based on organic molecules," Eigenbrode explained. 'There's a whole suite of chemical and physical things that we could measure to find signatures of life."

The rover has already delivered some important scientific results. In 2013, for example, analysis of a rock sample collected by the vehicle showed that ancient Mars could have supported living microbes. In 2014 the rover measured a tenfold spike in methane, an organic chemical, in the atmosphere around it. At that time, the robotic laboratory also detected other organic molecules in a rock-powder sample collected by its drill.

Excerpted from Fox news. You can go to <http://www.foxnews.com/science/2018/06/07/what-has-nasa-found-on-mars-get-set-for-major-announcement.html> to read the whole article.

**Editor’s Note: NASA hailed this as a momentous discovery, and while interesting it means little. The organic molecules they found are not life, but potential building block chemicals for life. None of them were one of the twenty amino acids used by life on Earth in life processes. These types of organic molecule chains are randomly formed here on Earth all the time by nonliving chemical interactions and as NASA admitted, there is no indication that these organic molecules were not generated in the same way.**

**It should also be noted that many of the organic molecules found on Mars contain chlorine atoms in a mixture not found here on Earth and never found in Earth life processes. They would kill our forms of life.**

**NASA’s announcement and excitement in finding methane being produced on Mars is exciting to them due to their interpretation that this methane could be produced by living organisms or produced by the degeneration of what was once alive. There are of course other ways to produce methane and thus simply finding methane on Mars is far from a smoking gun of finding life or that life ever existed on Mars. Methane is a dominant gas in the atmospheres of both Jupiter and Saturn and no one suggests that these vast storehouses of this gas were formed by life processes.**

**This announcement is another indication of how NASA has been “high jacked” in the quest to find life outside of Earth and thereby prove that life can evolve spontaneously. All research done here on Earth shows that simply having even the right chemicals around is useless unless DNA also exists to instruct life processes how to work and a fully constructed cell is already in place to support, interpret and carry out life processes as denoted in the intelligently constructed DNA instructions.**

**As a child I was enamored by NASA and dreamt of exploring space. I am saddened today to see how misdirected their research has become and how fallacious and misleading many of their announcements are.**

**Are Octopuses Aliens from Space brought by Comets?**

Octopuses are aliens? That’s the claim being made by a team of 33 researchers published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. They are not referring to aliens in a metaphorical sense, but literal aliens from outer space.

Since the paper was released, a trickle of news coverage has turned into a torrent, with increasingly alarming headlines about octopuses and their extra-terrestrial origins. It will not come as a surprise to many to learn that these claims have been roundly mocked by the scientific community, who have branded the paper – published in Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology – as ridiculous and unscientific.

**What are the claims being made?**

They suggest the Cambrian explosion, a sudden burst of life that occurred around 540 million years ago, was the result of extra-terrestrial intervention. The paper asks whether this event, which saw the rapid emergence of most of the main animal groups that still exist on Earth today, was “terrestrial or cosmic”. Their conclusion is the latter.

**How do the scientists suggest this would work?**

Specifically, the researchers propose the idea that alien viruses crashed to Earth in a meteor, infected a population of primitive squid and caused them to evolve into octopuses. Another theory they suggest is that fertilized squid or octopus eggs were delivered to Earth by a meteor.

The idea is essentially a reimagining of the “panspermia” hypothesis, which suggests that life on Earth was “seeded” by space dust or asteroids crashing into Earth. One of its first proponents, Chandra Wickramasinghe, is one of the authors of the new paper.

**Why do the researchers look at the octopus in particular?**

Octopuses are weird. They are mollusks, meaning they are closely related to snails, and yet they are incredibly intelligent. On top of their large brains and sophisticated nervous systems, the authors of the new paper list camera-like eyes, flexible bodies and ability to camouflage themselves by changing color and shape as evidence of their extra-terrestrial origins.

So suddenly did these features appear in the octopus family tree that “it is plausible then to suggest they seem to be borrowed from a far distant ‘future’ in terms of terrestrial evolution, or more realistically from the cosmos at large,” the authors write.

“Such an extraterrestrial origin as an explanation of emergence of course runs counter to the prevailing dominant paradigm,” they continue. This is a strong contender for understatement of the century.

**What reason is there to doubt the claims being made in the paper?**

There are plenty of reasons. First off, as Mark Carnall from the Oxford University Museum of Natural History pointed out in a series of tweets, not one of the paper’s authors is a zoologist. Much of the authors’ speculation rests on the idea that the genetics of octopuses and their relatives are mysterious – yet a 2015 paper published in Nature revealed the octopus genome, so this is rather disingenuous…

Molecular geneticist Professor Karin Moelling of the Max Planck Institute Molecular Genetics, who was asked to review the report, concluded that it "cannot be taken seriously”. The primary reason for doubt given by Professor Moelling is that there is “no evidence at all”.

**Haven’t I heard something about octopuses being aliens before?**

Writers are fond of comparing octopuses to aliens due to their unusual appearance and great intelligence. Philosopher Peter Godfrey-Smith, who has written a book about octopus intelligence titled “Other Minds”, has described them as “the closest we will come to meeting an intelligent alien”.

On top of that, this is not the first time octopuses have been mistakenly labelled aliens by the press. An unfortunately worded press release concerning the Nature paper describing the octopus genome led to a slew of online news pieces in 2015 about researchers finding “alien DNA” in these creatures.

This article was excerpted from a larger article which you can view in its entirety by clicking on the link below-

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/octopus-aliens-scientists-theory-meteors-space-earth-cambrian-explosion-a8358631.html>

**Editor’s note: Are octopus’ space aliens? Does their DNA not fit into the evolutionary paradigm? Does alien DNA solve the problem of the Cambrian Explosion? The answer to all these questions is of course no! For an in-depth answer to all of this, please attend our July SABBSA meeting when Dr. Matthew Cserhati will be our guest and fill us in on what has been discovered in Octopus DNA which falsifies evolution and supports the creationist position!**

**Y-chromosome Bottleneck, the Flood and the Dispersion**

According to secular research in Y-chromosome structure, a major bottleneck (limiting down to just a very few males) occurred about 5,000 years ago and subsequently most Eurasian men can trace their ancestry back to a dozen ancestors who lived 5,000 years ago. (^ Karmin; et al. (2015). "A recent bottleneck of Y chromosome diversity coincides with a global change in culture". Genome Research. 25 (4): 459–66.) This is called the “Neolithic Y chromosome bottleneck.”

There have been three proposals for this bottleneck’s occurrence in the scientific journals over the past three years. One is that so called Neolithic founder Effect, Demographic changes due to Ecological Climactic Factors and now demographics influenced by dominant male clans.

In human populations, changes in genetic variation are driven not only by genetic processes, but can also arise from cultural or social changes. An abrupt population bottleneck specific to human males has been inferred across several Old World (Africa, Europe, Asia) populations 5000–7000 years ago via genetic analysis.

First, it is possible that ecological or climatic factors cause sex-specific demographic change. Some ecological or climatic factors such as stress or disease may impact male infant mortality and sex ratio at birth. However, such effects are small and cannot account for the 1:17 disparity the genetic analysis described between male and female population sizes inferred from the uniparental data.

Second, Neolithic founder effects from small populations of male Neolithic pioneers could create the appearance of a bottleneck in modern Y-chromosomes. Previously, academics felt this may have had something to do with the way our ancestors explored and settled new lands. It was called the “founder effect,” where a small number of individuals keep moving to establish new settlements, and this has been confirmed through archaeogenetics. Linguists and anthropologists have theorized that male-biased population expansions suggested by genetic data may account for the distribution of language families and cultures in the ‘Father Tongues Hypothesis’. Population expansions from small founding groups of Neolithic males would carry both male uniparental markers and cultural packages that included Neolithic subsistence strategies, displacing hunter-gatherer Y-chromosomes and cultural practices, while mitochondrial chromosomes would remain diverse as large local populations of hunter-gatherer females became assimilated into the expanding agricultural population in regional admixture events. This would create a selection bias among modern uniparental markers that produces the appearance of a bottleneck specific to the Y-chromosome.

The third hypothesis is that aggressive males at the head of some clans would systematically defeat other clans, wipe out their males and add the other clan’s females to their tribe or clan. This Neolithic Transition increases male reproductive variance, as well as the transmission of such variance across generations. Karmin et al. proposed that changed social structures of post-Neolithic populations, contributing to increased reproductive variance, could account for the bottleneck. Indeed, agropastoral cultures display more heritable wealth and social hierarchy, which may increase male reproductive variance and polygyny is more prevalent than among hunter gatherers. Increased male reproductive variance and the transmission of such variance could reduce Y-chromosomal diversity in post-Neolithic cultures and could account to a certain degree for the bottleneck.

(This summary of findings was compiled from an article by Tian Chen Zeng, Alan J. Aw & Marcus W. Feldman published in Nature Communications, volume 9, Article number: 2077 (2018))

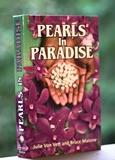
**Editor’s Note: Let’s understand this. Genetic analysis shows there may have been more diversity of female DNA than male DNA about 5000 years ago in Eurasia. Anthropologists have theorized: this could have been due to climatic and ecological changes on earth; or due to male settlers aggressively moving outward into frontiers and spreading their DNA to many women; or maybe aggressive male clan leaders wiped out other males and added the defeated clan’s women to their harem. These are some very wild and intriguing theories!**

**What about a less inventive theory which fits this data well? About 5000 years ago there was a bottleneck in the human DNA stream caused by the wiping out of all humans on earth except four couples on a boat who escaped a worldwide flood. The male DNA which moved forward from that time was much less diverse than the female DNA at that time since all three of the reproducing males at this time came from the same two parents. The females however, being the product of six other parents showed vastly more diversity in their genomes than the males. This data fits within the biblical account of the flood and our human race starting over after the flood extremely well, without reverting to fanciful tales. And it is supported by a wealth of geological and archaeological data! Why is this explanation not even in the mix of proposed theories?**

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**Search for the Truth Ministries**

Search for the Truth has set a **Go Fund Me page** to help raise funds for the final phase of their Fiji evangelism project.  They have paper to print the last 70,000 books, but they need to raise about $100,000 to finish printing the books for use in public schools in 3 other nations in 2019 (Philippines, Vanuatu, and Mexico).  There are two short videos on the link below - one from their 2017 school assembly/book distribution trip and one from our 2018 trip. Watch them to see what God is doing!



**Please consider donating and then forwarding the link to anyone you know who might be interested in joining the effort to reach an entire nation for Christ through their public-school system!  Every $2 donated will purchase a book for a student.  Anyone donating more than $50 will receive a copy of the “*Pearls in Paradise”* book (shown at right). We will have a copy of the “Pearls in Paradise” book for our members to examine at our June meeting.**

[https://www.gofundme.com/ PearlsinParadise](https://www.gofundme.com/PearlsinParadise)

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**SABBSA’s schedule for Spring 2018**

Please join the **San Antonio Bible Based Science Association** this year as we provide exciting video and live presentations in creation science! Our monthly meetings occur on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Our meetings will be at **Grady's Restaurant** at the **corner of San Pedro and Jackson-Keller**. The address is 6510 San Pedro Ave, San Antonio, TX 78216.

Here is our schedule of programs over the next few months:

June 12, 2018 - **ORIGIN: Design, Chance, and the First Life on Earth**

July - **Defying Evolution: The Octopus Genome**

August - **Young Children's version of "Dinosaurs and the Bible"?**

September - **Young Children's version of "Animals that Defy Evolution!"**

October - **"Alien Intrusion" the movie**

November - **"Is Genesis History?" the movie**

**Prayer Needs and Praises!**

**SABBSA** for prayer, support and guidance as we consider expanding our **radio ministry** and a possible expansion of our ministry into the Beaumont, TX area.

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**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 upcoming program topics:

6/2 **Races and Racism**

6/9 **Roe vs. Wade, the Bible and Creation**

6/16 **Unscientific God?**

6/23 **Bruce Malone, part I, Search for the Truth Ministries**

6/30 **Bruce Malone, part II, Fiji Ministry**

7/7 **Are We Made of Stardust?**

7/14 **Captured Moon?**

7/21 **Mike Riddle 1 - CTI**

7/28 **Mike Riddle 2 - Big Questions?**

8/4 **Choose a Bathroom**

8/11 **Mars Flood?**

8/18 **Dr. Cserhati 1 - Why a Biologist & a Creationist?**

8/25 **Dr. Cserhati 2- Genomics**

9/1**Dr. Cserhati 3 - Neanderthals, Languages**

9/8 **Is Evolution Science?**

9/15 **Man on the Street - Roman Villareal**

9/22 **The Haeckel Hoax**

**9**/29 **Can TNT Create Us?**

Of note in the coming months are some great interviews with some very powerful speakers. At the end of June, we will have two on air discussions with **Bruce Malone from “Search for the Truth Ministries”** out of Michigan. Bruce will talk to us about not only about the great creation evangelism his organization has been involved in the past two years in Fiji, but how the creation evangelism has benefited science and English education to an astounding extent in Fiji!

These programs are available on podcast. If you cannot tune in on Saturday afternoons, or would like to sample our program or hear previous shows, they are available on podcast on the KSLR website. Click on the link below to go to the KSLR podcast page and scroll down till you find "Believing the Bible."

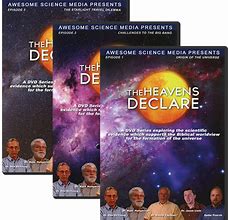
["Believing the Bible" - SABBSA on KSLR Radio](http://am630theword.com/content/all/am-630-the-word-podcasts)

Please join us each Saturday at 1:45 pm on radio KSLR 630 AM for **“Believing the Bible.”**

**Science Workshops for 2018-2019 at FEAST.** **“Taking Us to the Stars!”**

We have a very special set of programs for the FEAST Science workshops this coming year. SABBSA will partner with FEAST to provide us with two fascinating new series which explore the cosmos and search out the wonders of God’s creation of the universe!

For the fall we will show **“The Universe: A Journey Through God’s Grand Design”** from the Institute for Creation Research. This new series traces the history of man exploring and learning about the cosmos, with a God affirming point of view. It also updates us on what we have found in the universe and gives god the credit as its Creator! This series comes in 22-minute episodes. We will view the first two episodes in September and the second two in October with Q&A with our SABBSA hosts after each episode.



For the spring we will show the new **"The Heaven's Declare"** series from Awesome Science Media. Watch for details on this great line up of presentations by SABBSA and FEAST this coming schoolyear.



**Cartoon Corner**

Thanks to **Answers in Genesis** who provides these cartoons each month for our newsletter and our presentations. Please think about donating to them in gratitude for this and all the ministries they give us.

**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. 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:**

The Museum of Earth History uses the highest quality research replicas of dinosaurs, mammals and authentic historical artifacts to not only lay out for the visitor a clear and easily understood connection between Genesis and Revelation, but will do so in an entertaining and intellectually challenging way. Open M-F 9 to 6. <http://visitcreation.org/item/museum-of-earth-history-dallas-tx/>

**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. <http://dfw-mios.com/>

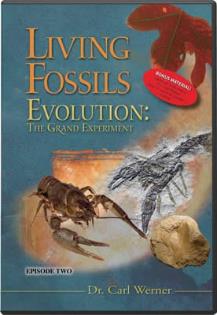
**Abilene:**

The Discovery Center is a creation museum/emporium that exists primarily to provide scientific and historic evidence for the truthfulness of God’s word, especially as it relates to the creation/evolution issue. It also features some fascinating “Titanic Disaster” exhibits. <http://evidences.org/index.html>

**Lubbock Area (Crosbyton):**   
All year: Consider a visit to the Mt. Blanco Fossil Museum, directed by Joe Taylor. The Museum is 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 creation audio programs 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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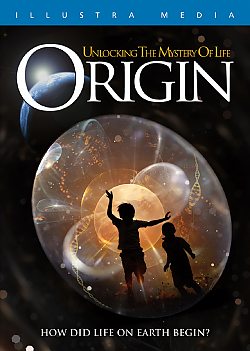
**Last Month at SABBSA**

**Evolution: The Grand Experiment, vol. 2: Living Fossils.**

In 1938 the discovery of a large, unusual fish turned the scientific community on end. Dubbed a living fossil, the discovery of a coelacanth in South Africa shocked scientists around the world who thought this type of fish had died out millions of years prior during the process of evolution. Living fossils are organisms found preserved in the fossil record, which still exist in similar form today. If the core concepts of the theory of evolution presuppose change over time, then how can these living fossils exist for millions of years remaining virtually unchanged?

Whether a shark, leaf, or crab, living fossils are a challenge for evolutionary theorists and create a fascinating debate among scholars. Do they indicate a younger earth than thought, placing the millions of years timeline of evolution in question? Or do they represent a deep mystery Evolution: The Grand Experiment, Vol 2 - Living Fossils delves into these provocative questions and more.

A fact-filled learning adventure as Dr. Werner takes you around the world on a unique scientific expedition from remote dig sites and museums to the Australian Rainforest and more.



**Next SABBSA Meeting:   
Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 7 pm**

**Coming to SABBSA in June**

**Origin: Design, Chance, and the First Life on Earth**

*How did life on Earth begin?*

This long-awaited sequel to ***Unlocking the Mystery of Life***, challenges the paradigm of scientific materialism and the belief that life is nothing more than the product of blind, undirected processes.   
  
With spectacular computer animation and cutting-edge research, ***ORIGIN*** examines a question that has baffled science for centuries: How did life on Earth begin? Today, most researchers insist it arose through simple chemistry and that without direction or plan somehow transformed inanimate matter into the first living cell. Yet, this explanation is devoid of evidence and unsatisfying, even to its most ardent supporters.  
  
As ***ORIGIN*** exposes the flaws of materialistic theories, you'll travel through a molecular universe to encounter extraordinary biological engineering crucial to the survival of every organism that has ever existed. Engineering that points unmistakably to intelligence and mind.   
  
***ORIGIN*** is a film that transcends science to touch the heart and mind of anyone who has ever pondered the deepest mystery of the human experience: Where did we come from and why are we here?

Please join us in June for creation science and biblical apologetics teaching you will find nowhere else in Bexar County. We meet at **Grady's Restaurant,** at the **corner of San Pedro and Jackson-Keller**. The address is 6510 San Pedro Ave, San Antonio, TX 78216.