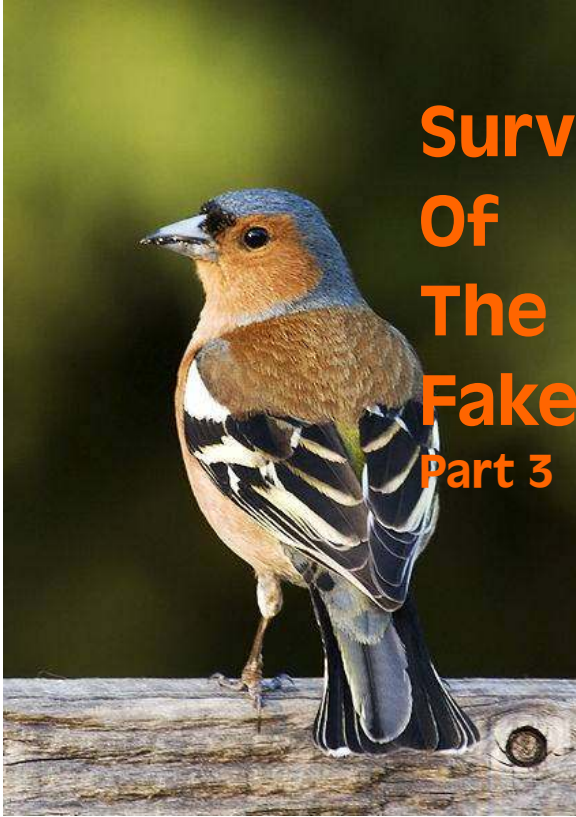


# LSI Journal

The Lutheran Science Institute

November-December, 2008



## Survival Of The Fakest Part 3

How Atheist Evolutionists View  
Theistic Evolution

Ken Ham's Presentation on Creation/Evolution  
Is Evolution to Blame for Two Attacks in Finland?

## LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

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<http://www.lutheralscience.org>

The mission of the Lutheran Science Institute is to learn, share, and promote the glory of God as revealed in His holy Word and demonstrated in His created world, beginning with the pastors, teachers, and laity of the WELS (Wis. Ev. Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Ev. Lutheran Synod).

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The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the Saturday *after* Thanksgiving. At least three other meetings are held during the year at locations selected by the president. Meetings are open to the public and announced in the LSI JOURNAL and/or on our web site.

## MEETING SCHEDULE\*

- ◆ 4th Saturday in January, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in June, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Last Saturday in October, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday *after* Thanksgiving in November, 1:00 p.m.

\*Dates, times, and locations subject to change.

Additional meetings may be scheduled. Check with the president, secretary, or editor or see our web site for verification.

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# Survival of the Fakest



## Part 3

SCIENCE NOW KNOWS THAT MANY OF THE PILLARS OF DARWINIAN THEORY ARE EITHER FALSE OR MISLEADING. YET BIOLOGY TEXTS CONTINUE TO PRESENT THEM AS FACTUAL EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION. WHAT DOES THIS IMPLY ABOUT THEIR SCIENTIFIC STANDARDS?

— JONATHAN WELLS

### Beaks and Birds: Darwin's Finches

A quarter of a century before Darwin published *The Origin of Species*, he was formulating his ideas as a naturalist aboard the British survey ship H.M.S. Beagle. When the Beagle visited the Galapagos Islands in 1835, Darwin collected specimens of the local wildlife, including some finches.

Though the finches had little in fact to do with Darwin's devel-

opment of evolutionary theory, they have attracted considerable attention from modern evolutionary biologists as further evidence of natural selection. In the 1970's, Peter and Rosemary Grant and their colleagues noted a 5 percent increase in beak size after a severe drought, because the finches were left with only hard-to-crack seeds. The change, though significant, was small; yet some Darwinists claim it explains how finch species originated in the first place.

A 1999 booklet published by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences describes Darwin's finches as "a particularly compelling example" of the origin of

This article originally appeared in *The American Spectator* magazine. Permission to reprint the article has been given by the Discovery Institute with headquarters in Seattle, Washington. It was written by Jonathan Wells.

species. The booklet cites the Grants' work, and explains how "a single year of drought on the islands can drive evolutionary changes in the finches." The booklet also calculates that "if droughts occur about once every 10 years on the islands, a new species of finch might arise in only about 200 years."



But the booklet fails to point out that the finches' beaks returned to normal after the rains returned. No net evolution occurred. In fact, several finch species now appear to be merging through hybridization, rather than diverging through natural selection as Darwin's theory requires.

Withholding evidence in order to give the impression that Darwin's finches confirm evolutionary theory borders on scientific misconduct. According to Harvard biologist Louis Guenin (writing in *Nature* in 1999), U.S. securities laws provide "our richest source of experiential guidance" in defining what constitutes scientific misconduct. But a stock promoter who tells his clients that a particular stock can be

expected to double in value in twenty years because it went up 5 percent in 1998, while concealing the fact that the same stock declined 5 percent in 1999, might well be charged with fraud. As Berkeley law professor Phillip E. Johnson wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* in 1999: "When our leading scientists have to resort to the sort of distortion that would land a stock promoter in jail, you know they are in trouble."

### From Apes to Humans

Darwin's theory really comes into its own when it is applied to human origins. While he scarcely mentioned the topic in *The Origin of Species*, Darwin later wrote extensively about it in *The Descent of Man*. "My object," he explained, "is to show that there is no fundamental difference between man and the higher animals in their mental faculties" - even morality and religion. According to Darwin, a dog's tendency to imagine hidden agency in things moved by the wind "would easily pass into the belief in the existence of one or more gods."

Of course, the awareness that the human body is part of nature was around long before Darwin. But Darwin was claiming much more. Like materialistic philosophers since ancient Greece, Darwin believed that human beings

are nothing more than animals.

Darwin, however, needed evidence to confirm his conjecture. Although Neanderthals had already been found, they were not then considered ancestral to humans, so Darwin had no fossil evidence for his view. It wasn't until 1912 that amateur paleontologist Charles Dawson announced that he had found what Darwinists were looking for, in a gravel pit at Piltdown, England.



Piltdown Man Skull

Dawson had found part of a human skull and part of an ape-like lower jaw with two teeth. It wasn't until forty years later that a team of scientists proved that the Piltdown skull, though perhaps thousands of years old, belonged to a modern human, while the jaw fragment was more recent, and belonged to a modern orangutan. The jaw had been chemically treated to make it look like a fossil, and its teeth had been deliberately filed down

to make them look human. Piltdown Man was a forgery.

Most modern biology textbooks do not even mention Piltdown. When critics of Darwinism bring it up, they are usually told that the incident merely proves that science is self-correcting. And so it was, in this case - though the correction took over forty years. But the more interesting lesson to be learned from Piltdown is that scientists, like everyone else, can be fooled into seeing what they want to see.

The same subjectivity that prepared the way for Piltdown continues to plague human-origins research. According to paleoanthropologist Misia Landau, theories of human origins "far exceed what can be inferred from the study of fossils alone and in fact place a heavy burden of interpretation on the fossil record - a burden which is relieved by placing fossils into pre-existing narrative structures." In 1996, American Museum of Natural History Curator Ian Tattersall acknowledged that "in paleoanthropology, the patterns we perceive are as likely to result from our unconscious mindsets as from the evidence itself." Arizona State University anthropologist Geoffrey Clark echoed this view in 1997 when he wrote: "We select among alternative sets of research conclusions in accordance with our biases and pre-

conceptions.” Clark suggested that “paleoanthropology has the form but not the substance of science.”

Biology students and the general public are rarely informed of the deep-seated uncertainty about human origins that is reflected in these statements by scientific experts. Instead, they are simply fed the latest speculation as though it were a fact. And the speculation is typically illustrated with fanciful drawings of cave men, or pictures of human actors wearing heavy make-up.



### What's Going on Here?

Most of us assume that what we hear from scientists is comparatively trustworthy. Politicians might distort or shave the truth to support a preconceived agenda, but scientists, we are told, deal with facts. Sure they might sometimes get it wrong, but the beauty of science is that it's empirically testable. If a theory is wrong, this will be discovered by other scientists perform-

ing independent experiments either to replicate or disprove their results. In this way the data are constantly reviewed and hypotheses become widely accepted theories. So how do we explain such a pervasive and long-standing distortion of the specific facts used to support evolutionary theory?

Perhaps Darwinian evolution has taken on a significance in our culture that has little to do with its scientific value, whatever that may be. An indication of this was seen in the nearly universal and censorious reaction to the Kansas School Board's decision to allow room for dissent in the standard teaching of evolution (much of which, as we have just seen, is plain wrong).

According to the news media, only religious fundamentalists question Darwinian evolution. People who criticize Darwinism, we are told, want to bomb science back to the Stone Age and replace it with the Bible. The growing body of scientific evidence contradicting Darwinian claims is steadfastly ignored. When biochemist Michael Behe pointed out in *The New York Times* last year that the embryo “evidence” for evolution was faked, Harvard Darwinist Stephen Jay Gould admitted that he had known this for decades (as noted above) – but accused Behe



of being a “creationist” for pointing it out.

Now, although Behe supports the idea that some features of living things are best explained by intelligent design, he is not a “creationist” as that word is normally used. Behe is a molecular biologist whose scientific work has convinced him that Darwinian theory doesn’t conform to observation and experimental evidence. Why does Gould, who knows Haeckel’s drawings were faked, dismiss Behe as a creationist for criticizing them?

I suspect that there’s an agenda other than pure science at work here. My evidence is the more or less explicit materialist message woven into many textbook accounts. Futuyma’s *Evolutionary Biology* is characteristic of this, informing students that “it was Darwin’s theory of evolution,” together with Marx’s theory of history and Freud’s theory of human nature, “that provided a crucial plank to the platform of mechanism and materialism” that has since been “the stage of most Western thought.” One textbook quotes Gould, who openly declares that humans are not created, but are merely fortuitous twigs on a “contingent” (i.e. accidental) tree of life. Oxford Darwinist Richard Dawkins, though not writing in a textbook, puts it even more bluntly: “Darwin

made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.”

These are obviously philosophical rather than scientific views. Futuyma, Gould, and Dawkins have a right to their philosophy. But they do not have the right to teach it as though it were science. In science, all theories – including Darwinian evolution – must be tested against the evidence.

Since Gould knows that the real embryological evidence contradicts the faked drawings in biology textbooks, why doesn’t he take a more active role in cleaning up science education? The misrepresentations and omissions I’ve examined here are just a small sampling. There are many more. For too long the debate about evolution has assumed “facts” that aren’t true. It’s time to clear away the lies that obstruct popular discussion of evolution, and insist that theories conform to the evidence. In other words, it’s time to do science as it’s supposed to be done. LSI



Stephen Jay Gould



# How Atheistic Evolutionists View Theistic Evolution



by Darrel Kautz

To an atheistic evolutionist the entire notion of theistic evolution is absurd. The theory of evolution was designed to escape God and theistic evolutionists make God a part of evolution! When a person accepts evolution as a process used by the Creator, says the atheistic evolutionist, he should go all the way and reject the supernatural completely.

In an essay entitled "The Evolutionary Vision" which the self-acknowledged atheist Sir Julian Huxley delivered at Chicago in 1959 at the Darwin Centennial Convocation, Huxley said, "In the evolutionary pattern of thought there is no longer either need or room for the supernatural. The earth was not created; it evolved. So did all the animals and plants that inhabit it, including our human selves, mind and soul as well as brain and body. So did religion. Religions are organs of psychosocial man concerned with human destiny and

with experiences of sacredness and transcendence. . . Evolutionary man can no longer take refuge from his loneliness in the arms of a divinized father-figure whom he has himself created, nor escape from the responsibility of making decisions by sheltering under the umbrella of divine Authority, nor absolve himself from the hard task of meeting his present problems and planning his future by relying on the will of an omniscient, but unfortunately inscrutable, Providence." \*



\* *Issues in Evolution*, Vol. 3 of *Evolution After Darwin*. The University of Chicago Centennial Discussions, Sol Tax, ed. (Un. Of Chicago Press, 1960), pp. 252-253.

The late Darrel Kautz was an LSI member and former instructor. Reprinted from his book, *The Origin of Living Things*, with permission of the family.



Ken Ham

# Notes on Ken Ham's Presentation of Creation/Evolution By William Bein

I had heard Ken Ham give a presentation in Phoenix years ago and I have kept up with both Answers In Genesis and the Creation Research Institute. This past year, I cruised with Mr. Ham and his group on the inside passage to Alaska. A number of presentations were made by him and his people during that cruise. If one could erase the “decision theology” from their background, I would feel quite comfortable with them.

## **The presentation:**

“The main issue is not about creation/evolution. It is also not about the age of the earth. The main issue is upholding the authority of the Word of God and confronting the forces of the secular humanism that are taking over the culture.”

A Biblical world-view. Necessary- The 7 C's of history.

These are foundations to our faith.

C—Creation- The calling out of nothing by God making all things in those 6 normal days.

C—Corruption- the fall into sin and the beginning of death along with the promised Savior

C—Catastrophe- The world-wide flood adjusting the topography of the earth and burying all that had the breath of life – except Noah and his family.

C—Confusion- The tower of Babel caused the spreading of the nations around the world.

C—Christ- the fulfillment of all the Old Testament promises. The loving work of God

C—Cross- Complete in the death and resurrection of Jesus

C—Consummation- The final return of Christ to gather His people to Himself for an eternity

The author is a retired pastor and LSI member living in Sun City, Arizona.

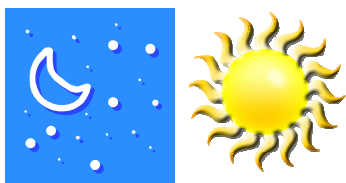
of happiness and send those who have rejected him into eternal fire.

If any of these is taken away and replaced with millions of years of death and accidental changes, our whole picture of eternal life in Jesus is undermined.



How are we to respond? Go to the Word regularly and read how God, through His spokesmen, described the happenings of history. Be confident that He is telling it like it is.

The creation took six days- "the evening and the morning" limits. (The Jews reckoned their day from Sundown to sundown- hence "the evening and the morning were the first day- etc)



The world-wide flood- not some little local happening.

There is only one race. All are descendents from Adam and Eve- from Noah and his family. There may be difference of color, but

we are the same people- of one blood. Different types, but the same blood.

Where did all this start? The originator of this is the one who thought he could become god. When he found out he had failed, he went after God's creatures. "Did God really say?" Through out the years he has been pulling the same trick.

This has since permeated our public education system. John Dewey. "There is no god and there is no soul. Hence, there are no needs for the groups of traditional religion. With God and creed excluded, the immutable truth is also dead and buried. There is no room for fixed, natural laws or moral absolutes. "



In an article on "Public Education Against America" Marlin Maddoux says: "The Christian is permitted to hold to some vestiges of his Christian beliefs as long as he is willing to concede that Christianity does not have the whole truth. Once consensus is reached on this issue, he will be welcomed into the group. But, such a concession is all that is needed to virtually neutralize the Christian." [LS]



# NUGGETS

## HOW TO LIVE TO BE 100

- ♥ EAT A HEART-HEALTHY DIET — A diet such as the Mediterranean diet which is rich in fruits and vegetables, olive oil, fish and whole grains has been linked to longer life spans.
- ♥ HAVE CHILDREN — Studies confirm men and especially women who have children live longer.
- ♥ DRINK CERTAIN BEVERAGES — A longer life may be the result of drinking green, black or oolong tea, a moderate amount of wine and/or even a moderate amount of coffee.
- ♥ KEEP UP ON CURRENT EVENTS — Read the daily newspaper and otherwise keep connected with current affairs to keep your brain active.
- ♥ WATCH YOUR WAIST — A big belly is linked to heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.
- ♥ GET MARRIED — Never-married people are 58% more likely to die earlier than married people according to one study.
- ♥ STAY ACTIVE IN CHURCH — Most centenarians have been found to have an active religious life.

*Parade magazine (3/9/08)*



“Let me share some of the reasons that persuaded me to become a creationist. The first area is chemical evolution. I was, and still am, amazed at the naivety of the statements made by chemical evolutionists. They purport to have proven that life originated by chance on a prebiotic earth and they point to the results of their laboratory experiments in support of such conclusions. Yet their experiments are designed *not* by chance, but by their own intellect! What in fact they are saying is something like this, ‘If I can synthesize life here in my laboratory, then I will have proven that no intelligence was needed to create life in the beginning and I will also have proven that it originated by



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Model T, the first affordable car for the average American. Henry Ford started selling the automobile in 1908 for \$825, but by 1925 the price had dropped to \$260. Innovations credited to the production of this vehicle include the assembly line, the minimum wage, the 8-hour work day, colors (not all Model T's were black), and the standardized left-side steering wheel.

—Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



**YOGI WISDOM**—some quotes attributed to Yogi Berra, one of baseball's best known ex-players.

**“Baseball is ninety percent mental. The other half is physical.”**

“I always thought that record would stand until it was broken.”

“I never said most of the things I said.”

“A nickel ain't worth a dime any-

“How can you hit and think at the same time?”

**“I'm not going to buy my kids an encyclopedia. Let them walk to school like I did.”**

**“He hits from both sides of the plate. He's amphibious.”**

“It ain't the heat, it's the humility.”

“It's like déjà vu all over again.”



—www.baseball-almanac.com

Friday, October 3, 2008

**BILL MAHER ATTACKS RELIGION IN NEW MOVIE.** Reviewer for Chicago Reader calls "Religulous" dumb.

*Web page: <http://www.chicagoreader.com/features/stories/moviereviews/081002/>*

**SUMMARY:** "Comedian" Bill Maher, who lost his "Politically Incorrect" ABC show for complimenting the 9/11 hijackers, now has a show on HBO called "Real Time." Avowedly left-wing, Maher impresses reviewer J.R. Jones with his ability to often prod guests deeper into an issue than the "objective" news shows. His Real Time show may be suffering though because leading conservative guests are beginning to avoid it, because of its "vociferously liberal studio audience."



Now Maher has made a film, his first, and it is a major disappointment, says Jones, who adds that the movie aims low—for laughs instead of insight. Titled *Religulous*, the movie attacks believers and their faith ("a neurological disease" that has to be cured before the human race destroys the planet). Jones says that Maher avoids religious scholars and historians and prefers to highlight "fundamentalist goofballs who can be ridiculed with ease", such as truckers having strange ideas and backgrounds and an Orlando televangelist who believes Jesus was a rich man. Maher also attacks creationists and ministries that try to help homosexuals go straight.

To be fair, Jones points out, Maher does interview Dr. Francis Collins, director of the Human Genome Project, who believes science and faith can coexist, and also Rev. George Coyne of the Vatican Observatory who doesn't think the Scriptures can be used to teach science. However, these excerpts are too brief and Maher prefers "carnival attractions" like the Creation Museum in Kentucky and the Holy Land Experience in Florida where tourists can watch reenactments of the Crucifixion.

The filmmakers often insert old movie clips to serve as punch lines but the clips don't always work well. In several interviews Maher's "rude remarks" are followed by fake reaction shots of the interviewees. On-screen captions are sometimes used to debunk false statements, but at other times they are used to ridicule. However, Jones thinks these unfair tactics may be more the work of director Larry Charles than of Maher. In summarizing, Jones writes, "*Religulous* turns out to be a small movie about the biggest question of all: why we're here and how this all came to be."

**COMMENT:** Like human speech, songs, and written works, movies can be used for

good (not usually) and for evil (much more often than we would like). While I haven't seen this movie and will not likely do so, this review if at all accurate indicates that Religulous is ridiculous and not one most Christians should want to spend their valuable time watching. "The highway of the upright avoids evil; he who guards his way guards his life." Proverbs 16:17.

Atheists will probably find value in the movie in that it portrays religion in such a negative light. As one online comment following the review says, Maher should be defended for his irreverent attitude toward religion because "there is no use for serious discussion about something that includes no logic or reason."

What we Christians can continue to do is to preach the Word. Those non-Christian or weak Christian thinkers who keep an open mind may by the grace of God eventually come to the very logical conclusion that there is indeed an Intelligent Designer, a Creator God. Through the Word, they then can be led to confess their sins and accept the full and free forgiveness offered them by our Savior.

The atheists can laugh now, but God will get in the last word. "The Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming." (Psalm 37:13) NIV

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**Monday, September 29, 2008**

## NOT EVOLUTIONIST ENOUGH, SCIENCE PROFESSOR IN ENGLAND DEMOTED.

*Web page: <http://www.icr.org/article/4121/>*

**SUMMARY:** Biologist Michael Reiss resigned under pressure as Director of Education of the Royal Society of London after he was quoted as saying that creationism should be taught in science classes. The BBC News reported, "He (Reiss) said his experience had led him to believe it was more effective to include discussion about creationism alongside scientific theories such as the Big Bang and evolution--rather than simply giving the impression that such children [from creationist families] were wrong."

After Reiss was attacked by colleagues inaccurately as a creationist, he and the Royal Society agreed he should resign as Director. However, Reiss had his defenders. Members of the Imperial College London and the British Association for the Advancement of Science said Reiss should have been applauded and supported for encouraging discussion about "public misconceptions" concerning science.



The Society has stated that Reiss will return as full-time Professor of Science Education at the Institute of Education. He was even commended for his past efforts.

The Royal Society was founded in 1663 by a group of natural philosophers devoted to the advancement of science. Ironically, among them was Robert Boyle, the father of modern chemistry and a well-known creationist.



**COMMENT:** Here we go again. Another apparent case of discrimination involving creationism, and the recipient of the bias in this case is not even a creationist. It certainly seems as if the leading proponents of the theory of evolution are becoming increasingly nervous about the advances of both creationism and Intelligent Design.

Just to be clear, it's my impression that most Biblical creationists do NOT want the Genesis account of creation taught in public school science classes. One can imagine the damage an atheistic or agnostic science teacher could do if forced to teach as fact a view which he regards as a myth.

On the other hand, what is wrong with teaching the scientific evidence against Darwin's theory along with the evidence for it? In fact, at least three members of the U.S. Supreme Court have endorsed this view. Opponents of teaching both sides of the issue invariably mischaracterize the concept as science vs. religion instead of pro-evolution science vs. anti-evolution science.

Like the Pharaoh of the Exodus in Old Testament times, many secular scientists and their supporters have hardened their hearts to the point that no amount of scientific evidence to the contrary can cause them to change their acceptance of the theory of evolution. But what about those evolutionist-leaning scientists who are still open-minded? By the grace of God, once they understand the full range of problems with Darwin's theory, they might yet be persuaded to look for an alternative (i.e. the Word of God) for an explanation of where we came from and where we're going.

**NOTE:** The comments are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent the views of the Lutheran Science Institute, Inc.

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## QUESTION OF THE DAY

*If the rock strata were laid down as a result of Noah's Flood, why do so many of the layers lack fossils?*



According to creationist geologist, Andrew A. Snelling, more rock layers may have been laid down during Day 3 of Creation Week than what Noah's Flood produced. Since plants and animals had not yet been created, these Day 3 strata could not have contained any fossils. As is the case in the Grand Canyon (photo), the fossil-less rock layers tend to be at the bottom. Regarding the third day, Genesis 1:9 states, "And God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.'" That simple verse holds open the possibility of a major earth-shaping event at least equal to that of the

Flood. In fact, St. Peter (2 Peter 3:5-7) mentions three major earth-shaping events in the history of our planet: the Creation, the Flood, and the future destruction of the earth on the Last Day.

## ► LSI News

### **LSI to have Booth At Teachers' Conference**

For the first time in quite a few years, we will be represented at the Wisconsin State Teachers' Conference (WELS) to be held at Wisconsin Lutheran High School, 330 North Glenview Avenue in Milwaukee. Along with other organizations our table will be located in the auxiliary gym on the second floor. We will have several offers to present to the teachers who visit our booth. The conference is scheduled for October 30-31. If you can, stop by for a look.

### **Sign Up for Blog Posts**

On the previous pages you will notice a couple examples from our thrice-weekly blog posts. We search the Internet for articles of a science or health nature that might be especially of interest to Christians. If you would like to be notified via e-mail of these posts, please send your e-mail address to [admin@lutheranscience.org](mailto:admin@lutheranscience.org). There is, of course, no charge for this service.



## ► E-Mails

### **Darwinism — An Eastern Religion**

At church we are studying eastern religions, Buddhism and Hinduism. We learned that neither of these religions believe in a supreme being who created all things. So, Darwinism is really an eastern religion. Interesting, don't you think?

Ralph Lohrengel



### **Talented Female Ape**

A female ape gave birth to a human male baby. Then, the same ape gave birth to a human female baby. Or so, the Darwinists would maintain, this is how the human race came into being. The problem is that this has never happened, nor will ever happen. Why do the Darwinists maintain they are right?

Keep up the good work.

Ralph Lohrengel

# ► News

## Discuss Creationism

Creationism should be discussed in school science lessons, the director of the Royal Society in the UK maintains. Prof. Michael Reiss says that creationism should be seen as a cultural "worldview" but should not be taught as science. Reiss estimates that about 10% of British children are from a family which supports a creationist view.—*bbc news* (9/13/08)

## Sue Planned Parenthood

The Planned Parenthood organization in Washington, D.C. is being sued for \$50 million because of a botched abortion. A 13-year-old girl was taken there by her mother in September, 2006, and the abortion procedure caused multiple medical problems and permanent injuries.—*CitizenLink.com* (5/30/08) — *quoted in Clearly Caring* (July/August, 2008)



## No Planned Parenthood Abortion Clinics in S.D.

South Dakota's only Planned Parenthood's abortion clinic closed down in July. The reason: it refused to comply with a court order requiring that women seeking abortions must be told they are terminating "a whole, separate, unique living human being."—*WorldNews Daily.com* (7/21/08) — *reported in Clearly Caring* (September/October, 2008)

## Doctors Recycle Hearts Of Brain Dead Infants

Doctors recently removed the hearts from three severely brain damaged infants soon after they were removed from life support and transplanted the hearts into three other infants. The controversial procedure is raising questions about when a patient can be declared dead. Since there is no known case where a heart restarted itself after 60 seconds, the doctors waited from 75 seconds to 3 minutes for the transplants. Six months after the operations, the three infants receiving the transplants were doing well and otherwise would have died.—*discovermagazine.com* (8/14/08)

## Census Bureau Ignores "Same Sex Marriage"

The U.S. Census Bureau will not include "same-sex marriages" in its upcoming 2010 census report, even though they are legal in some states. Federal law defines marriage as between a man and a woman. Three states including California will be voting on marriage-protection amendments in November.—*CitizenLink.com* (7/21/08) — *reported in Clearly Caring* (September/October, 2008)

## Senior Citizens Have Highest Suicide Rate

The highest suicide rate in the country is among senior citizens, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says, especially those between the ages of 75 and 84. Mental health issues was the most common circumstance, in particular depression, a treatable condition.—*www.nj.com* (5/5/08)—*quoted in Clearly Caring* (July/

## It's Okay to Keep Feelings Private

The common belief that a person involved in a traumatic event should immediately express his/her feelings may not always be the best advice. Several years ago 2,000 American adults were surveyed about their feelings on the very days when they experienced such an event. An analysis of the survey just published indicated that those who responded to the survey reported worse mental and physical health than those who hadn't. While people don't need to keep feelings bottled up, they also shouldn't be pressured into revealing them either.—*Consumer Reports On Health* (September, 2008)



## Concussion Victims Need Lots of Rest

Student athletes who suffer a concussion may recover more slowly if they don't get sufficient rest, nor just from sports, but also from active school and home events. Concussions are brain injuries and difficult to identify, much less treat. Many athletes who get a concussion never even lose consciousness, the most obvious symptom. The good news is that awareness is growing at least among college and professional athletes.—*usatoday* (8/12/08)

## Bright Lights Help With Dementia

Brighter lights installed in nursing homes by researchers appear to have helped residents suffering from dementia. The scientists said the improvements were modest, but the light appeared to reduce cognitive declines and symptoms of depression. They also found that giving patients the hormone melatonin helped improve their sleep and mood.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (6/21/08)

## Walking Fights Alzheimer's Disease

Older adults who take a brisk walk just three times weekly can boost their brainpower and reduce the risk of memory-robbing illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease. This is the conclusion of research done by Australian scientists. Participants randomly assigned to an exercise group scored higher on cognitive tests and had better delayed recall than those in a usual care group.—[www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com) (9/2/08)

## Saying No to Electronic Voting Machines

Costly electronic voting machines are being retired to warehouses all across the country because of doubts about their ability to accurately count votes, avoid breakdowns and resist hackers. Some states are trying to sell them on eBay or to third world countries or even salvage them for scrap. A few more are holding on to them in hopes they could one day be resurrected. In just two years, the percentage of voters relying on touchscreen technology dropped from 44% to 36%.—(*Racine Journal Times*) (8/20/08)

## 'Dead' Baby Now Alive

A female baby in Israel who was born dead came to life while in a hospital's refrigerated unit. The mother, 26-year-old Falza Magdoub, had to deliver the baby at only 23 weeks because of internal bleeding, and doctors at Western Galilee hospital pronounced her child dead at birth. The baby weighed less than 1 and a half pounds. Her body was placed in the refrigerated unit for at least five hours to preserve it until the parents could take her for a proper burial. When the parents went to retrieve the body, they noticed movement. Doctors called the recovery a miracle although the cooler's low temperature undoubtedly helped.—*OneNewsNow.com* (8/23/08)

## Waiting Times Grow In Emergency Rooms

Average waiting time in a hospital's emergency room now has grown to 56 minutes, recently released federal statistics show. The reason: there are more people arriving at the ERs and fewer ERs. There is a shortage of specialists, and some patients go to emergency rooms when they have trouble getting appointments with their doctors. The 56 minute average is skewed though by some very long waits. Half of all people had waits of 31 minutes or less.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (8/7/08)



## Printer Needs No Ink

A new printing technology called ZINK will allow printing without ink. To print, a ZINK-enabled printer will process special paper with embedded cyan, yellow, and magenta crystals. When activated by the printer, the crystals are colorized to produce any of the different colors of the palette and to create high-quality, full-color digital prints. Although the paper will be expensive, there will be savings in not having to buy ink or toner.—*Smart Computing* (June, 2008)



## Drugs Go Digital

A new worry for parents of Internet-savvy teens: digital drugs. Some Web sites are offering audio files designed to induce drug-like effects. All the listener needs is a music player and headphones. Called "idozers" or "idosers", the files produce binaural beats, a different sound in each ear which combine to create a new frequency. Since they allegedly can affect brain waves, possible effects range from relaxation to druglike effects.—*usatoday* (8/7/08)

## More News Briefs Online

Are scientists close to inventing an invisibility cloak? What drug may burn up calories without exercise? What natural disaster should concern New York?

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### Leaves

**“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a *leaf*, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.” Isaiah 64:6. (NIV)**

Most of us have seen what a leaf looks like after it dries out. It usually begins to shrivel up and isn't very pretty.

Because of our sins, we are like shriveled up leaves and even what we think are good things are really like filthy rags. But thanks be to Jesus, God doesn't see the sins of believers any more because we are all forgiven.

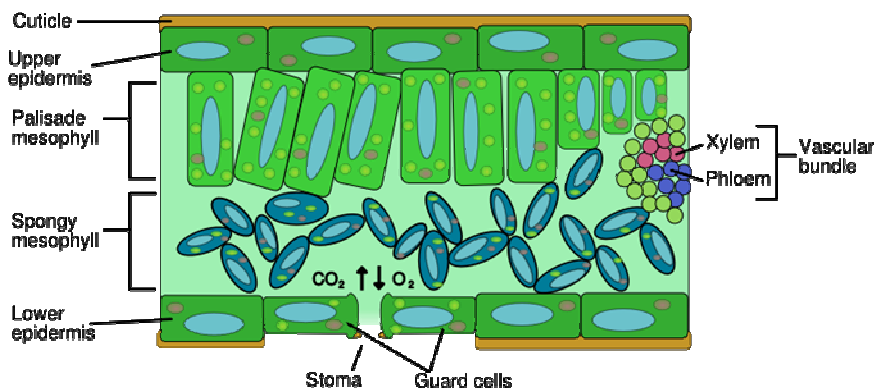
**What is a leaf?** A leaf is actually a part or organ of above-ground plants designed for photosynthesis.

**What is photosynthesis and why is it important?**

This is the action of the leaves of green plants in using light energy to change carbon dioxide and water into food. Not only do the leaves act like little factories in providing us with food in the form of sugar, but they also give us much needed oxygen thanks to the photosynthesis that takes place in the leaves.



**What are the parts of a leaf?** The upper and lower surfaces of a leaf are made up of layers of cells which together are called the *epidermis*. The epidermis has several purposes including keeping water inside the leaf. It contains openings called *stomata* (singular, *stoma*) through which water vapor and other gases can pass. Between the upper and lower epidermis is tissue called the *mesophyll*. It is here where photosynthesis takes place. A leaf also contains *veins*. Veins are tubes called *xylem*



if they bring water and minerals from the roots into the leaf or *phloem* if they carry sugar out of the leaf.

**Do all leaves look about the same?** Not nearly. We usually think of leafs as being flat. However, the leaves of pine trees are shaped like needles. Also, some leaves come in bunches like those on a fern plant (below).



Old dried up brown leaves are not worth much. But by dying for us, Jesus has made

us, who by nature are like dried up leaves, worth enough to want to take us to heaven. Thank Him that He gave up His life to become our Savior.

**Activities:** 1. Using a magnifying glass, study the veins of a leaf and see if you can spot the stomata.

2. Make a leaf rubbing. To do this, place a healthy leaf on a flat surface like a table. Cover the leaf with a regular sheet of plain paper. Now rub a piece of crayon over the leaf. Using the side of a crayon with the wrapping removed might work best. With practice, you will be able to make a nice leaf picture even if you can't draw at all.



## My View



### Is Evolution to Blame for Two Attacks in Finland?



Within the past 12 months the nation of Finland has had to endure two school massacres.

In September Matti Saari, 22, killed 9 students and one teacher at the Kauhajoki School of Hospitality.

Police are investigating possible links between Saari and Pekka-Eric Auvinen, who fatally shot eight people and himself at a high school in southern Finland in November, 2007.

The two had similar personalities and interests. They dressed the same. They both posted violent clips on YouTube before the shootings. They were both fascinated by the 1999 Columbine school shootings in Colorado. The two attacked their own schools and both committed suicide. And they likely purchased their guns at the same place.

An interesting question is whether or not they shared similar views regarding Darwin's theory. Auvinen in a video revealed he was inspired by the

theory of evolution. "I am prepared to fight and die for my cause," he said. "I, as a natural selector, will eliminate all who I see as unfit, disgraces of the human race and failures of natural selection...I have had enough."

If Auvinen and Saari shared similar interests and may have even been in contact with each other, it is certainly possible that they shared similar negative evolution-inspired feelings about the human race or, at least, some humans. Certainly, few Darwinists are led to contemplate such drastic actions. Yet, it makes sense that some students may be confused by evolution theory into thinking that as "slightly more evolved animals," they might be justified in eliminating those they see who are holding back the advancement of the human race.

It is a shame though that these events are happening especially in a country like Finland, where more than 80% of the population is officially Lutheran but reportedly few attend church regularly. If the Finns would return to their Lutheran roots with its message of hope, love and forgiveness in Christ, and forget atheistic evolution and its opinion that life has no purpose, there just might be less reason for fearing a repeat of these school massacres. LSI

—Warren Krug, editor



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