

# LSI Journal

The Lutheran Science Institute

November-December, 2009



## *Martin Luther And Science*

### *Part 2*

- ☒ A Review of Bill Maher's *Religulous*
- ☒ Can Creation Science Help Keep Young People in the Church?
- ☒ Evaluating Scientific Claims

## LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

4130 Harvest Lane  
Racine, Wisconsin 53402-9562  
<http://www.lutheranscience.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).

**OFFICERS:** ( ) denotes remaining years in office.

**PRESIDENT:** WARREN KRUG (2)  
4130 Harvest Lane  
Racine, WI 53402-9562  
(262) 639-4931  
*E-mail: WPKrug5@yahoo.com*

**VICE PRES.:** PATRICK WINKLER (1)  
2584 S. Sterling Circle  
East Troy, WI 53120  
*E-mail: runx10@gmail.com*

**SECRETARY:** MARK GROTH (2)  
5405 W. Nokomis Road  
Brown Deer, WI 53223  
(414) 355-5087  
*Email: mgroth@wi.rr*

**TREASURER:** CRAIG SCHWARTZ (1)  
1710 Ulster St.  
Denver, CO 80220-2053  
(303) 393-8216  
*E-mail: jcs@ecentral.com*

## BOARD of DIRECTORS:

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(262) 884-0437

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** BRUCE HOLMAN, Ph.D.  
7832 W. Lorraine Pl.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222  
(414) 771-1425  
*E-mail: bholman3@sbcglobal.net*

**EDITOR:** WARREN KRUG  
4130 Harvest Lane  
Racine, WI 53402-9562  
(262) 639-4931  
*E-mail: WPKrug5@yahoo.com*

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Send your suggestions, comments, and manuscripts to:

LSI JOURNAL  
4130 HARVEST LANE  
RACINE, WI 53402-9562

or e-mail: [admin@lutheranscience.org](mailto:admin@lutheranscience.org)

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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### ***Coming***

#### **The New Heavens and the New Earth**

Many recent creationist publications have mentioned this phrase from the Bible. What do Bible commentators think is meant by these words?

#### **The Scientific Incredibility of Theistic Evolution**

The era in which theistic evolutionists can be comfortable with both the Bible and with macroevolution appears to be drawing to a close.

# Martin Luther and Science Part 2



## Anthropology

**I**n speaking of God's work of preserving His creation Luther specifically rejects the idea that God simply set things in motion and then let them go their own way. We recognize this today as deistic evolution. But Luther, aware that this idea had been proposed stated:

It is not true, as several heretics and other vulgar persons allege, that God created everything in the beginning, and then let nature take it own independent course, so that all things now spring into being of their own power; thereby they put God on a level with a shoemaker or a tailor. This not only contradicts Scripture but it runs counter to experience. (L.W., Vol. 22, pp. 28-29)

And Luther adds elsewhere:

Just as no creature was able to contribute toward its creation at the beginning, so it has not been able to work toward its preserva-

tion and perpetuation of its kind. Thus, as we human beings did not create ourselves, so we can do nothing to keep ourselves alive for a single moment by our own power. (L.W., Vol. 22, p. 28)

Here we see the huge difference between Luther's anthropology based on a theology of the cross which points at God in Christ and humanist anthropology as well as the theology of Glory approach which both ultimately point to man, even if it be some so-called God in man.

Along these same lines Luther specifically rejects Aristotle's spontaneous generation of vermin from decay (L.W., Vol. 1, p. 52). Likewise he states, in his comments on Genesis 1:6 "Here we are taught about the

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beginning of man, that the first man did not come into existence by process of generation as reason has deceived Aristotle and the philosophers into imagining.” (L.W., Vol. 1, p. 25) We can hardly get any clearer rejection of the evolution of man on scriptural grounds than this.

Luther rejected any and all chance processes, because he saw in Scripture, that the Holy Spirit had by careful language ruled it out. He also rejected Hilary's idea that the act of creation was instantaneous, for the same reason. (L.W., Vol. 1, p. 38)

But we should especially note Luther's reaction to Augustine, for here we can see just how objective Luther is. While he favored much of Augustine, he found that Augustine borrowed too much from Aristotle to be of any use in the area of creation. Augustine's approach was more philosophical than theological and was often very ambiguous. Luther warned his students about Augustine telling them to stay with the “simple and true meaning” in order to keep from getting into “darkness and mischief.” (L.W., Vol. 1, p 18)

Luther summed up his evaluation of Augustine's approach this way: “I ask you, dear reader, what

need is there of those obscure and most foolish allegories when this light is so very clear ... Do they not smother the true meaning and replace it with an idea which is not merely useless but disastrous? ... For we have the Holy Spirit as our Guide. Through Moses He does not give us foolish allegories, but He teaches us about most important events.” (L.W., Vol. 1, pp. 184-185)

This then can be considered Luther's evaluation of theistic evolution.



### **The Bible and Science**

Luther did not consider true science to be at odds with Scripture. Rather than fear science, Luther felt that true science, where it touches a subject revealed in Scripture, can be expected to complement it. We have only a limited apprehension of the creation in its totality. The senses can only grasp a limited part of the creation. There is much more which is beyond our ability to sense or measure. While science only deals with the first part of creation Scripture deals with



major aspects of both parts of creation and adds to our knowledge of the creation.

It is definitely false that Luther accepted Platonic archetypism. In fact, a careful study shows that Luther took a very opposite position with regard to the creation in his organic approach. Yet a footnote in the *American Edition of Luther's Works* on one of Luther's illustrations on Psalm 90 (translated by Dr. Paul Bretscher) erroneously states that Luther held to the Platonic philosophy. (L.W., Vol. 13, p. 105)

In a detailed discussion of the astronomical theories of his day, specifically the theory of the spheres, Luther admits that while not reflecting fact, yet such models sometimes can be teaching aids (L.W., Vol. 1., p. 28). A modern Lutheran creationist, Dr. John Klotz, has made the same observation (Essays by Henry M. Morris, Martin Naumann, John W. Klotz, Raymond Surburg, *Evidences for Creation*, Bible Science Association, Caldwell, Idaho, 1969 "The Scientific Method").

Yet where good scientific method does not support a theory or model Luther was quick to reject it. Regarding astrology Luther notes that only the predictions which do not fail are published, while the others are forgotten.

Luther concludes that he does not believe "that from such partial observations a science can be established." (L.W., Vol. 1, pp. 44-45) We see here a basic requirement of true scientific method.

### **Creation and Justification**

It is essential to understand that for Luther the central doctrine of justification was inextricably tied to the doctrine of creation. They stand or fall together, and give meaning to one another. Even Paul Althaus observed, "Luther's doctrine of justification by faith alone is thus completely based on his principle that God alone is the Creator" (Paul Althaus, *The Theology of Martin Luther*, Robert C Schultz, translator, Fortress Press, Philadelphia, Pa., 1970, p. 129).

For this reason, as we have seen, Luther would not even tolerate a pious but non-literal approach to the creation text.

In his Sermons on the Gospel of St. John, Luther said that the opening two verses of the Gospel are not only the dearest exposition of the opening verses of Genesis in the whole Scripture, but that these verses of Job provide Scriptural proof for the divinity of Christ. Both are tied together, creation and Christ's divinity. One, he said, cannot be unraveled



without unraveling the other (L.W., Vol. 22, pp. 13-14).

Luther's concern for right faith on creation is concern for salvation. He puts it this way, "If faith is impaired or injured even in the least, we are lost. And if Christ is divested of His divinity there remains no help against God's wrath and no rescue from His judgment" (L.W., Vol. 22, p. 22).



But because of God's forgiving grace, earned for us by Christ in His suffering and death on the cross our situation as Christians is entirely different. Luther explains, "So we are altogether Christ's, since Christ has called us, and all our works are not our own, but Christ's. Therefore we are said to have been created for the Glory of Christ" (L.W., Vo 17, pp. 90-91). Sharp contrast can be see here between Biblical Christianity and humanism which variously has man existing for his own glory and happiness or the glory of society in general.

But for the Christian the

view of life and creation is different. Luther says, "Having been made a Christian, then, he is one who should serve his Creator. Outside of these resources of ours, there is nothing. We have not created, formed, and made ourselves, but we have everything from God" (L.W., Vol. 17, p. 91).

Furthermore, according to Luther, belief in the authority of the First Commandment requires belief in God as Creator in the Biblical sense. He also tied belief in the resurrection of the dead to belief in Creation (L.W., Vol. 4, p. 121). It was very astute of Luther to see the resurrection of the dead as a creation miracle. And one also notes in our day that a rejection of Biblical creationism leads directly to a rejection of Christ's literal resurrection from the dead.

### **What this Means Today - Creationism is Biblical**

It is impossible to deny that creationism is Biblical. The Bible is the textbook for creationism in the church. Nor can it be denied that creationism is the timeless doctrine of the church. In this best sense creationists are truly ecumenical in their affirmation of creationism with over a thousand previous generations of the faithful. ☞

# A Review of Bill Maher's 'Religulous'

By Jeff Stueber



Bill Maher

**A**round September of last year, there was an interesting occurrence in the world of media. The movie *An American Carol* ridiculed the American left while the movie *Religulous* criticized religion – all religions. One could, if one wished, get theatrical whiplash after viewing this unique potpourri of left and right thought.

Obviously Maher (comedian Bill Maher who starred in the movie) cannot really understand or really care to believe the tenets of any religion when, at the beginning of his movie, he states

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“I certainly honestly believe religion is detrimental to the progress of humanity.”

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that “I certainly honestly believe religion is detrimental to the progress of humanity. It’s just selling an invisible product; it’s too easy.” The question, he says, of what happens when we die “freaks” us out so that people who are otherwise so rational about everything else will accept any religious tale and cling to it. Some even believe on Sunday they are drinking the blood of Jesus. This lack of skepticism engages him in his search of why people believe as they do, but he’s not so much searching as

The author is an LSI Board of Directors member and a free-lance writer living in Watertown, Wisconsin.



looking to debunk. His product, he says, is the gospel of “I don’t know” and this is the antidote to the overt lack of skepticism inherent in the religious people he interviews.

Maier interviews Francis Collins, head of the human genome project, who is one of the few scientists who are Christians. Maier wants to know why Collins is a believer at which time Maier dismisses the existence of Jesus: “What evidence . . . I’ve never even heard anyone propose that there’s evidence.” Collins retorts that the New Testament reads like a collection of eyewitness testimony and Maier makes a statement that, I believe, provides a look at his intellectual inadequacies: “Would that stand up in a laboratory as absolute full-proof evidence that something happened?” Of course there are different ways of gaining evidence of various occurrences and in the physical and biological sciences one can and should invoke the findings of the laboratory. The circumstance is different regarding historical occurrences where the unanimity of testimony plays a part (such as in the testimony of those who lived during Nazi Germany attesting to the reality of the concentration camps). After the interview with Collins, Maier is seen musing

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**“What I have found is that the Gospel writers, extra-Biblical writers, church fathers, and even those who wrote the Gnostic Gospels are unanimous in their testimony that Jesus existed and it is only today some people believe otherwise.”**

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over why no gospel mentions what Jesus did as a young man – to suggest, I would guess, that the Gospels are faulty for not mentioning this.

If, however, Maier would have been willing to do research outside his interviews, he could have consulted Gary Habermas’ *The Historical Jesus*.<sup>1</sup> What I have found is that the Gospel writers, extra-Biblical writers, church fathers, and even those who wrote the Gnostic Gospels are unanimous in their testimony that Jesus existed and it is only today some people believe otherwise. (Oddly, even former atheist Antony Flew never denied the existence of Jesus in his debate with Habermas – only the fact Jesus rose from the dead.

Apparently Maher hasn't consulted with Flew.)

One of Maher's problems with the Bible is that it is a product of human invention and therefore faulty and often his way of approaching the discussion is garbled. For instance, his first engagement occurs at the Truckers Chapel in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he asks a few parishioners why having faith – which he defines as belief without evidence – is a good idea. Here is Maher's first volley in his quest: "Aren't you ever bothered by many things that are in Christianity that are not in the Bible like original sin, the immaculate conception, the virgin birth – is only in two of the Gospels – the popes. Are you worried that these things came not from the founders, the people who wrote this book, but from – and this is indisputable – from men, from human beings who came after them." However, the idea of original sin is strongly suggested by the redemptive nature of Jesus' death on the cross which was not to save Adam and Eve but to save all men.

This is something innate in humans. The *Global Concise Bible Dictionary* defines sin as "a corruption of human nature that makes man hostile to God, cap-

tive to baser passions and desires, and unwilling to submit to God's known will."<sup>2</sup> Without an innate tendency to not do God's will, but instead rebel against Him, there is really no need for a savior. Edward Oakes, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, states that "it is not necessary for the Bible to mention the name of a doctrine for it either to be true or for it to be located there in so many other words" and cites theologian Reinhold Niebuhr as saying "The Truth is that, absurd as the classical Pauline doctrine of original sin may seem to be at first blush, its prestige as a part of the Christian truth is preserved, and perennially reestablished, against the attacks of rationalists and simple moralists by its ability to throw light upon complex factors in human behavior which constantly escape the moralists."<sup>3</sup> As far as the virgin birth, Matthew used the Greek word *parthenos* (which is the normal Greek word for "virgin") in reporting the pregnancy of Mary and so this is indeed in the Bible contrary to what Maher claims.<sup>4</sup> It is indisputable that the popes are not mentioned in the New Testament and he scores a debater's point for this, but lumps this with other Biblical tenets that are clearly there.

He repeats his assumptions

about the Bible's authorship in his interview of John Westcott (a former homosexual) at Exchange Ministries in Florida. Maher says nature made gay people while man wrote the Bible. Of course the faulty assumption here is that because something occurs in nature or is made by nature that it is good. One could just as well argue that rape (or the desire to rape) occurs in nature and rapists are made by nature. Are they therefore morally good? Also, nobody has ever suggested that men did not write the Bible and so his objection is a red herring. Does the mere fact men wrote the Bible mean they could not and did not relate correct historical facts even if they had spiritual experiences? We do not suppose that because humans wrote other books they cannot relate accurate historical facts. Who else would have written it but humans?

Of course Maher has strong criticisms for those who do not accept evolution and states that scientists overwhelmingly line up for evolution. Maher has obviously overlooked William Dembski's edited *Uncommon Dissent* which is subtitled "Intellectuals Who Find Darwinism Unconvincing" and the "dissent from Darwin" web site<sup>5</sup> in which signers of a statement that questions whether random mutation and

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“Maher has strong criticisms for those who do not accept evolution”

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natural selection can produce life's complexity must hold a Ph.D. in a scientific field such as biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, computer science, or one of the other natural sciences or hold an M.D. and serve as a professor of medicine. Maher also doesn't grasp the political, religious, and philosophical reasons evolutionists often have for believing in it. It was Richard Dawkins who announced that Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist and the Humanist Manifestos that acknowledged this fact at least two times. ¶

### Next: Part 2

#### End notes

1. Gary Habermas, *The Historical Jesus: Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ*, Joplin: MO, College Press, 1996)
2. Lawrence Richards ed., *The Global Concise Bible Dictionary*, (Toronto, Fleming Revell, 1991)
3. Edward Oakes, "Original Sin: A Disputation," *First Things* (Nov. 1998)
4. Ibid
5. <http://www.dissentfromdarwin.org/>



# NUGGETS

## H1N1 HYSTERIA OR COMMON SENSE?

Some things churches are doing to stop the spread of the H1N1 (“swine”) flu:

- Temporarily stopping the practice of offering wine during Mass (Roman Catholic churches in Indiana and California).
- Having parishioners dip the bread in the wine (church in California).
- Wiping the chalice with vodka-soaked gauze after each parishioner takes a sip (Episcopal church in Kansas).
- Asking worshippers to greet each other by raising hands instead of shaking hands (Church of Christ in New York).
- Having ushers wear protective gloves when picking up the collection plates (church in Indiana).
- Using hand sanitizer (Presbyterian church in California).
- Requiring students to wash hands at special antiseptic stations before beginning religious lessons (Jewish temple in Florida).
- Replacing handshakes with smiles, fist bumps, or elbow knocks (Baptist church in Florida).

Source: (*Racine*) *Journal Times*

## LAMARCKISM

Lamarckism teaches that one animal grew an organ for some reason—or no reason at all,—and then passed that organ on to the next generation, which was stuck with it.

Here are several examples of acquired traits, which were never passed on to offspring: (1) Hebrews circumcised their boys for thousands of years, but never have boys been born automatically circumcised as a result. (2) Chinese women bound the feet of their infant girls for several thousand years, yet the feet of Chinese women today are normal in size. (3) The Flat-head Indians of Northwest United States bound the heads of their



children to give them unusual shapes. After hundreds of years of this practice, their babies continued to be born with normal-

shaped heads.

Here is a very important fact, which evolutionists do not want you to know: **In a later book (*Descent of Man*, 1871), Darwin repudiated natural selection as hopeless and returned to Lamarckism (inheritance of acquired characteristics) as the cause of evolution.—The one who gave us so-called “natural selection,” as a means of evolution, later gave up on it as a way to produce evolution!**

—*Evolution Handbook* by Vance Ferrell



"Evolution is promoted by its practitioners as more than mere science. Evolution is promulgated as an ideology, a secular religion--a full-fledged alternative to Christianity, with meaning and morality. I am an ardent evolutionist and an ex-Christian, but I must admit that in this one complaint...the literalists are absolutely right. Evolution is a religion. This was true of evolution in the beginning, and it is true of evolution still today."

—Dr. Michael Ruse, quoted in *Acts and Facts* (Nov., 2008)

## Twitter in History

"We gots life, liberty, happiness now! Peace out, King George!"

—Declaration of Independence



### What is TWITTER?

Twitter is a real time answering service that asks one question, "What are you doing?" Answers must be under 140 characters in length and can be sent via mobile texting, instant message, or the web. What if Twitter were around long ago? Then...

"Macbeth killed the king! :( But he got his. Ambition will consume U!!!"

—Shakespeare's *MacBeth*

"U R equal. I am equal. We R all equal. My dream is we have no more h8."

—Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech

—Source: *USA Weekend* (October 2-4, 2009)



"Feed ur baby. Clean ur baby. Lv ur baby. Why is th@ so hard?"

—Dr. Spock's *Baby And Child Care*

Monday, August 31, 2009

## Can Creation Science Help Keep Young People in the Church?

More theological training and training in apologetics may stem the tide.



**SUMMARY:** A Barna survey conducted about a decade ago showed about two-thirds of Christian teenagers abandon their faith once they leave home. Other statistics reinforce the idea that teens are less interested in Christianity than their parents. Following are some possible reasons for this sad situation.

Fideism (exclusive reliance in religious matters upon faith) and Anti-intellectualism. Evangelical churches are frequently characterized, often correctly, as being anti-intellectual. This many times results in an opposition to advanced theological studies and the study of science. Some Christians say to "just have faith" which leaves the impression that there are no answers to some questions about the validity of Christianity.

Lax Biblical Education. In some church bodies, pastors are not trained sufficiently in biblical studies, and average Christians do not receive adequate theological instruction in the limited time they spend in church or Sunday school.

Compromising Theology. Many pastors who are well educated are taught to compromise a traditional view of the Bible and promote such ideas as that the creation days were "long ages" or that Adam and Eve

were created billions of years after death and suffering entered the world.

Fun-Oriented Faith. Youth groups are full of social activities and games and are always looking for new fun and "relevant" activities. While not bad in itself, the pursuit of fun can leave little time for a basic education in apologetics (defending the faith). This failure can leave the teens ill prepared when challenged by unbelieving professors and peers.

Lack of Preparation. Many evangelical churches do not respond to arguments against historical Christianity such as those made in The Da Vinci Code, which claimed Jesus had married Mary Magdalene and fathered a child. Many supposedly historical television shows propagandize against Christianity's authenticity and the Bible's account of its origin, and churches often do not try to contest those claims.

Apologetics is not primarily an attempt to convert those in error, but rather to refute them so they cannot harm anyone else's faith. It should include a good grounding in creationism. Many Christians say they were converted through creationist ministries. "Pop Christianity" needs to give way to more training in apologetics and theology if churches wish to reverse the loss of young people.

**The entire article can be found at <<http://creation.com/who-has-an-answer>> unless it has been removed.**

**COMMENT:** The loss of young people is unhappily a major development in Lutheran churches as it is in other evangelical bodies. I feel that most of the reasons given in this article would fit the Lutheran situation as well. While I believe the majority of Lutheran ministers receive a more thorough theological education than perhaps those in some other church bodies, my readings have convinced me that, generally speaking, in the larger Lutheran bodies around the world, a compromising view of biblical interpretation is indeed being promoted. This includes a shaky view regarding the creation account in Genesis.

Is God in favor of a creation apologetics? There is plenty of biblical evidence to indicate that Christians may certainly use references to nature in defending the Lord and His Word and better understanding His plan for our lives. In *Job, chapters 39-41*, God spends considerable time pointing to the natural world to convince Job of his errors.

*Romans 1:18-20* suggests the evidence of God's existence in nature is so strong, unbelievers have no excuse for their unbelief and wickedness. Many of the psalms such as *Psalms 8, Psalm 19, and Psalm 104* teach us about God by using references to nature. Jesus Himself referred to nature in passages such as *Matthew 6:25-34* and *Luke 6:43-45*.

While the Genesis account of creation must be accepted by faith, creation science can be useful in planting serious doubts in the minds of skeptics of religion. Creationism by itself though can convert nobody. For this the Word of God is essential. Many former atheists have testified that they have followed the road that began with doubts about evolution and ended with a firm faith in the Lord Jesus and His Word. However, how many people have gone the opposite direction--from doubts about religion fueled by atheistic evolution theories to complete loss of faith? It is extremely important to provide our young people with the information they will need to resist the deceitful propaganda that many public school teachers and professors will be presenting to them in their public school science classes.

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## QUESTION OF THE DAY

### **Is it possible to be sued for what one writes on the Internet?**

Yes. A blogger was ordered to pay \$1.8 million for defaming a lawyer. Also, a tenant was sued for \$50,000 for criticizing her apartment online. And someone wrote a negative review online about a chiropractor who filed a suit and settled out of court. Generally, free speech is protected on the Internet, but defamation of character could cause a problem.

Source: *Parade* (September 20, 2009)





## ► LSI News

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### Technical Advisory Group Taking Shape

Several people with advanced degrees in science or theology have agreed to serve LSI as members of our Technical Advisors group. We are praying that this group will strengthen our organization by being a source for information and advice.

If you have a Masters or Doctor's degree and wish to find out more about our Technical Advisors group, please contact the president or vice-president or any other officer or board member. This position is not expected to be time-consuming.

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Dec.7. The site when selected will be announced in the on our web site as well as in the December *LSI Bulletin*.

This meeting is important in that we will be forming the election ballot. ***If you wish to run for an office, please let us know. A willingness to serve is about the only requirement.***

We also will be further discussing how LSI might be of service in helping young people resist the tentacles of atheistic evolution.

## ► Book Review

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Clifton, Merilee & Bill. *The Complete Aquarium Adventure, Green Forest, AR: Master Books, © 2009, 160 pages.*

### Fun at the Aquarium

This book is designed as an aid for teachers, parents and/or students planning a trip to a public aquarium.

Included are descriptions of various animals that the students may encounter at the aquarium. The descriptions are all presented from a biblical, creationist perspective and are nicely illustrated.

Teaching aids include activity sheets for various ages from dot-to-dot to word searches and much more. Also included are fact cards that can be easily carried while in the aquarium.

My only complaint are the seven devotions which, while they do not include any false doctrine, are obviously not Lutheran devotions. Rather than making the Gospel of Jesus the center of the devotions, they focus on the Lordship of God. I think teachers and parents can easily revise or add to the devotions to include a Gospel message.

—Warren Krug

# ▶ News

## Two Biological Parents = Fewer Problems for Kids

Children have fewer behavioral problems in school or at home when they are raised by both biological parents. They are also five times less likely to repeat a grade and are more cooperative and understanding of the feelings of other people. These were findings of the Mapping America project.—*LifeSiteNews.com* (reported in *Creation*, Sept.-Nov., 2009)

## Kangaroo and Human Genes are Similar

Although kangaroos and humans are not thought to be closely related by secular scientists, an Australian science group has found the 20,000 genes in the kangaroo (about the same number as in people) are “largely the same” as those in humans. In fact, a lot of the genes are in the same order, according to a report in an Australian newspaper. This finding was a surprise to evolutionist scientists who have long touted the similarity in human and chimp DNA as proof of a close physical relationship.—*The Australian* (reported in *Creation*, Sept.-Nov., 2009)



## Adult Stem Cells Repair Damaged Corneas

Damage to the cornea of the eye is a leading cause of blindness. However, researchers at the U. of New South Wales in Australia have now found a way to use adult stem cells to repair damaged corneas in 3 patients. Taking stem cells from the corneas of the undamaged eyes, the scientists cultured them on contact lenses which were then placed on the damaged corneas. After 10 days, the stem cells had colonized the corneas and produced transparent corneal tissue. All three patients showed notable visual improvement.—*Science Daily* (reported in *Creation*, Sept.-Nov., 2009)

## Cigar Firms Suffer

Cigar companies are suffering not just from the recession but also from smoking bans and hikes in taxes on tobacco. The Cigar Association of America says companies are laying off workers and cutting back. This year at least 34 states are considering some 100 bills that would increase tobacco taxes even more.—*www.usatoday.com* (7/29/09)

## New HIV Strain Discovered in Gorillas

A new strain of HIV has been discovered, for the first time in gorillas. The main source of human infections, HIV-1, originated from a virus in chimpanzees. However, researchers recently found an HIV infection in a Cameroonian woman which is clearly linked to a gorilla strain, *Nature* magazine reports. One researcher though believes current drugs might still help combat the effects of the new HIV.—*BBC News* (8/3/09)

## Stem Cells and Injuries

A team of undergraduates from John Hopkins U. say they have found a method of easily embedding a person's own stem cells into surgical thread. They say they believe this procedure may help improve healing and prevent re-injury especially in patients recovering from orthopedic injuries such as ruptured ligaments and tendons. The students said it would not change the way surgeons repair the injury, and there should be no rejection problems.—*yahoo news/HealthDay* (7/24/09)

## Respect for the Spleen

The lowly human spleen is no longer considered a waste of space. Doctors have long known this organ, located behind the stomach, makes antibodies and stores red blood cells, but many still considered the spleen to be nonessential. Now a new study published in *Science* says the organ is a crucial storage place for monocytes, a type of immune cell. While it is possible for people to live without a spleen, the monocytes are effective in fighting infections and repairing the body after traumas such as heart attacks.—*Discover* (7/31/09)

## World's Tallest Dog Dies

A California dog named Gibson has died at age 7 after a battle with bone cancer. The dog was listed by *Guinness Book of World Records* as the tallest dog in the world. When standing on its back legs, it measured 7 feet and 1 inch. Gibson appeared on such shows as “The Tonight Show” and “The Oprah Winfrey Show.”—(*Racine*) *Journal Times* (8/13/09)

## Improving Night Vision

Years ago a British marine biologist, Ron Douglas, discovered that the deep sea dragonfish *Malacosteus* used chlorophyll to help it to perceive red light. More recently, animal experiments by ophthalmic scientist Iyas Washington has suggested that administering chlorophyll to the eyes can double the ability to see in low light. Washington is now working on ways to deliver chlorophyll to human eyes safely and easily. — *Discover* (September, 2009)

## Risk in Using Sun beds

Sun beds may pose as big a risk for cancer as cigarettes and asbestos. According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), tanning machines should now be classified in “the highest cancer risk category” and labeled as “carcinogenic to humans.” The IARC reviewed research showing the risk of deadly melanoma, a skin cancer, increased by 75% in people who started using sun beds regularly before age 30. — *CNN* (7/29/09)

## Scientists Try to Fix Heart Attack Scarring

Israeli scientists have developed a possible way of fixing damage from heart attacks. Using a “patch” made from heart muscle, scarring left over from a heart attack can be fixed. The scientists described in the journal *PNAS* how the method was used to strengthen the hearts of rats which had suffered heart attacks. Eventually the technique may be used in humans. — *BBC News* (8/24/09)



## Depression in Children

A study has found that depression in children as young as 3 can be real and not just a passing phase of grumpiness. Until now researchers assumed that children younger than 6 were immune to depression. A team lead by Dr. Joan Luby of Washington U. in St. Louis followed more than 200 preschoolers, ages 3 to 6, for up to two years with children given as many as four mental health exams during the study. Some 75 children were diagnosed with major depression, and there was a link between child depression and depression or other mood disorders in the mothers. — *www.usatoday.com* (8/4/09)

## Showerhead Pathogens

Biofilms on the inside of bathroom showerheads can contain up to 100 times the levels of pathogens found in municipal water, says a new U. of Colorado study. The research team used high-tech instruments and methods to analyze some 50 showerheads found in nine cities in seven states. About 30% of the devices had significant levels of *Mycobacterium avium*, a pathogen linked to pulmonary disease. Water spurting from showerheads can distribute pathogens into the air which then easily can be inhaled into the lungs. — *www.science daily.com* (9/15/2009)

## Phy Ed Injuries Grow

The number of injuries to American students during physical education classes increased by 150% between 1997 and 2007, a new study has found. While this discovery may put a damper on efforts to encourage more vigorous exercise, the injuries may have less to do with the actual activities and more to do with larger classes, less adult supervision, and fewer school nurses. Boys suffered more cuts and broken bones and girls more strains and sprains. — *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (8/3/09)



## British Soldiers Too Fat

According to a leaked memo, the British are worried that their soldiers are getting so fat, the situation is putting their lives at risk. The *Sunday Observer* said an emergency memo sent to all units of the British army warned that an increasing number of soldiers were so overweight they couldn't be sent to conflict zones. It urged commanders to focus on physical fitness. The report comes three years after the British military lowered its fitness requirements in order to attract more recruits. — *Milwaukee Journal Times* (8/3/09)

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# Locusts

And the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over Egypt so that *locusts* will swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields, everything left by the hail." Exodus 10:12 (NIV)

*Pharaoh*, the leader of *Egypt*, was being stubborn. He was refusing to let God's people, the Israelites, have their freedom to leave the country. So *God* began sending various plagues to try to get *Pharaoh* to change his mind. In the case of this *plague* of *locusts*, *God* also wanted to impress His people with His power so that they would teach their children all about Him.

**What are locusts?** Locusts, as the word is used in the Bible, are a type of grasshopper. They are

called locusts especially when the grasshoppers are swarming. Swarming means the insects gather together in large numbers and attack fields to eat the crops.



Swarm of locusts

**What do locusts look like?** Like all insects, locusts have six *legs*. The pair of back legs are long and powerful and are used for jumping long distances. Locusts also have two antennae growing from their heads. Usually they have *wings*, a front pair and a back pair which they use for flying.

**How do locusts make sounds?** Those locusts that make *sounds* do so by either rubbing their back legs against their back wings or

abdomen or by snapping their wings while flying.

**What types of food do desert locusts especially like?** They like to eat leaves, flowers, bark, stems, fruit, and seeds from plants such as rice, sugarcane, barley, cotton, date palms, vegetables, grasses, pines, and bananas.

**Are locusts still a problem for farmers today?** Yes, they have been a problem since Bible times. Each day they can eat their weight in *food*. They can fly more than 100 miles a day especially when flying with the wind. About one-tenth of the world's people have been affected by locusts.

**Do people eat locusts?** In many parts of the world people do eat locusts or grasshoppers, especially in places such as Africa, China, and Mexico. These insects are a good source of *protein*, a nutrient in many

foods that strengthens our bodies and helps us fight germs.

Source: Wikipedia



### A Desert Locust

Let us not reject the Lord as did Pharaoh for then we would be rejecting our Savior. Just as the ancient Israelites wanted to go to their promised land, we will want to go to our Promised Land in heaven. This can only be done by putting our faith in Jesus who died for our sins.

**Activity:** This story has **10** words in *italics*. Find them in the word search.

T	P	Y	G	E	L	F	P	A	P
D	P	E	A	P	O	L	O	G	R
G	P	H	A	R	A	O	H	O	S
L	L	W	G	O	U	C	L	S	D
S	A	N	O	T	C	U	U	N	N
G	G	G	D	E	T	S	P	O	U
E	U	W	E	I	S	T	L	D	O
L	E	W	I	N	G	S	E	U	S

## ► My View



### Pray for Wisdom in Evaluating Scientific Claims

Remember Ida, the much ballyhooed fossil that was alleged to be a link in the transition to monkeys and then to humans? Named *Darwinius masillae*, the lemur-like fossil was the subject of a recent book and a television special on the History Channel.

Right from the start some scientists were skeptical. *Nature* magazine has now reported on an independent investigation of Ida which has found the fossil to definitely not be our ancestor. Ida is a member of the lemur family of animals, nothing more, nothing less.

Science news has always been full of stories that haven't been able to stand up to scrutiny. Remember Piltdown man? Remember Ernst Haeckel's faked drawings purported to show similarities between human and animal embryos?

Currently a claim that a meteor landed in Latvia and left a

crater is being discounted because the hole is too tidy and looks artificially made. Moreover, there were no reports of fireballs in the area. The owner of the property is now selling tickets to people wanting to see the "crater", in order to pay for repairing the road, he says.

Creationist scientists are not immune making honest errors. For instance, the famous Paluxy River site which is supposed to show dinosaur and human tracks overlapping has lost support from some creationists. The "human" tracks appear to be dinosaur tracks that have eroded. Also, the venerable water vapor canopy theory for various reasons has also now been put on the back burner.

The conclusion we can come to is that if the Bible doesn't specifically support a scientific argument, we would do well to treat the claim with caution. While God's Word certainly is not a science book, the science that is in it is as true as anything can be. The Creator and the Author of Scripture are one and the same.

We can learn much from nature about God—his wisdom, his eye for beauty, his power. But it takes the Holy Bible to tell us Who God is, where we came from, and why we need a Savior?

—Warren Krug, editor

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