

Origins Insights

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CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP



September 2005

The Evolution of CSF

By Phil McCaffrey

Creation Science Fellowship of Pittsburgh was founded in 1980 by Christians such as Dave Nelson, Hank Jackson, and Bob Walsh, to name a few, who believed that Genesis is literal history. Its main purpose was for scientific and technical professionals to network among like-minded peers and to support academic and scientific interests in regard to origins, biology, geology and the understanding of Genesis from creation to the aftermath of the great flood.

The modern Creation Science movement was a relatively young upstart combating origins as explained by Darwinian evolution and materialism as well as Christian academic thought that gave rise to such things as theistic evolution, old age earth theorists, the gap theory and day-age among other compromises of Scripture.

It was only a few years earlier in 1961 that Morris and Whitcomb had challenged the mind of the Christian to look at the world around them and see it as shaped through "The Genesis Flood." So-called "serious" or "professional" scientists scoffed at the idea that it was even possible that the world was only a few thousand years old and that geology was formed through a catastrophic water event. The bible was simply mythology and not to be taken literally. But a few did believe in the bible over modern interpretations, yet still respected science and wanted to explore both in truth.

Pittsburgh, at that time, was still a center of research in science and technology with many people employed in the sciences. Those interested in Creation Science had very few to talk to or resources to pull from, so they banded together meeting monthly to discuss the latest developments in research in this growing field. But there was very little information available to the technical professional who wanted to read on a deeper level.

Anyone who professed Genesis to be literally true was shut out of the academic world and had almost no way of publishing a serious piece of academic research that could be peer-reviewed and presented at a conference. And so the founders of CSF led by Bob Walsh started the International Conference on Creationism (ICC) in

CSF Carnegie Museum of Natural History Tour September 24, 2005, 10am and 1pm

Meet at the Forbes Ave entrance in front of the Hall of Architecture, near the music hall; the doors near the library entrance closest to Pitt & furthest from CMU & the museum of art.

See **Tour** page 3 for additional information

1984 to provide such a venue. The undertaking was massive and so far five conferences have been held. The ICC has brought forth a new generation of true scientists who are both committed to the bible AND to the scientific method, men such as John Baumgardner, Russell Humphreys, Michael Oard, Kurt Wise, Andrew Snelling, Steve Austin, Larry Vardiman, Emil Silvestru and many others.

The ICC has been an amazing success and God bless the many dedicated CSF volunteers who gave of themselves to make this happen. Stay tuned for some exciting developments as CSF looks to make changes to the ICC, yet still stay very much involved - taking the ICCs to the next level.

Over the years participation at the CSF monthly meetings has gradually declined and like many things in Pittsburgh, the job landscape has changed leaving fewer technical and scientific people. On a positive note, the growth of creation publications and organizations has made available a great deal of information.

The leadership of CSF has changed and rightly so. The founders and their successors served long and worked hard. Today the Board of Directors does not even contain a single scientist, instead we are believers fascinated by science and the wonder of creation. We are called to help other believers understand the truth of Scripture and how science relates to our faith. So we are evolving, i.e. "changing over time" (the true and correct usage of the word). But we are doing so not by a random mutation but by intelligent design.

Part of this evolution has been the establishment of the CSF South in 2004. This welcome addition to our local family has brought in many new people who simply could not make a meeting in Mars due to geography.

For more than 20 years CSF has made many contributions to churches in the Pittsburgh area and around the world. We plan to continue to do so but with some changes. Our new focus is going to be centered on outreach and education, equipping the local church to become aware of the great resources available in creation science. Those changes consist of two main things:

1. CSF will have fewer local meetings. Decreasing the quantity of meetings will allow the board sufficient resources to increase the quality of the presentations. We are currently looking to have 4 to 5 meetings per year with the goal of bringing in a world-class speaker at least twice per year. The CSF schedule will mirror the school year with summers off. Phil McCaffrey will continue to give a tour of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History each fall as the school year begins as long as he continues to live in Pittsburgh.
2. CSF would like to take the show on the road. For many years the meetings have been held at Mars Alliance Church (many thanks to the generosity of this congregation and the support of Pastor Paul Cope). But this location has its limitations. Many people who live in the south hills or Monroeville simply cannot attend. CSF does not want to become simply a club where the same people gather and the numbers steadily dwindle. Instead, we believe that we are now called to help make disciples by going out and spreading the truth of Genesis while combating the lies of the evil one.

The internet and email are tools that will help us. In the past, newsletters were printed on paper and mailed to anyone who requested it. With membership declining and expenses increasing it is no longer good stewardship to continue this practice. CSF will only mail out newsletters to active members. Those people who would still like to be informed of CSF activities can sign up to be notified via email of the posting of the newsletter on our website and previous newsletters can be downloaded at anytime. The dues structure will increase slightly (from \$15 to \$20 annually) so that the board can continue to balance the budget and hopefully stop the

steady negative cash flow. In addition, we are hoping to institute a new membership structure that will be more organized with the possibility of a once per year membership, hopefully to coincide with the academic year.

Remember CSF is an all volunteer organization with no paid staff. The majority of our expenses are in the publication and distribution of the newsletter. Though we do have a library and bookstore, these activities do not generate sufficient revenue in and of themselves and are mainly a service to the community.

CSF is involved in outreach such as the Christian homeschoolers convention and we invested a serious amount of time and money in hosting the AiG superconference in 2004. Our speaking engagements are now mostly handled by Phil McCaffery at no cost to the organization. We hope to be able to continue to give quality presentations and have great speakers available without having to rely on fund-raisers to stay afloat.

So what can you do?

- 1. Let us know that you are alive!** If you are still interested in being a member please do not delay. Please use the coupon on page 4 of this newsletter. If you want to be informed of activities but cannot afford to be a member at this time please send an email to Phil at csfpittsburgh@gmail.com and we will keep you on our email distribution list. But due to costs all physical mailings to non-members will cease by the end of 2005.
- 2. Invite us to your area!** We would love to bring one of our talks to your local congregation for a presentation and follow-up Q &A. It makes a great outreach! I am also very willing to giving groups tours of the Carnegie Museum (be forewarned that dinosaur hall is being remodeled and will not reopen until 2007).

Tour. Once again CSF Pittsburgh is proud to conduct a tour of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, from a biblical perspective. Pittsburgh's pride and joy is considered by many to be one of the finest museums in the world. Though the CMNH is undergoing renovations to be completed in 2007, we can still take advantage of the many fine exhibits, especially the Benedum Hall of Geology, where our guide, Phil McCaffrey, will raise some issues about the formation of sedimentary rocks, radioactive dating, fossil formation and coal.

Weather permitting he will lead an outdoor discussion around the sculpture of "Dippy" and his remarkable resemblance to the behemoth of Job 40 and asks the question, "What in the world was Leviathan?"

Each person is responsible for their own admission at the normal museum fees of: \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors, \$6 Children 3-18 and Students with ID

Space is limited to 60 people, 30 for each time period. Sign-up using the website www.csfpittsburgh.org/tour

Hope to see you there.

ICR RATE Conference

Date: Nov 5, 2005 Time: 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Speaker: Dr. Larry Vardiman, Dr. Russell Humphreys, Dr. Andrew Snelling, Dr. John Baumgardner

Location: Shadow Mountain Community Church 2100 Greenfield Drive El Cajon, CA 92021

Contact Information Name: Denise Prock Phone: 619-448-0900 x6020 Email: dprock@icr.org

CSF Dues Coupon

Fill out and return the coupon below with your check or money order for \$20 to:

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