

Origins Insights

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP



October 2003

My reflections on ICC #5

by Bob Harsh

ICC 2003 is now history and it is time to take a look back. This is the 4th ICC that I have been involved with and am very thankful for the people who had the insight and courage to undertake the first ICC in 1986.

The major stated goal of the International Conference on Creationism is: the development and systemization of the Creation Model of Origins. I believe this conference successfully worked towards that goal.

The structure of the ICC is similar to the professional conferences that other scientific societies hold. Following the call for papers, the prospective authors submitted 500 word summaries to the liaisons, who are members of CSF in Pittsburgh. The proposed papers were then assigned to one of the five general areas. The next step was the writing of the paper and submission to the Area Editors. The Editors then evaluated the papers and sent the ones that passed their standards out to reviewers. There was a rigorous peer review of each paper before it is approved to be included in the ICC.

ICC #5 received 150 summaries and 30 summaries were rejected at that step. Most authors went on to write and submit their papers, but some did not follow through with submitting their paper. Some papers were not up to the standards set by their Editors. Others were able to work with their Editors to improve their papers. The final paper count accepted to be presented at the ICC was 43.

The ICC involves the work of many people but the bulk of the work is done by a few dedicated workers. Dr. Lionel Dahmer was the able Chairman of the Technical Review Committee. It was that committee who received the summaries and worked as liaisons between the authors and Editors. Our work began in the autumn of 2001

and was not done until shortly before the ICC in August 2003.

Bob Ivey was very busy with receiving the final approved copies of the papers and formatting them into the "Proceedings". He was successful in not only providing the Proceedings book but also, for the first time, in the form of a CD. One of the best parts of Bob's service was that he got all of this done in time for the attendees to be able to refer to the papers as they were presented.

CSF Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 21
7:30 PM

"What is Relevance of the Biblical Creation Account to YOUR Christian Faith"

by
Reid Moon

During the ICC Bob put on another hat. It was Bob and his volunteers who made sure all of the electronic audio and visual equipment was operating just right so that the author could just concentrate on their *presentations* of their papers. His crews also recorded each session so that people who were unable to actually attend the sessions that interested them would be able to listen to the papers as they were presented..

Jim Hilston aided with credibility of our ICC by providing excellent artwork for the brochures and served in the important responsibility of designing and maintaining the ICC website.

I was so impressed with the grace that Gail Pinkney and her crew used in taking care of the needs of our attendees and presenters at the registration table. They say the first impressions are lasting. Gail and her people gave a favorable first impression of Creation Science Fellowship in Pittsburgh to many of our ICC attendees.

The very first impression of CSF by many attendees was when they were picked up at the airport and transported to Geneva College. Carolyn Peat stepped up to the plate and hit a home run with transportation.

Steve and Sandi Sobek worked with the unknown territory of advertising. They developed some innovative ideas; then did a wonderful job with implementing them.

Smoothly run sessions are a must at a conference of this nature. Dennis Wert recruited, organized and trained his group of volunteers who served as able session hosts.

One of my favorite impressions of the ICC comes from my first trip to the airport on Sunday before the beginning of the ICC. I was supposed to pick up three people in the minivan so my friend Phil went along. Well, there were five seats available and we had six people waiting at the curb at the airport. What to do? Phil solved the problem by graciously agreeing to stay at the airport until I returned in a minimum of 90 minutes. One passenger was Frank Mayo, a guy from Texas who informed me about his involvement in the search for acceptable biology textbooks for the whole state of Texas to use in their public schools. I am especially interested since I am a public school biology teacher and understand their task. If you are interested, visit their excellent website at www.strenthsandweaknesses.org. They would like any help they can get.

My second trip to the airport was even more interesting. I went out expecting to pick up Phil and three other people. Ten people were waiting at the curb. [Phil had been picked up by the other van.] These were not ordinary attendees. These were the guys from ICR! To make matters more complicated, they had more luggage than average. Who do I take and who do I leave? They solved the problem. One of our attendees and two presenters, [one from ICR] volunteered to stay another hour until I returned. I know they were anxious to get settled in after their long trip. Their example of humility and grace did not go unnoticed by this writer. The luggage was packed everywhere. People even held some luggage on their laps. This all took place without one complaint!

I had a similar good experience on my 6:00 AM trip the next Sunday back to the airport. I had only five passengers in my van, but then I had all of their luggage. This was after each of them had tried to buy out the bookstore. I think you get my drift. I came prepared that time and brought along straps and so two suitcases went on top. My van was so weighed down that I believe that driving over an anthill would have caused my car to hit bottom.

A highlight of each of the ICCs is the chance to purchase good creationist books to take home and become more educated. It is through the study of good books that many of us have been able to grow in our understanding of nature from the perspective of young universe creationists. Stu and Lori Chandler were very successful in obtaining a huge collection of books. They and their crew maintained a very user friendly atmosphere for our presenters and attendees. The prices were held down so that people were able to purchase many

more books.

Much of this work would not have been as well done had it not been for our previous experience with hosting ICCs and the trusted consulting with Bob Walsh, who had done a lot of the jobs in the first three ICCs.

Reid Moon should get a whole lot of credit for the success and smooth daily operation of the ICC. Reid, as conference coordinator, recruited and organized many of the people on the executive committee.

GREAT JOB REID!

I want to give the most thanks to God. Many, many, many many prayers were offered to our Heavenly Father from start to finish. The authors, I am sure, were seeking God's guidance from the very first of developing their research through the final draft of their papers. The TRC and Executive Committees also sought God's guidance and blessing.

Each of my days at the ICC got off to a good start thanks to Dr. Maribelle McKelvey and Ken McBurney who organized the singing of Psalms that focused on creation. God truly blessed me with that singing of the scriptures.

I want to tell about two interesting fellows I had the pleasure of spending some time with. Evert van der Heide from the Netherlands arrived on Saturday and had nobody to associate with until others would be arriving on campus Sunday afternoon. He seemed like a friendly fellow and I enjoyed meeting him. That is as far as I was going to go. Reid Moon not only met him but also saw to his needs. Reid drove Evert to his home in Zelienople, provided the hospitality of supper with his family, drove him back to Geneva for the night, invited him to join us for worship, drove to Geneva Sunday morning and picked him up, taught the adult Bible class and preached the sermon. I was able to learn about Evert's family and his work. When he learned that I am a biologist, Evert shared with me a paper he had written for the *Technical Journal* "Bacterial Life In Ancient Salt". I met Evert as a stranger and we parted friends who desire to know each other better. Our conference coordinator met a stranger on the eve of an overwhelming challenge and he took the stranger in. Evert and I will long remember the actions of a truly giving person.

I also got to spend some time with Mike Ord. Mike is a retired meteorologist who now describes himself as a full time creationist researcher. He is a frequent contributor of papers to both journals as well as presentations of his research at past ICCs. Mike lives in Montana and after the ICC his plane didn't take off until about 7:00 PM on Sunday. As a biologist, I don't know much about rock formations and Mike has written about glaciation following the Flood. It happens that we have two state parks nearby that contain geological features that I believe can be explained as being caused by glaciations and catastrophic erosion of water leaving a breached dam from a large lake formed when the glacier receded. Mike needed a place to worship Sunday morning and someone to take him to the airport long after everyone else and I wanted a young universe scientist to be able to see the local geological features and perhaps provide a creationist interpretation. We got to spend time together I think we both benefited.

My plan is to follow up in future issues of Origins Insights with reports of the Technical and Basic tracts of ICC #5.

CSF Board of Directors

With the departure from the board of our dedicated and long serving chairman, Dennis Wert, the CSF Board has been restructured as follows: Robert Harsh will be the new Chairman and will continue to edit the newsletter, Reid Moon will be the Secretary, Stu and Lori Chandler will share the duties of the Bookstore Coordinator, Stu will also serve as the Vice Chairmen, Gail Pinkney will continue as Treasurer and Bob Ivey will continue to manage the CSF web site and produce the newsletter.

2004 Plans

It's hard to believe but 2004 is just around the corner and the CSF board is in the planning phase for what is shaping up to be an exciting year.

First you need to set aside Nov. 19 and 20, 2004. For the AIG Conference to be held at our own David L. Lawrence Convention Center. This event is being spearheaded by CSF member Phil McCaffery and supported by a generous contribution from Dr. John. Also, on Aug. 5, 2004 a Christian Leaders Meeting will be held at the Sheraton in Cranberry where pastors and other leaders can meet Ken Ham.

Check the CSF Web Site, www.csfpittsburgh.org, for more developing details.

2003 CSF Meeting Topics

Tuesday, Oct. 21 "What is Relevance of the Biblical Creation Account to YOUR Christian Faith", Reid Moon

Nov 18 "Neo-Creationist Geology from 2003 ICC", Chuck Danley

Creation Science Fellowship , Inc.
Newsletter is published monthly.

Purpose: The aim of Creation Science Fellowship is to inform and educate people of the biblical, philosophical and scientific validity of creationism.

Circulation: 430

Officers

Robert Harsh..... Chmn, Newsltr. Ed.
Reid Moon.....Secretary
Stu Chandler ..Vice Chmn., CSF Books
Gail Pinkney.....Treasurer
Robert Ivey.....Web Site Manager

Ex-officio

Robert Walsh.....Fmr. ICC Coordinator

Email: csficc@csfpittsburgh.org

Web Site: www.csfpittsburgh.org

Editor's Address: Robert Harsh
439 Little Creek Road, Harmony,
Pennsylvania, USA 16037
Email: naturbob@juno.com

CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP, INC.
P.O. Box 99303
Pittsburgh PA USA 15233-4303
Phone: (412) 341-4908

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 2548

Address Service Requested