

Union Grove Christian Church Happenings

Bimonthly Newsletter from the Union Grove Christian Church, Eheart, Virginia

July / August 2014

Vacation Bible School – International Spy Academy

Grab your secret decoder ring and put on your rearview mirror glasses because starting the first week of August, our kids are heading to the International Spy Academy where they'll train to become special agents for the one true God! This exciting new Vacation Bible School program is filled with fun mysteries our kids will love and the Bible-based apologetics we trust to teach them truths they won't forget!

At the exciting and dynamic International Spy Academy, our mission is to instill in our kids an understanding of the one true God of the Bible they can carry with them for the rest of their lives and share with those around them. They'll uncover the clues that lead to the one true God who is the Creator of all and who calls people from every tribe and nation to have fellowship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ.

Synchronize your watches and join us August 3rd through 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the International Spy Academy, where your special agents will learn to know, love, and live for the one true God!

Here is an overview of the action packed agenda:

- 🕒 Day 1 Uncovering Counterfeits – false views of God bombard our kids daily. Agents will discover how to identify the true God of the Bible from counterfeit religions.
- 🕒 Day 2 Finding Fingerprints – most counterfeit religions deny that Jesus is God. Agents will find that Jesus is truly God, a member of the Trinity.
- 🕒 Day 3 Cracking Codes – All-powerful. Unchanging. Perfect. All-knowing. Agents will crack codes to learn more about the Great I AM!
- 🕒 Day 4 Collecting Clues – Can we have fellowship with God? Agents will collect clues to reveal the only way to the one true God is through His Son Jesus.
- 🕒 Day 5 Hot on the Trail – The one true God loves and cares for us unendingly. Agents will discover that God wants us to love Him and to share His love with others.

If you have any questions about VBS or are interested in helping any day of that week, please contact Renee Mitchell. We certainly look forward to seeing all our kids at VBS!

Evolution and Carbon-14 Dating

by Eric Lyons, M.Min.

According to evolutionary scientists, radiocarbon dating (also known as carbon-14 dating) is totally ineffective in measuring time when dealing with millions of years. In his 2000 book, *Genes, People, and Languages*, renowned Stanford University geneticist Luigi Cavalli-Sforza, in a discussion on the theory of human evolution, commented on radiocarbon dating, stating: "The most crucial dates in modern human evolution are unfortunately beyond the range of the radiocarbon method, which has a limit of about 40,000 years" (p. 61, emp. added). Staunch evolutionist Richard Dawkins also dealt with the limitations of radiocarbon dating a few years ago in his highly touted book, *The Blind Watchmaker*. He was even more critical of this dating method than was Cavalli-Sforza, saying:

Different kinds of radioactive decay-based geological stopwatches run at different rates. The radiocarbon stopwatch buzzes round at a great rate, so fast that, after some thousands of years, its spring is almost wound down and the watch is no longer reliable. It is useful for dating organic material on the archaeological/historical timescale where we are dealing in hundreds or a few thousands of years, but it is no good for the evolutionary timescale where we are dealing in millions of years (1986, p. 226 emp. added).

Both evolutionists and creationists stand in agreement that radiocarbon dating, which can be used only to date organic samples, is totally ineffective in measuring the alleged millions or billions of years of the evolutionary timetable. [In truth, even when dating things that are relatively young, carbon-14 dating is imperfect and based upon certain unprovable assumptions (see Major, 1993).] If

radiocarbon dating can measure only items that are thousands of years old, why should evolutionists even consider using this dating method on anything that they already believe to be millions of years old? Creationists would like to see evolutionists apply this method to items believed to be millions of years old, because it might help convince evolutionists that coal, diamonds, fossils, etc. are not millions of years old, but only thousands of years old.

Consider that in recent years "readily detectable amounts of carbon-14" in materials evolutionists suppose are millions of years old "have been the rule rather than the exception" (DeYoung, 2005, p. 49). When geophysicist John Baumgardner and colleagues obtained 10 coal samples from the U.S. Department of Energy Coal Sample Bank, one of the leading radiocarbon laboratories in the world tested the samples for traces of carbon. The coal samples were analyzed using the modern accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) method. If the coal were really many millions of years old (as evolutionists suggest), no traces of carbon-14 should have been found. "[A]ny carbon-containing materials that are truly older than 100,000 years should be 'carbon-14 dead' with C-14 levels below detection limits" (DeYoung, p. 49). But, in fact, traces of carbon-14 were found. "[A] residue of carbon-14 atoms was found in all ten samples.... The amounts of C-14 in coal are found to average 0.25 percent of that in the atmosphere today" (DeYoung, p. 53). Diamonds assumed to be hundreds of millions of years old were also tested—12 in all. Once again, traces of C-14 were found in every sample (see DeYoung, pp. 45-62).

In June of 1990, Hugh Miller submitted two dinosaur bone fragments to the Department of Geosciences at the University in Tucson, Arizona for carbon-14 analysis. One fragment was from an unidentified dinosaur. The other was from an *Allosaurus* excavated by James Hall near Grand Junction, Colorado

in 1989. Miller submitted the samples without disclosing the identity of the bones. (Had the scientists known the samples actually were from dinosaurs, they would not have bothered dating them, since it is assumed dinosaurs lived millions of years ago—outside the limits of radiocarbon dating.) Interestingly, the C-14 analysis indicated that the bones were from 10,000-16,000 years old—a far cry from their alleged 60-million-year-old age (see Dahmer, et al., 1990, pp. 371-374).

What is C-14 doing in coal, diamonds, and dinosaur fossils, if these objects are really many millions of years old? Richard Dawkins declared that C-14 dating “is useful for dating organic material on the archaeological/historical timescale where we are dealing in hundreds or a few thousands of years,” not millions of years (1986, p. 226, emp. added). Yet, “readily detectable amounts of carbon-14,” even in coal, diamonds, and various fossils, “have been the rule rather than the exception” in recent years (DeYoung, 2005, p. 49). Why? Evolutionists assert that the specimens in every case must have been contaminated by outside carbon. After all, everyone “knows” coal is millions of years old, right? Using C-14 dating on specimens already believed to be only hundreds or a few thousands of years old is considered acceptable. Scientists expect to find carbon in samples they perceive as young. But, if specimens believed to be millions of years old are tested (e.g., coal), and found to have carbon traces, then they “must” have been contaminated. Or so we are told.

Informed creation scientists, like members of the RATE (Radioisotopes and the Age of the Earth) team, contend that the modern “AMS measurements carefully eliminate all possible sources of carbon contamination. These include any trace of C-14 which has possibly entered the samples in recent history, or C-14 introduction during sample preparation and analysis” (DeYoung, 2005, p. 50). Whereas “unexpected carbon-14 was initially assumed to be a result of

contamination..., as this problem was aggressively explored, it was realized that most of the carbon-14 was inherent to the samples being measured” (p. 49).

The fact is, significant traces of carbon have been detected in samples that “should not” contain carbon. Since evolutionists are unwilling to adjust their million/billion-year timetable, they are forced to conclude that radiocarbon dating is always faulty when it comes up with young dates (measured in hundreds or thousands of years) for assumed old specimens (supposedly millions of years old). Do you see anything wrong with this picture? The fact is, coal, diamonds, and dinosaur fossils containing traces of carbon is no surprise. One would expect to find such if the biblical accounts of Creation and the Flood are true.

REFERENCES

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- DeYoung, Don (2005), *Thousands...Not Billions* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books).
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Union Grove Goes On-Line!

One of the most exciting initiatives we have embarked upon has been the development of a website. Some may think this is long overdue and that criticism may be valid. I have long held to the notion that no website was better than a bad website. (Sadly, some of the worst websites I have ever visited have been church websites.) So we delayed until we could afford to have a website that will be excellent in every detail.

Over the past two months Renee, Katy and myself have been working with a company in Indianapolis, IN to develop and launch a website specifically tailored for Union Grove. We are super excited to announce that this development process is complete and we are launching our website this Sunday, July 13th. The address is **uniongrovecc.com**.

One of the primary motivations for this initiative was outreach. Current research shows that a full 70% of people will not visit any enterprise [local church congregation, business, restaurant, etc.] without first visiting a website for a “scouting report.” Although there is no way to be sure, hopefully our new website will prevent us from losing any potential visitors simply because they couldn’t obtain any on-line information about Union Grove.

In addition to the website, Renee has also created a Facebook page for Union Grove. We are launching our new Facebook page simultaneously with the website. For those of you who are social media savvy, you know how effective Facebook is as a tool to promulgate information about an organization. So for those of you who utilize personal Facebook pages, we encourage you to “like” us and share your support for our work here.

As life flows from day to day, it remains imperative that we continue to focus on

reaching those who are not in Christ. To that end, please pray for the launch of our new website and Facebook page and that these initiatives will prove valuable as we take the message of God’s grace to the lost world around us.

Coming this Fall

As you already know, the fourth Wednesday of each month is our monthly fellowship meal. As part of our fellowship meal activities, we are always looking for creative ways to present Bible truths in an informative and engaging manner.

Consistent with this objective, starting in September we will be viewing a new DVD series produced by the Institute for Creation Research (ICR). This series is entitled *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis*. This is a groundbreaking DVD series that offers scientific evidence that confirms Genesis as a chronological record of God’s creation.

Targeted to the Millennial Generation, *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* supports a biblical worldview with empirical scientific evidence and offers defensible answers to some of the most provocative and controversial questions of faith and science. Through interviews with leading experts, on-location investigations, insights from cutting-edge research, dynamic animation, and stunning visuals, *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* takes viewers on a memorable journey through some of the most fascinating topics in creation science.

Each episode is designed around a 22-minute topic ranging from the origins of life to evolution to the age of the universe and Noah’s Flood.

I realize summer is in full force, but I encourage you to mark your calendar and plan on attending each month starting in September, as we participate in the ICR’s effort to “unlock the mysteries of Genesis.”