

Kingdom of Heaven

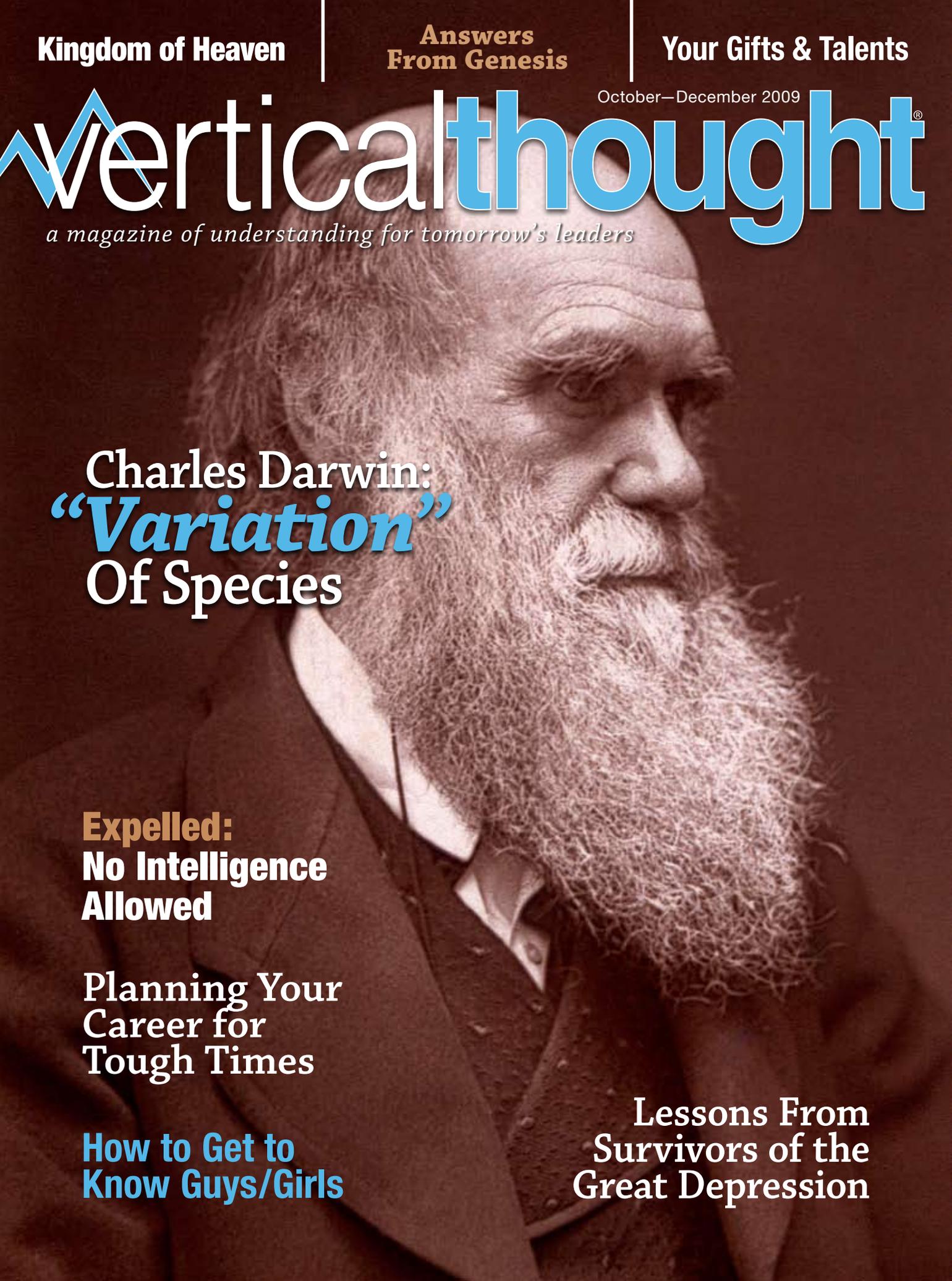
Answers
From Genesis

Your Gifts & Talents

October—December 2009

Verticalthought®

a magazine of understanding for tomorrow's leaders

A sepia-toned portrait of Charles Darwin, showing him from the chest up. He has a very full, long white beard and mustache, and is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark vest. He is looking slightly to the right of the frame.

Charles Darwin: “*Variation*” Of Species

**Expelled:
No Intelligence
Allowed**

Planning Your
Career for
Tough Times

**How to Get to
Know Guys/Girls**

Lessons From
Survivors of the
Great Depression

The Demise of Evolution

Imagine that 1,000 years have passed since Jesus Christ returned to earth and set up the Kingdom of God. You have been part of the administration of this globe-encompassing government that has provided true education, justice and opportunity for all. And now, as He foretold, God has just brought untold billions of people of past ages back to life to at last learn the way of life that leads to happiness and peace.

Charles Darwin—the man who put forward the theory of evolution—awakens from his sleep in the grave, and you’ve been assigned to tell him what has happened in the intervening years.

After curiously looking around and being awed by the fact that he is alive again (after having drifted back and forth between agnosticism and atheism in his life), he sheepishly wonders what became of his theory of evolution.

“Well,” you begin, “you wouldn’t believe what a stir your little theory caused. As you knew before your death, your proposal was slow to gain acceptance. Unfortunately, as time passed a significant number of people began accepting it as true, and the results were tragic.

“A madman by the name of Adolf Hitler used your theory to justify the murder of 6 million Jews. He thought he was simply improving the human race. Believing the implications of your theory, that there was no God who cared what people did and that human beings were just animals, thousands upon thousands engaged in sexual relations with whom-ever they pleased. Marriages were destroyed and many suffered for the rest of their lives with sexually transmitted diseases.

“By the year 2009—the 200th anniversary of your birthday and the 150th year after the publication of your book *On the Origin of Species*—scientists were gathering a large body of evidence showing that intelligent design was involved in the creation of the universe and that your theory was flawed. Your supporters fought to keep this information out of schools because it indicated that there was indeed a creator. Although many academics continued to

deceptively portray your theory as proven fact, the majority of people didn’t believe it.

“Earlier that year your fellow countrymen in Britain were asked whether they believed your theory. About half said yes. Across the ocean in the United States of America, 39 percent said they believed in evolution. But your idea really gripped the vast majority of those in academia.

“Of those who accepted your theory, many didn’t want to acknowledge God’s existence and authority over their lives. Like you, many of them thought the religious teaching they had heard was hypocritical and unscientific. They couldn’t reconcile the existence of God with all the evil in the world, and

Charles Darwin awakens from his sleep in the grave, and you’ve been assigned to tell him what’s happened in the intervening years.

it just didn’t seem right that God would continue to punish the wicked forever.

“Now at last the whole world is blessed with the opportunity to understand not only the mercy and love that God has always shown His creation, but also the details and necessity of His plan. Let me give you some answers to those questions about God that you didn’t understand...”

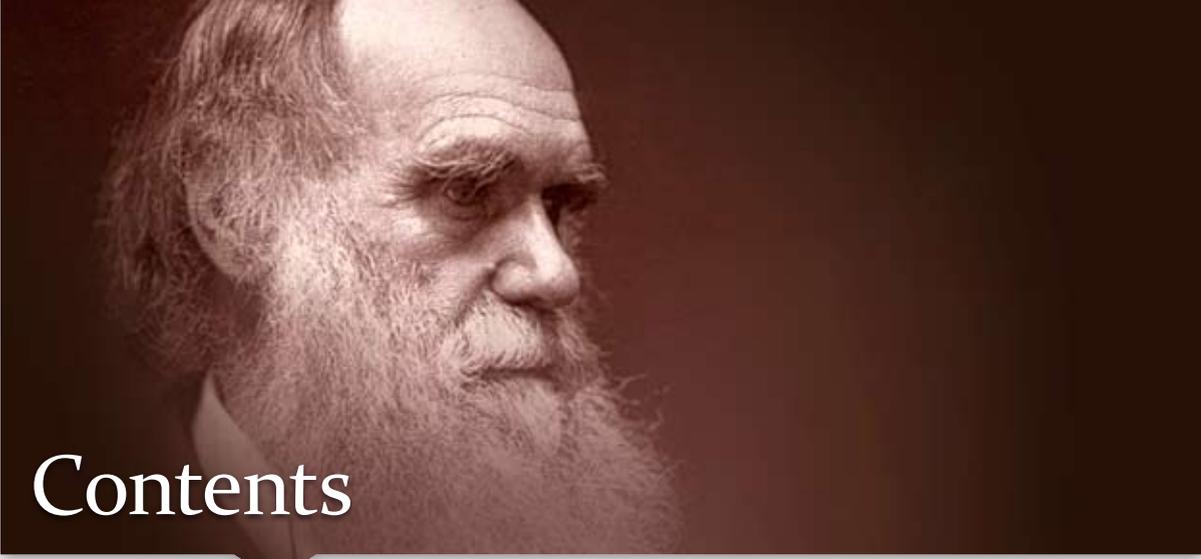
Perhaps you’ll get to have this conversation. Even if not, we hope this issue will help you better understand the deception behind Darwin’s theory and the truth about God’s way of life.

VerticalThought

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Contents

4 The Variation of Species
Why would Charles Darwin pick a book title that doesn't deal with the real subject matter?

7 Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed
Ben Stein's documentary film exposes the challenge of intelligent design in the world of science.

8 The Kingdom of Heaven
Is it more than just a movie? Is it fact or fiction?

10 Planning Your Career for Tough Times
What can a person do to give himself or herself "an edge" in the competitive job market?

12 Discover Your Unique Gifts and Talents
Learning about yourself can make your life healthier and happier.

14 Getting to Know Guys
Take time for friendship before committing to a relationship.

15 Getting to Know Girls
Can any relationship not built on friendship stand the test of time?

18 Lessons From Survivors of the Great Depression
What lessons can we learn from those who have been through tough times?

20 Answers From Genesis Part 6
The book of Genesis is known as the book of origins. Here are more frequently asked questions.

Features

2 Vantage Point

16 Life on Campus

22 In the News



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The Variation ^{ON} *of Species*
~~THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES~~

BY MEANS OF NATURAL SELECTION,

OR THE

PRESERVATION OF FAVOURED RACES IN THE STRUGGLE
FOR LIFE.

By CHARLES DARWIN, M.A.,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL, GEOLOGICAL, LINNEAN, ETC., SOCIETIES;
AUTHOR OF 'JOURNAL OF RESEARCHES DURING H. M. S. BEAGLE'S VOYAGE
ROUND THE WORLD.'

If you were to write a book, would you purposefully pick a title that doesn't truly deal with the subject matter? It sounds ridiculous, but that's what Charles Darwin did.

by Mario Seiglie

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.
1859.

The right of Translation is reserved.

This year, 2009, marks Charles Darwin's bicentennial birthday (he was born in 1809) and also the 150th anniversary of his renowned 1859 publication *On the Origin of Species*. If you are in school or have taken biology classes, you have probably been bombarded with Darwin's theory of evolution and taught it as true.

The Origin of Species, as it is often abbreviated, is listed among the most influential books ever written. "Next to the Bible," anthropologist Ashley Montagu claims, "no work has been quite as influential, in virtually every aspect of human thought, as *The Origin of Species*" (*The Origin of Species*, 1958, Mentor edition, quote on the back cover).

However, did this book really deal with the *origin* of the species or only with the *variation* of the species?

Candid admissions

It is shocking to find eminent evolutionists admitting that Darwin didn't really address the issue of the *origin* of the species. Let's read just a few of these startling admissions by noted scientists.

- "Darwin," notes the famous paleontologist Niles Eldredge, "never really did discuss the *origin* of the species in his *Origin of the Species*" (*Time Frames: The Rethinking of Darwinian Evolution and the Theory of Punctuated Equilibria*, 1985, p. 33, emphasis added throughout).
- Writing in the prestigious scientific magazine *Nature*, Eörs Szathmáry admits: "The origin of species has long fascinated biologists. Although Darwin's major work bears it as a title, it does not provide a solution to the problem" ("When the Means Do Not Justify the Ends," June 24, 1999, online edition).
- "Darwin's book," writes biologist Chris Colby, "was titled *The Origin of Species* despite the fact that he did not really address this question; over one hundred and fifty years later, how species *originate* is still largely a mystery" (*Introduction to Evolutionary Biology*, 1996, online edition).
- Famous evolutionist Douglas

Futuyma reveals, "One of the ironies of the history of biology is that Darwin did not really explain the *origin* of new species in *The Origin of Species*, because he didn't know how to define a species. *The Origin* was in fact concerned mostly with how a *single* species might *change* in time, *not* how one species might *proliferate into many*" (*Science on Trial*, 1983, p. 152).

- "So begins *The Origin of Species*," explain biologists Jerry Coyne and H. Allen Orr regarding the book, "whose title and first paragraph *imply* that Darwin will have much

"One of the ironies of the history of biology is that Darwin did not really explain the origin of new species in *The Origin of Species*, because he didn't know how to define a species."

to say about *speciation* [the creation of species]. Yet his magnum opus remains *largely silent* on the 'mystery of mysteries,' and *the little it does say* about this mystery is seen by most modern evolutionists as *muddled or wrong*" (*Speciation*, 2004, p. 9).

- "As Professor Ernst Mayr of Harvard once remarked, 'the book called *The Origin of Species* is not really on that subject,'" notes author Gordon Taylor, "while his colleague Professor Simpson admits: 'Darwin failed to solve the problem indicated by the title of his work.' You may be surprised to hear that *The Origin of Species* remains just as much a mystery today, despite the efforts of thousands of biologists. The topic has been the main focus of attention and is beset by endless contro-

versies" (*The Great Evolution Mystery*, 1983, p. 140).

What *The Origin of Species* is truly about

If Darwin's famous book didn't honestly deal with the origin of the species, what was it really about?

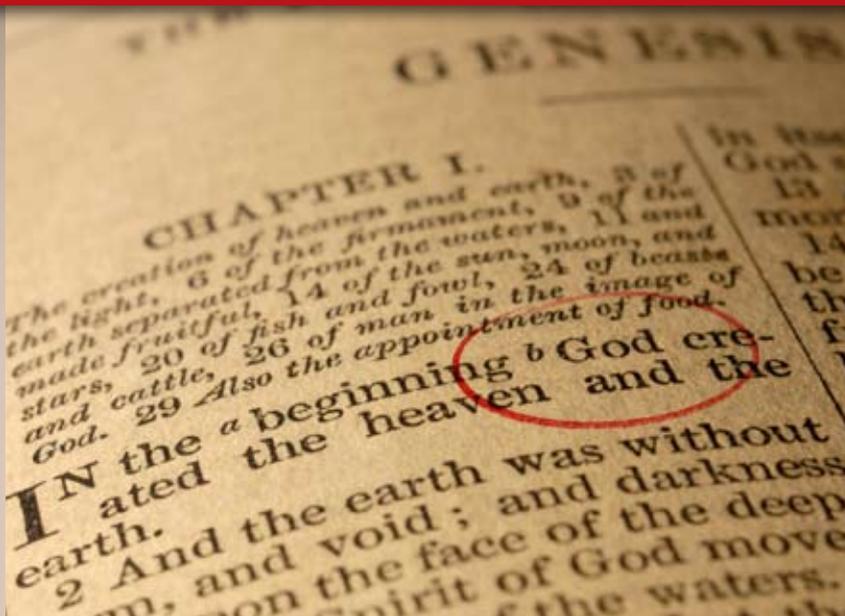
It was about variation within species, or how adaptations in living things could arise. But of course, if he had more accurately titled his book *On the Variation of Species*, and limited himself to discussing the direct evidence available, it would hardly have received much notice from the scientific community or the public. It was only when he challenged the notion of a creator of living things and replaced it with a theory of living organisms developing without the need for a creator that he gained notoriety.

As professor of theological ethics Benjamin Wiker remarks, "That evolution must be godless to be

scientific is the Darwin Myth, so profoundly misleading that it must be called a great lie, one that is unfortunately at the heart of his life and legacy" (*The Darwin Myth*, 2009, p. xi).

This was not a new idea. The Roman poet and philosopher Lucretius had declared that everything in the natural realm was explainable by natural means—and that to attribute any phenomena to supernatural intervention was superstitious.

Darwin's key assumption was that, primarily through variation and natural selection, all kinds of different creatures could naturally arise on their own. But what he actually discovered were only limited biological principles that govern *microevolution* (change within a kind, as described in Genesis, which is probably broader than what



Don't be fooled by clever but deeply flawed arguments about the 'molecules to man' theory of evolution.

is currently called a species) and not those dealing with *macroevolution* (change from one kind to another).

Again, if Darwin had remained within the confines of the existing evidence, it would have revealed interesting biological data, but nothing earth-shattering. Yet what he did was to extrapolate the known evidence to pawn off a hugely unproven and speculative conclusion.

As Phillip Johnson, one of the fathers of the intelligent design movement, explains, "If relative minor variations... were all evolution were about, there would be no controversy, and even the strictest biblical fundamentalists would be evolutionists. Of course evolution is about a lot more than in-species variation. The important issue is whether dog breeding and finch-beak examples fairly illustrate the process that created animals in the first place" (*Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds*, 1997, p. 57).

Don't be fooled

Did Darwin know what he was doing when he misrepresented the title and contents of his book? We can judge him by his own words.

- He admitted to a fellow scientist, Asa Gray, about his book, "I am

quite conscious that my speculations run quite beyond the bounds of true science" (N.C. Gillespie, *Charles Darwin and the Problem of Creation*, 1979, p. 2).

- Darwin once wrote to a friend that he prided himself as an expert in the "master art of wriggling" (*Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*, Vol. 2, p. 239).
- He confessed to some fellow scientists about his theory, "It is a mere rag of a hypothesis with as many flaws and holes as sound parts... but I can carry in it my fruit to market... a poor rag is better than nothing to carry one's fruit to market in." To another colleague he wrote, "I... have devoted my life to a fantasy" (Adrian Desmond and J. Moore, *Darwin: The Life of a Tormented Evolutionist*, 1991, pp. 475-477).

The fruit he wanted to market was his theory of evolution, which included a direct attack on the prevailing notions of God, Christianity and the Bible. And a very poisonous fruit it has turned out to be.

Darwin may have been clever and deceptive, but the evidence for his theory has not truly held up. A Harvard paleontologist of Darwin's day who

never accepted Darwinian evolution, Louis Agassiz, stated of Darwin's writings: "Possibilities were assumed to add up to probability, and probabilities then were promoted to certitudes" (quoted in H. Enoch, *Evolution or Creation*, 1966, p. 335).

Yet such a sham of a scientific theory now virtually goes unquestioned in public schools and universities. It has become like a sacred idol that can't even be criticized by the media or the schools without dire consequences. It has had an enormously negative impact, especially in Western culture. This ideology has fostered growth in atheism and even contributed to the barbaric wars under Hitler and Stalin. Of course, if people are taught that they are merely animals, we should not be surprised when they behave like animals.

"In Darwinism," explains Benjamin Wiker, "German intellectuals found scientific vindication that racial conflict, or more exactly, the subordination or elimination of inferior races, was the one needful task to save the world from evolutionary degradation, and even more, to advance humanity physically, morally, and intellectually. These were not ideas that German intellectuals twisted out of context from ill-conceived offshoots or aberrations. They came straight from Darwin himself" (*The Darwin Myth*, 2009, p. 154).

So don't be fooled by clever but deeply flawed arguments about the theory of evolution. Many might be celebrating Darwin's bicentennial and believe in the fatally flawed "molecules to man" theory, but vertical thinkers need not be deceived. Read Romans 1:18-32 to see what is now happening to our society because of those who refuse to acknowledge and honor God as our true Creator. For more information about Darwin's deception, read our free booklet *Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?*

Mario Seiglie is the father of four adult daughters and the pastor of United Church of God congregations in Garden Grove, California, and Honolulu, Hawaii.

Photo: iStockphoto

Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed

Ben Stein's documentary film exposes the challenge of intelligent design in the world of science.

by **Larry Greider**

Charles Darwin's earth-shattering 1859 thesis *The Origin of Species* has a new challenge in the intriguing 2008 documentary film by Ben Stein, *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*. This film is one of the many voices now challenging Darwin's hypotheses about the evolution of life. In the balance are serious issues. Is there visible evidence of intelligent design (ID) by a divine creator who has a purpose for His creation?

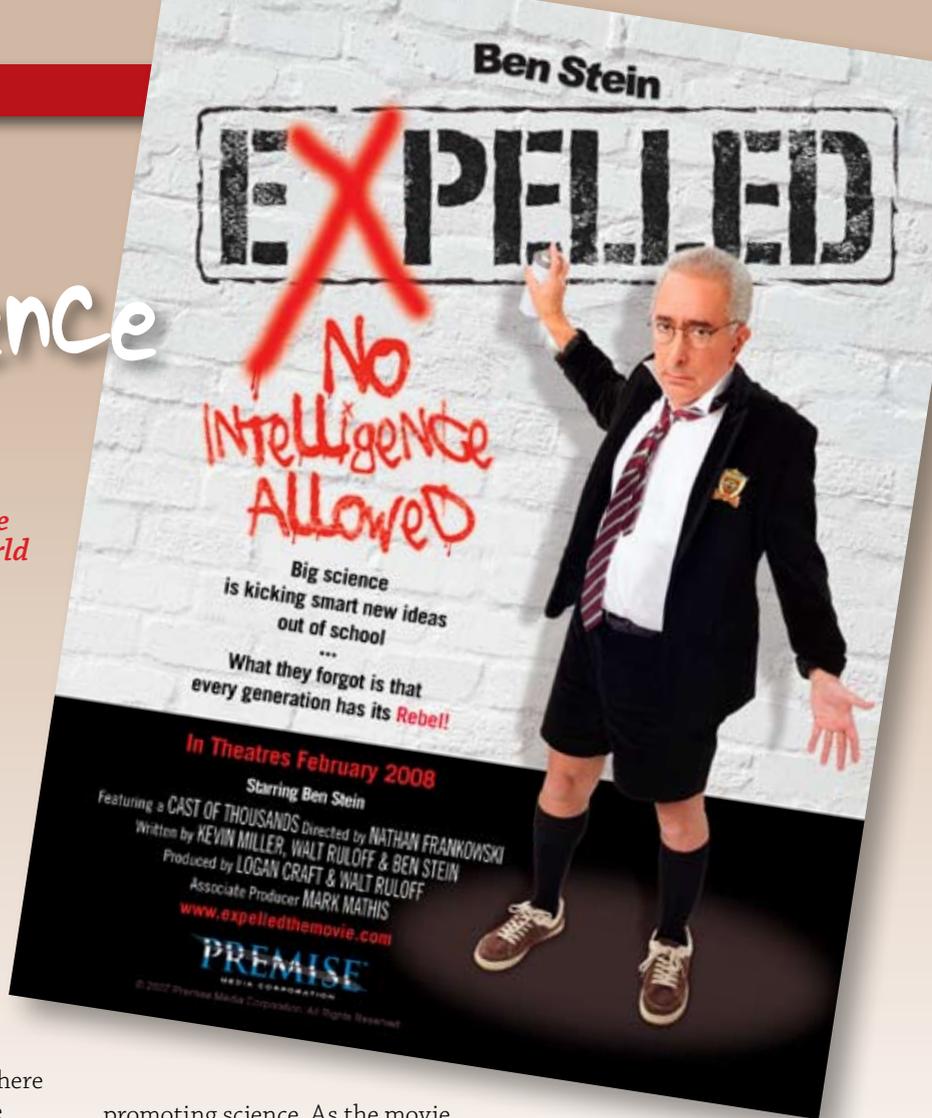
I found the presentation to be captivating. It shows Stein traveling around the United States, Europe and even the Galapagos Islands where Darwin's evolutionary theory had its genesis. The travelogue and interviews draw you into the reality of discrimination. Anyone who believes in any form of ID or religious explanation of creation is ridiculed or even ostracized.

Stein's use of the Berlin Wall as a metaphor for what is happening in the scientific community is thought-provoking, if not a little dramatic. As the film concludes, the candid interviews and on-the-spot reflections make clear there is a serious war going on to minimize religion and, in particular, the impact of a divine creator.

What I appreciated is the clarity Stein provides. He draws out the tension surrounding this topic during his many interviews. There is an obvious struggle going on, with many in the science field staunchly opposed to ID. The common worldview among strict evolutionists rejects design as incompatible with the undirected process of nature. Many in the academic world resist ideas that focus on "purpose," "intentionality" and "why."

Stein takes on Richard Dawkins, author of many books on Darwinism and proponent of evolution. Toward the end of the presentation, Stein gets Dawkins to agree that some form of ID could have started life, only to hear Dawkins backpedal and muddle his logic thereafter.

Stein interviews people in the scientific community, including college professors and those writing papers



promoting science. As the movie most powerfully spotlights, the bias of Darwin's concepts in the scientific community leaves no room for any mention of intelligent design or the possibility that creation was purposeful and meaningful. The refusal of some to even allow for this discussion assumes that evolution is, indeed, a fact. If you don't accept this theory, you could be held back from some opportunities—especially in the academic world.

Stein also includes his own personal journey as a Jewish man, connecting the radical Nazi extermination camps of World War II with Darwinism. He visits some of the places where hundreds of lives were taken in the name of science and explores euthanasia, the purposeful killing of those who are considered unfit to live.

A sobering yet educational film, *Expelled* is worth watching and pondering. It is easy to assume that institutions of higher learning are always accurate—truthfully expanding our knowledge base in important fields of study. Science, it would seem, should be the most unbiased field since it's supposed to be based simply on evidence. Stein shows this is not always the case. You can be fired for believing that an intelligent Being is directing the course of events. Believe the truth anyway.

Larry Greider is pastor of the United Church of God congregation in Los Angeles, California, and director of the UCG Good Works Program.

The Kingdom of Heaven

Is it more than just a movie? Is it fact or fiction?

by Randy Stiver

The true Kingdom of Heaven speaks of infinitely greater things than the graphically violent 2005 movie of that name. Jesus taught that the Kingdom of Heaven affects your whole physical life and your eternal future.

Of all the world's religions, even modern Christianity comprehends but little about this Kingdom. Fortunately, here vertical thinking comes into its own; you can know this Kingdom and be part of it!

A Kingdom by any other name ...

Why is it called the “kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 3:2; 5:10)? Is it because good people go to heaven when they die?

In fact, the Bible clarified this matter, stating, “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven” (John 3:13). The only human being who has ever gone to heaven is Jesus Christ.

The Kingdom is called the Kingdom of Heaven not because it is exclusive to that location but because it is ruled by God, who now dwells in heaven. In the Bible only Matthew's account of Christ's life used this descriptive phrase because he wrote primarily to the Jews of his day who made it a point to avoid speaking God's name. They used “heaven” as a substitute for God's name, as is done in the modern expression “Heaven only knows” (meaning God only knows).

Thus, “kingdom of heaven” just means “kingdom of God,” which is what the rest of the Bible calls it (Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:43; John 3:3; Acts 19:8; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20). Even Matthew's account occasionally called it that (Matthew 6:33; 19:24).

Most adherents of Christianity assume that their destination is some sort of paradise in heaven. What they don't understand is that “heaven” (in the persons of Jesus Christ and ultimately God the Father) is coming here!

Jesus constantly spoke of His return to earth. His sinless human life, public ministry, death as the sacrifice for the sins of all mankind and miraculous resurrection constituted His *first* coming. At His *second* coming, Christ will return to conquer and rule the world. The Kingdom of God will then be established throughout the earth.

Jerusalem is everything

Jerusalem of the 1100s was the focal point of what Christian crusaders, Jews and Muslims thought was the Kingdom of Heaven. Their vision was shortsighted, but it reveals something about the urgency we all need when dealing with the Kingdom.

A significant scene occurs in the film *Kingdom of Heaven* when the hero (Balian of Ibelin), leading the Christian defenders of the fateful city, negotiates terms with Saladin, leader of the attacking Islamic army. After obtaining safe passage to the sea for the defenders, Balian asks, “What is the value of Jerusalem?” Saladin answers, “Nothing.” But then as he walks away he turns and adds, “Everything!”

When Jesus neared the end of His ministry nearly 2,000 years ago, He lamented over His beloved city: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!” (Matthew 23:37). Jesus mourned

The Kingdom Feast

Many vertical thinkers have discovered the Feast of Tabernacles—the biblical festival that anticipates the Kingdom of God coming to this earth. Observing this divinely appointed festival (Leviticus 23:34) helps us understand the real Kingdom and God’s



magnificent plan to install fair, righteous and peaceful government on the earth for all people.

To learn more about this often-overlooked celebration, read our free booklet *God’s Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind*.



for His people because they refused to accept God’s authority. People today still are unwilling to submit to God. Because of this rejection, Christ must return to set things right.

When He returns to earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords over the Kingdom of God, He will return to Jerusalem: “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east” (Zechariah 14:4).

There will be a war then. What’s left of earth’s armies will fight against their own Creator. But good news follows. From a rebuilt Jerusalem, the capital of the Kingdom of God on earth, Jesus will then rule all the nations of the world for 1,000 years!

Finally we’ll see a time of peace and true justice without the dishonesty, egomania and suffering of our era. What medieval crusaders thought they were fighting for will actually happen.

But the Kingdom of Heaven and Jerusalem have an even more magnificent future. When the 1,000 years and other final events conclude, God will create a new earth. Then the Father will descend from the current heaven, bringing with Him the New Jerusalem, and will dwell with all of resurrected humanity. Again, “heaven” is coming to earth.

Eternal life

Resurrection is how God changes human beings into His children in the divine family, the Kingdom of God. We have mortal, physical bodies now, but we’ll have immortal, spirit bodies then.

In the course of the events at Jerusalem, Christ will resurrect to eternal, spirit existence all who choose to turn from their selfish ways (repent), follow Him and live God’s way of life. Living in the Kingdom of God with the Father, Jesus the Son and all of resurrected humanity is real life—forever!

The Kingdom of Heaven was central to Jesus’ teaching. To learn more about this future government and how you can be part of it, request or download your free copy of *The Gospel of the Kingdom*.

A Kingdom of conscience

In the film, Balian of Ibelin asks his father, “What could a

king ask of a man like me?” Godfrey of Ibelin responds, “A better world than has ever been seen. A kingdom of conscience. A kingdom of heaven.”

Christ told dozens of stories with moral and spiritual lessons. Nearly all were about seeking God’s Kingdom.

The Kingdom of Heaven is summarized in this prophecy of Christ’s rule on earth: “Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight... The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Luke 3:4-6).

Balian tried to improve things, but his story is just the story of man—one war follows another. Nothing ultimately changes.

With the help and guidance of Jesus Christ, you and I will change things. We’ll draw the crookedness of the world straight as a taut string. The rough ways of those who stumble from one addiction to another, from one bad relationship to another, from one misery to another, will be smoothed out. We will teach them how to live happier lives. They’ll learn of grace, mercy and ultimate salvation in the divine Kingdom.

In order to learn how to live this way, we must not only believe in the Kingdom of God but also make sure our actions are in line with God’s laws and commands.

The world’s false “kingdom of heaven” doesn’t align with the Bible. Although it appears alluring and exciting in a shallow sort of way, it has no future beyond this temporary, physically oriented life.

The true Kingdom of Heaven requires vertical thinking—thinking like Jesus Christ thinks. It involves a spiritual way of life that guides your conscience to anticipate, value and seek the future Kingdom of God on earth.

God’s Kingdom is a kingdom of conscience, of inner obligation, and you must choose whether or not you will submit to God’s rule. Choose wisely.

Randy Stiver is the pastor of United Church of God congregations in Columbus and Cambridge, Ohio, and is a regular guest on the *Beyond Today* television program.



Planning Your Career for

Tough Times

by Ken Treybig

As a result of the current global downturn, many workers have been laid off, and jobs have become increasingly scarce. In the United States the jobless rate rose from around 4.5 percent in December 2007 to near 9.5 percent by May 2009—the highest in over 25 years. Experts are predicting an even higher rate of unemployment by the end of 2009.

The predictions about increasing unemployment have recent and upcoming college graduates and even seasoned workers wondering about their careers. What can a person do to give himself or herself “an edge” in such a competitive job market?

Loyalty and competence

Proverbs 25:13 points out that someone who is faithful in his or her responsibilities is as refreshing and perhaps as rare as a cool snowfall in the heat of the summer harvest season. Surely such a worker would be recognized, valued and retained—or quickly hired when identified.

As one who had to search through a long list of potential employees for a dependable receptionist and secretary many years ago, I can personally vouch for the fact that employers love to identify and hire faithful workers. And if there comes a time when some workers must be laid off, faithful workers are the last ones an employer wants to lose.

At Quintessential Careers (QuintCareers.com), one of the oldest and most comprehensive career development Web sites, is an article by founder Dr. Randall Hansen titled “Seven Strategies to Recession-Proof Your Career.” Here he advises those who have a job to “become a company man or woman.” Never be seen or heard bad-mouthing the organization, he warns. Instead be seen as a staunch supporter of top management and the organization.

“Being labeled a company man (or woman) sometimes has negative connotations among your peers, but workers who have questionable loyalty to the organization will be the first to get fired—even before more incompetent but loyal workers. Loyalty matters that much, so make the effort to be both extremely competent *and* loyal.” Staying current on news about your company, without appearing to be involved in gossip, is also helpful.

Experts also point out the wisdom of always keeping your résumé (curriculum vitae or CV in Britain) up to date along with focusing on professional development and additional educational opportunities. Anything you can do to make yourself more valuable to your current company or a potential employer will be worth the effort.

Guard your reputation

While networking remains a major tool for job-seekers, experts caution that what you post on social networks (Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, etc.) should be cautiously guarded. Companies can go to such sites to screen applicants. You and your friends might think it’s funny to joke about an indiscretion or use off-color humor, but a company considering you as a new potential worker might see the same post as a “lapse of discretion.”

Your name and reputation are *always* important. The wisdom of Ecclesiastes tells us, “A good reputation is better than expensive perfume” (7:1, Good News Bible). Ecclesiastes 10:1 makes a graphic comparison: “Dead flies can make a whole bottle of perfume stink, and a little stupidity can cancel out the greatest wisdom” (GNB). It would be terribly shortsighted to allow one stupid post to cause you to miss out on a good job.

Five more tips

Ardith Weiss, director of Counseling and Career Services

Conducting your own informational interviews is a good way to become more knowledgeable and comfortable in meeting with professionals.



at the University of Texas at Tyler, acknowledges that it can be easy to become discouraged when hiring is down and to succumb to the fatalistic view that the job realm is hopeless. Though the outlook may not be as uplifting as in the past, the fact is com-

panies will continue to hire. They'll just be more selective about their choices. So it is certainly in your best interest to be the most desirable candidate you can be.

In an article titled "Are You Recession Proof?" Weiss gives five tips for finding a job: start early, conduct informational interviews, network constantly, research companies, and practice, practice, practice interviewing (*HBCU Career Guide*, Vol. 7, May 2009).

Rather than wait until you are close to graduating, visit your school's career center early to get help in developing a first-class résumé and to practice interviewing. The more you practice, the less intimidating a real interview will be.

In fact, conducting your own informational interviews is a good way to become more knowledgeable and comfortable in meeting with professionals. Find someone who does what you'd like to do for a living and set up a time you can interview him or her to find out all you can about that line of work. Even though you are just asking questions—and not asking for a job—you will learn a lot about how to discuss that career track. An added benefit is that you will already be networking. Those you interview can act as contacts for you when you begin your job

search in earnest.

Recruiters comment that students often fall short of employer expectations in the area of knowledge about the company or organization where they are interviewing. You can help make yourself stand

Doing your homework will make it easier for you to discuss how your qualifications match the company's needs.

out from the rest by gathering as much information as possible before the interview. Know the company's basic history, what it does, size, where they are located, even its major competitors.

Doing your homework will make it easier for you to discuss how your qualifications match the company's needs. Your school's career center can help you with information about where to do the research as well as help you practice for the interview.

Planning ahead is always a good step. Ecclesiastes 10:10 says, "If your ax is dull and you don't sharpen it, you have to work harder to use it. It is smarter to plan ahead" (GNB). Don't wait until you are laid off to make yourself more valuable to your current employer, or until you graduate to make yourself a better candidate. Start now to make yourself recession-proof.

Ken Treybig is the national coordinator of United Youth Camps. He is also the pastor of United Church of God congregations in East Texas and western Louisiana.



Top "Recession-Proof" Industries From CNN.com

- ★ Health care
- ★ Energy/utilities
- ★ Green energy
- ★ Transport and infrastructure
- ★ Accounting
- ★ Food
- ★ Consultancy
- ★ Marketing

Learning about yourself can make your life happier and healthier.

Discover Your Unique

by Steve McNeely

Is it possible to feel a consistent sense of accomplishment and know that your life's work fits hand in glove with your unique gifts and talents?

It is your Heavenly Father's deep desire that you reach your full potential and be prosperous—and in more areas than just wealth (Luke 12:32; 3 John 2).

A vital key to soaring through life is to carefully and thoughtfully align your career with your natural aptitudes.

The right fit

You will spend most of your life working, getting ready for work, commuting and hanging up your work clothes. *Spend* is the operative term. You and I have

aptitudes will show up decades later. To know that human beings have different strengths from birth does not require rigorous research. Observing elementary kids at recess will do.

People are different

In school there are kids who from the earliest years feel comfortable telling everyone else what to do and where to go. Others have a knack for coming up with a new game or activity when one gets boring.

Some are always by themselves—quiet, pensive, observing everything, not participating directly. A few can follow instructions for approximately 3.7 seconds until they have to be off exploring, pushing the envelope, looking for new ways of challenging authority.

Some are very physical, always running, jumping, catching, throwing and competing. Others are very verbal, gathered in various little groups chatting, giggling and laughing. Sometimes there are a few classmates who simply sit on a bench and color or look at books.

The point is that each of us is unique and special, with custom wiring that our parents handed down to us without our permission. God gives His children gifts, physical and spiritual (Romans 12:6); and every human being is gifted and talented, but in different, beautiful ways. We no more choose our aptitudes than we do our natural hair color, eye color or dominant hand. All

**Find what gives you energy and passion.
Toss out what you find boring and draining.
Actively seek out mentors in areas where your
aptitudes, interests and skills intersect.**

only so much time, and time is not renewable. In fact, research has shown that the stress from an ill-fitting career can actually take years from your life.

“For more than 20 years, Rockport Institute has gathered empirical data showing that changing from an ill-fitting career to one that is fulfilling and that produces a lower stress level reduces colds, flu and other immune system disorders. Many studies have shown this to be accurate. A compromised immune system doesn't just expose you to a higher risk of colds and flu, it lowers your resistance all across the board, making you more susceptible to catching something that will kill you” (Rockportinstitute.com).

Conversely, those in suitable careers will be happier and healthier.

Our natural talents are hardwired genetically and are discernible through testing at about age 14. These same



Photos iStockphoto

Gifts & Talents



these factors are controlled by DNA. However, it is important to understand the difference between an aptitude, a skill and an interest.

Aptitudes and skills

An aptitude (sometimes called a talent or gift) refers to a natural, physical or mental ability to learn something or develop a skill with relative ease compared to someone who does not possess the same aptitude. Testing for aptitudes is helpful to predict future development. If you and I align our interests and skills with our aptitudes, we can more easily grow and produce at a high level in all areas of life with less friction. With an understanding of our aptitudes, life can be a smooth-flowing, natural, peaceful, fun and energizing process.

There are two major truths about aptitudes:

- 1. Having a gift does not guarantee you will become highly skilled. It still takes training, experience and work.**
- 2. Not having a high level of natural aptitude does not mean you cannot develop a related skill. It will just take more effort and perhaps more stress. To reach your full potential requires intelligently bonding aptitudes with skill development through the pursuit of excellence.**

Interests

An interest is something separate from an aptitude. We may have many interests that lie outside our aptitudes or skills. Experiences and influences may pique our curiosity and evoke an interest in something new. Having a variety of interests can make us wholesome, fascinating beings.

I am susceptible to developing instant, but fleeting, interest in the latest thing.

For example, not long after my wife Mary and I were first married we drove from Dallas down to the hill country in southwest Texas, where her two sisters and their husbands were on a hunting trip. I developed a sudden interest in hunting.

My interest was so keen that on the drive home I had to stop at a large sporting goods store and purchase a Buck hunting knife that was only slightly smaller than a bowie knife—which is only slightly smaller than a medieval sword!

However, my hunting phase was soon forgotten, and the knife became a relic of another passing interest.

Finding your place

It is very rare that human beings know from an early age what they will be great at. Most of us struggle to find our niche. It is not unusual for college students to change their majors a number of times before settling on a course of study. Most workers change their careers multiple times during life.

How can you discover your aptitudes? For most of us it requires testing. I suggest you seek the guidance of an experienced career counselor who can point you toward viable testing options. You can find a lot of free tests on the Internet, but many of these are worth what you pay for them—nothing. The Johnson O'Connor Research Foundation is a reputable organization in the United States. Their testing services require an investment, but it is reasonable when you consider the value over a lifetime.

After you have combined testing with career counseling, seek a rich variety of experiences. Consider interning in different jobs. Find what gives you energy and passion. Toss out what you find boring and draining. Actively seek out mentors in areas where your aptitudes, interests and skills intersect.

Make good choices and avoid getting stuck. For example, running up debt can enslave you in a job you dislike because you are under intense pressure to pay the bills. In that position, taking the time to find your unique niche is a luxury you may not be able to afford.

I cannot overemphasize the need to use a variety of strategies to discover your unique gifts early in life. But it's never too late to make changes; it is simply more difficult the older we get.

You need to make smart choices early so that when you're old you can look back and say, "I have lived my life to the fullest; I have used my gifts completely; and I have spent myself making the world a better place—*what a ride!*"

Steve McNeely attends the East Texas congregation of the United Church of God with his wife Mary. He is a partner with his father Melton in the public accounting and business consulting firm of McNeely & McNeely, CPAs.

Getting to Know Guys

(Without Getting

by Melody Schmidt

Take a look around the dating scene. Notice the confusion of shallow relationships and unnecessary heartbreak. Even those who maintain a long-term boyfriend often experience frustration and pain. Chances are high that you've been hurt at least once if you've spent time in this dizzying practice.

Every day we girls are faced with a great deal of pressure. We are made to feel as though there is something wrong with us if we aren't in a relationship. When combined with our strong natural desire to love and to be loved, we can quickly find ourselves jumping into relationships, not because we want to be with a specific person but simply because we do not want to be alone.

God created us with an intense longing for relationships because He wants us to have a close, personal relationship with Him. We are to be so close with Him that we become one, sharing the same goals and purpose. He also created in us the desire for a connection with others, for a family and for marriage. Within the guidelines of His law, these physical interactions can be some of the greatest blessings on earth.

God does not want our relationships to be filled with pain and regret. But this can happen when we put our own short-term physical desires before God. Instead, the instructions provided in the Bible teach us how to have the happiest and most fulfilling relationships possible.

Men and women were created with unique aptitudes that complement one another. Women tend to bond easily and then remain loyal, even when there are signs of trouble. Ladies, it is extremely important that you take your time and choose carefully *before* you let your heart get attached to a guy. As soon as you become a couple, you will become more concerned about preserving the relationship than about choosing the right kind of guy. This means a much greater chance for hurt later on.

Many guys can put on a good show when trying to impress a girl they are interested in. If you don't take time to see his true qualities and concerns, you might find yourself deeply disappointed when the real guy emerges. In other cases, you may simply not be compatible with him. No matter the reason, if a relationship to which you've committed your heart too early falls apart, it's impossible to get out unscathed.

The Song of Solomon is a beautiful and passionate love story that displays the beauty of love when we follow the advice "not to awaken love until the time is right" (2:7, New Living Translation).

Rather than rushing into a relationship, invest your time and energy into getting to know guys without getting serious. By being patient, enjoying the benefits of being friends first and trusting God, you'll reap blessings in ways you can't imagine.

Melody Schmidt, a recent Ambassador Bible Center graduate, works as a microbiologist at a company based in Cincinnati, Ohio, and attends the Cincinnati North congregation of the United Church of God.

Getting to Know Others

by Melody Schmidt and Jeremy Lallier

If you want to learn practical ways to get to know guys and girls without getting serious too soon, we wrote this "how to" section with you in mind. Here are six points we've discovered to be helpful.

1. Use group activities as opportunities to meet and observe people.

Group activities make it easier to widen your circle of friends, interact with people without pressure and discover more about the friends you already have. These times also offer the benefit of

allowing you to see how people interact with others. How they act around everyone else can give you valuable insight into their character and who they are as individuals.

2. Spend time getting to know many different people. Invest in solid friendships.

Get to know as many types of people as you can. This helps you see what qualities are important to you and which ones you'd like to avoid. Really take time and effort developing deep friendships. This will not only aid in possible romantic

relationships later, but will help you learn to care for, interact with and solve conflicts with people in general.

3. When you are old enough, find ways to spend one-on-one time in public places with good friends.

To truly get to know someone, it's important to spend time with him or her both in a group and one-on-one. Both scenarios reveal different aspects of a person's character. Just make sure to pick a public, nonromantic setting for this time together or you may have the difficulty of struggling with feelings

Serious Too Soon)

Getting to Know Girls

by Jeremy Lallier

Often we guys encounter what feels like a gaping hole: the craving to have companionship that goes beyond calling someone a friend. We know God created this desire in us because He said, “It is not good that man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18).

But we also have to recognize that timing is important. If we try to force a relationship with a girl before getting to know her well, we are asking for unnecessary pain and difficulties. In contrast, waiting for God’s timing and putting friendship first allows us to enjoy His blessings to the utmost.

So we need to know how to get to know girls without aiming for a full-blown romantic relationship.

Think about it this way. When all is said and done, you are going to be married to only one person. That means you will ultimately be maintaining one romantic relationship: the one you’ll share with your wife. Regardless of how many friendships you develop before that time, you can only carry one through into marriage.

Knowing this, is it logical to put a great deal of time and effort into building romantic relationships that you will have to discard entirely at some point in the future? Instead, first establish strong friendships that can remain constant.

Friendship is wonderful because it allows two people to get to know each other without any exclusive or unreasonable expectations of one another. Here is the opportunity to get to know a girl for who she is.

A healthy, romantic relationship must be built on friendship. It is impossible to have a meaningful relationship with someone you don’t know. It is, of course, possible to feel strong physical attraction without deeper understanding, but this feeling will not last.

If you jump into a serious, romantic relationship, it is more likely to fall apart. When it does, there’s no friendship to fall back on. Nothing will be left because the entire relationship was built on only superficial feelings.

When we’re infatuated, we don’t want to hear that our feelings are superficial. We want to believe that what we feel is different and special. But if we’re honest with ourselves, we’ll see that our excitement is based on something not much different than the countless other passionate but ultimately shallow relationships all around us. Without friendship as a foundation, relationships are doomed from the start.

So guys, when you find yourself interested in a girl, don’t dive headfirst into a romance. Be patient, trust God and get to know her as a friend. Guard her heart as well as your own, staying mindful of the ultimate relationship to come. With this focus, the blessing of a deep relationship will be yours when the time is right.

Jeremy Lallier recently graduated from Ambassador Bible Center in Milford, Ohio, and is currently working as a writing intern at the United Church of God home office.

rising up before their time. Listen to the guidelines your parents have on when to start this.

4. Avoid a romantic attachment during times of trauma. Instead, allow your friends and God to help you.

As tempting as it can be to hand your heart over to someone who is there when times are rough, it’s wise to wait and see how you feel after you are in better control of your emotions. There’s nothing wrong with being supported by a friend, but be wary of committing too deeply to someone just because you enjoy the sense of comfort and closeness.

5. Pray for clear vision and the ability to see an individual as he or she really is.

No one knows a person better than his or her Creator. Be sure to come to God regularly, asking for the clear vision to see things as they truly are, without the veil of affection. Then, although difficult, you must accept what God shows you, whether or not it matches what you desire.

6. Put God first, and seek the company of others who do the same.

God is and always must be the foundation of a true, lasting friendship. Because He is constant and unchanging, any relationship that truly places Him at the center will likewise be unshakable.

If the other person is spiritually on target, he or she will support your relationship with God, not hinder it. It is a great blessing to share God’s knowledge

and the goal of becoming like Him with those around you. By keeping these things in mind, both of you can grow in your relationship with God—and each other!

We hope these points will be beneficial to your journey through the complicated maze of friendships and romance. Stay encouraged and persistent. We all make mistakes, but with some insight and God’s help, we can take part in the blessings of godly relationships.

For more on this subject, see “The Dating Debate” at www.verticalthought.org/vt/vt02/datingdebate.htm. This and other articles from the January-March 2004 issue gather helpful information from books like Joshua Harris’s *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* and *Boy Meets Girl*.

Freshman Year With Darwin

**3:14 p.m., Sept. 26, 2002,
Sunset Village Residence Hall**

I stared at the pile of textbooks, not quite sure how to tackle my first term at UCLA. Scanning down the stack, my eyes settled on Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*. As a Christian student and a humanities major who had never studied the theory of evolution before, this year long seminar on "The Evolution of the Cosmos and Life" made me a little nervous. But one of the important lessons I learned early on is that in order to truly understand what you believe and why you believe it, you must also know what you don't believe and the reasoning behind your decision. It was with this attitude that I decided to take on Darwin in the classroom.

**11:42 p.m., Nov. 4, 2002,
undergraduate library stacks**

Natural selection. The Big Bang. Mendelian inheritance. Genetic mutations. The list of concepts on my study guide seemed to be endless. I sat in the library for over five hours studying for my first midterm, and all of the concepts started to blur together. The past two weeks in class introduced me to some of the primary theoretical foundations for evolutionary biology, reopening a world of curiosity for God's creation and the science behind it. By separating theory from fact in my assigned readings, I was able to better appreciate God's design and purpose behind His creation in new and exciting ways and know that there is much more to come this year. Looking back down at the study guide, I cracked open my textbook, wishing I had more coffee ...

We've been taught that 95 percent of our universe is made up of undetectable dark matter and energy. Its presence can only be inferred by its gravitational impact on visible matter. Similarly, the spiritual influences that occur every day may be invisible, but the effects are observable.

2:15 p.m., Nov. 20, 2002, in class

"Who claims that our universe is a product of divine creation?" my professor asked. A few brave hands slowly went up, followed by my own a few seconds later. Today was the interactive debate between creation and evolution, and you could feel the discomfort in the room.

"And after all of the scientific proof we have studied in this course, how can you defend your faith?" His sarcasm grew thicker with each word. A few of my classmates looked down, avoiding eye contact in hope of not having to respond to his loaded question. But instead of joining them, I slowly stood up from my seat and faced the entire class as one of my favorite scriptures (1 Peter 3:15) came to mind.

"We've been taught in this class that 95 percent of our universe is made up of dark matter and energy that is undetectable based on its radiation emissions, yet its presence can be inferred because of its gravitational impacts on visible matter all around us. Similarly, the spiritual influences that occur every day may be invisible to the human eye, but the lasting effects are both observable and monumental. Now, what I wonder is how is my faith in God's presence in my life any less valid than trusting the existence of dark matter in our universe?" I paused, letting my point sink in. "In fact, God created them both" (that is, my life and what makes up the universe).

I imagined one of those "movie moments" where the inspirational music swells as the class bursts into enthusiastic applause and the professor professes to believe in God ... Well, it didn't exactly happen that way, but I did end up leaving my professor speechless, and I got an A on the assignment. Even Hollywood can't beat that ending!

**10:04 a.m., Dec. 22, 2002,
home on winter break**

I was finally able to catch my breath over break. I was still wrapping my head around how Darwin and so many others could suppose we came from nothing (*macroevolution*), yet I also found evidence of *microevolution*—the adaptations of species over time—all around me.

Since enrolling in this seminar, I have often found myself in awe of the power and beauty of the natural world around me. Walking around the lake by my house, I began to admire the way the sunlight fell gently through the branches of a nearby tree, reflecting in a sea of shimmers across the water. Overhead, a flock of geese flew in a perfect V as they traveled south for the winter. All around me, nature magnified God's beauty and love for His creation. Indeed, the landscape that I observed was no accident; rather, it was the perfect, careful design of a Creator who wants what is best for His children.

These simple moments helped me see a larger purpose for creation that evolution doesn't account for. When studying evolution in college, I found that it was crucial to separate out assumptions from truth, while viewing science through a biblical lens in order to understand and appreciate God's ultimate purpose through creation. Only then can science and God truly be in harmony, as He intended.

Leslie Schwartz, M.Ed., loves working with college students to foster their leadership development at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She attends the Bloomington/Normal United Church of God congregation. Have a question, comment or idea for a future topic for this new column? Contact Leslie at VTLifeOnCampus@gmail.com.

For Your Bookshelf

Here are some great books and publications that can help you learn more about evolution and biblical creation. The first five can be found in bookstores and libraries; the last three can be found free on the Internet.



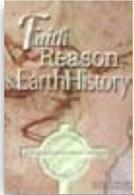
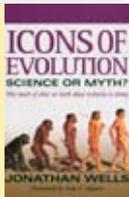
Darwin on Trial by Phillip Johnson (1993).

Creation: Remarkable Evidence of God's Design by Grant Jeffrey (2003).



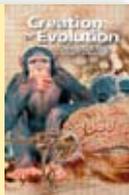
Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution by Michael Behe (1996).

Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth? Why Much of What We Teach About Evolution Is Wrong by Jonathan Wells (2000).



Faith, Reason, and Earth History: A Paradigm of Earth and Biological Origins by Intelligent Design by Leonard Brand (1997).

Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe? (online at www.GNmagazine.org/booklets/EV/).



“Can You Believe Both the Bible and Evolution?” by John Ross Schroeder (*The Good News*, July/August 2006; online at www.GNmagazine.org/issues/gn65/bibleevolution.htm).

“Creation and Evolution: An Interview With Phillip Johnson” by Jerold Aust (*The Good News*, July/August 1998; online at www.GNmagazine.org/issues/gn17/interview.htm).

Evolution in the Classroom

Here's what other students and recent college graduates had to say when asked, “How did you study evolution in college and maintain your faith?”

When I first came to college, I initially had absorbed the message that it was dangerous to ever study evolution, as though learning about it would ruin my faith. Yet by studying the theory of evolution, I was able to come to a place where I knew what I believed about God and could feel His presence in my life, while still being okay with having some uncertainty about the minute details of how the incredible natural world surrounding us came to be in the form we see it today. Realizing that we can't—and don't need to—claim to know every last detail allowed me to find a good balance, without willfully ignoring scientific evidence or tossing out biblical teachings.

Female college graduate, Ohio

Think critically, do your own research and studying, and listen to the arguments presented by every side so you don't take anyone's viewpoints at face value. Studying evolution is a remarkable opportunity to study your Bible as well!

Female college student, California

When it comes to debating or discussing evolution, I believe it's increasingly important to assess one's audience and to actively decide whether to speak up or whether to be quiet (Matthew 7:6). Where the audience is decidedly hostile to God's truth, then one needs to be especially wise about whether or not to join the conversation.

Male college graduate, Australia

As a Christian geologist, I choose to integrate religion and science. Modern science allows us to study the world God created. And if we are to hold the Bible as the ultimate authority in our life, nothing in science will contradict it. Once the integration of religion and science is seen as a partnership, true progress can be made because they work to enhance and refine each other.

Female master's student, California

Lessons From Survivors of

The Great Depression

What is it like to live when goods are scarce? What does it mean to be in want? What lessons can we learn from those who have been through tough times?

by **Amanda Stiver**

In 1929, a rapid fall in the U.S. stock market resulted in the decline in value of shady investment trusts and pyramid schemes. Ensuing panic caused a run on banks that left the American and European financial systems in economic ruin.

During the first few years of the 1930s, there was a decrease in the number of jobs available, and many people went without wages and even food.

The average standard of living in the 1930s was very different from today. Not everyone had electricity, and much of the population lived on farms or had access to land on which to grow food. Life was much less urban.

Among us today are men and women who lived through the trauma of the Great Depression. Recently, several survivors of that difficult era described its effects on their lives. Their lessons provide insight for us today.

Tom and Jean Jackson remembered growing up on farms in the Midwest during the 1930s. Their recollections include:

Milk was delivered by horse-drawn wagons at 5 or 6 o'clock every morning. Blocks of ice weighing up to 50 pounds [approximately 23 kilos] each were delivered to homes to keep food cool in the icebox. Coal furnaces heated homes, and there were no dishwashing machines.

A 10-cent taxicab ride could take you any place in town. Restaurants had a complete meal for 35 cents, and gas cost 9 cents a gallon.

Interurban trains powered by coal-fed locomotives connected small towns. No one traveled widely or frequently back then. Roadways were made of brick, and streetcars often ran straight down the middle. Schools were located only a few blocks apart, so no buses were needed.

Grocery store clerks waited on and gathered groceries for each customer. Ladies and girls wore hats and gloves when they went out to shop.

Some movies were still silent. An organist played music in



the background, and words appeared on the screen for dialogue.

Naomi Stiver, who grew up in the West and the Pacific Northwest as a child of the 1930s, recalls how families made do with less.

Vegetable gardens provided produce. Surplus eggs, cream and veggies would be bartered for other items or for money to buy things that couldn't be made at home, like salt and sugar.

Children could expect one new pair of shoes per year. Those shoes would later be resoled at home to save money. And slits were cut in the tops for growing toes in the summertime.

Neighbors helped each other. Groups of families would buy 50-pound sacks of flour and give the sacks, made of colorful printed material, to a designated family each rotation for making clothes, dish towels and tablecloths.

An ice-cream cone cost 5 cents. Each sibling would get a sparkler and one package of firecrackers to celebrate Independence Day.

Johanna Jaspers, who spent her growing-up years in the Netherlands, remembers the 1930s and 1940s in Europe.

Times were tough, and you made your own clothes. During the war, coupons were required for rationed food

purchases, and an extra coupon allowed the purchase of a small bag of candy for a little girl.

Shopping was done at tiny specialty stores: the butcher, baker, green grocer, etc.

You worked hard and saved hard. It was the only life we knew.

Indoor plumbing was scarce, and bath time was in a big metal tub at home or at a public shower facility in town.

In 1945, toward the end of World War II, the German occupiers refused to let food and coal into cities in the Netherlands, so in winter people burned trees, doors, even house frames to keep warm.



Freda Spruance lived in an urban Midwestern setting during those years and recalls practical methods of making do and saving money.

We ate a lot of cornmeal mush and big pots of beans, which were plentiful and inexpensive. My mother and dad also hunted for meat to add protein to our diet.

Oranges were scarce, but local fruits like apples and peaches were readily available. For snacks we ate open-faced peanut butter, mustard or ketchup sandwiches. A special treat when having friends over was a big bowl of popcorn.

To make money I began babysitting at age 11. My parents saved by resoling only the worn portion of the shoe in order to save the cost of an entirely new sole. In order to afford new bed frames, my mother would earn money by scrubbing floors for other families.

Slacks weren't allowed at school, so I had three school dresses at a time. When I got home I would immediately change out of my school clothes and into play clothes and shoes to keep my dresses clean and less worn.

In 1938 my dad lost his job and was without work for six months. Our lowest moment came when all we had to eat

for dinner was a small dish of cooked cabbage and a heel of bread. Even then we tried to pretend we weren't hungry. Soon thereafter my aunt came with \$15 and groceries to help us get along. We were later able to return the favor in her time of need. However, by the beginning of World War II, jobs were much easier to find.

Principles for today

Even though our society is much more complex and dependent on vast distribution systems, there are principles from the Great Depression that we can apply to help us deal with today's economic downturn. Here are some keys to surviving in difficult times:

Simplify your life. Start with a positive mind-set and appreciate what you have right now. Also think about how to live a fulfilled life without so many material

things. Visualize being content with less.

Think creatively. Imagine what it would be like to go back in time and live like the survivors of the Depression era. Learn how people lived on less. Ask about the experiences of older folks and family members.

Pray for faith. Learn about family histories of God's intervention and provision in desperate times. We are never alone, and God promises to sustain us, though not always luxuriously.

Be thankful. God expects us to be content with what we have and in whatever state we find ourselves. Being grateful helps us handle adversity and is a sure antidote to the corrosive effects of materialism.

Why are these keys so important? Because the world is always cycling from times of plenty to times of scarcity, and our current world is on a downward turn. The past year has seen the beginning of financial crises with the potential to eclipse the Great Depression. It is always better to be prepared. With God's help we can make it through.

Amanda Stiver works as a freelance writer in Columbus, Ohio, and serves on the *Vertical Thought* staff.

Answers for Gentiles

Can people eat anything they want? Genesis 9:3 says, “Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.”

Within the context of this section of Scripture, we find three key points:

- After the Flood, God reiterates to Noah’s family His previous instruction to mankind to multiply and fill the earth (9:1).
- God says animals will fear man, and man is given dominion over them (9:2-3).
- Man can eat the meat of the animals, but he must not eat the blood (9:4).

From previous instruction, it is evident that Noah already knew of the distinction between clean and unclean animals. Before the Flood God had told him, “You shall take with you seven each of every *clean*

Throughout Genesis, we see the men and women of God eating only clean animals. Later, the food laws of clean and unclean animals would be spelled out more explicitly in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

animal, a male and his female [that is, seven pairs]; two each of animals that are *unclean*, a male and his female” (Genesis 7:2, emphasis added throughout). Other passages explain that “clean” and “unclean” refer to animals that should and should not be eaten (Leviticus 11:1-4).

The implication in Genesis 7 is that they were to take these extra pairs of clean animals aboard because they would be raised to provide food for Noah’s family as well as replenish the earth. Only one pair of each of the unclean animals was needed for species replenishment since these were not fit to eat.

Moreover, after the Flood, Noah sacrificed only clean animals before God (Genesis 8:20). Throughout

Genesis, we see the men and women of God eating only clean animals (Genesis 18:7; 27:9). Later, the food laws of clean and unclean animals would be spelled out more explicitly—in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.

Jesus Christ—our perfect example and the One whose example we follow—ate only clean meat.

Similarly, after Christ’s death and the start of the New Testament Church, Peter, who had spent more than three years sharing meals with Jesus, declared, “For I have never eaten anything common or unclean” (Acts 10:14). The context of this statement is a vision given to Peter so he would not again call any gentile “common or unclean” as Jewish people of that time often did (verse 28).

Although these verses are focusing on the equality of man, they do reveal Peter’s eating habits at that time. And clearly, he did not then begin to eat unclean meat! We know this because he later told the church members in Jerusalem what he had learned from the vision. No discussion about actually consuming unclean meat is brought up.

He said, “‘If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?’ When they heard these things they

became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life’” (Acts 11:17-18). So the lesson was not to call any gentiles “unclean” but to fellowship with them.

Had the lesson been that now they could all start eating pork and other unclean meat, a lengthy discussion on this vital and controversial subject would have ensued and would surely be mentioned in the book of Acts. Yet again, only the issue of gentile repentance is mentioned.

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia gives a good summary of the topic, showing that Genesis 9:3 wasn’t the first time God allowed people to eat meat and that Noah already knew which meat he could eat:

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Part 6

Here are more frequently asked questions about Genesis, the book of origins.

by Mario Seiglie

“Though some scholars infer from a comparison between Genesis 1:29 and 9:3 that divine permission to eat the flesh of animals was first given after the Deluge [Flood], it is more probable that mankind from the beginning made use of both animal and vegetable food.

“The dominion given to humans over animals (Gen. 1:26) included the eating of them, as dominion over fish at least cannot mean anything else. Abel’s sacrifice (4:4) supposed the eating of mutton: mankind offered to the Divinity what he himself ate. The distinction between clean and unclean animals in the ark has no meaning if meat was not eaten (7:2).

“Prehistoric findings point to primitive man as an omnivore [eater of meat and vegetables]. It is only after settling down as an agriculturist that humans became chiefly eaters of vegetable food. Seminomads like the patriarchs combined both categories (18:5-8)” (1982, Vol. 2, p. 327).

Why was Canaan cursed instead of Ham in Genesis 9:25?

The Bible tells us: “And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father’s nakedness. So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his *younger* son had done to him. Then he said: ‘Cursed be *Canaan*; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren’” (Genesis 9:20-25).

Who committed the wrong here? It must have been Canaan, as he was the one punished. Yet the wording has confused many. Many see “his younger son” as a reference to Noah’s son Ham, who had seen Noah’s nakedness.

The term “younger” is translated as “youngest” in several Bible versions (see New International Version,

American Standard Version, Bible in Basic English). Yet Ham was not Noah’s youngest son. *Japheth* was (Genesis 5:32; 10:1). *Canaan*, though, was *Ham*’s youngest son (Genesis 10:6). This is sometimes resolved by considering the “his” in “his youngest son” as meaning “Ham’s.” Yet Noah is the last person mentioned. Could *Canaan* be described as *Noah*’s youngest son? Yes, if the term “son” is understood in its broader sense of descendant.

Hebrew scholar Tayler Lewis concurs: “The Hebrew rendered ‘his younger son,’ cannot refer to Ham, who was older than Japheth, but means the *least or youngest* of the family, and hence is descriptive of *Canaan*. The words, ‘had done unto him’ means something very shameful had been done to the old man in his unconscious state, and of such a nature that it becomes manifest to him immediately on his recovery ...

“Everything seems to point to some wanton act done by the very one who is immediately named in the severe malediction that follows.”

“Thus regarded, everything seems to point to some wanton act done by the very one who is immediately named in the severe malediction that follows: ‘Cursed be *Canaan*.’ He was the *youngest* son of Ham, as he was also the youngest son of Noah, according to the well-established Semitic peculiarity by which *all* the descendants are alike called sons” (*Lange’s Commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Genesis*, p. 338).

Therefore, it appears *Canaan* was cursed because he took advantage of Noah’s unconsciousness to commit a perverse act. Ham merely saw his father’s nakedness and reported it to his brothers. Shem and Japheth then walked with their backs to their father out of respect for him and covered him.

Mario Seiglie is the father of four adult daughters and the pastor of United Church of God congregations in Garden Grove, California, and Honolulu, Hawaii.



Time and Twitter Wait for No One

According to recent studies in the United States, researchers are concerned that the fast-paced inundation of electronic news via social networking sites such as Twitter may have a harmful impact on the ability of users to feel compassion for the subjects of stories and updates. Experts suggest that people need time to

assess emotions and understand events and that the rapid pace of digital news updates doesn't allow for adequate reflection, thereby training the brain to be unresponsive (David Derbyshire, "How the Twitter Age of Rolling Information Has 'Robbed Fans of Compassion,'" *DailyMail.co.uk*, June 3, 2009).

Back on the Farm

Spending summers working on the farm is a growing trend among college students. These summer jobs take the form of apprenticeships or internships and provide challenges for both workers and farm owners. Students unfamiliar with the rigors of farm life find it challenging to adjust to early wake-up times and intensive labor.

The trend stems from an increased interest in organic farming. State organizations that oversee farm internships have seen applications double and triple over the last year. Students studying food policy and distribution use the programs to expand their knowledge of the agricultural system, from the ground up (Kim Severson, "New-Age Agrarians," *The Columbus Dispatch*, June 11, 2009).

Too Much Hugging?

What does a hug mean to you? For many young people in junior high and high school today, the hug is what the handshake was a generation ago.

Social hugging between males and females and combinations thereof is a gesture of friendship according to trends observed by school officials and parents. However, there are concerns. The endless need to hug can clog hallways and lead to more contentious issues like sexual harassment (Sarah Kershaw, "For Teenagers, Hello Means 'How About a Hug?'" *The New York Times*, May 27, 2009).

What does God's Word say about this subject? The Bible gives examples of many different kinds of greeting, including hugs, and the book of Ecclesiastes says there is a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing (3:5).



Extended physical contact plays on hormones and can be precarious territory for young men and young women who are striving to remain pure. If someone isn't comfortable hugging and you are, don't demand they reciprocate. Make sure your hugs are appropriate for the occasion and that they don't invite inappropriate conduct.

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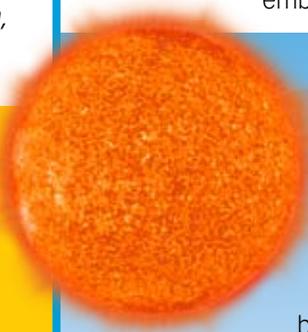
of drivers aged 16 to 19 report texting while driving.

—Poll by Vlingo, a mobile voice application company. "1 in 4 Americans Is Texting While Driving: Poll," AFP, May 20, 2009

The Earth Is Getting ... Colder?

Astrophysicists say the sun is getting weaker due to a lull in solar activity. The sun is as dim as it has been in a hundred years with a period of limited solar storms. The last time the sun took a break from activity it caused a cooling period on earth known as the Little Ice Age. This time period from 1300 to 1850 was marked by colder temperatures across the planet and an increase in ice in the coldest regions (Anne Minard, "Sun Oddly Quiet—Hints at Next 'Little Ice Age'?" *NationalGeographic.com*, May 4, 2009).

Scientists aren't definite on the long-term effects of this dip in solar activity—called a "solar minimum"—and they don't know how long it will last ("Quiet Sun May Trigger Global Cooling," *FoxNews.com*, May 5, 2009).



Giant Blob Lurks Beneath Earth's Surface!

Arizona State University scientists believe they have found a lithospheric drip or blob underneath the Great Basin region of central Nevada. The drip is a cylindrical blob of material in the lower crust/upper mantle of the earth that is being drawn down by more dense material, which is sinking into the earth's liquid mantle. The blob is between 30 and 60 miles in diameter, and the lowest edge of the drip extends 310 miles below the earth's surface.

Experts explain that the earth's structure isn't as clearly divided into crust, mantle and core as once thought. Rather, it's more viscous like honey or peanut butter. Areas of solid and molten material alternate, but also mix more than was understood (Jeanna Bryner, "Giant Blob Found Deep Beneath Nevada," FoxNews.com, May 27, 2009).



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Put Your Best Face Forward

Colleges are now looking at social networking sites and using search engines to screen applicants for admission and scholarships. The ethical ramifications of this practice have yet to be explored, but some question the accuracy of such searches, particularly if postings have been hacked or hijacked and are not a true representation of the individual (Larry Gordon, "Some Colleges Checking Out Applicants' Social Networking Posts," LATimes.com, April 29, 2009).



6 Months ago • [Comment](#) • [Share](#)

Despite the ethics dispute, it is important to be aware of one's reputation. Do your own online search and take stock of what others will find out about you. Is it accurate? Has someone hijacked your Facebook or MySpace page? Are your posts appropriate, or can they be misinterpreted? Do you appear professional and intelligent? Does your behavior befit a true follower of God? Make sure your Internet presence reflects your godly conduct and character!

Created for Monogamy

Evolutionary science demands a promiscuous relationship pattern in human beings where females have multiple sexual partners until they find the "fittest" genes. However, recent discoveries suggest a different model.

Vasopressin—a neurochemical in males—facilitates bonding with one female partner and with the offspring of that female. Having multiple sexual partners and viewing pornography short-circuits the function of vasopressin and damages the ability of males to bond (Sean McDowell, "Why Evolutionary Theory Is Wrong About Sex," Conversantlife.com, April 29, 2009).

The Ten Commandments condemn promiscuity, and the ideal marriage in the Bible is between one man and one woman for life. Other relationship structures, as King Solomon realized after his experience, lead to trouble.

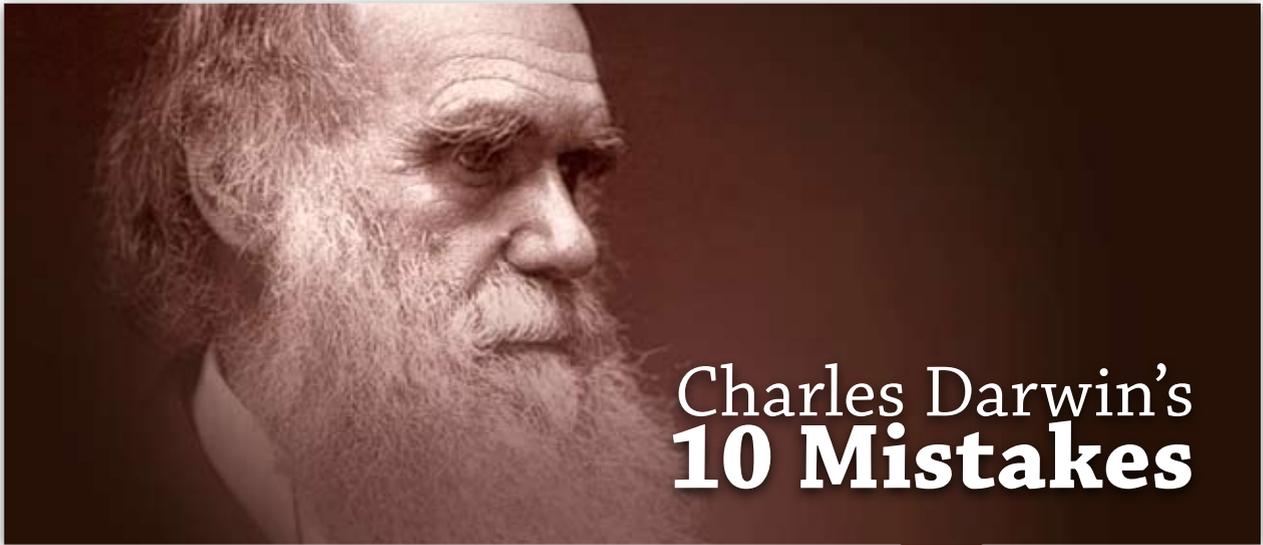
Fascinating Archaeological Finds



Recent finds in the Middle East include what is believed to be the palace of Herod the Great in the Judean desert. Archaeologists, led by Ehud Netzer from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, are excavating the grand winter palace and have attributed the architecture, sarcophagi and ornamentation to the era in which Herod ruled. It appears to be unique to the region and of very high quality ("King Herod's Tomb Almost Certainly Found," FoxNews.com, Nov. 20, 2008).

Herod was king during the time when Jesus Christ was born and was known for his impressive building projects and persecution of potential political enemies, including the infant Jesus.

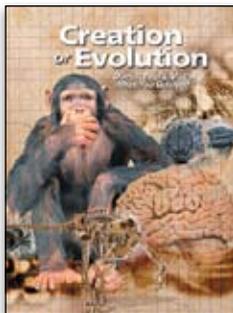
In Jerusalem, an ancient papyrus document, also from nearly 2,000 years ago, was confiscated from two men who were trying to sell it illegally. The text contains 15 lines inscribed in ancient Hebrew outlining the transfer of a widow's property to other relatives. It is very rare and valued in the millions of dollars. The Hebrew script is associated with that of the Dead Sea Scrolls ("Ancient Text' Seized in Israel," News.BBC.co.uk, May 6, 2009).



Be sure to read more about these deadly deceptions in ***The Good News.***

www.GNmagazine.org

For more on the subject of evolution and the Bible, request our booklet ***Creation or Evolution: Does It Matter What You Believe?***



“Warm little pond” theory: There is no solid evidence of life arising spontaneously from a chemical soup.

Simplicity of the cell theory: Scientists have discovered that cells are tremendously complex, not simple.

Theory about the cell’s simple information: It turns out cells have a digital code more complex and lengthy than any computer language made by man.

Theory of intermediate fossils: Where are the supposed billions of missing links in the evolutionary chain?

Theory of the variation of species: Genetic adaptation and mutation have proven to have fixed limits.

Theory of the Cambrian Explosion: This sudden appearance of most major complex animal groups at the same low level of the fossil record is still an embarrassment to evolutionists.

Theory of homology: Similarity of structures does not mean the evolution of structures.

Theory of ape evolution: Chimpanzees have not evolved into anything else. Neither has man.

Theory of the tree of life: Rather than all life branching from a single organism, evidence has revealed a forest of life from the very beginning.

Rejection of an intelligent designer: This opened the door for many to reject God, the Bible and Christianity.