



Wonderful Weekend with Dr. Baumgardner

Geophysicist Dr. John Baumgardner came to Edmonton after having delivered lectures in the Lower Mainland of B.C., and in Calgary. In Edmonton he delivered four lectures to large appreciative audiences. In all his presentations Dr. Baumgardner set the context by declaring that in our

society today, secular science is used as a weapon to draw young people away from their early Christian training. Dr. Baumgardner illustrated this with

images of five castles, strongholds deployed in a battle against the knowledge of God. These strongholds are Darwinian evolution, uniformitarian geology, big bang cosmology, materialist philosophy and radioisotope dating methods. During this lecture series in Edmonton, our guest speaker touched on materialist philosophy (Friday evening), Darwinian evolution (Saturday morning and afternoon) and uniformitarian geology (Saturday evening).

This issue of *Dialogue* will discuss the first lecture, and the following issue will discuss the other lectures including the study of massive upheavals in the Earth (possibly integrally connected to

flood -- the subject of the Saturday evening keynote lecture).

Dr. Baumgardner's first lecture was entitled "How Language Powerfully Affirms God's Reality." Our speaker began by declaring that the phenomenon of language falsifies philosophical naturalism. This latter concept, espoused by most scientists, is that there is nothing beyond matter and processes working on matter. Philosophical naturalism rules out any possibility of our seeing the work of God revealed in nature and it also means that the universe must be billions of years old in order to allow for processes to produce what we see today.

Language however is non-material. Right away we see that there is something beyond matter and process. Language is an integral aspect of our minds. Einstein himself apparently recognized the logically unbridgeable gap between our experiences of the material world and the concepts we develop to describe those experiences. Our ability to utilize language demonstrates that we have non-material attributes. Thinking, apart from language, seems impossible. Since language is non-material, it demands a source, an explanation that is also non-material.

Dr. Baumgardner described the existence of information behind the complex molecular machines that we see in living cells. He also declared that mathematics is a language with non-

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Nobel Laureate Richard Smalley's Faith Journey

A recent list of the 100 most important "scientific discoveries that changed the world" lists Rick Smalley's discovery of

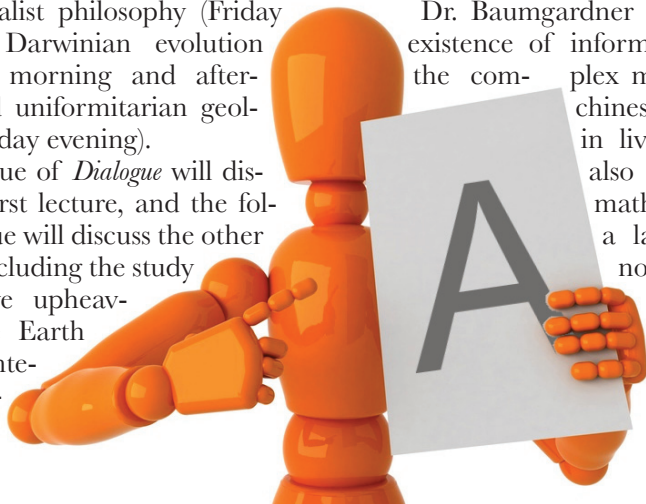
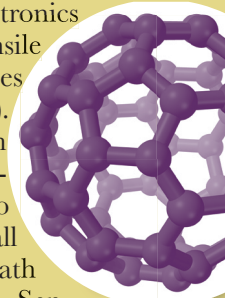
by
Jerry Bergman

Buckyballs (English, 2014, p. 13). But who was this man? Richard (Rick) Smalley (June 6, 1943-October 28, 2005) was Professor of Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy at Rice University. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1996 (along with Sir Harry Kroto and Robert Curl) for the discovery and research on a new allotrope (form) of carbon. He called this unique soccerball-shaped molecule buckminsterfullerene, nicknamed buckyballs. Soon a more comprehensive category called fullerenes was proposed to include nanotubes.

Called a "rock star in technology circles," Smalley achieved several major breakthroughs in his field of nanotechnology (Feder, 2005). His research had, and has, a critical role in the development of cell phones, computers and other electronics because of the high tensile strength of nanotubes (English, 2014, p. 13). Many researchers even date the dawn of modern nanotechnology to Dr. Smalley's buckyball discovery. Upon his death in 2005, the American Senate even passed a resolution to honour Dr. Smalley, calling him the "Father of Nanotechnology."

Nobel Laureate Richard Smalley is one of many scientists who have rejected agnosticism partly as a result of

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material concepts. Thus he declared that the laws of physics and their mathematical equations, are a linguistic description of the structure of the material universe.

Summarizing his remarks, Dr. Baumgardner declared that in the natural realm, in our experience, the only source of linguistic expression is the human mind. The obvious conclusion is that within all nature apart from our minds, the only source of messages (be they controlling metabolism in the cell or determining the laws of physics) must be the supernatural mind of God. What alternative can there be? Simply through our use of language, we can see that the materialist philosophy is false.

The God of the Bible, Dr. Baumgardner pointed out, is a God who speaks. It was God's spoken command that brought everything into existence (as per Psalm 33:6 +9). And of course the entire Bible is the communication of God to mankind.

The rationale for this lecture series is that we need to be engaged in the conflict for the minds of our young people. We need to train the next generation to defend themselves against the bastions of secular arguments.

In keeping with Dr. Baumgardner's concern for youth, Carson Lueck of our association, in the noon hour presented a discussion on how to address young people with both Biblical and scientific arguments. Having experienced serious challenges to his faith from evolutionary arguments while at university, Carson's presentation was compelling and very well received. We actually had to move his presentation to a much larger room than originally scheduled. Local groups who would like to hear him, can reach Carson through our web-site.

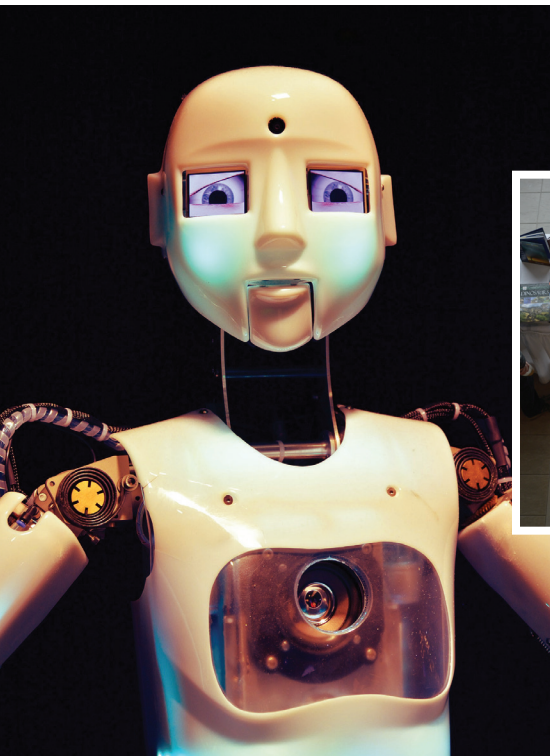
For a fuller discussion of Dr. Baumgardner's first lecture see: John R. Baumgardner and Jeremy D. Lyon, 2015. A Linguistic Argument for God's Existence. *JETS* 58 (4) pp. 771-786.

Carson Lueck compelling presentator helping the upcoming students



The Booktable as always was a favourite place to stock up on the needed materials.

Robots and manufacturing assembly lines cannot work unless human minds provide them with instructions or programming.



Creation Science Dialogue is a quarterly publication of the Creation Science Association of Alberta (CSAA).

Its purpose is to discuss the creation model of origin in terms of scientific details.

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NO CHRISTIAN SILENCE ON SCIENCE -

SCIENCE FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

by Margaret Helder

Reviewed by: Jonathan Dykstra
(Editor, *Reformed Perspective*)

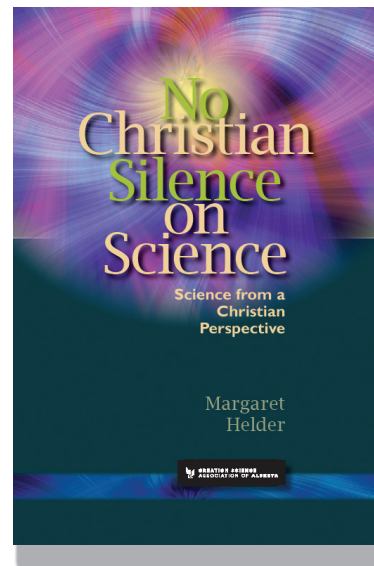
From the title onward, *No Christian Silence on Science* is a clarion call to Bible-believing, six-day creation upholding Christians to stand up and be counted. It's much more than that too. The author, Margaret Helder, has written for the *Creation Science Dialogue* and *Reformed Perspective* (the magazine I edit) for years, and if you've read her there, then you know Dr. Helder approaches God and His creation with awe, and teaches us how to tackle evolution without fear. This book is very much an outgrowth of that work. This, then, is intended to equip us, so we will be able to give a ready defense of our faith, and fortify us, so we will continue to trust in God, even when we face the attacks that will come in this predominantly Darwinist and secular field.

That's a big task to tackle in a book that's just 116 pages. That's why, while this is a great book, it is no light read - there is a *lot* packed in here. In the five sections Dr. Helder addresses:

- ▲ Science from a Christian Perspective
- ▲ How Design in Nature reveals God's Character and Work
- ▲ Christian vs. Darwinian Ethics
- ▲ The Christian Student: Meeting the Challenge of Secular Institutions
- ▲ Impact of Evolutionary Thought on Church and Society

My favorites were the last two. They are worth the price of the book all on their own, and if I was giving this to a university student I think I would tell them to head to Chapter 4 first, to hear Dr. Helder's advice on how to interact with evolutionary-minded professors. At one point she gives an example of a find that seems to prove evolution, and she then shows how a Christian student could respond. She suggests students be ready to ask questions, and starting with the 5 Ws is always a good idea (in Science, and journalism too!). And students will often find that by the time they get through their list of questions they'll have discovered that this new, exciting, revolutionary find, is being over-hyped.

That's not to say creationists have all the answers. As Dr. Helder notes, in the early and mid 1900s Christians holding to a six-day creation had little supporting scientific evidence available to them, so it was only because they



were so confident in the trustworthiness of the Bible that they weren't swayed by evolution. Today many problems with evolution can be pointed to, but there will still be occasions where a challenge to the biblical explanation is presented that we cannot answer. And perhaps we won't be able to answer it for several decades.

But we, too, should hold to the Bible, because it is trustworthy.

So who should read *No Christian Silence*? This will be of interest to anyone, but for the young high school graduate heading into the Sciences this is a must read. If they were to read it before heading to their first university science class, and really worked through it slowly and thoughtfully, they would be well-prepared. There are other books they should read too, but this is a very good place to start because Dr. Helder covers all the key controversies, and gives good solid direction on how to meet and deal with the opposition.

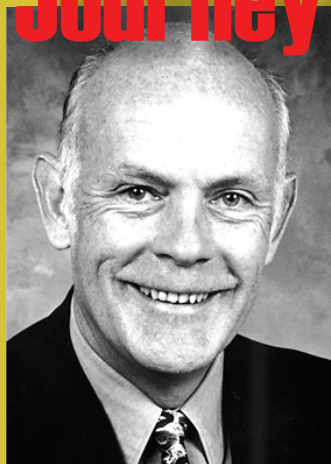
The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.



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by
Jerry Bergman

Nobel Laureate Richard Smalley's Faith Journey



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rejecting evolutionism. His Christian walk was heavily influenced by the modern evidence for the intelligent design of life and the universe. His life and accomplishments reveal a dedicated scientist who, although he died of cancer shortly after his conversion from agnosticism to Christianity, has left us a remarkable testimony to his faith.

His Scientific Research

In 1985, Dr. Smalley and British colleague, Sir Harold Kroto, were experimenting with vaporizing graphite by the use of lasers. When they analyzed their results, they discovered a large number of exceptionally stable complex carbon molecules that their research showed consisted of 60 atoms. To help determine the shape of this strange molecule, Dr. Smalley built paper models in his kitchen, concluding that the atoms must be arranged in a soccer ball-like structure containing 12 pentagons and 20 hexagons. The structure was the most spherically-shaped molecule ever discovered. Because the shape reminded him of the geodesic dome invented by famed architect Buckminster Fuller, he named the molecule buckminsterfullerenes.

The new carbon form shocked a very skeptical scientific world that had known only the graphite and diamond carbon allotropes. It also ignited a worldwide race to understand the traits of this very unique and unexpected molecule. Eventually, cylindrical tubes known as carbon nanotubes and numerous other variants were added to what is now called the fullerene family of molecules.

Depending on their structure, fullerenes exhibit a variety of technologically important electrical, chemical, and strength characteristics. Buckyball's round shape was ideally suited to slide past other materials and, for this reason, had an important lubricating potential. Because buckyballs are hollow, small compounds could easily fit inside. The possibility that they could serve as molecular cages for storing, or transporting, other chemicals is an

important potential use now being explored. Drugs could be administered molecularly—or more importantly, individual radioactive molecules could be transported in buckyballs. Scientists now are developing loaded buckyballs to attack cancer and other diseases.

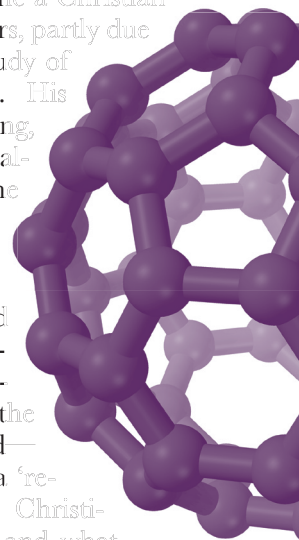
His Background

Professor Smalley earned a B.S. from the University of Michigan, an M.A. and Ph.D. at Princeton, and did his post-doctoral work at the University of Chicago. His many awards include eight honorary doctorates and election as a fellow of the *American Association for the Advancement of Science*.

At a young age he learned about Darwinism from his mother, a woman who “fell in love with science” as a young adult (Smalley, 1996, p. 1). Skeptical of religion most of his life, Dr. Smalley became a Christian only in his last years, partly due to his intensive study of intelligent design. His pastor, Ben Young, wrote that Dr. Smalley “took that same humble, analytical, and tenacious (also known as stubborn) mind he’d used to explore every scientific aspect of the universe he could—and applied it to a ‘re-investigation of Christianity’ (his words) and what made [Christianity] ... so powerful” (Young, 2006, p. 122).

As a scientist, Dr. Smalley “was searching for answers—ones that made scientific sense” (Young, 2006, p. 118). At first he could not accept the idea that the Bible was the word of God and, as is true of many scientific-minded people, struggled with the “is science compatible with Christianity?” question (Young, 2006, p. 119). An important step in his spiritual path was an Intelligent Design lecture presented at his university (Young, 2005, p. 1).

Dr. Smalley “was a stickler for scientific credibility and integrity,” and was soon filled “with questions about bio-

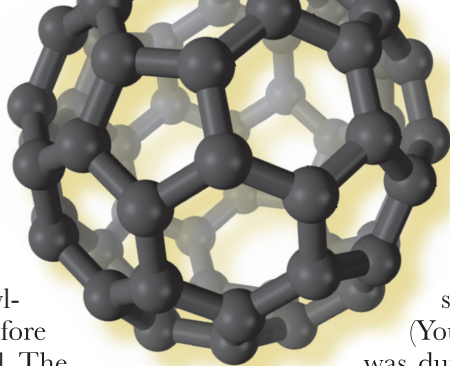


logical evolution ... [and] Bible passages that he presumed were in conflict with science ... Rick loved to research frontiers of knowledge that few before him had ever probed. The thrill of Rick's life was to explore" science (Young, 2006, p. 120). When he finally agreed to look into evolution in detail, his reaction to what he was learning was anger. His widow wrote that she remembers "him pacing the bedroom floor in anger saying evolution was bad science. Rick hated bad science worse than anything else. He said if he conducted his research the way that they [evolutionists] did, he would never be respected in the scientific community. He was angry

too that men and women chose not to go into the sciences because of the cold, sterile picture that evolution paints of life." (Wainerdi, 2010)

In the end, Smalley's extensive research convinced him that macroevolution never occurred, could never have occurred, and that this conclusion was the result of scientific fact, not religion. He concluded that the universe "was built for life" and, although "we know that all life is intimately related ... it is not at all clear that ... evolution could have happened" (quoted in Young, 2006, pp. 119-120).

Smalley at first accepted theistic evolution, but as he studied the issue in detail he became an outspoken anti-Darwinist. He once delivered an anti-Darwinist address at Tuskegee University's 79th Annual Scholarship Convocation/Parents' Recognition Program and received a standing ovation. Smalley wrote that the "last year of his life was his most thrilling as a scientist" (Smalley, 2005a). He learned that he did not need to "throw his mind away



when reading the Bible," but concluded that the "Bible made him an even better scientist, and a more inspiring science educator" (Young, 2005, p. 123). It

was during his last year of life that he "made the transition from simply believing in God as a creator—or a force—to really trusting him: trusting Christ to rule his life. Like C.S. Lewis and other intellectuals who walked the same path as Rick" (Young, 2006, p. 123). However, it was the impression of his widow, that Dr. Smalley became a convinced anti-Darwinist so quickly that he never had an occasion to confront the issue of age of the earth issue.

The Richard E. Smalley Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology

In 1993, Professor Smalley envisioned the first nanotechnology center in the world, a reality which eventually encompassed 151 faculty members in 21 departments with over 500 students researching nanotechnology in a wide variety of societal and scientific arenas. In 2015 the Smalley-Curl Institute was created from the merger of the Richard E. Smalley Institute and the Rice Quantum Institute. Research at SCI encompasses advanced materials, quantum magnetism, plasmonics and photonics among other things, and all aspects of nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Conclusions

The overwhelming evidence for design in nature often has been a major factor in convincing people of God's existence—a creation demands a creator. Our new knowledge of the finely-tuned universe, the design and complexity of the cell, and all life, has resulted in more evidence for a divine creator than ever before in history. Dr. Smalley is only one of thousands of scientists whose lives were changed as a result of understanding this evidence and its implications for the existence of

a divine Creator (Sharp and Bergman, 2008). When Smalley realized macroevolution as science was fatally flawed, he intended to actively challenge the evolution establishment, but cancer tragically took his life before he was able to achieve this goal (Wainerdi, 2010).

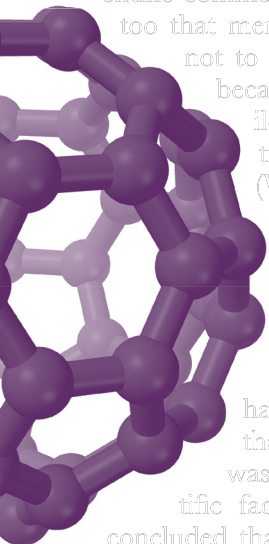
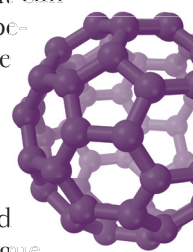
Postscript

Dr. Smalley's colleague Harry Kroto recently died (1939-2016) and his colleague Robert Curl published an obituary in *Nature* (May 26 p. 470). It is seldom that worldview is mentioned in obituaries in *Nature*, but this one did, possibly because of the contrast between the views of Kroto and Smalley. Thus Robert Curl wrote: "Harry was strongly opinionated. He did not profess modesty, and as an atheist, he would often engage his religious acquaintances in fierce debate." One wonders if Drs. Kroto and Smalley had a chance to share their views after their initial collaboration.

Author Jerry Bergman thanks Mrs. Deborah [Smalley] Wainerdi; Dr. Smalley's Pastor, Ben Young; Mrs. Toni Richmond, and Professor James Tour for their interviews and permission to quote from unpublished material.

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MUDSKIPPERS

by
Jerry Bergman

The Strangest Creature ever to Defy Evolution

Mudskippers are amphibious fishlike creatures that use their short muscular pectoral and pelvic fins to “walk” on mud in a series of skipping like steps, thus their name. These unique about 30 cm long creatures, typically live in intertidal habitats where the water level changes with each tide change (Hafer, 2016, p.66). Most other intertidal fish survive tide changes by taking refuge under wet seaweed or in tide pools. Mudskippers are different. They exhibit many unique adaptations to their muddy environment that are rarely, or never, found in other intertidal fishes (Marsh, 2015).

This creature that looks like they came from outer space can move surprisingly rapidly on muddy surfaces. If they become aware that a potential predator is near, they can even bore into the ground for protection, or they

may flee into the safety of the water. Once in the water, they can propel their streamlined fish body rapidly with its fish tail like any well-designed fish (Petrillo, 2011, p.1).

The mudskipper pectoral fin differs from that of most all fishes in that it is elongated and protrudes out from the fishes’ body wall. This unusual pectoral fin design includes two fin segments (the radials and the rays), and two movable hinge joints: a ‘shoulder’ joint where the cleithrum (a large bone that extends upwards from the base of the pectoral fin and anchors to the cranium above the gills) meets the radials, and an ‘intra-fin’ joint where the radials also meet the rays. This ingenious design allows it to not only walk on dry land, but even to effectively climb trees. They are, in fact, the only known fish that can climb trees! In short, although called an “ugly animal,” they

are ingeniously designed creatures so well suited to their intertidal environments that they now thrive on four continents (Marsh, 2015, p.20).

Although mudskippers can swim, they live out of water and in the atmosphere about 90% of the time. They breathe through their skin, forcing air to pass through their skin, which traps air to supply oxygen to their cells (Rake, 2015, p. 28). Although they have gills, they use them not to breathe, but rather to excrete waste products. They also have gill chambers that they use to store water, allowing them to remain out of the water for significant periods of time.

Their eyes protrude from their head and extend upward so that they can see out of the water while they are still safely submerged. Their eyes can swivel in almost any direction, allowing them to have a wide panoramic field of view. They see exceptionally well both in the air and in the water, a rare feat for any animal (Petrillo, 2011, p.1).

Mudskippers both breed on land and build their nests underground. After their eggs hatch, if the oxygen in the nest becomes low, the parents are able to gulp air from outside of the nest in their balloon like pouch mouth, and then release the air into their underground nest air chamber (Hafer, 2016, p. 68). Their diet, which consists of small insects like flies, plus small crustaceans, helps to keep the insect population under control (Rake, 2015, p.29).

Evolution

No fossil evidence exists for their putative evolution from some pre-



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mudskipper organism. Scientists are not even able to satisfactorily classify modern mudskippers into a family, leaving their evolution to pure speculation. They were once included in the Oxudercinae subfamily, within the family Gobiidae (gobies), but recent molecular studies do not support this classification. Darwinists are now stymied about their phylogeny, and can only speculate concerning from what and how they could have evolved. A major problem for evolution is that the first mudskipper in the fossil record is morphologically a modern mudskipper.

Long assumed to be a transitional animal between a swimming fish and a tetrapod (four footed) animal, a recent study by Kutschera and Elliott (2013, p.1) concluded that, although some walking fishes such as mudskippers “shed light on the gradual evolutionary transition of ancient fishes to early tetrapods ... they are not the ancestors of tetrapods, because extant organisms cannot be progenitors of other living beings.” As Polgar, et al. note, more study is required to detail the evolution of the mudskipper (2014, p.179).

Many experts have hypothesized that fish fins evolved into terrestrial limbs, a theory that also does not fit the facts (Clack, 2012, p.136). For example, the earliest tetrapods were not pentadactyl (having five fingers and toes) as are modern tetrapods, and the fossil evidence does not support the fin to limb evolution (Clack, 2012, pp.136-137).



Summary

In short, the mudskipper is not a fish that evolved legs or an amphibian that evolved to look like a fish, but a graceful well designed swimmer in water that gets along so well out of water that they spend most of their life on land and thrive in large areas of the world. We have no evidence of fish-fin to tetrapod limb evolution, and the mudskipper does not help to explain the major missing links that can bridge the two structures. Like the duck-billed platypus, the mudskipper contains a unique mosaic of features found on many different animals. And this situation is bad news for evolutionists.

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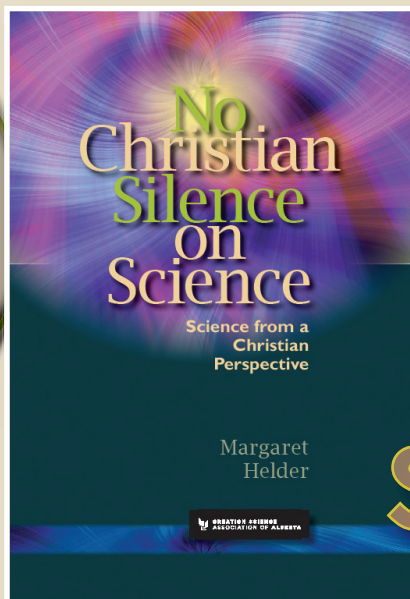
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truth the way so many
folks are stretching it
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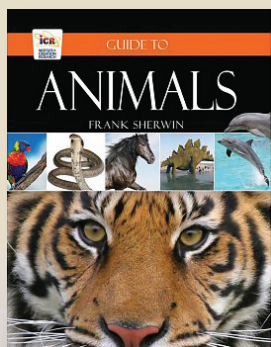


Margaret Helder **No Christian Silence on Science**

This is a "how to" book, how to evaluate scientific pronouncements and so-called facts and how to avoid being overwhelmed by secular or theistic evolutionary arguments. The book's objective is to show that science, when critically evaluated, does not threaten a biblically based understanding of how we came to be here.

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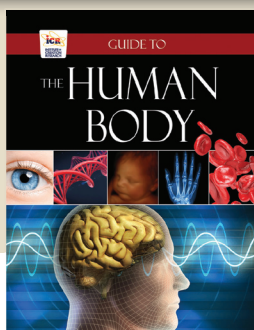


Frank Sherwin **Guide to Animals**

This excellent book is certain to delight everyone, especially children. The author first introduces us to animals according to the order of their creation. Later we consider animals of like design, and lastly we learn about the wonderful design features needed to allow them to breathe, fly, hibernate and survive extreme conditions among other things.

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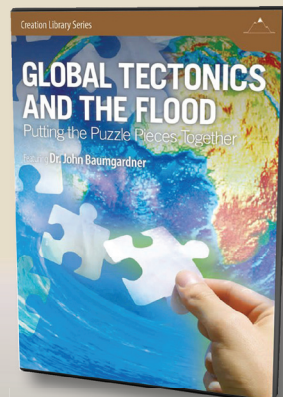


ICR Scientists **Guide to the Human Body**

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