



# NEWSLETTER

of the  
American Scientific Affiliation &  
Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation



Volume 50, Number 1

JAN/FEB 2008

## Richard Ruble Retires from Reviewing

**Richard Ruble** has served faithfully for more than twenty years as Book Review Editor of the ASA journal, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* (*PSCF*). With six academic degrees, including a Th.D. in systematic theology from Dallas



Richard Ruble

Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Arkansas, he has provided a valuable trans-disciplinary viewpoint for the reviews.

His 43 years at John Brown University (1964–2007) have included roles as professor, department head, division head, academic dean, and vice president. He has taught courses in Greek, ethics, a variety of psychology courses, and a variety of theology and Bible courses. During 34 of those years, he also pastored Highland Community Church, Fayetteville, AR.

His wife, Ann, is a retired elementary school principal. They have one son, Stephen, a cardiac researcher at Boston Scientific.

## Revising the Review Policy

In the past, reviews have been assigned to the first person to request a particular book from the “Books Available for Review” listing in *PSCF*. But postal delivery times differ, giving some members an advantage in the “first come, first served” system.

Out of fairness to all ASA members, and to assure the best fit between

reviewer and book, *PSCF* is planning to initiate reviews by invitation. If you would be open to being asked to contribute to this interesting and important service of writing a book review, please send a brief email to [psfranklin@gmail.com](mailto:psfranklin@gmail.com), describing your areas of interest and expertise, your preferred postal address, and phone number. This information will be entered into a database, bringing you to the review editors’ attention when a book of interest to you and *PSCF* readers becomes available for review. Of course, when an editor contacts you to offer a book for review, you can accept or decline the mailing of the book.

## Meet the New Review Editors Rebecca Flietstra and James Peterson



Rebecca Flietstra



James Peterson

After graduating from Calvin College, Rebecca earned her Ph.D. in physiology at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, continuing there for post-doc research in pharmacology. She joined the biology faculty at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego in 1997 and has attained the rank of tenured professor. She is active in the First Presbyterian Church of San Diego (PCUSA), where she serves on

*Continued on p. 3, New Review Editors*

## Mark Your Calendar— Annual Meeting in Oregon

The American Scientific Affiliation and the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation will hold their joint Annual Meeting, August 1–4, at George Fox University, Newberg, OR.

The theme will be “The Heart of Science: Do Right, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly.” **John Van Zytveld** and **Arnold Sikkema**, co-chairs for the ASA and the CSCA, respectively, anticipate that this will encompass “Doing and using science, domestically and abroad, in service to God, God’s world, and our human sisters and brothers.” Information about the meeting is available at [www.asa3.org/ASA/meetingASA.html](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/meetingASA.html)

**Deadline:** All abstracts must be submitted electronically to the ASA office prior to **January 15**. See submission details in “Call for Papers” on page 4.

## Collins Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom

At a Nov. 5, 2007, White House ceremony, President George W. Bush awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to **Francis Collins** and seven others. Collins’ citation stated:

Francis S. Collins has revolutionized genetic research. Under his leadership, the Human Genome Project mapped and sequenced the full human genome and greatly expanded our understanding of human DNA.

Established by Executive Order 11085 in 1963, the Medal may be awarded by

*Continued on p. 2, Collins*

## The Executive Director's Corner

Randall D. Isaac

The beginning of a new calendar year is always a good time to reflect on our priorities and goals. The ASA is a diverse organization with countless opportunities and possibilities. It is helpful to periodically consider the big picture of what we are trying to accomplish. In this column I'd like to consider three major questions for us to address.

First, how can the ASA counter the spread of a materialistic worldview that is too often advocated in the name of science? Polls indicate that the majority of scientists do not believe in God. Many of those who do believe in God keep their science and their faith in separate magisteria with no interaction. Seldom does this influence the actual work that a scientist does or the way in which a science professor teaches. However, a vocal minority claims that science has shown Christian faith to be false. Some even insist that religion is damaging. Others use their role as science teacher or as a role model to disparage religion.

Fueled in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by men like John Draper and Andrew Dixon White, science is too often misused as evidence against the objective reality of religion. In varying degrees of intensity, this attitude of exclusivity between science and religion forms the backdrop of many public discussions.

The *Newsletter of the ASA and CSCA* is published bimonthly for its membership by the American Scientific Affiliation. Send *Newsletter* information to the Editors: David Fisher, 285 Cane Garden Cir., Aurora, IL 60504-2064. E-mail: [dfisherasa@comcast.net](mailto:dfisherasa@comcast.net) and Margaret Towne, 8505 Copper Mountain Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89129. E-mail: [TowneMG@aol.com](mailto:TowneMG@aol.com). Both receive e-mail through [asan@asa3.org](mailto:asan@asa3.org)

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Editors: David Fisher, Margaret Towne  
Managing Editor: Lyn Berg

As a group of scientists with a commitment to Christianity, the ASA has a real opportunity to challenge this perception and to clarify the complementary relationship between our faith and science. How can we accomplish this more effectively?

Second, how can the ASA foster an appreciation in the church of science and its relationship to theology? Most churches fail to properly engage science and their theology. Many pursue antagonism to mainstream science, denying the findings of science where they do not fit a particular interpretation of the Bible. On the other end of the spectrum, many claim there is no conflict between science and faith primarily because they keep them separate and non-interacting. Many others simply avoid the topic, wanting to avert controversy and recognizing their lack of expertise. Our focus in the ASA is to explore the relationship between science and our theology, neither as antithetical pursuits nor as independent spheres of thought, but as key complementary aspects of the revelation of God. How can we better convey this perspective to the broader Christian community?

Third, how can the ASA better enable an effective network of fellowship of Christian colleagues with a scientific vocation? The scholarship aspect of our mission is vital as we publish and review seminal works in the field of science and Christian faith. But often our needs are not so much intellectual as relational. We need to meet with other scientists who have dealt with the same concerns that we have. We need to worship with them and to support each other.

One of the opportunities we have at the ASA office is to bring together those in need of fellowship. When we receive comments from members sharing their crisis of faith in the face of issues relating to science, it is a privilege to be able to connect them with other ASA members in their area to enable fellowship and prayer. This is a vital function that we can do effectively only as we include a larger number of Christians in science. Our focus

on organizing local chapters and growing our membership is precisely to enable this type of networking. We need each other.

Answers to these questions will not come from the ASA office on stone tablets. Nor will there be a definitive book or one-time event that provides the solution. Rather, this is an on-going daily living by faith by each one of us, the witness we give to those we meet in our vocation and our community. Our role is to provide resources and support for you in that effort. Let us know how we can help you.

In this issue, we continue to highlight local chapters that are being formed throughout the world. Future issues and a planned website will spread the word about newly formed groups. As you sense a need for fellowship in your area, pray for God's guidance in setting up the type of group that would best fulfill that need. We are happy to help you in any way we can.



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**Collins**, from p. 1.

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the President "to any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to (1) the security or national interests of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavors." A news release citing all eight winners is at [www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/10/20071029.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/10/20071029.html)

ASA Executive Director **Randy Isaac** comments:

We heartily congratulate Francis on this well-deserved honor. Through his recent book, his interviews, his speeches such as his talks at the 2006 ASA meeting, and public addresses such as at the 2007 presidential prayer breakfast, he continues to proclaim his faith in God and to give him the honor and glory. We pray that this award will continue to spread awareness of the close relationship between science and Christian faith. I know I speak for all ASA members in congratulating Francis on this high honor.

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## New Review Editors, from p. 1.

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the Christian Education Committee, is teacher/facilitator for adult Sunday school classes, and sings with the New Dawn Singers. She will specialize in reviewing books related to neuroscience, biology, environment, origins, anthropology, and social sciences.

Jim earned his B.A. from Northwestern, his M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, his M.A. from the University of Iowa, and his Ph.D. in ethics from the University of Virginia. He occupies the R.A. Hope Chair in Theology, Ethics and Worldview at Divinity College of McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He is also Associate Member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Jim will concentrate on reviewing books relating to theology, ethics, biblical studies, philosophy, apologetics, bioethics, genetics, and medical education.

As overall *PSCF* editor, **Arie Leegwater** will handle books related to physical sciences, cosmology, mathematics, non-bio technologies, engineering, and history of science.

It is understood that the viewpoints expressed in the books reviewed, and in the reviews themselves, are those of the authors and reviewers respectively, and do not reflect an official position of the ASA.

## Opportunity to Serve in China

Educational Resources and Referrals—China (ERRC) is dedicated to planting “centers of Christian influence on the campuses of key Chinese universities, primarily thru the placement of Christian teachers.” ERRC Mobilization Director Sharon Seeberger elaborates:

With the high numbers of young Chinese that today are pursuing graduate degrees in the sciences, we have a huge demand for teachers in the area of Scientific English. Those people that can fill this slot the best are those who can guide students through the steps of scientific research, personal study as well as publication.

We send only people who have already achieved a degree of success in their field because we are providing faculty for the top universities in China. We offer a high degree of flexibility related to timing, family, etc. While not abundant by American standards, our teachers contract to a university who provides housing, air travel, and a (small salary) subsidy.

One ERRC teacher (Ph.D. in analytical chemistry) who has been teaching freshman chemistry to engineering majors at a leading university for 5 years says that in the classroom, few of her students are ready to discuss the intrinsic value in human life, and most think the idea that a scientist might actually believe in God is an impossibility. It’s through the relationships she establishes in her home that she is able to guide students (as they become friends) into a fuller understanding of her Christian faith. Many tell her that her class is the best class of their undergraduate college career. The challenging questions she poses continue to impact their thinking long after the class is finished.

Seeberger summarizes:

This is a wonderful opportunity for someone considering retirement, sabbatical, or just open to taking some time to see how God might use them elsewhere in the world.

For additional information, see the [www.errchina.com](http://www.errchina.com) website, email [teach.errchina@gmail.com](mailto:teach.errchina@gmail.com), phone (408) 245-2654 or fax (408) 245-2967.

✉ **Walt Hearn**

## Institute Needs a Home

The Institute for Interdisciplinary Research, the ministry of **Oskar Gruenwald**, editor of the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, is looking for a sponsor(s) and an academic home. The ideal situation would be a college with a strong liberal arts focus which would be interested in an interdisciplinary honors program, public research, writing, and publishing. Students value interdisciplinary studies which show the interconnections between diverse fields as well as theory and practice, while

searching for moral-spiritual guideposts as part of their higher education. Interdisciplinary programs are the fastest growing segment of college curricula. Research is increasingly interdisciplinary, and higher education should be more integrative. Inform faculty and administrators of this opportunity. Contact Oskar at International Christian Studies Association, 1065 Pine Bluff Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107. Email: [info@JIS3.org](mailto:info@JIS3.org) See [www.JIS3.org](http://www.JIS3.org).

## ASAers in Action

**Karl Giberson, Thomas J. Oord**, and Clark Pinnock are organizing a conference at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA (Los Angeles area) in April (see Coming Events, p. 7). This will be a panel of open and relational theologians. Open theology affirms that (1) God and creatures enjoy mutually-influencing relations and (2) the future is open and God does not fully know or settle it, and (3) love is uniquely exemplified by God and is the human ethical imperative.

Karl was the founding editor of *Science & Theology News* and editor-in-chief of *Science & Spirit* magazine for four years. He has written many books and articles and is a professor at Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, MA, teaching interdisciplinary honors seminars and the history of science.

Thomas is a professor of theology and philosophy at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, ID. He serves as theologian for the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love, and is co-director of the institute’s Altruistic Love and Science Course Competition.

Clark is a professor of systematic theology at McMaster Divinity College and a member of the faculty of theology at McMaster University.

## The Green Scene: Caring for Creation

• The Nature Conservancy is encouraging us to Adopt an Acre. Deep in the forests of East Africa’s Rift Valley, the trees are alive with a variety of monkeys and birds while the ground is busy with deer, elephants, and some predators. The Adopt-an-Acre program will

help protect these forests for generations to come. Call 1-800-84-ADOPT or visit [nature.org/adopt](http://nature.org/adopt).

- If you have wondered how you could impact the environment, even in a small way, you could adopt an endangered species through World Wildlife Fund. Snow leopards, pandas, blue-footed boobies, pygmy elephants, grey wolves or polar bears are on the list. Call 1-800-225-5993 for more information.

- The Heifer Project has a commitment to agroecology. Nearly every project has healthy-earth initiatives in place to preserve the soil, encourage crop diversity, promote the use of organic crops, and maintain or expand forested areas. Guided by the principle of sustainability, their website says, "Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant." Contact them at (800) 422-0755 or [www.heifer.org/catalog](http://www.heifer.org/catalog)

- The November 7, 2007, *New York Times* reports that the WeatherBird II, a 115-foot private research vessel, has put to sea from Florida as part of a novel and contentious effort to commercialize the removal of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by triggering blooms of plankton. The article says plankton blooms happen naturally when dust containing iron settles on ocean waters where a lack of iron otherwise prevents plankton from thriving.

Efforts to replicate the process artificially, however, have met with strong opposition from some environmental groups. Friends of the Earth president Brent Blackwelder issued a statement saying, "Planktos is selling the equivalent of global warming snake oil."

## Students in Mission

Jeffrey Greenberg, Wheaton geology professor and president of the Affiliation of Christian Geologists, took three Wheaton undergraduates to Tanzania last June and July. As part of the Student Missionary Project, they integrated academic skills for significant outreach among the needy people south of Mount Kilimanjaro. To prepare for their adventure, Jeff met with

the students weekly, discussing cultural distinctions, politics and the economy of global trade and minerals, economic geology of gemstones, Proterozoic geology of the area, surface water and groundwater sources of the region, and mineral exploration technologies. Pre-trip contacts were made with key geological experts in the region. The group met with the indigenous miners and made a preliminary geology-resource map with a GIS/GPS (Geographic Information System/Global Positioning System) instrument.

Wheaton hopes to develop some form of partnership with the Christian-miner organization for future interaction. It was noted during a visit to the famous ruby locality at Longido, that the beautiful native material could be cut, carved, and polished by local villagers and be directly marketed to retailers in the west, providing significant financial support to the poor.

## Dolly's Creator Abandons Human Cloning

Ian Wilmut, the Edinburgh University scientist who cloned Dolly the sheep, is abandoning the cloning technique that he pioneered. The November 16 London *Telegraph* reports that his decision "to turn his back on 'therapeutic cloning,' just days after US researchers announced a breakthrough in the cloning of primates, will send shockwaves through the scientific establishment." Two years ago he was awarded a license to clone human embryos, but he has decided not to pursue the project.

Wilmut believes a rival method pioneered by Shinya Yamanaka at Kyoto University has better potential. It reprograms human adult cells to function like pluripotent embryonic stem (ES) cells, which can be used to grow a patient's own cells and tissues. These can be used for a vast range of treatments, from treating strokes to heart attacks and Parkinson's, and will be less controversial than the Dolly method, known as 'nuclear transfer.'" He says most of his motivation is practical, but he adds that the Japanese method is "easier to accept socially."

## Calls for Papers

- The ASA and Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation joint meeting, August 1–4, will be at George Fox University in Newberg, OR. Its theme is "The Heart of Science: Do Right, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly." This is doing and using science, domestically and abroad, in service to God, God's world, and our human sisters and brothers. See the complete Call for Papers at [www.asa3.org/ASA/meetings/georgefox2008/GeorgeFox\\_callforpapers.pdf](http://www.asa3.org/ASA/meetings/georgefox2008/GeorgeFox_callforpapers.pdf).

✉ **John Van Zytveld**, ASA program co-chair, and **Arnold Sikkema**, CSCA program co-chair

- Baylor University is having a conference October 23–25, titled "Bottom Up Approaches to Alleviating Poverty," and is asking for papers from ASAers. Contact **Walter Bradley** at [Walter\\_Bradley@baylor.edu](mailto:Walter_Bradley@baylor.edu) or **Darin Davis** at [Darin\\_Davis@baylor.edu](mailto:Darin_Davis@baylor.edu)

## Of Interest

- The Affiliation of Christian Geologists had a meeting at the Geological Society of America on Oct. 28, 2007. Their theme was Christian stewardship of natural resources and the environment. Steve Smith, who works for the U.S. Geological Survey, gave the talk titled "Balancing Societal Needs for Mineral Resources and Environmental Stewardship: Some Early Thoughts from the Undeveloped Pebble Copper Deposit, Alaska." He gave a photo tour of a massive newly discovered porphyry Cu-Mo-Au deposit and described the actions being taken by the mining company to study the potential environmental impacts of mining the deposit in a glaciated setting. ✉ **Charles Carrigan**, Olivet Nazarene University

- ASAers looking for positions might touch base with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities website at [www.cccu.org/career/career.asp](http://www.cccu.org/career/career.asp). Currently there are nearly 450 faculty and administrative openings within Christian higher education listed. The site also recently added an International Volunteer Opportunities segment.

**Are you looking for a job?**

Visit our website: [www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org)

• The Bible Literacy Project of the state of Alabama announces that Alabama has become the first state to adopt a textbook for the academic study of the Bible. Their Board of Education unanimously approved the student textbook *The Bible and Its Influence* by Cullen Schippe. While academic study of the Bible is legal in all 50 states, this decision means that any school in Alabama can purchase this book with state-provided funds until 2013. It would be used in elective, nondevotional courses in literature or social studies. This text was noted by *Time* magazine's April 2, 2007 cover story, "Why We Should Teach the Bible in Public Schools."

• *In the Shadow of the Moon* is a documentary film about the Apollo missions, composed entirely of interviews with Apollo astronauts and original footage from the Apollo program and missions. Some of the astronauts interviewed discuss how their experiences in space inspired them to believe in a Creator.

• According to recent surveys, over one-half of Americans ages 21–45 are not involved in religion. However, at universities across the country, more and more students are searching for some kind of spirituality in their lives. Brown University in Providence, RI, founded in 1764 as a Baptist-affiliated college, has always been welcoming to students of different religious persuasions. That tradition continues today with an offering of a wide range of religion courses, a multi-faith staff of five full-time chaplains, and an interfaith dorm that brings together students from different religious backgrounds.

*Religion and Ethics Newsletter*, Nov. 11, 2007

• Michael Zimmerman, of Butler University in Indianapolis, IN, has for the third year organized a special celebration, Evolution Weekend, 8–10 Feb. This date was chosen because Darwin's birthday is Feb. 12. As of late November, close to 450 congregations from several countries and 49 states have agreed to participate. The numbers go up every day. It is an opportunity for congregations to discuss the compatibility of religion and science and to raise the level of discourse on this

important topic. See [www.evolutionweekend.org](http://www.evolutionweekend.org) or [www.evolutionSunday.org](http://www.evolutionSunday.org) If your congregation would like to participate, email Michael at [mz@butler.edu](mailto:mz@butler.edu) or call 317-940-9224. Sermons and resources on these topics can be seen at [http://www.butler.edu/clergyproject/rel\\_expert\\_data\\_base.htm](http://www.butler.edu/clergyproject/rel_expert_data_base.htm) Participation can take any form—from a sermon to a lunch discussion, Bible class, potluck, etc. It doesn't have to be exactly on Feb. 8–10, but sometime around that time.

## Biblical Archaeology

• Accounts recently released of a newly discovered Jerusalem tunnel state that the passage may be the one used by those fleeing Jerusalem during the siege of 70 CE as described by Josephus. However, he included not one tunnel but an elaborate network of tunnels. This latest discovery supports Josephus's version of events. Those fleeing the besieged capital may have carried the Dead Sea Scrolls and other Temple treasures through this tunnel.

*Norman Golb, University of Chicago.*  
[www.forward.com/articles/11873/](http://www.forward.com/articles/11873/)

• The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls continues to be celebrated. Discovered between 1947 and 1956, the Scrolls comprise some 800 documents but in thousands of fragments. Many believe this is the greatest manuscript find of all time. The scrolls date from about 350 BC to AD 68 and were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. They contain biblical and apocryphal works, prayers, and legal texts and sectarian documents. This priceless collection of ancient manuscripts is invaluable to our understanding of the history of Judaism, the development of the Hebrew Bible, and the beginnings of Christianity. See [www.bib-arch.org/deadseascrolls/bswbDSSHomePage.asp](http://www.bib-arch.org/deadseascrolls/bswbDSSHomePage.asp) and the May/June 2007 issue of *Biblical Archaeology Review*.

### Correction:

In the Sep/Oct 07 Newsletter, p. 5, we incorrectly referred to Canadian neurologist Wilder G. Penfield as "Walter Penfield." We apologize for this error and thank **William Gilbert** for calling it to our attention.

## ASAers in Print

• Calvin College professors **Deborah** and **Loren Haarsma** have written *Origins: A Reformed Look at Creation, Design, and Evolution*, with the goal of helping Christians to better understand the often controversial issues connected with life's origins and development.

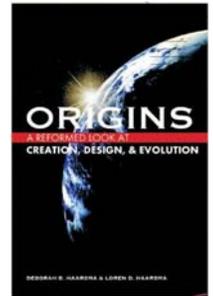
The couple met in Boston in 1992 while working on their Ph.D.s, Loren at Harvard and Deborah at MIT. The book began taking shape in 1997, when they taught an adult Sunday school class at Park Street Congregational Church. A decade of interaction with students and colleagues since then has enabled them to nuance and polish both the content and the style.

Loren believes one reason for misunderstanding of origins issues is that "words mean different things to different people ..." Culture wars often frame the argument as a false choice: believe in God or believe in science. Deborah adds, "As scientists and Christians, we don't accept this simplistic choice. In the book, we argue that God and science are not at war. Rather, science is the study of God's creation."

The target audience is "people who are interested in issues of creation, design and evolution and want to learn more about them ... [N]ews stories are too short or too biased to explain the real issues. This book will aid parents and educators who want a Christian resource that does more than push one point of view."

It is published by Grand Rapids-based Faith Alive Christian Resources, the publishing house of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

• The late Lebanese-American philosopher and diplomat Charles Malik once said, "If you win the whole world and lose the mind of the world, you will soon discover you have not won the world ... Responsible Christians face two tasks—that of saving the soul and that of saving the mind." Malik elaborated that point in a 1980 dedicatory



address at Wheaton College's Billy Graham Center, a lecture many consider a classic. In June 2006, Christian Leadership Ministries, the faculty ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International, picked up and updated that theme. Under the title "The Two Tasks: Redeeming the Soul, Redeeming the Mind," the conference featured Malik's son Habib lecturing on "The Two Tasks Revisited: Being a Christian in the Era of Civilization Clashes," plus an array of other speakers.

Many of the papers presented at that event, plus the senior Malik's lecture, have been compiled into a new book, *The Two Tasks of the Christian Scholar: Redeeming the Soul, Redeeming the Mind* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2007). ASA Fellows **Robert Kaita** and **Walter Bradley** wrote chapters for the book, respectively called "Spherical Cows and Mars Hill: A Heuristic Approach to the 'Two Tasks'" and "On Being a Christian Professor in the Secular Academy."

• After a 1998 heart attack, **Marvin L. Bittinger** asked God what he wanted him to do with the rest of his life. He had written 192 books and editions of college mathematics textbooks during 37 years of teaching, writing, and speaking—selling more than 12 million copies. He embarked on reading the Bible six times, and recalls, "Before too long, I had discovered enough applications of mathematics to create a talk which I deliver at professional meetings and in math departments of Christian colleges. More research and probing ensued which led to the inspiration for this book," *The Faith Equation: One Mathematician's Journey in Christianity*.

Chapters include "Apologetics and Faith Axioms," "Paradoxes in Mathematics and Christianity," "Christ: God's Ultimate Resolution of Paradox," "The Probability of Prophecy," "Modeling Growth in Christian Evangelism," "The Power of Prayer," "Higher Dimensions: Metaphor for Spiritual Insight," "Higher Dimensions: Metaphor for the Trinity," "Higher Dimensions: String Theory, Relativity, and the End Times," and "Gödel's Hurdle and the Issue of Proof."

In the Gödel chapter, Bittinger notes: It turns out that one of the most astonishing mathematical results of the twentieth century shows that there exist statements that are either true or false, but *cannot* be proven one way or the other from the axioms of the system. Such mathematical frustration—the fact that it's possible for something to be true but remain unproven—serves as a metaphor for the final faith axiom of this book ... No matter what we assume in our human knowledge, we can never assume enough to prove it all. We can't prove it in mathematics. We can't prove it all about God. A certain amount of mystery will always remain ...

The publisher is Literary Architects, or it can be ordered online from [www.thefaithequation.com](http://www.thefaithequation.com).

## Apologists Counter Militant Atheism

"Let's face it: Atheism is in," Stan Guthrie wrote in a recent *Christianity Today* column. Former atheist Lee Strobel added, "We have defensible faith that stands up to scrutiny and investigation." Strobel was one of several prominent evangelical leaders and Christian apologists who addressed nearly 4,000 believers at the National Conference on Christian Apologetics, held November 9–10, 2007, at Calvary Church in Charlotte, NC.

One 17-year-old attendee pointed out that if the church wants to keep the younger generation, it needs to stress evidence and proof. *Christian Post* correspondent Lillian Kwon reports:

Churches are now finding a need to equip Christians with rebuttals and answers that go beyond an acceptance of the authority of Scripture. In response, Christian apologists are filling the void, teaching a language anchored in reason and science.

A roster of speakers and subjects is at [www.catapes.com/viewresults.cfm?cid=57](http://www.catapes.com/viewresults.cfm?cid=57)

## An Echo from Edinburgh

During the Q&A session following Alister McGrath's lecture at the joint CiS/ASA Annual Meeting, someone

asked whether he ever "runs into" Dawkins in Oxford. McGrath replied that he had almost "run over" him on one occasion when Dawkins was biking. After laughter, the Edinburgh audience seemed impressed that, if McGrath hadn't physically demolished Dawkins, at least in intellectual discourse, he had left him limping!

## Keeping Tuition Affordable at Christian Colleges

While the price of higher education continues to rise, member campuses of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) are making strides toward keeping costs down. Some participate in regional or nationwide programs and some create their own in an effort to make education as accessible as possible. A CCCU press release provides information about measures being implemented at several member schools. Among examples cited:

- Hardin-Simmons University and Northwestern College (Orange City, IA) freeze tuition at the new freshman's first-year rate,
- Indiana Wesleyan University offers a \$1,000 discount per student if dependent siblings attend the university simultaneously,
- Messiah College's Student Government Association is opening a coffee and ice cream shop in a campus residence hall. Profits beyond upkeep and renovation expense will provide funds towards a scholarship fund for returning students.

### Congratulations, Long-time ASAers!

Celebrating 55 years of membership

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| George L. Bate     | Stewart E. Ensign    |
| Robert W. Cooke    | Paul R. Godfrey      |
| Thomas F. Cummings | Stanley E. Lindquist |
| Benjamin B. Dayton | William R. Nesbitt   |
| Donald E. DeGraaf  | Earle H. West        |
| David L. Willis    |                      |

### Congratulations, Long-time ASAers!

Celebrating 50 years of membership

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|------------------------------|
| Herman De Haas               |
| Franklin H. Harris           |
| Frank H. Roberts             |
| Robert L. Worthington Kirsch |

## Coming Events

- Jan. 3.** ASA Wheaton/Naperville chapter. Arrowhead Golf Club, 6:30 p.m. For information, contact Drjamesdbaird@aol.com.
- Jan. 12.** ASA OK-TX Section Meeting, Star Pizza II, 77 Harvard in the Houston Heights, 12:00–3:30 PM. No topic selected yet, so please suggest your favorite. Contact: **Scott Robinson**, scottandpennyhouston@comcast.net; Roger Rowe, rgrowe@earthlink.net; or Bruce Koons, brucekoons@aol.com.
- Jan. 12.** Reasons to Believe, Chicago chapter, Wheaton, IL. Contact chicago@reasons.org for location and other information.
- Jan. 24.** Sixth Annual Faith and Bioethics Lecture, "The Challenge of Disposable Elders: Thought Experiment," Minneapolis, MN. Speaker: Christopher Hook, Mayo Clinic and Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, 12:00 p.m. (noon), Moos Tower, 2–5:30. "Bioethics and the Church: Present and Future Challenges," 7:00 p.m., Bethlehem Baptist Church (Downtown Campus). NOTE: Lecture locations are subject to change. For updated information, please check [www.MacLaurin.org](http://www.MacLaurin.org).
- Feb. 8–10.** "Evolution Weekend." See article on page 5.
- Feb. 14–18.** "Science and Technology from a Global Perspective," American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting, Boston, MA.
- Feb. 27–Mar. 1.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Human Needs and Global Resources Symposium, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. Addressing theoretical and practical challenges of global economic, social and political development. Contact hngrsymposium@wheaton.edu or (630) 752-5199.
- Mar. 8.** ASA OK-TX Section Meeting, Star Pizza II, 77 Harvard in the Houston Heights, 12:00–3:30 PM. Contact **Scott Robinson**, scottandpennyhouston@comcast.net.
- Mar. 13–15.** "Coming to Grips with Creation Conversation 2008," at Southwest Bible Theological Seminary, Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX. ☒ **Carol Hill**.
- Mar. 26–27.** "String Theory and the Multiverse: Philosophical and Theological Implications," Wheaton College Science Symposium, Wheaton, IL. Contact physics@wheaton.edu or (630) 752-5007.
- Mar. 28.** Second Annual Faith and the Environment Lecture, "Troubling Questions in Conservation Biology: Do Values and Purpose Matter in Biodiversity Conservation?" St. Paul, MN. Speaker: **Fred Van Dyke**, Wheaton College Professor of Field Biology; 7:00 p.m., McNeal, 33. NOTE: Lecture locations are subject to change. For updated information, please check [www.MacLaurin.org](http://www.MacLaurin.org).
- Apr. 1–3.** "Transforming Culture: A Vision for the Church and the Arts," Hill Country Institute for Contemporary Christianity, Austin, TX. Details at [www.transformingculture.org](http://www.transformingculture.org)
- Apr. 3.** "Conceiving Parenthood: American Protestantism and the Spirit of Reproduction," Minneapolis, MN. Speaker:

Amy Laura Hall, Duke Divinity School, 7:00 p.m., Nicholson Hall, 275. NOTE: Lecture locations are subject to change. For updated information, please check [www.MacLaurin.org](http://www.MacLaurin.org).

**Apr. 10–12.** "Open and Relational Theologies Engaging Science." A panel of open and relational theologians will engage science at a national conference at Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA. Program organizers include **Karl Giberson**, **Thomas J. Oord**, and Clark Pinnock. See p. 3, ASAers in Action.

**May 13–28.** "Israel at 60. Explore the Past, Celebrate the Present." A trip to Israel to celebrate its 60 years of independence, featuring lectures and on-site tours with Bible scholars and archaeologists. Complete details and registration are available at [www.biblicalarchaeology.org/israel2008](http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/israel2008).

**June 25–27.** First Annual Meeting of the Society for Spirituality, Theology & Health, Duke University Medical Center, Box 3825, Durham, NC. [www.dukespiritualityandhealth.org/sth/](http://www.dukespiritualityandhealth.org/sth/)

**Aug. 1–4.** ASA/CSCA Annual Meeting, George Fox University, Newberg, OR.

**Oct. 23–25.** "Bottom-up Approaches to Global Poverty: Appropriate Technology, Social Entrepreneurship, and the Church," Baylor University, Waco, TX. Contact Walter\_Bradley@baylor.edu. (See "Call for Papers," p. 4).

## With the Lord

• **James Kraakevik** died Sept. 26, 2007, at age 79. At the memorial service, one speaker said Jim had come to Wheaton four times: first as student, twice as physics professor, and lastly as director of the Billy Graham Center. Between his two stints as Wheaton professor, he was principal and teacher of math, physics and Bible at Titcombe College in Egbe, Nigeria, also involved in rehabilitation work during and following the Nigerian civil war. At the memorial service, Wheaton President Duane Litfin spoke of Jim's multiple talents, comparing most people's abilities to playing one octave on the piano, whereas Kraakevik covered the entire keyboard. Two incidents demonstrate his resoluteness: He returned to Africa at age 76, determined to establish a Christian university worthy of the title "the Wheaton of Africa"; a stroke prevented his realization of that goal. A few months before his death, with one arm paralyzed, he and a friend performed a "two-violinist" solo—he fingered the strings with his good hand, while a friend manipulated the bow.

• **Peter Bosscher**, professor of civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died Nov. 18, 2007,

in his early 50s. Peter was a speaker at the 2005 Annual Meeting at Messiah College and a moderator and speaker in a symposium at the 2006 Annual Meeting at Calvin College. He has been very active in "Engineers Without Borders," spearheading projects including installing a safe water system in Rwanda. About a year ago, he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of renal cancer. Slightly more than a week before his death, he learned that the cancer had extensively invaded his lungs, and he decided to enter hospice for its palliative care. Peter's commitment to Christian service was exemplary, and he served as a mentor to many Christian students across the disciplines who passed through the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

☒ **Hessell Bouma**

## Welcome, New Members! October–November 2007

Arlen, Timothy C. –Los Angeles, CA  
 Auletta, Angela E. –Edgewater, MD  
 Baba, Paul D. –San Carlos, CA  
 Bergerud, Eric M. –Albany, CA  
 Bishop, Robert C. –Wheaton, IL  
 Blackard, Kirk –Houston, TX  
 Bowman, Herman J. –Orchard Park, NY  
 Brombach, Andrew –Los Angeles, CA  
 Brombach, Nara –Los Angeles, CA  
 Carter, Giles F. –Clemson, SC  
 Collins, Lorence G. –Thousand Oaks, CA  
 Culver, Gregory L. –Cando, ND  
 Dehler, Bernie –Beaverton, OR  
 Harmon, Michael G. –Murray, KY  
 Haymond, Kristen G. –Mission, BC Canada  
 Heddle, David P. –Yorktown, VA  
 Hofmann, Carrie –Pasadena, CA  
 Hofmann, Douglas –Pasadena, CA  
 Hofmann, Jennifer –Los Angeles, CA  
 Hogue, Cheryl –Northridge, CA  
 Hogue, James –Northridge, CA  
 House-Miller, Sally A. –Redondo Beach, CA  
 Jackson, John C. –St Peters, MO  
 Kho, Grace T. –Victoria, BC Canada  
 Kulle, Diana J. –Broadview Heights, OH  
 Lunt, William T. –Western Australia  
 McCorkle, David V. –Monmouth, OR  
 Mitchell, Brenda Nowlin –Los Angeles, CA  
 Mittelstaedt, Gary –Portland, OR  
 Moore, Elizabeth –Tempe, AZ  
 Osborne, Edith –Ipswich, MA  
 Owens, Jay D. –Roanoke, VA  
 Phair, Brian S. –Wheeling, WV  
 Smith, Philip K. –New Bern, NC  
 Soltys, Callee –Mannville, AB Canada  
 Steed, Ryan –Madison, WI  
 Thurmond, Joel E. –Bradenton, FL  
 Tower, Brad W. –Burlington, NJ  
 Vaughn, Jeffrey L. –Santa Ana, CA  
 Wickman, Leslie –Azusa, CA  
 Winters, Sharon K. –Port Orange, FL

## Illinois Local Chapter Holds First Meeting

James Baird learned about ASA by reading Francis Collins' book *The Language of God*. He contacted Randy Isaac and decided to form a local ASA chapter in the Wheaton/Naperville area of Illinois. The first meeting was held October 3, 2007, at the Cress Creek Country Club in Naperville. Fifteen attended, including professors at three colleges plus James Sire, author of classic apologetics books such as *The Universe Next Door*.



James Baird

Appropriately, the program for this initial meeting featured Wheaton College emeritus biology professor Ray Brand sharing portions of Collins' book. Ray described the main theme as "the compatibility and the integration of science and the Christian faith. Collins stressed the ubiquity of moral law in all humans throughout the world."

Brand centered most of his talk on two quotations from the book:

1. Stephen Hawking, speaking of the aspiration for a unified "theory of everything" in *A Brief History of Time*:

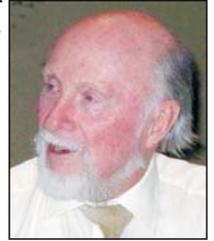
Then we shall all—philosophers, scientists and just ordinary people—be able to take part in the discussion of the question of why it is that we and the universe exist. If we find the answer to that, it would be the ultimate triumph of human reason—for then we would know the mind of God.

2. From Darwin's *Origin of Species*:

There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning, endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.

Brand added, "Collins might edit the last phrase there and say, '... and are being created through evolution.'"

Brand also noted that following the publication of Dawkins' *The God Delusion* and Alister McGrath's *The Dawkins Delusion*, even an atheist or agnostic such as Michael Ruse said he was ashamed of and embarrassed by some of Dawkins' statements.



Ray Brand

A time of Q&A followed, discussing issues such as the God of the gaps. One salient comment was, "Some things are inherently unknowable; some things we don't know because we don't know about them yet. But they look the same from here"—i.e. from the vantage point of our present limited knowledge.

The chapter will meet at quarterly intervals. The next meeting is January 3. To be added to the email list, please contact [Drjamesdbaird@aol.com](mailto:Drjamesdbaird@aol.com).

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