

# NEWSLETTER

of the  
American Scientific Affiliation &  
Canadian Scientific & Christian Affiliation



Volume 49, Number 3

May/June 2007

## Leegwater Becomes New Editor of *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*

**Arie Leegwater**, professor of chemistry at Calvin College, has accepted the role of editor of the ASA journal, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*.

He received his B.A. in chemistry from Calvin College in 1962 and Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Ohio State University in 1967. From 1967–1969, he read history of science and philosophy at the Free University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. His current research interests include the dynamic interrelationships between chemistry and physics during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the interaction of science and religion, and the philosophy of chemistry. He has been a National Endowment for the Humanities College Fellow-in-Residence (University of California-Davis), science editor for the *Christian Scholar's Review*, coordinator for a Calvin College Center for Christian Scholarship research team on responsible technology, and participant in the John Templeton Oxford Seminars on Science and Christianity (University of Oxford).

On the personal side, he recalls,

I was drawn to science by two excellent high school teachers: Dr. **Clarence Menninga** (chemistry) and Mr. Wes Vryhof (physics). As students we were allowed to perform exciting experiments during recess that in today's litigious environment would be *verboden* ... I still remember fondly ... the volcano demonstration: heating ammonium dichromate on an asbestos surface.

He adds,

History was also a very appealing subject to me. Post-doctoral study



Arie Leegwater

in the history of science (with Reijer Hooykaas at the Free University) sustained and refined my interests. Recently (2004 and 2006) I visited Korea to give lectures on Christianity and science themes at two conferences of Christian academicians.

His publications include: *Responsible Technology: A Christian Perspective* (coauthor) (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986); "The Development of Wilhelm Ostwald's Chemical Energetics," *Centaurus* (1986); "Reijer Hooykaas (1906–1994): A Modern Advocate for *Philosophia Libra*," *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* (1996); "Telling the Story of Science and Religion: A Nuanced Account," *British Journal for History of Science* (1996); "Nationalizing Science: Adolphe Wurtz and the Battle for French Chemistry," *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* (2002); "OXFAM Chair, Charles A. Coulson, Emphasized Giving," *Science and*

*Continued on p. 3, Leegwater*

## Field Trips at the Edinburgh CiS/ASA Meeting

Some very interesting pre-meeting field trips are planned for Thursday afternoon, August 2, of the CiS/ASA meeting at the University of Edinburgh.

- **The Falkirk Wheel** was designed to provide a 21<sup>st</sup> century solution to join the Forth and Clyde Canal with Edinburgh's Union Canal. This is a rotating arm with gondolas at either end that lifts and lowers boats from one level to another.
- **Museum of Scotland** presents the history of Scotland—its land, its people and their achievements—from its geological beginnings to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh**, founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and growing medieval plants, has the second richest collection of plant species in the world.
- **Geology of Arthur's Seat**. This tour will be run by a volunteer from the British Geological Survey's Edinburgh base.
- **Scottish Seabird Centre** overlooks the islands of the Firth of Forth and the sandy beaches of East Lothian. Cameras are located on these wildlife rich islands and visitors can see the tiniest details with the technology as well as observe thousands of resting seabirds and marine mammals.

### Edinburgh CiS/ASA Meeting Registration

With regard to the CiS/ASA meeting coming up in August, ASAers should send their money to the Ipswich office and CiS members should register through Christians in Science.

## The Executive Director's Corner

Randall D. Isaac

The vision of the founders of the ASA was to review, prepare, and disseminate material that would assess scientific results from a Christian perspective. Our journal, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*, is the primary vehicle through which we seek to carry out that vision. The first issue was published in 1949. Now we are publishing volume 59. The quarterly issues have a circulation of over 2,000.

The quality and scope of the journal are of great importance in achieving our goals. The editor of the journal bears a significant responsibility in establishing the tone and nature of the publication. Accordingly, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Roman Miller who has been editor since the December 1999 issue. He has worked tirelessly to sustain and improve the quality of the journal. His insightful forewords have set an appropriate tone for the articles to be published. He has initiated many dialogues on critical issues of interest. He attempted to broaden our horizons by encouraging the artistic and poetic side of science. From the bottom of our hearts, Roman, we thank you for your hard work and effectiveness in editing the journal.

We offer a warm welcome to Arie Leegwater as the new editor, beginning

in July 2007 for the March 2008 issue. Arie has seven years of experience as science editor for the *Christian Scholar's Review* and is retiring this summer from a highly successful career in the chemistry department at Calvin College. He is committed to making the journal more effective in meeting the needs of you, the readers. Arie would be delighted to hear from you with your ideas and suggestions. What would be most helpful to you? What would be of most interest to you in the journal? Let me know and I'll pass your suggestions to Arie. Welcome to the team, Arie. We look forward to working with you.

Recently I had the privilege of visiting Wheaton College and speaking at their Science Symposium. I was fortunate to be able to spend a few hours browsing through the ASA archives. If you haven't been with the ASA very long, you may not know that our archives are stored at Wheaton. The historical records such as early correspondence and the proceedings of the early conferences are all filed there. Several people have used it for historical research. Access is available upon written request.

Perusing the archives, I was struck by the rich heritage that we have. Over the years we have been blessed by a long list of outstanding scientists who have devoted much of their time and energy to issues of science and Christian faith. Their thoughtful reflections are the basis of many of the ideas being advocated today. We continue to seek honest and open discussion of the entire spectrum of ideas within the bounds of our statement of faith and of integrity in science.

At Wheaton I had the privilege of meeting Nigel Cameron who was also speaking at the Science Symposium. He is a leader in the area of bioethics and is scheduled to be one of several outstanding plenary speakers at our annual meeting in Edinburgh. He'll provide excellent insight to an area of growing importance to us, namely nanotechnology and biotechnology and the human future.

Speaking of our annual meeting, if you haven't registered yet, please do so soon. Accommodations are limited but we may be able to find a room for you. The meeting promises to be stimulating and thought-provoking. Come and meet with our colleagues in Britain and worship our Creator with them. I look forward to seeing you there.

### Welcome, New Members! February–March 2007

Aldridge, Steve E. –Prior Lake, MN  
Baldwin, Courtney P. –Columbus, MS  
Barr, Jeffrey L. –Vermillion, SD  
Barrett, Bradley Georgetown, MA  
Biscaye, Pierre E. –Westwood, NJ  
Blinne, Richard D. –Fort Collins, CO  
Brown, William L. –Mason, MI  
Carney, Tiffany B. –Mishawaka, IN  
Carpenter, Anne E. –Cambridge, MA  
Carson, Troy –Richfield, MN  
Cheung, Hannah –Houston, TX  
Contakes, Stephen M. –Pasadena, CA  
Coward, Beverly –Philadelphia, PA  
Dawes, Michael A. –Winston-Salem NC  
Dreyer, Dan R. –Wheaton, IL  
Englert, Jr., Thomas –Scottsdale, AZ  
Fields, Owen –Glenmoore, PA  
Geeslin, Herb –Mount Vernon, WA  
Halvorsen, Darwin J. –Pataskala, OH  
Hanson, Donald P. –Westford, MA  
Hartman, Gregory –Pittsburgh, PA  
Hasson, Newt –Austin, TX  
Isaacs, Jr., Edward –Homosassa, FL  
Jenson, John W. –Mangilao, GU  
Lange, Paul H. –Seattle, WA  
Lanzinger, Donald J. –Los Angeles, CA  
McGuire, Thomas F. –Pensacola, FL  
Mitchell, Ben –Libertyville, IL  
Montreal, Steven R. –Mequon, WI  
O'Neil, Denae E. –Dar es Salem,  
Tanzania  
Perrine, Richard –Dallas, TX  
Prantner, Gene D. –Tucson, AZ  
Reed, Catherine D. –Selah, WA  
Reitz, James A. –Mechanicsburg, PA  
Robertson, Carolyn –Toronto, ON,  
Canada  
Ruminski, Thomas J. –Portland, OR  
Schmidgall, James R. –Dallas, OR  
Slocum, Milton M. –Shreveport, LA  
Sterling, Mary B. –Phelps, NY  
Taylor, John S. –Port Deposit, MD  
Webber, Donald –Redmond, WA  
Wehrle, John –Lexington, KY  
Young, Peter –Newmarket, ON, Canada  
Zimmerly, Ella M. –Somerville, MA

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 and Margaret Towne, 8505 Copper Mountain Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89129. E-mail: TowneMG@aol.com. Both receive e-mail through [asan@asa3.org](mailto:asan@asa3.org)

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Managing Editor: Lyn Berg

**Leegwater**, from p. 1.

Theology News (2004); and “Charles A. Coulson: Mixing Methodism and Quantum Chemistry” in Nicolaas Rupke, ed., *Eminent Lives in Twentieth-Century Science-and-Religion* (Göttingen: Vanderhoeck & Ruprecht, in press).

## A Win/Win Deal on Bookstore Purchases

Christian Book Distributors (CBD) and the ASA have formed an alliance in which everyone wins:

CBD sells most books at substantial discounts. For example, it offers **Francis Collins’** *The Language of God* at 27% below list price. Some items are marked down more than 50%.

When a customer accesses the CBD website through the ASA website, ASA receives a 10% commission.

This covers not just books, but the entire CBD merchandise line—a wide spectrum of books, Bible study software, gifts, music CDs, and DVDs of family-friendly films.

Here is how to access the CBD website:

1. Go to the ASA website, [www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org)
2. Scroll down to “Bookstore.”
3. Click any book title to access the CBD website.
4. Place your order.
5. Congratulate yourself on having received a good deal while helping the ASA.

## Ecology Takes Center Stage

### Banning Bad Bulbs

Several governmental bodies have established timetables for phasing out incandescent lamps. For example, New York’s Westchester County is considering a plan that would ban them from county facilities by year’s end, extending the ban countywide by the end of 2009.

On the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, US Representative Jane

Harman (D-CA) said incandescents generate 12–15 lumens of light per watt of electricity consumed; she proposes requiring all bulbs sold to generate at least 60 lumens per watt, about the level of today’s fluorescent bulbs. Under her plan, the mandated level would be raised to 90 lumens per watt by 2016 and 120 lumens/watt by 2020. She cites a Department of Energy statement that one energy-efficient bulb can prevent the release of over 450 pounds of greenhouse gases during that bulb’s lifetime.

Illinois Republican Don Manzullo estimates that energy saved by the efficient bulbs would save consumers and business owners about \$18 billion annually. In addition, the annual energy demand for lighting would drop by the equivalent of the generation from 30 nuclear plants or 60 coal-burning power plants.

### Exhaust Clean Enough to Drink?

The March 29 *New York Times* published “The Future of Hydrogen Cars,” by David Pogue. At the Technology, Entertainment, Design Conference, Pogue attended a lunch-hour presentation by Dr. Frank Ochmann, the head of BMW’s clean-energy development project.

While other car companies pursue hydrogen fuel cells, which transform hydrogen into electricity to power the car, BMW believes *liquid* hydrogen is the best bet as the next-generation fuel for cars. The company has the first fleet of hydrogen-powered cars (100, a quarter of which are in the US). Pogue points out, “... [T]hese 100 cars aren’t hand-built prototypes or concept cars; they were factory-built like any other BMW model, which is a significant milestone.”

To drive home the point that hydrogen-powered cars don’t pollute, each audience member was given a bottle of water. Instead of “Evian” or “Dasana,” the label said “EXHAUST.” Ochmann took a swig to make the point.

Like many alternative vehicles, this one is a hybrid that also operates on gasoline. There are currently only three

hydrogen pumps in the US (California and Washington, DC). Liquid hydrogen must be kept at –423°F. It’s stored in a super-thick insulated tank at the back of the car, bulky enough to make a visible bulge behind the rear seats.

Remembering the Hindenburg incident, Pogue asked whether hydrogen could explode in this form. He reports:

The engineers responded that in Germany, they’ve tried shooting bullets at the tank, slamming a construction girder into it, and so on; liquid hydrogen may burn, but it doesn’t blow up. In that regard, it’s actually safer in a spill situation than gasoline.

Pogue observes:

Taking hydrogen to the mainstream still requires staggering amounts of investment, legislation, policy, and political will. But from a purely technological standpoint, using today’s renewable power sources and liquid hydrogen, the balance sheet for the entire cycle, from hydrogen production to driving the cars, could reduce carbon-dioxide emissions by at least 90 percent, by BMW’s calculations.

He recommends the Wikipedia.com entry on “hydrogen cars” as “an excellent, balanced and up-to-date presentation on the issue.” Pogue concludes:

Meanwhile, the biggest obstacles are presented by people’s attitudes, not technology: “Oh, that’ll never work.” Guess what? It’s going to have to work. Sooner or later, hydrogen, or something like it, is all we’ll have to work with.

### Nuancing the Complexities

Reasons to Believe’s website points out that the global warming issue is more complex than the general public perception. Astronomer **Hugh Ross** speaks of 100,000-year natural cycles, “with an ice age typically taking up 90,000 of those years, and a global warming effect, the other 10,000 years.” UCLA physicist Jeff Zweerink adds, “Atmospheric conditions are impacted by tectonic activity, erosion, and changes in Earth’s biomass, for example.” →

Ross notes that some human activities actually produce cooling:

The release of aerosols and particulates actually blocks out sunlight and generates light-reflecting cloud layers ... The bottom line is that there are dozens of physical, chemical, and biological processes that contribute to both heating and cooling the planet ... This delicate balancing act of multiple and diverse natural processes and human activities gives us reason to be cautious ... If we ignore one or more of certain mechanisms that contribute to either global warming or cooling, our attempted solutions could actually make matters worse.

## “St. Pixels” Internet Church

Christians in London have launched what they describe as a “customized chatroom ... which allows for presentations, preaching, music and sound effects—for a worshipping community.” With support and encouragement of the Methodist Church, it has approximately 1,500 registered users.

They join for a variety of reasons, according to programmer Mark Howe.

We are accessible for those who cannot leave home due to infirmity or young children. It’s also convenient for people whose working life does not fit with local church services—or who live far from a physical church. Members take part in discussions, pray for each other and play games—as well as worshipping together.

They develop such camaraderie online, that many travel considerable distances to meet face-to-face.

St. Pixels is an outgrowth of *Ship of Fools*, defunct as a magazine but now with an online presence for “people who don’t fit comfortably in the average pew.” A March 29 release from Assist News Service anticipated that St. Pixels would be the focus of BBC Radio 4’s April 15 Sunday Worship, “the first time the BBC have run a service with a ‘virtual’ church.”

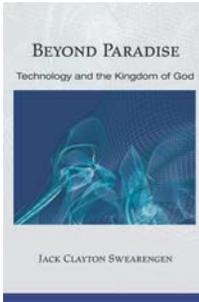
## ASAers in Print

• **Jack Clayton Swearengen** has had his book *Beyond Paradise: Technology and the Kingdom of God* published by Wipf and Stock. This book uncovers a comprehensive scriptural mandate for managing technology and evaluates which advances are moving society in directions consistent with God’s purposes. How is technology used and abused today? Does its progress lead to human progress, and how can Scripture guide us? Do we worship science and technology? Some decisions we make have no precedent, and profound thought and wisdom are needed for making correct choices. Are we aware of the social and environmental impacts of our technological advances? The church must demonstrate biblical stewardship of technology, which requires discernment and careful assessment grounded on biblical tenets.

Jack has served as staff member, supervisor, and manager at Sandia National Laboratories, Scientific Advisor for the Secretary of Defense (under Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush), and professor and founding director of Engineering Programs at Washington State University in Vancouver. He was a science advisor for the US delegation at the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks in Geneva, Switzerland. He is an ASA Fellow.

Edward Woodhouse, professor of science and technology studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, summarized, “Swearengen is a Jeremiah for our times, calling on Christians to stop the idolatrous worship of science.”

• **Oskar Gruenwald**, editor of *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research in Pasadena, CA, had a very insightful letter to the editor published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on Feb. 16. Writing in response to an essay by Lawrence Krauss, Oskar said in one paragraph:

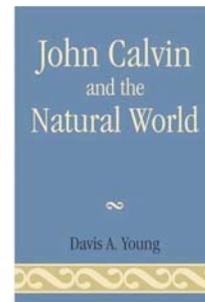


Absent from Krauss’s account is the historical context: Such eminent scientists as Isaac Newton, Johannes Kepler, and Francis Bacon were devout believers. Equally missing is the present context of the science-religion dialogue, which has burgeoned over the past few decades; whose participants include prominent scientists, philosophers, and theologians, and which includes the journal I edit ...

He continued:

Moreover, science and technology badly need ethics, lest they be used to imperil rather than enrich human life. Unless scientists, philosophers, and theologians learn once again to talk to each other, the results are likely to be more misunderstanding, conflict, and a Hobbesian world where life is “nasty, brutish, and short.” Religious and theological doctrines can evolve, humans can grow intellectually and spiritually, and, most important, men and women are gifted with the divine capacities of free will, a moral sense, and conscience, which bears the creator’s imprint: the teleological imperative to fulfill the human potential as caring and loving beings created in the image of God ...

• **Davis Young** has just had his book *John Calvin and the Natural World* published by University Press of America. This book focuses on an aspect of



Calvin’s writing and thinking that has been largely neglected, namely, his views about the physical cosmos, animals, plants, human anatomy, etc. Calvin provided a nice case study of

a well-educated sixteenth-century leader who was not in the field of natural philosophy yet who wrote on such subjects. This book probes the way in which Calvin interpreted biblical texts that have bearing on our understanding of the natural world and makes applications to the present situation in the evangelical world.

Dave graduated from Princeton University, received his M.S. from Penn State, and a Ph.D. in geological sciences from Brown University. He taught at New York University, the University of North Carolina and for 26 years at Calvin College. Upon recent retirement from Calvin, he and his wife, Dottie, moved to Tucson, AZ. Dave is a member of the Editorial Board of *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*.

• *Scientific American*, Oct. 2006, featured book reviews of **Francis Collins'** *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence For Belief* and **Owen Gingerich's** *God's Universe* (pp. 94–5).

The editors made reference to these authors on the editorial page in a text titled "Let There Be Light." They said:

It is practically a rite of passage that scientists who reach a certain level of eminence feel compelled to publicly announce and explain their religious beliefs ... Yes, these authors say, they believe in God, and no, they see no contradiction between their faith and their research—indeed, they see each as confirming the other.

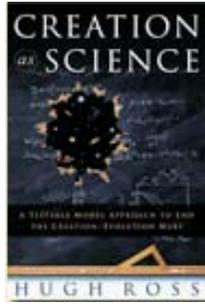
The editors also state:

Americans are famously religious, but according to studies by the National Science Foundation, they say that they hold science in higher regard than do the people of any other industrial country. Surveys indicate that scientists are only half as likely as the general public to describe themselves as religious, but 40 percent still do. As Albert Einstein wrote, it takes fortitude to be a scientist—to persevere despite the frustrations and the long lonely hours—and religious inspiration can sometimes provide that strength. (p. 8).

**Newsletter Disclaimer**

As a newsletter, this publication presents news spanning a spectrum of activities, reports, and publications in order to keep readers abreast of a variety of events and views. Just as newspapers report statements made by people of various viewpoints and opinions without endorsing them, inclusion in this newsletter does not constitute or imply official ASA endorsement.

• *Creation as Science* by **Hugh Ross**, published by NavPress, provides comprehensive coverage of all issues related to origins. It presents a new model, attempting to be testable and therefore acceptable as a scientific theory. It contains a wealth of information on the creation/evolution controversy, with extensive references and detailed footnotes.



Ross uses a unique multidisciplinary approach, factoring in phenomena from cosmology, astronomy, planetary science, geophysics, archaeology, and paleontology, in addition to the traditional evolutionist approach from morphology, biochemistry and genetics.

Introductory remarks frame the controversy as a clash of worldviews, methodology and politics. Ross then presents his major thesis, "the uncompromising harmony between facts of nature and the words of Scripture."

The detailed information on origins in chapters 5 to 9 is a great source of readily accessible information.

✉ **Kenell Touryan**

• A companion book to the program "Religion and Ethics News Weekly" is now available titled *The Life of Meaning*, edited by the program's Executive Editor and Host Bob Abernethy and longtime journalist William Bole. It features a collection of insightful, moving and eloquent observations on life and how to live it by some of the most thoughtful men and women. Among them are Desmond Tutu, **Francis Collins**, Marianne Williamson, Irving Greenberg, Barbara Brown Taylor, Harold Kushner, Madeleine L'Engle, Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Jimmy Carter, and the late William Sloane Coffin. See [www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/book/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/book/index.html)

**Of Interest**

• On Feb. 24, BBC radio interviewed four people at the Grand Canyon who hold different views of the origins of

this remarkable geological phenomenon. It was triggered by the book, *Grand Canyon: A Different View* written by Tom Vail, which asserts that this geological formation was formed as a result of Noah's Flood a few thousand years ago. The bookstores at the Grand Canyon were selling the book and many scientists felt it was inappropriate for the National Park Service to sell a book affirming this thesis. Those interviewed included Henry Morris III, a young-earth creationist and Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Creation Research; Eugenie Scott, head of the National Center for Science Education; Paul Davies, a theoretical physicist, astrobiologist/cosmologist and director of a new interdisciplinary research institute called "Beyond," devoted to exploring the big questions of science and philosophy at Arizona State University, and the 1995 Templeton Prize winner; and **Margaret Towne**, biologist, author, and fellow of ASA. Several interviews occurred directly on the rim of the Grand Canyon. They were heard on the radio the end of March in two segments.

• A recent study shows that many doctors believe they have the right not to tell patients about treatments that they object to on moral or religious grounds and to refuse to refer patients elsewhere for such care. In a survey of 1,144 doctors nationwide, 8% said they had no obligation to present all possible options to patients and 18% said they did not have to tell patients about other doctors who provide care they found objectionable. Researchers estimate that more than 40 million Americans may be seeing physicians who do not feel obligated to disclose information about legal treatments and 100 million have doctors who do not feel the need to make referrals. "They are a minority of doctors, but it's a fairly substantial minority," said Farr A. Curlin, a bioethicist at the University of Chicago who led the study published in the February issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.  
• 2007 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

• *Christianity Today* published some data in 2006 which were sourced from *USA Today*, Harris Poll and Gallup saying:

(1) Since 1990 there has been a 70.6% increase in enrollment at member schools of the CCCU (Council for Christian Colleges and Universities) compared to a 12.8% increase at public colleges and universities and 28% at private schools.

(2) 62% of Americans say stores shouldn't change greetings from Merry Christmas to Happy Holidays or Seasons Greetings. Only 3% of Americans are bothered when stores specifically refer to the Christian holiday.

• The University of Michigan Addiction Research Center has found that alcoholics who have increases in spiritual experiences and in their sense of purpose in life are more likely to be free of heavy drinking episodes six months later. Although alcoholics don't necessarily change their beliefs during the recovery process, they are more open to spirituality in their lives. These findings suggest that alcoholic recovery services that include spirituality of all kinds can help.

## Canadian Awarded Templeton Prize

Charles Margrave Taylor, a professor of law and philosophy at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, and professor emeritus in philosophy at McGill University in Montreal, has been awarded the 2007 Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities. He is a Catholic and the first Canadian to win the award and will officially receive it by HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, at a private ceremony in Buckingham Palace on May 2.

The March 15 *Christian Science Monitor* states:

Mr. Taylor argues that all aspects of human beings, including the spiritual, are necessary to understand behavior. His research has transformed academic debates across the social sciences and helped bring spiritual understanding to political discussions.

It adds:

Taylor contends that the failure to consider spiritual viewpoints ignores a critical dimension of people's search for meaning. That failure therefore prevents them from gaining the knowledge they need to resolve serious conflicts.

Taylor has tried to put his theory into practice in Canadian politics. He was made a Grand Officer of the National Order of Quebec in 2000, and was a four-time candidate for federal parliament in the 1960s. He lost all four races, the third one to Pierre Trudeau. He was recently appointed co-chair of a commission on accommodation of cultural religious differences in public life in Quebec.

With the prize money Taylor is going to continue research on the relationship of language to spirituality. He intends to write a book on the topic which he says will be "about several things that look disconnected, but I know they are connected, and I've got to connect them."

## Medical Associations Oppose Legislation Permitting Assisted Suicide

The Christian Medical Association (CMA) ([www.cmda.org](http://www.cmda.org)) has voiced strong opposition to proposed legislation (AB 374) that would legalize assisted suicide in California. CMA added its voice to the American Medical Association and the California Medical Association in opposing the bill as a lethal threat to patients and the medical profession.

Dr. David Stevens, CEO of the Christian Medical Association, said:

This bill invites patient abuse, prevents investigations of patient abuse and covers up incidents of patient abuse. Instead of being called the Compassionate Choices Act, this bill should be called the Covert Abuses Act.

He added:

No media, watchdog organizations or concerned citizens are permitted

to review individual cases, even with personal information blocked out ... No one will ever know if patients were pressured to die because they had no health insurance, or because a greedy family member wanted to preserve his inheritance, or because a doctor or insurer calculated that suicide was more efficient than palliative care. The state health department relies on the very people who abuse patients to report their own abuse.

## Courts Define Atheism as Religion

Several court decisions have concluded that atheism fits the criteria of religion for First Amendment purposes. For example, in *Kaufman v. McCaughtry* in 2005, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals stated:

We have suggested in the past that when a person sincerely holds beliefs dealing with issues of ultimate concern that for her occupy a place parallel to that filled by God in traditionally religious persons, these beliefs represent her religion.

Their opinion added:

Atheism is, among other things, a school of thought that takes a position on religion, the existence and importance of a supreme being, and a code of ethics. As such we are satisfied it qualifies as Kaufman's religion for purposes of the First Amendment claims he is attempting to raise.

Based on that and other similar opinions, a group known as Origin of Life Fairness in Public Schools reasons that the teaching of evolution in public schools is an endorsement of atheistic religion and adds:

That being the case, these atheist origin of life theories should be treated no differently than any other origin of life theory.

Their <http://originoflifefairness.org> website provides additional information on their position.

✉ *Randel Huey, Jacksonville, FL*

## Science and Spirituality Art Show

A father and daughter have put together a unique art show titled "Pay Attention" in the AAAS gallery at 12<sup>th</sup> and H Streets, NW, in Washington, DC through May 25. Charlie Brouwer and Jennifer L. Collins have expressed a link between science and spirituality with paintings and sculptures which attendees say is a powerful expression of inquisitiveness, spirituality, and hope.

Brouwer works with wood and his sculptures reflect his daily experiences, memories, or thoughts on life and spirituality. He often carves phrases relevant to the theme of the piece, his own thoughts, quotes from songs, literature or the Bible.

Collins, a painter, expresses multiple ideas in some of her contemporary horizontal diptychs—paintings split into two horizontal panels—by depicting two different scenes on each panel. She says this is her exploration of the relationship between the microcosm and the macrocosm. She says the world can be so familiar, like an oft-traveled road, but it is simultaneously vast and mysterious, like an infinite mountain range. "My concept of art is something that's searching for meaning, using the landscape to explore and to push the viewer further beyond the usual," she says. "Scientists and artists both seek to understand this earth and its place in the universe.

AAAS's DoSER (Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion) Director, Connie Bertka, said, "This exhibit is a striking reminder of the awe the physical world inspires, a common denominator for both science and religion or spirituality."

### Scotland Tour after CiS/ASA Meeting

It is not too late to sign up for the tour after the CiS/ASA meeting. It departs on August 6 and goes for 8 days, including 14 meals: 7 breakfasts, 7 dinners. Scheduled stops are Edinburgh Castle, St. Andrews, Dunrobin Castle, Orkney Islands, Loch Ness, Isle of Skye and Stirling Castle. Contact Carol: (978) 356-5656 or carol@asa3.org

## Call for Papers

**June 1.** Abstracts of papers for "Globalization & Its Discontents: Modernization, Culture & Religion," U. of San Francisco, 2–5 August 2007. Contact: Dr. **O. Gruenwald**, Editor, *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 1065 Pine Bluff Dr., Pasadena, CA 91107. Visit: [www.JIS3.org](http://www.JIS3.org)

## Coming Events

- April 11–May 13.** Play at the Wilma Theater, Philadelphia, PA, on "The Life of Galileo." See May 7 below.
- April 27.** The MacLaurin Institute (founded by **Bill Mousma**) is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Mounds View, MN. Speaker: Os Guinness. Information at <http://maclaurin.org/25anniversary.php>.
- May 4.** "Consciousness, Free Will and God." Lecture series, Christof Koch, Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, Nashville, TN. [www.vanderbilt.edu/csrc/trl/lectures.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csrc/trl/lectures.html)
- May 7.** **Edward Davis, William Grassie and Owen Gingerich** will participate with two other scholars on a panel discussion titled "Science and Religion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," at 7 p.m. at the Wilma Theatre, Philadelphia, PA. It is being presented in conjunction with the theater's production of Bertolt Brecht's play, "The Life of Galileo." Visit [www.wilmatheater.org](http://www.wilmatheater.org) See April 11–May 13 above.
- May 11.** The Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University is hosting a symposium "What is Prayer?" at 3 p.m. Contact [csrelig@princeton.edu](mailto:csrelig@princeton.edu) or visit [www.metanexus.net/metanexus\\_online/show\\_article2.asp?id=9579](http://www.metanexus.net/metanexus_online/show_article2.asp?id=9579)
- May 12.** Reasons to Believe Chicago chapter, 2:00–3:30 p.m., Room 138, Billy Graham Center, Wheaton C. Speaker: **Dave Fisher**, telling about his "Truth in the Test Tube" broadcast and webcast to China via Trans World Radio. Further information from [bobclapper@yahoo.com](mailto:bobclapper@yahoo.com)
- May 17–19.** Pastoral Leadership Conference, "Faith as a Way of Life," Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT.
- May 23.** "Science, Death and Resurrection," John Haight, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA. 7:30 p.m. This is one of a series of lectures, free and open to the public, sponsored by Metanexus Institute, [www.metanexus.net](http://www.metanexus.net). For more information, contact Julia Loving, (215) 789-2200 ext. 107 or e-mail: [loving@metanexus.net](mailto:loving@metanexus.net)
- May 28.** Answers in Genesis Creation Museum opens in Cincinnati, OH. [www.answersingenesis.org/docs2007/0330museum.asp](http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs2007/0330museum.asp)
- June 2–6.** Metanexus Institute 8<sup>th</sup> annual conference. "Transdisciplinarity and the Unity of Knowledge: Beyond the Science and Religion Dialogue," University of PA, Philadelphia, PA. [www.metanexus.net/conference2007](http://www.metanexus.net/conference2007)

- June 18–July 6.** "Open Theology and Science," conference affiliated with Eastern Nazarene C., Quincy, MA. Contact Dan Messier, (617) 847-5929. E-mail: [daniel.a.messier@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.a.messier@gmail.com)
- June 19, 22 & 28.** Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA, lecture series, "Science and the Spirit: A Forum on Science, Technology and Renewal." Details at [www.regent.edu/acad/schdiv/news/events/renewalscience/home.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/acad/schdiv/news/events/renewalscience/home.cfm)
- June 22–23.** The Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology and the Christian Faith is hosting a conference at the Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church in Denver, CO. Keynote speaker: Jeffrey Kieft, Dept of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, U. of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Presentation: "Born a Scientist, Raised a Christian: A Research Scientist's View of Evolution and Creation." Responders: Robert A. Keefer and Wesley McCoy. This event is open to everyone. Contact Robert Keefer, [rkeefe@iowatelecom.net](mailto:rkeefe@iowatelecom.net)
- July 9–13.** Summer Theological Institute of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. "Faith and Faithfulness: Christianity in an Age of Scientific Discovery." Texas Lutheran U. in Seguin, TX. Open to clergy and laypeople of all denominations. ASA members **Loren Haarsma, Deborah Haarsma, Gerald Cleaver, and George Murphy** will be some of the speakers. More details and online registration at: [www.summertheologicalinstitute.org](http://www.summertheologicalinstitute.org)
- July 23–26.** The British Society for the History of Science is sponsoring a conference, "Science and Religion: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives" at Lancaster U., England. E-mail: [history@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:history@lancaster.ac.uk) See [www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/history/news/Science&Religion.htm](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/history/news/Science&Religion.htm)
- July 28–Aug. 4.** Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS) conference. "Emergence: Nature's Mode of Creativity," Star Island, NH.
- July 29–Aug. 3.** The Biological Science Curriculum Study will feature an intensive content experience "Evolution Across the Sciences" in Colorado Springs, CO. See [www.bsos.org/page.asp?pageid=0|124|335|339|632&id=0|keys\\_evolution,or\(719\)531-5550orinfo@bsos.org](http://www.bsos.org/page.asp?pageid=0|124|335|339|632&id=0|keys_evolution,or(719)531-5550orinfo@bsos.org)
- Aug. 2–5.** Symposium "Globalization and Its Discontents: Modernization, Culture and Religion," U. of San Francisco, co-sponsored by *Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*. E-mail **Oskar Gruenwald**: [info@JIS3.org](mailto:info@JIS3.org) or see [www.JIS3.org/symposium2007.htm](http://www.JIS3.org/symposium2007.htm)
- Aug. 2–6.** ASA/CIS Joint Meeting. University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Information and registration forms at [www.asa3.org](http://www.asa3.org)

## Congratulations, Long-time ASAers!

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## Chinese Respond to *Truth in the Test Tube*

After 15 years at Trans World Radio stations in Monaco and Swaziland and on Guam (1963–1978), **Dave Fisher** realized “perfectly good gospel seed doesn’t grow well when it’s planted in thorny soil.” “Scientific atheism” was the primary barrier to acceptance of the Christian message.

Since 1979 he’s been writing a broadcast that answers atheistic spins on various scientific issues, augmented with interviews with Christians who are professionally involved in the sciences. When people of that caliber speak, skeptics have difficulty dismissing them as “too ignorant to know God doesn’t exist.” The program aired in Russian from 1980 through 2004, and has been in Mandarin Chinese since October 2002. In addition, selected episodes have aired in Kazakh and Turkmen languages to Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union. If funding becomes available, TWR’s Spanish

department would like to produce the program for broadcast to Cuba.

### Collegiate Kindergarten

Dave calls his target audience “the collegiate kindergarten”—with a university-level understanding of science and the secular world, but a kindergarten-level knowledge of the Bible and a jaundiced view of anything religious. During the past six months, there have been more than 400,000 downloads of the program from its *Truth in the Test Tube* Mandarin website. One listener said he has burned 117 episodes onto a CD, for personal replay and to stimulate discussions with friends.

A spin-off of an earlier version of the broadcast, co-authored with emeritus meteorologist Eric C. Barrett of the University of Bristol, England, is *Scientists Who Believe* (Chicago: Moody, 1984), which includes chapters on ASAers **Bob Newman** and **Bob Herrmann**.

## Looking for Ex-Atheists

Some of Fisher’s most effective interviews and biographical sketches have been with former atheists and agnostics. If you are in one of those categories, please contact him at: [dfishertwr@comcast.net](mailto:dfishertwr@comcast.net).

His favorite response was from a young Chinese who had received the full atheistic indoctrination from elementary school through university. The first time he heard the program, it made sense for a few minutes. But when he heard the ridiculous word “God,” he snapped the radio off in disgust. After coming back in subsequent weeks, he wrote that he had found himself incrementally changing from a complete skeptic, to a “half-skeptic/half-believer.” He concluded, “Now I’m a complete believer. You have rescued a dead soul.”

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