Alternative Energy & Design/Evolution Symposia Headline Annual Meeting

With gasoline prices hitting record levels as we go to press, this year’s major theme of “Alternative Energy Resources, Conservation, and the Environment” assumes heightened urgency. All technologists who seek to address these problems must consider resource exhaustion and unintended consequences. But Christian technologists must do more; we also must consider cultural values and include biblical guidelines for the human endeavor.

Three special symposia will develop the major theme:

1. “Sustainable Energy Options” Program chair Ken Touryan reports that two plenary speakers will address renewable energy, hydrogen, and nuclear power.

Stanley R. Bull is Associate Director for Science and Technology at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). His 30 years of experience in energy and related applications have included renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation systems, bioenergy, medical systems, and nondestructive testing.

2. “Technology: The Solution or the Problem?” Symposium Chair and Assistant Program Chair Jack Swearengen reports that two plenary speakers will address serendipity, providence, unintended consequences, and emergent effects from rapid introduction of new technologies (including energy technologies), and will consider biblical guidelines for the enterprise.

Egbert Schuurman holds degrees in civil engineering and philosophy, and is currently professor of Reformational Theology at the technological Universities of Delft and Eindhoven. He is also a member of the Senate of the Dutch Parliament. Schuurman is author of several books on the philosophy of technology, the latest of which is Faith and Hope in Technology (Pater Noster 2001).

Robert Wauzzinski holds a M.Div. and a Ph.D. in religion and economics, and is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). Presently assistant professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Ball State U., Muncie, IN, Wauzzinski specializes in the philosophy of economics and the philosophy of technology. His most recent book is Discerning Prometheus:

New Executive Director “Returns the Favor”

Like thousands of adolescents, Randy Isaac experienced conflicts between what he learned at church about creation and what he was being taught at school. But unlike many, he found satisfying resolutions. He graduated in 1972 from Wheaton C. with a harmonized understanding of his faith and his scientific knowledge, and a desire to “return the favor” by becoming a professor to help the next generation resolve similar conflicts.

After completing his doctorate in solid-state physics at U. of Illinois in 1977, Randall D. Isaac found no faculty positions available at Christian colleges. Accepting a position at IBM “as a last resort to put food on the table,” he rose through the ranks to become Founding Director of the corporation’s Austin (Texas) Research Laboratory, which developed the world’s first microprocessor capable of operating at gigahertz speed. In 1996 he became Vice-President of Systems, Science, and Technology at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center. During the last two years, he has been responsible for defining and establishing corporate alliances for IBM’s silicon technology business. Professional colleagues have recognized his

Side Dishes: Tours of Gettysburg, Amish Country, etc.

In addition to a full menu of food for thought on campus, there will be organized side trips to the Gettysburg battlefields of the Civil War, the National Civil War Museum, and Lancaster County Amish country. Also within easy driving distance is Hershey Chocolate World (offering a tour of the Hershey factory and a major amusement park).
It is a great privilege to have the opportunity to serve as your executive director. The ASA is a unique and valuable forum for integrating science and Christian faith, bringing together Christians in science from a broad spectrum of interests. We have a tremendous opportunity to bring our resources to bear on critical issues in our society that relate to science and Christianity.

Marta and I have personally derived much of our spiritual growth through people and books discovered through ASA. I first learned about ASA as a student at Wheaton C. where I was particularly impressed by Richard Bube’s lecture series and his books. Marta’s father, Don Ebeling, was a long-time member of ASA and stimulated many discussions based on ASA articles and books. During the 1980s, the active NY metropolitan local section, led by Jim Neidhart, was a pivotal source of insight for us. We are committed not only to continue our learning process but to ensure that ASA reaches out to those seeking to understand our God and our relationship to him.

In June, I will be retiring from IBM after nearly 28 years in the silicon technology industry. Marta and I plan to move to the Ipswich area in July and begin full-time work with the ASA on August 1, just in time for the annual meeting. We look forward to meeting many of you at Messiah C., Aug. 5–8, for what is shaping up to be an excellent conference on critical issues of caring for God’s creation.

ASA is first and foremost a “Fellowship of Christians in Science.” As scientists, we frequently work in environments where few colleagues are Christians. As Christians, we usually worship in churches where few members are scientists. Through ASA we find fellowship as Christians who are committed to Christ and have common interests as scientists. We encourage each other and seek to help each other grow in our spiritual lives as well as effectively address issues relating science and Christian faith.

In future columns, I plan to cover various areas of activities and opportunities for ASA. But first, I would like to hear from you.

• What do you as ASA members want the organization to be?
• What value do you derive from your membership and how can we increase that value?
• What role would you like to see ASA play in our Christian colleges? Our universities? Our industrial laboratories? Our churches? Our public society?
• How would you be willing to help the ASA achieve those goals?

Please send your thoughts to me at Randy@asa3.org and be sure the ASA office has your correct email address. We’ll be relying much more on the electronic use of electronic communication in the future.

Above all, I’d like to ask that all of us spend time in prayer, asking for God’s guidance as we seek to bring glory and honor to our Creator.

Special Offer to ASA Members

The journal Science & Christian Belief, sponsored jointly by two UK based organizations, Christians in Science and the Victoria Institute, embarked on electronic publishing in 2004 and the e-version is proving highly popular.

The current e-version (April 2005) is at www.scienceandchristianbelief.org together with all issues back to the start of the journal in 1989. The materials are fully searchable and the site also contains free sample articles and instructions to authors. Each volume contains two issues per year of 96 or 112 pages published in April and October.

The current April 2005 issue contains the first in a new series of Boyle Lectures now being given each year at St. Mary-le-Bow Church, London. The published lecture “Darwin, Design and the Promise of Nature” is by John Haught, prof. of theology at Georgetown U., and published responses are from Profs. Simon Conway Morris, Alister McGrath, R. J. Berry, and Paul Helm, together with a final response from Prof. Haught.

The issue also includes an article on technology, debate items, correspondence, and 18 book reviews. The 16 extra pages to cope with all the material represent exceptionally good value.

Christians in Science is offering ASA members a 25% discount on published annual subscription rates as follows ($ rates using the current exchange-rate):

• e-only version: £12.50 ($23.75)
• Hard copy version by air-mail: £16.00 ($30.40, includes postage)
• Both versions: £18.00 ($34.20)

To take advantage of this special offer, e-mail the CIS Membership Secretary at membershipsecretary@cis.org.uk explaining which option you require and providing your ASA membership number. The secretary will sort out the payment details with you, which can be done by credit card, and arrange for you to receive the necessary password for access to the e-version. If you receive no reply within a week, please let the CIS Development Officer know at: ruthb@cis.org.uk.
Annual Meeting from p. 1.

The Cry for Wisdom in our Technological Society (Rosemont Publishing 2001).

Speakers for this four-session special symposium will consider the overall conference theme from a biblical perspective, address limits (social, ethical, spiritual, and other) to technology, and challenge us to think more deeply about appealing to technology to solve problems that perhaps would be better addressed as social, political, or ethical issues. This symposium is sponsored by the Affiliation of Christian Engineers in Science and Technology (CEST).

3. “Appropriate Technologies for Underdeveloped Countries” This session, organized by Walter Bradley of Baylor U., is designed to encourage us to think creatively about the unique opportunities that Christians in science and engineering have to be faithful to the biblical exhortation to serve Christ by serving the poorest of the poor.

Some papers will present specific examples of engineering projects that have been conducted by Christians to meet the physical as well as the spiritual needs of people in underdeveloped countries. Other papers will address the development of new, appropriate technologies that have the potential to significantly affect the lives of whole countries.

Bernard Amadei, professor of civil, environmental, and architectural engineering at the U. of Colorado at Boulder and Founder and Director of Engineers without Borders, will be a plenary speaker. In just three years, this new organization has grown to over 1,000 members with projects in 33 developing countries around the world, including major involvement in reconstruction of tsunami-ravaged areas. The organization’s web page is www.awb-international.org.

Bradley will begin each session with a 3–4-min. example of a newly developed technology that has impacted millions of people in developing countries and in some cases has changed the culture. He comments: “I want to be able to do this to provide a bigger vision for the impact that we can have if we ask God to give us creativity to serve in this way.”

“Models for Creation: ID and TE”

As a bonus, the conference will devote Sunday afternoon to a symposium organized by John Bloom of Biola U. that will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of two creation models: Intelligent Design and Theistic Evolution.

William Dembski, Loren Haarsma, Keith Miller, John Bracht, Richard Sternberg, and Darrel Falk will clarify where these models agree with each other, where they potentially conflict, and where further work is necessary to determine which model best correlates with how God actually acts in nature. Basic questions such as the scientific nature of the ID model, ID’s potential to benefit research, and the most significant evidence for ID and TE will be addressed. The format will provide a friendly and open discussion among Christian brothers, and is not intended to be a hostile or divisive debate.

Following the invited talks, the symposium will include an extended question-and-answer time with the panel of speakers, in order to promote fruitful discussion of these issues.

Schiavo Case Escalates Demand for “Living Wills”

The Christian Medical Association (CMA) is making available at no cost a guide to end-of-life health care that includes an advance directive form for patients and their families.

CMA Executive Director David Stevens said:

One of the reasons the Terry Schiavo case has been so difficult to decide has been the absence not only of a written advance directive, but even more importantly, the absence of a designated proxy to protect her wishes in the event of incapacitation. We want to help and encourage patients and family members—and especially people of faith—to decide these issues before a crisis arises.

If a patient is dying, artificial nutrition may provide comfort care to the patient who can experience comfort, and respect care to the patient who cannot receive comfort. The removal of a feeding tube should never be done with the intent to cause death.

Associate Executive Director Gene Rudd explained:

Christians should remember … to be absent from the body is to be with the Lord. Physical death need not be resisted at all costs.

At the same time, Christians must also weigh the service and stewardship responsibility of continued living. The patient’s decision should be made after thoughtful consideration of his or her responsibilities to God, family, and others.

CMA board member Al Weir, a practicing oncologist and author of When Your Doctor Has Bad News, noted:

When the diagnosis is serious, it’s the patient’s focus, not the diagnosis, that indicates whether one will slip into despair and hopelessness or have the courage to live each day fully. Resilience of spirit can powerfully influence recovery and healing, and within our crisis, the choices we make are important.

CMA offers a free downloadable Advance Directive form and explanatory guide on their web site: www.cmdahome.org/index.cgi?BISKIT=39756168&CONTEXT=art&art=2976. The association also offers analysis, position statements, and resources on end-of-life issues.

Web Sites of Interest

- Great shots for cosmology studies: http://spacewander.com/USA/English.html
- Ken Van Dellen
- Oskar Gruenwald
Townes Wins Templeton Prize

Nobel laureate Charles Hard Townes has been awarded the 2005 Templeton Prize. Now 89, Townes shared the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1964, after he pioneered research into the properties of microwaves, subsequently producing the maser and later co-inventing the laser. His research has led to an array of inventions and discoveries now in common use in medicine, telecommunications, electronics, computers, and other areas.

Townes recalls the early hostility between academia and religion. He said at the award ceremony that when he was a graduate student at Caltech, “Even my professor who was directing my research jumped on me for being religiously oriented.” Later the MIT alumni journal published Townes’ views, and a prominent MIT alumnus wrote the editor that if he ever published anything like it again on religion, he would never have anything more to do with MIT. “This, of course, only encouraged me to provide many other talks and articles on the subject as I was invited ...”

Jumpstarting a Movement
The March 9 Templeton press release states:

It was the 1966 publication of his seminal article, “The Convergence of Science and Religion” in the IBM journal THINK, however, that established Townes as a unique voice—especially among scientists—that sought commonality between the two disciplines. Long before the concept of a relationship between scientific and theological inquiry became an accepted arena of investigation, his nonconformist viewpoint jump-started a movement that until then few had considered and even fewer comprehended. So rare was such a viewpoint at the time that Townes admitted in the paper that his position would be considered by many in both camps to be “extreme.” Nonetheless, he proposed, “their differences are largely superficial, and ... the two become almost indistinguishable if we look at the real nature of each.”

That article was soon republished in the Christian Science Monitor and other journals, including the Sept. 2003 issue of Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith. It appears, along with “How and Why Did It All Begin?” (from the Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation, March 1972) and three other essays in the “Spiritual Views from a Scientific Base” section of his book Making Waves (Woodbury, NY: American Institute of Physics, 1995).


How appropriate that the pioneer of coherent light should help others to understand the coherence between light gleaned from scientific discovery and that obtained from religious insights.

Spiritual Dialogue Gaining Popularity

- The journal Skeptical Inquirer says:
  We can barely keep our “Science and Religion” issues on newstands. They generate more reader mail than any other subject we’ve covered in 28 years of revealing what’s known about the unknown.

- The January 4 Chronicle of Higher Education summarized an article from the journal Religion and Education. Scholars at Goucher C. in Maryland and Knox C. in Illinois discuss student spirituality and the need for physical spaces for religious activity on their campuses. Students overwhelmingly said they wanted solitude and privacy in their spiritual experiences, and places on campus dedicated to spiritual concerns are needed. Knox’s L. Sue Hulet states:
  Our celebration of pluralism, tolerance, and diversity is not much of a party, if we say, “Sorry, religion is too scary, divisive, controversial, emotional or other-oriented for us to allow a space dedicated to its activities.”

- The Columbus, OH, Board of Education approved a policy allowing students to wear scarves and other head coverings, if for religious reasons. Students can pray during school but cannot leave class to do so. The school will offer alternative lunch entrées, providing other options for students who cannot eat pork. Religious groups may use school facilities after hours as long as space is available, and students may distribute religious materials on a limited basis. School-led religious clubs can meet on school grounds during non-instructional time, but staff members may not participate. Like other groups, such clubs must have a faculty advisor.

An Exclusively American Phenomenon?
Physics Today, which characterized the discussions of science and religion as an exclusively American phenomenon. It suggests that scientists in other countries have no problem compartmentalizing the two. Paul believes the issues we discuss are universal, not just American, and that compartmentalism is one among many philosophical options, and it has various drawbacks and negative consequences. The issues are not culturally conditioned and relativized.

Paul proposes that we might think about forming a new affiliation called the International Scientific Affiliation, or something similar, that would clearly communicate to the world that our concerns are universal and global. This would not replace ASA. Rather, it would be created as another affiliate of ASA, like the Affiliation of Christian Geologists. It would offer an opportunity for Christians from all countries to join an organization in science and religion and have an international flavor. Web technology could support the discussions.

We’d Like Your Response
If you live outside the U.S. and are interested in this topic and would like to help with the groundwork, contact Paul Arveson (info@christianmind.org).

ASAers in Action
• Joe Carson was commended in a Nov. 2004 letter to the editor in the Oak Ridger. Members of the Department of Energy stated:

  No other career DOE employee, in our opinion, played a more important role in the passage of the original Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 … [His] self-sacrificial efforts on our behalf, on behalf of the health and safety of DOE workers … are truly heroic. Joe decided to confront DOE culture of reprisal— for our sake and yours—because his Christian faith informs him that “faith without works is dead,” and that “suffering for righteousness sake” is not necessarily to be shunned. Because he believes one’s work matters to God, to Joe “engineering ethics” is not just an abstract concept, but an expression of virtues as faith, hope, and love.

  The letter was signed by Terrie Barrie, Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups. ✧ Paul Arveson

• The History and Philosophy of Science program at Case Western Reserve U. in Cleveland, OH, sponsored a symposium “Evolution and God: 150 years of Love and War Between Science and Religion” last October. George Murphy spoke on “Evolution and the Centrality of the Cross,” and Kansas State U. geologist Keith Miller presented “God’s Evolving Creation: Taking both Science and Theology Seriously.” While it has been a century and a half since Darwin published On the Origin of Species, effects of that work continue to reverberate throughout theology, philosophy and politics. The press release stated:

  Many Americans today hear more about evolution from evangelists opposed to the idea than they do from science teachers, and states continue to argue over whether, and how, evolution should be taught in high schools. The symposium, free to the public, was an attempt to deal with these issues.

• Whispers of Contradiction, a haunting and evocative electronic art installation, opened in April at the Mizel Center for Arts and Culture in Denver and continues through June 6. A collaboration between scientific and artistic minds, the exhibition presents the tensions found in the languages of scientific realism and sacred Scripture. This began with physicist David Oakley, prof. at Colorado Christian U., who has published on nuclear physics, neutrino astrophysics, and the theology of science. This unique presentation draws participants in through a progressive layering of sound, typography, motion graphics, and video. The result is an immersive space that engages viewers aurally, visually, spatially, and conceptually. Visit www.whispersofcontradiction.com.

New Executive Director, from p. 1

Randy describes his faith as “permeating all aspects of life.” His favorite verses are “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” (Rom. 1:20) and “For in him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). He looks forward to his new opportunity, to foster the ASA membership’s attempts to focus the dual lenses of Scripture and nature on a range of subject matter, and to aid the scientific and Christian communities to develop a harmonious integration of science and theology.

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.
ASAers on the Move

Timothy Chen, the ASA Fellow who started the ASA Dallas-area meeting group, recently moved to St. Louis to begin a ministry as pastor of St. Louis Chinese Gospel Church. He is also interested in starting a local section of ASA in the St. Louis area. Local members can contact him at tar_timothy_chen@yahoo.com. Tim welcomes ASA members to visit his church and attend the English service at 9:45 Sunday mornings. Members of the Dallas Area Section are very grateful for his guidance and will miss his leadership.

ASAers in Print


* Thomas Key has completed his extensively revised and enlarged 26th edition of his *Book of Mormon in the Light of Science, Doctrine & Covenants in the Light of Science and Pearl of Great Price in the Light of Science*. They are available on the Internet at www.tdkey.com. ASA members and their friends are welcome to print portions from this web site. Key reports, “Interestingly, they have been well over 2,900 hits on the Internet just in the last 12 months on these three books. Please pray for the testimony to our Mormon friends.”

* The Scopes trial cast high-profile lawyers Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan in what some have termed “the trial of the century,” testing a Tennessee law banning the teaching of evolution in schools. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of this significant event, Messiah C. historian of science Ted Davis provides a historical context in “Science and Religious Fundamentalism in the 1920s,” published in the May-June issue of *American Scientist* 93 (2005): 253–60.

ASAers on the Web

The Episcopal Church’s Committee on Science, Technology and Faith has produced a “Catechism of Creation” for study in congregations. It is available online at www.dfms.org/19021_58393_ENG_HTM.htm?menupage=58392. Readers may use it online or download it to their computers; a printer-friendly version is also available. Each of the Catechism’s three sections can be accessed separately. The first, “Theology of Creation,” presents the doctrine of creation as derived from the Bible and early Christian theology. It is organized around the Nicene Creed. The second, “Creation and Science,” looks at the relationship between theology and modern science. The Big Bang and evolution are highlighted, along with theological reflections on these paradigms and examining challenges posed by young-earth creationism and intelligent design. The final section, “Caring for Creation,” looks at biblical principles of earth-keeping and suggests ways that individuals and congregations can help to care for God’s earth.

Each section is accompanied by an extensive bibliography of relevant books, articles, and web sites. They include a number of works published by evangelicals, including ASA members. Eventually, links from the Catechism will take the reader to brief definitions of unfamiliar terms or to more extensive articles on topics highlighted in the Catechism.

ASA members Phina Borgeson and Robert Schneider served on the subcommittee that drafted the Catechism. The Committee hopes that Episcopalians and others will find the catechism a useful resource for becoming more familiar with an important topic—the doctrine of creation and its relationship to modern science.

Coming Events


May 17. “Religion, Spirituality and Health,” Loma Linda, CA. Speaker: Harold Koenig. Contact Dianne Butler: dbutter@sp.liliu.edu

May 20. Conference on Law and the Life Sciences: “Frontiers in Health, Environmental Protection and Biological Innovation,” Minneapolis, MN. Contact Alexandra Glynn: glynn005@umn.edu; (612) 625-3482


June 17–20. “Integrative Healing: Bringing the Biological, Psychological and Spiritual Dimensions Together in Care,” Eastham, MA. Speaker: Ted Davis. E-mail: prolearning@behavior.net; (888) 394-9293

Ted Davis

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MAY/JUNE 2005
June 20–July 1. “Keeping and Talking the Word: Scripture Memorization for Contemplation, Formation and Proclamation,” Grand Rapids, MI. Speaker: Timothy Brown. E-mail: seminars@calvin.edu; (616) 526-8558

June 23–29. “Science, Mysticism and the Mind: Transforming Life as We Live It,” Colorado Springs, CO. Contact Celia Coates; (303) 425-4625


June 27–July 1. “Faith in the Classroom: Christian Perspectives on Teaching and Learning,” Grand Rapids, MI. Speaker: David Smith. E-mail: seminars@calvin.edu; (616) 526-8558 www.calvin.edu/scsa/2005/seminars


July 5–22. “Keeping and Talking the Word: History of a Dialogue,” Ancaster, ON. Contact Wayne D. Norman: (847) 317-8180 Chicago, IL. E-mail: info@cbhd.org; seminars@calvin.edu; (616) 526-8558

July 6–11. “Consciousness and Healing: Essential Shifts for Personal, Social and Global Transformation,” Alexandria, VA. Contact Rose Welch: RoseWelch@noetic.org; (707) 779-8238

July 11–15. CCCU Philosophy Workshop, Grand Rapids, MI. Speakers: C. Stephen Evans, Eleanore Stump. E-mail: seminars@calvin.edu; (616) 526-8558

July 14–16. “Genetic and Reproductive Ethics: The Scientific Cutting Edge and the Everyday Healthcare Challenges,” Chicago, IL. E-mail: info@cbhd.org; (847) 317-8180


July 30–Aug. 6. “Varieties of Spiritual Transformation: Scientific and Religious Perspectives,” Institute on Religion in an Age of Science, Star Island, NH. Contact Karl Peters: kpeterson90@aol.com; (860) 653-3754

Long-time ASAers

Congratulations to our 45-yr. members!


Congratulations to our 40-yr. members!


With the Lord

- Richard J. Rommer of Pearl River, NY, passed away April 7, 2004, at age 84. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII and attained the rank of Lt. Col. Ret. Air Force Reserve after 36 years. He taught geology and meteorology at City C. of NY, Columbia U., Long Island U., Marshall Law C., Nyack C. and Kings C. He participated in many research studies through the years in these subjects.

- Robert Frank DeHaan entered the Lord’s presence Jan. 29 at age 79 in Grand Rapids, MI. After graduating from Calvin C. and earning a Ph.D. from the Committee on Human Development of the U. of Chicago, he pursued a lifelong career in education. He directed the Gifted Child Project in Quincy, IL, for several years. In 1955, he organized the Psychology Department at Hope C., Holland, MI. While there, he initiated an Urban Semester Program for students from the Great Lakes Consortium to study in Philadelphia, PA. In 1968 he moved to Philadelphia to direct that program. He later set up a Masters in Social Work program at Lincoln U., directing it until his retirement. DeHaan authored several books and wrote a column for The Banner for many years. He gave several papers on the subject at the ASA. Most recently he wrote Into the Shadows: a Journey of Faith and Love into Alzheimer’s, an intimate account of his experience with his wife Roberta’s struggle with that disease. His obituary in the Grand Rapids Press says:

He was a man of surpassing kindness, compassion and courage. Anne Deckard and Jim Ruark.

- Walter Colin Johnson went to be with the Lord on Feb. 19 at age 83. Born in England, he graduated from Malvern C. and U. of London Guys Hospital. He served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and practiced medicine in England for several years. He moved to the U.S. in the 1950s and served on the staffs of several New England hospitals. He was a pioneer in treating depression and was a member of the American Psychiatric Association, the Massachusetts Medical and Dental Society and the Christian Medical and Dental Society. He attended Park Street Church in Boston and later First Congregational Church in Boxford, MA.

On a 1982 ASA questionnaire he wrote:

We should stress inerrancy not only in matters of faith and practice, but also in science, history, and geography. At the same time, we should not bend science to fit into rigid or preconceived notions of biblical interpretation …

His papers in the Journal of the American Scientific Affiliation included “Only a Machine, or Also a Living Soul?”, “Depression: Biological Abnormality or Spiritual Backsliding?”, “A Neglected Modality in Psychiatric Treatment: the Mono-amine Oxidase Inhibitor,” and “Demon Possession and Mental Illness.”

Johnson made several missionary trips to South America.

Welcome, New Members!

February–March 2005

Crane, Michelle C –Rome, GA
Hall, John –Victoria, BC Canada
Hassing, Gordon S –Cincinnati, OH
Huebner, Donald A –Larkspr, CO
Lechner, Paul –Fredericktown, OH
Miller, David –Durham, NC
Overholt, Eric A –Bath, PA
Shane, Victor –Summerland, CA
Simon, Clifford –Irvine, CA
Standefer, Thomas R –Azle, TX
Van Dyke, John –Langley, BC Canada
Walley, Stephen M –Cambridge, UK
Weibe, Phillip H –Langley, BC Canada
Welban, Megan –Sacramento, CA
Willson, Leanne –Edmonton, AB Canada
Yen, Stanley –Vancouver, BC Canada
Zuercher, Sharla –Ashland, OH
Antony Flew Renounces Atheism

Long known for his atheistic position, British philosophy prof. Antony Flew says new information compels him to recognize a creator-God. Criminal law operates on the basis of “presumption of innocence,” considering a person innocent until proven guilty. Flew taught the “presumption of atheism,” assuming God not to exist until proven otherwise. He is now satisfied by the preponderance of evidence.

Flew now considers himself a deist, seeing strong evidence for a God who “has the characteristics of power and also intelligence.” But in an interview in the Winter issue of *Philosophia Christi*, the journal of the Evangelical Philosophical Society, he told Liberty U. philosopher and historian Gary Habermas, “There is no room either for any supernatural revelation of that God or any transactions between that God and individual human beings.” Last May he told the panel that he considers both the Christian God and the Islamic God “omnipotent Oriental despots—cosmic Saddams Hussein.”

His emergence from atheism involved long-term personal contact with C. S. Lewis, whom he remembers as “an eminently reasonable man.” He also saw pragmatic benefits from the influence of John and Charles Wesley:

Methodism made it impossible to build a really substantial Communist Party in Britain and provided the country with a generous supply of men and women of sterling moral character … Its decline is a substantial part of the explosions both of unwanted motherhood and of crime in recent decades.

Flew also is not convinced that evolutionary theory provides a reasonable explanation of “the first emergence of living from nonliving matter.” He adds that, even if the first living form had come into existence, it would have no ability to produce offspring.

It now seems to me that the findings of more than 50 years of DNA research have provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to design. The complete interview, “Atheist Becomes Deist,” is online at www.biola.edu/antonyflew

Flew to Speak at C. S. Lewis Institute

Flew will be participating in the C. S. Lewis Summer Institute, July 24–30 at Oxford U. and July 31–Aug. 6 at Cambridge. Hal Poe notes that on Friday, July 29:

Flew will be speaking on his change of mind and on C. S. Lewis’s debate with Dr. Anscombe on Miracles. He was a member of the Socratic Club when Lewis was president and he attended the debate. ☉ Hal Poe