

Chronicles of Diversity

11 May 2005; Volume 7, Number 19

Chronicles of Diversity
Contact

Information:
©2005

*non-commercial education &
forwarding encouraged, all
other rights reserved*

*Jerry Bannon
Wonder Springs
7950 Seward Park Ave. S.
Seattle, Washington USA
98118
phone: 206.660.0697
email:
bannon@createleaders.org or
chronicles@createleaders.org*

*Please forward prayer requests
to: prayer@createleaders.org*

*Washington State Charity
Number: 7529*

*Visit our web site at:
www.createleaders.org
www.wondersprings.com*

*To subscribe to these free
weekly messages please send
us an email*

A Rare Breed

This week begins our seventh year of the Chronicles of Diversity publishing odyssey. An as with all things we try to accomplish, even for the best of intentions, daily, weekly, and yearly events shape our outlook, our moods, our present, and future potential.

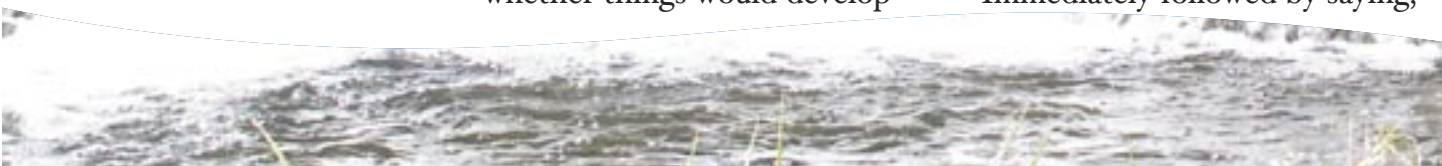
When I began writing, my goal was to give Christian missionaries a little something from home, or the USA, every week to say that someone here cares enough to spend a few hours composing something which might cause you to think, or reflect, or just amuse yourself, in those times when you would like to get away from a part of the world in which you are overly engrossed.

About the time I began, I was fortunate enough to watch a discussion on Canadian television which had as its focus the future of news and commentary in the information society. The people involved were unable to decide whether things would develop

that would make news more story telling, or whether in a world with few facts, that good information would become a dominating influence.

What the panel assumed was that both were mutually exclusive endeavors. My take was, "Why can't you tell the story in such a fashion that people will enjoy spending the time to read, watch, or listen, and at the same time put some facts and figures which might be somewhat educational and edifying?" That was the goal, and at least within the capacity of this computer keyboard and a mind that at times isn't always in sync with the fingers, we have done a much better job than I would have guessed.

Along this journey there have been some moments that could not be anticipated, like the time Dr. Aldea, after explaining the situation with my ascending Aorta, and describing how my characteristics were similar to a man "who isn't here anymore." Immediately followed by saying,



“When should we schedule you for surgery to have it replaced.

The surgery I was gifted enough to have endured was not the patch ‘um up and send them home kind of event. It either works, or you find yourself in your eternal situation. All I can say is, there never was a doubt in my mind that I would come out on the back side with a new outlook on life and death. Which over the months since that early February morning in 2003, has developed well beyond my most optimistic predictions.

Before my operation I had foolishly boasted that I physically could do things I couldn't do when I was twenty five. Today the difference I find in my re-plumbed body compared to the boasting one, is mind boggling. I can't ever remember feeling so good and so strong. This, when I still haven't had time to approach the physical conditioning of my pre-operation days. Compared to those earlier days, the way I feel today is almost undefined. The great blessing in this is the scar on my chest, because of the scar tissue still gives me a little reminder by stretching and tingling at times. It is good to be reminded of what I have been through, or what God's grace can take you through.

The world has changed dramatically also since I began this endeavor. September 11, 2001 changed America at least for the foreseeable future. We now are engaged in a War on Terror, and a war in Iraq. But now after these years have elapsed, people, while aware of the terror threat, carryout their lives, as American tradition has dictated perhaps from the founding of this republican experiment.

I have also learned a lot about this land physically. This is especially true of the American West. Or as Montana author Wallace Stegner calls his book, the land “Beyond the Hundredth Meridian.” Long before I began Chronicles, I believed strongly that America's future lies in this dry land. But what I have learned recently is that that future can not be developed by utilizing the plans and schemes of the right and left coasts.

We have just completed our longest series, on Phylogenesis. While this wandering turned into various meadows and forded a few streams, the forest and the trees indicate that creation

governs our lives much more than we understand. Therefore, through the application of creation's natural law and common grace we are forced to diversify over time into the unique personalities that God created each of us to be.

As we discussed time and time again, in the land beyond the hundredth meridian (approximately west of Minot, North Dakota) in order to cope with your life's experiences, you have to be able to cope with certain aspects of nature, which in all your best efforts you can not, nor will you ever be master. In other words, for the right and left coasts, there is a God, and you are not Him.

Now the specific revelation of God as a Him, you can not get from creation, you must get from the specific revelation of God in the Bible. If you do not know and have not learned the specific revelation of God in the life and death of Jesus Christ for the sins of mankind, you will have to deify natural things to make your life meaningful.

Historically, not only in America but throughout the world. those deities have been other animals, plants, and creation itself. The call of the church, especially the Protestant church is to convert those minor god's of our imagination into the living personality of Jesus Christ the Messiah. Savior not only for mankind, but also for all creation.

The evangelical church however, has focused on how to live the materially fulfilled Christian life by being converted to the Christian religion and “asking Jesus into your heart” so that you can become the “successful person God created you to be.”

The problem with this systematic applied theology is that it only works in the cities and on television, where true reality is an illusion. Hence, this theology dangerously teaches in the worst case, or dumbly implies in its more virulent form, that you create and control your vision of reality. In other words, most of the tenets of modern evangelicalism don't work in the real world.

Now east and west coast media personalities have looked at the American heartland and seen a Christianity much more alive than the Christianity they are familiar with. The liberal wing of the Democratic Party is trying to get religion to capture this vote in the ensuing elections. The conservative spin doctors of the Republican Party continue to

look for issues to maintain the base, so that they can hold on to political power and to change the political landscape of America for the indefinite future.

This Social Security plan of the President being a thinly veiled attempt to do just that, by beginning the piecemeal dismantling of America's only national community program, and the Democratic Party's only claim to political fame. So instead of a simple plan which increases payroll taxes commiserate with income, Dubya proposes to give people "more control over their own money."

This vision of the American dream however, again only works in the monied world of financial liquidity. It does not work in the small towns where everyone shops at WalMart out of necessity, and where the so called low paying WalMart jobs probably produce more community health and wealth, than the subsistence work they replaced.

In the real world of natural law and common grace, there are times when you need a little help from the government and your community in order to survive. We no longer live in a society where an isolated cabin in the woods will bring you anything but eventual starvation, both economically and socially.

The religion of the successful religious life however, is what the Bible is all about. Both in the Old Testament and the New. Into that world one man walks into the Temple and over turns the tables of the money changers and declares, **"Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"**

Therefore, Jesus is not present in much of the trappings of the church today, because the trappings of formalized religion give many men an women, not only a good means of livelihood but community stature also. Now there is nothing wrong with a good income and community status, however in the church, that should come only to those who overturn all of man's religions, and replace them with the radical transformer of all of creation and man's institutions (Jesus).

Throughout the history of the western church, Christians were responsible for virtually all the advances in society's achievements. Whether it be art, literature, science, math, medicine or any other field, Christians were the leaders in raising culture to a more vibrant level. All that seemed to change however, in the mid nineteenth century. Now you might not want to call it scientific cause and effect, but at that time the church changed from being a creationist church into a church that followed the wisdom of man into the quagmire of the Slough of Religious Despair. That swamp being the ooze of evolutionary religious dogma.

As a young Lutheran I was taught some sort of evolutionary creation story that made no sense to me in my youth, and now I find utterly without merit and personally offensive. I now understand that more fundamentalist denominations had made up a even more ridiculous creation story called the "Gap Theory." The gap theory, in essence, in the first two verses of the Bible discards the principles of sound biblical exegesis on which the whole specific revelation of the Bible and the Gospel stand.

So what happened in the middle of the nineteenth century and continues pretty much until today, is that the church (and most Christians) have abandoned true science, and adopted a theme of scientific ignorance and simplistic fables.

As I was doing the phylogenesis series I continually referred to creation as giving you a revelation of God and you are not Him. What I missed however, is creation also gives you a revelation of eternity within the landscape. Creation looks old, precisely because God is eternal. If creation looked new, then we would have no need for God at all.

This brings up the question, "Then how young is the old looking earth?"

The answer to that question sort of goes back to my example from my heart surgery. "Even though things are getting older, for some reason appearances are not quite in touch with the facts. My body is working better than it ever has before."

To a certain extent, upon the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as outlined in the specific revelation of the Bible, the world has

not worked so well since the fall of mankind. Therein, could lie the reason we have not yet destroyed the world through nuclear war, or a whole host of other wise man disasters.

I wrote briefly about the ice age last week. When you are standing on the south shore of what was once glacial Lake Columbia, you realize from your vantage point you can see not only the lake, but the great ice sheet not too many miles in the distance. You are cold, the Seattle gray sky is everywhere, the wind is howling, blowing sand and dirt are everywhere, but the ice is melting very rapidly, and periodically vast floods empty the lake and overrun the land to your south, quickly creating the scabland country of much of eastern Washington.

To put a young earth in perspective to these recent geological events, you need a Creation Scientist to study and more importantly live in the area to actually revamp the evolutionary geology in terms of the Bible and Biblical creation. A search of the online store at the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) returned no hits for the keywords scablands or Lake Missoula, the two most prominent features that have recently shaped the land of the developing tribes of the Swept Aways in eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and western Montana.

This brings us to the rarest breed in the world and in the church today. Young earth creation scientists. My politically correct SWAG (scientific wild approximate guess) is that there are probably more atheistic believing creation scientists in America today, than there are young earth creation scientists. By creation scientist, I mean someone with an undergraduate, or graduate degree, in either the biological or the physical sciences.

ICR's website says that there are thousands of such scientists around the world, but I would guess, at least according to my definition, the number in the United States is probably no more than a thousand. That is a rare breed indeed.

I still haven't answered the question of how young is the old earth. I would say that most young earth creation scientists would say small thousands rather than millions, or billions. The Bible doesn't say for sure, only that God created

the natural earth in seven literal days of time present at the moment of the creation of the triune universe of time, space, and matter.

How long in today's time would that be, is beyond the depth of this article, but there are a number of Creation Science based scenarios that also put this estimate in the small thousands.

Part of the church's escape from reason was the full scale adoption by Fundamentalism of the date for creation created by Bishop James Usher (1581-1656). Usher deduced that the first day of Creation began at nightfall preceding Sunday October 23, 4004 BC. Usher was the head of the Protestant church of Ireland among his other positions and his contribution to the Irish church he headed were considerable. Whether this dating was truly his gift to the rest of the church, time will tell.

The need for the adoption of this creation date among other equally sincere proposals, I would surmise is the desire to put the creation account into a premillennial numerology of the number seven, the biblical number of perfection. Six thousand years for creation and sin, one thousand years for a millennial reign of Christ on earth, and then eternity. If you don't need a earth history to fit a number seven paradigm, then he just has an estimate like any Christian or Jew could determine with a little homework. If however, Bishop Usher was truly only four years off in his determination, why not give infallible status to a long dead Irish Protestant leader.

Now memorable Irish Protestant church leaders are few in number, but perhaps this popish elevation is best left to the Roman Catholics who have somewhat of a method for dealing with the distinctions between divine and carnal revelations.

What is needed in the church today is not a new doctrinal Reformation, but a scientific Reformation.

If you walk into any church of any denomination, or sect today you will probably find that at least ten percent (another SWAG) of the adult congregation understands and can articulate the gospel and the essentials historic orthodox Christianity. Depending on the church that number might include the pastor, or it might not.

If our numbers for young earth Creation Scientists is at all close to correct, chance of finding

one of them present is virtually nil. Probably true Creation Scientists also tend to be drawn to denominations and churches where their young earth scientific outlook is not ostracized. So the chance of getting a real trained scientist with a good creation account is zippo. No SWAG, just fact!

In order to change the situation, we need to invoke the “Endangered Species Act” so that we can propagate more young earth Creation Scientists. The folks don’t need to be bred however, and raised to maturity. They need to be trained. A much shorter and beneficial program.

This program(s) needs to take place where each individual gets a strong and unforgettable inoculation of the power of natural law and common grace, as well as the overwhelming understanding of eternity visualized in the creation record. Therefore, it needs to take place in an environment such as Montana. After all, most Americans believe that Montana is as close to heaven as you can get on this earth. At least until they live there.

I say that because it looks as if things are rapidly coming together for me to move to the land of the Lake Swept Aways. More about that next week, but for now why don’t you, Chronicles of Diversity readers and friends, just plan on helping out in this transition, in ways you always wondered if you could, but were afraid to try.

Our last six Chronicles of Diversity articles:

Metis Economics: Time to lead; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisleadtime3-30-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: What did Jesus do?; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiswdjd4-6-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Unconscious conscience; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisunconscience4-13-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Dog Tales; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisdogtales4-20-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Urbane Urban; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisurbaneurban4-27-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Eclectic Flowers; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiselecticflowers5-4-5.pdf>