

THE FOREST HILL NEWS



**Forest Hill
Church of Christ**
3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd.
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: (901) 751-2444
Fax: (901) 751-9711
Info Line: (901) 531-8849
www.foresthillcofc.org

Elders:

Anthony D. Callahan
Jim D. Crowe
Floyd M. Hayes
Gregory D. Mangrum
Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister
Leonard Watson

Minister:

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit

VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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Volume 36

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Darwin in Light of 150 Years of Error (Part 2)

Kyle Butt, M.A. and Eric Lyons, M. Min.

Darwin Failed to Recognize the Limits of Change

Charles Darwin did not always believe in evolution. In fact, at one time he believed in God as the Creator. He wrote in his autobiography: "Whilst on board the *Beagle* I was quite orthodox, and I remember being heartily laughed at by several of the officers (though themselves orthodox) for quoting the Bible as an unanswerable authority on some point of morality" (1958, p.85, parenthetical item in orig.). But as he grew older, he changed his view and began to think that natural forces created the world. He described his "deconversion": "Thus disbelief crept over me at a very slow rate, but was at last complete. The rate was so slow that I felt no distress, and have never since doubted even for a single second that my conclusion was correct" (p. 87). Sadly, one of the reasons for his change in thinking came from a misunderstanding of the Bible.

In Darwin's day, the Church of England misunderstood the biblical account of Creation. The book of Genesis says that animals multiply "according to their kind" (Genesis 1:21). However, the Church of England confused the biblical word "kind" with the word "species." The Church of England taught that God had created every separate species in the world. This idea was called the "fixity of species." The problem with this view was that it simply is not true; they had misunderstood the Bible (Garner, 2009).

Darwin Finches

When Charles Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands, he discovered something that greatly interested him. He found several different species of finches which were unique to the islands. The basic differences between these species was the size and shape of their beaks. Some of the finches had short thick beaks, used to crack open seeds, while others had long, thin beaks that could be used to catch insects or drink nectar from flowers. As he studied the birds, he came to the conclusion that the finches were very similar and must have been related. In fact, Darwin believed that the species had originally diverged from a single species of birds. He guessed that long before he had arrived on the islands, a storm must have blown this flock of birds to the Galapagos Islands. To give a very simplified version of Darwin's hypothesis, he thought the birds with long beaks stayed together and ate insects, while the birds with short beaks were able to survive in different places on the islands where they could find seeds. Eventually, due to drought, climate change, and environmental pressures, each group became its own species through the process of natural selection. Darwin also thought that if nature could change one species of finch into several different species, then it could change an amoeba into a man. Here Darwin made a major mistake in his thinking. He did not realize that small changes have limits.

(continued on page 2)

Darwin in Light of 150 Years of Error (continued from page 1)

In recent years, two researchers have become well-known for their trips to the Galapagos Islands to study Darwin's ideas about the Galapagos finches. In the July 14 issue of *Science*, Peter and Rosemary Grant presented a paper titled "Evolution of Character Displacement in Darwin's Finches." The thesis of the article is that one particular species of finches (*Geospiza fortis*) "evolved" a slightly smaller beak due to the arrival of a larger-beaked finch (*G. magnirostris*) competing for larger seeds of the *Tribulus cistoides* plant during a severe drought (Grant and Grant, 2004).

Randolph Schmid, an *Associated Press* author who reviewed the Grants' article, opened his summary of their findings with these words: "Finches on the Galapagos Islands that inspired Charles Darwin to develop the concept of evolution are now helping confirm it—by evolving" (2006). Notice the subtle maneuver Schmid made in his introduction: he commingled two distinct definitions of evolution into his statement, falsely equating the two. The generally accepted definition for the concept of evolution proposed by Darwin is "huge genetic changes turning one kind of animal into another," often called Darwinism. But the "evolving" accomplished by the finches on the Galapagos Islands was simply "small changes within the same kind of organism." Unfortunately, evolutionists often use this type of sleight-of-hand tactic.

Schmid interviewed Robert Fleischer, a scientist who works with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, who stated that the Grants merely had documented an instance of "microevolution" (small changes within the same kind of organism). Yet, the titles of the articles by both Schmid and the Grants misleadingly imply that Darwinian evolution has been proven by the finch research—and Schmid goes so far as to assert this bold claim in his introductory paragraph.

What do the finches really prove? They prove that finches stay finches, and the only documented kind of "evolution" is that of small changes within the same kind of organism. The Grants have been studying the finches for 33 years, and this change in beak size, which amounted to about .6 millimeters in beak length and .8 millimeters in beak depth ("Study: Darwin's...", 2006), was "the strongest evolutionary change seen in the 33 years of the study" (Grant and Grant, 2006). Even more ironic is the fact that this "evolutionary" change to a smaller beak that allegedly helped the finches to survive might not be so helpful

after all. In the same article for *Science*, the Grants alluded to research done in 1977 when a drought struck the same island and killed many of the finches. The Grants noted: "Most finches died that year, and mortality was heaviest among those with **small beaks**" (2006, emp. added). Thus, if *G. fortis* keeps "evolving" a smaller beak size, a major drought in the future could easily spell the bird's demise.

Scientific observation has never produced a single shred of evidence that proves even the possibility of "huge genetic changes turning one kind of animal into another." In fact, all the observable evidence proves that every living organism multiplies "according to its kind" exactly as stated in Genesis 1:24, small changes in beak size, body weight, or skin color notwithstanding.

(from *Reason & Revelation, A Monthly Journal of Christian Evidences*, Feb, 2009, Vol. 29, No. 2)

(to be continued)

DVD SUMMER SERIES

Wednesday Evenings
Auditorium Class

TRUTH BE TOLD

A seminar exposing the myth of evolution

Speakers

Kyle Butt and Eric Lyons

of

Apologetics Press

June 24 - The Existence of God

July 1 - Dinosaurs: The Poster Children of Evolution
(Part 1)

July 8 - Dinosaurs: The Poster Children of Evolution
(Part 2)

July 15 - Evolutionary Hoaxes

July 22 - Creation: In Six Days or Six Billion Years?

July 29 - The Fruits of Atheism

From the Preacher

The 2009 Vacation Bible School is now history. Our thanks to all the tireless efforts of the teachers, their assistants, those who operated the craft room, those who prepared and served snacks, and our coordinators. The relevant theme, "Design Demands a Designer," was well received by those in attendance. Many visitors were present for this year's VBS, which increased our overall attendance from past years. This was greatly encouraging. We are especially grateful to Bobby O'Dell, who preaches for the Woodland Hills congregation, for leading the kids in song everyday. He was a great big hit.

Many thanks to all those involved in our work teams. Recently I attended my work team meeting, which took place on our grounds. Lyle Summitt who is our captain hosted all of us to a crawfish boil. Exciting time and good eating. Our captains do a great job organizing these gatherings and we appreciate all who participate. Most importantly these meetings involve not only fellowship, but they present opportunities to serve the Lord.

This Lord's day, the Memphis School of Preaching graduation will take place. Brother Tony Lawrence, evangelist of the Bybee Branch Church of Christ in McMinnville, Tennessee will be our guest speaker. He will preach during the Bible Study hour at 9:30am, again during worship at 10:30am, and during the commencement exercises that will begin at 6:00pm. Twenty-two students will receive their certificate of completion of studies. Congratulations to all of them!

Barry

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Forest Hill Church of Christ
3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
Memphis, TN 38125

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