

DINOSAUR WALK

CALVARY HOUSTON TEAMS WITH ICR SHARING EVIDENCE OF CREATION

Story by Debra Smith
Photos by Kendra Bates

Dinosaur fossils and replicas surrounded the worship team from both ends of the stage one Sunday morning in January at Calvary Houston, TX. Rita Schrock was enthralled. For Rita, a physicist and engineer, the opportunity to worship God within sight of a *Triceratops* skull on the right and a *T. rex* skull on the left was astounding.

A regional conference of the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) had just concluded at Calvary Houston the previous afternoon. Rita felt energized by what she had already learned, anticipating that morning's message from Dr. Henry Morris III, CEO of ICR and son of its founder Dr. Henry Morris, who died in 2006. Overwhelmed by worshipping the Creator in the presence of such impressive remains, she exclaimed, "The juxtaposition of these creatures together with the worship of our God was so impactful. Creation cries out God's greatness! To have both worship songs and God's creation in one place proclaiming His glory was incredible." Six weeks afterward, Rita remarked, "The influence of that moment remains with me. The weekend also prepared me better for when my students and kids ask difficult questions. My 8-year-old daughter was reading a National Geographic book just before the conference and asked me how the Ice Age fits in with creation. I told her to ask at the conference—and then they had a session specifically on that."

"All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your name." PSALM 66:4

A wife and mother of two, Rita recently transitioned from working at NASA to teaching high school physics. Along with her own children, she brought her 11th grade students on a field trip to the conference. One speaker was Colonel Jeff Williams, an astronaut whom Rita had worked with as a mission flight controller at NASA.

ICR has had an excellent working relationship with Calvary Chapels in the past; that and the vision of Senior Pastor Ron Hindt led to the opportunity for the church

to host an ICR regional conference. The event was one of many regularly scheduled educational opportunities offered by ICR of Dallas, TX, this year. Three speakers gave plenary sessions; a total of eight speakers addressed specific topics in breakout sessions. A "Dinosaur Walk" displayed fossils and replicas, with explanations. Children attended their own sessions.

Evidence for recent creation and a global flood were presented to about 450 people through the geological record and similar research. Debi Matthews, who oversees communications for Calvary Houston, recalled, "The speakers discussed various specific skeletons that were fossilized quickly, seemingly by catastrophe, as opposed to gradually. For example, one dinosaur was in the process of laying eggs. It was buried under sediment, and you could faintly see a developing reptilian inside an egg. Another dinosaur had fresh food in its mouth and stomach. They brought some actual fossils and replicas of others, especially the larger skeletons that are too big or delicate to transport safely." She added that the presence of shells and other aquatic fossils atop mountains indicate that catastrophic flooding, instead of long periods of time, can create monumental features such as mountains and canyons.

"But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?" JOB 12:7-9

Administrative Pastor Doug Hoffman recounted, "One of our ushers who served at the event told me how exciting



it was to learn things he could share with his children as they grow up. He and his wife have five kids and homeschool." Doug was impacted by the recent discovery that some creatures adapt over extremely short periods. "One species of fish adapts to cave life or outside life in only one generation," he explained. "If you take outside versions of these fish, which have regular eyes and coloration, and put them into a totally dark cave, the next generation is born with no pigment or eyes. Evolutionary theory says these changes take a really long time. Evidence shows, though, that this adaptability is readily available for quick use. The best explanation is that God programmed it into their DNA." Doug also found the discovery of soft tissue in some dinosaur bones revealing. "They've found bone marrow that wouldn't last millions of years," he commented.

Children's Church Pastor Charlie Quiroz previously infused a month of apologetic training annually into Calvary

Houston's Sunday school curriculum for fifth grade and up. Charlie remarked, "I was blown away by how much material ICR has, including videos explaining recent discoveries I knew nothing about. We bought almost everything they offer and will implement new resources into the classes this year. I'm excited for the teachers to have this information to prepare the kids at each level." 📧

Calvary Houston & ICR
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Top left: Children listen as an Institute for Creation Research (ICR) speaker shares evidence of creation.

Top right: Dr. Randy Guliuzza of ICR teaches how dinosaur remains validate recent creation theory.



CREATIONISM/GLOBAL FLOOD

- Many fossils formed quickly, not through a gradual process.
- Shells and aquatic fossils on top of mountains indicate a global flood.
- Some creatures adapt in only one generation—not millions of years.
- Soft tissue discovered in dinosaur bones indicates a young age.

Source: ICR