

News & Notes

Sunday, March 1, 2009

Remember in Prayer: Connie Alberson; Robbie Alberson; DesaRay Anderson; Connie Autry; Mary Bailey; J.C. Enlow; Aubrey Claire Huey; Taylor Goode; Lettie Mae Hunt; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Cindy Phelps; Alva Powell; Ann Ray; Brandon Ray; Calvin Ursery; Joan Wilkerson; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of February is spaghetti sauce.

A group of teenagers and chaperones are at the **Challenge Youth Conference** in Gatlinburg, Tennessee today.

The new edition of **House to House/Heart to Heart** has been mailed out. Copies are available in the foyer for those not on the mailing list.

Ashland Events: Today: Periodic singing at Briarcrest Extended Care at 4:00 PM;

Area Events: March 14: Youth symposium at the Bluff Road congregation; March 15-18: Gospel meeting at Bluff Road;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Guest Speaker

PM: Special Service

For the Record (February 22, 2008):

Attendance: 75 Contribution: \$1397.00 Budget: \$1459.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

P. O. Box 25
Ashland, MS 38603-0025
www.ashlandcoc.org
acoc@ashlandcoc.org

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King
Jeff Roberson
Carrol Street

ASHLAND ANNOUNCER

"Note Those Who So Walk"

Philippians 3:17

2Thessalonians 3:14

"How Come Earth Got All the Good Stuff"

Eric Lyons

Stuart Clark, of *New Scientist* magazine, recently asked the question, "How come Earth got all the good stuff?" Of all the planets in our solar system that allegedly formed naturalistically "from the same cloud of gas and dust that surrounded the sun more than 4.5 billion years ago," why is "Earth...so suitable for life" (Clark, 2008, 199[2675]:29)? Stuart acknowledged:

We know that its distance from the sun provides the right amount of heat and light to make the planet habitable, but that alone is not enough. Without the unique mix of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulphur that makes up living things, and without liquid water on the planet's surface, life as we know it could not have evolved. Chemically speaking, Earth is simply better set up for life than its neighbours. So how come we got all the good stuff? (p. 29).

How did Earth get to be just the right distance from the Sun

so that it receives “the **right amount** of heat and light to make the planet habitable” (emp. added)? How did Earth get such a “**unique mix**” of all the elements that make up living things? How did Earth “acquire its life-giving water supply?” (p. 29). Did Earth become the “just-right” planet by happenstance?

Clark said that our best hope to find clues about Earth’s origin is from meteorites, since “they formed at the same time as the planets” (p. 29). However, he admitted: “[T]here are subtle differences that are proving tough to explain. For example, the mix of oxygen isotopes in chondritic meteorites does not match those found on Earth. So far no one knows why, but since oxygen is the most abundant element in the Earth’s crust...**it is a mystery that cannot be ignored**” (p. 29, emp. added). Regarding Earth’s “life-giving water supply,” Clarke suggested that “[t]he most popular explanation is that the water arrived later, in the form of icy comets from the outer solar system that rained down in the period known as the ‘Late Heavy Bombardment.’ As yet, though, there is no firm evidence to confirm this as the source of Earth’s water” (p. 30).

Though atheistic scientists have attempted to answer these and similar questions for many years, still no one has a legitimate naturalistic explanation for what *New Scientist* calls our planet’s “biggest mysteries” (p. 28). To conclude that Earth received just the right amount of “carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, and sulphur” by time, chance, and non-intelligence is irrational. When does time, chance, and non-intelligence ever produce such wonderful effects? To conclude that the estimated 326 million cubic miles of water on Earth (“How Much Water...?”, 2008) are the result of “icy comets from the outer solar system” raining down on Earth millions of years ago is

equally absurd.

The fact is, adequate non-intelligent, random, naturalistic causes for the “just-right” Earth do not exist. The only rational explanation for the precise design of Earth, the cosmos as a whole, and life on Earth is an intelligent supernatural Creator.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork (Psalm 19:1).

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools (Romans 1:20-22).

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God” (Psalm 14:1).

REFERENCES

- Clark, Stuart (2008), “How Come Earth Got All the Good Stuff?,” *New Scientist*, 199[2675]: 29-30, September 27.
- “How Much Water is on Earth?” (2008), *Livescience.com*, [On-line], URL: http://www.livescience.com/mysteries/070621_llm_water.html.