

Easter Congress 2004

# LIVING HOPE

April 9-12

Hosted by West Kelmscott and delivered by  
**M. Hoogerdijk.**

Tickets for sale from your club representatives for \$40.

Hope to see you all there

Alyce Sibum, Ashley Diek, Timothy Kramer,  
Jeanette Janssen, and Frank Janssen

Aim:

Romans 12:2 teaches all of God's people:

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

This magazine will encourage its readers to earnestly contend for the faith, and to think and act biblically, in the good traditions of the Church of all ages. Its basis is God's word, as the Church confesses in the Three Forms of Unity. It is intended for the younger members of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, and is produced in co-operation with the Una Sancta. Subscription to the Contender is automatic with subscription to the Una Sancta.

It is not meant to be exclusively for unmarried members who still attend the Youth Bible Study Clubs, but for all those who fit within the loose parameters of 16 to 30 years of age.

Editorial Board

Eric Dekker	Bruce Huizinga
Arend Witten	Rose Vermeulen
Frank Janssen	Rosanne Numan

Editorial Address  
3187 Albany Highway Armadale  
6112  
eric.dekker@frsa.asn.au

The deadline for materials to be used in the next issue is  
April 23rd

*"contending earnestly for the faith ..." Jude :3*

## Living Hope

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." (1 Peter 1:3).

We as Christians indeed are blessed that we may have the living hope mentioned by Peter in his letters. This living hope manifests itself in the undying and permanent character trait of a confident expectation in the future blessing that, at the end of this worldly life, we may see our Saviour Who saved us through His suffering on the cross. Therefore, let us marvel at the work done by Christ to save us by grace alone from our sins.

In a week's time, Easter Congress will be convened and the topic is 'Living Hope'. The speeches, to be delivered by Mark Hoogerdijk, using 1 Peter 1:3, will delve into

this hope and combine it with the Easter message to explain what it means for us as youth in the church. It is indeed a blessing that we may have a congress like this, where the youth from Western Australia can get together and discuss God's Word. It is also a wonderful opportunity to be able to socialise with many youth that we normally wouldn't see because of distances between churches. I hope to see you all there.

We welcome Rosanne Numan from Mt Nasura to the Contender. I'm sure her input to the magazine will be invaluable. cont'd page 2

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April 2004 Contender

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Also, you may have noticed a new section in the Contender titled "On the Other Hand". This is a part of the Contender that we hope will evoke your response, so that you can send in short thoughts about the chosen topic. This discussion page is to encourage participation from people from all the churches and to have a dialogue between each other on a common topic of faith or on an issue.

In this Easter period, may we thank God for the gift of His Son, Who has set us free from the bondage of sin! Youth, let us rejoice in this blessing and live lives of thankfulness to Him for the grace He bestows on us.

~ FRANK JANSSEN

## Easter Congress 2004

West Kelmscott  
introduces

# LIVING HOPE

see back page for further details

## TSC Ameliorator Get Wisdom!

It's 0700 am. "Time to get up everyone! Breakfast is ready! Time to get ready for school!" Perhaps even as tertiary students, we still remember this early morning get up call. And didn't it displease us to no end! Still, it was necessary so that we could attend school. To learn, to get wisdom, so that in this life we can live and survive. But I'd like to point out in this article that although a professional education is important, an education in heavenly matters is far more beneficial!

'While our time has so many demands on it, we find very little time for personal Bible study.'

While at University and TAFE, we easily get caught up in the pressure to learn more and more. We have assignments, reports and exams to write. We spend our nights awake, either writing assignments, or worrying about

exams - and not to mention all the reading that we have to do! And then, while our time has so many demands on it, we find very little time for personal Bible study, for time spent with our Heavenly Father in prayer, and for time to obtain Biblical wisdom and understanding.

This problem has existed however, since the very beginning, since our fall into sin. In Genesis 1:28, God gave Adam the cultural mandate: "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves over the earth." In Paradise, man was perfect, and able to fulfil this mandate and all was going well in Paradise. However, with the fall into sin, man forsook his responsibility, denied the Creator, and joined sides with the devil. As a result, the ruler over creation had to work hard in the creation. "Cursed is the ground because of you, in toil you shall eat of it, all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...in the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground...for dust

## Snapshots

He was turning 4 years old and was as proud as punch of his new camera. And it's true, it was a beauty. Its operation was quite simple. All you needed to do was push a small disc into a slot on the bottom and click the button.

It didn't really take photos, but every time you clicked the disc turned slightly and, as you looked through the view finder you could see a picture of a wild animal. Magnificent beasts. There was a massive lion, posing proudly as it stood beneath a shady tree. Then there were a couple of elephants, gazing nonchalantly at the camera lens as they stood beneath a tree. The third photo saw some zebras looking calmly over their shoulders or peering from behind... a tree.

Hold on. There was something wrong. The photos kept going, each showing a different animal, each apparently in the wild. Each animal in its natural habitat - apparently. Yet something nagged. There was something odd about them all.

It wasn't until all the pictures had been seen that the penny dropped. It was only when you looked at these photos in their context that you suddenly realised - all the animals were standing under the same tree!! These weren't animals in the wild at all. It was a series of shots taken in a zoo. In an unnatural habitat. These were captive animals. It was all wrong.

So, here's how it worked: shots taken (and seen) individually were great. BUT, as soon as the discerning eye looked carefully and

the photos were compared with each other, it became obvious that there was a problem. And suddenly those pictures, which initially seemed to be beautiful and innocent, portrayed a very different picture...

Compare that to the snapshots we have of life in our churches. First look at the individual shots, the ones which seem so innocent, perhaps are. The materialism (it isn't really there that much is it?), the lack of passion for studying God's Word (come off it, I've been to club fairly regularly), the complaining about the length of this sermon or that paper (yeah well, it was hot you know!!), the styles of parties (please, let us be young), the preoccupation with fashion (here we go again, I knew it was coming), the insistence on being allowed to do one's own thing without worrying about causing offence to others (hang on, if I have to be careful about that I won't be able to do anything at all)...all snapshots of our attitudes. And individually, perhaps we manage to defend ourselves, convince ourselves that we are doing okay. But then put all those photos together. Have a good look at yourself, at your church. Have a good look at your friends, at your priorities.

And maybe, just maybe, you'll notice that in every photo you are standing under a tree. A tree just like the one Eve stood under.

A tree full of forbidden fruit which is oh, so tempting.

Will you eat of it too?

~ ERIC DEKKER

Visit  
<http://frca.org.au/contender/>

for recent and back issues of the contender aswell as other useful links and information.

Website

changed since early last century to improve the treatment of Aboriginal people. However no stroke from a lawmaker's pen can change the deep-seated attitudes towards non-whites yet displayed by many in society. The issues are complex, but, while immigrant Australians are not responsible for maintaining the culture of their land of origin, the richness and presence of the Aboriginal culture depend solely on what happens in Australia. Thus it is in a separate arena from the trendy interest in and study of various neighbouring and immigrant cultures.

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### 'For where racism is present, God's word does not shine.'

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No token gestures will help in what is generally a lack of culture, a sense of being unwanted in their own country. This is not helped by the multi-cultural philosophy of modern governments who, after decades of trying to make Aboriginal people see 'Christianity' and Western culture as the ideal, are now busy claiming that traditional spirituality is just as valid.

Although much more could have been said, Mr Posthuma hoped that he had set the foundation for a good discussion. He also added a final sentiment, that "If you take nothing away from here but a desire for some serious soul-searching on the matter of racial relations and a willingness to let God's Word be your guide in this, I will have achieved my aim." As an aim, it was all anyone could have asked. Did it happen? This is hard to judge of course, but we can only hope that it did, for the sake of our consciences personally and for the credibility of our church community as a whole. But even if it did happen, this is just the beginning. For when we unburden ourselves of stupid ideas, we need good, constructive insights to take their place. Therefore such a meeting is only the very beginning. The discussion about racism and culture should flourish and deepen, so that more and more people are affected and challenged, and so that our sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ might be less hindered. For where racism is present, God's Word does not shine. We are not simply offending people, although we are doing that too, but we are cutting them off from a genuine opportunity to hear of the riches of God's mercy.

~SEAN WAGENAAR

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### Does God exist? continued from page 8

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was finished in the meantime and the customer left the shop. On his way home however the customer met an old man down the road with very long hair and a beard that needed trimming badly. The man turned around and went straight back to the hairdresser and told him, "Hairdressers do not exist!"

"But I am a hairdresser and I am standing here right in front of you," answered the hairdresser.

"No!" replied the customer sternly. "Hairdressers do not exist. If they really existed there would not be any people in this world with long hair and untrimmed beards."

The hairdresser thought for a moment. Then he said, "Oh, but we hairdressers certainly do exist. It is just that people do not come to us."

"Spot on!" said the customer. "And that is exactly the point. God also certainly exists. The problem is with the people, in that they do not 'come' to Him. And that is why there is so much misery in the world!"

~AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Question: Does the customer come with a good argument about the existence of God?

you are, and to dust you shall return." Indeed, the cultural mandate remained, but, through man's own disobedience, and the resulting curse, he was no longer able to fulfil the mandate. He was expelled from the garden.

This cultural mandate and the curse continued to exist, as we see throughout Bible history. Some years after the fall into sin, there was great prosperity on the earth. We read about the house of Jabal, the father of those that dwelled in tents and had cattle. His brother was Jubal, the father of those who played musical instruments, and Tubal Cain invented instruments of bronze and iron. Indeed, there was great cultural and technical development. However, with these developments, man began to put his trust in himself once again, and he forsook his responsibility. There was rebellion against God and widespread wickedness. God sent the flood.

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### 'Let us with Heavenly wisdom, look forward to the Heavenly city that God has in store for us!'

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But, man did not learn his lesson. In Genesis 11:4-5, we read "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its tops in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves lest we be scattered upon the face of the whole earth." Once again, there were great developments on the earth in culture and technology, and men, once again rejected God's power and authority, and placed their trust in themselves and in their own capabilities. The result: "The Lord said, 'Behold, they are one people and they all have one language, and this is only the beginning of what they do and nothing they propose to do, will now be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one

another's speech'. So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the earth and they left off building the city."

Indeed, the great development in technology and art was used against the Lord. The cultural mandate had been turned around to fill man's own earthly wishes. Man did not trust in God and so did spread all over the earth to subdue it. Instead men stuck together, trusting in themselves. They built a city to show what they could do in their own power and strength. The world's population grew, but so did sin and lawlessness.

Later, in the time of Abram, there was once again, great wealth and prosperity. The people again turned their backs on God. They trusted in their own strength. And what did God do this time? He set a people apart for Himself. He told Abram to leave his country, to withdraw from the social and cultural life and to live as a stranger and sojourner. So, out of obedience to the Lord, this is what Abram did. He counted on the Lord to lead him to the promised land. He didn't expect an earthly city with all the glitter and pomp, like Babel. Abram put His trust in God to lead him to an eternal city, a city whose builder is God Himself, and which has real dignity and splendour. It was only by true faith in God that Abram could overcome the moral decline of cultural advancement, and look forward to the everlasting city that God had prepared for him (Heb 11:10).

And so we can follow the same line throughout the Old Testament. The book of Judges especially shows how God continually blessed the people of Israel with riches and prosperity, but this caused them to move away from God. And so, God sent punishments of war and affliction by enemies, till they once again confessed Him to be the only God.

Today, we also live in a time of great prosperity and wealth. Many of us attend University and TAFE, where we are constantly confronted with prosperity. We are always

pressed to learn more so that we can gain wealth and that we can be happy by making for ourselves an earthly city.

Then we must read 2 Peter 3:11-13, "Since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

Therefore, let us not become caught up in the selfish attitudes so apparent in our terti-

ary institutions. For then our punishment will not be a flood, confusion or affliction by enemies, but it will be eternal condemnation! So, let us, like Abram, overcome the temptation and moral decline of our cultural development. Let us not turn from God, and the task that He places before us in the cultural mandate, but let us with Heavenly wisdom, look forward to the Heavenly city that God has in store for us! It's 0700 am. "Time to get up everyone! Our spiritual food is waiting for us! Get dressed in the armour of God! Our schooling in Heavenly wisdom must start!"

~GRETA BALLAST

## SPYSC rebuilding of IRAQ

As a follow up from last years meeting, War in Iraq, our first meeting this year will be on the Rebuilding of Iraq.

This promises to be an eye-opening event, with Guest Speaker **Darren South** who will share his firsthand experiences of the aftermath of war in Iraq. Discover the repercussions of war, and learn about the extensive work that now needs to be done to rebuild a nation, both physically and politically.

The meeting will be held on the Tuesday 6th of April, at the John Calvin Christian College, starting at 7.30 pm, with refreshments following the meeting.

Just a bit about SPYSC...

The Social and Political Youth Study Club is a committee that aims to raise awareness of current social and political issues in the light of God's Word, and provides opportunity for the youth to learn and discuss such issues in a suitable environment.

We ask you to please support us in this by becoming members of SPYSC, for only \$10 per year. This will help us cover costs of organizing meetings, refreshments and a small gift for the guest speakers. We will hand out membership slips at our first meeting, so please join!

From the SPYSC committee:

Owen Mulder, Jamie Vanburgel, Hester Bax, Rose Vermeulen and Charlene Bosveld

## Racism a SPYSC report

On a pleasant evening in November, several people and the SPYSC committee met in the cooking room at the JCCC. Pizza and Chinese food always make a winning combination and, washed down with some fizzy drink, are all that one can ask for in anticipation of a meeting whose topic of racism at least promised a challenge. The only question that remained was whether those attending would take up the challenge, for, after throwing it out, there is not much more a topic can do.

And, as Mr P O Posthuma admitted as he began his presentation to a full room a little later, there is not much more a speaker can do either. He had been invited by the SPYSC committee to discuss this topic and this choice was a good one. It is a pity his paper has not been reproduced in full, for it would do far more justice to the issue and his work than any review could hope to achieve.

'We live in a racist country and as Reformed people we are influenced by this.'

He began by describing how richly we have been blessed with space and a society with a laid-back lifestyle. However, this amicable attitude is not extended to everyone, particularly not to Asian and Aboriginal people. We live in a racist country and as Reformed people we are influenced by this. But, also as Reformed people, we need to listen to God's Word, also about societal issues such as race and culture. And here we find evidence that God has created no group of human beings who are inferior to or less than other members of humanity. This is indeed an insult to God's creative work. Nor do we find any justification

for treating any group of people differently on the basis of their race.

And yet, we still hear racist jokes and derogatory comments at our social functions. The youth take these over and add their own stereotypes and prejudices. With very little knowledge of or experience with the people they describe, they quite comfortably make ignorant and negative generalisations in defense of their dislike of anything that is different or unfamiliar.

How do church people end up with such ignorant and judgmental attitudes? The process involves labeling, generalising and being selective with what is heard or believed in order to strengthen the adopted attitude. Basically, you see someone do something, you assume it is natural, you assume everyone who shares some characteristic with them does it too, and then you only listen to people who agree with you.

But where then, did racism come from? Ultimately it came from human reasoning, man-made theories and self-indulgent pride in one's own race. It became especially powerful in the 19th century and Australia demonstrates the terrible result of such thinking in much of her history.

The Word of God, as always, shines all the brighter against such a dark background of arrogance and hurtfulness. His Word is for all nations, without discrimination. The Holy Spirit produces Christian love for the neighbour, without distinction. He works in all cultures to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ. And He has the power to work regeneration in us, allowing us to throw off the unregenerate acts of the old life, such as the evil of racism.

For us the main victims of racism are Aboriginal people. Many laws have been

(as Sir Isaac Newton suggested) the universe to be a few thousand years old! Scientists continue to conjecture why radiation is uniformly distributed over the universe and mass is not. This is not in line with the common belief (which Einstein instigated) that the universe is expanding, but decelerating at the same time, indicating an explosion (the "Big Bang"). Obviously this radiation came from a source other than the "Big Bang", thus questioning the validity of the "Big Bang"!

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‘God works in us through His Holy Spirit so that we may see His handiwork in the correct manner.’

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And so, when we look at creation, and in particular the mind-boggling study of astronomy and astrophysics, we see much futility (Romans 20:21) in the study without proper acknowledgement of its Creator. If only they would read Isaiah every time they looked at the stars: "Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness

of His might and the strength of His power; Not one is missing" (Isaiah 40: 26).

Obviously the struggle with evolution & evolutionary cosmology is an old battle which many of us have, yet we must be wary (but not weary) of its potency. It is an age-old fight, fuelled by the antithesis which exists between God and Satan. It undermines everything we believe about the might, power, and omnipotence of God as Godhead of this universe. Admittedly, we do live in an indeterminably minute and seemingly insignificant 'cavity' of this huge universe, but the Earth is a recess which God created, and which God created for a purpose. We are to acknowledge our Creator, and although the world's inhabitants "are like grasshoppers" and God has "stretched out the heavens like a curtain" (Isaiah 40: 22) so that we may seem "dust-like" in comparison, God works in us through His Holy Spirit so that we may see His handiwork in the correct manner.

Let us therefore give God the Glory for He is the one who "...has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure..." (Isaiah 40: 12). No creature is worthy of such honour!

~ BRUCE HUIZINGA

## On the Other Hand

Does GOD exist?

A man went to the hairdresser to have his hair and beard trimmed. A discussion developed and they talked about many things. Soon they came to the question as to whether God really exists or not.

The hairdresser said: "Look, I do not believe that God exists."

The man asked, "Why do you say a thing like that?"

The hairdresser replied, "Well, someone

only has to look around, in the world in which we live, and become convinced that God does not exist. Do you think that if God really existed, there would be so many sick people around? Would there be so many handicapped children in the world? No! If He really existed there would not be any misery on this earth. I can not imagine that God would allow so much suffering."

The man was quiet for a while and did not say anything anymore. The hairdresser

continued page 10

## 42°C and no air-con Contentment

The sweat was dripping down my back, and my face was glowing red. I was hot and uncomfortable. Maybe even miserable. It was 42°C outside and Western Power had forbidden us to turn our air conditioners on. The temptation was there to turn into a soggy, whingeing mass of human flesh. It seemed the only way to ease the situation. Many people took this option...this way out.

But, at the end of the day, it hadn't proved to be a way out. If anything, the people who took this road were more grumpy and disgruntled than ever. And let's face it; what does complaining and moaning about a situation ever help? And... more importantly, what right do we have to whinge about the weather? How dare we complain the one day where we don't have air con, when every other day we fail to consider how materially blessed we are to have it!

God has blessed us abundantly. We hear that phrase often, but do we ever let it sink in and actually consider how much we have? We have a car, but are envious of the 4WD our friend has just bought. We have a wardrobe full of clothes, half of which we never wear, but still really want to buy that gorgeous jacket we saw in the shop. We have air-con but grumble about the heat when we have to go outside for five minutes.

Do we realize how wrong this is? Imagine you had given someone a house, and they complained it was too small. How hurt you would feel! What utter ungratefulness that person is showing. God also hears our complaints and they hurt Him. We also show utter ungratefulness when complaining about the food Mum has served for dinner when millions are starving.

God has given us what we need - He knows what is good for us. Consider Matthew

7:9-11, "What man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone... If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" God knows our needs and fulfils them.

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‘God has blessed us abundantly.’

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God has given us an enormous amount of wealth. We have everything we physically need, plus a lot more. Count how many new-model cars are in the car park next Sunday. See how big our houses are. It is clear God has really blessed us. But do our attitudes reflect this recognition - that God alone provides for us? When you finally have enough money to put a deposit on a house, do you recognize God's hand in this? And do you show your gratitude in giving Him the first fruits? As youth, do we contribute to the school, to Eucalypt, to Fairhaven, or do we take out a personal loan to pay off the \$15,000 car we bought?

If we approach our financial planning with the correct attitude, with the right motives, then we are more likely to be content with what we have. We won't always long for more, because we will recognize that God has already richly blessed us. And God wants us to be content. In Eccl 5:19 (NIV) it says, "Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work - this is a gift of God". It delights God when His children recognize their great blessings and praise God for them.

Let us all strive for this for "Godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Tim 6:6).

~ ROSE VERMUELEN

# 13.7 Billion Years and counting

Our solar system contains the Sun and 9 planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto). The Sun is a star, and the next closest star (Proxima Centauri) is about 4.3 light years away (distance travelled by light, travelling at 300,000 km/hr, in one year)! We call this the solar system. This system, along with another 200 billion or so visible stars (and associated systems) orbits in the middle of a galaxy, which is known as the Milky Way. The Milky Way in turn is one of billions of other galaxies, and travels through space at intergalactic speeds! Two other nearby galaxies we call the Large and Small Magellanic Cloud respectively. All of this is relatively mind-blowing in terms of dimensions and sheer expanse. Just try to imagine it!

All of this information is accepted as fact, simply on the basis of it being corroborated by the world of science. Yet, if you were to ask an astrophysicist today what the age of the universe is, they would probably tell you it was somewhere in the range of 12 to 15 billion years old,  $\pm$  a fraction of a few billion years. They say this as easily as they spread jam on a piece of toast! Surprised? I find this staggering!

In the Belgic Confession we confess that we come to know God through the Bible and through creation around us. Through the Word of God "He makes Himself more clearly and fully known to us..." (B.C. Art 2, p.442). We are led to God "...by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe; which is before our eyes as a most beautiful book, wherein all creatures, great and small, are as so many letters leading us to perceive clearly the invisible things of God, namely, His eternal power and deity..." (B.C. Article 2, p.442). As outlined in this confession, this should be enough to leave man without excuse (Romans 1: 20).

Years ago, God warned Israel against the foolishness of worshiping the stars instead of Him: "And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the heaven as a heritage" (Deut 4:19). Generally today, science has taken a hold on society as an entity which can explain our surroundings entirely. Yet, it seems to go further, in that science is also a tool through which man can explain their existence in terms of meaning and purpose! In Romans 1: 20, 21 we read:

"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 know God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

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'God can be understood "by the things that are made" ...'

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It is clear from this passage that God can be understood "by the things that are made", and that our purpose is to praise and glorify God. Although not all have access to a Bible, many around the world can see His creation. Yet a vast majority of these people do not see the "potter", but only the "clay". Creation is exactly that: God's creation - out of nothing! Many admire and acknowledge the intricacy and patterns in the 'created', while not acknowledging the power and majesty reflective of the Creator.

If the universe is 12 to 15 billion years old, then why are there only simple and complex life-forms (no intermediates)? Why do they continue to expound evolution, if the very structure of DNA (biologically) provides little to no allowance for adaptation or change? Why, as discovered by astrophysicists recently, is the universe expanding elastically (not plastically) proving that it is not expanding infinitely from a point? I suggest it is the same reason why the 'cow jumped over the moon'. Because it just isn't true! Some say that when God created everything He made it look millions of years old. But can God's creation be dated? Evolutionists today study the design of nature without acknowledging the designer appropriately.

The following story relates an encounter Sir Isaac Newton had with an atheist 'friend' whom he obviously wanted to convince about the existence of a creator:

"Sir Isaac had an accomplished artisan fashion for him a small scale model of our solar system which was to be put in a room in Newton's home when completed. The assignment was finished and installed on a large table. The workman had done a very commendable job, simulating not only the various sizes of the planets and their relative proximities, but also so constructing the model that everything rotated and orbited when a crank was turned. It was an interesting, even fascinating work, as you can imagine, particularly to anyone schooled in the sciences.

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'Evolutionists today study the design of nature without acknowledging the designer appropriately.'

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Newton's atheist-scientist friend came by for a visit. Seeing the model, he was natu-

rally intrigued, and proceeded to examine it with undisguised admiration for the high quality of the workmanship. "My! What an exquisite thing this is!" he exclaimed. "Who made it?" Paying little attention to him, Sir Isaac answered, "Nobody."

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'Many admire and acknowledge the intricacy and patterns in the 'created', while not acknowledging the power and majesty reflective of the Creator.'

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Stopping his inspection, the visitor turned and said: "Evidently you did not understand my question. I asked who made this." Newton, enjoying himself immensely no doubt, replied in a still more serious tone, "Nobody. What you see just happened to assume the form it now has." "You must think I am a fool!" the visitor retorted heatedly, "Of course somebody made it, and he is a genius, and I would like to know who he is."

Newton then spoke to his friend in a polite yet firm way: "This thing is but a puny imitation of a much grander system whose laws you know, and I am not able to convince you that this mere toy is without a designer and maker; yet you profess to believe that the great original from which the design is taken has come into being without either designer or maker! Now tell me by what sort of reasoning do you reach such an incongruous conclusion?"

This encounter highlights the mind-set of an atheist. They believe there is no God, because that is what they have been told, and they do not consider the opposite! Scientists say the fate of the universe depends on the Hubble constant (rate of expansion), and how long till the "Big Crunch". However, we know