

A Geophysicist's Response to the Evolution Message of President Pause'

One afternoon in July of 1969, Dr. Bob Berg, two of his sons, and myself were sitting on the upstairs porch of his home in College Station. I was a sixteen-year old National Science Foundation summer scholar and a contemporary of Dr. Berg's boys. We were eating a watermelon and spitting the seeds over the porch rail into the yard. There was no conversation since we had our mouths full; Dr. Berg began speaking extemporaneously. "Boys," he said, "evolution and creationism; you weren't there and you didn't see them happen. Neither one is a matter of science. Both are matters of faith. Believe what you want to."

I regard Dr. Bob Berg as the greatest living geologist just as I place Dr. Amos Nur at the apex of the geophysical pyramid. Berg's words have stayed with me all my life; I have repeated them to my children and to hundreds of my colleagues. I choose to believe that God created the universe. Certainly this portion of the known universe is relativistic; if God's acceleration were a certain percentage of "c", then several billions of years would have been seven days to Him. Any third semester physics student can perform these calculations. Give him the number of years for our observer platform, and he can tell you the acceleration necessary to yield seven days on God's platform of reference.

I guess that I am as much a scientist as the next man. I speak and publish regularly, I plan and perform physical experiments, and I have found great treasures of hydrocarbons for which I received only a nominal recompense from my employers. Speaking as a geophysicist, I see the beauty of God revealed in mathematics. The numbers "pi" and "e" are not called transcendental for nothing, you know. They permeate our entire physical environment and they are always the same.

Perhaps God used an evolutionary mechanism to create all life except for human beings. So what. A carpenter uses a system or method of construction to build a house. The direct creation of the human race is a rather more serious matter. "Men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Thomas Jefferson, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Dr. Alan Keyes tell us that our rights come from our Creator. Without a Creator, a man has only those rights granted by men more powerful than he. Without a Creator, abortion is not murder. Our noble Republic is history's greatest experiment in human dignity, save for the Swiss Confederation. Why turn it into a drab socialist state overrun with informers and policemen?

Douglas Cearley
Past President
Graham Geological Society.