

## Questioning evolution

**At times it seems our world is upside down.**

### Allen Quist

The right spin makes a lie and foolish thinking into respectable thought. We wonder; what is truth? Perhaps with the same cynical smirk Pilate had. The dominant approach is a postmodern one. It denies any claim for absolute truth. Our world is plagued by it, and it strikes at the heart of Scriptures. For Jesus stated, "Your word is truth" (John 17:17). One issue that falls into this category is evolution. Sadly those who believe what God says about the origin of the universe and our own origins are characterized as stupid, blind, and lacking intellectual insight. But many do question the assumptions of evolution and oppose the blind faith so many have in a process that has no more scientific proof than creation.

So is there a man who disproved evolution? Could that be true? Yes, it is true. His name is Dr. John Sanford of Cornell University. Sanford is the author of more than 80 scientific publications and has been granted more than 30 patents dealing with genetics.

He was largely responsible for creating the "gene gun" used for genetic engineering technology. Sanford has been twice awarded the Distinguished Inventor Award by the Central New York Patent Law Association, in 1990 and again in 1995. Sanford presented a lecture on his findings at Bethany Lutheran College in April 2009. In that presentation Sanford explained that the known mechanisms of genetics demonstrate that the central axiom of Darwinian evolution cannot be true. Since Darwinism is a primary building block of much of the postmodern's disdain for any truth, this means that postmodernism is discredited as well.

The central feature of Darwinism is the view that by means of genetic errors—called mutations—new and advanced forms of life were created. These new forms of life are said to have brought forth in time the changes in life that comprise the profound journey from a single cell to modern human beings.

Sanford explained, however, that Charles Darwin knew virtually nothing about genetics. As a consequence he could articulate a scientific hypothesis that at that time might have seemed reasonable but that today should be recognized as impossible.

Do genetic mutations occur? Yes, they do. Can they be beneficial? Yes, they can. So why can't life gradually evolve as a result of such mutations? The reason they can't, says Sanford, is because the genetic mutations need to be, on balance, beneficial to the organism. Most mutations are damaging, not helpful. Only one mutation in a million is actually beneficial to the organism, says Sanford. But evolution argues that natural selection eliminates the bad mutations by allowing the good ones to reproduce and the bad ones to become extinct. Can't that explain evolution? Sanford says it cannot. The

reason is that the bad mutations accumulate in the genetic code of every individual, including those who survive and those who do not. Every organism ends up having many more bad mutations than good ones, and those bad mutations—along with new genetic errors—are passed on to each new generation.

Every time a baby is born that child has genetic information that has been copied from the genetic information of both parents. The genetic information of the parents was copied from their parents. In this sin-affected world, no copy is perfect. Every time the genetic information is copied, more errors creep in.

To illustrate how this works, Sanford did a simple experiment with a copy machine. In the experiment 25 photocopies were made of a one-page paper. But instead of using the same original for all 25 copies, the copy was used to create each new copy—as occurs in biology when genetic information is copied from one generation to the next. We did not get our genetic information directly from Adam and Eve. That genetic information has been copied and recopied many times. After running 25 copies in this way, the results were striking. By the 10th copy, the lettering had become rather fuzzy. By the 20th copy, the words were becoming difficult to read. The 25th copy was not readable—so much inaccuracy had crept in that the copy now had no meaning at all.

This is how genetics works—each new generation has more errors in the genetic code than the generation before. The result is that our genetic information is constantly deteriorating. As a consequence, observed Sanford, our genetic information is now riddled with errors.

This is why people get arthritis. This is one of the primary reasons we get cancer, and the reason we need to wear eyeglasses and hearing aids as well as experience numerous other maladies. According to Sanford, there is consensus among geneticists that the human genetic code is deteriorating. As a consequence, no one in the evolutionary scientific community has an adequate rebuttal for John Sanford. Science, however, is supposed to be the pursuit of truth.

Why do so many scientists believe in evolution in spite of the genetic evidence? They do so because they cannot think outside the box of materialistic evolution. They do so because Darwinian evolution is a religion, not genuine science. St. Paul accurately describes the world of evolutionary thought: "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen" (Romans 1:25).

Paul, however, moves from that bad news to the good news when he says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23,24). To God be the glory for all life—physical, spiritual and eternal.

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