

April 1, 2009

Greetings in Christ!

Welcome to our first electronic newsletter! Get the word around and help us get more people signed up. New subscribers can go to our website and sign up. They will receive an e-mail message from our list serve. They should be sure to have licplanning@islandcamp.org as a safe sender. Let's build our numbers up over 1,000 in the next month! One suggestion is to forward this newsletter on to your e-mail list with an explanation of what we are doing at Christ Serve Ranch.

Creation and Life Issues in the news: In a final vote, the Texas Board of Education approved on Friday new language that requires science teachers to encourage students to "critique" and examine "all sides" of scientific theories. In adopting the new science standards, the board dropped a 20-year requirement that teachers address both the "strengths and weaknesses" of scientific theories. The vote was 13-2. The new curriculum will be in place for the next decade. "Texas now has the most progressive science standards on evolution in the entire nation," said Dr. John West, Senior Fellow at Discovery Institute, an intelligent design think tank, in a statement. "Texas has sent a clear message that evolution should be taught as a scientific theory open to critical scrutiny, not as a sacred dogma that can't be questioned." Although critics of evolution praised the move, it wasn't a total victory for them. The Board rejected two amendments that were written by Chairman Don McLeroy. They required students to study the "sufficiency or insufficiency" of common ancestry and natural selection of species, according to The Dallas Morning News. "Science loses. Texas loses, and the kids lose because of this," said a disappointed McLeroy, as reported by the Dallas publication. McLeroy believes many aspects of Charles Darwin's theory are not supported by fossil records. Pro-evolutionists were pleased with the decision to drop McLeroy's proposals. However, some questioned the board for adopting compromise language in the areas of fossil records and the complexity of the cell. New language also requires students to analyze and evaluate scientific explanations concerning those two areas. From the Christian Post Reporter.

Nature watch: This past week we've seen a number of predator birds in the area. Included were three bald eagles, an American eagle, and several hawks. We also saw several flocks of robins in the area. We expect bluebirds within the next few weeks. Some plants are popping through next to the buildings, but yesterday's heavy snow of about 15 inches may put a hold on them. We are very concerned about the nesting geese. This snow may have a real impact on them. We haven't seen our turkeys now for several weeks. They may be hunkered down or they may have left the island. The heavy snow is also taking a toll on our trees

Program information: We encourage you to find young people from age 10 to 15 who would enjoy our Young Scientist programs in June. These events, instructed by Brian Young will be some of the best programs offered by camp this summer. Campers will be looking at the science behind the six days of creation as well as the science involved in the Flood and other events chronicled in the Bible. Watch for some special fall events offered to adults. We'll be highlighting them in the Lutheran Island Camp spring newsletter as well as in this newsletter and on the Christ Serve Ranch website.

From the Task Force: In November the board of directors authorized a Task force be established to work on the process of purchasing Christ Serve Ranch and establishing the

Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center. That task force now has 4 subcommittees. The Vision committee will be working on the curriculum and programming. The Public Relations committee is focusing on promotion of Christ Serve Ranch and the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center. The Development committee is focusing on the fund raising and financing of the purchase of Christ Serve Ranch. The Land Use committee is working on plans for the property including reviewing the county and shore land management requirements. There are nearly 20 volunteers from three states who are working on the task force. There will be many additional

God's word: II Cor. 10: *“³For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The weapons we fight with are not weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to God.”*

Prayer list: Please remember these items as you bring your petitions to the Lord. 1.) Those many people who have been affected and will be affected by the flood in the Red River Valley. These events remind us of God's power and of our purpose to support one another. 2.) Pray that the property remains available until we are able to raise the funds needed to purchase it. 3.) Pray for the courageous young people in high school and college who take respectful stands questioning evolution and Darwinism as factual. 4.) Pray for safe travels for our friend Brian Young who is traveling around the upper Midwest sharing the truth of creation and salvation. 5.) Pray for Gerry, a member of our task force who has health struggles and is so faithful in his prayers for Christ Serve Ranch and those who will use it. Please feel free to share your prayer requests for future newsletters

Resource of the week: Bruce Malone is a noted lecturer and scientist. We have a DVD with a lecture he gave on how the **Mount St. Helen's volcano** and how it changed geological interpretation of events. We have a limited number of them free of charge. Just send us an e-mail with your address.

Link of the week: You'll find this link to a replica of Noah's Ark very interesting. There has been at least one suggestion that we should build a similar resource at Christ Serve Ranch. <http://www.arvanoach.com/>.



Illustration of the week: Whoops! The leaves do make a difference!

Question and Answer: (Please feel free to pose questions about Creation, our project, or other Creation and Life Issues topics. We may invite guests to provide answers)

Question: What is the Christ Serve Ranch project?

Answer: Christ Serve Ranch is a 275 acre piece of property in west central Minnesota that Lutheran Island Camp hopes to purchase. It is located 3 miles from the camp. The intent is that Christ Serve Ranch would become an environmental learning center focused on creation-science. It will be a place of learning, a place of experimentation, a place for leadership training, and an evangelism center focused on a Biblical world view that God created, man sinned, Christ

redeemed and that the word of God is true and inspired. The property will allow Christians of all denominations to learn about God and how He manifests Himself through us and the universe that surrounds us. Lutheran Island Camp will be the location for housing and meals, many recreation activities, and for the classroom setting.

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