

April 22, 2009

Greetings in Christ,

God continues to bless us with ever improving weather. This beautiful spring weather is a reminder of God's creation and how wonderfully it renews itself each year.

**Creation and Life Issues in the news:** U.S. Representative Barney Frank announced that the House Judiciary Committee will be considering HR 1913, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the week of April 20th. U.S. Representative John Conyers of Michigan introduced the bill into the House on April 2. As of Tuesday it already had 42 co-sponsors.

The problem with hate crimes legislation efforts such as HR 1913, is that they go beyond providing equal protection under the law, to adding additional penalties based upon assumed beliefs or thoughts. This can lead to discrimination against religious views, and Gary points out that this is already taking place in Canada. This came from Cross Talk America. (see link of the week)

**Nature watch:** Pocket gophers have become active this past week. Beaver are out and about and have started attacking some of the trees here at the Island. Turkey buzzards have been spotted in the area working on some of the deer carcasses left from the winter. The ice on the lake is very honeycombed and will likely go out within the next 2-3 days, depending on temperatures and wind conditions. Very little farm work has happened, with some potato ground being worked, but no corn or even small grains. Buds are appearing on branches and there is a green tint to more and more trees. Plants close to buildings have started popping through. Birds spotted this past week include loons and wood ducks, flocks of robins, the first flights of pelicans and many herons and egrets. The latter are happy for the frog population which seems to be singing out in earnest early in the morning and on into the evening.

**Program information:** We've recently had a number of great program suggestions and will be working on them for later this summer, this fall and next summer programs. Please keep making suggestions. We do want to once again highlight our two weekend programs in June. June 12-14, Brian Young will be presenting a workshop on Teaching Creation Science. He will be focusing on the resources, tools, and experiments that he uses in his presentations in the classroom. On June 19-21, Brian will be covering the topic of Preparing for College. This will be for juniors and seniors in high school as well as current college students who need to be equipped to deal with an onslaught against their faith. You can find out more information at our website.

**From the Task Force:** The Christ Serve Ranch Task Force met on Monday, the 20th and heard reports from all of its committees. A more detailed summary of the meeting will be available on our website soon. Beginning late this week will be the AM 1100 FLAG campaign to raise \$500,000 for the purchase of Christ Serve Ranch. We encourage you to listen to the FLAG and to respond to the appeal.

**God's word:** If I have told you earthly things and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? John 3:12

**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.) . Please feel free to share your prayer requests for future newsletters

**Resource of the week:** On Tuesday of this week Ken Erlandson and Bill Schultz had the privilege to meet and visit with Dr. Erich von Fange, noted author and lecturer on Creation. Dr. von Fange donated 300 books to Christ Serve Ranch. He also share some of his dinosaur bones for upcoming displays. Dr. von Fange is very excited about what we are doing in the development of Christ Serve Ranch and the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center and will be an excellent resource for us. If you would like to purchase of copy of his book, please let us know.

Link of the week: [www.crosstalkamerica.com](http://www.crosstalkamerica.com)

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: Do you do presentations about the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center?

Answer: Yes, Bill just did one for a spring LLL rally and has done them for other groups and for congregations. If your church, LWML, LLL, or youth group wants to know more, we'd love to share with you the excitement that over 200 donors and many groups have for Christ Serve Ranch and the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center.

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