

December 30, 2009

Greetings in Christ!

Welcome to our Look Back Edition of the Wednesday e-news.

**God's Word:** *<sup>8</sup>So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, <sup>10</sup>but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:8-10*

**First meeting of Creation-Science Task Force:** The first meeting of the Christ Serve Ranch Task Force was held on February 20, 2009. The Task Force was charged with the task of purchasing Christ Serve Ranch and establishing the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center. It started with 15 members but has since grown to 18.

**First Annual Creation and Life Issues Convocation:** Gianna Jessen was the keynote speaker for this event held on the first weekend in March. Gianna was aborted in the 8<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy but survived despite the botched abortion. The Mark Peske singers provided a wonderful musical message to the 400 or so people in attendance. The Second Annual Creation and Life Issues Convocation will be held on April 18 in Moorhead.

**Added Creation-Science Wednesday e-news:** The first edition of the Creation-Science e-news went out on April 1, 2009. Since then we have added well over 100 readers. Most have signed up through the website: [www.christserveranch.org](http://www.christserveranch.org).

**AM 1100 the FLAG partnership:** In March of this year we announced a wonderful partnership with AM 1100 the FLAG based in Fargo, North Dakota. This premier radio station provides a talk radio format that has a listening audience that extends out over 150 miles. Scott Hennen has been a wonderful spokesman for the helping us identify donors, program supporters, prayer partners, and keeping people informed. The radio campaign was delayed until May due to the flooding in the Red River Valley.

**Trip to meet with Dr. Erich von Fange:** Bill Schultz and Ken Erlandson made a quick trip to Adrian, Michigan to meet with Dr. von Fange. The good Dr. and his lovely wife were their guests for lunch. Dr. von Fange donated 300 books to the Christ Serve Ranch effort. He also is letting us use several dinosaur bones and provided some taped lectures for reproduction. He continues to be very supportive of our efforts to move forward.

**Minnesota North District Convention:** The Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center was represented at the district convention with a display showing photos of the property as well as samples of the many books and resources that are available at the camp. Many people stopped by to express their support of the efforts being made.

**Creation-Science Radio interviews:** Bill Schultz and a number of guests did several radio interviews throughout 2010. Included was an interview with student Stephanie Erlandson during which she was able to relate some of the challenges she faces in a secular school where evolution and Darwinism are taught.

### **Summer 2010 Creation-science programs**

Young Scientist programs were a great success again this year. Campers enjoyed camp life while learning through a number of experiments including rockets, explosions, water erosion, and many more.

Creation Safari camps were new in 2009. They included hunts for bugs, plants, and other activities intended to give youth an opportunity to learn and understand God's creation.

Preparing for College involved Juniors and Seniors in High School and helped them understand what they may face as they head off to college. The retreat gave answers for them on how to respond to teachings and events that might not be in tune with the Christian faith

Teaching Creation Science-provided opportunities for teachers, pastors, and Sunday school teachers to learn how to teach Creation-science.

Christ Serve Ranch Servant Events involved over 100 youth who came to help with projects related to Creation-Science, our horse outreach program, and the camp in general.

**Open House at Christ Serve Ranch-** We held a wonderful Open House at Christ Serve Ranch on September 20. We were blessed with good weather and a good attendance. People were taken on tours to find out more about our plans for the property.

**Responding to Evolution** – This was a great weekend retreat that had 60 adults and youth learn from Brian Young. He provided excellent insights on a number of topics ranging from the pre-flood world to understanding God's design in the stars. The retreat was held October 16-18.

**Adoption of Mission, Vision and statement of faith:** After working for 9 months and going through at least 3 drafts the Task Force adopted a mission, vision, and statement of faith document that is two pages long and lays out the basics of what we hope to accomplish through the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center.

**Fargo Forum article** – On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Fargo Forum published a front page article on what we are doing with our Creation-Science programs. That article was picked up by over 50 papers regionally and nationally, including papers in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota. It also showed up on well over 100 websites. It generated a lot of comments and interest.

**Establish LLC** – Lutheran Island Camp has embarked on a capital campaign that does not include Christ Serve Ranch. In order to avoid confusion, the Task Force decided to move in a different direction to purchase the property. A Limited Liability Company called Friends of

Creation-Science, LLC was established. This will be a group of individuals, congregations, or organizations that purchase membership units in the LLC which then will purchase Christ Serve Ranch. Final documents were prepared and information was available late in October.

**Plans for Creation and Life Issues Convocation-** In December of 2009 we were able to announce plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Creation and Life Issues Convocation. It will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Moorhead. The guest speaker will be Dr. David Menton, an associate of the Answers in Genesis organization. Musical inspiration will be provided by Heather Ruesch.

**Gifts and Support:** 2009 continued to be a year of thanksgiving for the support and financial gifts that were received in support of the purchase of Christ Serve Ranch and the work of establishing the Creation Science Environmental Learning Center. We thank God for those blessings given through you.

We ask for your continued prayers as we move forward with efforts to develop our project. We look forward to 2010 as the year when all these plans and great energy will be blessed with success according to God's will.

May God grant you a blessed 2010.