

September 16, 2009

Greetings in Christ!

The summer continues! We have been experiencing a couple of weeks of beautiful summer weather with temperatures ranging 15 degrees above normal. It is a real blessing to have this weather and to be able to enjoy God's creation in short sleeves. We pray that it will continue through Sunday for our Open House at Christ Serve Ranch.

Creation and Life issues in the news:

### ***Looking at Heaven***

The Hubble Space Shuttle is once again sending images of space back to Earth after a repair mission in May. Astronauts aboard the space shuttle Atlantis installed and fixed cameras and repaired electronics. NASA scientists expect the multi-billion dollar telescope to continue to take photographs until at least 2014. These photographs were taken during the repair process and were released on September 9, 2009. (editors comment: 1.) What a magnificent Creator God we have. 2.) Heaven will be so much better than this.) Please enjoy the photos found at this link:

<http://www.foxnews.com/slideshow/scitech/2009/09/15/looking-heaven?slide=1>

**Nature Watch:** One of our Bald Eagles was on the road the other day snacking on a fish that he had scavenged from the lake shore. He attempted to take off with his prize but was unsuccessful. We spotted a medium sized otter at Lutheran Island Camp. He went loping by one of the buildings with the distinctive otter lope. He headed down to the water and swam off. We've been spotting wood chucks frequently and they are putting on the pounds in preparation for winter. Several of us took a tour of Christ Serve Ranch last week and spotted two nice bucks, a doe, and two fawns from this year. We also saw a flock of 10-12 adult turkeys. Leaves continue to change color and drop. Color change is about two weeks earlier than normal which is likely due to the stress of lack of moisture in the last month. Strangely, the grass continues to stay green despite little in recent rains. Hours of sunshine continue to drop precipitously and will soon drop below 12 hours a day. Animals take note by beginning to add pounds and hair or fur in preparation for winter.

**Program Information:** It appears that our "Responding to Evolution" weekend will have some good numbers. We've booked in a couple of large groups already as well as some individuals. Brian Young will be leading the retreat on October 16-18. If you can't make the weekend, join us for Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm when we have our Reformation for Today.

**From the Task Force:** We encourage our readers to invite at least one other family to join us for our Open House. It is important to get the word out about the wonderful work being done by our group of 17 volunteers on the Task Force and the proposed Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center. The Open House is this Sunday, September 20 from 2-4 pm at the property we hope to purchase, Christ Serve Ranch. It is located on County Hiway 5 about 6 miles north of Clitheral or 1 mile south of County Hiway 16. There will be tours, food and beverages, door prizes, and displays.

The Task Force will be meeting on Monday, September 21 to review the Open House, discuss the revised mission and vision statements, and to spend time planning for future events and uses of the property. If you have an interest in volunteering to help us move forward either as a member of the Task Force or as a volunteer in another capacity, please contact us.

**God's Word:** <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:12-17.

Prayer List: 1.) Please keep our Open House in your prayers, boldly praying for a good number of people, good weather, and significant support for our projects; 2.) Please pray for those who oppose what we are doing so that their eyes might be open to the possibilities of spiritual growth and encouragement that children, teachers, pastors, and others would receive from the C-SELC; 3.) Pray that God would continue to bless our efforts to boldly proclaim the TRUTH of God's creation, redemption, and sanctification. 4.) Please continue to remember the staff and leadership who struggle daily to find the time and energy to get the necessary work done; 5.) Ask God for a miracle of His design so that we might move forward yet this year with the purchase of the property.

**Link of the week:** [www.am1100.tv](http://www.am1100.tv) This is the website of AM 1100 out of Fargo-Moorhead. Scott Hennen and the team at The FLAG have been working tirelessly to help us raise the funds and develop awareness of Christ Serve Ranch. We want to thank them and encourage you and others to listen to this radio station.

**Resource of the week:** What Really Happened to Dinosaurs? This is a video by Ken Ham and is available through Answers in Genesis.

Question and Answer:

Question: Does your group believe that God created the earth in six, twenty-four hour days?

1. Answer: Yes, we do. Our statement concerning that is: **“In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them” (Ex. 20:8).** Regarding Creation, the Fall, and the book of Genesis, we confess:
  - Genesis is to be taken in its natural and literal sense, being fully accurate in all it describes and teaches;
  - the universe and the earth is of recent origin (not millions or billions of years), being supernaturally created in six normal days by God;
  - the various original life-forms (kinds) were made by direct creative acts of God during the first six days and do not evolve into other life-forms, though

there may be “horizontal” changes (variations) within each life-form or “downward” changes (e.g., harmful mutations, extinctions);

- the first human beings did not evolve from an animal ancestry but were created on the sixth day, in the image of God, and set apart and above all other created things;

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