

October 2003

HURRICANE ISABEL – OFFSPRING OF A LOVING GOD?

By Jeff Gift, PhD

The Raleigh News and Observer dedicated four pages of prelim coverage to the catastrophic event, with headlines such as “Shelters Ready as Isabel Heads for 1 PM Landfall,” “Schools Are Closed from Triangle to the Coast” and “Trains, Some Flights, Performances Canceled.” On Wednesday evening, September 17, several Public Health Service (PHS) comrades and I received voice mail messages from the Secretary [for the U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services] Command Center (DHHS) with orders to report to the North Carolina State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Raleigh and assist in determining the need for Federal support. On Thursday, September 18, 1:00 pm, the eye of Hurricane Isabel passed over Cape Lookout, North Carolina. Based on my previous experiences with such events [usually from the comfort of my home], I imagine that the story that unfolded in the public eye through news accounts and pictures was primarily one of destruction, confusion, frustration and disappointment. While our hearts go out to those who suffered loss, my comrades and I were at the same time deeply moved by the practiced, professional, heroic and uplifting response of many individuals from several organizations that encompassed the NC State Emergency Response Team (SERT). From this experience we gained a very different perspective of this catastrophic event.

Hurricanes, destructive and disruptive as they may seem when they strike land, are important for life-essential balances on Earth.¹ Researchers have shown that hurricanes play a vital role in sustaining the right range of temperatures for life. They counterbalance the ocean's tendency to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This leaching, if unchecked, would result in a catastrophic cooling of the planet. During the summer of 1995, three hurricanes over the Sargasso Sea increased the flow of carbon dioxide from the water to the atmosphere by more than fifty percent.² So, hurricanes pull carbon dioxide from the ocean, collect it in one place and redistribute it to the atmosphere for the benefit of the planet. In much the same way, my comrades and I found that a hurricane can also collect people from the ocean of humanity, collect them in one place and redistribute



them back into society, changed in a way that will help them better serve their fellow man.

On Thursday, the day Isabel hit the North Carolina coast, nearly 800,000 families, and many hospitals were left without power. By Sunday, thanks to the efforts of several area power companies, the National Guard, Civil Air and others, less than 100,000 families were without power and all hospitals were operational. Many generators had to be distributed by air due to road closings. On Thursday, Red Cross shelters in 26 counties were filled with nearly 2,000 people. By Sunday, just 133 people were reported in five shelters. On Thursday, the 3,000 residents of Hatteras Island that had not evacuated were stranded due to a new 300 yard inlet that cut them off from the rest of society. Their access road (State Route

12) was completely buried by water and sand for miles. By Sunday, the State of North Carolina and the National Guard had supplied them with all their needs, including generators and food supplies, an entire trailer of which was airlifted to the site. On Thursday, most of the residents of the Northeast quadrant of North Carolina did not have clean potable water, causing the implementation of a water boil advisory / warning. By Sunday, water plants in the region were back in operation and all residents had access to clean, potable water. Throughout all this, I felt and heard people calling out to God in unified prayer. Together pledging their allegiance to Him and our flag.

Meteorologists affirm that too many or too few hurricanes would spell disaster for advanced life on Earth. We can also contest to the fact that hurricanes draw people together to work and pray in a way that unites them and ignites them for a common worldly and heavenly good. The fact that their frequency and intensity fall into precisely the right range for life support provides one more piece of evidence that God carefully designed Earth with the necessities of life in mind. ☩

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References:

¹ Hugh Ross, *The Creator and the Cosmos*, 2nd ed., (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1995), p. 136.

² Nicholas R. Bates, Anthony H. Knap, and Anthony F. Michaels, Contribution of Hurricanes to Local and Global Estimates of Air-Sea Exchange of CO₂, *Nature*, 395 (September 3, 1998), pp. 58-61.

EASLEY CALLS FOR ISABEL DONATIONS, VOLUNTEERS

POSTED: 3:22 p.m. EDT September 22, 2003

UPDATED: 10:50 a.m. EDT September 24, 2003

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Gov. Mike Easley has asked people to donate supplies and money and to volunteer their time for the recovery effort from Hurricane Isabel.

People in eastern North Carolina affected by the hurricane are in need of these donated items:

- a. Canned foods
- b. Dry beverages (coffee, tea, powdered fruit drinks)
- c. Cleaning supplies (mops, brooms, disinfectant)
- d. Baby supplies (diapers, wipes, formula)
- e. Personal care items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, soap)
- f. Paper goods
- g. Bottled water

At this time, donated clothes are not needed and will not be accepted.

The receiving site for donated goods was acquired through America's Second Harvest Food Bank and is being donated by Regional Storage and Transportation Inc. in Greenville. To coordinate a donation, please call the N.C. Emergency Information Hotline at (888) 835-9966.

There is also a need for volunteers to assist in the recovery effort. Those people who would like to register to volunteer with an organization, to receive information about specific donations or to obtain delivery directions should call the N.C. Emergency Information Hotline at (888) 835-9966.

The state has established a fund for monetary donations. Please make checks payable to the Hurricane Isabel Relief Fund and mail them to:

Hurricane Relief Fund
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

EVIDENCES FOR CREATION OVER EVOLUTION

Editor's Note: The following are arguments Nos. 20 and 21 of 21 arguments compiled by various persons who believe that true science and biblical Christianity go hand in hand. Earlier parts in this series covered arguments 1-19.

This was produced jointly by the Creation Research Society, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Skilton House Ministries, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Editors: Paul G. Humber and Glen W. Wolfrom. Contributors: Harry Akers, Robert Gentet, Ed Garrett, Lane Lester, Ron Pass, Dave Sack, Curt Sewell, Helen Setterfield, Doug Sharp, and Laurence Tisdall.

20. All cells are made up of molecules. Molecules make up long strings of amino acids, sugars, and the like. However there are different ways that amino acids can be formed, and there are different ways sugars can be formed. However all living things require a special form of amino acid called "left-handed" and a special form of sugar called "right-handed". In nature both right and left handed amino acids and sugars are formed. Yet, let one right-handed amino acid into a cell and it is like throwing in a backward gear—everything stops dead. Evolutionist thought declares that these left-handed amino acids and right-handed sugars came together fortuitously through time to form life. There are two enormous problems with this claim. First, there is no known reason for this to have happened or known environment in which it could have happened. Second, life is not simply the right chemicals at the right time and place. Life is a series of processes in which chemicals are

involved. This series of processes, by its very nature, is strong evidence that living things were formed as an act of intelligent creation.

21. A foundation of biology is that "Life comes only from life." The origin of life, therefore, is a total mystery to humanistic evolutionists. They believe that life must have come from non-living materials, but this contradicts the biogenetic law. Christ, Who is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, is the Creator-God. Jesus said, "I AM THE LIFE" (John 14:6).

MEETING NEWS

TASC had a successful talk and creation materials sale on August 27 at Brooks Avenue Church of Christ in Raleigh. Over one hundred people attended. Dan Reynolds, PhD, provided a talk including several scientific evidences of Biblical creation. Dan provided information that helps to refute the secular views on origins typically presented by the media that deceive our adults and children. A very good question and answer period followed his talk.

□ TASC has completed 15-, 30-, and 60-second public service announcements that are now airing over WRTP, HIS Christian Radio out of Durham. The broadcast can be heard over several radio stations in the area which include: □AM Stations, 1530-Durham & Chapel Hill; 1000-Raleigh & Wake County; 1060-Mebane & Hillsborough. FM Stations, 90.1-Roanoke Rapids; 91.1-Raleigh; 107.7-Apex & Cary; 107.7-Henderson & Oxford; 105.3-Rocky Mount. TASC expects this announcement to increase interest and attendance at our meetings. We appreciate the free public service announcements provided to us by WRTP. If you know of another station that would air the announcements for us, please contact Mark Stephens, phone, 919-469-5104. □

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 9, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh

Michael Kinnaird, PhD – The Origin of Life, or Who Really Believes in Fairy Tales. This is an updated version of Mike's talk about why the origin of life from non-life is impossible. It will include hot topics such as undersea events, meteorites, comets, etc.

Thursday, November 13, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh

Topic to be announced

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