

January 2004

AN OUNCE OF GOD-ORDAINED PREVENTION IS WORTH A TON OF WORLDLY CURE by Jeff Gift, Ph.D.

According to the Center for Disease Control, this year's flu season is the worst this country has experienced in years. The CDC reports that flu is widespread in at least 13 states, and only Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. have reported no cases (USATODAY.com—Flu Shot Shortage is Feared, Dec. 17, 2003). Hospitals in Arizona and North Carolina report patients swamping pediatric emergency rooms. Health departments are scrambling to get vaccines. Paper masks are being handed out in waiting rooms. Doctors in places such as the Vanderbilt Medical Center are discouraging most flu patients from visiting the emergency room because of increased wait times, the danger of increased spreading of the illness and because, according to Vanderbilt spokesman John Howser, "There's no treatment that will make flu go away." (CNN.com—Flu Sufferers Jam Emergency Rooms, Dec. 17, 2003).

Because there is no curative treatment for the flu, methods to prevent its spread are truly critical. According to the CDC, the best ways to prevent the flu are such measures as vaccinations, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, washing your hands, and avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth (CDC.gov—Preventing the Flu, Dec. 18, 2003). Thus, after thousands of years of fighting the common cold and flu, man's best preventative strategies are still to bolster the immune system that God so wisely designed and to put in practice preventative measures that He so thoughtfully ordained.

Our Immune System

The immune system is the defense mechanism in each person that helps our bodies fight disease. When you get an infection, your body reacts by producing substances called antibodies. These antibodies fight the invading antigen (vi-



rus or bacteria) and help you get over the illness. The antibodies usually stay in your system, even after the disease has gone, and protect you from getting the same disease again. This is called immunity. Vaccines are made from disease causing viruses (and bacteria) that are killed or weakened. Vaccines make the body think it is being invaded by a specific organism, and the body reacts by producing antibodies. Then, if a person is exposed to the organism in the future, he or she is protected. In this way, vaccines or "immunizations" strengthen our natural God-given immune defenses against a specific infection.

A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I would like, on behalf of TASC, to take this time to wish you all a very, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2004! Also, I appeal to you to support TASC's mission as stated in the header above and send in a contribution so that you can be a part of carrying out that mission. TASC continues to be a beacon to our community and beyond to conduct activities that inform our citizens of the scientific evidences that support God as our Creator and firm one's faith in God and our savior, Jesus Christ.

*God bless,
Mark Stephens*

An interesting question one could ask is whether this immune system was necessary prior to the Fall? On the one hand, because God is omniscient and foreknew the Fall, He certainly would have known that the immune system would be needed. On the other hand, the immune system does not only protect against disease, it also helps the body to distinguish between self and non-self. For instance, it helps to keep the normal bacteria in our colon

from spreading into the bloodstream where it would be harmful. Since such helpful bacteria would likely have existed before the Fall, it is likely that our immune system was present to shepherd them in this way (www.answersingenesis.org—Vaccines and Genesis, Nov. 4, 2002).

Preventative Measures

As was mentioned earlier, CDC advocates that the best ways to prevent the flu outside of vaccinations and medications are to avoid close contact with people who are sick, wash your hands and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. CDC also advises the sick to stay home and cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. This may seem obvious to us today. However, just 128 years ago, before Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch proved that disease is passed from one individual to another through germs, physicians believed that disease-producing organisms arose spontaneously from within a patient's body. Yet, God through the Bible had a lot to say about sanitation and hygiene 3,500 years before Pasteur and Koch were born.

The instructions recorded by Moses in Leviticus, Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy are strikingly similar to modern disease-prevention techniques. They pertain to:

- childbirth [Leviticus 12:2,3]
- sexual relationships [Leviticus 18,20:10-16; Exodus 20:14]
- hand-washing [Numbers 19:11-13,19; Leviticus 11:24-28,40]
- wound and discharge care [see also Leviticus 15:2-11, 17:11]
- quarantining [Leviticus 13:1-14:57; Numbers 5:2-4; Deuteronomy 23:10]
- burial precautions [Numbers 19:11,14-16,19,22; Leviticus 11:24-28,40]
- waste disposal [Deuteronomy 23:12-14; Leviticus 11:33, 13:47-58, 15:12]

These Mosaic rules regarding hygiene were thousands of years ahead of their time. For example, it wasn't until a little more than 100 years ago that precautions such as "no touch" surgical and dressing techniques were instituted in modern medical facilities to prevent disease from spreading (Creation 26(1), December 2003 – The First Book of Public Hygiene). According to Dr. Rex Russell in his 1996 publication titled "What the Bible says about health living,"

"Results have always been impressive when biblical standards for health and hygiene are followed. Roman Empire, Roman cities and camps planned their sewage and cisterns in the center of their compounds...leaving themselves vulnerable to seeping epidemics and plagues. In contrast, both Jewish and

Muslim communities in many eras have been spared such tragedies...Did jealousy regarding this apparent 'favoritism,' as well as rapid spread of the faith around the world and the early Christian refusal to pay homage to the gods of Rome, play together to make Rome want to persecute Christians?"

According to Dr. Russell, a similar reaction was seen in the opponents of the Jews during the "black plague" that killed millions during the middle ages. Many European Jews likely suffered great persecution because others noticed they were spared the disease.

In accordance with Leviticus 13:1-14:57, if there was any doubt as to the certainty of a diagnosis, the person was to be isolated for observation (quarantined). Once a person was diagnosed with a contagious condition, he was to stay outside of the camp "all the days wherein the plague shall be in him." Moreover, he was required to wear a covering over his mouth, and to warn others by shouting "Unclean, unclean! (Numbers 5:2-4; Leviticus 13:45-46).

Thousands of years later, in response to the current flu epidemic, modern day doctors are using techniques similar to those prescribed by God through Moses. Those sick with the flu are being asked to quarantine themselves and to stay away from emergency rooms for fear of further infections. Sick individuals who do show up at emergency rooms are given paper masks for the protection of others. Hospital professionals practice careful hand-washing and waste disposal methods. Moses may not have understood the basis for these modern medicine practices, but God certainly did. And God offered this sound advice to the people of Israel in 1500 BC that we would do well to continue to heed today:

"If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you." (Exodus 15:26)☞

TASC CAN COME TO YOUR GROUP

The following are presentations that TASC is able to present to your church, club, or school group. Just contact us for scheduling.

1. Evidences for Creation in Contrast to Evolution - C. Gerald Van Dyke, PhD - A slide presentation of the major areas of evidences for Creation, including fossils, geology, natural laws, The Flood, and more, comparing and contrasting the scientific evidences for Creation vs. evolution: an entertaining and informative presentation.

2. Origin of Life - C. Gerald Van Dyke, PhD – The real facts about the origin of life experiments. What are the possibilities that life originated from non-life? What are the Creation implications of life forming from God speaking as the Bible says? How can DNA be formed without proteins, and how can proteins be formed without DNA? Time to bring your questions for an entertaining and informative presentation.

3. Evidences for the Worldwide Flood - C. Gerald Van Dyke, PhD

4. Evidences for Creation and Intelligent Design - Dan Reynolds, PhD – A discussion of the theology and science of creation. Topics include the duration of Creation Week in Genesis 1, abiogenesis, information in the biological world, micro- and macro-evolution, rapid geologic processes, radiometric dating, evidences for a recent creation, and a creationist cosmology.

5. Icons of Evolution - Dan Reynolds, PhD - Based on the book *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth* by Jonathan Wells, Ph.D. Dr. Wells (who holds a Ph.D. from UC at Berkeley in molecular and cell biology) clearly explains how many of the “proofs” (icons) of evolution being taught in current secondary school and college biology textbooks have been disproved, are fraudulent, or are speculative at best. More disturbing is that many leading evolutionary scientists are fully aware of this but have done little to correct the situation. Indeed, some feel that introducing such “controversial” revelations into the classroom, though true, would only “confuse” students. The “icons” include the Miller-Urey experiment on the origin of life, Darwin’s tree of life, homology of vertebrate limbs, Haeckel’s embryos, Archaeopteryx, peppered moths, Darwin’s finches, horse evolution, and human evolution.

6. Not by Chance - Dan Reynolds, PhD - This talk is based on the book *Not By Chance! Shattering the Modern Theory of Evolution* by Lee Spetner. Dr. Spetner persuasively shows through sound theoretical calculations, population genetics, biochemistry, and information theory that the proposed Neo Darwinian evolutionary mechanism for macroevolution of random mutations acted upon by natural selection does not work. He cites many documented examples of where changes in the phenotype are a function of gene activation/expression and are not associated with a change in the genome. He concludes that much of the alleged fossil evidence for evolution may merely reflect an organism’s genetically built-in ability to respond to environmental factors by selective gene activation/repression and not by generation of new genetic information.

7. Creation and Information - Dan Reynolds, PhD - The biological world is full of information at the molecular

level, but how did it get there? Are the laws of chance, chemistry, and physics plus time adequate to generate the complex information found in the genetic code? Scientists have now developed a means to empirically detect the signature of intelligent design in biochemistry. When this “explanatory filter” is used to analyze DNA and proteins, design is detected and natural processes are ruled out! We will discuss information theory, complex specified information, and irreducible complexity as applied to the chemistry of life. This talk is based primarily upon the writings of William Dembski, Michael Behe, and Lee Spetner.

8. Creation and Astronomy - Dan Reynolds, PhD - There are many evidences for design and a recent creation in astronomy and physics. We will discuss these evidences as well as a “white hole” cosmology based on Genesis and relativity theory which explains how we can see stars billions of light years away from a young earth.

9. Rapid Geologic Processes and Radiometric Dating - Dan Reynolds, PhD - Geologists have discovered that many of the processes once thought to require millions of years can be accomplished in much shorter time spans. Examples of rapid geological processes include formation of Precambrian granites (“basement” rocks of the continents), deposition of sedimentary layers, formation of successive sedimentary strata, canyon formation, coal formation, decay of planetary magnetic fields, formation of petrified forests, stalagmite and stalactite formation, and rapid tectonic plate migration. Perhaps most important, there is now solid evidence for rapid radioactive decay in the past. Come learn why believing in a young earth is sound theologically and scientifically.

10. Strengthening Our Faith in God, Our Creator - Mark Stephens, MCS - This presentation differentiates the beliefs on origins including divine creation, naturalistic evolution, and theistic evolution. Evidences that support God as our Creator are examined from the Bible, biology, chemistry, and astronomy. The attendee is challenged to build a knowledge of creation science to strengthen one’s own faith, to avoid being deceived, and to be a more effective witness for God and Christ in this more “sophisticated, scientific” world.

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C. Gerald Van Dyke, PhD. Dr. Van Dyke is an Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor of Botany, North Carolina State University. Contact: g_vandyke@ncsu.edu Phone: 515-2222 (day); 510-6929 (night)

Dan W. Reynolds, Ph.D. Dr. Reynolds is an organic chemist and Research Investigator at GlaxoSmithKline. Contact: dwr51055@aol.com, dan.w.reynolds@gsk.com Phone: (919) 518-1842 (home); (919) 483-5379 (work).

Mark Stephens, MCS in biology, chemistry, and geology. Mr. Stephens is a former high school science teacher and has worked in the pharmaceutical industry. He currently serves as Chairman, Board of Directors of TASC.

ANSWERS IN GENESIS CONFERENCE

Sunday, January 11, Friendship Baptist Church, 5510 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC 27609

This conference is suited for ages 12 and up.

9:45-10:40 AM - Carl Kerby: Racism: What is the Answer?

11:00 AM-12:15 PM - Carl Kerby: Genesis: The "Bottom Strip" of the Christian Faith

6:00 -6:50 PM - Carl Kerby: Fossils: Friend or Foe?
7:10-8:00 PM - Carl Kerby: What is the `Best Evidence` that God Created?

Contact Information: Bob Vradenburgh, (919) 876-0585
<http://www.fbcweb.net/index.htm>

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 8, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh

Dan W. Reynolds, PhD will present **Creation and Information**. Please see a description of this presentation above.

TASC | TRIANGLE ASSOCIATION for the SCIENCE of CREATION
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