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# ZION NEWS

A newsletter of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, Georgia – March/April, 2011

“Come let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.” Jeremiah 51:10

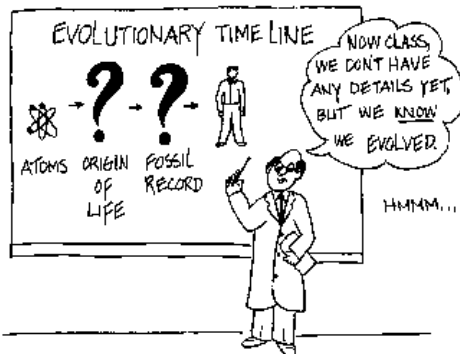
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## Creation / Evolution Seminar

by Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

On our vacation in Washington D.C. last summer our family visited a number of the famed Smithsonian museums in that city. The visit that struck me most was the National Museum of Natural History which was featuring an exhibit on Human origins. The director of the Museum, Cristián Samper, said this about the purpose of the 20.7 million dollar exhibit: “The hall offers the opportunity to explore the scientific finds that shed light on one of the really significant sparks to human curiosity—our own origins.”

What was discouraging (and yet depressingly expected) about this “scientific” exhibit on human origins was that there was not one single mention of God. How can one explain human origins without referring to God?



Have you noticed how many people in the sciences today have arbitrarily re-defined science to fit their own belief system? The word “science” comes from the Latin and means “knowledge.” But many define science as knowledge which has nothing to do with God. Many “scientists” will only permit or advance knowledge which is in accord with their view of naturalism – the religion of atheism.

This same naturalism is being taught in our schools at the elementary level, causing our children to become slowly indoctrinated into the religion of atheism! If you don’t think this is a big deal, look around you. Look at how many young people are walking away from church. Look at how many churches are drifting away from their historic confessions to make room for “other” ways of interpreting Scripture.

The Biblical teaching of verbal inspiration has been compromised. God tells us: **“no prophecy of Scripture is**

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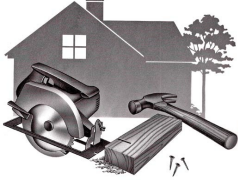
***of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20-21).***

Naturalism is not the private interpreter of Scripture! As Christians, we need to be on guard against such attacks by the religion of atheism through the supposed harmlessness of naturalism. We must defend against the reinterpretation of God’s infallible Word on the basis of man’s fallible ideas and theories.

In order to inform and equip our members and others we are planning a seminar on Creation/Evolution. It will be held at Zion on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at 2:00pm. We invite you to join us as we study this critical topic. †

## Parsonage Projects (Past and Future)

Our congregation budgets a certain amount of money every year to be reinvested in our one financial asset: the church parsonage. With the house now over 20 years old it is at an age where it is in regular need of repair and upkeep. In the past 10 years we have checked many of the big projects off the list, but smaller repairs and upkeep is still consistently needed. Here is a review of projects which have been completed since the purchase of the parsonage in 2000:



- 2000** - Parsonage purchased
- 2004** - Water supply line replaced
- 2005** - Parsonage roof replaced  
Gas water heater replaced
- 2006** - Master bathroom floor repaired
- 2007** - Exterior house trim repainted  
Office & Dining walk-out doors replaced  
HVAC unit replaced
- 2008** - Flooring in kitchen/dining area replaced
- 2009** - Wooden overhead garage door replaced  
Rear sliding glass patio door replaced
- 2010** - South gutter replaced  
Rear walk-out door of garage replaced  
Main bathroom repaired / sink replaced
- 2011** - Old deck torn off and replaced

This year the congregation allocated \$800 for parsonage maintenance. This has already been put to use to repair the rotting exterior deck (see following article). Projects scheduled for coming years include:

- Repaint exterior of the parsonage
- Replace carpet throughout house
- Replace front door

Because we were able to apply extra payments in previous years, we are scheduled to pay off the parsonage mortgage in 2019. †

## Parsonage Deck Replacement

The major parsonage project for this year became the replacement of the old deck on the back of the house. It was in poor condition due to rot and deterioration. Parts of the deck were constructed with regular lumber rather than treated exterior lumber exacerbating the problem. It was in dire need of being replaced!



While Jack Mayhew was here in February he volunteered his time to help with any projects we might have, so the Church Council gave the go-ahead to replace the exterior deck on the back of the parsonage. The old deck was torn off and a new, larger, better quality deck was built in its place. The deck was completed in short order and is a wonderful addition to the parsonage. The cost to replace the deck came to about \$750 when it was all said and done – about what it cost one of our neighbors to have their old deck repainted!



Our thanks to Jack Mayhew for his invaluable help while he was here! †

# Ladies of Zion Report

Reported by Debra Mayhew

The ladies of Zion continue to meet regularly to enjoy the blessings of fellowship that come with being one in faith. We're thankful for these opportunities to spend time together and to encourage one another in our daily walks. We have the added blessing of using our time and talents in service at church and also in reaching out to our community with the message of the Gospel. No task is too small or insignificant if it is born of love for our Savior and done with a willing heart. We continue to pray that the Lord would use us as He sees fit, all the while remembering the treasure He has freely given us in His Son.

***"For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thess. 5:11***

Our March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was held at the Longwitz home. We enjoyed a brunch of fruit, pastry, bagels, coffee and juice while talking business. One of our primary goals continues to be our desire to reach out to the women at Zion and get more of them involved. Though our meetings have an

average attendance of four, it's not meant to be an exclusive group. Distance is one of the biggest challenges our small congregation faces. We're always interested in meeting with ladies who live a long way from church. We'd be happy to car-pool and meet at those homes. Please speak to Ann Duncan (770-237-2541) if you would like to host a meeting at your home, on the day and time of your choice!

*Hark! The voice of Jesus crying,  
"Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvest waiting,  
Who will bear the sheaves away?"  
Loud and long the Master calleth,  
Rich reward He offers Thee;  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
"Here am I, send me, send me"?*

*Let none hear you idly saying,  
"There is nothing I can do."  
While the souls of men are dying  
And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task he gives you gladly,  
Let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth,  
"Here and I, send me, send me!"  
L.H. 496: 1,3,4*

As the months pass, we're beginning to see the benefits of having an organized ladies group to help at church. Ann Duncan has been instrumental in keeping track of kitchen and bathroom supplies and making sure they remain stocked. Thank you to all the members

who willingly volunteer to restock items and who bring things in as they see a need!

Virginia Tetens and Ann have continued Communion set up and clean up. This frees Pastor Mayhew up to meet with visitors and members before and after services. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Debra Mayhew requested that we begin opening our meetings with a devotion and prayer. The others agreed to the idea and starting at the May meeting, the ladies will open with devotion. We plan to rotate who reads the devotion and leads the prayers on a volunteer basis, starting with Debra.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 at Bill and Ann Duncan's home (1790 Connors Ct. Lawrenceville, GA 30044). We'll be preparing to host the Traveling Vacation Bible School team at this meeting.

Keep an eye on your bulletin for updates and information on how you can participate in the women's ministry at Zion! As always, if you have an outreach idea to suggest to the ladies, or see a need around church, please speak to Ann Duncan (770-237-2541) or Debra Mayhew (770-962-9034). †

# Recycling Programs

by Pastor Nathanael Mayhew

## Mother Earth?

We have heard a lot about recycling in the past month, especially with the build up to Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. In some cases these recycling proponents are driven by fear of running out of resources. As Christians, we have a different perspective. We know that God will continue to preserve the earth in the future, just as He has in the past. Peter writes: ***“But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:7).*** Such God-less worry would be better placed in concern for being prepared for God’s judgment on the Last Day!

At the same time God has entrusted the care of His creation into the hands of human beings (Genesis 1:28; 2:15). We should strive to be

good stewards of God’s wonderful creation as best we can, not out of fear, but out of love for our God who created it for us. The following gives an overview of some of the ways you can help care for God’s creation and support the Lord’s work through our congregation at the same time.

## Recycling at Zion

### Recycling Household Items -

We have been recycling household items at church with a recycling container supplied by Sarah and Jerry King. Although we don’t recycle much plastic, metal or glass here, we do recycle a lot of paper! This is done through the local Lawrenceville garbage and recycling collection. Any plastic, metal, aluminum, or paper can be tossed into the recycling container in the kitchen at church. We thank the Kings for their assistance!

### Ink and Toner Recycling -

We also have recycling programs which benefit Zion by providing a financial incentive. We have been recycling printer ink and toner cartridges for over a year now, and the recycling rewards we have earned from that have helped purchase office supplies for the church. Already in the first quarter we have earned \$16.00 in rewards through

Office Depot. Please continue to recycle your ink and toner cartridges. Any and all cartridges are accepted! Place your cartridges in the box found in the church library or give them to Pastor Mayhew.

### Electronics Recycling -

In addition, we are also able to earn money by recycling most kinds of electronic equipment. Consumer electronics contain metals like silver, gold, platinum, palladium, rhodium, iridium, ruthenium, indium, tellurium, tin, bismuth and base metals such as lead, copper and nickel - all of which are recoverable and reusable. Working through a company called **Green School Recycling** we are now able to recycle items such as cell phones, mp3 players, digital cameras, video cameras, GPS devices, video game systems, calculators, and much more. Even damaged old, and non-working items are accepted and can earn a cash back reward. Please consider recycling your electronic equipment here rather than throwing it in the garbage. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Mayhew. †

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