

# YES, CHRISTIANS ARE BIASED ...and for good reason.

by Duane L. Burgess

Yes, it's absolutely true: Christians are biased! Christians believe that the Bible is the only authoritative, written revelation of the true and living God, and that its message is universally true and binding. Christians are also narrow-minded about their faith. Christians believe that the Bible alone is the source of absolute truth. And, Christians are close-minded, too. Christians are closed to the idea that other religions and non-biblical sources of alleged revelation are true. The reality is that everyone is biased! So it's really a matter of deciding which bias is the best bias to be biased with! Why should anyone choose to believe the Bible above other religious writings? Primarily it's because of a need for an accurate frame of reference for understanding our world: who we are, where we came from, and where we're going. As we look about us we see many things that man has made. We watch structures

go up around us and we know where they came from. But before man's structures there was the natural environment. We know it exists but must ponder questions like, where did it come from, how long has it been here, and has it always been the same? Without a reliable source of information our ideas are, at best, educated guesses. How can we be sure? What information can we trust?

As we observe the world around us we are awestruck at the beauty of the material universe. We see design, order and complexity and realize there must have been a Designer with the power to create what exists. Viggo Olsen was an agnostic who, with his wife, contemplated the universe and decided there must be a God: "Scientifically, we knew that the planet earth and the surrounding universe had not always existed... which meant they must have been created by some mighty force or power... the very design and pattern of the universe

(*Biased* continued on p. 3)

## From My Heart

Chaplain George B. Greene

I remember a story after I became a Christian that changed my prayer life. It was about a lady who checked into a hotel room in a city that evangelist Billy Graham set up his tent. During the time Mr. Graham was preaching, this lady was praying for his ministry. At her funeral, Ruth Graham was overheard saying, "Here lies the secret of Billy Graham's ministry!" This touched my heart and I started praying that God's church would start prayer groups to support the work of God's Kingdom.

Please pray for CAF and for myself, that we will never compromise the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that everything we do and say glorifies God. Pray for CAF members to continue to minister to those involved in

(*Chaplain* continued on p. 4)

## Genesis Unbound?

Book Review by Duane L. Burgess

The book *GENESIS UNBOUND* by Dr. John Sailhamer claims to be "a provocative new look at the creation account." However it might better be described as "The Gap Theory Revisited." Sailhamer proposes that modern Christians fail to grasp the Genesis account in its true context; that "centuries-old misunderstandings have continued to shape popular biblical interpretation - as well as greatly contributing to unnecessary conflicts between the Bible and science."

He presents some interesting grammatical and contextual ideas to consider, and some may be correct. However, overall his points are not really compelling because his discussion embraces many assumptions - "if" appears much too frequently to "prove" his conclusions.

Sailhamer upholds the literal reading of Genesis, and several important creationist beliefs (i.e., six literal, 24-hour days of creation). But he also allows for some interpretations which conflict with the "whole counsel" of God's Word. Most notably he believes Genesis 1:1 stands independently of 1:2, and could allow long ages, which is a prob-

(*Genes* is continued on p. 3)

# From the President

Dear Fellow CAF'ers,

I'm excited to accept the role of President of the Christian Awareness Fellowship! At the same time I take on the task with fear and trembling. I experience the reality of spiritual warfare daily, and I also know God holds teachers highly accountable. I'm grateful to Jack Gracie for launching this ministry, for Tom Perkins' enduring leadership, and for those who've dedicated countless hours of service to make CAF effective for the Lord.

I believe it's now time to focus and regroup; to determine how we will continue to minister. CAF began with a desire to help believers guard themselves against error and to help cultists make a transition to faith in Christ. Since that time it became evident that believers not only need to be armed against false teaching from without, but also against errors from within. So we began defending the faith from heresies as well as from cult teachings. And most recently we've embraced the importance of defending biblical creationism. Cults, heresies, and creationism: how will we address these issues as we approach the next millennium?

I want to challenge the CAF to mission and to ministry. I see my role as a facilitator, enabling our fellow servant-members to effectively minister. I have many ideas for us to consider, and I want to know yours as well. Together we will explore them, and determine what we believe God would have us do. Then, step by step, we'll move into continued ministry.

I want to challenge the CAF to mission. It's time to find our niche. What is our mission? What can we do best? What should be our unique role, and to whom shall we strive to minister? And I want to challenge the CAF to ministry. How shall we fulfill our mission?

I want us to prayerfully consider these first, short-term goals: reorganization; rebuilding our mail list; reestablishing the *Servant* and *Be Aware* newsletters, and the acquisition of resources, supplies, and equipment. Most of all I want us to seriously consider how to develop a financial base for operations. I am very much like Jack in that I believe God will support the work; and I don't like to "ask" for money. But I also believe we must make our needs clearly known, and allow others the opportunity to share in the support of this ministry as God leads and enables.

Together, let's seize the day and be active so that God may lead us and use us as He fulfills His plan and purposes for His glory. Please pray for me and for one another.

In Christ,

Duane L. Burgess

## NEW OFFICERS and BOARD of DIRECTORS

CAF's business meeting was held on Sunday April 14, 1996 and a new board was elected. The new board members are: Dr. James Boren, Duane Burgess, Pastor Ernest Finklea IV, George Greene, Anders Hitchcock, John Kennah, Scott Ladd, Tom Perkins, Gregg Winner.

The new officers are: President Duane Burgess; Vice President Scott Ladd; Treasurer John Kennah; Secretary Gregg Winner; Chaplain George Greene.

After much contemplation, CAF members decided to keep its own separate corporate status as a 501(c)3 non-profit ministry. In 1995 CAF was in the process of dissolving its status and becoming an outreach of Calvary Chapel of Tucson. It was decided this spring that CAF would be more effective as an independent inter-denominational ministry. The CAF office is still located at Calvary Chapel and we have a close working relationship with its staff. CAF is an Evangelical, interdenominational ministry. It is interesting to note that SIX different churches and denominations are represented on CAF's board of directors.

### In our next publication:

#### CAF Report:

New findings on William Branham's teaching on "The Cloud"

#### Creation or Evolution?:

Choose Your Religion.

#### Book review

Your prayers and donations make it possible for CAF to continue publishing newsletters. Thank You! In order to be good stewards of the Lord's provisions, we delete those from our mailing list that we have not heard from in a while. Let us know if you want to still receive *The Servant* and *Be Aware!* It is available at no charge. Donations are appreciated.

© 1996 Christian Awareness Fellowship, Inc. *The Servant* is printed two to four times a year. Editor Tom Perkins. Comments, questions and suggestions are appreciated: P.O. Box 35335, Tucson, AZ 85740-5335 (520) 741-8868. CAF is an interdenominational, non-profit (501(c)3) ministry. Our goal is to educate the Church about Biblical, historical Christianity and the lost about Jesus Christ. CAF is supported by your prayers and gifts. Donations are tax deductible.

## Biased (cont. from p. 1.)

gives testimony that the creating power that brought it into existence must have been an intelligent power... quickly we saw that we could not have the law of gravity... or any other natural laws without a lawgiver. Moreover, we could not find a design without a designer or a pattern without a pattern maker... but... can we know more of God, beyond His power and intelligence?"<sup>1</sup>

Scripture affirms that the evidence of God's existence is plainly evident in observing the creation: Romans 1:20: For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: But can we know more of God, beyond his power and intelligence? Yes, if He reveals Himself to us. So the question becomes, what revelation of God do we believe - the Bible, the Koran, Joseph Smith, the Watchtower, or something else?

There are several good reasons to believe the Bible. First, there is the testimony of historical evidence. Archaeological research is continually confirming the historical accuracy of the biblical record. Second, there is the incredible fulfillment of predictive biblical prophecies by Jesus Christ. Third, there is the person of Jesus Christ who claimed to be God, did things only God could do, and after three days and nights in the grave, He rose bodily and appeared to many witnesses.

Some claim that Jesus was a good teacher, but deny his deity. However this does not hold up under careful consideration. Jesus was either a legend, a liar, a lunatic, or Lord. He could not be merely a good teacher. If Jesus was a historical person he was not a legend. He claimed to be the exclusive way to God and He claimed to be God. If he knowingly lied, then he cannot be considered a good teacher. If he truly believed he was God, but really wasn't then he was a lunatic, and thus, not a good teacher. If he truly was God then he was more than a good teacher, he was indeed the Lord. If He is indeed Lord then He cannot lie, and we can trust His written Word, the Bible

Yes, we Christians are biased - we believe the Bible alone is the true, au-

## Genesis (cont. from p. 1.)

lem if death and bloodshed entered the world because of Adam's sin.

Dr. Sailhamer would like us to understand Genesis as He believes Moses understood it. That is, that Genesis describes two things: 1) that God created all things (the universe) that exist (1:1), and, 2) how God prepared the promised land (a garden in Eden corresponding to Israel today) for His people (1:2-2:4). He's convinced that the term, "beginning" (1:1) is indefinite with regard to time, therefore "we cannot be certain when God created the world or how long he took to create it." To Sailhamer it's merely a general comment by Moses that God is Creator.

Therein lies his first error. It is not necessary that Genesis 1:1 be time definitive, as Sailhamer asserts. It's not the only verse of revelation God has given to us whereby we study and conclude that the earth was created in six, literal, 24-hour days, about six thousand years ago. Also, the Hebrew grammar will not allow a chronological gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. They are connected by a "waw disjunctive," indicating a circumstantial clause, which would be translated, "now the earth was..."

Sailhamer is correct when he says, "As modern scientific views of the origin of the universe have radically changed, interpretations of the Genesis creation account have been shaped to fit them." But in this he merely points out the problem: "interpretations" have changed. People sincerely, but mistakenly try to make Scripture fit with alleged "facts" of science. There are no scientific facts when it comes to origins or the

thoritative Word of the living God. We're narrow-minded about it, and we're close-minded to the possibility of other alleged "revelations" being true. Jesus alone is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to God the Father but by Him (John 14:6).

### NOTES:

1. Viggo Olsen, *THE AGNOSTIC WHO DARED TO SEARCH*, (Chicago, Moody Press, 1990) pp. 25-29.

age of the earth and universe. The unique, unrepeatable, untestable origin event cannot be measured, and every dating method is based on unprovable assumptions. Carefully considered, evidence points to a young earth. The problem among Christians has been to doubt the accuracy of Scripture, and to attempt to modify what it truly says.

Sailhamer also correctly says "we will discover that little in this chapter (Genesis 1) conflicts with modern science." Unfortunately he does not mean that Genesis doesn't conflict with true facts of science. He means that long ages are possible between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. He says:

*There is no textual reason why 'the beginning' in Genesis 1:1 could not have lasted millions, or even billions, of years... within that 'beginning' would fit the countless geological ages, ice ages, and the many climatic changes on our planet... the dinosaurs already could have flourished and become extinct - all during the 'beginning' recorded in Genesis 1:1.*

To this we must respond, by what definitive authority are we to be certain there were "countless geological ages" or that the evidence of "many climatic changes on our planet" can not be explained in a young earth model?

Fortunately Dr. Sailhamer also states, "However, the word does not require vast time periods..." As noted Creationist teacher, Ken Ham, has clearly pointed out, God's Word tells us that death and bloodshed entered the world because of Adam's sin. The foundation of the gospel message is compromised by imposing long ages and/or a gap in Genesis 1, for it requires death, struggle, and bloodshed before Adam's creation and fall.

*GENESIS UNBOUND* by Dr. John Sailhamer is worth reading by careful Bible students. However, his material contains too many assumptions to prove his conclusions, and his position presents several theological problems which he leaves unresolved.

## Chaplain (cont. from p. 1.)

cults and the occult. Pray that we would have more prayer warriors. Pray that we can love each other to the point that when one hurts, we all hurt and when one has joy, we all have joy. Pray too, that we will follow the command of the Apostle in II Timothy 4:1-5:

*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

Let us know if we can pray for you, or if we can give you any materials that will help you know God's Word better. Your questions and comments are appreciated.

In His service,

Chaplain George B. Greene

Chaplain George is available almost every morning Monday through Friday at the CAF office.

NEW CAF Phone Number:  
(520) 741-8868

## Opportunities for Prayer and Financial Support

**PRIORITY NEED: COMPUTER PRINTER - \$300**

State of the Art Computer - \$2500

Copy Machine

Scan-fax machine

Phone service \$40

Bulk Mail Permit \$75

Post Office Box \$29.50

Corporation license: \$10

Postage Meter

Public Access TV Production Costs

General Fund Contributions

**Library Development:** Provide Pastors with materials to study on cults, the occult and theology.

Library Supplies: Bookcases; file cabinets; books; computer upgrade: 4 M RAM; CD-ROM Drive; Videos @ \$20. "Answers in Genesis" \$160.

Theological Journal Subscriptions for Library and Research:

CREATION \$22

CHRISTIANITY TODAY \$39.95

CHRISTIAN RESEARCH JOURNAL \$22.00

CREATION RESEARCH QUARTERLY

OTHER JOURNALS

## CHRISTIAN AWARENESS FELLOWSHIP

CAF office is located at: Calvary Chapel  
5170 S. Julian Dr., Tucson, AZ 85706

P. O. Box 35335  
Tucson, AZ 85740-5335  
(520) 573-9933

Address Correction Requested

Nonprofit Organization  
U. S. Postage Paid  
Permit Number 4 2 3  
Tucson, Arizona