



Updates and announcements about the BioLogos mission to harmonize science and faith

## President's Circle to Add Support to BioLogos Mission

### Members to offer financial assistance, counsel to Board of Directors

Since Dr. Francis Collins' departure in August, The BioLogos Foundation has been devoted to expanding its leadership. The foundation recently added Dr. Charley Gordon and R. Judson Carlberg to the board of trustees, which oversees the governance of BioLogos.

This fall, The BioLogos Foundation hopes to expand further with the introduction of the President's Circle. This group is an informal network of individuals willing to donate their name, credibility, finances and advice to aid the foundation. Unlike the board of trustees, the President's Circle is intended for those not in a position to donate a lot of time but who still wish to help advance the vision and mission of the organization. Members of the circle will agree to give or raise one-thousand dollars each year for The BioLogos Foundation, to periodically host small local gatherings to discuss science and faith, and to attend the annual President's Circle meeting.

While members will not hold a governing role in the foundation, they will receive all trustee communications, including financial and program reports. Furthermore, members of the President's Circle may be asked to give advice and counsel to the leadership team and members of the board of trustees.

On Oct. 7, the inaugural President's Circle meeting will take place in Washington, D.C., where the foundation hopes to recruit the initial core of members for this donor network. Eventually, BioLogos hopes to expand the President's Circle to include up to 50 volunteers.

"We're excited about establishing the President's Circle," says executive director Syman Stevens. "This is a big step to advance our goal of developing a wide network of friends who can play a redemptive and positive role with us as we engage the challenging questions of integrating science and faith."



(ABOVE AND BELOW) - The BioLogos Foundation hopes to recruit guests from its launch event in April to be part of the President's Circle.



## Meet Our Newest Board Members



**R. Judson Carlberg** is the seventh president of Gordon College in Wehman, Mass. He has been integral in promoting the school's commitment to science. Carlberg has served on several distinguished boards including the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and is a member of The Annapolis Group, a select group of presidents from the top liberal arts colleges in the United States committed to promoting the value of a liberal arts education.



**Dr. Charles R. Gordon** is a clinician, scientist, entrepreneur and a man uniquely committed to seeing God's handiwork in daily life. As a neurosurgeon, Gordon and his staff participate in research on novel treatments of spinal disorders. Additionally, he cofounded Texas Spine and Joint Hospital in East Texas. Gordon also owns a varied portfolio of companies and brands. He writes on God's design in nature on his blog, *Designed on Purpose*.

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## Upcoming Workshop Addresses Science-Religion Divide

In a time when \$27 million creation museums are built and books espousing aggressive atheism top bestseller lists, the need for a thoughtful dialog between science and faith is greater than ever. This November, The BioLogos Foundation will bring together 52 scientists, theologians and pastors at its first ever workshop to address this need and to discuss how to bridge the gulf between science and faith.

The workshop, titled "In Search of a Christian Theology of Celebration," will be held Nov. 10–12 in New York and will focus on celebrating God's creation in light of modern knowledge about the

universe and humans' place in it. Timothy Keller, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church and author of *The Reason for God*, will serve as the event's local host.

The focus of the workshop will be the discussion of seven white papers – scholarly papers commissioned by BioLogos which outline the most important issues in the modern science-and-faith dialog. The papers address a wide variety of topics, but each is inspired by the overarching theme of "Augustine of Hippo on creation: A theological lens," taken from chapter 8 of *A Fine-Tuned Universe* by Alister McGrath. These papers will be available to the public on the BioLogos Web site after the workshop.

To conclude the event, participants will write a statement on the next steps toward fostering a thoughtful dialog between science and religion. The foundation hopes this meeting will serve



(ABOVE) - BioLogos will host its first workshop in the heart of New York City.

### Authors of White Papers

- Karl Giberson
- Mark Noll
- Jeff Schloss
- Bruce Waltke
- Tim Keller
- Darrel Falk
- Jennifer Wiseman

as a catalyst for many subsequent activities that will bridge the gulf between mainstream science and evangelical Christianity.

## Karl Giberson Provides Public Voice for BioLogos

BioLogos president Karl Giberson continues to be popular on the lecture circuit, speaking regularly on the compatibility of modern science and faith. Since May, Giberson has made more than a dozen appearances at colleges, science-and-religion conferences, and on radio shows such as the Texas-based "The Things That Matter Most," the Pittsburgh-based "John and Kathy Show," and the special "Chaos and Creation" program produced by BBC Radio 3.

In May, Giberson spoke at both a workshop held at the Thomas Moore Institute in London in honor of *Oracles of Science* co-author Mariano Artigas as well as the second session of the Venice Summer School on Science and Religion. In July, he delivered a keynote lecture, "Science and the New Atheists," at the 2009 Metanexus Conference to representatives from more than 40 countries.

Most recently, Giberson toured three Christian college campuses to discuss the

compatibility of science and evolution. On Sept. 10, he kicked off Huntington University's 2009–2010 Forester Lecture series with a talk titled "Making Friends with Darwin: A Christian's Painful Journey." The next day, Giberson lectured on "Wrestling with Darwin" to large and engaged audience at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He finished his tour at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he spoke to a class that is reading his book *Saving Darwin* this semester before giving his lecture on "How to be a Christian and Believe in Evolution" to a packed auditorium of students and faculty.

Later this fall, Giberson will speak at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass., Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska. "Now that my kids are grown, I enjoy getting out and meeting people," said Giberson. "It's a great way to see how our national conversation on science and faith is going."



(ABOVE) - Karl Giberson addresses a packed auditorium at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. (Photo courtesy of Xavier Newswire/Shane Hughes)

## BioLogos.org Expands With Addition of Leading Figures Section

Since its launch in late April, The BioLogos Foundation's Web site has striven to become one of the leading online resources for the contemporary science-and-religion dialogue. In the five months since the launch, BioLogos.org has had more than 100,000 hits. Resources like "The Questions" section, which offers responses to some of the biggest science-and-religion questions, and the "Recommended Books," a collection of 37 important books on science and faith, have been especially popular with visitors.

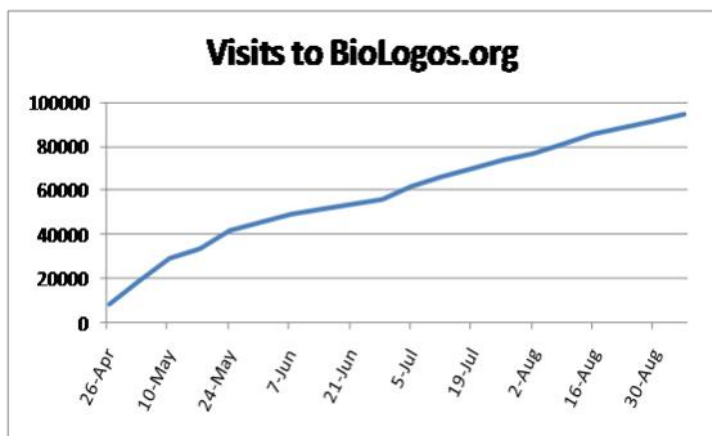
Our redesigned "Leading Figures" section offers yet another valuable resource for our visitors. Originally a collection of 15

biographies, the section has expanded to include 35 key voices in the science-and-religion dialogue. To help our readers differentiate between the diverse viewpoints in the debate, we have divided the biographies into seven different categories ranging from ultra-literalists, who believe a literal reading of the English Bible provides an accurate account of science, to the anti-religious non-accommodationists, who believe only science can provide answers to questions. Each biography concisely explains the major contributions and views of each of these important individuals.

Visitors can look forward to even more exciting additions to BioLogos.org in the coming months, including new questions and the debut of the "Organizations" section, which will provide summaries of 12 of the largest organizations influencing the modern science-and-religion dialogue and how they relate to BioLogos.

**(LEFT)** - This graph shows the total number of visits to BioLogos.org since its launch.

**(RIGHT)** - This graph shows the 30-day traffic numbers for the blog *Science and the Sacred* as reported weekly. The spike coincides with the guest feature debut.

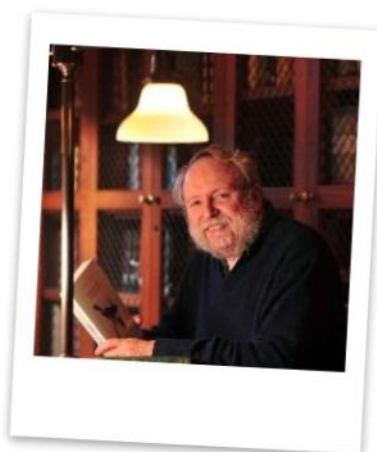


## Science and the Sacred Welcomes Guest Contributors

Over the past five months, visitors to BioLogos' blog "Science and the Sacred" on the Beliefnet Web site have had a chance to get to know co-presidents Karl Giberson and Darrel Falk through their weekly features on science and faith. However, beginning in August, visitors have been introduced to seven new voices in the field of science-and-religion thanks to the new weekly guest features. Guests have included noted authors and speakers such as Michael Ruse, author of *Can a Darwinian be a Christian?*, and Denis Lamoureux, author of *I Love Jesus and I Accept Evolution*.

The response to these guest posts has been extremely positive. Michael Ruse's article was read nearly 16,000 times in the month after it was posted. Denis Lamoureux's "The Ancient Science of the Bible" saw 150 comments after

its posting — enough to warrant a followup to address the many questions left by readers. We look forward to publishing even more of these popular guest entries for our viewers, including entries by Gordon J. Glover, author of *Beyond the Firmament*, and Peter Enns, author of *Inspiration and Incarnation*.



**"Thank You!!! Your Web site is nothing short of a miracle itself and a wonderful resource to which I can guide my students. I have recommended that they read Dr. Collins' book, but this site's format allowing exploration of specific questions is attractive and accessible to them."**

**-Visitor to BioLogos.org**

**(LEFT)** - Professor Michael Ruse provided the first of many guest features.

## Update on InterVarsity Press Book

The IVP book project that stems from the BioLogos *Frequently Asked Questions about Science and Faith*, will be co-authored by Karl Giberson and Dr. Francis Collins. The manuscript is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. The book is based loosely on the FAQs on the BioLogos Web site, revised for a book format and not a collection of encyclopedia articles. "The FAQs on our Web site are targeted toward people engaged in this topic at the level of specifics — the kind of people who have read a book or two in the area and want to pursue certain topic in more depth," said Giberson. "The IVP book is aimed at new readers considering the BioLogos perspective for the first time."

Giberson said they anticipate the book will appear sometime next summer.

**"I am thrilled beyond words to have discovered your foundation; a credible, articulate, educated, and passionate body of scientists who also happen to be devout believers...you have expressed what I have always known to be true but have never quite managed to articulate: religion and science are compatible."**

**-Visitor to BioLogos.org**

## Update on Curriculum

Work on the curriculum project for Christian schools is moving ahead on schedule. Darrel Falk, science education expert Joe McInerney and immunologist Doug Swartzendruber have developed a set of focus group questions and have scheduled three focus group meetings with teachers and administrators this fall. The first will take place on Sept. 30, with two more to follow in November.

From these meetings and likely two other focus groups with students and parents, the group hopes to assemble an advisory team and prepare a strategic plan to produce a new evolution unit for Christian schools in the next two years. Ultimately, the project is expected to expand into a full-fledged curriculum for teaching biology in Christian high schools.

## BioLogos Launches Book Club Program

To promote a grass roots dialog on the key concepts of science-and-religion, the BioLogos Foundation is forming small book clubs across the United States. Through these clubs, BioLogos hopes to foster a close-knit discussion on the BioLogos vision as well as provide interested individuals a chance to discuss important books on science-and-religion with the authors themselves.

The foundation recently launched a trial run of its book club program and has already organized five groups in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, California, and Washington, D.C.. The groups will be reading Karl Giberson's *Saving Darwin* in October and November and sharing their thoughts with other readers through local meetings. The trial run will culminate in a live video chat with Giberson at the end of the year, in which Giberson will personally address some of the questions and concerns raised in the book.

BioLogos looks forward to expanding this book club program in the future. Those interested in participating or in organizing a local book club may contact The BioLogos Foundation for more information.



**(ABOVE)** - *Saving Darwin* will be the focus of the first BioLogos book club meetings.

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AND

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## Why Use Twitter?

Twitter is a free social networking service that allows users to send and receive short messages called "tweets". It allows BioLogos to offer a continually updating news feed to a large base of subscribers, who in turn can share our news with their friends. Currently, BioLogos' Twitter account has 421 followers who receive our daily updates. For comparison, the average Twitter user has only 126 followers. On an average day, subscribers receive 4-6 updates and links.