



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

Searching for a Theology of Celebration in NYC

Members to offer financial assistance, counsel to Board of Directors

Leading evangelical pastors, scientists, and theologians recently gathered together for a historic BioLogos meeting, titled “In Search of a Theology of Celebration,” at the prestigious Harvard Club in New York City. The group convened for two days in an effort to discuss the most efficient way to reduce the tensions between Christians and the scientific community. Presentations given by prominent scholars such as evangelical historian Mark Noll, were accompanied by robust celebrations of worship led by *Christianity Today* journalist and musician Andy Crouch and small group breakout sessions, which explored key themes of the meeting in more depth.

The workshop focused on foundational questions and addressed the barriers that make it difficult for a conversation concerning science and religion to take place in most evangelical settings today. Tim Keller, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church and co-sponsor of the conference, summarized this concept in his white paper titled “Concerns of the Typical Parishioner.” In addition, Noll provided an

overview of the historical influences that have these concerns rooted deeply in the evangelical worldview, while BioLogos president Karl Giberson highlighted the cultural significance of “New Atheists” (those with disregard for the tolerance of religion), and how they seem to validate the concerns mentioned by both Keller and Noll.

BioLogos founder Francis Collins, now serving as director of the National Institutes of Health, welcomed guests to the conference and gave a speech titled “Reflections on Current Tensions Between Science and Faith.” In addition, Collins accompanied Crouch on guitar during the worship service. BioLogos president Darrel Falk, who provided much of the energy that brought the meeting to life, was delighted with the outcome of the conference, “There was such a spirit of worship and openness around a topic that is often the source of tension and mistrust. I think we all sensed God’s Spirit at work within the meeting.” Falk is currently working with a core team of leading evangelical scholars and pastors to organize follow-up activities and a second meeting to continue this conversation.



(ABOVE) - Francis Collins (shown) and Andy Crouch provided the worship music.

(BELOW) - Darrel Falk presented one of seven white papers at the event.



Affirming the Truths of Nature and Scripture

As the workshop came to a close, the BioLogos staff (in conversation with Tim Keller and other leaders) drafted the following statement, which almost all scientists, scholars and pastors in attendance eagerly signed:

“Many voices in our current culture assert that there are irreconcilable conflicts between science and faith in Christ. We, the undersigned Christian pastors, theologians, scientists, and other scholars, respectfully disagree. We have learned much from each other during these days of communal prayer, presentation, discussion, and worship, but we also recognize that we have much more to learn and many others from whom to learn. We affirm that the truths of Scripture and the truths of nature both have their origins in God, and that further exploration of all these truths can enrich our joyful and worshipful appreciation of the Creator’s love, goodness, and grace. We commit to exploring these important issues further.”

A FULL LIST OF THE SCIENTISTS, SCHOLARS, AND PASTORS WHO SIGNED CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

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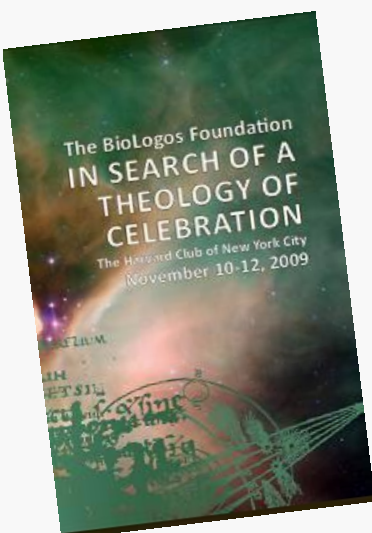
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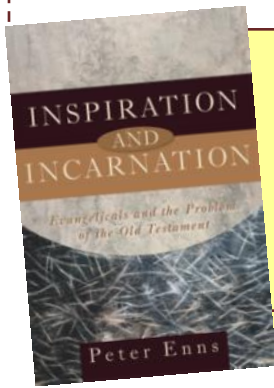
Pete Enns to Serve as New Senior Fellow in Biblical Studies

BioLogos is pleased to announce the appointment of leading evangelical Old Testament scholar Pete Enns as Senior Fellow in Biblical Studies for The BioLogos Foundation. Enns comes to BioLogos after a fourteen-year teaching career at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Penn., where he was Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Hermeneutics. Enns has also taught at Princeton Theological Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary, Biblical Theological Seminary, and Eastern University.

Enns will be helping BioLogos with its *Science and the Sacred* blog — writing regularly as well as securing contributions from other leading scholars. “Our blog is an important component for fostering a much needed culture of conversation and innovation in addressing the pressing matter of the relationship between science and Christian faith,” says Enns. “There are few places where civil discourse on origins among evangelicals can take place.” Enns will also be serving in an advisory capacity for BioLogos’ work with pastors and in its curriculum development project for Christian schools.



(ABOVE) - Enns teaches a class at WTS.
(BELOW) - Enns and his family pose for a picture while on vacation.



Enns's 2005 book, *Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament*, addresses several key issues with which evangelicals wrestle as they come to terms with the theological implications of the cultural context of Scripture. Enns's approach is intended to help evangelicals think differently about the relationship between the ancient text of Scripture and the scientific consensus that the earth is billions of years old, humanity originated in Africa, and that all of life is related.



Meet the Newest BioLogos Staff

Amy Carleton (left) serves as the Project Manager for The BioLogos Foundation. She received a bachelor's degree in English from Simmons College and master's degree in literature from Northeastern University in Boston, where she is currently a doctoral candidate. Carleton has worked as a manuscript editor in the North American offices of the *Journal of Physics and Chemistry of Solids*, has taught at several Boston-area universities, and run several short-term study abroad programs.

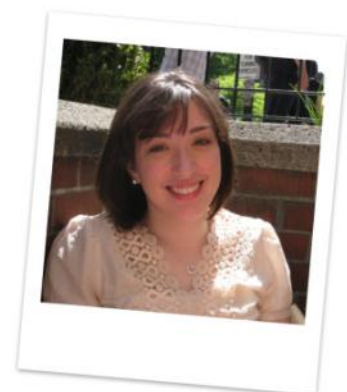
Laura Bragg (right) currently works as the Content Manager for The BioLogos Foundation. She is also working on a Masters in Nonprofit Management and Philanthropy at Bay Path College in Longmeadow, Mass. In 2008, she received her BS from Eastern Nazarene College. Laura enjoys her book club, assisting with the youth group at church, and learning about microfinance.

BioLogos.org Unveils Plans For Expansion

Over the next few months, visitors to the BioLogos Web site will notice some changes as the site expands to include a steadily increasing roster of new material. With the *Science and the Sacred* blog now relocated from Belief Net to BioLogos' own Web site, site traffic has already begun to increase and is expected to increase further as BioLogos.org continues to become a destination for people interested in the conversation of science and religion.

New features for the site will include daily news articles, Q & A pieces with leading

voices in the science-and-religion dialogue, updated reports and summaries of books both old and new, and a growing roster of resources for scholars, laypeople, and pastors. The site's "FAQ's" are also being expanded to include more information, and each will be directly edited and signed by a leading scholar in the question's related field. In addition, the "Questions" section will be coupled with in-depth resources that will provide helpful "next steps" for readers who want to pursue these topics further, including links to other Web sites, journals, and books.



Upcoming Faculty Workshop With CCCU Members to Be Held at Gordon

BioLogos is pleased to announce its first summer faculty workshop in collaboration with the Council of Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) and the Center for Christian Studies. The workshop, scheduled from June 9-12, 2010, will be held at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass. Selected CCCU faculty will be housed on the college campus for an intense scholastic program led by high-profile leaders in the fields of science, biblical studies, and theology.

The workshop was initially inspired by Mimi Barnard, Vice President for Professional Development and Research at the CCCU. Barnard is currently working with BioLogos president Karl Giberson to assemble a board of advisors to promote this workshop and develop solid curriculum for the event.

"We are very excited to host this first workshop at Gordon College," says Giberson. "Boston is a great destination in June and Gordon's Center for Christian Studies is handling all the logistics."

CCCU/BioLogos Summer programs advisory board

- **Joel Carpenter, Calvin College**
- **Ted Davis, Messiah College**
- **Christian Early, Eastern Mennonite University**
- **James Nichols, Abilene Christian University**
- **Jeff Schloss, Westmont College**
- **Cara Wall-Sheffler, Seattle Pacific University**

Science and the Sacred Arrives at New Home

After seven-and-a-half months as part of the Belief Net network of blogs, The BioLogos Foundation's blog *Science and the Sacred* has moved to its own Web site, bringing with it a brand new look and new ways for readers to engage the science-and-religion dialogue. The move comes after a booming month in terms of traffic to the blog (see graph below), which saw total views of the blog increase from 20,000 per month to almost 25,000.

The most exciting addition to the blog is the increased focus on interaction between authors and readers. Beginning next year, guest authors will set aside a specific time to

answer questions posed by readers in the comment sections of their posts. BioLogos hopes these discussions will allow evangelical Christians to further engage in the key topics of science and faith with these leading voices.

Since its launch last August, *Science and the Sacred's* weekly guest features have become a popular forum for reader discussion. The features have included a four-part series by BioLogos Senior Fellow Pete Enns on the incarnational model of Scripture and a series posts by Seton Hall law professor David Opderbeck on the role of the legal system in the science-and-religion dialogue.

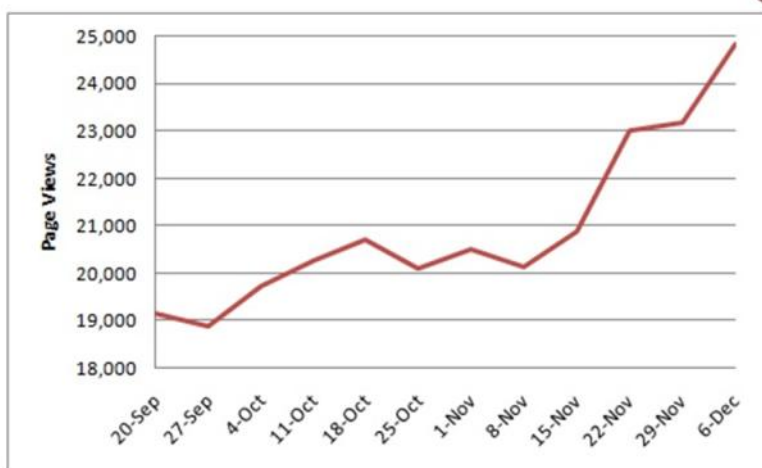


(ABOVE) - The CCCU faculty workshop will be held on Gordon College's campus.

Upcoming Guests for *Science and the Sacred*:

- **Kenton Sparks, Professor of Biblical Studies at Eastern University and author of *God's Word in Human Words***
- **Michael Zimmerman, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Center for Humanities and the Arts at University of Colorado at Boulder.**
- **Francis J. Beckwith, Professor of Philosophy & Church-State Studies at Baylor University.**

Science and the Sacred Monthly Traffic, September 20 through December 6



President's Circle Meeting Draws New Support for BioLogos

On Wednesday, October 7, The BioLogos Foundation held its inaugural President's Circle Meeting at the Capitol Hilton hotel in Washington, DC. The goal of the meeting was to recruit the initial core of members for the President's Circle donor network. President's Circle members agree to give one-thousand dollars each year for The BioLogos Foundation, to periodically host local gatherings to discuss science and faith, and to attend the annual President's Circle meeting.

Over fifty individuals were in attendance, including members of both the BioLogos team and board of directors. Board Chairman Randy Scott introduced the BioLogos team and the

night's three speakers: BioLogos presidents Karl Giberson and Darrel Falk and BioLogos founder and special guest Francis Collins, who attended in a personal capacity.

Giberson spoke on the cultural impact of the science-and-religion dialogue, while Falk gave a personal account of why evangelical Christians need to engage meaningfully with modern science or risk alienating scientifically inclined young people and the world of academics in general. Collins, wearing the National Medal of Science he received at a White House ceremony the same day (see bottom left), provided the closing address.

The event was a success, recruiting eighteen members for the President's Circle. Author Gordon J. Glover (see bottom right), one of the attendees to join, voiced his excitement for the project: "As a blogger and an author, I've been a small voice in the creation-evolution debate since 2007. By teaming up with BioLogos, I am now part of a much larger network of like-minded individuals. And the best part is that I now communicate regularly with the same scholars who influenced my own views on science and theology over the years."



BioLogos Featured on Popular Higher Education Web Site

On October 14, The BioLogos Foundation was featured in an [online article](#) titled "Believing in God and Evolution" on *Inside Higher Ed*, a popular online source for news and opinions on higher education. The article examined in detail the need for evolution to be taught in Christian colleges today and the consequences of not allowing evolutionary theory into Christian classrooms.

The article specifically noted BioLogos' efforts to foster conversation about religion and evolution in the classroom, including the upcoming faculty workshops on how best to teach evolutionary theory in a Christian environment. Likewise, the article mentioned that BioLogos leaders are

currently writing a series of books on the subject of science and faith, the first of which is planned to be published by InterVarsity Press sometime this year.

BioLogos president Karl Giberson was also quoted in the article: "We [BioLogos] want to help the church and colleges come to terms with Darwin's theory and not feel threatened by it." Giberson also remarked on the need for professors to feel comfortable discussing evolution on Christian campuses. According to him, "The church is never going to get over its fear of Darwin until we can discuss it openly at colleges without people losing their jobs."

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Curriculum Update

Together with the assistance of highly experienced consultant Joan Scott, Pepperdine University professor Douglas Swartzendruber, National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics CEO Joseph McInerney, and Darrel Falk have developed a set of focus group questions for Christian school teachers and administrators. They have carried out three focus group meetings so far: one in Denver and two at the American Christian Schools International (ACSI) annual meeting in Anaheim, Calif. Much has been learned about the needs of Christian schools, and teachers and administrators are eager for material that emphasizes harmony between science and faith. We are now in the process of developing a picture of how best to ensure successful development and implementation of curricular needs.