

## Editorial

PAUL GARNER

Recently I've been thinking about the reluctance of some young creationists to study subjects at university in which there is an assumed framework contrary to Scripture. I'm thinking especially of disciplines such as biology (with its framework of evolution and common ancestry) and geology (with its framework of uniformitarianism and deep time). But other disciplines such as philosophy, social science and cosmology have their own anti-biblical biases.

Often students are reluctant to study these subjects because they want to avoid unnecessary intellectual conflicts. In other cases, students have been discouraged from studying these subjects by church leaders, family members or friends. As a result, many choose 'safer' subjects such as medicine or engineering, in which the evolutionary worldview is perceived to be less prominent.

However, in our lead article this issue, Sophie Southerden suggests several reasons why creationists should consider studying disciplines in which evolutionary thinking is prominent. Sophie herself is studying geology at a Christian university in the United States. Others have elected to study challenging subjects in secular university departments. But whether students pursue their education in a Christian or non-Christian environment, there is a crying need for a new generation willing to grasp the nettle of studying the subjects in which there is greatest conflict between creationist and secular understandings of origins. Only by doing so will we advance the creationist model in the areas where research is most needed.

One discipline that has traditionally been considered challenging for creationists is petroleum geology. Most geologists consider oil and gas to be the products of the transformation of organic matter buried in marine sediments. However, a problem seems to arise when considering the time scales for petroleum generation. Conventional models suggest time spans of millions of years. In our second article, Richard Bruce, a geologist with decades of experience in petroleum and mineral exploration, tackles this difficulty head-on, arguing that, in fact, the conditions prevailing in natural settings can yield petroleum in time scales of one thousand years or less.

Our third article revisits a topic that was addressed in our last issue – the question of feathered dinosaurs.

Zoologist Marc Surtees reviews some of the most important fossil discoveries and concludes that not all the feathered animals in the fossil record are birds. Some theropod dinosaurs also possessed feathers.

Concluding our issue is an insightful review of a new book by Jo Marchant entitled *The Human Cosmos: A Secret History of the Stars* (Canongate, 2020). Reviewer William Worraker skilfully exposes the poverty of Marchant's atheism and points us towards the answers that can only be found in the biblical worldview.

We hope you enjoy reading our latest issue!

### AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Paul Garner is a full-time Researcher and Lecturer for Biblical Creation Trust. He has an MSc in Geoscience from University College London, where he specialised in palaeobiology. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of London and a member of several other scientific societies. His first book, *The New Creationism: Building Scientific Theories on a Biblical Foundation*, was published by Evangelical Press in 2009.

