

## Evidence News 24/11 – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011

WELCOME to clues about origin of Typhus as well as Dawkins' potential end as he launches attacks on Muslims; while the speed of light is questioned as Nobel prize is awarded for something totally wrong. All is excitement in Evidence News 24/11 with EDitorial COMment from John Mackay and the Creation Research Team worldwide.

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### INDEX

- 1. NEW ASK QUESTIONS**
- 2. MUSLIMS WORRY DAWKINS MOST**
- 3. AUSSIE CAMP COMING NOVEMBER**
- 4. FASTER THAN LIGHT NEUTRINOS**
- 5. DAWKINS DODGES ANOTHER DEBATE**
- 6. NOBEL PRIZE FOR DARK ENERGY**
- 7. DONATIONS TO HELP CREATION RESEARCH WORLDWIDE**

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**1. NEW ASK QUESTIONS** pour in from around the globe. Find out answers this week to:

1. "If God made everything good, where did Typhus come from? Since it can only survive in man, it must have been in Adam." [Click](#).
2. "Would you happen to know what approximate percentage of scientists believe in creation? This information would help me in my discussions with atheists." [Click](#).

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**2. MUSLIMS WORRY DAWKINS MOST**, according to article in BBC News and The Telegraph 8 October 2011. Atheist Richard Dawkins is an outspoken opponent of all faith based schools, but he says Muslim schools worry him the most. Whilst making a documentary named "Faith Schools Menace?", Dawkins visited a Muslim school in Leicester. He complained: "Every single person I met believes if there is any disagreement between the Koran and science, then the Koran wins. I spoke to a group of girls, and to a senior science teacher who believes the world is 6,000 years old. It's just utterly deplorable. These are now British children who are having their minds stuffed with alien rubbish". Dawkins claims the effect of this teaching is "utterly deplorable" and has long lasting effects. He commented: "Occasionally, my colleagues lecturing in universities lament having undergraduate students walk out of their classes when they talk about evolution - this is almost entirely Muslims".

Links: [BBC](#), [Telegraph](#)

ED. COM. Two things are worthy of comment – the first that such Muslim or Christian students are labelled British Children first, which Dawkins uses to mean they should not believe creation, so Dawkins et al have obviously reached the position of telling us that parents don't have the right or authority to educate their own children.

Secondly, Dawkins has a long and loud history of opposing Christian creationists so it is interesting he considers Muslims the most worrying. Maybe he has observed that Muslims are more passionate in their beliefs than many Christians. But notice what Dawkins is really opposed to – young earth creationism. He knows that if there is good evidence the earth is young and good evidence for the Biblical history of the world, i.e. created perfection followed by sin, judgement and degeneration, then his atheistic world view is wrong. Furthermore, Dawkins is familiar enough with the Bible's teaching to know that the God who created has warned He is also the God who will judge and call all people to account. Now go share the good news with both Atheists and Muslims that Christ the Creator is also Christ the Saviour. (Ref. World view, philosophy, education, Islam)

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**3. AUSSIE CAMP COMING NOVEMBER** Join John and Anne Mackay for a great weekend of Bible teaching.

Where: Fitzroy Falls Conference Centre, Ryan's Lane, Fitzroy Falls

When: Fri 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Theme: The Word of God, the works of God.

Organisers: Shellharbour Christian Fellowship

Contact: Evan Loats: 0419 510 863 - [eloats@hotmail.com](mailto:eloats@hotmail.com)

Tony Aroutsidis: (02) 4296 8648 (shop) (02) 4296 1569 (home) or mobile 0413 042 820

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

**4. FASTER THAN LIGHT NEUTRINOS** reported in BBC News, ABC News in Science, and arXiv 23 September 2011 and *Science Live Chat* 28 September 2011 (and other sources too numerous to mention). Neutrinos are subatomic particles that have such a miniscule mass they have been called "ghost particles". Over the last three years scientists at CERN, near Geneva in Switzerland have fired bursts of neutrinos towards a particle detector 732km (455 miles) away in the Gran Sasso National Laboratory near L'Aquila, Italy and found they arrived 60 nanoseconds faster than if they had travelled at the speed of light. According to Einstein's theories, nothing can go faster than the speed of light, but after 16,000 measurements the research team concluded their results were real, and not experimental error.

A spokesman for the research team, Antonio Ereditato of the University of Bern, explained: "This outcome is totally unexpected. Months of research and verifications have not been sufficient to identify an instrumental effect that could explain the result of our measurements". The researchers are not yet ready to rewrite Einstein's theories and have appealed to other researchers to carry out similar experiments to confirm the findings. Ereditato told BBC News: "My dream would be that another, independent experiment finds the same thing - then I would be relieved". He went on to say, "we are not claiming things, we want just to be helped by the community in understanding our crazy result - because it is crazy". The "crazy" results have led to some bizarre speculations about wormholes in space and time travel, but physicists are looking for other more sober explanations.

As part of a discussion in *Science Live Chat*, Alan Kostelecky of the University of Indiana suggested: "the universal speed limit could in principle be that of neutrinos. The puzzle would then be why particles that supposedly have masses (from experiments looking at neutrino oscillations) are travelling faster than light, which is made of massless photons. One possibility discussed a lot in the scientific literature is that there might be an unknown background field in the vacuum, which effectively slows down photons more than neutrinos".

Links: [ABC](#), [BBC](#), original paper at [arXiv](#)

ED. COM. Wow you could run with this – and some of the press has – Einstein finished, Light can go faster,  $E = mc^2$  is relatively wrong etc. So these scientists are correct in asking for confirmation by other researchers, and in being cautious about interpreting their results. If they do turn out to be correct however Einstein's reign as king will be over and all theories built on maximum speed of light concepts, big bang, old universe etc will be up for grabs.

Alan Kostelecky's suggestion is interesting, as it reminds us the vacuum of space is not completely nothing, as in total non-existence. Empty space was still something God had to create on day 1, before He filled it with matter, energy and time. The eternally existent Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit designed the laws of physics and incorporated them into the space, matter, energy and time He created.

The fact that modern day physicists with all their elaborate particle accelerators and detectors can't explain all their experimental results about the nature of space and matter reminds us the Law Maker is far more intelligent and more powerful than the law observers. That same Law Maker God has given us the intelligence to observe the laws of physics and put them to use as we exercise the dominion He has given man. We should continue to search out how the universe works, but in

doing so, we should recognise the Creator's hand at work and give Him the honour due to His name. (Ref. relativity, scientific method, Big Bang)

**5. DAWKINS DODGES ANOTHER DEBATE**, according to articles in *Christian Today* 30 September 2011 and the *Telegraph* 14 May 2011. Richard Dawkins has declined invitations from the British Humanist Association, the Cambridge Union, Premier Radio and the Oxford Christian Union to debate Christian apologist William Lane Craig. Craig is a professor of philosophy at the Talbot School of Theology in California but Dawkins does not consider him to be a worthy opponent, declaring: "I have no intention of assisting Craig in his relentless drive for self-promotion". Dawkins' stance has annoyed both atheists and Christians. According to the *Telegraph*, Daniel Came, an atheist and Worcester College philosophy lecturer wrote to Dawkins saying: "The absence of debate with the foremost apologist for Christian theism is a glaring omission on your CV and is of course apt to be interpreted as cowardice on your part. I notice that, by contrast, you are happy to discuss theological matters with television and radio presenters and other intellectual heavyweights like Pastor Ted Haggard of the National Association of Evangelicals and Pastor Keenan Roberts of the Colorado Hell House".

However, Dawkins was not convinced, and reiterated his stand with the following statement: "I always said when invited to do debates that I would be happy to debate a bishop, a cardinal, a pope, an archbishop, indeed I have done those, but I don't take on creationists and I don't take on people whose only claim to fame is that they are professional debaters; they've got to have something more than that. I'm busy".

Links: [Christian Today](#), [Telegraph](#)

ED. COM. So, Dawkins formally announces he is prepared to take on bishops and church leaders, but not creationists. Maybe he doesn't feel threatened by church leaders, and maybe there is good reason for that – many don't believe Genesis anyway so we are surprised that Dawkins has chickened out on this debate offer, since W.L. Craig, when challenged by an atheist during a debate to declare where he stood, labelled himself "somewhere between progressive creation and theistic evolution", which the atheist rejoiced in, as that meant Craig wasn't one of those young earth creationists. Source <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSc92EDm5gU>

One additional reason Dawkins gave face to face to John Mackay for not wanting to formally debate John when Dawkins interviewed John for Channel 4 UK, was that "I do not think fast on my feet and I am not good at debating". We have to agree on both counts. (Ref. philosophy, education, world view)

**6. NOBEL PRIZE FOR DARK ENERGY**, according to articles in *Nature News* blog 4 October 2011, *The Canberra Times* and ABC (Australia) Radio National 6 October 2011. Three astrophysicists have been awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize for Physics "for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe through observations of distant supernovae". According to the Big Bang theory the universe began by expanding very rapidly, but as time goes on the gravity of all the massive objects in the universe should be slowing down the expansion. Saul Perlmutter, Brian P. Schmidt, and Adam G. Riess studied the light from Type IA supernovae (exploding stars) which are all considered to have the same luminosity, so by comparing the apparent brightness of supernovae in progressively more distant galaxies it is possible to see if the rate of expansion is changing. They found they were dimmer than expected if the universe was slowing down.

The scientist believe they have found a force called "dark energy" which accounts for around 75% of the matter and energy in the universe and overcomes the force of gravity, making the universe go on expanding with ever increasing speed. In an interview on ABC Radio National Brian Schmidt was asked: "What does it mean to live in an expanding universe?" He replied: "Living in an expanding universe means we can run it back into the past. It seems to have started 13.7 billion years ago, but now that it is running away from us, it seems to indicate that the universe is going to be without end. It is going to continue to expand faster and faster and everything, all the galaxies – right now when we look out with our big telescopes we see billions upon billions of galaxies, but those galaxies are slowly fading from view and the rate they are fading from view is speeding up

## Evidence News 24/11 – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011

and so eventually, 100 billion years in the future, one can imagine looking out into what is effectively an empty universe”.

Links: [ABC](#), [Nature](#), [Canberra Times](#)

ED. COM. So what is actually out there? Dark energy is called “dark” because it cannot be directly detected. Dark matter is part of the “concordance” model of the universe which claims the universe consists of “73% dark energy (nature unknown), 23% cold dark matter (nature unknown) and 4% ordinary matter”. (See *Science*, vol 302, p2038 19 Dec 2003, and *New Scientist* 20 Dec 2003, p16.) The ordinary matter is the stuff we actually observe. Dark matter and dark energy have been assumed into existence in order to explain findings that don't fit the Big Bang theory. The only thing that has actually been observed is increasingly dim supernovae. For more about dark matter and energy from previous Evidence News, [click](#).

Schmidt's description of the universe beginning with a bang and ending up as dark empty space is exactly the opposite of the Biblical history of the universe. In the beginning God spoke and created the space and put a cool water covered earth in the heavens and then filled the space with all the objects we see in the sky. The same Creator also reveals that when He has finished with this physical universe it will end with a “great roar” and everything will be burned up. It didn't start with a big bang but it sure will end with one! (See 2 Peter 3:3-13).

However, that will not be the real end. God will create a new heaven and earth where those who put their trust in the Creator and Saviour Jesus Christ will live forever and those who don't will reap their reward in a Hell created for the Devil and his angels. (Ref. cosmology, astrophysics, eschatology)

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AUSTRALIA: P.O. Box 260 Capalaba Qld 4157

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