

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to say that since our last Newsletter in September, my health has continued to improve and I have spoken at a number of meetings. Thanks to those of you who have upheld us in prayer regarding our health issues. Irene has had laryngitis for the last eight weeks and is still on medication. Please continue remember her in your prayers.

It is always encouraging when your talks are able to help people with problems that they are having. This is what should happen during speaking opportunities even though you often are unaware of any help you have given. However, I have been encouraged recently by learning of the help my messages have been to several people.

At one meeting there was a lady who had been a Christian for only a few years and was having problems in accepting the historicity of a lot of the Old Testament (including Genesis). During my talk **Why I Believe in Creation** I explained that the Bible was accurate when it referred to the histories of not only Israel and Judah, but also of Assyria and Babylon. After my talk she went up to the Pastor and told him that my talk had shown her that she could believe the whole of the Bible and that she now believed that God was the Creator of all things. At another meeting, a young woman in her twenties told me how much my talk had strengthened her faith and that she now felt even more encouraged and confident to witness to her friends about the Creator God. This is what it is all about – not only reaching out to the lost but also strengthening the faith of Christians as they seek to follow the Lord.

Please keep praying for my ministry – speaking engagements and writing - as without the Lord's blessing they are just meetings and words. I continue writing my book about Old Testament history, especially about the kings of Israel and Judah.

Finally, on a more personal note, Irene and I want to share with you that we have two important family events happening next year: our youngest son is getting married in April and our eldest son and his wife are expecting their first child at the beginning of May. Our Grandson, Jamie, is looking forward to being both a pageboy and (after 12 years) having his very own first cousin!

Irene and I wish you a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

God bless you all,



Dr A J Monty White

And the angel said to the shepherds.....Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11



Several of my Autumn Meetings

Cave-Dwellers

There is a misconception that people who lived in caves were somehow more 'primitive' than we are and so must have been in the process of evolving into humans. The term 'cave-men' genders thoughts of half-human brute beasts. In my talks, I often draw attention to the fact that many people today still live in caves - they are fully human and definitely not 'primitive'.

In my talks, I refer to the caves at Kinver in the West Midlands – a place to which I was taken when I was a small boy so that I could visit these 'cave-dwellers'. These caves are now owned by the National Trust and worth a visit so that you can see for yourself how the occupants lived until they moved out in the mid-1960s. I also show photographs of cave dwellers in Afghanistan and in China today.

The Cro-Magnon people lived in caves in Europe a few thousand years ago. These are the people that drew and painted in the famous Lascaux cave system. Some of the less famous drawings of the Cro-Magnon people are the self-portraits that they carved onto stones that were found in a cave near Lussac-les-Chateaux in 1937.

Continued overleaf

Prehistoric Autopsies on BBC

I wonder if you saw this recent short TV series? Not only did we watch the *Prehistoric Autopsies* on BBC2 in October but we also saw *their* reconstructions of the Neanderthal, the *Homo erectus* boy and of 'Lucy' (*Australopithecus afarensis*) at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff when they were on view there at the beginning of November.



The reconstruction of the Neanderthal was the best as it was the most scientific. The scientists involved reconstructed the Neanderthal man from one individual skeleton but it was obvious that they knew what a Neanderthal looks like from the thousands of fossils of Neanderthals that have been found all over Europe. Latest DNA

findings were used effectively and the resulting ginger-haired reconstruction was very life-like and reminded me of the famous quote made by two anatomists (A J E Cave and W L Straus Jr) as long ago as 1957. They concluded that there was no valid reason for assuming that the posture of the Neanderthals differed significantly from that of present day man and they went on to say that if a Neanderthal male was bathed, shaved and dressed in modern clothing he would pass unnoticed in a New York subway!



However, the reconstructions of the *Homo erectus* and the australopithecine (the famous Lucy) were not as accurate as the evidence (in the form of fossil bones and teeth) suggests. It was obvious from statements made on the programme that the reconstruction of *H erectus*, especially of the face, was based on preconceived ideas and guesswork. It cannot be overemphasised that the pattern of hair, the skin tone and the shape of the nose on such reconstructions is pure guesswork. This means

that those doing the reconstruction can make the creature look more ape-like or more human-like depending on their preconceived ideas and biases.



Although the bones of Lucy's feet have not been found, she is depicted as having human-like feet because fossilised human-like footprints have been found at Laetoli in Tanzania, hundreds of miles away from the Afar region of Ethiopia where Lucy was found. It is *assumed* that these footprints were made by an Australopithecine although there is *no* proof of this. Furthermore, in the reconstruction of Lucy, as in the case of *H erectus*, the pattern of hair, the skin tone and the shape of the nose is pure

guesswork. In other words, the reconstruction is based more on guesswork than on science. But more importantly, Lucy (a southern ape, which is what the word *Australopithecus* means) has been portrayed as having whites in her eyes – see photograph. Now apes do not have whites in their eyes, but Lucy is depicted as doing so to make her appear human! As I considered the preconceived ideas that had reconstructed Lucy, I realised that the driving force behind her reconstruction was more to do with what the evolutionists think Lucy *ought* to have looked like rather than what the evidence reveals.

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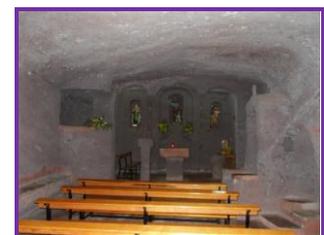
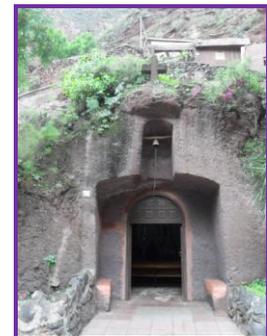
Cave-Dwellers (Continued)

There are over 130 carvings and they show men and women wearing robes, boots, belts, coats and hats. These can be found on the web at <http://s8int.com/sophis2.html>. The Cro-Magnon people were not 'primitive' – they looked just like me and you.



Images of some of the Cro-Magnon People

Recently we had a week's holiday in Gran Canaria in the Canary Isles. Imagine our surprise to discover that even today there are people who live in over 60 caves on this island. These cave-dwellers are not primitive or cavemen – they are ordinary 21st Century human beings who just happen to live in caves which are fully equipped even with flat-screened TV sets! There is even a cave church which is still used for weddings but no longer for regular worship. Irene also had a tapas meal in a cave restaurant. Do not be fooled by thinking that if people lived in caves in the past, that they were not fully human and were therefore a link between apes and humans – caves were/are just a convenient place in which to live.



Cave Church Gran Canaria