

Creation Research for the 21st Century
Overview, Structure & Budget

The Genesis Fund
& Nehemiah Foundation

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The Problem

It's important to understand the problem facing creation science. The majority of working scientists who have developed the modern creation synthesis (that is, scientific support for six day creation, a real Adam and Eve, and a global flood) are over 50 years old. The major creationist organizations, although still funding internal research to varying degrees, are focused primarily on apologetics and popular education—an important job, but one that relies on research completed decades ago.

There is only one Christian university that offers a PhD program in any scientific discipline relevant to creation science. This means that if a student wants a PhD, he or she will likely have to attend a secular university and do creationist training on the side. Although a handful of excellent Christian universities provide bachelors degrees, that's a long way from offering higher level graduate degrees. There are no independent graduate programs associated with creation science such as the original Institute for Creation Research Graduate School. It closed in 2010, and nothing has taken its place.

As a result, we are in danger of not having enough qualified men and women with significant research budgets to continue to expand the work done by current and past scientists. It is a problem even outsiders recognize. Here is what a South African scientist said on her first visit to a U.S. creation conference this summer:

"I was shocked to find out what little support there is for Creation scientists in general. I was under the illusion that the universities hosting creation-based qualifications in the U.S. would actively support research programs in the various fields of creation science, but this does not seem to be the case. During my previous secular position as a lecturer at the University of Pretoria, I was involved in teaching duties for only half of my time whereas I had the rest of the time free for research. It was also relatively easy to get funding for research from the University and/or the National Research Foundation. I knew that resigning from secular academia in South Africa would be committing career suicide as there are no higher education institutes in my country that offer any qualifications in the creation sciences, but I honestly thought that the U.S. would be different. It is no use to have elaborate public awareness and education programs whilst having significant gaps in the science to support the Biblical narrative."

She is exactly right. We are working off borrowed capital, so to speak, without fully replacing that capital for future generations. After all, there are still significant challenges facing creation science. These challenges will take highly trained men and women to solve them; they will require significant funds to finance their work.

The good news is that there is a growing interest in creation science and a growing body of men and women dedicating their careers to this extremely important endeavor.

At the International Conference on Creationism in 2023, dozens of young men and women presented papers alongside veteran scientists. The Genesis Fund regularly supports a burgeoning group of students involved in New Creation blog; and we partner with organizations trying to do the same things with other students.

Yet we need to be doing much more. The young earth creation movement is like a small, blazing fire in a dark and snow-covered scientific world. We must carefully tend that fire, realizing this is the task God has given us at this point in history. If we do not work to support these young scientists, it is unclear who will.

The Solution

To address this problem, we are seeking to raise \$50 million to build a global creation research infrastructure for the 21st century. Our goal is to build a decentralized training, research, and education organization with locations around the world. We are tentatively calling it the “Creation Science Network.”

The organization would fund scientists and students of all nationalities, linking them together for education, research, and support. It would partner with Christian universities and colleges globally to build new graduate programs to train thousands of young men and women. These new scientists would then impact hundreds of millions of Christians in every nation through their work.

The primary need of scientists is an organizational infrastructure that enables them to focus solely on their scientific work. Such an infrastructure is enormously complex and powerful in the conventional scientific world, seen in universities, private research centers, and government sponsored endeavors. There is no structure even remotely similar to this in creationism. Until it is built, creationism cannot move to the next level of influence and success.

Description of Organization

The following sections outline the potential structure of the organization. One of the concepts is a balance between centralization and decentralization. Our intent is for local organizations to have great latitude and authority to pursue research and training, but will also be supported by a central structure to help them communicate, coordinate, and connect with the larger creationist scientific community. Here is a brief summary of how the organization would be integrated; it is followed by detailed explanations of each part of the organization.

First, a series of **Research & Training Centers** will be the foundation of the organization. These local centers will link to a global network of students and scientists through the **Mentorship, Conference, & Scholarship Department**. Students will be able to receive ongoing training and guidance through the **Online Academy** which will have materials created for it through the **Production & Education Center**. We will start a **Publishing House** that will publish books and textbooks for use by students, as well as a **Technical Journal** that will feature the work of scientists and students. The Research Centers will eventually start **Graduate Schools** at select Christian universities. There will be an **Independent Research & Planning Group** made up of veteran scientists who can coordinate major projects. A **Central Administrative Office** will provide the operational support for the entire organization. Finally, there will be an **Office of Research & Development** which will seek to develop practical applications in engineering and technology of theories in creation science.

Research & Training Centers

The best way to transmit scientific knowledge is through extended personal interaction. The Research and Training centers are thus the most important part of the organization. Each center will be a self-operating location that will provide facilities for research, training, and collaboration. They will be staffed by an executive director, an operations and research manager, a variety of research scientists, and administrative staff.

The approach to the development of these centers is to identify currently existing locations where there are already a number of creation scientists, and which has associations with sympathetic institutions.

Research Center Staff:

- Scientific Director

- Executive Director
- Research & Training Coordinator
- Media & Production Coordinator
- Administrative Assistant
- Bookkeeper
- IT Support
- Associated Scientists
- Internships

Each center will include the following elements:

- Offices
- Conference room
- Research & Training rooms
- Laboratory
- Production Studio

Five initial locations have already been identified, with many other potential locations both nationally and internationally.

Cedarville Center

Location: Cedarville, OH

Scientific Director: John Whitmore, PhD (Geology)

Associated Institution: Cedarville University

Santa Clarita Center

Location: Santa Clarita, CA

Scientific Director: Matt McLain, PhD (Paleontology)

Associated Institution: Masters University

Lynchburg Center

Location: Lynchburg, VA

Scientific Director: Marcus Ross, PhD (Paleontology)

Associated Institution: Liberty University

Cambridge Center

Location: Cambridge, UK

Scientific Director: Paul Garner (Generalist)
Associated Institution: Biblical Creation Trust

Calgary Technical Center

Location: Calgary, Canada
Scientific Director: Ray Strom, Petrologist
Associated Institution: Calgary Rocks and Materials

International Creation Centers

We also have connections in the following countries where creation centers could be established.

- Australia
- South Africa
- Brazil
- Germany

Mentorship, Conference & Scholarship Department

A **Mentorship Program** will be setup to connect scientists and students based on their unique fields of research and study. There are hundreds of veteran scientists all over the world who are interested in working with students; it is just a matter of creating an infrastructure for them to connect.

The mentorship program will work to coordinate research projects and field training, as well as develop private online communication platforms designed for global scientific collaboration.

Most importantly, the mentorship program will focus on supporting students pursuing graduate level degrees at conventional universities. These young men and women are in the greatest need for academic and scientific training as they learn to reprocess the data they are learning through a creationist scientific paradigm.

It is also important for scientists and students to meet regularly in smaller and larger groups. The organization will therefore support conferences of various sizes, from annual to quarterly.

Conferences will include the following:

- Technical Paper Presentations
- General Education and Development

- Personal Relationship & Cross-Scientific Engagement

We will create an **Internship Program** that provides funding and structure for long-term internships with students working with individual scientists.

There will be a **Scholarship Program** for academic scholarships within select disciplines. These will apply to the undergraduate and graduate levels. Students will then be a part of the mentorship program

Mentorship Staff:

- Executive Director
- Mentoring Coordinator
- Research Coordinator
- Conference and Training Coordinator
- Scholarship & Internship Coordinator
- Executive Assistant
- Supporting Scientist Mentors

This program will also include budgets for creationist and conventional conferences, with funding for the conference as well as attendees.

Location: Cleveland, TN

Director: Todd Wood, PhD

Associated Institution: CORE Academy of Science

Online Academy, Production & Education Team

One of the challenging facets of creationism is that there is no single place to go to learn about all the aspects of creation science, including the variety of competing views on various topics that currently hold sway within young earth creation. If a student wants to learn about creation science, it is usually done in a piecemeal way without systemization, historical reference, and recognition of challenges within that view of earth history.

To solve that problem, we will create the first creationist **Online Academy** made up of video lecture series, documentaries, and written materials. The lectures will be taught by scientists and filmed either at their locations or at the production studios located in each Research & Training Center.

All video and written materials will be housed within a Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS will be connected to an online teaching and mentorship portal which enables discussion and interaction. Whereas the LMS will be freely available to a global audience, the online portal will only be available to a select group of students who apply for free membership. These portals will be connected to the larger mentorship program, and will be used to locate and connect with new students as well as current scientists who may not already be part of the creationist community.

As one of the public-facing sides of the organization, the Academy will be an important means of attracting, educating, and developing the creation science movement globally.

Although the Academy will have its own staff, there will also be a **Production & Education Team** that actively works to produce video content for use in educating people.

The Online Academy will therefore provide links to the other groups in a number of ways:

- Provides lectures and online portals for education and communication within **Mentorship program**.
- Works with **Production & Education Team** to produce educational materials for the academy.
- Works with the **Publishing House** to acquire and provide books and articles for the LMS.
- Works with the **Mentorship program** to identify potential new students and scientists for the network.

Academy Staff:

- Executive Director
- Educational Content Coordinator
- LMS & Website Administrator
- Educational Assistant

Production & Education Team:

- Executive Producer
- Production Coordinator
- Staff Producers

- Camera & Studio Coordinator
- Senior Editor
- Staff Editors

Technical Journal

An essential step in the scientific process is public engagement with new research and ideas. This has traditionally been done through peer-reviewed journal articles. There currently a few technical journals that publish new creationist research. However, none of those journals focus primarily on teaching students and young scientists the process of researching, writing, reviewing, and defending their theories.

The unique approach of this journal is that it will be a *training* environment to form the thinking of the next generation of scientists.

The journal will also be linked to the **Mentorship Program** to provide a place for the research conducted by these teams of scientists and students can be reviewed by all.

Staff:

- General Editor
- Asst/Specialty Editors
- Layout Editor
- Admin Assistant
- IT/Web Manager

Publishing House

We will develop an independent publishing organization that will publish new books, out of print titles, curriculum, and a **Technical Journal**. This group could be a partnership with a pre-existing publisher.

Staff:

- Publishing Director
- Scientific/Scholarly Content Editors
- Admin Asst
- Graphic/Layout Designers

- Warehouse staff
- Bookkeeper

Graduate Programs

There is currently only one university that provides graduate degrees that are designed specifically to train creation scientists: Loma Linda University, a Seventh Day Adventist institution. Although a few other Christian universities have graduate degrees, these are not structured on the lines of training creation scientists.

Graduate programs are notoriously difficult to setup and maintain. The primary issues are a combination of long term funding and sufficient students. All current public and private institutions (including most Christian) are modeled on evolutionary science; the small handful of Christian institutions which support Creation science are so far behind in this area, it will require significant long funding, planning and support to establish them.

Nevertheless, the pursuit of science in the modern world hinges on highly educated specialists. It is therefore vital that creation science begins to develop its own methods to educate those specialists, drawing from the ranks of qualified scientists and scholars.

This will serve two purposes: specialized training for students alongside employment for current PhDs. There is a continual need for well-paying positions for young scientists; a graduate program at an institution is an excellent way to serve multiple groups at one time.

Furthermore, each graduate program will specialize in a particular area. Some potential graduate programs include:

- Geology
- Paleontology
- Biology
- Astronomy

Although programs will likely be different depending on the speciality and need, here is what a single program could look like. This would be replicated at multiple institutions.

Graduate Program:

- Professors (2 to 6)

- Operations Director
- Admin Assistant
- Teaching Assistants

Additional Costs:

- Scholarships for Students
- Research Budget

Programs like this will require annual funding to sustain themselves. It will also take considerable coordination between the university's administration and graduate program.

That said, it will be in these graduate programs where some of the most important scientific training will occur.

Independent Research & Planning Group

Some of the most important results of creation science came from coordinated, multi-year research programs sponsored by the Institute for Creation Research under Henry Morris, Jr.

- CPT (Catastrophic Plate Tectonics: 1988-1998)
- RATE (Radioisotopes and the Age of The Earth: 1997-2005)
- FAST (Flood Activated Sedimentation & Tectonics: 2004-2012)

Furthermore, there is a need for scientific guidance and planning to address the major issues in creationism, such as C-14 dating, Flood/Post-Flood Boundary, Post-Flood Events, Chronology, and much more.

The identification of a group of veteran scientists who can think through creationism over the next decade, then provide structure and direction for a wide diversity of research projects, ranging from small to large.

This group will also be involved in assigning research grants and approving major projects. Minor grants can be approved through the creation research centers, but grants over a certain amount needs to go through this group.

Research & Planning Group Staff:

- Executive Director of Research

- Staff Scientists
- Administrative Assistants
- Bookkeeper

Central Administrative Offices

The organization will need a separate administrative office to manage higher level operations, finances, media, and development.

Various staff will be associated with the Central Admin Office:

- Executive Director
- Operations Director
- Controller/CFO
- HR/Personnel Director
- Development Director
- Research & Grant Director
- Education & Training Director
- Production & Media Director
- Marketing & Communications Director
- IT Director

Location: Nashville, TN & Virtual

Associated Institution: The Nehemiah Foundation

Department of Research & Development

We believe there are many areas of science that have been underdeveloped due to application of an evolutionary paradigm to the natural world. A good example of this is the discovery of so-called “junk DNA,” or the idea that 90% of the human genome was unused vestiges of evolutionary history. This idea reigned for almost a decade until the ENCODE project demonstrated that all of the supposed “junk” had very intricate and complex roles in supporting life. If a creationist mindset had originally approached this, such a mistake would never have been made.

There are already a number of areas where we see creationist ideas applied to science and technology, such as:

- Bio-inspired design (Stuart Burgess, PhD, Engineering)
- Identifying viruses that can help cure rather than hurt (Joe Francis, PhD, Microbiology)
- Finding oil and gas reserves based on inorganic principles (Ray Strom, Petrologist)

There are many other areas of science that could be applied to extremely positive long term benefit, as well as be potentially lucrative for both the organization and outside investors.

Research & Development Staff:

- Executive Director
- Research Scientists
- Research Assistants

Location: TBD

Closing Thoughts & Impact

This is just the briefest outline of an enterprise that would require hundreds of people and extensive funding. But we believe the future growth and success of creation science depends on major support for it to grow. The fact that over a trillion dollars is spent in the US each year to support conventional science education, training, and research—the vast majority of which is evolutionary-based—is a sobering reality.

The general starving of creation science is one of the primary reasons its growth has continued to slow over the past decades. Although good work is still being done by extremely dedicated scientists, it is almost a voluntary occupation which has only a fraction of the funding of one modest public university.

To be honest, \$50 million is really just what will be required to jump start this global endeavor over a 3 to 5 year period. To fully expand it and make it a global force, I would expect a number 10x that would be necessary over a 10 year period. But we must start small and pray that the Lord would make our impact a thousand times that of those evolutionary institutions that tower above us.

Potential Budget

Program	Areas	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<i>Creation Research Centers</i>					
	Cedarville OH	\$200,000	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1,000,000
	Santa Clarita CA	\$200,000	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1,000,000
	Lynchburg VA	\$200,000	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1,000,000
	Cambridge UK	\$50,000	\$500,000	\$750,000	\$1,000,000
	Calgary CAN	\$50,000	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$50,000
	New Location			\$500,000	\$750,000
	New Location			\$500,000	\$750,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$700,000</i>	<i>\$2,250,000</i>	<i>\$4,150,000</i>	<i>\$5,550,000</i>
<i>Mentorship, Conferences, Scholarships</i>					
	Mentor Program	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$350,000
	Conferences	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	\$250,000
	Scholarships	\$10,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$350,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$85,000</i>	<i>\$325,000</i>	<i>\$650,000</i>	<i>\$950,000</i>
<i>Online Academy</i>					
	Platform	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$150,000
	Production	\$50,000	\$300,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>\$400,000</i>	<i>\$625,000</i>	<i>\$650,000</i>
<i>Publishing</i>					
	Management	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$250,000
	Books	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$250,000
	Technical Journal	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
	Curriculum	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$140,000</i>	<i>\$400,000</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>	<i>\$775,000</i>
<i>Graduate Programs</i>					
	Masters University		\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000
	Cedarville University		\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000
	Liberty University		\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>\$4,500,000</i>	<i>\$6,000,000</i>	<i>\$7,500,000</i>
<i>Research and Planning Group</i>					
	Staff Scientists	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$400,000	\$500,000
	Research	\$200,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$4,000,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$300,000</i>	<i>\$1,800,000</i>	<i>\$2,900,000</i>	<i>\$4,500,000</i>
<i>Central Administration</i>					
	Staff	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$400,000
	Operations	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$250,000
	Development	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>	<i>\$600,000</i>	<i>\$600,000</i>	<i>\$750,000</i>
<i>Research & Development</i>					
	Research			\$500,000	\$1,000,000
Annual Total		\$1,575,000	\$10,275,000	\$15,925,000	\$21,675,000
Proj Total	\$49,450,000				