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An Evolution Revolutionary

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By Leonard Jackson Staff Writer

He is a science teacher who travels around much of the country lecturing on the biblical view of creation. He disputes conventional wisdom about evolution. He once was grabbed at the shoulders by a Russian medical professor who heard him speak in St. Petersburg.

He is Dr. G. Thomas Sharp, president and founder of Creation Truth Foundation, headquartered on Maguire Road in Noble.

Its purpose, he said, is "to present the biblical view of origins from a scientific perspective, or in light of what science knows.

"We chose 'creation' because we spend 99 percent of our time dealing with challenges to the biblical view of creation," he said. "We put 'foundation' in the name, not necessarily to identify it as an organization, but to identify creation truths as foundational to biblical reality."

Sharp does a lot of traveling, speaking to school groups, churches and Christian organizations generally. His engagements are arranged through organizations like the Baptist Student Union and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Last year, the foundation presented its program to 75,000 students, teachers and parents, he said.

"We travel from coast to coast, principally speaking in the southern half of the United States from Florida to California. Occasionally we go north of Missouri but not often."

With him goes what Sharp calls a "traveling museum"-- a trailer full of dinosaur bones. They are 30 research replicas, the same kind as one would see at the University of Oklahoma Museum of Natural History and furnished by some of the same museums, he said.

Trained as a science educator, he has taught in both private and public schools since 1984, the last 10 years in the Oklahoma City area. From 1985 to 1989 he taught at Noble Junior High School, where he was science chairman for the science department. From 1990 to 1994 he taught biology and earth science at Bridge Creek High School, including a stint of teaching the history of Western civilization to a gifted class of seniors.

He resigned at Bridge Creek, he said, because the foundation had grown so much it took all of his time.

A native of Indiana, Sharp was graduated from Purdue University in 1964 with a major in social studies and science. He has a master of science degree from OU and a doctor of philosophy degree in the field of religion and science from South Florida Seminary. He started teaching in 1965, spending a year in Indiana before he moved to Florence, Ala., where he became senior minister at Bible Christian Church. He also did some teaching in the next 15 years at nearby Muscle Shoals. He and his family moved to Oklahoma in 1980.

He calls himself a "biblical creationist," using as his motto a paraphrase of John 3:12: "Training disciples to trust the Bible's history for its accuracy so they'll trust the Bible's promise for their destiny."

Sharp said most of his understanding about biblical creation came between 1983 and 1988, when he was doing graduate and post-graduate studies. He said he has been a believer since age 9 but that he had a "severe problem" with the book of Genesis as a youth.

"I just about lost my faith in college but then I read Darwin's book and decided it didn't have a scientific basis. I began studying what we really know about science. We know that life comes from life. No one has seen life come from non-life."

He said evolutionists assume a constant rate of decay from uranium 235 to lead 206 for the entirety of the half-life and that's how they arrive at 4.5 billion years as the age of the earth.

"But we've only known about radioactivity for a little more than 100 years, so scientific observation of the decay constant is impossible," he said.

He places the age of the earth at between 6,000 and 10,000 years, allowing for some gaps in the genealogy in Genesis.

Sharp said he was the first American professor, in 1995, to speak at the International Conference of Science, Philosophy and Religion, held at the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research in Dubna, near Moscow. His appearance resulted from a lecture he gave in about 1994 at the First Medical Institute of St. Petersburg.

"At the conclusion of the lecture a friendly debate arose with one of the Russian medical professors at this institute," Sharp said. "He asked how I could possibly believe that all the variety of living things could be the result of one creative source. I made the argument on protein synthesis: The formation of protein in a living system must be developed from 100 percent left-handed amino acids. In nature, both left-handed and right-handed amino acids can be formed with equal facility. Stanley Miller in his research learned this but didn't say anything about it.

"Without intelligent guidance (the genetic code), chemistry will form both left-handed and right-handed amino acids, making life impossible. To guarantee the formation of only left-handed amino acids requires a program to force chemistry to do what it normally would not do."

Sharp believes that "program" is God's work.

The Russian medical professor, still wearing his white smock, came out of the audience in the huge hall and advanced toward Sharp at the podium.

"I thought he meant to throw me out, but he grabbed me at the shoulders, acknowledged that fact and inquired more about biblical Christianity," Sharp said. "It aroused the interest of many students, who asked about 'this Creator.'"

Sharp expressed concern about what he considers the bias favoring evolution teaching in school textbooks. Last fall he spoke to 5,000 school teachers and pastors in a training session in The Philippines on "How To Teach Biblical Creationism Across the Curriculum."

He indicated he is accustomed to meeting cynicism and skepticism about this views. But that hasn't deterred him from proclaiming his philosophy: "What we really know about science requires an intelligent design. Life is far too complicated for random chance to have been its author. The minimum requirements for life require an intelligent design. The Creation Truth Foundation believes that designer to be the God of the Bible."