



Christmas Music

Anyone interested in playing in an instrumental musical group for the December DSA meeting please email Kathy Lundgren at: kathylundgren1@juno.com or speak to Kathy Lundgren or James Dunn at the November meeting!

Mark your calendars now for: **Remembering Mount St Helens with Dr. Steve Austin and Dr. Keith Swenson: August 1-2, 2014**

Geologist Dr. Steve Austin and biologist Dr. Keith Swenson will be our instructor / hosts for a "Remembering Mount St Helens" seminar and field tour next summer. It is not too early to pre-register for this two day event, which includes a Friday seminar, optional field hikes the next morning, and a barbeque and fellowship afterwards at 7Wonders Museum.

Serving with Logos Research Associates, Dr. Steve Austin is on the cutting edge of research providing the scientific community with geological evidence of a global flood. He holds a B.S. degree from University of Washington, and a Ph.D. degree in geology from Penn State University.

Dr. Austin will point out the significance of the geological changes we see from the erup-

tion of Mount St Helens in 1980, through the new features that have formed over the last 34 years.

Dr. Keith Swenson will be speaking on "Catastrophic Biological Recovery – After 34 Years" Dr. Swenson teaches science courses at Multnomah University. He holds a B.S. degree in zoology and M.D. degree from Washington University. He will explain the amazing biological recovery that occurred after the May 1980 eruption of Mount St Helens up to the present day.

For more details go to website at:
<http://CreationAdventures.com>
Or call Becky Gervais: (503) 510-4157

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DESIGN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION newsletter

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Morning meeting
9 am on the
third Saturday,
Nov 16, 2013

"...And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?" Acts 2:8

Alan Wymore

The Genesis of Language and Writing



November speaker Alan Wymore

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE of the Rosetta Stone? Why is contemporary culture so enamored with themes like the "Lost Tribes of the Amazon" and "Cave Paintings" around the world? The November DSA presentation will be on linguistics and language with a focus on the origin of language and

writing systems. Speaker Alan Wymore* will take us on two "field trips" via PowerPoint to interesting locations right here in Oregon. We will look at the differences between languages and dialects. We will look at unwritten, minority and indigenous languages to understand the implications for the origin of language. And, of course, we'll see what the Bible has to say about this subject!

THIS MONTH'S DSA MEETING will be held on Saturday, Nov 16, 2013, from 9 to 11:30am, at Greater Portland Bible Church. *Be sure to attend this meeting as we view the "genesis" of language.*



*Alan Wymore earned a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and Linguistics from Oregon State University in 1985. He also studied graduate level linguistics at UTA (University of Texas at Arlington) and the UO (University of Oregon). He has worked as a linguist and translator for ten years in South America, both in Colombia and Ecuador, learning and studying the indigenous language known as Embera Chami. Alan lives in the Jennings Lodge neighborhood near Southeast Portland with his wife, Holly, and their four children, Franky, Andy, Tommy and Emily. He is a member of Wycliffe Bible Translators USA, currently serving in the Mobilization Department.

An Association for Good Science

Meets at Greater Portland Bible Church: 2374 SW Vermont St., Portland, OR 97219

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Human Languages Fit a Young Earth Model

by Brian Thomas, M.S.*

According to the Bible, God introduced different human languages at Babel about 4,000 years ago.¹ This brought about a dispersal and migration of the people assembled there, in accord with His original command to fill the earth.² In contrast, evolutionary linguists believe that all languages developed over the last 12,000 years.

If the creation model of recent migration is true, one might expect to find regional languages that obviously came from the same language families initiated at Babel. And there should be less than 4,000 years' worth of differences between them—differences that inevitably happen as things such as words or pronunciation change between generations. A new study concludes that two language families from central Siberia and North America come from the same ancestral language, implying that they share a common and recent origin—just as the Bible relates.

UCLA's Jared Diamond wrote an article in *Nature* titled "Linguistics: Deep relationships between languages," in which he summarized the work of Edward Vajda.³ Vajda, whose works appear in the 2010 issue of the *Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska*, found a very significant statistical link between the grammatical construction of the Yeniseian language family—repre-



sented by Ket, which is spoken by about 200 people in Siberia—and the North American Na-Dene language family, represented by Navajo and similar languages.

It is clear that all the languages within these two families were once one language. But one of the "questions that most trouble linguists," wrote Diamond, is "why do Yeniseian and Na-Dene languages still show such a strong relationship if they diverged 12,000 years ago, when other languages diverge beyond recognition after 5,000–10,000 years ago?"³

That question should actually be separated into several questions: Why do these languages appear so similar if they diverged 12,000 years ago? Did they actually diverge 12,000 years ago? Did all languages begin

from one language that diverged over eons of evolution, or were they created as distinct languages from their very beginnings?

First, "other languages" never did "diverge beyond recognition." Instead, they were created so that they were "beyond recognition" right from the start at Babel. It was probably this inability to communicate between the various family groups that led to their dispersal.

More significantly, the reason these languages "still show such a strong relationship" could be that the ancestors of its modern speakers were part of the same family group only 4,000 or fewer years ago. Where are all the differences that should have arisen over the course of 12,000 years of supposed Na-Dene and Yeniseian linguistic

evolution? Changes have occurred, but apparently not 12,000 years' worth.

These two languages are separated by a distance that was certainly traversable by foot within one or two generations during the post-Flood Ice Age, when sea level was 100 meters lower and a land bridge spanned today's Bering Strait.⁴ However, the languages within the two language families under consideration could not be separated by as much time as evolution insists, because they are still so

similar. The evidence from the languages points to a recent, common origin, a scenario that perfectly fits the biblical model of a young earth.

References

1. Genesis 11:6-7.
2. Genesis 1:28.
3. Diamond, J. 2011. Linguistics: Deep relationships between languages. *Nature*. 476 (7360): 291-292.
4. Hoesch, B. 2007. Megafloods in the English Channel. *Acts & Facts*. 36 (10): 14.

* Mr. Thomas is Science Writer at the Institute for Creation Research