

Application: John Stott Award

Focus Group

MEMBERS

Mike Azeka

- Director, Environmental Strategy, [REDACTED]
- Bachelor of Science, Environmental Engineering, UC Irvine School of Engineering, with an expertise in minimizing and managing wildlife risk from wind and solar power generation through applied biological research.
- Involved in HomeGroup

"I lean toward the belief that the earth's crust, mantle and core are older than 6,000 years, but less than 10,000 years. God created creatures with the ability to adapt to have the diverse forms we see today and in fossils, but they did not evolve from simple life forms on their own or by chance."

- Medical Physicist, Radiation Safety Officer, [REDACTED]
- Masters Degree in Radiological Physics
- Volunteers in children's ministry

"My view of creation is a bit muddled, I believe God was and is the creator of all."

- President & Chief Scientific Office, [REDACTED]
- PhD in chemistry with an expertise in Medicinal Chemistry
- Volunteers in church nursery and men's ministry

"I believe that the Genesis account of creation is likely consistent with scientific findings regarding origins of the universe/earth. I do not believe that the Genesis account requires a young earth since with God a thousand years is like a day (the days of Genesis are not 24 hour periods but much longer). I believe that portions of evolution theory are just that - theory - and not yet proven but that God may have used evolution as a process in his creating of the universe."

-
- [REDACTED]
- Lead Pastor, [REDACTED]
 - D.Min. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School with emphasis in leadership and preaching
 - Lead pastor and primary preacher

"Gravitate toward an old earth, day age, theory of Creation with a hunger for new learning through this focus group and program."

- [REDACTED]
- General Internist and Geriatrician
 - M.D. Vanderbilt University
 - Volunteers as church chairman on board and short-term missions trips

"I believe that God created the universe in a wonderfully intricate way that may well have taken billions of years to get to where we are today. I think there is very suggestive evidence that much evolution has occurred over millions of years but my sense of creation is that it cannot be completely explained by evolution and that creation was initiated and ushered along through all its steps by God."

- [REDACTED]
- Adjunct Professor [REDACTED]
 - PhD Biology
 - Involved in HomeGroup

"I believe that God allows the process of evolution to occur so that organisms can adapt to their ever changing environment (and survive!). Scientists use the terms "descent with modification" and natural selection when they explain the theories to students. It's an ingenious process that only God could have orchestrated."

- [REDACTED]
- Chief Scientific Officer, [REDACTED]
 - PhD Biology (Univ Colorado)
 - Volunteers in church facility set up, involved in HomeGroup

"My thoughts are best aligned with theistic evolution, and that biblical teaching and scientific evolutionary theory are compatible."

- 
- Senior Computing Associate with an expertise in scientific software development, computational chemistry and modeling
 - PhD in Chemistry
 - Volunteers as church as a high school leader

"I agree with a few things of the old-earth view on creation. There are parts of evolution I agree with due to irrefutable scientific facts, there are aspects I disagree with because they are inferred and not found in evidence. I think in the end Evolution, or what is revealed further by science in the future, will be an explanation of how God worked to create the earth, that is more comprehensive than Genesis, due to the fact of what we know about biology that couldn't be discerned by the authors (even with God's direction) back when the Bible was written, due to lack of human knowledge of physical sciences."

Format

We will meet on Saturday mornings, once (and occasionally twice) a month, for several hours. We will meet in our home for breakfast and discussion around assigned readings, individual contributions from areas of expertise, and sermon formation.

Books for discussion

In addition to the two required books (*In the Beginning, Blocher; Reading Genesis 1-2, Charles*) we will read at least the following:

- Science and Faith: Friends or Foes? C. John Collins
- Genesis: The Story of God Commentary Tremper Longman III (*the portions related to our text*)
- Genesis 1-4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary C. John Collins
- Did Adam and Eve Really Exist?: Who They Were and Why You Should Care C. John Collins
- Genesis Unbound John Sailhamer