# How to Start a Creation Science Campus Evangelism Ministry

#### First presented at Answers in Genesis All Asian Creation Conference, KL Malaysia, 11-16-11 Edited version preached at Gold Country Baptist Church, Shingle Springs CA, 1-15-12

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# 1. Enter the Unlimited Open Doors

"See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut." (Rev. 3:8)

**Creation Science Campus Evangelism** evolved out of my personal experience, being won to Christ in 1973 by one of my 7<sup>th</sup> grade science students. After 28 years in the Philippines as a missionary church planter, Filipino pastors began partnering with me in 1999 by scheduling my 2-hour evangelistic seminar in local schools. Soon we were overwhelmed with **unlimited open doors** into hundreds of universities and schools, reaching large audiences and resulting in a spiritual harvest of thousands of recorded salvation decisions. Spreading nationwide and internationally to Thailand and Bangladesh, we now have a growing army of **trained Creation Science Evangelists** and a **national director Victor De Paz**, who has registered the ministry as **Creation Science Resources Philippines**.

We challenge you to prayerfully follow our example. Our guiding principles outlined below are gleaned from New Testament convictions of God's people during times of severest persecution when the Gospel was first proclaimed. Seek God's wisdom adapting these in light of your culture's religious worldviews and intensity of persecution. Today God still wants all people everywhere to respect and bow to the absolute authority of His life-changing Word, and He will keep His promises as you ask Him: *"Lord...enable your servant to speak your word with great boldness" (Act. 4:29)* 

# 2. Proclaim the Authority of Scripture

<u>Hebrews 4</u>: <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

How did we start this soul-winning Campus Creation Ministry? Don't say or think it can't be done where you are, because it's not about how any of us we can do or even imagine doing it. It's all about God's living and powerful Word, and how He has revealed that we are in a fierce Last-Days spiritual battle for the souls of young people everywhere being taken captive by the faith-shattering, God's-character-attacking, pseudoscience of Evolutionism, and how our All-powerful, All-knowing, Omnipresent God will guide you and me by Divine Appointments to gain access to people of influence in places of authority in whose hearts He is working, to convict their hearts of their accountability to Him who judges their thoughts and intent of the hear, providentially making them willing to open doors for amazing things to happen beyond what we may hope or think. Your personal testimony is important, and how you came to realize either then or sometime later how critical foundational the Creation/Evolution controversy is to evangelism in our day. I have started virtually every seminar I have given over the years by giving my personal salvation testimony of how one of my 12-year-old students prayerfully and boldly wielded that double-edged sword of Creation Evangelism to open the eyes of her lost agnostic science teacher, mainly me, and lighting a fire in my heart which has now spread throughout the Philippines and in now part of a fast-spreading movement of God WorldWide declaring His glory to every nation.

I now call my story <u>"The Evolution of an Agnostic Evolutionist into a Creationist</u>", and it doesn't begin with just that 12-year-old girl whose name is Theresa Brunk (now Dignali), who is still one of our Prayer Warriors. God used influential people during my early childhood to awaken my soul to the living and powerful Word of God. I never even met my Grandpa Layton, but as a young child I read his "Memoires of a Missionary" about his years as a medical missionary in Congo, Africa, during "Great Awakening" at the turn of the century, in which he describes the amazingly powerful sin-convicting, soul-saving, life-transforming power of God's Word bringing mass conversions of entire tribes to Christ, while training other evangelists who experienced mass-conversion of one tribe after another. That became the basic pattern for how God directed in starting and spreading our ministry.

<u>My childhood Creationism foundations</u> were planted by a babysitter we called "Gramma Sims", an active witnessing member of a nearby Baptist church, who directed me to read and try to memorize Genesis 1 where she had marked in my Bible the 6 days of Creation. At that point I simply accepted that as world history explained by an All-Powerful Creator God, but since our community church never preached on salvation my concept of God was shaped by Charlton Hesston movies The Ten Commandments and Ben Hur.

<u>My "Already Gone" Experience</u>: I had a major crisis of faith in college when I my professors in Biology and Physical Anthropology taught me "modern science" that seemed to conflict with the Bible, and I was frustrated that I had no answers. I wrote a research paper on "Human Evolution" in which I concluded it must "God's great plan of Evolution" since the fossil record showed me no proof at all. So for my next research paper I opened my childhood Bible to the highlighted 6 Days of Creation and set out to prove there was no conflict with evolution. However, I was devastated when I found total contradiction for every one of the 6 days. My exasperation was so complete that I hid my Bible away and concluded that Church is full of misguided hypocrites. You can review and use that chart in my PowerPoint included in the conference DVD.

<u>When I did get saved then in 1973</u>, and my wife Donna shortly thereafter, we renewed our commitment made earlier as unbelievers to read God's Word daily; but with Christ now sanctifying our hearts we further recognized God's absolute authority over our lives in a prayer together with a visiting evangelist, to proclaim and sign this "Personal Covenant" which I have pasted in my Bible, and have on occasion led others to commit to at the end of Revival preaching to Philippine seminary students:

#### PERSONAL COVENANT

"LORD Jesus Christ, I give up all my own personal desires, my hopes, my plans, and yield myself to You to be Yours forever! From this moment forth, I present myself a living sacrifice, trusting in Your Sovereign plan in and through me. LORD, fill me with Your Holy Spirit! Lead me where You will! Do with me as You will! Work out Your perfect will in my life, no matter what the cost, now and forever."

Now looking back, I would say that making that Personal Covenant yielding to the Absolute Authority of God's Word over my life, and accompanying commitment we've both struggled with over the years to maintain daily devotionally scripture reading and daily prayer alone with God as well as with my wife and family, is the foundational basis for seeing God at work on Philippines campuses and being willing to step out in a mass-evangelism Creation Science Campus Evangelism ministry. If you have not prayed a commitment like that to your Sovereign LORD who desires to be the Director and Divine Appointment Maker of your ministry, then I challenge you to take time for that right now. It's the main thing. A Creation ministry is powerless and a waste of the gifts God has given you without total submission daily to His Spirit's controlled leading and guiding through God's Absolutely Authoritative Word.

One more foundational principle about our handling of Scripture: I learned early in my Christian life that none of us is exempt from active involvement in evangelism. Our Lord's Great Commission is to all Believers to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation". (Mark 16:15 ESV). And The Apostle Paul exhorts his pastoral intern in 2 Timothy 4:5

"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."

Paul is identifying here <u>"the work of an evangelist</u>" as an essential part of church ministry, modeled by our pastor so all church members can imitate, requiring clear thinking and enduring hardship both outside and inside the church, as in Timothy's pastoral ministry in Verse 2:

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction.<sup>3</sup> For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.<sup>4</sup>"

That aptly describes the state of professing Christians deceived by secular humanism nowadays not just in their schools or workplace but also within church where Creation Apologetics is not standard fare. Whatever ministry you have in your local church or broader body of Christ, make this commitment also that your Creation ministry will always be all about evangelism: equipping the saints with Genesis Apologetics, witnessing the same to outsiders, and ask God for Divine Appointments to start a Creation Science Campus Evangelism ministry which I believe He has in store for you.

## 3. Make Known the "Unknown God"

<u>Acts 17: 16,22-25</u> <sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols... <sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth…

You'll see how we do this in the illustration of our PowerPoint lecture, and also study the Symposium "<u>Creation Science: the Alternative to Evolution</u>." Even the title is carefully worded to imply what Paul meant the Athenians to understand as "The Unknown God". The Creation model presents a Person who is the author of all nature and Creation, and who can be known not just by natural revelation but more specifically and accurately has revealed His attributes fully only in His written Word.

For English audiences we changed from our original Contrast Chart comparing key points of Creation with Evolution to what we call <u>"The FACE That Refutes the Fact of Evolution</u>". So far we have versions in Thai for mostly Buddhist audiences. And Bengali script with a translation adapted to mixed audiences of Muslim, Hindu and occasional Christian. When teaching internationally we set time ahead beforehand for the translation work, and sometimes did it in two languages alternating on the screen, especially in the evangelistic English Camp of Thailand.

<u>1 Peter 3:15-16</u> <sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; <sup>16</sup> and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

We like to close the Symposium with an "invitation song" by Buddy Davis, an emotion raising song about the effect of man's curse on extinction, "<u>When Dragon Hearts Were Good</u>", followed by a "Sinners Prayer" led by a pastor trained to not try to preach the Gospel a second time in the prayer. Immediately decision slips are handed out which have a place for their questions as well as write their name if they indicate a first-time decision trusting Christ the Creator as Lord and therefore Savior.

Trained team members collect and quickly sort the questions into groups of like queries. Then we do our best to cover everything, even some of the intentionally provocative questions to show that we can handle scoffing or tough ones. Most questions will be of spiritual inquiry, which we do our best to cover quickly but fully.

Church Focused immediate Follow-up is so important. My preferred pattern is when administration allows time and space for our student Christian Organization workers to gather groups of students in circles at the close of the Symposium, immediately after the closing prayer: clearing up misunderstandings about the Gospel and clarifying salvation in Christ alone by faith alone, and the importance of not only continuing in follow-up Bible study but also directing them immediately or when they seem ready to attend a church and eventually be baptized and live out their faith.

<u>Acts 15:36-40</u> <sup>36</sup> Sometime later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

With persevering discipleship follow-up, we've seen about 10% of the number who make firsttime decisions end up following the Lord in believers Baptism.

# 4. Equip & Enlist the Saints

Ephesians 4: <sup>11</sup> And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for works of service... <sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming.

We found early on the terrible consequences of entering schools to do Creation Evangelism seminars in a city or region without first doing a full Creation Apologetics Sunday in each sponsoring church, especially the more "fundamental" ones. What would happen is we would arrive to find the lecture hall padlocked shut, or students prevented from attending by a "special assignment", or once the professor allowed only students from the Christian organization to attend when the entire Biology department was approved by administration. In all these mentioned cases, in different parts of the country, we discovered it was faculty from very conservative churches where years before me pastors had been taught the "Gap Theory" compromise popularized in commentaries of very conservative scholars trying to find a place to bury the dinosaurs and other important evidence for Noah's Flood, and these well-meaning folds were simply unaware that all such "conservative compromises" have since been discarded in preference to simply believing what God says about Creation.

You may be surprised to discover similar <u>"accommodations" of "modern science</u>" in churches where pastors or members want to assist you, so arrange with the pastor so he will give you ample time to fully equip not only the saints, but primarily so that he will be encouraged by you and the Lord to preach expositorily through Genesis 1-12 to cover all the important Creation Apologetics principles.

So we learned to conduct a complete Sunday of seminars, something like: Sunday School message based on <u>"Already Gone"</u>, Worship Service sermon on <u>"Restoring our Foundations in Genesis</u>", and an evangelistic evening service on <u>"Were Dinosaurs on Noah's Ark</u>", which always fills the church even to overflowing. That pattern has been also suggested and offered to me in almost all my supporting churches when I've come to "report" as a furloughing missionary. There is a great hunger everywhere for this topic you are entrusted with.

One result of presenting first in churches of college towns is that church members who are educators or students see the relevance, get very excited about our message and possibilities of partnering in evangelizing their colleagues, and so we have a TEAM forming ahead of time. There will likely be leaders who take control of logistics, lining up further Divine Appointments, and several church members who will want to assist in ushering or greeting attendees, handing out or collecting and sorting Decision Slips, or teaming up with Bible Study leaders for Follow-up. Teamwork is such an important part of the Apostle Paul's missionary adventures, so we imitate that.

Since Filipino educators are almost always nominally religious, either Catholic, Buddhist or Muslim, we must be right to the point of affirming our common concern and desire for truth and morality when we present our credentials and promotional literature. First, they are relieved when we explain that this is not a religious presentation, but is a scientific alternative to Evolution acceptable to a growing number of scientists and educators. This is a public service ministry to the schools. Educators always respond favorably expressing the need for values-based Truth foundations to assist interpreting textbooks which might not be written from a Christian perspective or worldview.

Secondly, they are concerned about the declining morals of students, and are easily persuaded that an application of Bible morals to science and social studies, and especially Values Education, will prove beneficial. In Catholic schools we do not mention up front that we are Baptists, but when it comes up in the form of questions or it's mentioned in introducing us, we make the point that we are not coming to try to convert the students to our church. That happens to be our background because our church majors on Bible study, and we believe that the book of Genesis is foundational to all good science and an accurate understanding of history and morals. That explanation almost always gains high respect.

One important spinoff of my personal preaching ministry has been developing a network of supportive churches that really understand and stand behind and assist in our Creation Evangelism Campus ministry, with pastors who preach exposition through the Bible starting with Genesis and Creation Apologetics. Most of our supporting churches in America fit that pattern, and although the pastors have equipped the people well, they still expect that every time I visit I will do an update of our "Creation Science Apologetics Sunday" or some variant with missions emphasis.

<u>Headquarters established</u>: We praise God for our visionary pastor of the Doane Baptist Church, Pastor Balm, who invited us years ago to make our Headquarters office, Apologetics Resource Room to house books, DVDs and teaching materials, and a soundproof Training Room in the office complex of the new church building conveniently located in the most central city of the Philippines, Iloilo City, which happens to be a major college center having 5 universities within walking distance of our office. The church partners with us and cooperates locally and nationally with a Creation Science Team of Evangelists who assist our Filipino Director nationwide and perhaps even internationally as the Lord allows and provides for in the future. I believe they are all here at the AACC with us. Praise God for His faithfulness in doing above and far beyond what we had ever hoped or dreamed of. To our great Creator God be all the glory forever and ever Amen!

# 5. Schedule by Divine Appointments

<u>Acts 16:6-10</u> <sup>6</sup> [Paul and his companions] ...were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> did not permit them. <sup>8</sup> So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. <sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

I've alluded to this earlier as perhaps the most important principle tying everything else together, and when followed prayerfully it is the most exhilarating experience of the obedient Christian life experiencing dynamic interaction with our living Savior. The passage in Acts 16 indicates there are times of what we might call "Death of a Vision" when we think initially we are walking in God's will only to find ourselves disappointed with sidelining or clearly "forbidden by the Holy Spirit" and Paul was in his desire to enter Asia. But by prayer and our positive response to His Word and promptings, he redirects us.

This passage was used by our pastor in our home church in America when Donna and I were already certain God wanted us to be missionaries, but had not made a public commitment. Pastor Wagner walked to the pulpit when Dr. Antolin Zamar from the Philippines had just finished preaching his heart out for our Missions Conference, and he started an invitation by saying *"Perhaps this preacher is your Man from Macedonia, saying to you 'Come on over to the Philippines and help us"*. That was definitely our "vision' in a real a practical sense, and Donna and I both rushed forward to take his hand and made known our conclusion that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

The same principle can be clearly seen throughout the Book of Acts: Peter preaching at Pentecost with thousands responding by Divine Appointment; Philip's divine appointment in the desert with an influential Ethiopian government official wanting to know what Ps 53 is all about; and all that happened for the spread of the Gospel in Caesar's household while Paul was awaiting his Divine Appointment with the Roman executioner. All of these are God's evidence of His Providential goodness to those He loves and protects and sometimes prepares for Homecoming.

Seek Divine Appointments, and joy will come from your tears and ashes. From Our Daily Bread:

#### **Title: Divine Appointments**

"Disappointment—His appointment," Change one letter, then I see That the thwarting of my purpose Is God's better choice for me. —Young

#### 6. Train Teams of Creation Evangelists

<u>Matthew 9:36-38</u> <sup>36</sup> But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. <sup>38</sup> Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

When we felt so overwhelmed by the ever-increasing invitations, from every region and even far corners of the country, we realized we needed to develop a comprehensive Training Program similar to the ITS (International Training Seminar) of Answers in Genesis. Actually Donna and I were part of AiG Creation college, which exposed us to the differing styles of all the AiG presenters. But we knew we would have to either do sessions ourselves, or show video lectures which were not quite what we wanted sometimes.

Our first one was in 2005, sponsored by Doane Baptist Church which had invited us to make our national headquarters eventually in the proposed new church building. We invited 15 of the most promising and most science savvy of the pastors and church workers we had partnered with around the country. One important added feature was a practicum at the end, where each would practice and present a 15-minute segment of the Symposium in a cooperating nearby university. It was interesting to me that the Biology department head who allowed the symposium was a committed Evolutionist who liked our presentation and did not feel threatened exposing his students to both sides of the issue, because I think it encouraged him somehow in his Catholic faith.

We called it the <u>CSETI Project</u>: <u>Creation Science Evangelists Training Institute</u>. The name rhymes with SETI Project: Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence. We can say "We have found Him, and He has revealed Himself as the Intelligent Designer who became our Savior and is coming again to restore His Creation to its original perfection. Christ's powerful commission is upon them and all of us who share this passion and ministry:

Acts 26: <sup>17</sup> I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

One of those in the first CSETI was a very special former University Research Scientist <u>Vic de</u> <u>Paz</u>, who had been so impressed with my first presentation at his university that he and his wife moved to our headquarters church and seminar to earn a degree in Theology. He felt definitely called to pastoral ministry, as was the case with me, but was mostly burdened for missions administration and had a lingering desire to imitate me. <u>In 2009</u> he prayerfully <u>accepted the role of</u> <u>Philippines Director</u>.

Vic did CSETI in his home church and with his 10 PhD colleagues at his university, one of whom helped open a new ministry center in nations capital at the prestigious University of the Philippines main campus. Vic went with me internationally to Thailand, and was doing trainings and recruiting in Indonesia the month before AACC in cooperation with our headquarters church missions program. He is my greatly valued Timothy, whom I pray for daily and always miss greatly when we are apart, but know that he is qualified to extend the ministry beyond my dreams.

2 Timothy 2:2<sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

## 7. Answer "Last Days" Scoffers

<u>2 Peter 3:3-7</u> <sup>3</sup> First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. <sup>4</sup> They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." <sup>5</sup> But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. <sup>6</sup> By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. <sup>7</sup> By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

We have from the beginning used a series of charts to compare and contrast Evolution with Creation in such a way as to show they are in absolute opposition to one another and irreconcilable, so that any efforts by Christians to embrace Evolution as the way God created things should more easily be seen as an opposing false belief system requiring a lot more faith than just believing God. Throughout the Old Testament God's furious displeasure against Israel prostituting herself with false gods like Baal should sober any Christian compromise of any kind is reason for repentance.

I recently (Feb. 2011) was in an <u>"Origins Conference" at a Christian High School in Hong Kong</u>, pitted against two famous teachers of Genesis compromise. Both have been confronted with evidence that the Bible teaches a young earth and opposes Evolution, but both have invested much in their efforts to convince the scientific elite that Christianity and Evolution are compatible. It was not supposed to be a debate so I kept emphasizing that only what I was saying matches what God says about science and Creation, and I closed my last public session with what I thing was a graphic portrayal of God's impending judgment against the "Scoffers" predicted in 2 Peter 3:3-7 for the "Last Days" we live in. the passage clearly identifies the Uniformitarian false science of nonscientist lawyer Charles Lyell in the days leading up to Charles Darwin, as a way of inventing the so=called "Geological Column" which does not appear as it's drawn anywhere on earth as I way of dating fossils in millions of years based on their imagined depth of burial. I openly referred to the one compromiser's insistence on the "Big Bang" 30 billion years ago as his being "willingly ignorant" or having "deliberately forgotten" that God's Word created out of water, not a big explosion but more like a "Big Splash".

<u>I Timothy 6:20-21</u><sup>20</sup> Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, <sup>21</sup> which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. Grace be with you.

Paul's warning to Timothy guards against "falsely called knowledge" which can be translated "science" because it is what causes many young people to "wander from the faith" as documented by the "Beemer Report" in Ken Ham's book <u>Already Gone.</u> You like Timothy are to guard these Biblical foundations of Science and History, and equip young people and the saints to turn away from godless chatter and false science so called.

REFERENCES: Websites which you might find helpful:

answersingenesis.org icr.org http://www.bestbiblescience.org/ http://creation.com/

#### APPENDUM TO How to Organize and Register a Creation Ministry:

Organization and Administration of a Creation Ministry is the next step, and in our case we have registered the ministry at the national level for purposes of planning activities and funneling financial support, however that might develop. See the document below.

Other creative ideas might be forming a Creationist Organization or Creation Club at the local, regional, or even national level where interested people can get together monthly or whatever to for fellowship and hear an interesting speaker on a current topic.

