widely as we once did, since there are now a number of active speakers in the UK. There are also regular visits and special tours by speakers from overseas. Creation Days are less popular now, but we still visit churches and fellowships or other venues, and sometimes share events with other ministry groups. We continue to welcome opportunities to do presentations, especially in the south and south-west of the country.

NEW TWO-STOREY UNIT

In 1997 CRT was left a large legacy by former supporter and retired school-teacher Miss Esme Geering. The Trustees decided to use some of this money to convert the garage at the Chapman’s home into a bespoke two-storey unit, comprising an office and store. Previously, the ministry had been based in a single room at the house. On 28th March 1998 the new unit was officially opened by Dr Monty White and dedicated by local Methodist minister, the Rev. Robert Channon. A good number of CRT supporters attended the ceremony, which was followed by a buffet lunch and public meeting at the Methodist Church. The new premises have enabled the ministry to proceed more efficiently, providing storage for the range of resources and a convenient base for CRT’s mail-order service.

THE FUTURE

CRT is grateful to God for the way He has guided, directed, blessed and provided for this ministry during the past 35 years. We are just a very small part of the UK creation movement, working as far as possible with other groups and individuals. Our prayer is that more and more Christians will wake up to the fact that evolution is a Gospel-undermining, faith-destroying deception, which eliminates “The Fall”, which, in turn, removes our need of a Saviour. Evolution is a real stumbling-block to many who see it as evidence that the Bible is neither true nor reliable. Evolution is the main weapon employed by the enemies of our faith, so we see the creation issue as a foundational part of the Church’s apologetics ministry — so vital in our sceptical times. We will continue to play our part as long as we are able, and as the Lord provides and guides. We really appreciate the prayerful support of so many faithful people.

“We’ll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that’s to come.”

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HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 1978 Geoff Chapman wrote an article on creation and evolution in the newsletter of West Camel Methodist Church. This was read by a visitor to the church, who put Geoff in touch with Dr A J Monty White who was then working at the University of Wales in Cardiff. As a result, in 1979 Monty (left) came to speak at the church, which was filled to overflowing. Geoff was very enthused and had a strong desire to share the things he had learned with more people. He and his wife Elizabeth, helped by a small group of local Christians, organised two half-day conferences at Yeovil College, when Monty — who had just written his first book What about Origins? (recently reprinted, right) was one of the speakers. Following this, the Somerset Creationist Group was formed, with its first committee meeting on April 29th 1981. It was agreed to write to local churches and individuals asking for support, and the response was very encouraging. A lending library of audio-tapes was set up, and Geoff put together some slide presentations so that talks could be offered to local churches.

INAUGURAL MEETING

On Friday September 25th 1981, SCG’s inaugural meeting was held at West Camel, which was quite well-attended. During the 1981-1982 winter period slide-talks were presented in 11 local churches and fellowships. A typed and photocopied newsletter was sent out each quarter. In 1983 this became a folded newsletter called SCG News. In 1989, Creation Update (right) was launched. This quarterly full-colour magazine contains reports of creation events, comments on relevant media reports, and news of new resources. It is accompanied by a Prayer Diary listing details of various creation meetings and events.

A mail-order service for books, videos and literature was also introduced. In 1984 SCG joined the Evangelical Alliance, and in 1989 the committee decided to change our name to Creation Resources Trust (CRT). This reflected the fact that the ministry was not confined to Somerset, since resources were being sent to many different parts of the country. There continued to be speaking opportunities in local churches and fellowships, as well as some further afield.

SPECIALIST PUBLICATIONS

In 1985 the children’s creation paper Our World was launched. Initially this was in three colours on the outside and black-and-white on the inside. It is now a full-colour publication, containing facts and information in a colourful format which children can understand (many adults enjoy reading it, too!) It is published three times a year.

In 1990 the Trustees felt the need to produce a publication for older young people, and Original View was launched. It is now a full-colour paper, and published three times a year.

Believing that the creation issue has the potential for effective evangelism and that evolution is a stumbling-block to many, we have produced a range of full-colour evangelistic leaflets (below right) using the scientific evidence as a lead-in to presenting the Gospel. Topics include the origin of humans, Darwinism, the missing fossils, intelligent design and atheism. Tens of thousands of these have been distributed and we have to reprint regularly. All our publications and leaflets are supplied on a donation basis. We get regular requests from overseas, and our literature is now sent free of charge to more than 40 countries.

CHARITABLE STATUS

In 1992 CRT applied for and was granted charitable status. This enables donations from U.K. taxpayers to be “Gift Aided.” In 1997, Geoff Chapman resigned as Trustee to enable him to become the full-time Director of CRT. The Trustees meet once a quarter to discuss strategy and pray for the ministry. Our financial policy has always been that we do not fund-raise or appeal for money. Our ministry is sustained by donations and the sale of resources. Sometimes our expenditure exceeds income, but we have proved over the past 35 years that God provides for our needs through His people, and are grateful to all who support us in this way.

CREATION EVENTS

Our burden to share the evidence for creation led us to organise an all-age “Creation Day” at a school in the town of Street in 1993. 370 people attended the event, which included various seminars, and a children’s programme. A year later, a similar event at the same venue attracted 200 people. We then began to receive invitations to organise similar events around the country, including visits to Guernsey, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These events were great opportunities to present the evidence in an in-depth way.

Slides and overhead projectors have now been superceded by “PowerPoint,” and the growth in creationism means that we don’t travel as...