

January 28, 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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LIVING ON MEMORIES

Ed Smithson

Being in my mid 80's now, I have an understanding of older people that I never had before. I've always thought I empathized with people growing older but now realize those were feeble efforts.

I understand more now why it is that old people talk a lot about the past. We have so few active experiences because of age and infirmity, that we have more to talk about, thinking of the past. This is true, even though most of us have trouble remembering things.

While the Bible says, "You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD." "The glory of young men is their strength, but wthe splendor of old men is their gray hair." (Lev. 19:32; Prov. 20:29 ESV) We are finding that not many of the "younger set" have much patience, or respect for the aged.

It is their loss. They do not begin to realize what value the information they could obtain by associating and listening to people who have traveled and navigated this path, although years before them. The aged have learned lessons that would save a lot of heartache, if only the young would listen.

We who live in America, live in the greatest country in the world. However, unfortunately our society has fostered an attitude that is conducive to hurt, heartache and sometimes ruin. Those who are younger have developed the attitude of "knowing better" than those who have lived longer and experienced more.

There is nothing wrong with memories. Especially the good ones.



A Review of Apologetics Press

by Judy McCollum

Apologetics Press is in the business of defending the creation by God. They have a website, send out the publication "Reason and Revelation," and have a developed a curriculum for teaching Biblical creation (and all that goes with it).

They debate atheists and other skeptics about the existence of God, creation, etc. They started developing Apologetics Press in the late 70's and began business in earnest in 1985. Their website is: www.apologeticspress.org and you can get more information there. A couple of things I found particularly interesting in their latest letter were updates on fieldwork (studying geology for info on the flood) and and how they handled an assault on their Facebook page by an atheist and his associates (this fellow tried to take them down).

They regularly send us new CDs and booklets which are in the library for checkout.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!



This Week's Sermon's

A.M - Lost - What Does it Mean?
P.M. - Wrestling The Scriptures



Barbara's
Alaskan Rose

Entropy, Disorder, and God

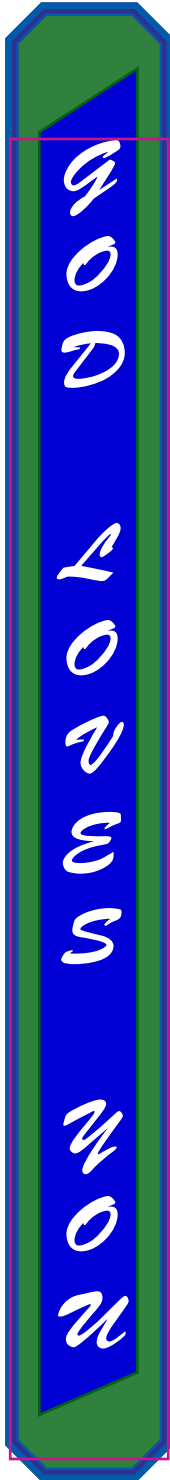
By Charles McCown, M.S. MCSE, MCSA

When considering entropy, Lord Kelvin's 2nd Law of Thermodynamics often comes to mind, and it should. This law states that in a closed system (i.e. the universe), matter moves from an orderly to a disorderly state and that available energy neither increases nor decreases but remains constant.

Entropy, simply put, is "disorder," and it was designed by God for our benefit within the first few days of creation. Consider for a moment the air you breathe as an example. Without entropy one could easily find themselves suffocating by merely moving a few inches to the left or right. This disorder causes the gasses in the air to blend and form a life-sustaining solution. Without entropy, the 79% nitrogen, 20% oxygen and 1% other trace elements might clump together so that the space we occupy becomes unbalanced and unbreathable. The air surrounding you and I is both designed to sustain life and yet very random. It is that randomness which will be the focus of the remainder of the article.

For a computer programmer, creating randomness is tricky business. For example, let us consider a simple matter of the game of Klondike Solitaire found within the Microsoft Windows operating system. It might surprise you that the cards are not shuffled in a true random fashion but in a procedure known as a pseudorandom number generator (PRNG). Pseudorandom functions are lines of programming code that attempt to mimic random ordering. For most people who play solitaire on a computer, the process is transparent, but to Dr. Ronald Fricker the game posed a different challenge. After playing several rounds of solitaire in the late 1990s, he noticed cards repeating more frequently than should be expected. Upon realizing this peculiarity, he set out to determine the reliability of the procedure by looking at only the cards presented face up after the cards are dealt from the hand. He determined "out of 1040 paired comparisons there were a total of 114 matches—almost 11%." He went on to state that the results were "significantly larger than the expected 20 matches" if the hand dealt were truly random (Fricker, 1998).

This problem with generating numbers and letters randomly is not limited to card games. How does a programmer generate a random number and letter combination for a secure web order or bank transaction? Technically speaking most use more complex PRNGs, but for some organizations PRNGs lack the required security. In such instances those entities call for the more expensive and time-consuming option of a True Random



Number Generator (TRNG).

The difference between TRNGs and PRNGs other than cost and time is that TRNGs use environmental monitors. These monitors track the entropy surrounding the device and couple that with more random number generation code. In fact the TRNG is sometimes referred to as a High-Entropy Random Number Generators (HERNG). While discussing the basic platform for HERNGs, John Dinker stated:

The starting point for an HERNG is the unpredictability associated with one or more physical processes, such as radioactive decay or thermal noise. Such physical processes are partially random, in the sense that they contain contributions which are believed to be extraordinarily difficult for anyone to predict, perturb, or replay.

"Physical processes"? "Radioactive decay" and "thermal noise"? Once again engineers have turned to the creation to address a conundrum unsolvable by human minds. By using the entropy, chaos, or randomness from the environment to generate a random number, science has offered praise, albeit unknowingly, to the Creator—yes, our God who through His will, wisdom, and knowledge designed perceived disorder. Take note of the last two words of the previous sentence. Dinker said the decay and noise "processes are partially random... which are believed to be extraordinarily difficult for anyone to predict, perturb, or replay." There is One who can "predict, perturb, or replay" these processes: the Designer who authored "disorder."

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*Singing and prayer this coming Wednesday evening -
Let's all prepare ourselves for this great opportunity!*

Announcements

1. Brother Charles will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Judy is visiting her sister in Oregon. Pray for her safe return.

~ On the Prayer list

- Beverly Pereira** - for better health and less pain.
- Norma Decker** - relief from her pain and COPD.
- Kerry Johnson** - for getting over the flu.
- Bobby Glover** - to successfully teach others about Jesus while in prison.
- Michael White** - for his education and helping others as he serves his time.
- The church at Alisal** - for growth, sowing the Word, and results from our Maya theater Advertisement.

Have a blessed week!