

# Are the Institute For Creation Research (ICR) And Answers In Genesis (AiG) Ministries Helping Or Hindering the Creation Movement? Part 3

**Updated October 28, 09**

By Pastor Kevin Lea  
(Original Posting - August 10, 2009)

The facts show that AiG and ICR are hindering rather than helping the creation movement in various ways, one of which relates to the origin of the Grand Canyon.

For example, one person (Dr. Walt Brown) discovered a scientifically viable explanation for how the Grand Canyon was formed, centuries after Noah's flood, when a now extinct lake breached its dam and carved the Grand Canyon in weeks. His 38-page explanation is very popular with secular and Christian audiences [currently the second Google hit (out of hundreds-of-thousands) when searching on {origin "Grand Canyon"}].

However, you will not hear a word about Dr. Brown's discovery in the AiG museum, or in their monthly book-selling newsletter. You will also not hear a thing about Dr. Brown's science out of ICR, their *Acts and Facts* newsletter, or in their book-selling efforts.

I believe this is because ICR and AiG have made false statements and tried to marginalize Dr. Brown and his work for decades (documented in the [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) postings). It would be very painful for them to admit this wrong now, so it appears they would rather continue this practice even if it harms the creation science movement. Promoting their organizations is seemingly more important than promoting creation and the flood.

Spreading false information about another scientist's work and marginalizing his contribution to the creation science effort is bad enough, but this Part 3 posting exposes an even greater problem within ICR and AiG. It documents how AiG and ICR have chosen to use plagiarism and bad science in their museum and book-selling efforts rather than pointing people to Dr. Brown's discoveries on the origin of the Grand Canyon, even after they have been given proof of plagiarism and bad science.

For example, one extinct lake now has two names: Grand Lake (the name given by the person who discovered it) and Canyonlands Lake (the name given by a plagiarizer, Dr. Steve Austin, and featured in Ken Ham's AiG museum, and in ICR/AiG books and materials). I don't know of another discovery (secular or Christian) that has two competing names, along with all the confusion it creates. My concerns are not about who gets credit for naming a lake, it is about preventing confusion, telling the truth, and allowing people to learn all the information that is available about creation topics.

Dr. Brown discovered the now extinct lake that breached and carved the Grand Canyon. He named it Grand Lake. Dr. Steven A. Austin, while working at ICR (now the head of the Geology Department at ICR and given the title of Lead Researcher), plagiarized Dr. Brown's lake name, elevation, and breach point (details in letter linked below). When confronted by Dr. Brown, Dr. Austin claimed for a year that he came up with the name and those other details independently. After those claims were shown to be false, Austin changed the name of the lake to Canyonlands

Lake, which is causing confusion and preventing thousands of people from learning a simple and compelling case for the origin of the Grand Canyon.

For example, Dr. Brown's discovery only provides a scientifically sound explanation when it is inextricably tied to his Hydroplate Theory. Dr. Steven Austin worked for ICR which, along with Ken Ham's AiG, have spent decades spreading false information about Dr. Brown and the Hydroplate Theory. Therefore, Austin could only plagiarize the name, breach point, and elevation of Grand Lake, but he could not use the related Hydroplate Theory information which makes the breached dam explanation scientifically viable. As a result, Dr. Austin was forced to twist his plagiarized information into the bad science now featured in Ken Ham's AiG's museum.

The museum has a video animation of Grand Lake (falsely called Canyonlands lake in the museum) breaching and carving the Grand Canyon. The video does not (cannot) explain how the lake breached the 30-mile wide, 2,000-foot high Kaibab limestone up-warp that stands in the way. In many ways, Austin's/AiG's breached dam animation lacks a viable scientific explanation; Dr. Brown's explanation does not.

In March of 2008, I provided Dr. Austin, AiG, and ICR with documented proof of Austin's plagiarism and poor science in the AiG museum and requested that they either show me where my information was wrong or correct the museum displays. They chose to ignore my letter.

In April of 2008, I sent my March of 2008 letter to two hundred creation organizations (who had web visibility) so that they could be aware of this bad science in the AiG museum. This mailing resulted in several email exchanges between various concerned parties. None of these exchanges have changed the fact that the record shows Dr. Austin plagiarized some of Dr. Brown's Grand Canyon discoveries and, by claiming them as his own, without using Dr. Brown's additional Hydroplate Theory, has resulted in a scientifically bankrupt explanation for the origin of the Grand Canyon being featured in the AiG museum and related books and materials that AiG and ICR sell.

My March and April letters stated that if Austin, AiG and/or ICR did not show me where my documentation was in error, then I would be posting the letter on the internet (with links to related documents proving Austin's plagiarism and bad science) for all to see.

In July of 2008, ICR allowed Dr. Austin to write false statements in their *Acts and Facts* newsletter, apparently to rebut my April 2008 letter to the creation organizations.

On July 6, 2009, I sent an expanded and updated letter to Dr. Austin, AiG, and ICR, which provides more links to more documents and exposes Austin's false statements in the July 2008, *Acts and Facts* newsletter. I again asked for those receiving the letter to point out errors in my documentation before I posted in August of 2009.

The following is a link to the 32 pages of documentation, with related discussion and explanation:

[Documentation of Plagiarism and Bad Science at the AiG Museum – July 6, 2009](#)

The following are links to the letters I sent to the interested parties, their responses (if any), and my responses to their letters to me:

[Correspondence history with Dr. Larry Vardiman \(former ICR CEO\) - \(ADDED 10/28/09\)](#)

[Correspondence history with Dr. Steven A. Austin](#) – UPDATED 10/28/09 with details of Pastor Kevin’s face-to-face meeting with Dr. Austin on October 10, 2009.

[Correspondence history with Dr. Henry Morris III \(CEO of ICR\)](#) – UPDATED 8/10/09

[Correspondence history with Answers in Genesis \(AiG\)](#) – UPDATED 9/9/09

[Correspondence history with Dr. Ed Holroyd](#) – ADDED 9/9/09

[Correspondence history with Lawrence Ford \(ICR\)](#) – ADDED 9/9/09

[Correspondence history with Peter Robinson \(Lead Mediator\)](#) – ADDED 9/9/09

[Correspondence history with Dr. Whitmore](#) – ADDED 9/9/09

[Correspondence history with Dr. John Morris \(ICR\)](#) – ADDED 9/9/09

In summary, it appears that AiG, and ICR would rather feature and sell plagiarism and erroneous science than to acknowledge Dr. Brown’s work and discoveries. It is my prayer that those who take the time to read this documentation will do two things:

1. Point out any errors that you may find by calling me at 360-876-7288. (Please only call if you are notifying me about an error.)
2. Join me in my efforts to encourage AiG and ICR to do what is biblically, morally, and ethically required pertaining to this matter.

Sincerely,

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