This is Your Life, Bob Newman
Birth & Early Life

- Born 2 April 1941
  - Washington, DC
- Raised in Virginia suburbs 1941-59
  - Arlington, VA
- 3rd of 5 kids
  - Perry
  - Beth
  - Bob
  - Jim
  - Ellen
Parents

- Father: Allan Lanham Carhart Newman
  - Born 1900, Washington, DC

- Mother: Lois May Gardner
  - Born 1912, Louisburg, Kansas
Ancestry

- The Newmans (and allied families) came into Virginia & Maryland from England in 1600s.
- The Gardners (and allied families) came into MA and RI from England in 1600s, later moving west into CT, NY, OH, IL, MI, KS.
Family, 1951
Home Church

- 1st Baptist Church of Clarendon, Arlington, VA
- Southern Baptist
- Not very conservative
- But went forward to receive Christ here at age 7
Public Education

- Elementary school: Cherrydale, 1947-53
- Junior High: Stratford, 1953-56
- Senior High: Washington-Lee, 1956-59
My first contact with evolution as an alternative to creation

My interest in science began in elementary school, later encouraged by a physics teacher in high school.

The upshot was that I went to Duke to major in physics.
Science Education

- Duke University
  1959-1963
  - BS, physics
- Cornell University
  1963-1967
  - PhD, astrophysics
- University of Wisconsin
  summer 1966
  - Seminar on Cosmic Gas Dynamics
Science Education

- Strangely, the greatest challenges to my faith at Duke were my two required religion courses.
- These courses raised questions about the truth of Christianity; eventually they were significant in my going to seminary.
- I was helped a great deal at that time by the writings of C.S. Lewis.
- At Cornell, I came into contact with Herman Eckelmann, a pastor and a research associate in the Cornell Space Center.
- The result was that I went to Faith Seminary after completing my PhD at Cornell.
Theological Education

- Faith Seminary, MDiv, 1967-70
- Biblical Seminary, STM in OT, 1970-72
- Univ of Pennsylvania, grad studies in religious thought, 1974-75
- Institute of Holy Land Studies, January 1978
- Westminster Seminary, grad studies in biblical interpretation, 1981-84
Teaching

- During seminary, I began my teaching career...
- ...part-time at Shelton College, Cape May, NJ, 1968-71...
- ...teaching physical science and mathematics.
Teaching

- In 1971, I began teaching at Biblical Seminary.
- I became Professor of NT in 1977.
- I have taught all the NT courses at Biblical, except for a few added recently.
- I plan to retire in June 2006.
Teaching

- My main teaching and research emphasis in the NT has been in the Gospels.
  - Particularly in the Synoptics
  - Especially in the Parables
- Another interest has been the word-pictures the Bible provides to help us understand its message.
- I have also taught the course *Evidence for the Christian Faith* a number of times.
In 1979, several of us at Biblical formed an organization we call "IBRI."
The full name is the Interdisciplinary Biblical Research Institute.
This was founded to strengthen Christians in outreach to seekers with advanced education, particularly in the sciences.
IBRI over its history has published:
- 54 research reports
- 21 books and pamphlets
- 10 tracts

We have held numerous public meetings:
- 165 colloquium sessions
- 16 multi-speaker seminars at various places on evidence of design in nature and for the truth of Christianity.
In recent years, we have put together a website to help Christians and seekers. We now have posted for free access:

- All our Research Reports
- All our tracts
- Several books
- 60 PowerPoint talks
- Over 400 audio lectures
Speaking

- Over the years, I have done a good deal of speaking outside the seminary.
- This is usually in one of two settings:
  - Churches
  - Colleges
Speaking in Churches

- This often involves preaching, mostly from the NT, frequently from the Gospels, often from the parables.
- Also I give talks on subjects related to apologetics and Christian evidences.
Speaking at Colleges

- These are usually at the invitation of campus Christian organizations, such as Inter-Varsity or Campus Crusade.
- They are typically on Christian evidences or apologetics, though of diverse sorts:
  - Science and origins
  - Reliability and historicity of Bible
  - Popular religious phenomena or cults
Over the years I've spoken at some fifty or sixty schools, mostly in the East.

Some of these are:

- Cornell
- Princeton
- Penn
- Colorado School of Mines
- University of California at Davis
- University of Cologne
- University of Malaya
Speaking at Colleges

Some more notable opportunities:

- Response to von Däniken’s *Chariots of the Gods* at Cornell
- Debate on Easter accounts at Cornell
- Critique of Sagan’s *Cosmos* at Cornell
- Evidence of design in nature at UC-Davis
- Fulfilled prophecy re/ Jesus at Penn
Research

My major interests are:

- Biblical studies
- Christian evidences
- Interaction of science & Christianity
Research

Under biblical studies:

- Parables
- Other biblical figures
- NT background (cultural, historical)
- Scientific aspects of biblical passages
- Fulfilled prophecy
- Eschatology
Research

*Under Christian evidences:*

- Cosmology
- Intelligent design
- Origin & history of life
- Preknowledge of science
- Fulfilled prophecy
- Jesus
- Transformed lives & societies
Research

Under interaction of science & Christianity:
- History of science
- Philosophy of science
- Doing science in a theistic universe
- Problems for naturalism
- Problems for evolution
  - Atheistic
  - Theistic
Writing

35 journal articles, in:

- Astrophysical Journal
- Planetary & Space Science
- Journal ASA/PSCF
- Journal of the ETS
- Westminster Theol Journal
- Grace Theol Journal
- Concordia Theol Journal
- Presbyterion
- Philosophia Christi
Writing

22 contributions to books, encyclopedias:

- Kantzer & Henry, *Evangelical Affirmations*
- Montgomery, *Evidence for Faith*
- Youngblood, *The Genesis Debate*
- Geivett & Habermas, *In Defense of Miracles*
- Zondervan *New Intl Dict of OT Theol & Exegesis*
- Dembski, *Mere Creation*
- Moreland & Reynolds, *3 Views of Creation & Evolution*
- InterVarsity *Dictionary of NT Background*
- Routledge *Encyclopedia of Fundamentalism*
Writing

Several books:
- Science Speaks
- Genesis One & Origin of Earth
- Evidence of Prophecy
- What’s Darwin Got to Do with It?
- The Biblical Firmament
Other Activities

- Trinity House
- Genealogy
- Reading
- Hiking
- Photography
- Travel
Trinity House

- Purchased 1982
- To house myself and a number of Biblical students
- Capacity: 8
- Total number of residents in 22 years: about 100
Genealogy

- Have been interested in family history since junior high school
- Began working in earnest in early 1970s
- Real breakthroughs with the development of genealogical information on the internet
Reading

- I like to read.
- For 25 years (when I kept track) I averaged over 80 books read per year.
- Some of these were books for my teaching and research, others were for pleasure.
Reading

My favorite topics are:

- Fiction/fantasy
- History
  - Ancient
  - British
  - American
- Science
Reading

My favorite authors are:
- C. S. Lewis
- J. R. R. Tolkien
- J. K. Rowling
- Stephen Lawhead
- George MacDonald
Hiking

- Have enjoyed hiking since I was a Boy Scout
- Have taken a number of week pack hikes, but not since I hurt my back in grad school
- Have hiked all of the Appalachian Trail in MD and WV
Photography

- My earlier photography was in slide format, much of it for my slide-illustrated lectures.
- More recently, I have been using a digital camera, with computer, PowerPoint, and projector.
Travel

- I like to travel, but I don’t like to do it just for recreation.
- I have tried to make some sort of ministry a part of most of my travels.
Travel

Some places I’ve visited:

- Israel & Middle East
- Caribbean
- Ireland, UK, Germany
- Russia
- Singapore & Malaysia
- Hawaii
The End

Going downhill …

… but not dead yet!