

"Evolution...Creation...What does the evidence really tell us?"

On the 30th of April 2013, Auckland Students CMF group invited Dr. Tony Hanne to speak with us on the following topic.

The CMF funding this year gave us the flexibility to increase the attraction factor to this event. We had ordered in pizza and drinks, and so the evening went off to a great start with a fair turnout of around 50 people. Represented at the event was a great diversity of worldviews.

The goal was to stimulate general discussion around this topic to create:

- Awareness about these big questions in life and the implications of the conclusions we draw.
- Awareness of the diversity in views and opinions, and the fact that we can respect these different views although we may not agree with them.

It was inspiring to hear the life story of the speaker as we could very easily identify with the challenges he faced as a medical student, in his quest to answer some of life's toughest questions. It was encouraging to hear how his faith gave him a lot to give to his patients. The personal observations he made about the world of medicine through his wealth of life experience was very much appreciated.

A number of points certainly elicited very passionate responses from the audience as one could imagine discussing such an emotionally-charged issue with people of different beliefs. Dr. Tony Hanne's intention was not to teach but to raise questions and invite us to investigate nature and reality from a biblical younger-earth view.

Though believers and non-believers may not necessarily agree with his views, we hope that people will be curious as to why God is so precious to Dr. Hanne and discover for themselves that when life is raw with jagged edges, there is a God who is eager to receive all who repent and turn away from their past and turn toward God. We were reminded again the reason for accepting Jesus as your Saviour is not a matter of intellectual ascent but an issue with surrendering one's life - the strength, a gift given by God to us. In the beginning of the talk, Dr. Hanne spoke about his own testimony - how he came to believe in God. How when, as a non-believing medical student in England, his Christian classmates had such joy and a genuine quality to them that impressed him and also the way they patiently listened to his objections and questions. He then discussed issues pertinent to Evolution, which elicited much response and nearer to the end of talk, he touched on some deep issues of Christian hope, something that no naturalistic worldview could offer to patients with debilitating emotional or physical conditions.

We were impressed by the way which Dr. Tony Hanne spoke and listened. He set an exemplary standard of patience, respect and fortitude in quite a challenging environment, as outlined in Colossians 3:16, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man".

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