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Religion Page Policy

Items submitted for publication on the religion page must be received before noon Wednesday for publication on the following Friday. All submissions must be typed. Items should include the event's time, day, date and place, along with the submitter's name and daytime telephone number. Items may be dropped off at the Daily News office, 135 S. Franklin St., Greensburg, IN or e-mailed to adam.huening@greensburgdailynews.com. or faxed to (812) 662-7552

Cure For Cancer Won't Come From Creationism

David Crowley

For The Daily News

I did not know that Abraham Lincoln shared a birthday with Charles Darwin until this year. It is also 150 years since Darwin published *Origin of Species*, and 150 years have not lessened the anger the book generated in this country. So, I decided to take another run at him.

I speculate that the anger comes from a few sources. First, some Americans read the Bible as a collection of inerrant facts, as opposed to the source of teaching about our relationship with God and each other that fit the time in which it was set down. Second, the evolution model is based on the impersonal instrument of natural selection. Many hold that God works in discrete acts and are uncomfortable with the idea of blind forces touching the world. Third, evolution undercuts the notion that we are special, especially the Genesis phrase, "image and likeness of God."

I was not raised to see the Bible as a fact sheet, as are many

Christians. If the Bible started out with a description of physics and biology that no one understood at the time, what purpose would that serve? I hold to a strong view of God the Creator while accepting that evolution is the best scientific explanation we have, at this time, for the remarkable similarities and changes we see in the natural world. Indeed, evolution underscores the theme of creation that everything is connected in God's world. DNA binds all living things together by the arrangement of only four proteins. Out of that simplicity comes the complexity of life blooming diversity.

Evolution helps us grasp the issue of God and suffering a bit better. God, as Creator, is free to use the mechanism of God's continued working with the world. Look at Job 38-41, as God does not use us as the measure of all things, but the entire universe is kept in an exquisite balance. Storms and illness may fit into a larger scheme even as they do us great harm. Who are we to say that God's plan or "logos" in John 1 doesn't have us as the sole concern of God? Is it "playing God" to demand that God has to work within our interpre-

tation of Genesis 1?

Being made in God's image has the sense of us being representatives for God in our world. Instead of seeing ourselves as ruling over the earth for our own needs alone, this reminds us that we are caretakers of our common world with all creatures, great and small. We need to take a large step back in reflection when we could be responsible for the extinction of many forms of life in the hands of the Creator. Recall that the famous John 3:16 has God loving the world, not just its human component. Perhaps, we would do well to see the message of reconciliation to be applied not only to our relations with God and each other, but with nature as well.

We do creation no favors if we turn our backs on scientific explanations. As Philip Gulley famously said, "the cure for cancer won't come from someone insisting on creationism." We do far better to examine how we can reduce suffering in this hard world, how we can heal the wounds of the heart and spirit, than to throw roadblocks in the search for the order apparent in the continuing miracle of the development of God's creation.