
News Updates

WORLDWIDE FANFARE MARKS DARWIN'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

February 12, 1809, was a unique day in history. On that date two prominent historical individuals with very different beliefs about and effects upon humanity were born. The one, Abraham Lincoln, battled for the parity of all mankind proclaiming that "all men are *created* equal." The other, Charles Darwin, devalued man by maintaining that all species of life, including humans, have evolved over time from a common ancestor.

This past February marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of both men. And there is little doubt that the fanfare for Darwin vastly surpassed any celebration or recognition of Lincoln's birth. Websites proliferated that heralded the "Darwin Day Celebration" which is described as "a global celebration of science and reason held on or around Feb. 12." According to one of these websites, there were more than 370 events scheduled in 31 countries for Darwin Day 2009.

Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, described "Darwin Day" as a "celebration intended to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin on February 12, 1809. The day is also an opportunity to highlight Darwin's contribution to science and to promote science in general." In the United Kingdom, a two-pound special commemorative coin was released. The coin features profile images of Darwin and an ape facing each other, arched by the inscription 1809 DARWIN 2009. The coin's edging contains the inscription, ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES 1859. This coming Nov. 24 will mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, which is said to be his "landmark work in evolutionary biology." The Perth Mint, Australia, also planned to issue a 2009 dated commemorative (1 oz.) silver legal tender coin depicting Darwin.

And, it seems, that everybody — even those who should resist Darwin's theory — wanted to get in on the celebration. Last September, "the Vatican said the theory of evolution was compatible with the Bible" and announced that it was planning to host in March "a new interdisciplinary conference to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's Origin of the [sic] Species," according to *The Christian Post*. The Church of England even released a news article conveying that the 200th anniversary of his birth was the right time to issue an apology to Darwin "for misunderstanding you and, by

getting our first reaction wrong, encouraging others to misunderstand you still."

The self-proclaimed agnostic died April 19, 1882, and is buried at Westminster Abbey, London's gothic monastery church.

—MKG

YOUNGER SCHULLER TO START OWN CHURCH

The Rev. Robert A. Schuller, son of Crystal Cathedral founder Robert H. Schuller, has resigned as the church's senior pastor with plans to begin his own ministry. According to a brief news release posted on the Crystal Cathedral website, "The Executive Team of Crystal Cathedral Ministries has received and accepted the resignation of Rev. Robert Anthony Schuller as Senior Pastor of the congregation. Robert continues to be a valued and long-standing member of the Classis of the Reformed Church in America." The notice was posted Nov. 29, 2008.

The younger Schuller was deposed last October by his father as the sole preacher on the church's popular *Hour of Power* television broadcast. He had inherited the role from his father in 2006. The elder Schuller said a "lack of shared vision" which placed the entire ministry in "jeopardy" led to the removal of his son. The move only ousted the younger Schuller from the television program, and was not intended to take away his role as the church's senior pastor.

Upon the resignation, Juan Carlos Ortiz, who founded the church's Hispanic ministry, will assume the position of senior pastor until a permanent replacement is found.

—MKG

WITHOUT WALLS CHURCH MAY BE WITHOUT BUILDINGS

They were once the up-and-coming darlings of the Charismatic world and co-pastors of Without Walls International Church, a Tampa, Fla., mega-church. But the fame and prosperity that Randy and Paula White

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