

Think & Believe



A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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Lasting Memories, Lasting Impact at Creation Family Mountain Adventures

by *Dave & Mary Jo Nutting*

People may wonder why we offer family camps. Is it because we like a vacation in the mountains? Is it because we enjoy the delicious food, fellowship, and fun activities? Or is it because they are big money makers?

Actually, these camps aren't really a vacation for AOI staff. Don't get us wrong, we enjoy the time in the mountains, the food, the

fellowship, and the activities – but these camps involve a lot of work and a substantial time commitment for AOI staff. Besides that, since we keep the camps fairly small, they produce minimal amounts of income. If we evaluated them strictly from a “time verses people reached” or “time verses income” standpoint, AOI's Board of Directors would have stopped doing them a long time ago.

However, we are so blessed to have a Board that evaluates things on the basis of effective ministry and lasting fruit for the kingdom rather than the almighty dollar!

As the result of the camp ministry, people come to the Lord, are strengthened in their faith, and go away with a deeper appreciation for the Lord and His creation. Although these same benefits come from normal seminars,

the camps allow us a much greater opportunity to go deeper into the creation teaching, and more importantly, deeper into the lives of those attending.

We have people rave about the experience calling it “awesome,” or “the best vacation ever.”

But we don't just want to provide “the best vacation ever.” The comments that keep us

doing the camps are comments like:

- “This has changed our family forever.”
- “Our family was on the verge of disaster, but we are now more of a family than ever before.”
- “We have taken the material we learned at camp and are now teaching a Sunday school class.”
- “We have made life-long friends.”

We, and other AOI staff, have built lasting friendships with many of those participating. Many have later arranged for us to do seminars at their church or school. That has helped us continue the relationships and see the long-term impact in people's lives. Many have used the camp as a training camp to launch or extend their own ministry.

So, it's not for a vacation or even just for the creation teaching, but

**“This has
changed our
family forever.”**

for the above comments and reasons that we continue doing these camps. These are also some of the same reasons people keep coming back time after time. One 6 year old boy pretty well summed it up when he excitedly said to his dad after the camp, “Dddad, we have to come back every year until . . . until you die!”

That's not our final goal, but we are so glad that children, teens, and adults all enjoy the experience as they Discover Creation, are strengthened in their faith, and grow in their relationship with God and others.

If you haven't been to a Discover Creation Family Mountain Adventure yet, why not plan to come this year? If you've been before, bring a friend and come again! We'd love to see you! (Check the web or the enclosed flier for more information.) **T&B**



Gems From Genesis

by Mary Jo Nutting

Genesis – the book of beginnings! What a treasure! There is so much hidden in these pages, yet they are too often skimmed through, overlooked, ignored, or even scoffed at in our “sophisticated” world. But stop and think what we would be missing without the book of Genesis.

In Genesis, God gives us valuable information about Himself, ourselves, and our world, that we would have no other way of knowing for sure. In the pages of Genesis, we read about the creation of the universe and all physical reality. We discover the origin of our planet; sun, moon and stars; plants, and living creatures. And we also discover the origin of the human race and the very first marriage.

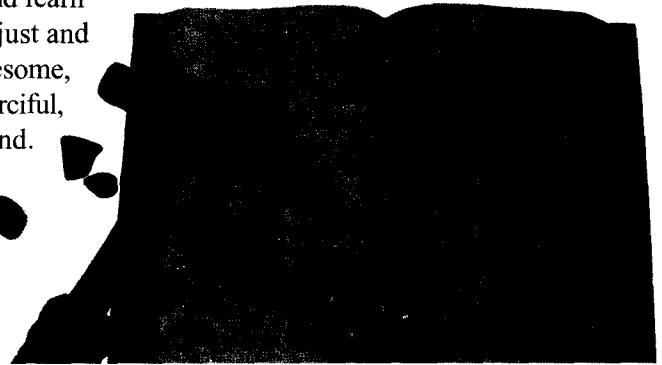
Reading further, we encounter the origin of sin and its devastat-

ing consequences. We read about the first children, the first sibling rivalry, the first murder. We see how sin infected the whole human race, and how it spread until violence filled the earth and God cleansed the world in a watery judgment. We read about the repopulation of the earth, the dispersion of people groups, and the origin of languages and cultures. And on and on it goes – giving us an anchor in space and time.

Through it all, we meet people just like ourselves – and learn about our God who is just and holy, powerful and awesome, but at the same time merciful, faithful, loving, and kind. Even in Genesis, we see Him working – moving – setting in motion His great plan of salvation.

Genesis – what a

treasure! What gems it contains! Over the next several issues of T&B, we hope to share some of these gems with you – and maybe you have some to share with us. In preparation, we would encourage you to read through the book of Genesis – or at least the first 11 chapters – in the next two months. Then come along with us as we dig for Gems from Genesis! Don't forget your pick-axe, shovel, and shaker screen! **T&B**



Book Review Creation Facts of Life

by Mary Jo Nutting

Dr. Gary Parker is one of my favorite creation authors and speakers, and I was much blessed to take several classes from him years ago at the Institute for Creation Research. I always enjoyed his enthusiasm and his wonderful teaching style – taking complicated topics and explaining them in understandable terms – weaving together intricate details to create a fascinating “big picture” tapestry. His unique blend of knowledge, logic, humor, humility, and “down-home” approach made his classes exciting and profitable.

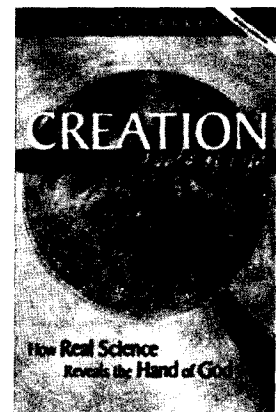
That's probably why Dr. Parker's book, *Creation Facts of Life*, has

been one of my favorite introductory creation books because in it, Dr. Parker writes the way he teaches – in a clear, understandable way. He makes complex subjects understandable. So, I am thrilled that there is now a revised and updated edition of this classic book!

The new edition contains many of the same examples and delightful illustrations, but it also includes new and updated topics like irreducible complexity and evidence from the RATE project. Other topics include: origin of life, DNA and proteins, homology, embryonic development, adaptation, mutation and natural se-

lection, fossils, and the Grand Canyon.

This book would make an informative and enjoyable read for anybody interested in learning more about the science supporting creation. It would make a great gift both for students and skeptics. Available from AOI for \$12 (S/H included). Offer good through 3-31-07. **T&B**



Haeckel's Biogenetic Law: Totally False – But Still in the Textbooks!

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

Early in the 1900's, Ernst Haeckel postulated what became known as the Biogenetic Law (Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny or as Dan Korow calls it, "ORP"). This so-called "law" taught that during prenatal development, a baby would repeat the stages of evolution in an accelerated manner. It would go through a fish stage, an amphibian, then a mammal before becoming human. Ernst Haeckel's drawings of various embryos helped to advance this idea. However, it has been known for many years that these drawings were fraudulent and the theory inaccurate. The differences are much greater than depicted in the drawings, and distinct features of various developing embryos are recognizable early in development.

Some contend that this false argument is not being used anymore. One writer stated in 1988:

"Surely the biogenetic law is as dead as a doornail. It was finally exorcized from biology textbooks in the fifties. As a topic of serious theoretical inquiry it was extinct in the twenties..." (Prof Keith Stewart Thomson - biology, Yale, "Ontogeny and Phylogeny Recapitulated." American Scientist, vol. 76, May/June 1988, p. 273)

However, a review of *recently* published textbooks shows that "modern" textbooks still contain the same "extinct" argument. **Bad ideas sometimes die slowly** – especially if they are used to support evolution. Think of it – almost 100 years worth of misleading students even after they knew the theory was false! This isn't right! But keep in mind, we are in a battle of worldviews and sometimes

the opponents don't play fair!

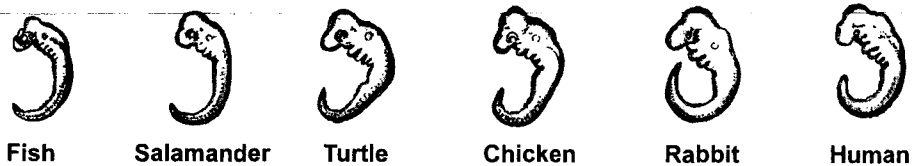
New and "Improved" Models of "ORP"

Recently a revised notion of Haeckel's ORP has surfaced. Some say that the embryo skips the developmental stages that it doesn't need. For example, a mammal would not go through the stage where the embryo develops gill slits like a fish because it doesn't need gill slits. Thus, all unnecessary stages have been dropped off in the developmental process. This sounds very convenient, but what would be the mechanism for that? How does evolution have the brains to know what is not going to be needed? Keep in mind the argument tries to explain the noticeable absence of what has traditionally been *expected* and *assumed* to be there, but in reality is not. The evidence indicates that humans are human from the instant of conception, never passing through a "fish" stage or any other animal stage.

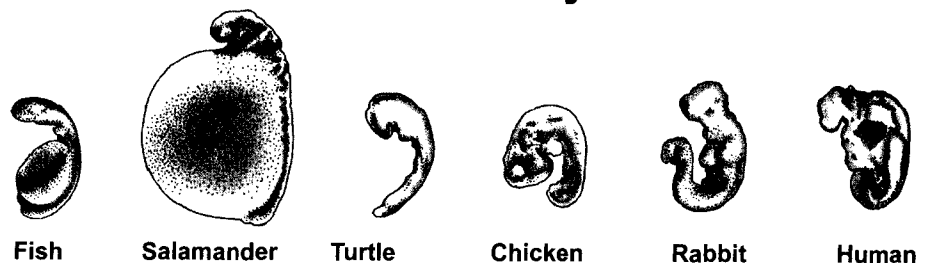
Another recent idea says that mutational changes in regulatory ("homeobox") genes can "turn on" a whole sequence of genes during development, resulting in the rapid appearance of new traits. However, this only begs the question: How did the complex sequence of genes evolve by accident in the first place – especially since none of the intermediate, unexpressed sequence would have any selective advantage until "turned on"? It is kind of like imagining a whole house being wired with multiple lighting circuits by accidents of mutations. Suddenly a main breaker is switched on and the whole system functions together. This is not a likely scenario!

Embryonic research shows a suite of extremely complex, interrelated events during fetal development that defy chance, evolutionary processes. The only logical explanation seems to be design by an extremely intelligent designer. [Note: For further discussion and why so-called "gill slits," "yolk sacs," and "tails" in the human embryo are also fictitious see T&B Vol 20, No. 1.] **T&B**

Haeckel's Original (False) Drawings



Actual Embryos



Note: The above drawings are reasonable facsimilies of original photos.

Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



Some time ago, I received this note from a dear woman who supports our ministry. She actually

was Mary Jo's choir director when Mary Jo was a child.

Dear Alpha Omega Friends: "It rankles my whole being each and every time our news media gives favorite coverage to the evolution theory or Darwin's discoveries! Our public schools - (teachers) are giving class time discussing and teaching this trash. . . . Your "Think & Believe" has for many years given me ammunition to speak up or write when I hear people reacting affirmatively to Darwin's theory. I am now 95 years old and still belong to our prime time

prayer ministry group at . . . [my] Church . . . I will keep you in my prayers and ask our Lord to bless you all at Alpha and Omega in doing the Lord's vital work."

- Prayerfully, A.H., New Mexico

I hope others who are "rankled" will be active as well in writing letters, talking to people, praying, and supporting creation ministry. Many of our young people don't even know that they should be "rankled." All they have heard is evolution in school and have come to accept it without thinking.

The teaching of evolution as a fact should rankle them and all of us, and even more when our courts are saying teachers can't even mention the possibility of a designer. Lets take our "rankling" to action this year! **T&B**

Staff Note:

Many of you have been blessed by Mark Sonmor's excellent work at AOI. Mark's handiwork includes not only artwork, layout, writing, and editing for Think & Believe, but also many of the visuals in each of the speakers presentations. If you have gotten a copy of our Discover Creation Children's Adventure (VBS) or our new Discover Creation DVD series, you have also been blessed by his skills in crafting a high quality product.

With the completion of the VBS, the DVD series and several other projects, Mark has determined that this would be a good time for him to launch out on something he has been wanting to do for a long time - begin



his own art company. He will still be doing some work with AOI on a per-project basis, but who will pick up his other hats at AOI and replace his friendly presence at the office?

Mark, thank you for 8 years of dedicated service to the Lord through AOI. We wish you the best in your new venture! Readers, please continue to pray for Mark and his family, and for AOI during this time of transition! **T&B**



Upcoming Events

J=Johnson, N=Nutting, S=Stepanek

- 1/20-21, **Grand Junction, CO**, "The Deepening", CanyonView Vineyard, (970) 242-7970, N
1/27-28, **Grand Junction, CO**, "The Deepening", CanyonView Vineyard, (970) 242-7970, N
1/27, **Scottsdale, AZ**, Covenant Community Church, Rodney Cox, (480) 513-2989, S
1/29, **Shiner, TX**, Public Meeting, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Dan Kaspar, (361) 594-3371, N
1/30, **Yoakum, TX**, Homeschool Creation Seminar, Providence Christian Academy, Keith Jackson, (361) 293-5820, N
1/31, **Hallettsville, TX**, Appelt Johnson Youth Ctr., Peggy & Alton Tohl, (361) 798-4548, N
2/1, **Gonzales, TX**, Emmanuel Christian Fellowship, Lynn Wilson, (830) 672-6338, N
2/2, **Grand Junction, CO**, Creation Family Night, AOI, (970) 523-9943.
2/3-4, **Bisbee, AZ**, First Baptist of Bisbee, Roy Kiester, (520) 432-3904, S
2/6-8, **Kerrville, TX**, Friendship Bible, Mark Rylander, (830) 792-3733, N
2/9-12, **Eugene, OR**, Norkenzie Christian, Christine Bullock, (541) 688-7440, J
2/11, **Nogales, AZ**, First Baptist, David Canada, (520) 281-1677, S
2/12-16, **Nogales, AZ**, Baptist Seminary, Roman Rodriguez, 9520) 287-2112, S
2/14-16, **Salmon, WA**, Grace Bible Church, Austin Bell, (509) 493-2597, J
2/17, **Tucson, AZ**, Christ Community, Matthew McDaniel, (520) 296-8501, S
2/21, **Tucson, AZ**, El Camino Baptist, Mark McGranahan, (520) 886-7770, S
3/2, **Grand Junction, CO**, Creation Family Night, AOI, (970) 523-9943.
3/4-6, **Norwood, CO**, Norwood Southern Baptist, Sherry King, (970) 327-0191, J
3/5-9, **Grand Junction, CO**, Creation Training Week, AOI, (970) 523-9943
7/1-6, **Colbran, CO**, Twin Peaks Family Mountain Adventure (970) 523-9943
7/9-8/3 & 8/5-10, **Lake City, CO**, Redcloud Family Mountain Adventures (970) 523-9943

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