



Think & Believe

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SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

By Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

It seems wherever we go we hear heartbreaking stories of young people who have grown up in Christian homes, but turned away in high school or college. The stories are amazingly similar -- young people, often active in church during their early teen years, have been influenced by professors who tear apart the Bible and the Christian faith. Evolution is presented as a proven fact, the Bible is ridiculed, and those who hold to a Biblical world view are portrayed as stupid, old-fashioned and very naive. **How tragic** that these students never knew there were indeed good answers for the professors' arguments.

How can we prepare our children for the onslaught of persuasive and often deceptive teaching of those who hold an anti-Christian world view? **We must realize from the start that we are in a spiritual battle for the hearts and minds of our children.** Consequently, the first thing we must do is **pray!** Then, we should demonstrate to them a humble respect for God's Wisdom and a healthy doubt of man's speculation. We can show them the fallacies in the systems that oppose God's Wisdom and exalt man's, and we can teach them to rely on the Holy Spirit to help them discern the truth.

It is also imperative that we teach our youth to deal with issues at the foundational level. While we can, and should teach them to recognize and be able to refute many of the arguments presented to them, we must realize that we will never be able to teach them the detailed answers to all the questions they may face. However, we can teach them to weigh the arguments against proven Godly logic. We can encourage them to ask questions and seek answers when they struggle with doubts and fears. We can give them a well-reasoned defense for the faith, but also help them to

see, that while we don't have **all** the answers, we have enough to warrant placing our faith in God and His Word. It is important that they understand that those who oppose us have far fewer answers!

In order to accomplish these objectives, **we must spend time communicating with our children**, talking with them about all kinds of issues facing them, and helping them to think in a godly way, "earnestly contending for the faith." (Jude 3) In doing this, they will gain practice in evaluating and thinking things through, and we can help them see how God's wisdom applies to every kind of situation. We cannot leave it to the Sunday School teacher, the youth leader, or the pastor; we must make it our practice to do this "when we sit in our house and when we walk by the way and when we lie down and when we rise up (Deut. 6:7)"

May God grant us His grace, that our children will walk in His ways and serve Him with all their heart.



"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deception. . ." Col 2:8

NOTES & QUOTES

■ **Books!** How important are they? God used a Book to communicate the truths of the Christian faith. Darwin's book changed the world for generations to come. It was a book that opened our eyes to the problems with evolution and the scientific evidences for creation. **Christian students need ammunition to combat the evolutionary, humanistic bias which permeates our society.** We all need books to share with those who are seeking the truth. Check your shelves. Which ones do you need to bolster your arsenal?

■ Josh McDowell's new book, **A Ready Defense** (1990), is a treasure house containing the best of Josh's research in one easy-reference volume. Includes:

- The Bible's Reliability Amid Criticism
- Evidences From Archaeology
- Jesus -- His Humanity and Deity
- Christianity Versus Other Religions
- Questions Most Asked About Christianity
- The Uniqueness of the Christian Experience

Students need this extremely valuable resource for understanding and defending the Christian faith. Recommended for critics as well. (\$13.00)

■ **The Amazing Story of Creation** (Duane Gish, 1990) is a beautifully and colorfully-illustrated book for the whole family. Topics include the stars, the earth, plants, animals, dinosaurs, "cavemen," and evidence for design in nature. It integrates evidence from science and the Bible in an interesting, non-technical manner. We think this is the **best family book for all ages** on this topic. **If you can't afford to get one for the family this Christmas, write to us, we have some we will send as our gift to you.** (\$19.00)

■ Paul Taylor's **The Illustrated Origins Answer Book** (1989) is a concise compilation of evidences including sections on the origin of life and the universe, "cavemen," as well as information on the age of the earth, and the fossil record. With scores of documented references, it is an ideal resource for students. Great for school reports! (\$9.00)

■ **What is Creation Science?** (1987) Gary Parker and Henry Morris build a strong case for creation using only scientific evidences, no Bible references. It provides a creationist interpretation of data usually presented as evidence of evolution. (\$11.00)

■ **Evolution: Challenge of the Fossil Record** (Duane Gish, 1985) is an updated version of the book that got us interested in creation. It is an excellent resource, with detailed information about the fossil record and an extensive section on human evolution. (\$9.00)

■ Need a book for your skeptical friends? Try **Evolution: A Theory in Crisis** (1985). Australian medical doctor and molecular biologist, Michael Denton, does not claim to be a "creationist," yet he very effectively demolishes the theory of evolution. Loan this one to teachers, doctors, scientists, or other "educated" skeptics. Maybe then they'll be more open to reading **What is Creation Science?** (\$20.00)

■ Children also need well-written books with a Biblical perspective. The following selections are informative and beautifully-illustrated --excellent for children of all ages including adults.

■ Our newest children's book, **Destination: Moon**, (1989) was written by Astronaut James Irwin shortly before his death. It contains spectacular photographs and the fascinating story of his astronaut training and exciting trip to the moon. Irwin's creation perspective and faith in God is very evident throughout. (\$10.00)

■ Most children (and adults) are confused about dinosaurs and how they fit with the Bible. **The Great Dinosaur Mystery and the Bible** by Paul Taylor (1989) and **Dinosaurs and the Bible** by Dave Unfred are the books to get! (\$11.00 each)

■ **Noah's Ark and the Lost World** (John Morris, 1988) answers many questions about the ark and the Flood of Noah's time and gives an account of Morris' adventures on Ararat. (\$11.00)

■ Finally, don't forget the most important book of all -- the **Bible**. Paul called this all time best-seller the "Sword of the Spirit." How is your "swordsman-ship"?

NOTE! **Books make excellent gifts -- they can change lives.** Why not give a gift that can really make a difference this year? All of the above are available from Alpha Omega Institute. Add only \$1.00 per book for shipping. Colorado residents please add 3% tax. Write to us if you want a book but you absolutely can't afford it.

(Prices effective until December 31, 1991).

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Palm Trees

Jesus often used common, everyday objects or familiar plants and animals in His teaching. The more we understand about the plants and animals, the more likely it is that we will be able to learn from them.

The palm tree is quite common in many parts of the world. What lessons can be learned from it? The Bible tells us, "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree ... (Psalm 92:12)." How do palm trees flourish? How can we be like palm trees as we live righteously?

Palm Trees Can Withstand Abuse. While the hearts of ordinary trees are dead, the heart of the palm tree is alive. Because the life of the palm tree is on the inside, outward abuse does not affect its life or quality of fruit. "...though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day (II Corinthians 4:16)." It might be well to ask ourselves, How well do we withstand abuse? Do we live a consistent life and bear fruit regardless of the outward circumstances, because of the life within? Christ living in us makes it possible.

Palm Trees Can Endure Storms. Strong winds will break ordinary trees. The palm tree will bow to the ground and spring back when the winds have passed. Ordinary leaves collect wind, but wind cannot "grab hold" of palm leaves. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time (I Peter 5:6)." Do we bend without breaking as we encounter the difficulties of life? Do we endure storms by humbling ourselves, realizing that God is in control, and submitting to His will for our lives?

Palm Trees Can Survive Drought. Each palm root is the same size at its stern and its base; therefore, it cannot be pulled up easily. Because palm trees send their roots deep into the ground, they are able to tap resources of nourishment that are not available on the surface. Ordinary roots taper and branch -- each palm root is thick and strong. "...Take root downward, and bear fruit upward (Isaiah 37:31)." How are our roots? Are they growing deep, finding a strong anchoring spot in God's Word? Are they deep enough to tap hidden resources even during times of drought?

The Older a Palm Tree Grows, the Sweeter its Fruit Becomes. Ordinary fruit trees diminish their yield as they grow older. Palm trees do not bear fruit until they mature, a process sometimes requiring up to fifty years. As palm trees age, their fruit grows sweeter. A tree with a sleek trunk gives ordinary fruit

while one with a scarred trunk gives sweeter fruit. "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat [healthy] and flourishing (Psalm 92:114)." Are we trusting God to bring us to maturity? Too many people grow bitter as they are scarred by the circumstances of life. How about us? Is the fruit of our lives hard and bitter, or is it "growing sweeter and sweeter" as the years go by?

Palm trees are a welcome sight to weary desert travellers. Since they must have their roots in water to survive, palm trees announce the presence of water and shelter in a dry and thirsty land. Likewise, we too must be "rooted" in Christ, the living water. Then our lives will be a beacon to weary people thirsting for the refreshing, life-giving water in a dry and hostile world.

By God's grace, may each of us flourish like the palm tree. May we patiently withstand abuse because of the life of Christ inside. May we endure the storms of life as we humble ourselves and submit to God's will for our lives. May we sink our roots deep in His word that we may endure periods of hardship and drought. And may the fruit of our lives grow sweeter and sweeter, the longer we walk with the Lord.

(Adapted, expanded, and used with permission: Character Craft Cards, Institute for Basic Youth Conflicts, 1986.)



Palm Trees--A welcome sight for weary travelers.

CREATION CAMPS

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- September 26: Sterling, CO.** First Baptist Church.
(303) 522-6451.
- September 28, 29: Bedford, IA.** (TBA)
Contact Scott Hardee, 712-523-3573
- September 30, October 1: Tyler, MN,** Tyler Alliance
Chapel, 507-247-3824.
- October 17-20: St. Louis Area.** Fall Creation Weekend.
Sponsored by Illinois Christian Home Educators. Pere
Marquette State Park, Grafton, IL 708-662-1909.
- October 20 & 21: St Louis, MO:** (TBA)
Contact Walt Stumper 314-821-1234
- October 22-23: Center Point, IN,** Center Point United
Methodist, Contact Mark Dennis, 812-835-3494.
- October 25-26: Lincoln, IL,** Lincoln Christian College,
Junior High Schoolers On Campus.
Contact Lynn Laughlin (217) 732-3168.
- October 27,28: Richmond, MO,** Richmond Christian
Chapel, Contact Larry Dyer, 816-776-3403
- October 29,30: McPherson, KS,** First Baptist Church,
Contact Tom Billings (316) 241-2606.
- November 10: Glenwood Springs, CO**
Mountain View Baptist, 303-945-8328.
- November 17: Meeker, CO,** Assembly of God,
Contact Rex Townsley, 303-878-3510.
- November 18: Grand Junction, CO,** Grand Junction
Baptist, AWANA 303-243-3321
- November 20,21: Grand Junction, CO,** Gr. Jct. Baptist
Pastor's Luncheon & Public Seminar. 303-243-3321.
- November 24: Grand Junction, CO,** Redlands Christian,
Contact Merle Miller, 303-242-7380.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

Alpha Omega Institute

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

In This Issue:

- Creation Resources
- Lessons from Palm Trees
- Survival Strategies for Students
- A Very Important Enclosure-Please Read

Dangling from a rope 120' above the ground! Marvelling at God's fantastically beautiful creation! Getting an "ant's eye view" or a "bird's eye view" of God's wonders! Fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, relaxing! Sitting back and letting someone else do the cooking! Preparing yourself and your children for battle! Singing with joyfulness in your heart to the Lord! Sharing fun, fellowship and learning with new friends! All this and more! If you missed our Family Adventures this year, you missed it all! **Next year's dates for Twin Peaks and Redcloud Family Mountain Adventures will be August 9-14 and August 16-21.** Don't miss out again!

ATTENTION!!!

If this issue contains a yellow 3rd and Last notice, it means we haven't received an earlier card telling us you wish to continue receiving this publication. In fact you did not receive the July/August issue. This will be your last issue UNLESS you return this card. Remember, you do not have to be a contributor to receive it, we just ask that you do read it. Even if you have contributed lately, our mailing list program will not know that unless you return the card. If you do not see a card and can recall having sent one in, and know for a fact you received the July/August issue (the one with the butterfly on the front), you need not worry. If there is any question, write to us, we may have goofed.

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