

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Our Job, Your Job

by Dave Nutting

While Mary Jo and I were on a university speaking tour in October, the campus minister handed a flier advertising our creation sessions to an international student. She told him that her parents were very upset with her. She came to the United States as a strong believer, but quickly lost her faith at the hands of evolutionary professors. (Unfortunately, this is all too common for both international and local students.) The pastor strongly encouraged her to come to the presentations. PTL! She came and got really excited about the material and wanted to hear more. However, she did not show up the next day even though she had said she was planning to come. We hope that she merely had another class which conflicted with our meeting. On the other hand, we know from the Bible that some good seed is choked out. We are praying that she wasn't swayed by professors, friends, or the Internet into ignoring what was presented. We are thankful that the campus minister will follow up with her.

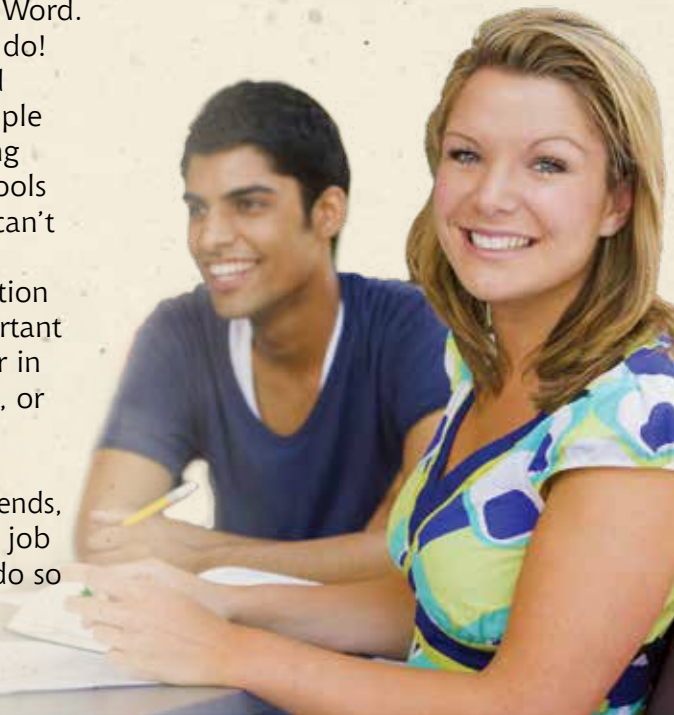
Other students, professing atheism, engaged us with questions during the sessions and in conversation afterwards. Even though they seemed quite closed, we pray that the Holy Spirit will use something that

was said to get them thinking. We are certainly glad to talk to those who profess to be atheists. However, what really excites us is the opportunity to come alongside and strengthen believers who are getting blasted in their faith. During our time at the universities, several students told us that they had grown in their faith because of the sessions. Some students, who admitted their faith was drowning in the evolutionary sea, came away realizing that evolution just can't work. As in the parable of the one lost sheep, we rejoice over these; however, we grieve over so many who are being led astray and never get to hear the Truth.

Our job, especially in hostile secular environments, is to expose evolutionary indoctrination and proclaim the truth of God's Word. This is a job we very gladly do! However, we wish we could have an army of young people doing the same and reaching out to many more high schools and college campuses. We can't do it alone! That is why we believe AOI's Discover Creation Training Institute is so important – to train people to minister in their own churches, schools, or communities.

As Christian parents, grandparents, students, or friends, you also have an important job in this battle. We can only do so

much through our seminars, camps, tours, newsletters, and website. But you have the opportunity for long-term, one-on-one relational ministry, so we want to encourage you to do your part. This holiday season, ask and really listen to your returning student friends or family members to find out what's happening in their lives. If they are struggling in their faith, don't freak out! Lectures probably won't help, but your love and support can go a long way. If they are open, provide helpful resources. If they have questions you can't answer, suggest that they check out our website or contact us so we can help you come alongside them. If needed, we, or one of our team, would be happy to have a phone conversation with them. Whatever you do, please get involved. **AOI**




The Importance of AOI at the University by Grant Buse

For about 10 years, I have had the pleasure of witnessing firsthand the vital impact of AOI at the University of Minnesota, UM-Duluth and St. Cloud State campuses as a campus minister. The creative combination of current research and solid facts mixed with a philosophical and scientific underpinning of the biblical worldview has yielded explosive results in the hearts of believers and unbelievers alike. This explosion often manifests itself when an idea in their hearts, that has gone untested, meets the ideas and evidence presented in the various presentations put on by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting. I have seen this happen many times

producing fruit that grows and ripens for God's glory.

My favorite example even occurred in the heart of a University instructor and took not millions of years but at least three to be exact. This professor started his interaction with us as we were promoting the Creation presentations at the U of MN. He would laugh and mock our posters followed by ridiculing the ideas in our conversations. A couple of weeks later, this professor attended the lectures and laughed his way out of the room. A year later, he showed up again and still had pointed questions for the notorious and infamous Nuttings and took what they said with many grains of salt. Another year passed

and we noticed a change in the conversation. This professor would now have respectful conversations with us during our weekly outreaches on campus. He even gave credit to some of our points in relation to creation. That year, he brought a few friends with him to the presentations and even let us know that he was thankful for them and that they had an incredible and changing impact on his thinking.


This happened more often than you would expect. We have been extremely blessed to partner with AOI and see eternal and lasting benefits in the lives of our future leaders (students) and even their instructors. 

Inspired Evidence: Only One Reality – A Daily Creation Devotional!

This is so great we wish to feature it again! Make sure you get this book and give several away this Christmas to your friends or relatives. It could change a life or fortify your child for life.

Keyed to each day of the month, Julie Von Vett and Bruce Malone give you 365 articles focusing on a particular aspect of creation and a corresponding scripture on which to meditate. Categories vary day to day from Christian Truth, Geology, Design, Biology, Biblical Accuracy, Paleontology, Cosmology, Botany, Anatomy, and Microbiology. This book is easy to read and has a wealth of new information and discoveries.



This daily devotional is in keeping with our encouragement we gave you on the front page for you to get involved. Start using it on January 1 as an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of your family and friends. This book daily exposes anti-Biblical and evolutionary arguments and gives solid answers so that you and your children are not led astray. It is not only for Christmas! This is a great “anytime” gift for families, students, or anyone who wants to learn more about God and His creation. We highly recommend it. (Available from AOI for **\$10.00** + **\$4 S/H** through 1/31/16). (Remember, your purchase helps the ministry of AOI! 

What do butterflies and Christmas have in common? That may sound like a strange question, but it could be a good way to begin a conversation with your family. When you read Bill Browning's article (reprinted in color from *Think & Believe Winter 2002*), Notice that the edges of the fabulously designed "lenses" in the wing of the Morpho butterfly are shaped like a series of Christmas trees! Also, the Morpho's intense blue color reminds me of the lights. So this year, when you look at a Christmas tree and see the beautiful lights, take time to talk about God's amazing design in the Morpho butterfly. Above all, take time to be thankful for Jesus, the true light of the world that shines in the darkness and brings eternal life.

"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" John 1:4.

The Morpho Butterfly: A Miracle of Creative Design

by Bill Browning

The brilliant blue-green iridescent color of the incredible Morpho butterfly is produced by what scientists call "constructive interference" of light waves. An object actually has no color of its own. The color is in the light *reflected* by the object. Most objects show color by reflection and absorption. For example, the petal of a red flower has pigment that reflects only red and absorbs all other colors, so we see it as red.

The Morpho butterfly, however, has no pigment like the flower. The wing is made of a colorless protein called chitin, similar to that found in our fingernails. Instead of giving the butterfly its own color, God has designed a miraculous light-processing machine on its wing. The wing has thousands of tiny scales, each covered with light-filtering ridges shaped like Christmas trees. Tiny layers called laminae (the limbs of the Christmas trees), which work similarly to diffraction gratings, produce the iridescent color. As light is reflected from the laminae, certain wavelengths are constructively reinforced, and others are canceled out, producing the bright colors we observe.

The spacing of the laminae must be precisely controlled to a certain fraction of the wavelength (1/8). Approximately 1.4 million layers of these laminae are meticulously arranged with incredible accuracy on the wings. There are



60-65 ridges (Christmas trees) per scale and 150 scales per centimeter on each wing.

The actual color observed (ranging from violet to blue-green) depends on the path length to the observer. So each of us sees a slightly different color, depending on our location relative to the wing! Morphos are such efficient processors of light, they have been observed by airline pilots flying miles above them.

Could this amazing phenomenon of light have happened by chance? When we realize the complexity of the optical physics and mathematics required in designing the Morpho's color machine, we marvel at the design skill of the Creator. The glorious light of the Morpho is powerful evidence for an omniscient, powerful Creator.

(Ps. 111) "The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein – His works are to be remembered." **AOL**

Source: Ref. Hild Simon, *The Splendor of Iridescence*, Dodd, Mead and Co. NY, 1971

Note from Dave Nutting: When I first heard about the Morpho butterfly, I was excited about the possibility of seeing one when we went to Costa Rica for a combination vacation/ministry trip in 2005. Knowing how much I wanted to see one, Mary Jo began praying that I would see one "up close." Well, God answered her prayers in a dramatic way when one landed on my wrist – and later on my beard! What a treat! We hope you will join us for the Discover Creation Costa Rica Adventure in 2016. Experience for yourself this amazing land of diversity, and color: live volcanoes, amazing design, ocean beaches, fascinating jungles, beautiful flowers, colorful birds, – and maybe even a Morpho Butterfly "up close and personal."



Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



We are happy to announce that AOI is moving ahead toward important goals to extend the outreach of our ministry.

Our plan is to move to a new and somewhat larger rented office facility which we and our Board of Directors believe will better:

- Support the needs of our Discover Creation Training Institute
- Expand our local outreach
- Reach more people coming through our area with the Truth of God's Word.

The building is currently unfinished, so we can design the floor plan to meet our needs. This is a blessing but also a challenge, as it requires "up-front" funds to complete the build-out (in exchange for lowered rent

throughout the lease). We are hoping to be in the new facility in 3-6 months. Please pray with us for needed funds and volunteers to complete the project in a timely manner. If you can help out with a special gift or donate professional skills, it would be a blessing.

In addition to this special need, we ask you to keep the overall ministry of AOI in your prayers and giving as we approach the end of this year. This year-end giving is extremely important in setting a firm foundation for the coming year. We are so grateful for each and every person that partners with us to reach children, youth, and adults with the Truth of Creation and God's Word. There are so many who still need to hear. Together we can reach students like those described on the front page of this issue and make a difference in their lives. **AOI**



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Thank You!

On behalf of the staff of AOI: Thank you for your support this year. It is much needed and greatly appreciated! Your partnership with us makes a huge difference and touches many lives! Have a blessed, Christ-centered Christmas Season!



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