



Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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Reflections on My Internship at AOI

(by Sarah McGuire)

I must admit that when I agreed to become an intern for Alpha Omega Institute, I had no idea of what I was getting myself into. I'd only known the Nuttings and the Johnsons for all of five days when I agreed to spend six weeks with them. But, truth be told, I'd do it all over again. My internship was a wonderful, growing time, both spiritually and mentally. The six weeks passed in a blur of setting up and tearing down, learning to use puppets, reading, reading, and more reading, traveling, meeting many new people, being "stretched," as Dave called it, talking with Eugene (the famous Lion puppet), and so many other things.

During my stay in Colorado, I traveled with the ministry team on two road trips. During the first trip, I spent my time in Durango, Colorado, just learning the ropes. I had no idea that so much went into a creation ministry. I was just trying to answer at least some of the questions I was fielding as I worked the book table. Meanwhile, the Johnsons were breaking me into the basics of children's ministry. That meant that I just stood back and sort of stared slack-jawed as they assembled their puppet stage and sound system, threaded various wires and arranged puppets. I helped with their crafts and was eventually doing a very simple part in a puppet show. (I'd rather not comment on my first performance, and anything the Johnsons have to say about the matter is pure slander.) By the end of the second road trip, I'd graduated to actually talking to Eugene (the puppet). All I can say is that he took good care of

me, though he wasn't exactly cooperative all the time.

Between the road trips, I spent my time studying or at the Alpha Omega Institute. I met Dorothy and Donna, two women who I came to enjoy very much and saw how the resource center was set up and run. I was even able to help Dorothy a little as she worked on setting up the library. Not that internship was all work and no play. I had my share of fun. I was able to see some of the sights in Colorado, get in a hike and go rappelling for the first time.

My internship impressed me with the importance of being able to give a Biblical answer to questions of origins. Christianity becomes nothing more than a nice, sometimes respectable, but powerless, pastime if there isn't a Creator God. It is so essential that children learn that the six days of creation aren't just a Bible "story." There is such a small window of opportunity to present the case for creation before years of evolutionary teaching closes their hearts to anything of God or the Bible.

The time at Alpha Omega was well spent. In our day and age, it is easy to find a book on a subject and read about it, but we rarely have the opportunity to spend a good deal of time with those who are experienced in their area of study and ministry. I had that opportunity to be with the Nuttings and Johnsons, to ask them questions, see how they handled situations, and learn what a creation ministry involves. That was the most valuable part of my internship. Hopefully, many others will be able to take advantage of all that I was able to. And as for everyone I've come to love at Alpha Omega as they continue the internship program? All I can say is, may their tribe increase!



Notes & Quotes

■ Ever wonder if your labor is making any difference at all? While none of us will know until eternity all that God has accomplished in and through us, it is encouraging when He gives us little glimpses, isn't it? During our regular Thursday staff prayer meeting, we often read portions of the letters we have received. We appreciate your encouragement and helpful suggestions. Here are a few excerpts so you can rejoice and join us in prayer.

□ Thank you for your teachings -- My cousin that is a teacher ... really had a life changing experience through your teachings. I pray God will continue to use you wherever you go. (Colorado) *[Ed: We are always glad when teachers attend our seminars. They have such an impact on the lives of young people and we praise God when He opens their eyes to see the truth of His Word.]*

□ Really enjoyed the Children's Program by the Johnsons! It was great. The children had some fun things to do and were not left unsupervised or undirected. We really enjoyed the activities and they learned some new things. God's provision is evident in them. How exciting it must be for you. (Colorado) *[Ed: Yes! God is using the Johnsons in the lives of so many children! Keep praying for them and their strategic ministry.]*

□ Meant to write and tell you how much we enjoyed camp. We'll be there next year if we can. ... Thanks for all you do. People need educating. ... In High School class at church someone was telling the kids "no real scientist doubts evolution. It's the only possible explanation even for Christians." My own mother says that the only problem she has with creationists is that they insist on taking the Bible literally. ... I'll keep you all in my prayers. (Colorado)

□ It has been a while since we have had personal contact with you, but we do think of you often and we do read Think and Believe regularly. In fact, I don't think L. ever misses an issue. One of the pluses for him is the conciseness of your articles! But, the Sept/Oct issue has to be one of the best ever!! The article, "Warning, Bridge Out!" has been read and reread, and shared again and again. We even took it to hunting camp to share with the group there! ... This article certainly explains how we have traveled so far down the wrong road! (Colorado) *[Ed. Thanks! We praise God that you are spread-*

ing the message. If any of you missed this issue, contact us and we'll be glad to send you one.]

□ Was real disappointed when the Pope came out with the statement he did about creation ... Don't become discouraged. Maybe you should seek -- and get-- an audience with the Pope and set him straight? (Texas) *[Ed: Only God can "set him straight," but we would certainly be glad to speak with him if God would grant the opportunity. We have sent material to him. An E-mail we received claims the Pope was misquoted by the press. However, many documents from the Roman Catholic church including footnotes in a Catholic Bible have been blatantly supporting evolution for a long time even though many Catholics do not know this or accept evolution. This really is another case of trusting more in the words of scientists than in the Word of God. Pray for all those who are caught in this trap. Only when the Holy Spirit opens our eyes and our hearts are we really able to receive the testimony of His Word.]*

□ We just wanted you to know how much we appreciate your work and how much we enjoy Think and Believe. The Kids Page is great. Our 6th grader takes it to Sunday School to share. ... You'll be getting some extra prayers from us. ... Our 6th grader is being bombarded with the evolutionary origin of man at school. We had a good meeting with teacher and principal. M. will be doing some alternate work as well as a compare and contrast report on his belief and school text. So, all of this to say a great big thank you for the work you do and for all the information you share. I feel we've "got a leg up" on the school situation. (California) *[Ed: Praise God for your son's boldness to share the message at school. Parents, encourage and support your children to take a firm stand for the Lord and truth of His word wherever they are.]*

□ Creation Family Mountain Adventure at Camp Redcloud was super! You out did yourselves by giving us another great week of Creation teaching, fun, fellowship, re-creation, and growing in the Lord! Thanks again for all your efforts. We're still talking about camp. The kids have already made plans for us to do it again next year. (Texas) *[Ed: GREAT! YA'LL COME & BRING A FRIEND!]*

Spotlight On Science

Antarctic Fish with Antifreeze!

Think of how many times we have said, "It sure is cold this winter. Global warming nothing--it isn't happening here!" Sometimes it would seem our blood is ready to freeze in our veins. So we crank up the heat in the house and head for the auto store to get extra antifreeze for the car. We throw extra blankets on the bed and snuggle in with a good issue of **Think & Believe** for comfort! Bears hibernate in their dens and other animals put on thicker fur coats, but what do the fish do to cope with the frigid Antarctic water? We might think they are cold-blooded and since the water isn't going to freeze, they won't. However, they are in saltwater that is actually colder than normal freezing temperature. So how do they survive without the water in their blood freezing?

National Geographic (June, 1995) had a short article by Boris Weintraub about antifreeze in Antarctic fish. He stated:

The fish that thrive off the Antarctic coast in frigid 28°F water survive the same way a car does in a North Dakota winter: with antifreeze. But a little fish antifreeze could keep your motor purring for a long time. It's 300 times as effective per molecule as the ethylene glycol in a car radiator.

... there are almost a hundred species of fish called notothenioids, ranging from six-inch zooplankton feeders to six-foot toothfish. They swim at all depths, from the 3,200-foot-deep bottom to the surface. Notothenioids produce their antifreeze, a glycoprotein, in the liver. They secrete it into the bloodstream, where it fills spaces around cells ... Although seawater with ice crystals gets into the fish's blood, the antifreeze stops the ice from growing, and eventually it is filtered out.

This is **better antifreeze than we use** in our most cherished autos. It sounds like an ingeniously designed system reflecting the creative talent of our God. To an evolutionist, millions of years of gradual changes operating with natural selection produced the perfect blend of antifreeze. Which appears more logical?

Ants and *Antifreeze*!

Pun intended, but ants really do produce antifreeze, too! Yep, it gets cold out there in the ground under a blanket of snow. Since the ants don't have their own central heating systems, they need to have a way to keep from freezing during the winter. So the colder it gets, the more antifreeze is actually produced.

Did this ability happen by chance over millions of years by mutation and natural selection as our evolutionist friends would claim? Scientists have long studied ants that live in the equatorial zones where it is nice and warm year round. They found that these ants do not produce antifreeze like their cousins do in Indi"ant"apolis, Indiana. The evolutionist were quick to point this out. "See," they said, "this shows that this ability to produce antifreeze came about by mutation and natural selection. Since they certainly didn't **need** antifreeze, they didn't **need** to evolve that characteristic."

Some explanations such as this one sound really great, at first. However, researchers shot a big hole in the original theory shortly after it was suggested. Ants from the equatorial zone which they thought did not have the ability to produce antifreeze were transported to the northern latitude. **Within the first year**, they all of a sudden began producing antifreeze. You might say, "Wow! That's fast evolution!" The truth is that the ants had already possessed the genetic ability to produce the proper antifreeze chemicals.

Is this "pre-evolution" as some might suggest? Very doubtful! Perhaps, as others would theorize, these ants lived where it was colder at one time, evolved the complicated antifreeze system, and somehow over the millions of years of living in the warm zone did not lose the ability to produce antifreeze. I believe a better explanation is that they were pre-programmed by their Creator with ability to handle many possible situations. Just like a dog grows a thicker winter coat in years it is going to be very cold, so do ants produce antifreeze before it is needed! We really believe God takes care of his creatures. Think about it! If he cares for the ant, and cares for the fish in the sea, don't you think He cares for you and me! **We serve a wonderful God!** Tell others about Him!

Plan your summer vacation NOW!

Tremendous Creation Vacations!

(If you need extra camp brochures, call us.)

Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure: Jun 29-Jul 4

Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure I: Aug 10-15

Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure II: Aug 17-22

AOI's 10th Annual Science Fair

AOI's 10th annual Science Fair is coming soon! This year's fair will be split into two sections--Elementary Fair on February 7 at Monument Baptist Church; Secondary Fair at First Presbyterian Church February 28. Dorothy Hahn, the Director of AOI's first Science Fair in 1987, will be directing this fair. K-12 students in homeschool, Christian school, and public school are welcome to participate. Volunteers are needed to help with planning, set-up, judging, clean-up, etc. Donations of awards for deserving students are needed also. If you or your business would like to help or if you would like to register your students, call Dorothy at 970-523-9943.

Special Note: Events and Prayer Needs

The enclosed prayer card lists upcoming events and special prayer needs. This spiritual battle is won through prayer! We want to hear God and walk closely with Him in all phases of this ministry and in our individual lives. We **HOPE** you will **SAVE** the card and **USE** it regularly as a prayer reminder. Thanks! (Updated prayer requests are sent out each month with receipts to our donors. If you are a prayer warrior who will commit to pray let us know! We will send you the update, too!

VBS Openings and Opportunities

The Johnsons still have a few dates available for summer 1997 Vacation Bible Schools. Reserve NOW.

We are looking for a few committed, enthusiastic teams to train to do creation VBS's (families, youth groups with sponsor, or adults). If you want a week or so of intensive training, and then lead a VBS in your own church and others in your area, call us.

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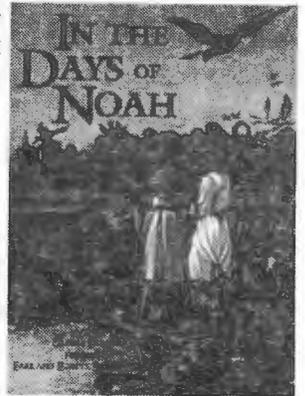
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(970) 523-9943

NEW BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE!!

In the Days of Noah is a two-part book. The first part gives a somewhat fictionalized account of Noah and the events surrounding the Flood. The second part, in question/answer format, answers questions usually asked about the Flood and a creationist view of fossils, the Grand Canyon, geology, etc. This book is very colorful and beautifully illustrated. The story part is especially aimed at elementary students, but older children and adults will enjoy it too! The second part provides valuable information in a pleasing format for all ages. (\$14.95, see enclosed order form.)



Someone's Making a Monkey Out of You is especially aimed at junior high school students. It contains great material and super cartoons answering common questions in a question/answer format. This book will help students defend their faith in the classroom. Use it at home or in Sunday School and youth group settings! (\$6.95, see enclosed order form.)



ALBANIA Trip

The Nuttings have been invited to speak in Albania in March. Albania was, until recently, the most-closed, atheistic, communist country in the world. At one time it was a death penalty to even have a Bible. God has miraculously opened the doors and the Gospel is spreading quickly. Albanians have been thoroughly indoctrinated in evolution, and many have never even heard of the Genesis account of creation. The Nuttings will be speaking in universities and for other groups, including both believers and those who have never heard the Gospel. They have also been invited to speak in various places in Hungary and France "as long as you're going to be in the area!" Prayers and donations would be greatly appreciated.