



Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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Creation Vacation Adventures

(by *Dave and Mary Jo Nutting*)

Imagine yourself rappelling down a 130-foot cliff on a rope or leaping from a 22-foot pole to catch a trapeze? Not your bag? Well how about a horseback ride or a hike in the mountains? Still too active? OK, try a round of archery or a four-wheel drive trip in the mountains. You're still not sure? All right, then, it's got to be fishing in a clear mountain lake, relaxing with a good book in a peaceful aspen forest, or just plain snoozing!

Our Creation Vacations are characterized by Fun, Fellowship, and Facts for all ages, because we think it's important to spend time learning and relaxing with others in the Body of Christ. We know that students and adults alike are being continually bombarded with humanistic philosophies and ungodly entertainment, and we want to do our part to help combat this situation.

Here's a typical day to whet your appetite: Get up and greet the day. Fill your lungs with fresh, mountain air -- and have some time with the Lord, alone or as a family. Head for the dining hall to enjoy a hearty, delicious breakfast with some new-found friends. After breakfast, there's a time of singing and opening activities, before splitting into groups for age-appropriate creation teaching and activities. Kids will enjoy slides programs, activities, crafts, and games, while you soak up fascinating facts and applications from lively slide-illustrated lectures and activities. Before you know it, it will be time for a scrumptious lunch in the dining hall.

After lunch, you have your choice of activities depending on which camp you and your family choose. The afternoon will fly by as you hike, fish, rappell down a cliff, navigate a ropes course, challenge the "Power Pole," shoot archery, play volleyball, ride a horse, play softball, go canoeing, shoot some baskets, take a 4-wheel-drive trip, go mountain biking, play capture-the-flag, get ice cream in town, read a book, play a game, watch a video, or take a "Power Nap!" In any case, you'll be ready for a super supper in the dining hall and a chance to share your day with your now "not-so-new" friends.

After dinner, we'll gather again to praise and worship our wonderful Creator with music. Then, you won't want

to miss the antics of "Eugene" and the other colorful puppets as they teach us all about creation. (Adults, you'll laugh harder than most of the kids!) After one more fascinating creation program, you'll enjoy fellowship in the dining hall or hit the sack and thank the Lord for a very full day!

So, now do you see why some families keep coming back again and again? You get all this Fun, Fellowship, and Learning at a very affordable price. We hope to see YOU and your family at one of our Creation Vacation Adventures this year! Maybe you could even bring someone else along who hasn't heard the creation message yet. It could

be a life-changing experience for them!

P.S. Grandparents: Bet you can't think of a better way to spend time with your grandkids! Why not gather them up and come? You'll find plenty for them to do and you too!

P.P.S. Singles: You are WELCOME too! Ya'll come!



Notes & Quotes

■ So, are you planning to attend creation camp yet? Read these comments by some of our past participants!

◆ Camp was a life-changing experience for us. God meant for us to be there. The word “crisis” in Greek means a moment of decision. Camp made you make that decision. We decided to give up our belief in theistic evolution. We decided to keep our kids from having their minds stolen away. We later decided to home school them. Camp experience brought our family close together. We took on the responsibility to do family worship and study together. Its not just one thing, it’s the melting of the whole thing together--teaching for the whole family, the camp itself, the absolutely beautiful setting, the fantastic staff, and the participation by campers. Even the activity staff were great with devotional analogies before each activity. It was like living the Scriptures. It’s the **best vacation dollar YOU WILL EVER SPEND.** (Velna Jackson)

◆ We loved the adventure -- first to plan for it, to anticipate doing this together as a family, to trust the Lord, not knowing what to expect and then to go through that neat week and look back at it. I know we will remember it for a lifetime. ... there is not much to do that can have such a lasting impact for a lifetime. We loved a lot of things. The setting was wonderful. Here it is: this beautiful woodsy setting and the cabins were so nice. We knew the basic teaching, having previously gone to an AOI seminar, but it was great to have it expanded on and to have the children learn new things. I just soaked it up the whole time. We are glad our whole family could do it together. (Deanna Hershiser)

◆ I’ve been to the Mount St. Helens area, and to the Grand Canyon, but I had only heard the standard approach. After being bothered by questions for 20 years, I finally got decent answers at camp -- compare Mount St. Helens with the Grand Canyon! Yes! Yes! Yes! When we got back I regurgitated everything I learned with 2 or 3 guys at work and even showed the Mount St. Helens video. They kept asking me, “What more do you have?” (Tim Hershiser)

◆ Our daughter, Victoria, was 11. The experience had a major impact on her. She learned to be bold with the people at the national park. (Tim Hershiser)

◆ And Victoria says: I liked Eugene [the lion puppet] and I think everybody did. I also liked how the leaders didn’t just talk at you but allowed questions. I like being able to have some input. It was all so interesting. I liked having more to back me up about why evolution is wrong. When I was at

the Colorado National Monument, I remembered how you said it’s important to say something, so I did. We need to get the word out. (Victoria Hershiser) [Ed: Indeed she did! This 11-year old, armed with a few good facts and a gentle approach, presented quite a challenge to the park ranger.]

◆ Jeannette especially likes the warmth and camaraderie between participants, instructors, and camp staff (and no dishes!). As for me, I like everything about it, especially the rappelling, rappelling, rappelling! (Don and Jeannette Smyth) [They certainly do -- they have been back yearly for almost 10 years. Either they **really** like the lectures (☺) or they can’t get enough of the rappelling and camaraderie!]

◆ First day strangers by end of camp don’t want to leave, or part from new friends. Friendships still continue. It is so good to build friends that edify, encourage, and help with your walk. It’s like you have been friends from forever. And yes they are forever friends and you will spend eternity together. (Velna and teenage daughter, Donna Jackson)

◆ I liked the four “F’s” -- Facts, Food, Fun, Fishing. We did it all! The informal “come as you are” worship time was great. We feel the experience gives families a better appreciation for God as their Creator and satisfies the search for truth. (The Hansens)

◆ Personally I find the equipping of the saints valuable. What draws me again and again is the bonding with others of like mind. I’m not the kind of person who jumps into relationships, and yet, every time at camp I dread leaving because of the bonding with other people. I think this experience is important for an overall reviving of the spirit, mind, and body. (Sumner Dean)

◆ I like the combination of liberty and unity. Freedom for everyone to have fun and do new things -- unity in the Spirit -- that’s a real blessing. A neat combination -- real cozy. It’s like a second home or something -- just real neat! (Sue Dean)

◆ I really like everything!. I like how there’s a lot of seminars. I like the activities. Those are my two favorite things. Scripture says to be ready always to give to give an answer for the hope that lies within you. Creation camp gives people information about what the evolutionists are saying and how to combat it. (Kristy Dean, 15)

◆ Can we go? Can we go? Can we go? (Carrie Dean, 17)

■ The Deans and others are willing to talk with you if you want more information or want to know what it’s really like! Call us for phone numbers.

Spotlight On Science

The Incredible Immune System

During this season with so many colds and so much flu going around, how can we even survive? We can because of our incredibly designed immune system. What a fantastic example of complex interrelationships and irreducible complexity which cannot be produced by accidents. Here is a simplified explanation of how it works.

When germs enter our blood stream and begin to reproduce, they need to be quickly recognized as such and eliminated. So first of all our immune system has to be able to recognize what is good and what is bad. Otherwise, it will eliminate what needs to be there.

In order to eliminate these "bad guys" (or "antigens," for those who like the technical stuff), your body needs to produce "germ-fighters" ("antibodies") with just the right shape to match the shape of the bad guys. If the antibody has the right shape, then it will lock onto it. If not, hopefully another antibody does. The fit has to be just right in order to be able to lock onto and tie up the antigen. Fortunately, we have a tremendous number and diversity of antibodies; however, occasionally something new comes along for which our immune system has no perfect match. Then a remarkable thing occurs.

An antibody that has a reasonably close fit ties up the antigen as well as possible and tries to eliminate it. Since it carries its factory with it, it sends a message to the factory to produce a bunch more just like it to provide the first wave of defense. But remember, what is being produced is not perfect for the job. It doesn't fit quite right, so it is inefficient. Now an amazing procedure is begun. The factory begins to produce a pile of alterations of the closest fit to try to make one with a perfect fit. This process can take a couple weeks but the final product of antibodies are perfectly tailored to fit the new germ. When it hits this right combination, it then produces a huge number of these to battle the bad guys. You

are then well into recovery from the illness and have the pattern on file for the next time this same type of germ comes along. Isn't immunity **amazing**?

To sum up the key components, first the system requires an ability to **recognize** the bad guys from the good guys. Second, our system has to **tolerate** the good guys without destroying them along with the bad. (If something goes wrong here, the system goes bad such as in AIDS.) Third, there has to be a **diversity** of good guys to fit the bad guys closely enough to do some good as the initial front-line assault team. Finally, the system has to actually **eliminate** the bad guys or we die. All of these factors have to be present at the same time, otherwise the system is useless or

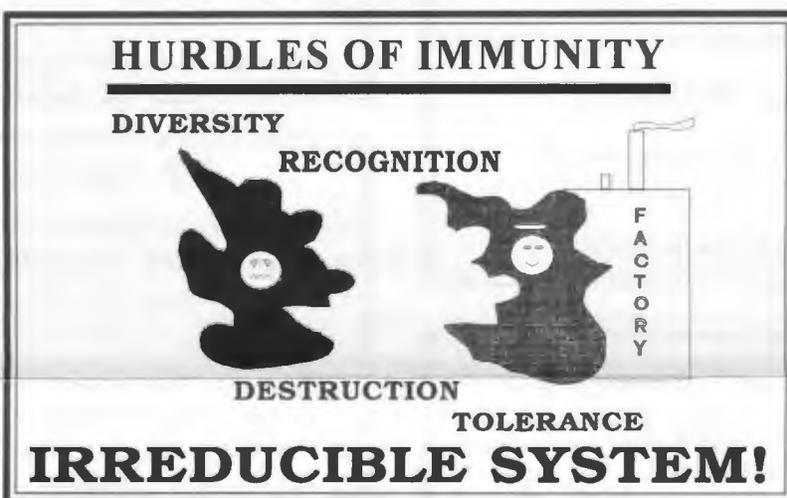
self-destructs. Which one can you eliminate without destroying the whole system? Everything must be **in place** and **working at the same time** to do any good at all. This is a tremendous evidence of a designed system. It is not something which is produced by millions of years of accidents.

This amazing immune system is one of many examples of what Michael Behe (in his book, **Darwin's Black Box**, calls **irreducible complexity**. I believe Behe is right in saying that there is no way for such an irreducibly complex system like this to be produced by modifications on a simpler

plan as evolution teaches. (You might want to refer to his book for other examples and a more technical explanation of this topic.) After much research, Behe concludes, "The scientific literature has no answers to the question of the origin of the immune system."

So what is the answer? "**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**"

"The scientific literature has no answers to the question of the origin of the immune system." M. Behe



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The Back Page...

**** Upcoming Events ****

Please pray for these events. Thanks!

Discover Creation Seminars:

- Feb 8-10: Farmington, NM:** Crestview Baptist Church
Contact Pastor Nowlin, 505-327-7792
- Feb 9-11: Farmington, NM:** San Juan College
Contact Bill Eubank, 505-327-0264
- Feb 15-20: Fredericksburg, TX area:**
Contact Velna Jackson, 830-644-2380
- Feb 23: Fort Worth, TX:** Homeschool Seminar
Contact Judi Keller, 817-292-7296
- Feb 25-27: Atoka, OK area:** Location TBA
Contact Sherri Cochran, 405-889-3674
- Mar 1-3: Liberal, KS:** Emmanuel Southern Baptist Church
Contact Pastor Wyatt Carpenter, 316-624-5952
- Mar 6-7: Tribune, KS:** First Baptist Church
Contact Pastor Mark Randoff, 316-376-2488
- Mar 8-9: Walsh, CO:** Walsh Baptist Church
Contact Pastor Dick Abbott, 719-324-5641
- Mar 10-11: La Junta, CO:** Prairie Bible Chapel (tentative)
Contact Pastor Maynard Bowen, 719-384-4021
- Mar 13-14: Denver, CO:** American Indian Mission
Contact Peter Mason, 303-477-8722
- Mar 15-16: Colorado Springs:** Black Forest Chapel
Contact Pastor James Seal, 719-495-2420

Focus on Creation Family Nights: Grand Junction, CO

- Feb 6:** Creation Evangelism in Mongolia, Bazarsad
- Mar 6:** Sound, Music, and Hearing, Jim Davidson
- Ap 3:** Science Fair Awards: Good Science & Eugene
- May 1:** Topic TBA
- Call for Topics and Location 970-523-9943

Alpha Omega Science Fairs: Grand Junction, CO

- Secondary Fair: Feb 27
- Elementary Fair: Ap 3
- Workshops available. Call to register, 970-523-9943.

**** 1998 Creation Vacations ****

INFORMATIVE -- AFFORDABLE -- FUN
for the whole family!

- Twin Peaks Science Adventure: June 28-July 3**
- Redcloud Mountain Adventure I: Aug 9-14**
- Redcloud Mountain Adventure II: Aug 16-21**

Join us for "the best vacation ever!"
Mark your calendar NOW!
Call or write for brochure!

**** VBS TRAINING ****

The interest in Creation Vacation Bible Schools has been overwhelming. Alpha Omega's Children's Team was completely booked for the summer of '97 and is already booked for '98. Because of such a large demand, this last year the Johnson's had 3 two-day training workshops in different parts of Colorado. They were able to teach 14 teams (33 people) the basics of doing VBS. One full day was spent with the teams doing a creation program. The next day was devoted to the "how-to," where they were taught basic puppetry, crafts, hands-on science, teaching techniques, and everything else required to run a successful Creation VBS. If you are interested in this type of training, contact our office, 970-523-9943 ASAP.



New Video: "Fifty Scientific Reasons Evolution is Wrong!"

This fast-paced, illustrated talk by Dave Nutting was filmed at the 1997 national "Steeling the Mind of America" Conference. Order several today. \$19.95 each.

(Please add \$3.00 S/H. CO residents add \$0.60 tax. video)

**** Can You Help? ****

We are still looking for the following items in good, working condition (new or used). Do you have or would you be willing to purchase any of them for our use? Thanks!

- VCR Player.
- Tall metal rolling stand for TV/VCR.
- Kodak carousel slide projectors and 80-slide trays.
- Portable projection stands with telescoping legs.
- 486 or better computers, monitors, & software.
- High capacity copy machine.
- Good quality office and stacking or folding chairs.
- Labeller (for attaching labels to newsletters).
- Bible study aids, reference books, encyclopedias.
- Creation books and magazines for library.
- Good quality microscopes and microprojector.
- Video Projectors.



Alpha Omega Institute

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