



Think & Believe

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Mongolia: Creation is the Key!

(by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting)

"I have been thinking and thinking and thinking, and I have come to the conclusion there has to be a Creator," a formerly-atheist Mongolian engineer, educated under the Soviet system, told us. He said the amazing design he saw in the world led him to this conclusion. Just after that, he saw the announcement for our lectures and came to them so he could learn more.

This man's statement illustrated the truth of Romans 1:20 and confirmed our purpose for being in Mongolia. Although the Communists had tried to stamp out the knowledge of God for 70 years, the world itself shouted out His existence for all who would think about it with open hearts and minds.

However, evolutionary teaching has so deceived millions around the world that they are blinded to the evidence of design. They attribute the amazing complexities of the universe to chance and natural processes, instead of to the all-powerful, all-intelligent Creator God. Karl Marx knew that the teaching of evolution would undermine people's faith in God and would lead them to embrace his world view. In fact, after reading Darwin's **Origin of Species**, he wanted to dedicate his book to Darwin. After 70 years of indoctrination in Mongolia, the results are evident -- 95% of the people claim to be atheists.

That is starting to change now. With the collapse of the old system and the allowing of new freedom in Mongolia, people are questioning what they were taught under the Soviet-dominated communist regime. Many Mongolians are spiritually hungry and looking for answers; but with so much evolution in their background, they are having a difficult time. The creation message we presented was extremely important. We found many Mongolian people to be very receptive. We had the opportunity to speak at

churches, large public meetings, and a mission's conference; to medical university instructors, hospital staff, Bible School students, public school teachers, missionary kids, and even a professional basketball team. Everywhere we spoke, people told us how much these teachings meant to them.

God is at work in Mongolia. We praise Him for the opportunity to be part of that work. The creation message is foundational to sound teaching and is a key to reaching Mongolians. We see a big need to train Mongolians to combat evolutionary teaching and to establish a firm foundation in creation. There is also a great need for translating books and teaching resources into Mongolian. Please pray with us that He will show us how to follow-up the work that's been started in Mongolia.

Mongolia is a vast country - a country of contrasts, a country in transition. The Mongolian empire once stretched to Europe, and its warriors were known for their strength and skill in battle. Let us pray that Mongolia will again become a world force, but this time a force for good, spreading the news of its creator God throughout the country and that part of the world.



A Smaller Mongolian Church Building

NOTES & QUOTES

■ God richly blessed our time in Mongolia. One blessing was the opportunity to spend the entire month with our translator, Bold Baataar. Bold—a former communist, educated in Russia—was one of the first believers in Mongolia. He is currently involved in Bible translation, but he took the month of May off to translate for us because of the strategic importance he sees of the creation message in reaching Mongolians with the Gospel. We asked Bold to share some things with our readers. Here are some of his responses.

Q. What would be one of the most important things for you to let our readers around the world know about creation/evolution as it relates to Mongolia?

A. The quotations from the Russian scientists that you shared. [What led to atheism in Russia was not Marx, Lenin, or Stalin. They were mere politicians. What led to atheism in Russia was the widespread teaching and acceptance of the theory of evolution.-Ed] The same thing happened in Mongolia, especially for the last 70 years. Russia influenced Mongolia very much. Many Mongolians got their education in Russia. Now more than 95% of the population are atheists.

Q. Do you see the creation ministry being effective in Mongolia?

A. Oh-h, yeah. There is a new law in Mongolia making it hard to proclaim the Bible and Christ openly in public. Creation science can be good. Many of us have no idea who is the Creator. Creation-science ministry can help to give a foundation . . . There is faith, there is a Creator. Personally I am a strong believer that this kind of ministry will work in Mongolia.

Q. How about in the schools?

A. The economic situation is getting worse and worse. Now there is a teacher strike. They are demanding that the government change the whole education system. If teachers understand creation science, they will use it in their curriculum. They should teach both world views. [We did have the opportunity to teach a good number of teachers for most of one morning. They were very open to the material. Pray it will get them thinking and searching. For sure, they will not be able to teach without having to recall what we presented!-Ed]

Q. How can American believers help most?

A. 1. **Regularly** pray for called workers and servants by name if possible. [You can start with Bold,

especially as he continues to work on an accurate Bible translation. Mongolia is the last official country, we understand, to receive the new Testament and start a church.-Ed]

2. Pray for solid and strong believers.

3. For our fellowship group: It is really hard to communicate with our brothers in the U.S. A fax machine would really be helpful. [Anyone out there have a good fax that we could ship over?-Ed]

4. Send very good Christian people — businessmen, scientists. [Not just people coming on expensive, frivolous trips. The Mongolian people need some good training. Many Mongolian believers have no jobs. Those people interested should contact us before making airplane reservations.-Ed]

Q. What can we do now that we have had a month with you to help you in further presenting the creation message in Mongolia?

A. If you can keep in contact and send articles, that would help. We need to get materials translated and printed. Maybe you can send a couple of guys to the States for further training. Personally, **I would like to see a Mongolian guy who is a believer do lectures, debates and workshops.** Our group and I will support creation-science ministry. We will pray for and support Mongolian scientists who have become believers.

■ **So would we!** Although the country was "open," we could not travel to many places. Only nationals are allowed to go to these locations. Besides that, there is too much for one person to do alone. Concerning this point, our conversation began to focus on how we might be able to train some Mongolians to carry on the message that we started in Mongolia. We talked about some of the people the Lord brought to our attention who had a desire to get involved. **Do you catch the vision?** We really are hoping to return to the area with materials in hand, including training manuals, sets of slides, and projectors. We would like to train and equip several Mongolian people to carry on this vital creation ministry. Pray with us. It will take finances we do not currently have plus a time commitment to prepare the materials. Once developed, though, these materials can be used in many parts of the world (even the United States).

■ We have invitations to go to other countries to do the same thing. Many, like Mongolia, do not have finances to even cover our plane fare; so pray with us that God will supply the time and finances to go through the doors while they are still open. They could close at any time.



Bold Baataar and His Family

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Count the Revolutions

Genetics has always been a pain in the neck for the theory of evolution. When Charles Darwin rehabilitated evolutionary ideas and brought them into public respectability, the nature of genes was not yet known. Once Mendel's research on genetics became known, it was viewed as a blow against evolution and demanded that the evolutionary time scale be drawn out greatly in order to make plausible the changes Darwin postulated. Mendel, after all, found that genes recombine the same inherited material, but they're not capable of modifying the inherited material itself.

The problem is only getting worse as more is known, because life seems to be ever more complicated as our capacities of investigating it improve. Note the following from *Newsweek*, 05/01/95, pg. 76:

"...mutations arise independently of biological needs," explains James Shapiro of the University of Chicago in the current issue of the journal *Science*. "The evolutionary watchmaker is blind." But for about a decade there have been hints that the watchmaker may, in fact, see. In experiments with bacteria, mutations that are useful arise more frequently than mutations that are neutral or deleterious --almost as if the microbes "know" which novel traits it would be good to have. To Biologists, this un-Darwinian notion has been borderline heresy.

The heart of Darwinian evolution is the idea that natural processes, unguided by purpose or plan, are capable of producing the complexity around us. The specifics of how that is accomplished has always been like mercury, first in Darwinism (ruined by that pesky monk Mendel), then Neo-Darwinism, then the Neo-Darwinian Synthesis, and lately Punctuated Equilibrium, the Marxist attempt to explain away the problem. To say that there is a direction to mutations (which should be by definition "random" changes) is to imply that there is a source of ordering beyond the gene.

Experiments with *E. coli* bacteria (a type common to the human gut), revealed that a needed gene developed 100 times faster than random processes could explain. The article concludes, "evolution still holds surprises." Following a defective road map will lead to surprises, too.

Lest anyone think that this research somehow gets evolution off the hook regarding the time necessary to develop new traits, it is noted that ... "Adaptive mutations probably don't work this way in higher organisms like giraffes and moths." Indeed they don't. The information is preliminary, and underscores our lack of understanding of the adaptations that are built into even the simplest of organisms.

By the Book

One criticism often leveled at creationists by their evolutionist counterparts supposes that their belief in God, or in the authority of the Bible, limits them from looking into new theories. In effect, the criticism is that a Biblical world view limits a believer's search for truth. Of course, those without a belief in God don't see themselves as equally limited. One assumes that God is relevant, and the other believes that God cannot be relevant.

A quick review of a generation of creationist writing reveals that creationists have considered and refined many varied theories. For example, the creationist view of origins in astronomy has undergone many changes. There was a popularization of the Moon Spencer Theory ("Riemannian space") which dealt with light travel across curved space (1953). The Mature Creation Theory was suggested by creationist pioneers Henry Morris and John Whitcomb (1961). A theory was proposed about the heating of galactic gas and dust (1981). Next came the Setterfield Theory that the speed of light had been subject to decay (1987). Currently, Humphrey's "White Hole" theory is being hashed over (see *Think and Believe*, Sept/Oct 1994). This is hardly the sign of a group not open to new ideas! This does not count the pseudo-creationists such as Hugh Ross, who earnestly try to remodel the Bible to fit into the prevailing secular cosmology.

The danger of linking scriptural authority to currently fashionable theory is obvious -- theories come and go, for creationists as well as evolutionists. George Mulfinger, in *Why Not Creation?*, listed 16 evolutionary theories for the origin of the universe since 1644. To think that the Big Bang is a theory which must remain a majority view forever is naive.

There is reasonableness in being tentative about all theories. In one hundred years, people will look back at the theories and ideas of the present debate as being every bit as antique as the ideas of spontaneous generation, or how we currently perceive Darwin's idea of pangenesis, or his optimistic expectation that future fossil finds might supply the then-missing evidence for his ideas. The view that a yet-future theory will reconcile present difficult questions in the Bible's favor is an approach which has had a very successful track record. So frequently, new finds support the Bible.

■ Thanks to our board member, Michael Shaver for these Spotlight articles which he wrote to help us out while we were in Mongolia. They are appreciated!

■ If you have articles you believe would be good for *Think & Believe*, please submit them.

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- Aug 7-11: Cimarron, CO: YWAM Discipleship Training**
Contact us. 970-245-5906.
- Aug 7-11: Westminster, CO:** Highland Baptist VBS
Contact Rick Anderson, 303-428-0622.
- Aug 13-18: Lake City, CO:** Redcloud Mountain Adventure
Contact us, 970-245-5906.
- Aug 20-25: Lake City, CO:** Redcloud Mountain Adventure
Contact us, 970-245-5906.
- Aug 25-27: Somerset, CO:** Id-Ra-Ha-Je West Family Camp
Contact Sam Kloberdanz, 970-243-9247.
- Sept 1-4: Bailey, CO:** Id-Ra-Ha-Je Creation Family Camp
Contact Rod Adams, 970-674-8442.
- Sept 9,10: Moab, UT:** Moab Christian Center
Contact church, 801-259-8308.
- Sept 17-19: Walla Walla, WA:** Trinity Baptist
Contact Alan Walter, 509-529-7447.
- Sept 20-29 Kennewick/Richland, WA:** Details in Progress
Contact us, 970-245-5906.
- Oct 8: Grand Junction, CO:** Valley Bible Church
Contact Mike Rossman, 970-245-0913.
- Oct 8: Rifle, CO:** First Christian Church
Contact Dene Johnson, 970-625-1419.
- Oct 20-22: Greeley, CO:** Area Seminar
Contact Kathy 970-330-5942 or Mark 970-351-8300.
- Oct 22: Fort Lupton, CO:** Four Way Baptist
Contact church, 303-536-4649.
- Oct 23, 24: McCook, NE:** Gateway Theater-Area Seminar
Contact Lowell Highby, 308-345-7115.
- Oct 28-30: Volga, SD:** First Reformed Church
Contact Wanda Gross, 605-627-5594.

Please keep this schedule and pray for us!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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PRAY FOR MONGOLIA!

Praise God, the gospel is being preached and many are responding; but there is much confusion. The cults are active, deceiving, and leading many new converts astray--like the two young ladies who came to our room with many questions. One said she had become a Christian; but from her questions, we could tell that she was confused by contact with at least two cult groups. We pray that they will now be able to take a firm stand for the truth.

Traditional religions (spiritism and Buddhism) are making a resurgence and claiming the allegiance of numerous people. On the hill tops, we saw many altars to appease the "spirits of the mountain." Observing inside a Buddhist temple was like watching children walking into a snake's den. It broke our hearts to see an old Buddhist woman bowing down repeatedly to an idol, while people of all ages chanted, turned prayer wheels, and burned incense. With great economic and social needs all over the country, many people are falling prey to materialism and looking for happiness in things. If the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to make a truly lasting impact in Mongolia, the time is now; and the need for sound Biblical teaching is great.

Please pray for those involved in translation work, that they would have wisdom in prioritizing translation needs as well as wisdom to do accurate, skillful translations. Pray especially for those involved in Bible translation. There is still no accurate translation of the Old Testament into modern Mongolian.

PRAY FOR THE JOHNSONS!

The Johnsons have had a very busy summer with lots of VBS and camp programs--and more to come. Pray for their strength, encouragement, support, and much fruit from their labor of love.

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