



Think & Believe

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North to Alaska

(by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting)

God gave us the privilege this spring of speaking in Alaska, where we first learned about the evidence for creation. What a blessing it was to be back after eighteen years! Being there brought back many memories of how God has worked in our lives over the years.

When we first went to Alaska to teach at Sheldon Jackson College, we believed in theistic evolution, though we didn't know that's what it was called. We thought that somehow God had used the process of evolution as His method of creating; that the days in Genesis 1 represented periods of time, millions of years long; and that the Genesis account was written to primitive people who couldn't understand the "science" of evolution.

Then one day we found a copy of Dr. Gish's book, **Evolution: the Fossils Say No!**, in a second-hand store. We bought it for five cents! Little did we know that it would dramatically change the direction of our lives!

God used Dr. Gish's book to open our eyes to the many discrepancies in the evolution model and to launch us on a search into the evidence for creation. Over a period of time researching both models, you might say we "evolved" into creationists, except that it didn't happen by chance! It didn't just happen overnight, either, but eventually our research demonstrated to our satisfaction that creation was a better model for viewing origins.

At first, we viewed it as an interesting "scientific" discussion, and were amazed (and relieved) to see how the evidence fits so well with the Bible. It took awhile for us to begin to understand the deep spiritual, moral, and social implications of the issue, though.

We first began to see these deeper issues when we witnessed the impact that the creation message had upon one of our students. Dave had talked with this student many times about the Lord, but he finally said, "Dave, I can't buy this Jesus stuff." Dave asked, "Why not?" He replied, "Because evolu-

tion is a fact and that means Genesis is false. If God can't get the first book of the Bible right, why should I trust Him to get anything else right?" He had a good point! The turning point came, though, after hearing Dr. Henry Morris teach on the evidences for creation and the problems with evolution. The student came to us afterwards and said, "If evolution isn't true, that doesn't leave much, does it? I'd better start doing some thinking!" Within a couple months he became a Christian, and we saw that this creation/evolution debate was more than just a scientific one.

This truth was driven home to us again and again during our trip to Alaska as we saw the negative impact that evolution was having on the lives of so many students. (See Notes and Quotes for some glimpses.) We came back burdened for these kids and confirmed in our calling to continue fighting evolutionary indoctrination and sharing the wonderful truth of creation and God's Word, but it's a BIG job! We know we personally can only make a dent, but God is at work raising up many others like you to join in the battle. Faithful is He who calls and equips us to join Him in His work!



Notes & Quotes

■ According to the Washington Times (5/23/96), the latest Gallup Poll of adult Americans shows that 58% of those surveyed say they would vote for teaching creationism in public schools. [Seems like it was 53% 2 years ago. Are we making progress?]

■ Unfortunately, the schools are still solidly in the grip of evolutionary humanists who have no intention of letting creationism in: Remember John Moore's statement in a speech to the National Academy of Sciences (October 1981):

□ If we do not resolve our problems with the creationists, we have only ourselves to blame. Let's remember, the greatest resource of all is available to us -- the educational system of the nation.

■ We've seen the truth of this statement over and over again -- the schools and curricula really are controlled by humanists. For some time God has been laying on our hearts a burden for students. Kids are getting bombed with humanistic, evolutionary indoctrination, and they are dropping like flies. Here are just a few glimpses from a recent speaking trip that illustrate the problem:

□ In one small town, a pastor sadly told us, "I really need to concentrate on the younger kids. We've already **lost** the junior high and high school kids." The problem was they had a well-liked science teacher who believed strongly in evolution and ridiculed creation. He was having a powerful influence on his students. Many of them were adopting his skepticism and scorn for Christianity. This alert pastor has not given up totally on the older kids, but he realizes it will be an uphill battle all the way. Fortunately he recognizes the need to fortify the younger kids before they get to junior high so they will not become captives of this evolutionary indoctrination too.

□ After a message in which Dave presented the problems with trying to combine evolution and the Bible, a ten-year old boy came up to us extremely troubled. His mom told us, "He's one of those who believes both." We questioned the boy a bit to see if he really understood what evolution was. He did. He told us he thought dinosaurs could turn into birds, etc. We assured him we weren't there to "bomb" him, but we would like him to come back and hear why we didn't believe in evolution any more. When he found out Dave had discovered two dinosaurs when he was young, his eyes lit up. He came back that evening and told Dave, "I've been thinking. It really is kind of silly to think a dinosaur could

turn into a bird." He attended the whole seminar (even missing karate class one evening to come.) His mom bought him several books and he went away with an excitement about creation evidences and a renewed faith in God's Word. How grateful we were to be able to reach him before he became hardened by further evolutionary indoctrination.

■ We're so thankful for those parents who care enough to bring their kids to seminars and purchase books to help them stand firm. We are very concerned, though, with the lack of junior high, high school, and college students who attend. Many are already so hardened they refuse to come and see the evidence:

□ When some friends of ours tried to get their teenagers to come to the seminar, the kids refused. The parents couldn't believe how "close-minded" their kids were. What a sad realization for these parents.

□ Another friend told us with tears how her son had been led astray by evolution in college and now claims to be an agnostic and argues against her beliefs.

■ Students like this confirm the necessity of reaching kids early so they will be prepared for the battle they will face in the coming years. That's why we are so thankful that God has raised up the Johnson family to direct AOI's Children's Ministry. **But what about the teens** who have already become casualties? We can't just give up on them! Here are **three things YOU can do to help**:

□ **Intercede** for them. God can intervene even when things look dismal.

□ **Interact** with them and show **interest** in them as individuals. Caring adults can make a tremendous impact.

□ **Inform** them. Launch an information attack. Provide books and videos they need to combat the constant bombardment of falsehood so they can stand firm.

■ Teens are looking for answers. The problem is, too often they look in the wrong places. **You can make a difference!** Show them that evolution is **not** a "proven scientific fact" and that creation is **not** just a religious myth. They need good, solid evidence and they need to see how this issue is relevant to the issues facing them and their world on a daily basis.

■ Do you have other ideas for reaching teens and college students? Let us know! Let's not give up on the them!

Spotlight On Science

Evidence of Design from Alaska

Sometime ago, one of our readers sent us an article by Philip Yancey entitled, "Hymn to the Polar Bear." Unfortunately, he forgot to include the reference. Please let us know if you know the original source. We really enjoyed the following evidence for design Yancey included in that article. We think you will too.

"A nearly invisible ice fish swims among the icebergs of Arctic waters, its survival made possible by the unique properties of its blood. A special protein acts as an antifreeze to keep ice crystals from forming, and its blood has no hemoglobin. As a result, the fish is virtually transparent.

"...A polar bear that is tranquilized, trapped, and released 300 miles away can usually find its way home, even across drift ice that changes constantly and holds no landmarks and few odors. But bears and birds are rank amateurs compared to lowly salmon, who cruise the Pacific Ocean for several years before returning (by scent? magnetic field?) to the streams of their birth.

"Baby musk oxen are born in March and April, when temperatures still languish around 30 below zero. Thus, as the tiny musk ox drops two feet to the ground, its surrounding temperature drops 130 degrees. The mother must hasten to lick blood and fluid from the coat of the steaming calf lest it freeze. Within a few minutes, the calf staggers to its feet and begins to nurse.

"... For years researchers were puzzled that polar bears and harp seals never showed up on the aerial infrared photographs used to count animal populations. But both species showed up very dark on ultraviolet photographs, even though white objects normally reflect, rather than absorb, UV light rays. In 1978 a U.S. Army researcher discovered the reason. Polar bear hairs are not white at all, but transparent. Under a scanning electron microscope; they appear as hollow tubes, without pigment. They act like tiny fiber optic tubes, trapping the warming UV rays and funneling them to the bear's body [where they are absorbed by the polar bear's *black* skin!]. At the same time the fur provides such efficient insulation that the bear's outer temperature can stay virtually the same as the surrounding ice -- which explains why bears do not show up on infrared photos."

As we contemplate these evidences, we are again reminded of the truth of Romans 1:20, "*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*" There is plenty of evidence that God is the Creator. In fact, this verse says those who reject it are "without excuse." We just need to open our eyes to see and our hearts to believe.

Test of "Basic Science" Knowledge

Being a creationist takes a thick hide these days. One of the most potent attacks against creationists is ridicule: to be a creationist (say the state-funded evolutionists in control of the peer review system of academia) is to not be "scientifically literate." An example of this came on 05/28/96 in a story carried in newspapers all over the country. In the article were ten questions that were used to define scientific literacy. Of the ten, fully three were part of the evolution model and dealt with historic events outside the realm of empirical science:

"4. The continents on which we live have been moving their location for millions of years and will continue to move in the future. (True or False)

"5. Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals. (True or False)

"6. The earliest human beings lived at the same time as the dinosaurs. (True or False)"

The National Science Foundation posed these (and seven other) questions as "basic." Speaking for myself, I would have scored all ten "correct" *before* I became scientifically literate by reading creationist books. Alas, after my formal education I was unaware that there were even informed controversies on the topic of origins.

There are, however, many well-qualified scientists who would disagree with the NSF. The 600+ members of the Creation Research Society (all of whom must have advanced degrees in natural or physical science) would disagree with the "correct" answer on *all three* of these.

Of question number four, the dissenters would include D. Russell Humphreys, PhD; Walter Brown, PhD; and John Baumgardner, PhD; all of whom have published articles advocating rapid continental rafting not requiring millions of years.

Of question number five, the published dissenters include biologists Kenneth Cumming, PhD; Lane Lester, PhD; George Howe, PhD; and Walter Lammerts, PhD. None of them have the hutzpah to claim that those who disagree with them are "illiterates."

Question number six, like number four, embraces the evolutionary timetable accepted during the era when the (fallacious) idea of uniformitarianism was a consensus among academics. Modern dissenters would include geologists Steven Austin, PhD; Kurt Wise, PhD; and Andrew Snelling, PhD.

The point is not that some PhD's disagree with these statements. The fact is that the majority have never even had an opportunity to hear an opposing view. The majority opinion is due to the power of the indoctrination rather than the data. On origins, the National Science Foundation scored zero out of three.

(This article was written by Michael Shaver. Thanks, Mike!)

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(J=Johnson; N=Nutting; B=Both)

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- Sep 2-3: Manitou Springs, CO:** Summit Ministries (N)
Contact Summit 719-685-9103
- Sep 15-17: Grand Junction, CO:** Redlands Comm. Church (B)
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And every bush aflame with God
But only those who see take off their shoes.*

(Elizabeth Barrett Browning, cited in article by Phillip Yancey)

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- Basic Science Test
- Design in Alaskan Animals

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