

Think & Believe

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Families are God's Idea: Teach Them Well!

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

We've been thinking a lot about "family" lately, as we've had some major events in the AOI family. (See page 2 for news and pictures!)

Families are close to God's heart. In fact, they were His idea in the first place. From the beginning, when God created man, He said, "It is not good for man to be alone," so He created woman as a "helpmeet, suitable for him." (Gen. 2:18) Then, He blessed them and told them, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish [fill] the earth." (Gen. 1:28) Even after they fell into sin, God continued with His plan for families, and even spoke prophetically of the salvation that would come through the seed of the woman. (Gen. 3:15)

Later, after the Flood, He reiterated His plan to Noah and his sons, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Gen. 9:1) God continued His plan when He chose Abraham and miraculously gave him a son in his old age. (Gen. 21) And so it goes, all the way down to the "fullness of time, when He sent forth His Son," (Gal. 4:4) to be born in human flesh, to live and to die for the people He Himself had created.

Throughout the ages, God's plan and desire has always been for parents to raise up their children to know and love Him and walk in His ways. In Deuteronomy 6:6, God told the Israelites to keep His commands

in their hearts and to teach them diligently unto their children, talking of them throughout the day in every circumstance of life.

Many families today are in deep trouble because they have not been "diligently teaching" their children. Instead, they have left it to the schools, media, museums, national parks, and others to do the job. We've often heard, "I'm not going to shove the Bible down my kids' throats. When they are old enough, they can decide for themselves." The problem is, these parents forget that while they are not teaching their kids the Bible, the world is shoving it's evolutionary, humanistic, atheistic, or New Age religion down their throats.

It might sound nice to raise kids "neutrally," but it's impossible to do. While these parents may think they are doing the best for their children, and that their children will be able to objectively look at all their options and choose for themselves when they are older, they are leaving them defenseless against the godless teaching of our modern-day society.

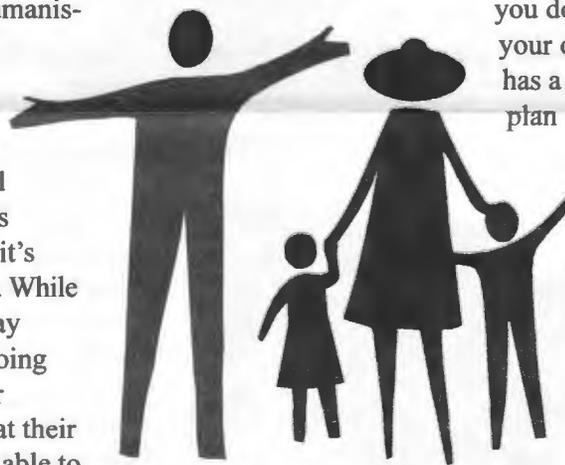
No parent would just let kids

"discover for themselves" the dangers of running into a busy street. They would teach, warn, and even discipline their children in order to protect them. In like manner, we need to prepare them to face the challenges of the day by teaching the truth and exposing the lies of a society which has turned it's back on God.

So we encourage you, *teach* your children to know and love God, to honor His Word, and to walk in His ways. Pray with your children and build relationships with others who can provide a godly example. Finally, prepare them to withstand evolutionary, humanistic indoctrination by giving them sound scientific and Biblical evidence demonstrating the truth of God's Word.

Even if your kids are grown or you don't have kids of your own, God still has a purpose and plan for you as part of His family, through faith in Christ Jesus. You can fulfill His plan "to be fruitful and multiply" as you give yourself to His Kingdom work

by being a spiritual mother, father, sister, or brother in the Lord. So take the challenge, "borrow some kids," and become a blessing to someone today. **T&B**



Special Events in the AOI Family

by Mark Sonmor

Several of the families at AOI have experienced significant milestones and we wanted to share them with you. These photos represent many answered prayers and blessings from God. So, from our family to yours, let us rejoice together.



Blessed adoption news!

Joshua Justus Korow was born on June 1st at 8lbs., 2 oz., and was 21" long. He is healthy, strong and a good eater. Dan and Andrea want to thank you for *all* the many prayers and would ask that you continue to pray for the 7 months of post adoption placement visits, later court date, and for the birthmother in her time of change and grief.



Tim Nutting and his bride, Elisabeth (Osborn) were married on May 7. They are currently living in Grand Junction. Tim is leading music at a local church and also works a construction job in between mission trips.

More adoption news! After a year and a half, Santiago (10) and his sister Sandra (13, lower right) from Guatemala, were added to the Stepanek family. Santiago loves animals and bugs and Sandra enjoys working around the house. Both are good students and are diligently learning English. This was a long process with many delays. We praise God they are finally here!



Steve Nutting, currently a 9-year veteran of Camp Redcloud, is pictured on the 20,320 ft. summit of Mt. Denali (McKinley), the highest peak in North America. For 23 days, Steve and 6 others braved the elements and shared Christ with fellow climbers from around the world. Good job, Steve!

Mandy Benson (Johnson) and her husband Aaron are looking forward to a new playmate for Thaddeus (3 yrs. old). They are expecting Timothy (Silas) Benson sometime around August 6. After several miscarriages, this is a big praise.



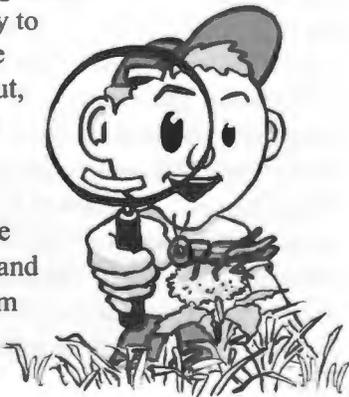
Glenn Pearson (Accounting) and his wife Mary, are celebrating their son Tim's graduation from high school. Since Tim was homeschooled, congratulations extend to the entire family. Good job you guys!

Creation in Your Own Back Yard

by Mark Sonmor

As parents, it's sometimes easy to feel that we need to travel to exotic places like museums, zoos, or national parks to explore creation with our children. However, if we take the time to look and ask questions, there is much to discover right in our own back yards.

The following is a list of sample questions designed to start you and your family exploring the divinely designed ecosystem right outside your door. The goal is not necessarily to find all the answers but, instead, to let these questions breed more questions and follow them where they lead.



Soil:

- ___ What is it made of?
- ___ Where does it come from?
- ___ What is it good for?
- ___ What would your back yard be like without it?
- ___ Does it benefit from lightning?
- ___ What can soil teach us about God's character?

Insects:

- ___ How many can you find?
- ___ What do they eat?
- ___ Do they have skin?
- ___ Do they have muscles?
- ___ How do they breath?
- ___ What's the difference between butterflies and moths?
- ___ What does a baby June Bug look like?
- ___ What is the smallest insect you can find?
- ___ What is the largest?
- ___ Do wasps make honey?
- ___ What would happen to your back yard if there were no insects?
- ___ Why do spiders not get stuck in their own webs?
- ___ Why did God create flies and mosquitos?

Plants:

- ___ What do they eat?
- ___ Which plants can we eat?

- ___ Are they always green?
- ___ Why do some plants have thorns?
- ___ Do cats eat grass?
- ___ Do some birds eat grass?
- ___ Do all plants reproduce the same way?
- ___ Is a tomato a fruit?
- ___ How does water get to the tops of trees?
- ___ What would your back yard be like without plants?

Animals:

- ___ What helps birds to fly?
- ___ Where do animals go when it rains?
- ___ If you cut a worm in half, will it grow back?
- ___ How do bats find their food?
- ___ Why do snakes lie in the sunshine on cool mornings?
- ___ Why are most male birds more brightly colored than females?
- ___ Which animals live underground?
- ___ Why did God create animals?
- ___ What would your back yard be like without them?

Suggested Equipment:

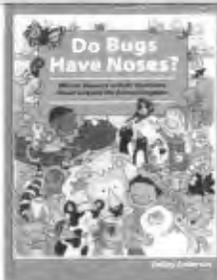
- magnifying glass/microscope
- knee pads
- tweezers
- bug containers
- small shovel
- sketch book/journal
- field guides/books
- internet access
- blanket

Do Bugs Have Noses?

by Mark Sonmor

Did you know?

- Armadillo babies always come four at a time.
- Giraffes sleep leaning against a tree.
- Snail eyes sit at the end of their feelers.
- The zebra butterfly remembers the same leaf he slept on the night before.
- Termites can build nests taller than a giraffe.
- Manta rays can have a baby in midair.



In "Do Bugs Have Noses?", Debby Anderson explores the animal kingdom from a kids-eye view and gives biblically-based answers to many of the questions

children ask. Here are a few samples:

Where did the animals come from?

Are we animals? How many different groups of animals are there? How are salamanders different than lizards? Are birds the only animals that fly? Which animals lived long ago? Which animals are the biggest and the fastest?

Debby gives your child a glimpse of God's infinite creative ability, and helps him or her understand that God has a plan for all His creation.

Also included is a "Bible Time" section to help your child focus on the Bible message for the question

being asked. A "Joke Time" section also provides humorous jokes and riddles.

Debby is a gifted author and illustrator. Her fun and engaging style will entertain and educate you and your children for years to come.

This book is available from AOI. Check the enclosed flyer or visit our website for details.



Whatever Happened to Elk Creek Ranch?

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

Our heart at AOI is to teach the creation message and train others to "pass it on." Thus, we were excited by the opportunity to expand our training by developing a Training Center at Elk Creek Ranch. In 1998 we entered into a 3-year contract stipulating that we would be given title to the land after performing specific requirements.

During the 3-year period, we spent hundreds of hours with engineers, Missionary Tech Team, and many others developing a master site plan, contour mapping, and other natural resource assessments needed to obtain necessary county permits. We also drilled a well, began a water pipeline system, did various other work projects on the land, and used it for several ministry camps. Unfortunately, due to lack of financing, we were unable to get through the planning and zoning process and still fulfill the other contract stipulations



within the 3-year period. The landowner was willing to continue working with us, but while we were in the process of working out details to extend the contract, other parties became involved. This muddied the waters greatly.

After numerous talks over the past 5 years, the landowner continued to indicate that he wanted AOI to have at least a part of the land, but asked us to be patient while he decided what to do with the remainder. We waited, eagerly to get on

with the project, but unable to do so until we had the clear go-ahead. In the meantime, we actively pursued the other aspects of AOI's creation teaching and training ministry. Then, a few weeks ago, we were informed that the landowner had decided to sell the entire property to a private party. This sale took us quite by surprise!

While we are certainly disappointed, we realize that AOI's teaching and training are not tied to

any particular property. We have learned a great deal through this process. We also know God has a purpose in all things, and that His ways are good, so we are continuing to seek His leading as we wait to see what He has next for us.

We are so grateful for all those who have supported this project with prayers, work, or finances. Thanks so much!

We still believe that God has given us a vision to train and equip many others to spread the word of Christ through the creation message in their own churches, communities, or wherever God leads them. The Board of AOI will determine whether to use the few remaining Elk Creek funds as "seed money" for a future facility or in another aspect of AOI's teaching and training ministry. Please pray for clear direction and provision as we work to fulfill this vision.

Dave Nutting,
Director of
Alpha Omega
Institute

Dave Harper,
Director of
Elk Creek
Training Center

Teaching Creation to Children Conference: Sep. 29-Oct. 1

at Rocky Mt. Calvary Chapel, Colo Spgs., CO

Attention, childrens' workers, teachers, Parents! Learn the "Why, What, and How" of Teaching Creation to Kids. Practical information, demonstrations, and workshops will help you prepare kids to resist evolutionary indoctrination and stand firmly on the Word of God, beginning in Genesis.

Keynote Speaker: Dave Nutting (Director, Alpha Omega Institute)

General Sessions and Workshops: Larry Mahan (Calvary Chapel Children's Pastor), Lanny and Marilyn Johnson (Directors of AOI's Children's Ministry), and Others.

Contact: Calvary Chapel (719) 597-1133.

Speaking Schedule:

For speaker information and seminar schedules, please visit us at our website.



Hurry! Camps are nearly full!

There is still room for 1-2 families at our Redcloud

Family Mountain Adventures. Sign up now, or sign up for next year. Check our website for details.



ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

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