

Think & Believe



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Jesus Christ – Creator & Sustainer

by Mary Jo Nutting

Two recent events focused my attention again on the foundational nature of AOI's creation ministry. One of these involved a girl who came into our office and the other involved discussions about the controversial

book and movie,

The Da Vinci Code. Together these incidents reminded me why we believe so strongly in this ministry.

One day, Dave and I were filling in for our secretary, Gail. (Try it sometime – it will really

make you appreciate all that Gail does for AOI!) A girl came into the office who was selling window hangings to raise money for her "youth group." She said it was a group aimed at developing moral character in young people. When I asked which church she was from, I recognized it as one of the cults.

There are many ways one could go with that conversation, but the Lord led me to ask, "What do you believe about Jesus?" Her answer sounded fine on the surface, "He's the son of God." However, instead of stopping there, I responded, "Yes, but do you believe He is GOD." At that point she wasn't sure. I was able to share with her that Jesus is not only the Son of

God, but that He is God the Son – the Creator of heaven and earth. (See Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:1-3.) I then shared with her that it's good to develop moral character, but that moral character will never be able

to save us – we can never be "good enough." That's why Jesus became a man – to pay the penalty for our sin and make it possible for us to come back into relationship with Him for all eternity. I do pray that the

seed planted will take root and grow in this girl's life, that she will see the truth, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and be saved.

This cult, which twists the claims of Scripture and denies the divinity of Jesus Christ, is not alone.

Throughout time, there have been many attacks on the reliability of the Bible and the nature of

God. Currently, these foundational truths are under attack in the *The Da Vinci Code*. In addition to many historical inaccuracies, the book and movie deny the deity of Christ

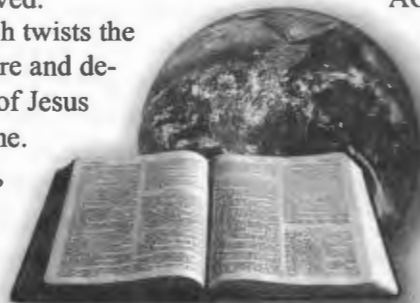
and claim that the Bible is merely a product of man, not God. Though the author admits that the book is fiction, the introduction falsely claims that it is based on truth. As a result, many uninformed individuals are being led astray. Some have even left the faith because of this fictional work. (For more information see: www.rense.com/general71/davincicode.pdf or *Answers to The Da Vinci Code* available through www.rose-publishing.com.)

Like the cults, *The Da Vinci Code* brings into question fundamental Christian doctrine: Who is this Jesus? Is He really God in the flesh? Can you really trust the Bible? Is it really the Word of God?

AOI answers these questions with a resounding, "YES!" YES, we can trust the Bible! YES, it is the Word of God! YES, it is accurate and reliable! YES, it speaks the truth about God! And YES, Jesus is God – Creator, Savior, Lord, and King!

AOI provides evidence affirming the Scriptures; we equip children and adults to defend their faith with boldness, gentleness, and confidence; we exalt the true and living God revealed both in creation and the Word; and we encourage people of all

ages to grow in their relationship with Him. May you be encouraged and grow, so that you, too, can help others know the truth and stand firmly on the Word of God. **T&B**



Dragons of the Deep

by Mark Sonmor



When I read *Dragons of the Deep*, my initial reaction was: “Wow, there were a lot

of cool creatures in the past! Some were huge!”...“Great illustrations! How does Darrell Wiskur do that?”...“Nice layout! Great picture-to-text ratio.” I also thought, “Too bad it’s on such a marginal topic – one usually reserved for 9-year-old boys and a minority of dinosaur enthusiasts.” Then I looked further. This book does more than relate odd facts about obscure marine fossils.

Yes, this is a book about ocean monsters in the past and in the present, but more importantly, it shows a variety of little-known creatures that God created. As we study them, we can gain a fuller sense of the extent and variety

of the created kinds. Just think of the kinds of life the ocean was filled with on Day 5 of creation week! In the same way an artist is reflected in a painting, these creatures are ultimately a reflection of the character of their Creator and show the wonder of His might and grace.

This topic also opens the opportunity to explore several related issues from a creation perspective. For example, how are fish fossilized? What conditions could have caused such an event? Why were they fossilized? What does this say about God’s judgment?

Basilosaurus was a large marine mammal with a long body, huge teeth, and tiny back “legs” – too small for walking. Were these evolutionary leftovers or were they created with design and purpose?

The fossils of many of these creatures have been found far inland in what are now desert regions. Could the Flood and it’s aftermath provide reasonable answers? Could this also

explain land bridges between the continents?

What about the Loch Ness Monster? Are plesiosaurs and other creatures once thought to be extinct still alive today?

Scientists have found an ichthyosaur fossilized vertically through “millions of years” worth of sediment. What does that mean for standard evolutionary explanations of how rocks and fossils are formed?

These questions and more are answered in an engaging and readable manner by well-known creationist, Carl Wieland. With Darrell Wiskur’s illustrations, this makes a very attractive and engaging presentation. If this book was sitting on a coffee table, most adults I know would *have* to pick it up. This book is a fantastic way to introduce creation concepts in a positive and interesting way. *Dragons of the Deep* – it’s not just about sea monsters! [Available from AOI, see enclosed ad.] 

More “Living Fossils”

by Mark Sonmor

For the Laotian Rock Rat it was a day like any other. Then the men started chasing him. Running for his life, he was determined not to end up in a meat market like the rest of his family.

Finally, he tired and was captured. Instead of knives, however, these men carried cameras. After some pictures, he was gently returned to the rocks from which he was taken. What was the occasion? Why the special treatment?

Meanwhile, deep in the Coral Sea, an innocent shrimp-like creature




was placidly swimming along when suddenly it was captured and hauled to the surface. Camera flashes blinded its large eyes as it was examined by one scientist after another. What had the 5-inch long crustacean done to deserve such treatment?

This shrimp/lobster (*Neoglyphea neocaledonica*) and the Laotian Rock Rat (*Diatomyidae*) are part of a select number of plants and animals that have experienced what scientists call the “Lazarus Effect.” This is a situation where an animal, known only in the

fossil record, is found living. Like the Coelocanth, the Wollemi Pine, the Tuatara, and many others, these animals have “come back from the dead.”

The Laotian Rock Rat, according to the Associated Press, was thought to have gone extinct 11 million years ago. *Neoglyphea* was thought to have disappeared 60 million years ago. Instead, they have been added to a long list of extant plants and animals that show little or no change from their fossilized counterparts.

As the list of “living fossils” grows, the evolutionary picture becomes less convincing. The obvious conclusion favors creation and not evolution. 



Standards of Proof

by Dr. David Demick (Guest Writer)

In the midst of the creation/evolution debate, it's helpful to step back from the evidence and consider the issue of proof standards. Legal procedure generally recognizes two levels of proof.

The first is "beyond a reasonable doubt." It is the highest proof standard, and is considered necessary in order to deprive a person of life or liberty. It essentially means that guilt for a crime must be proved to the point that there is no other reasonable possibility.

The second (and lesser) proof standard is "preponderance of evidence." This is the usual standard for civil trials involving money or property disputes. A civil litigant usually does not have to prove his case beyond a reasonable doubt; it only has to be shown that most of the evidence is on his side.

These proof standards have analogies in medical science. A disease-causing microbe may be identified presumptively or positively. If identified presumptively, then the

organism is probably the suspected one, but other possibilities exist. If identified positively, no other possibility should exist.

These may seem like fine shades of meaning, but they are very important in practice. There is a big difference between 90% sure and 100% sure.

This is an important concept because proof standards are not usually defined openly in the creation/evolution debate, although they are often implied. Evolution is usually presented as though it is proved by the highest standard, or "beyond a reasonable doubt." This alone should cause skepticism and concern; such a high degree of certainty involving macroevolution that's never been witnessed or duplicated seems inappropriate.

Creationists, on the other hand, often use the lower proof standard, claiming that real scientific data is



"consistent with" Biblical creation, rather than absolutely proving it. This is much more appropriate when investigating past events beyond human observation. Creationists openly admit that they have faith in a Supreme Being who claims absolute knowledge in his Word, the Bible. They only seek to show that theirs is a "reasonable" faith; that it is "consistent with" the facts of science. Accordingly, theirs is a more appropriate and attainable proof standard.

However, as the creationist position grows in strength, this evolutionary arrogance is beginning to backfire. By binding themselves so strongly to the highest possible proof standard, evolutionists are making their utter failure to meet it more obvious. That is why we see such energetic opposition to even the bland notion of teaching "intelligent design." In view of all this, let's keep on calling attention to, not only the "preponderance of evidence" for creation, but also to the highly exaggerated nature of the evolutionary proof claims. **T&B**

Dinosaur Moves Continent (Almost)

by Mark Sonmor

In October of 2005, LiveScience reported that "Buitreraptor" a rooster-sized dinosaur was discovered in South America. Scientists have identified it as a type of dromaeosaur – a class of birdlike dinosaurs which includes the Velociraptor made famous by the movie Jurassic Park.

To this point, dromaeosaurs have only been found in North America and Asia in rocks dating 145 to 65 million evolutionary years ago. Finding Buitreraptor in South America poses a problem.

According to current evolutionary theory, South America formed

when Gondwana split from Pangea to form the southern continents 200-140 million years ago. The remaining half, Laurasia, became the northern continents of North America, Asia, and Europe.

Because of this separation, it is believed that dromaeosaurs either evolved in the same way on two separate continents or they originated much earlier than was previously thought.

Since parallel evolution is highly unlikely, scientists must decide whether to move the continents around to fit the dinosaurs

or change the origin of dromaeosaurs to fit the continents.

Keeping the evolutionary story straight is difficult. After all, think of the books, museums, and websites that would have to be revamped. To change an established theory like continental drift would not be easy.

Whether this was a primary concern or not, scientists are now speculating that dromaeosaurs originated in Pangea about 180 million years ago. Whew! That was close! This puts their origin nearly at the dawn of dinosaur evolution. It doesn't leave a lot of time for dromaeosaur development, but at least scientists don't have to move a continent...for now. **T&B**

Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



Many people see AOI's mission as exposing the fallacies of evolution and teaching the scientific and Biblical evidence for creation – which we do – but it goes much deeper than that. The broader mission of AOI is to encourage people of all ages to grow in their relationship with God and others as they Discover Creation and walk confidently in the Truth of God's Word.

Wherever we go, we see students and adults who have been

ravaged by evolutionary dogma. They have been torn apart in their faith and personal life because they have been led to doubt the truth of God's Word, beginning in Genesis. Many have adopted an "anything goes" lifestyle.

What a difference it makes, when these same people discover that they can believe the whole Bible! Seeing the evidence for creation has totally changed the outlook of many individuals and families. That is why we keep on doing this ministry. Science is important, but the bottom line is changed lives. **T&B**

Upcoming Events

L&MJ = Johnson, D&AK = Korow,
D&MJN = Nutting, RS=Stepanek,
A&DG = Galbraith

- 7/24-28, **Grand Junction, CO**, Monument Baptist Church, 970-523-9943, L&MJ
7/30-8/4, **Lake City, CO**, Camp Redcloud, 970-523-9943, D&MJN, A&DG, RS
8/6-8/11, **Lake City, CO**, Camp Redcloud, 970-523-9943, D&MJN, A&DG, RS
8/16-8/17, **Manitou Springs, CO**, Summit Ministries, 719-685-9103, D&MJN
8/22-24, **Manitou Springs, CO**, Summit Ministries, 719-685-9103, D&MJN
9/2-4, **Lucerne, CA**, Lucerne Christian Conference Center, Pastor Henry Tam, 415-387-3630, RS
9/1-4, **Collbran, CO**, Twin Peaks Bible Camp, L&MJ
9/18-20, **Burney, CA**, Grace Community Bible Church, Henry Winkelman, (530) 335-2367, RS
9/20-24, **Hornbrook, CA**, Hornbrook Community Bible Church, Pastor Marvin Porter, 530-475-0236, RS
9/26-28, **Joplin, MO**, Ozark Christian College, Geoffrey Bare, (417) 624-2518, DN
10/1-2, **Orangevale, CA**, Cornerstone Bible Church, (916) 987-3248, RS
10/6-7, **San Ramon, CA**, Chinese Maranatha Bible Church, 925-820-0383, RS
10/13-15, **Belmont, CA**, Fellowship Bible Church, Kevin Kan, 650-591-1322, RS
10/16-28, **Jackson Hole Bible College**, Class & Field Trip, 970-523-9943, D&MJN
10/15, **Delta, CO**, First Assembly, D&AK
10/20-22, **Oakland, CA**, Chinese Ind. Baptist Church, 510-452-1772, RS
10/22-23, **Lockeford, CA**, Grace Church of Lockeford, Pastor Jack Ryan, 209-727-5668, RS

Newlyweds!



husband, Matt Parks, have developed in their relationship with one another.

Matt and Rachel will be living in New Hampshire where Matt is headmaster and teacher of a Christian school. Rachel's duties with AOI will change as she devotes her time to being a "helpmeet suitable" for Matt.

She plans to continue with some contract project work for AOI as time allows – but who can take her place as "Chaos Manager"?

Congratulations on your wedding, Matt and Rachel! We love you! We are proud of you and blessed by your testimony! May God richly bless you as you embark on this new journey and serve Him together with great love, peace, and joy! **T&B**

Rachel Painter has served faithfully with AOI for several years, functioning as our "Chaos Manager" and also in seminar and camp coordination, database management, and wherever else she has been needed. We have truly appreciated her diligence, efficiency, Biblical convictions, and sweet spirit.

We have also been blessed and encouraged as we watched the godly way in which she and her

Want to host a seminar?

It's easy. Fall and winter trips are being planned.

Call (970) 523-9943 for availability, or visit our website (below) for details.

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and prayer partners:

THANK YOU for your support of this ministry! Please keep it up! Your partnership helps us impact many lives with the Truth of God's Word. God bless you!

Dave



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PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • www.discovercreation.org

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