



Think & Believe

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AOI Welcomes Artist, Mark Sonmor

(by *Mary Jo Nutting*)

“Moses said to the sons of Israel, “See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel ... He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship to make designs ... so as to perform in every inventive work.” (Exodus 35: 30-33)

We have often wished God would call someone like this to AOI! Well, **believe it or not, it's happened.** One day, Dave felt compelled to “dig out” of a pile of papers that accumulated while he was away on a speaking trip. He came to a letter and resume from Mark Sonmor. Dave called Mark and the more we talked, the harder it was for me to **keep my feet on the floor.** Would God really be sending us an artist? We asked Mark to send samples of his work.

The next morning, Dave and I had our scheduled planning meeting, to determine priorities of various projects. To our amazement, almost every top priority project was stalled for lack of artwork. Was God providing for that need? We began to hope and pray that we would like Mark's work!

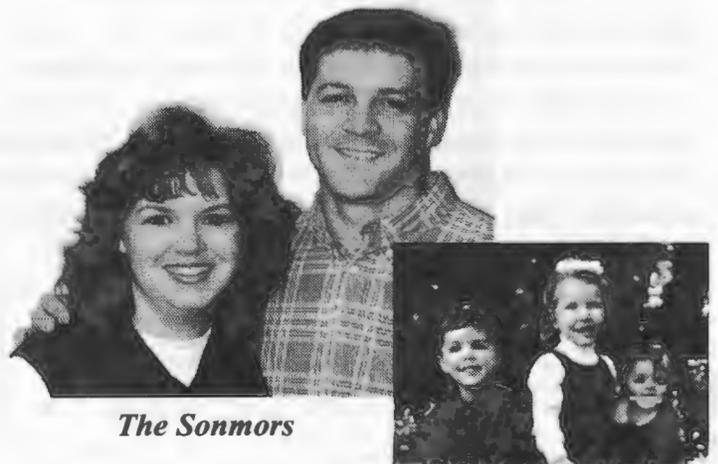
When it arrived, we **were thrilled** by what we saw. Mark was not just an artist, but a real professional. We invited him and his family to Grand Junction to meet with us.

As we spent time together, we began to laugh at how God had given Dave and Mark such **similar visions** for creation ministry. They are so much alike it's **almost scary!** Mark's wife Carolyn told us that Mark had often said, “If only I just had a couple scientists to work with!” How often had these scientists had wished they had an artist?!

We believe **Mark has been gifted and called by God** to this ministry. Not only is he skilled in a variety of artistic media, but he also has a heart for creation ministry and desires to use his skills as a means of sharing the evidence of God as Creator.

Mark became convinced of the importance of the creation ministry while serving as a youth pastor. He says, “I have seen first hand how our young people grapple with who they are, where they came from, and whether evidence exists to believe in God. Many of our young people, and society as a whole, no longer affirm God as Creator and have thereby, shut themselves inside a moral and ethical box. The only remaining means to measure worth, justice, and ultimate meaning in life are limited to finite human capacities. Even those who allow for a creator feel science has so discredited the Bible that it is no longer worthy of their trust. As Chuck Colson has said, ‘We live in a society in which all transcendent values have been removed and thus there is no moral standard by which anyone can say right is right and wrong is wrong.’ Carolyn and I are excited to team up with AOI and **are anxious to help open the lid on the box that imprisons so many from their creator.**”

The Sonmors sold their house in record time and are **now with us!** We are excited to have them on board. Pray for Mark, Carolyn and children (Taylor, 4, Cady, 3, and Maggie, 1) as they adjust to the move. **We trust you will “see” and be blessed by Mark's work at AOI.**



The Sonmors

Notes & Quotes

■ Did you ever notice how evolution is constantly in the news? Following are comments on just a few of the articles that have appeared recently in our local newspaper. We are sure you have all seen many others as well.

□ Headlines boldly declared, “**Human ancestors may have eaten meat, plants**” (AP 1/15/99). True! Rocks and dirt, although quite filling, aren’t very edible and are murder on teeth! The article tells us, “The ancestors of modern humans were more than tree-climbing plant-eaters ... The ape-like creatures millions of years ago probably also caught and ate small animals -- even before the invention of tools.”

Researchers concluded this by studying carbon isotope ratios extracted from bits of tooth enamel of *Australopithecus africanus*. They say the ratios found indicate “early hominids were eating something different from what researchers had assumed. ... But the study didn’t conclusively determine if the species ate meat from grass-eating animals or merely the seeds and roots of grassland plants.”

A lot of grant money was probably spent to come to that amazing conclusion, but so what? Many animals today catch and eat small animals without tools. What does that prove? Who really cares about the food habits of *A. africanus* anyway? Actually, the study really isn’t concerned with food habits of ancients at all, but with the continuing attempt to delineate our evolutionary ancestry.

This article, like so many others, is simply another helping of force-fed evolutionary hash. If we really want to know the truth about the food habits of the earliest humans, we can easily consult the Bible. Genesis 1:29 tells us that God gave mankind “every plant yielding seed ... and every tree which has fruit yielding seed” for food. He told them, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat.”

Yes, “early” man ate plants, but after the Flood, God gave them permission to eat meat. (Genesis 9:3) “Early” man’s eating habits had more to do with their obedience to God than their position on the evolutionary tree. As a matter of fact, it was eating from the forbidden tree which started the mess we’re in today. Praise God, the Saviour later died on another “tree” so that all who believe in Him will someday be able to eat fruit from the tree of life (Rev. 22:2)!

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□ January 22, 1999 AP headlines read: “**Fossil shows some dinosaurs were fast, ferocious hunters.**” The article describes an unusually well-preserved specimen in which not only bones are preserved, but *possibly* “remnants of liver, large intestine, windpipe and muscle.” These “tissue impressions” supposedly show the arrangement of organs in the abdominal cavity, and indicate that this dinosaur had a breathing system allowing for rapid intake of air. First note the quantity of speculation over a few marks in rock.

If the initial reports about this specimen are true, it is an important find. However, evolutionists and creationists will differ on why it is important. The researcher interprets the evidence in light of prevailing evolutionary theory, and says that “Dinosaurs’ lung capacity may be one reason they dominated mammals for about 150 million years.” Looking through our “creation glasses,” we immediately see something else -- evidence of extreme complexity of the created creature and extremely rapid burial and preservation of the specimen reflecting expected conditions during the Flood. Notice which view makes the news! Not ours!

□ Another AP article (11/26/98) was titled: “**Quick evolutionary change possible.**” It suggested that if the world becomes hotter we “might” survive better with a new skin color, or we “might” sprout a tail to maneuver in the dense tropical forest that spreads worldwide.

There are numerous fallacies in that article that need to be addressed. First, we already have various shades of skin color in the world today. Second, skin color does not always make it easier for one to adapt to the heat. It is true that dark-skinned people dominate the tropical areas in Africa, but have any of the readers noticed how hot one becomes riding in a black sedan, as opposed to a white one? It seems that our human ingenuity will provide all the change we need to adapt to such an environment.

Sprouting a tail to swing among the trees in the tropical forests seems about as ridiculous as assuming that we can grow wings. If that were possible, we surely could have sprouted wings some time ago to alleviate our increasing traffic jams in the nation’s cities.

No, evolution as proposed by many so-called “scientists” is merely wishful thinking, and this latest proposal is part of a continuing attempt to explain our existence without giving credit to the God of the Bible. He designed and created us, and He provided us with the ingenuity to adapt to our environment, not by changing our bodies, but by using our intellect to provide that adaptation.

Spotlight On Science

Grand Canyon Quiz

(by Dave Nutting)

How much do you know about the Grand Canyon?

Answer the following: True, False, Maybe, or Not Likely. (No cheating!) Check your answers and the comments.

___ **1. Industrious gold miners prior to 1880 dug out most of the Grand Canyon.**

Answer: Not Likely. From a purely scientific level, we can not say it is false since no one here today was present to actually see the erosion of the canyon.

___ **2. Radiometric dating has proven the canyon layers are about 1 billion years old.**

Answer: False. Only some layers can be dated; most lack sufficient radioactive material. Also, lava flowing into the canyon from Vulcan's Throne was dated as older than the layers underlying the canyon. This obvious discrepancy casts serious doubt upon the reliability of these dating methods.

___ **3. Tassel-Earred Squirrels on the north rim of the canyon are a different color than those on the south rim. This demonstrates evolutionary trends during millions of years of canyon erosion.**

Answer: False. There is too little color difference. With known rates of genetic drift, there should be a much greater difference if the canyon was eroded slowly.

___ **4. Ancient men that inhabited the Grand Canyon ate plants or animals.**

Answer: True. Rocks of the canyon, although quite filling, are not edible and are murder on teeth.

___ **5. It took 6 million to 13 million years to carve the Grand Canyon.**

Answer: Maybe. Strictly scientifically, no one really knows since no one was there to watch it happen. Perhaps it was carved by a lot of water in just a little time rather than by a little water over lots of time.

___ **6. Fossils in the Canyon exhibit a good sequence of evolutionary "missing links."**

Answer: False. The missing links are still missing throughout the world. Evolutionist, David Kitts, says: "Evolution requires intermediate forms between species, and paleontology [the study of fossils] does not provide them."

___ **7. The first person known to have run the rapids through Grand Canyon was Daniel Boone.**

Answer: False. Daniel Boone is famous for a lot of things, but explorer, John Wesley Powell, is credited with this.

___ **8. Grand Canyon yucca plants (Spanish bayonets) show unique evolutionary design.**

Answer: False. Their design defies evolution. Yuccas are pollinated by pronuba moths. However, this moth's larva

only exist in the yucca plant. If evolution were true, the moth and the plant must have evolved together. It's like the Garfield cartoon that said the first cat crawled out of the ocean millions of years ago. Fortunately for him the first mouse crawled out just 15 minutes later.

___ **9. Fossil trilobites show that life forms began simply and later evolved into higher life forms.**

Answer: False. Fossil trilobites are not simple creatures. Under close examination, it is seen that they had special multifaceted eyes like a dragonfly eye.

___ **10. Tracks in the Coconino Sandstone were left by reptiles walking on an ancient sand dune.**

Answer: Not likely. Tracks do not tend to be preserved in dry sand. Tracks in the canyon have been demonstrated to have been more likely made by amphibians in a water environment.

___ **11. Evidence exists that the Grand Canyon was eroded quickly by catastrophic drainage of a huge inland sea.**

Answer: True. This idea "holds a lot of water" and is catching on among many geologists. Evidence includes ancient shorelines of a huge lake upstream from the canyon, native American legends of such a flood, and modern research showing the feasibility of rapid erosion of the canyon.

___ **12. The canyon's layers resulted from Noah's Flood and its erosion was due to receding flood waters.**

Answer: Maybe. No one was there to see it. Historical records from the Bible and legends worldwide speak of the Flood sent by God as judgement on extreme wickedness. The immensity of this flood and its aftermaths would certainly have been sufficient to account for the layers and the canyon.

___ **13. People are more civilized today than in the past. We don't have to worry about judgment.**

Answer: False. Look at a newspaper -- murder, rape, gangs, killing of babies are rampant. The Bible clearly warns of coming judgment by fire. It may be sooner than we think.

___ **14. I'm basically a good person and quite smart. I even got a good score on this quiz. God will spare me.**

Answer: False, if you are relying on your own goodness and intelligence. God says in the Bible, "There is none righteous, no, not one. ... all have sinned and come short of the glory of God ... but God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ... If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:8, 10:9, 10:13)

For further information: Book: **Grand Canyon-Monument to Catastrophe**; Videos: **The Grand Canyon Catastrophe**, and **Grand Canyon-Monument to the Flood** (\$21.95 each-- includes postage) **Tracts containing this quiz** (\$3/dozen).

The Back Page...

Upcoming Events

(N=Nutting, J=Johnson, S=Stepanek)
Please pray for these events!

- Mar 14-29: Mexico City, MEXICO** TBA
Contact AOI 970-523-9943 (JS)
- Mar 20-28: ICR Grand Canyon Adventure**
Contact ICR 619-448-1900 (Nuttings teaching on bus trip)
- Mar 27: Albert Lea, MN:** Creation Evening w/Lester/Kaufaman
Contact Bryce Gaudian 507-256-7211
- Ap 12-16: Jackson Hole Bible College Field Study Trip**
Contact AOI 970-523-9943 (N)
- Ap 11-13: LaGrange, WY:** Community Seminar & VBS Training
Contact Marilyn Johnson, 970-242-3859 (J)
- Ap 14: Luverne, MN:** AWANA Program
Contact D. J. Luethje 507-283-9226 (S)
- Ap 16-18: LaGrange, IN:** Family Camp
Contact Ron and Marcia Denton 219-463-2517 (JS)
- Ap 19-21: LaGrange, IN:** Discover Creation Seminar TBA
Contact Ron & Marcia Denton 219-463-2517 (JS)
- Ap 22-24: Auburn, IN:** County Line Church of God
Contact Pastor Bob Herman 219-627-2482 (JS)
- Ap 25-26: Forreston, IL:** Discover Creation Seminar
Contact Kim and Cindy Webster 815-938-3273 (JS)
- Ap 30-May 1: Windom, MN:** Discover Creation Seminar
Contact Donna Johnson 507-831-2157 (JS)
- May 2-4: Luverne, MN:** Seminar & Homeschool Program
Contact D. J. Luethje 507-283-9226 (JS)
- May 7-8: Grand Junction, CO:** AOI 15th Anniversary
Contact AOI 970-523-9943 (NJS)
- May 15; Pocatello, ID:** Homeschool Conventiom
Contact 208-238-0850 (S)
- MAY 21-22: BlackHawk, SD:** Homeschool Convention
Contact Susie 605-787-5339 (S)
- May 24-28: Memphis TN:** Homeschool Family Camp
Contact Brenda May 901-476-3727 (J)
- May 27-June 1: Manitou Springs, CO:** Summit Ministries
Contact Rene 719-685-9103 (N)

** 1999 Creation Vacations **

Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure: Jun 27-Jul 2
Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure I: Aug 15-20
Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure II: Aug 22-27

Facts -- Fun -- Fellowship -- Food

Fantastic Colorado Mountain



Ya'll Come!

Call for a
brochure
today!



YOU ARE INVITED

to

AOI's 15th Anniversary Celebration

May 7, 1999: 6:30 -- 9:00 PM

May 8, 1999: 9:30 AM -- 9:00 PM

at

First Assembly of God, 4th & Grand
Grand Junction, Colorado

Special Guest Speakers:

Dr. Duane Gish Institute for Creation Research

Dr. Gary Parker Answers in Genesis

Special Music, Speakers, Puppets,
Slides of AOI's Past, Dinner, & More

Come Celebrate God's Faithfulness!

Call for Details & Dinner RSVP 970-523-9943

** Prayer and Praise **

- Praise God! The Master Plan** for the Training Center is ready for engineering review. We are lining out engineering work on floodplain analysis and water delivery and disposal systems. We plan to drill our well this spring. **Please pray for wisdom, progress, and God's favor;** for a good well with abundant **pure water;** for **finances to begin** construction of our first building; and for **improved health** for Project Director, Dave Harper.
- Praise God for many opportunities** to share creation and the gospel message. Pray for **eternal fruit** from the upcoming events. (See schedule.)
- Praise God** that **Mark Sonmor** and his family are with us in Grand Junction. **Pray for their adjustment** to the move and for **their support** to come in quickly.
- Praise God for AOI's 15th Anniversary!** Pray that the celebration will truly be a **God-honoring event** and that He would continue to **bless and provide** for the work in the coming years.



Alpha Omega Institute

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