



Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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AOI's 15th Anniversary Edition And ...

Thanks be to God for His provision and sustaining power over the last 15 years! AOI speakers have had the opportunity to speak throughout the States to churches, schools (public and private), and universities. We have also shared overseas in Ireland, England, Scotland, France, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Egypt, Israel, Canada, Russia, Ukraine, and Mongolia. Since going to Mongolia, we brought Bazarsad over to be trained in creation ministry. He is now the director of our **AOI Mongolia** branch and active in doing creation lectures!

You made all that possible through your giving and praying. Now let us share with you AOI's latest foreign mission outreach—**Mexico City**. When Lanny and Marilyn Johnson and Rich Stepanek said they felt they should go even if AOI does not retrieve expenses, we wholeheartedly agreed! Here is Lanny's exciting report of their recent creation outreach to Mexico City. I trust you will be blessed and challenged. — *Dave & Mary Jo Nutting*

Eugene Goes South to Mexico

(by Lanny Johnson)

It started last fall at a seminar in Frisco, Colorado, when Mike Phillips asked Rich Stepanek if we would be interested in going to Mexico City. Mike had lived in Mexico City for seven years with his family and started Pueblo de Fe, a church he had turned over to a bi-vocational pastor named Pepe Prats. We met with Pepe in December. He was excited and scheduled us for two weeks in May.

In Mexico City, the smog and traffic is really indescribable. There are so many cars, trucks, taxis and buses, scurrying around at high rates of speed, only millimeters away from each other—all careening toward the same place! It took Marilyn and Robin almost a week before they were brave enough to open their eyes to see the scenery.

Mexico City is the largest city in the world with an estimated 20 million people and another 5 to 10 million people on the edges. That's 25 to 30 million people! With approximately 8 million vehicles, it is also one of the most polluted cities in the world. Some days the air seems thick enough to cut with a knife.

Mexico City is a city of contrasts. It is a city of great wealth and of great poverty. Some areas have beautiful, multimillion dollar homes; within blocks are run down peso ghettos. Downtown you may see business men and women in their sleek suits and smart dresses, walking next to people wearing tattered rags. It is a city of aromas. On one block you can smell fragrant and curious odors from flower and food markets. Blocks away you smell rotting vegetation and sewers. Like many of this world's large



cities, Mexico City is a city of violence. Tourists are warned not to take taxis. Robberies and muggings are common, daily occurrences. Banks are robbed on the average of one a day. Even the locals feel unsafe. We once asked Pepe what he liked the most about the United States. He said, "Not having to constantly worry about my family being mugged!" Policemen, auxiliary police, and security guards are everywhere. Many homes and schools had their own guards. Even some churches were in secured areas.

What a contrast of ministry opportunities the Lord had lined out for us. We started with a Christian school of about 500 kids. As Rich worked with the middle and high school students, Marilyn, Robin and I taught preschool

Notes & Quotes

through 5th grade. The kids study English at this first school, so they asked us to teach in English. From then on we worked with interpreters. Many of the scientific terms were a real challenge for them. Rich had one translator that he was able to spend some preparatory time with, but we usually worked with fresh, unrehearsed interpreters. The translators who helped with Eugene, our lion puppet character, were really put to the test. After the initial shock of Eugene's bright orange hair and loud voice, the interpreters would usually begin to laugh. Then they had to try to translate Eugene's corny humor and puns into Spanish. Plays on English words just do not translate well, so we had to improvise and rework songs. One verse had to be changed in English to "Marilyn, your face looks just like the fruit of a quince tree,"

just so we could get a rhyme in Spanish. Thank goodness Marilyn has a sense of humor! The kids loved Eugene, and were able to memorize God's word through his antics.

We ministered in all kinds of locations. At one church, Rich was in the auditorium of a converted movie theater, while the children's team worked in the lobby. Some of the small churches were in private homes. One evening Rich taught in the home of the Secretary to the President of Mexico! In one home, Rich was in a small living room, with his audience jammed into the entry hall and dining room. Meanwhile, we were out in the back yard under an open sided tent canopy working on black dirt and fighting the wind, light, and a poor sound system. Eugene still has smudge marks on his nose from that one. Another church

was held in Rich's bedroom--an apartment size room where we stayed at the Gonzales'. The only place to be found for the kids program was a squash court piled high with boxes full of household items. After much



rearranging, we were able to somehow get the puppet stage in and room for kids too. We had to build a small tent structure so the kids could see the slides as the sun streamed in through skylights. Rich was having the same trouble with light and had to stuff cardboard in the windows.



One afternoon while Rich was teaching at a Christian college, Marilyn, Robin, and I were able to join two of our interpreters and teach at a mission shelter for street children. This was a mission to help get street children off of the streets. There are about 900,000 homeless kids trying to survive in the streets of Mexico City. Our hearts were broken. Most of these children had no understanding of the Bible or Jesus. Most of the kids were boys (girls can better survive on the streets as prostitutes) from 5 to 18 years of age. They were ragged and tough on the outside, but behind that front were everyday kids who longed for love and attention. We will never be able to know or understand what these children have had to go through to survive. Life here on Earth may never improve for these kids, but Jesus can give them a hope for a better life in heaven. Please pray for the street kids of Mexico.

I could probably write a short book about all the experiences in Mexico City, but mainly what we saw was a hunger for the truth. Evolution is taught in schools, in museums, and by the popular church. It is estimated that only 3% of those in Mexico City are evangelical Christians. The pastors we met saw Creation as foundational for the gospel. Many of the people we ministered to were "baby"



Christians. They were excited to learn they could believe their whole Bible and did not have to compromise with an evolutionary, secular world. Two statements we frequently heard were, "When are you coming

back?" and "We need an Alpha Omega Institute in Mexico City." Many expressed an interest in being trained in Creation. Will you pray that the Lord will use Alpha Omega to spread the truth of His Creation, and that others will be trained to carry on the work so desperately needed in Mexico City. Will you pray about how you can help in this endeavor?

[Ed. Note: The need to train others worldwide is so great! Pray that we can quickly construct the training center on our 60 acres of donated property. The site plan is completed and ready for the next phase. In the meantime, we are training others on a limited basis. (Note articles from our two interns in this issue's Spotlight on Science.) Will you help?]

Spotlight On Science

An Encounter with *Muhlenbergia Torreyi*: A Grass That Grows in Circles

by AOI Intern, Stephen B. Austin

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the Grand Canyon Adventure Bus Trip sponsored by the Institute for Creation Research. It was unforgettable experience as we toured Grand Canyon, Bryce, Zion, Petrified Forest, Sunset Crater, and numerous other sites of interest in Arizona and Utah. We marvelled at God's creative handiwork and were awed by the evidence of His judgment during the Flood. Though we saw much geology, I, as usual, was especially interested in the plants.

During a walk on one of the nature trails in Kodachrome Basin State Park in Utah, several people noticed a type of grass that had formed a ring. At the time, I was not familiar with it, but information was not far away. Upon returning to Grand Junction, I checked through my in-basket at AOI. While glancing through the March 1999 issue of the Creation Research Society Quarterly (CRSQ) in search of articles on plants, a title caught my eyes: "Ring Muhly -- A Grass that Grows in Circles." Although my plant books report it as being found a short distance away in northern Arizona but not in Utah, I believe what we saw was Ring Muhly (*Muhlenbergia torreyi*).

The authors of the article (George F. Howe, Emmett L. Williams, and John R. Meyer) "... suspect that the expanding ring growth pattern helps these colonies obtain unobstructed space (for continued growth) and fresh supplies of mineral nutrients." The authors noted, "We inspected several colonies and found that the level of soil inside was often about two cm higher than the soil outside the ring. Perhaps this difference results from the buildup of old leaves and stems, as well as from airborne soil particles that accumulate inside the arc." They went on to suggest: "Mineral and organic matter may foster the growth of various ephemeral plants which are seen to germinate inside the rings." Ephemeral plants are annuals which only seem to bloom during years of exceptional rainfall, with the seeds remaining dormant in the soil during dry years.

It appears to me that this is another evidence of God's creative design. The plant colonizes and improves bare soil and allows for the introduction of other species, sometimes, given sufficient preparation, more permanent species. Our loving Creator has a purpose in everything, and without such a grass the soil would be more subject to wind and water erosion. **Praise be to God!**

Great is our God

by AOI Intern, Dr. Dan Korow

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. (Psalms 19:1-3)

As a child, few things jarred my awareness for the existence of God more than a clear summer's night sky. The incomprehensible vastness and peaceful sparkling beauty testified of an all-wise, all-powerful God.

The Bible states that on the fourth day of creation, God said, "*Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years. And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.*" (Genesis 1:14-15.) God carefully placed these heavenly bodies in their precise and orderly arrangement. Our own solar system is comprised of 9 known planets, 66 moons, along with innumerable comets, meteoroids, and asteroids. Our solar system is a part of the Milky Way Galaxy, which stretches a staggering 590 quadrillion miles, and contains greater than 100 billion stars. Beyond the Milky Way there is an estimated 1 billion, billion more galaxies making up our known universe. And the grand total of the stars in the known universe is approximately 200 billion billion.

Is it any wonder that we feel very small and insignificant as we stand looking at the stars. Small yes, but not insignificant. The very God that spoke this creation into existence became a man and died on the cross for all mankind. It was love that brought God out of heaven to make earth His home for 33 years.

God fine-tuned the thousands of parameters and ratios within our universe to provide life on earth. Here's just one example. The precise distance between the earth and the sun needed for life is approximately 93 million miles. Good thing, because the surface of the sun is 11,000 °F with a core temperature of 27,000,000 °F. If we were only 5% closer to the sun, ocean waters would boil. If we were just 1% farther away, the waters of the ocean would freeze. The Bible is clear; God not only created the universe, but also sustains it. Each day is a gift from God. **Our God is awesome and He rightly deserves our praise.**

The Back Page...

Upcoming Events

(N=Nutting, J=Johnson, S=Stepanek)

Please pray for these events!

May 14: Grand Junction, CO: Colorado Christian University
Contact us 970-523-9943 (N)

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 Renee 719-685-9103 (N)

June 6-11: Grand Junction, CO: Monument Baptist VBS
Contact Church 303-242-9403 (J)

June 14-18: East Carbon, UT: Community Church VBS
Contact Nancy Sutter 801-888-5591 (J)

June 21-25: Montrose, CO: Montrose Christian Church
Contact Barbara Keller 970-249-5432 (J)

June 20: Westminster, CO: Westminster Nazarene Church
Contact Church 303-469-5149 (N)

June 22,23: Manitou Springs, CO: Summit Ministries
Contact Renee 719-685-9103 (N)

June 23-26: Denver, CO: CHEC Conference
Contact CHEC 303-393-6587 (N,S)

July 5-9: Collbran, CO: Twin Peaks 3rd & 4th Grade Camp
Contact Cal or Jan 970-434-8308 (J)

July 12-16: Collbran, CO: Twin Peaks 5th & 6th Grade Camp
Contact Cal or Jan 970-434-8308 (S)

July 12-16: Denver CO: Northwest Baptist Church VBS
Contact: Ken VanBrunt 303-429-7109 (J)

July 26-31: Bloomfield, NE: Glad Tidings Camp
Contact David Newell, 402-331-7901 or 402-373-4433 (S)

Aug 2-5 Aspen CO: Ist Baptist VBS
Contact Marti Begly 970-923-6503 (J)

Aug 7-10: Maxwell NE: Maranatha Bible Camp (Family Camp)
Contact Scott 308-582-4513 (J,S)

Aug 30: Manitou Springs, CO: Summit Ministries
Contact Renee 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

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Training Center Update

(with Dave Harper)



We worked throughout the winter on a conceptual Master Plan for our Training Center. With this plan, our team's engineers have begun the technical engineering and design for the water delivery and waste disposal systems, a floodplain survey, and a water augmentation plan. We are hoping to drill a well this spring, and if God is willing, build our first house on the site. In April we had our first major workday on the property. We look forward to scheduling more work days this summer. Consequently, we are seeking volunteers and equipment. If God is calling you to help, supply equipment, or provide financial support, please let us know. Most importantly, as God leads you, please pray for the progress of the Training Center. We know that this is not a man size project. Only God is able to see this to fruition.

** Support for Alpha Omega **

Summers are usually rough on AOI's financial status due to the type of speaking we do as well as what most ministries call the "summer slump." Please consider helping out **throughout** this summer.

** Prayer and Praise **

- Praise God for 15 years of ministry!
 - Pray for another 15.
- Praise God for AOI-Mongolia!
 - Pray for Bazarsad's ministry in Mongolia.
- Praise God for property for the Training Center!
 - Pray for finances, laborers, & materials to build.
- Praise God for Who He is!
 - Pray we can conform to His image.

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Alpha Omega Institute

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