As this year draws to a close, we thought you might enjoy joining with us in giving thanks. “It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High.” (Ps. 92:1)

We are thankful for God’s grace in completion of the DVD series and Study Guide, the ECFA recognition, and the many people reached with the creation message. There have been a lot of long hours and many miles traveled but the Lord has not only sustained us but has brought encouragement along the way. (Dave)

We started the year under Satan’s attack (health problems). I wasn’t sure Lanny was even going to live through the year, yet God took us from coast to coast (Oregon to Pennsylvania) and border to border (Alaska to New Mexico) with LOTS of programs in between. Praise God! Lanny is doing great and I’m “sorta” keeping up with him. (Marilyn)

We are thankful for the Lord’s protection of Lanny and me as we drove in all kinds of weather. We are thankful for providing answers as I shared “one on one” with several youths who were struggling in their faith, and also for equipping me with answers to an antagonistic evolutionary college professor at a community wide seminar. (Lanny)

Praise the Lord for allowing us to see a group of 35-40 youngsters indicate commitment to the Lord at the same time. (Alan)

We love it when people call with a problem and God puts it on my heart to pray. One day a woman called and had the wrong number. She hung up and accidentally called back again. This time she asked what kind of business we had and I was able to talk to her about our Creation ministry. She then told me about her son who was being bullied at school and I prayed for her and the situation with her son. Before she hung up she said, “I know God had me call here so I could talk to you.” (Gail)

We appreciate your prayers and financial support that help us “keep on keeping on.” We thank God and each of you who have helped! (Rich and Sue)

Praise the Lord for allowing the birth of our grandson to occur during that two-day window in the summer between speaking activities so we could be there. This fall God arranged the schedule so that we would be doing a seminar in the right location and time so we could attend the funeral of a special uncle who died unexpectedly. We know clearly how the Lord directs our paths. Proverbs 3:6. (Rich and Sue)

Thanksgiving Notes From AOI
A ccording to the evolutionary paradigm, it took millions of years of trial and error to “create” everything in the universe; but the Bible tells us a very different story – God spoke, and it was done! Notice how often words referring to speech are used in Genesis 1. (“God said,” vs. 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29; “God called,” vs. 5, 8, 10; “God blessed,” vs. 22, 28.) This truth is affirmed throughout Scripture. Note the following examples (bold added for emphasis):

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. ... For he spake, and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast.” (Ps. 33: 6, 9)

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God ... ” (Heb. 11:3)

“... by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (II Peter 3:5-7)

So we see, our world was created and is being kept by the active, authoritative word of God. What power there in is His word! But the word of God is not just sound waves moving through the air – nor is it just ink on a page. The Word is a Person – living and active:

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son ... by whom also he made the worlds ... ” (Heb. 1:1-2)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. .... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us ... ” (John 1:1-3, 14)

The Word is still speaking – still creating “new creatures in Christ” (II Cor 5:17); still “upholding all things by the word of His power” (Heb 1:3); still leading His flock (John 10:27-28), teaching, correcting, reproving, training in righteousness (II Tim 3:16), and cleansing from sin (Eph 5:26).

Oh, that He would open our ears to hear Him more clearly – as we gaze at a beautiful sunrise, as we meditate on the words written on the pages of our Bibles, and as we wait for His still small voice speaking deep in our hearts. May we like Samuel say, “Speak; for thy servant heareth.” (I Sam 4:10) 

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We can certainly be thankful to God for the splendor of His Creation, the majestic mountains, His fascinating birds and animals, and His bountiful provision in our lives. But God also takes care of the things we can’t even see. Though atheists don’t want to give God the credit and thank Him, His handiwork is revealed in every living cell. Even in “micro-science,” He deserves our thanks and praise!

[Dave Nutting]

Modern microscopes have revealed wonderful little machines called “molecular machines,” or “molecular motors.” They are found inside each cell of every living thing, and their moving parts are made up of molecules shaped to fit together. They do much of the work of every cell. Most people who want to “fire” their Creator don’t yet know about molecular machines, but cells can’t live without them.

Every machine we know of had an intelligent designer, but the tiny molecular machines are outstanding. They are so precise and efficient that scientists working in nanotechnology, the field of the very small, hope to be able to copy some of them.

Best known is a miniature motor which spins at 100,000 rpm’s with almost perfect efficiency. Like a boat motor, it propels its own, a single cell, through the water. [Discussed in an earlier issue of Think & Believe]

Not even simple machines pop into existence on their own. Since machines are only made by intelligent craftsmen, the presence of machines in all cells shows that cells had an intelligent origin. Scientists are discovering molecular machines in large numbers, but we only have space here for two striking examples.

**Molecular Pumps**

Cells would just be loose “goo” dissolving into the water if they were not enclosed by membranes. That presents a problem: Even the simplest cell must have nutrients if it is to live, and nutrients are too large to pass through a cell’s membrane. God’s solution: the membranes of even the simplest cells contain machines: little pumps made out of several different proteins folded into complex shapes to work together. They pass the right nutrients through the membrane and into the cell. A cell without machines that pass nutrients through its membrane would starve to death.

These pumps, like all molecular machines, are made according to the intelligent plans included in the cell’s information. Because pumps that recognize and pass nutrients into the cell don’t and can’t happen by accident, their presence destroys the theory that the first cell was put together by chemicals with no intelligent input!

**Molecular Unwinding Machines and Reproduction**

Another reason life could not have been spontaneously generated without a Creator is that each cell must have a way to reproduce. If the “first cell” did not have this ability already fully functional there could never have been a second cell! After one generation, new life would have become no life.

In reproduction, when a cell divides, one copy of a cell’s DNA is passed on to its offspring. One of the reasons this is not easy is that the DNA’s two strands are long, thin, and tightly twisted together like the strands of a rope. The DNA strands must be separated one from the other at cell division to give one strand to each cell. How does one strand get separated from the other when they are long, and twisted tightly together? Among a number of machines necessary for reproduction are DNA unwinding machines. If these and other machines that promote cell division had not already been in place, no “first cell” could ever have produced a second cell.

These are just a couple examples of the many complex molecular machines that had to be operating at the same time for a “first cell” to live! Since no machine has ever been known to pop into existence without a creator, the required presence of many of them is powerful evidence for an intelligent Creator. The impact of this evidence grows as new machines are discovered every year. In the next issue of Think & Believe, Dr. Heinze will share more.
Many of you recognize the names of AOI speakers, but have you ever considered all the others it takes to keep this ministry going?

- Our Board of Directors who volunteer time and expertise to guide and oversee the direction of the ministry.
- Gail, Glenn, and Elisabeth who “hold down the fort” at the office and perform so many needed functions to support speakers on the road.
- Volunteers who help in lots of important ways – newsletter stuffers, librarian, office helpers, newsletter-article writers, copy editors, camp helpers, technical advisors, etc.
- Businesses who work with AOI in a variety of ways – graphic arts, printing, computer and web services, media suppliers, etc.
- Churches, schools, homeschool groups, and others who host AOI events, and ministries with whom we partner on a regular basis.
- Other creation ministries who share their research and knowledge.
- Seminar volunteers who work to make seminars and other events a success.
- People who provide housing, meals, and transportation for speakers.
- Children, youth, and adults who come to the seminars to listen and learn!
- Donors who provide finances and other needed items and services.
- Prayer warriors who undergird the whole ministry with prayer.

Join us in thanking the Lord for all who help! Together we can make a difference!

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These vacations with a purpose offer fun, fellowship, and learning. State-of-the-art presentations answer questions regarding creation and evolution, and demonstrate the truth of Scripture. An exciting, instructional program is also available for the children. Relax, praise, play, and learn in God’s beautiful creation! Call today!

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Aug. 10-15

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**AOI International Outreach**

Richard Stepanek is scheduled to be teaching creation in India and Austria mid-January through early February. Please be in prayer for his trip, as well as for his family back home while he is gone. To help with this trip or other AOI international creation ministry, please write your check to “Alpha Omega Institute” with “International Outreach Fund” in the memo line.