

# Think & Believe

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## The Santa Claus of Evolution

by Dave Nutting

A number of years ago, I was asked to help with a debate at a public high school. The debate was to be between three evolutionists and three creationists. One of the debaters on the creationist side was well-skilled in arguing the philosophical issues. The other creationist had a Ph.D. in Watershed Management and Hydrology. Neither had faced hostile audiences before and felt they could use help in dealing with the tougher scientific issues that they thought would be brought up. Although I had many opportunities in the prior years to present the scientific problems with evolution, that was to be my first “formal” debate since high school many years before. The debate was to be held shortly, and it was a good thing I had only a little time to prepare, since with more time, I could have gotten quite nervous.

On the big day, Mary Jo heard the evolutionists talking with each other as they were heading to the debate auditorium. They said that it didn’t matter what they said at the debate, the key was to get the students on their side. After all, they had the rest of the year to “work with the students.” Yeah, right! We knew that “work with the students” meant to fully indoctrinate them in evolution when we weren’t there to show the other side!

During the debate, the evolutionists presented amazingly *little* science. It was more name calling and claiming that creationists are anti-science. Our panel of creationists, however, presented a solid case based on science. There was time for rebuttals and a summary statement by each team. The participant who was chosen to summarize the evolutionist perspective spent most of his time painting an elaborate picture of Santa Claus and how, as children, we used to believe in Santa Claus until we began to realize that that fat man couldn’t get down the chimney and reindeer don’t fly. I’m sure he was setting the stage to make the statement that belief in creation and God is a childish belief that doesn’t fit the evidence.

However, he had painted such an elaborate picture of Santa Claus that he ran out of time before coming to his conclusion. I believe God used him to indeed set the stage for my concluding summary.

I informed the audience that all the debaters on the creationist side used to believe in the “Santa Claus” of evolution, but as we studied the evidence, we realized that just as that fat

man can’t get down the chimney, and reindeer don’t fly, evolution doesn’t work. Evolution is an unsubstantiated childhood belief that we had to give up.

The evolutionary side did not look very happy as the debate closed. We had not only taken their punch line, but also presented a good scientific case for creation — they had not given anything of real substance in favor of evolution.

As you celebrate Christmas this year and see all the “street corner” Santa Clauses stealing the true meaning of Christmas, remember that the Santa Claus of evolution is also stealing the hearts and minds of children all over this world. You can make a difference as you share solid scientific evidence and Biblical truth with your family and friends. Don’t let them be deceived by the Santa Claus of evolution! **T&B**



## Gems From Genesis

### Creation, Christmas, and the Gospel in a Nutshell!

by Dave Nutting

**I**t all fits together! God created the entire universe and all it contains. We have seen in earlier Gems from Genesis articles that the creation was very good. Adam and Eve were also created and had it just as good as they could possibly have it with complete fellowship with God.

However, Adam and Eve blew it royally in the Garden of Eden by breaking the only rule of that time – not eating fruit from the forbidden tree. Their sin impacted all of Creation and now we all suffer under the repercussions of that original sin called the Fall.

A quick look at the news only confirms the truth of Scripture. We are in a really big mess!

But, back to the title of this article – what does all this have to do with Christmas? A lot of people don't see the connection – especially if their Christmas goes no further than Santa Claus and the “holiday season.”

Christmas is much more than buying, buying, buying and getting, getting, getting! It is about *giving, giving* and more *giving*. Jesus, the Christ of Christmas, God's only begotten son, was **GIVEN** to this world, Jesus willingly **GAVE** up his life to die on the cross to pay the price of our original sin that is now in us so that He could **GIVE** us eternal life and restore the broken fellowship between God and those created in His image – us!

Wow! This Christmas “babe in the manger” is infinitely greater than Santa Claus. He's not just some baby in a pile of straw! He is the Creator and Lord of the universe who later died on a cross in order to save his own people who were created in His image. God is into big-time **GIVING** and that is really Good News (the Gospel)! Keep in mind though, that a gift doesn't do any good unless you receive it. How do we

do that? Part of receiving this gift is to fully realize and admit to God that you really need it. This is unlike many of the gifts you receive at Christmas for which you wonder, “What on earth do I need that for?” Also, just like you receive a special and desirable gift at Christmas, we acknowledge that gift by saying “Thank You!” So let's all say “Thank You, God, for **GIVING!** I receive what you have done for me. What a way to celebrate Christmas this year! **T&B**

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name...” John 1:12*

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16*



## The Answers Book Series for Kids

**F**ace it! Most children's books don't deal with the issues children are facing regarding “Can I believe the Bible?” This is not the case with the *Answers Books for Kids*. These colorful books answer many of the questions that elementary school-age children ask regarding the Bible, faith, and creation vs. evolution. Each 48-page book in the series focuses on a different topic and answers 22 questions with easy to understand answers.

*Volume 1* deals with Creation and the Fall. *Volume 2* explores Dinosaurs and Noah's Flood.

*Some of the questions include:*

- How did God create everything from nothing?
- Why did God have Adam name the animals?
- How long did it take for Adam to name the animals?
- The Serpent talked to Eve, so why can't snakes talk today?
- How did all the dinosaurs fit on the ark?
- How did Noah keep the animals on the ark from eating each other and his family?
- Where did all the water go after the Flood?
- Why aren't there fossils of humans from Noah's flood?

Help your children or grandchildren learn to answer questions that otherwise could make them doubt the truth of God's Word! (Available from AOI: \$8 each – both for \$14. Free S/H if ordered by December 31, 2008. Please use the enclosed order form or go to [www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org)) **T&B**



## 2008 AOI Staff Highlights and Praise

Wow, another year of ministry is almost past! Here are a few highlights from AOI speakers and support staff. Remember, donations from AOI partners like you have made it possible. Thank you so much!



### **Dave and Mary Jo Nutting:**

Highlights for us this year include:

- Having the opportunity to share the creation message in public schools in Costa Rica and seeing the “lights go on” for many students.
- Seeing a college graduate “rescued” from the slippery slide into agnosticism at one of our family camps.
- Working with individuals who come to us for training so that they can present the creation message more effectively.
- Watching AOI staff face tremendous personal challenges, trials, and grief with faith, courage, and steady commitment to the Lord.
- Experiencing the faithfulness of God in providing strength, safety, resources, and abundant opportunities for ministry during these very trying times.



### **Lanny and Marilyn Johnson:**

We were encouraged by feedback from many about the family program that we now do at our seminars. It seems that both the adults and children are not only enjoying the talks, but learning from them also. We also observed that we had quite a few from Jr. High and High School attending. Many of these were non-churched and seemed to be seeking some answers about life. We have incorporated a very strong Gospel message into the first night, so we know that the seeds of

truth have been planted. We were also able to get into a public Jr. High and High School this year, which is a real praise considering how difficult it seems to get into any public school in recent years. The real highlight of the year was seeing 29 kids put their trust in Jesus this year.



### **Rich and Sue Stepanek:**

In Jan./Feb, I traveled to India for

a three-week creation tour. There was a great need to teach the truth about creation and Genesis as false evolutionary ideas about origins are quite prevalent. The rest of the year we were in IL, WI, MI, IA, CO, WY, NE, AZ, ID, a VBS in UT, IFCA Regional Youth Conference, and the CHEC conference in CO. Joel and I had a great trip to the Grand Canyon with our church youth group.

Many people we met were struggling with the creation/evolution dilemma. It was really enlightening and faith-building when they discovered that Genesis is true! Thank you for your part in this rewarding year of ministry.



### **Gail Tompkins:**

Looking back over 2008, I can't believe that I've worked at AOI almost 7 years. I thank God that he gave me the job of assistant office manager, then after Rachel moved, office manager. If it weren't for such caring and Godly people who let me have time off for Gary's many hospital visits, I wouldn't have been able to take care of him the way I have. David DeCesare programmed my

computer so that I can work at home on Thursday's just as if I was sitting at my desk in the office. If Gary needs 24-hour care in the future, I will be able to do most of my work at home. I will also be set up with an IP phone that lets me answer all of AOI's calls from home. I thank all the staff and our many prayer partners for the love, support, and prayers for our family. [Editors note: Keep praying for Gary's battle with cancer.]



### **Glenn Pearson:**

The year at AOI started out with a lot of nice, but low-cost, changes to the office. We were able to make the entry area of our office more “user-friendly” to the public, with better access to our resources, in preparation for the new display and “hands-on” area we are developing. This involved a lot of time and organization of schedules. The volunteers did a wonderful job and the place looks great!

I have seen changes this year in the areas normally behind the scenes for an organization. The better those areas run, the easier it will be for the speaking teams to do what God has called them to do.



### **Alan & Diane Galbraith:**

This year's teaching was some of the best and most rewarding yet!

It was fun and energizing teaching the children at Christian schools in California as well as kids and adults on the Navajo Reservation. With the Navajo, it was special to be part of a group to honor the Navajo pastors. At AOI's Redcloud Family camp, it was an exceptional time working with the children and the families as they interacted. We really enjoyed teaching creation to some of the best small groups we have had. **T&B**

## Directors' Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



As we write this, our nation is facing many challenges: economic crises, political division, wars and rumors of wars, hurricanes and other “natural” disasters in “diverse places.” Where will it lead? What does the future hold – for our nation – for individuals, families, businesses, churches, and ministries like AOI?

It’s easy to glibly say, “God is in control” – and “He will provide.” It’s much harder to *rest in that knowledge* and to discern the steps He would have us take in the everyday decisions and long-term ramifications. Despite the emphasis on a wide variety of issues, **evolutionary indoctrination continues to be a major obstacle** hindering students from responding to the Gospel and undermining the faith of many Christians.

We at AOI are firmly committed to **press on and present the truth** of God’s Word, beginning with Creation. **Now is NOT the time to coast!** However, we need your prayers and partnership. Rising costs and economic hard times impact ministries as well as businesses and families. Please *pray* for God’s provision – and for much discernment and wisdom as we schedule speaking trips and make decisions regarding the use of the funds that He provides and the direction of ministry.

Finally, know that we are especially grateful for your prayers and support during these trying times. We know that many of you are hurting financially, and that your gifts are truly sacrificial. Thank you so much for sharing. May God bless you and provide for all of your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. **T&B**

## Upcoming Training Week: March 23-27, 2009

Would you like to be able to share creation evidence and relevance more effectively? If so, contact us about attending an upcoming Training Week. These times are specially designed to help YOU increase your knowledge about creation evidences and upgrade your presentation skills. We keep each group small to allow for interaction, participation, and individualized feedback. Our goal is to help YOU grow in knowledge and skills so that you can become a resource for students and others in your community or wherever God leads you. Contact us at 970-523-9943 or [aoi@discovercreation.org](mailto:aoi@discovercreation.org) (please write “training” in the subject line).

**From our family to your's...**

*Have a joyous Christmas season as you remember the true CHRIST of Christmas.*

– The AOI Staff

## Creation Family Mountain Adventures

**2009**

Fun, fellowship, and learning for the whole family! Register today! Bring a friend!

**Twin Peaks: June 29 – July 4**  
**Redcloud: August 2 – 7 or 9 – 14**

*“Our best vacation ever!”*

*“We learned so much!”*

For more information, visit [www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org) or call 1-800-377-1923.



## Discover Creation Seminar Scheduling in Progress

Help students and adults in your area “Discover Creation” and “Stand Firm” on the Word. Scheduling is now in progress for 2009 – 2010 events. Please contact us ASAP if you would like to be included.



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