

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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The Miracle of Life

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

The birth of our first grandchild in October has caused us to contemplate anew this miracle we call life. What a joy to hold this precious little boy, and to marvel at the miracle of life! How awesome to discover hints of Tim and Elisabeth in him – to ponder the unbroken chain of human life, all the way back to our first great, great, great...grandparents in Genesis – and to consider afresh the mystery of the birth of our Savior more than 2000 years ago.

Life! What is it and how did it arise? Some would have us believe that life is nothing more than a complex interaction of molecules that arose spontaneously from non-living matter sometime in the distant past. And yet, everything in our experience tells us that "life comes only from life." This is one of the most fundamental, well-established "laws" of science, recognized and observed by research scientist and layman alike, and Scripture bears it out.

The Bible speaks much about life – both physical and spiritual. The first mention of life in the Bible is in Genesis 1:20. In subsequent verses, we read about God creating water creatures, birds, cattle, creeping things, beasts of

the earth, and finally, man. Although man was physically similar to other living creatures in many ways, there was one very significant difference: man was created "in the image of God." (Genesis 1:26-27) Genesis 2:7 gives more details: "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." So, life came from life – from the eternal, living Creator God.

This life was then passed on down through the generations, from Adam and Eve ("the mother of all living" – Genesis 3:20) to all human kind. So, in a very real sense, we are all

"sons and daughters of Adam."

All human beings share the same ancestry. (Clearly, we do not share ancestry with the other living creatures, as each was created "after its own kind.") Through our various

family lines, our "life" can be traced back through Noah, to Adam and Eve, and from there to God. The "breath of life" which came from God has been passed down to each one of us – and on to our children and grandchildren. Isn't that an awesome thought?

But here's an even more awesome thought! Though we are sons

and daughters of Adam in a physical sense, we can become children of God in a spiritual sense. Just as we have been born physically, we can be born spiritually. Our life here on earth will end, but we can be "born again" to eternal life, through faith in Jesus Christ by the work of the Spirit of God. Adam's sin resulted in death, but Jesus came into the world to bring life. Consider these verses:

• **"In him was life... as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** (John 1:4, 12-13)

• **"Jesus said, "... he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. ... I have come that you may have life, and that more abundantly."** (John 5:24 and 10:10)

• **"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."** (1 John 5:11-13)

Wow! Life! Abundant life here and now! Life for all eternity! Life – a mystery, a blessing, a gift from above! Choose life and live!



"Ardi" Throws Wrench into Traditional Evolution

by Dave Nutting

In the July/August issue of T&B, we featured "Ida" which was announced in May with a huge media blitz to be your ancestor. This blitz occurred before the experts even had a chance to view the bones!

Once again, in honor of Darwin's 200th birthday, a new fossil, nicknamed "Ardi," was just announced. Whereas "Ida" did not have much "expert" analysis before the huge media hype, at least "Ardi" has undergone serious examination for 15 years by some of the leading evolutionary experts. So what has it shown? Not what they were expecting! In fact they really don't know if "Ardi" is even in our supposed ancestry, but are pretty sure that "Ardi" shows that we are not so related to chimps and the whole ape-to-man sequence



as we have been taught.

Wait a minute! Haven't the "experts" assured us in textbooks and museums that the ape-man sequence is "proven?" Is that all out the window now? Well, it just might be. We don't know what this will finally pan out to be, but keep in mind that all of their interpretation is based on a strictly evolutionary bias. Also consider some other points that you

may have missed while viewing exquisite artwork of "Ardi":

- The bones are pieced together from remnants of at least 36 individuals.
- The bones were in horrible shape (as one site said "trampled by hippos") Some were so powdery they had to be put together "millimeter by sub-millimeter" via digital scanning. Since someone has to pro-

gram that, it means there is lots of room for bias to enter in.

- The "hand" of "Ardi" was found in a different location than the rest of bones.
- The newspaper (and later-to-come textbook) pictures all show fairly complete skeletons. However, this is not what was found. Remember, it is artwork that convinces people of evolution not the evidence!

- The assertion that "Ardi" is your relative mostly comes from the idea that this ape walked upright. This was based on presumably correct reconstructions of a very badly smashed and distorted part of a pelvic bone. Other evolutionary experts disagree based on the same bones!

So what is "Ardi?" Perhaps "she" is just another created ape whose bones are the recipients of an "Ida-like" news blitz. Man remains created "in the image of God!" 

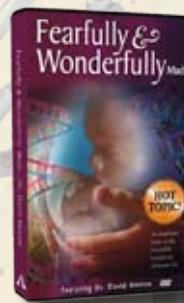
DVD Review: David Menton's Fearfully and Wonderfully Made!

by Mary Jo Nutting

Recently, I watched the DVD, **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made**, by Dr. David Menton and thoroughly enjoyed it! Dr. Menton holds a Ph.D. in cell biology from Brown University and knows his stuff. Menton begins the talk with the question: "When does life begin in the womb?" He says, maybe a better question would be, "When does a **person** begin in the womb?" Of course then, the question is "How do you define a person?" Menton suggests that a person is someone known to God. He expounds on Psalm 139:15-16:

"You saw my unformed body." According to Menton, that settles the abortion question. This developing baby is known by God.

From his background in histology (the study of cells), Menton gives fascinating explanations of the processes of ovulation, fertilization, implantation, the work of the placenta, the early stages of development, and the process of birth. Over and over again, Menton shows



the irreducible complexity of these systems which highlight the complex interrelationship of parts and functions. Everything is needed at just the right time or none of it works at all. This all demonstrates the impossibility of an evolutionary explanation of the processes described. We are left marveling at the wisdom and care of our wonderful Creator God.

Even if you don't have a new grandbaby, I would recommend this DVD by Dr. Menton. It will give you answers for skeptics and fascinating insight into the miracle of human life and the creative handiwork of God. Available from AOI for **only \$13** (Includes S/H. Offer good through 12/31/09) 

Snapshots of Human Development

by Mary Jo Nutting

Shortly after their creation, God told Adam and Eve: "Be fruitful, and multiply" – and in His wisdom and providence, He had equipped them to do just that. The systems and processes involved in reproduction truly display the handiwork of God. In this issue we look at just two aspects of this phenomenal process: ovulation and fertilization.

Ovulation:

A normal baby girl is born with a lifetime supply of approximately 400,000 egg cells in her ovaries, ready to develop. Each month after puberty, an egg cell develops inside a cyst-like follicle. At ovulation, this follicle ruptures, releasing the egg. This egg is then "caught" by a cup-like structure with little finger-like projections on the ends of the oviduct (or egg tube). This cup-like structure actually moves around the ovary, "feeling" for the spot where the egg will erupt. This is critical, because if the egg is not caught, it could implant in the wrong place, which could be fatal for both mother and baby.

Normally, ovulation occurs approximately every 28 days, alternating between ovaries, but if one ovary is damaged or removed, the other takes over, releasing an egg every month. (Interesting – how do they know to do that?!)

If fertilization is to occur, it needs to happen in the upper

third of the oviduct. But herein lies a problem: Sperm cells need to go up the oviduct, while egg cells need to go down. However, the egg has no independent means of movement, and the "tail" of the sperm is not powerful

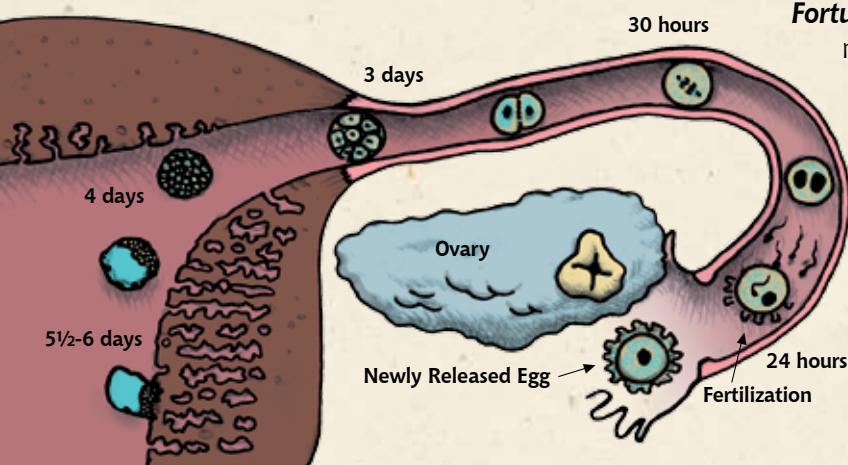
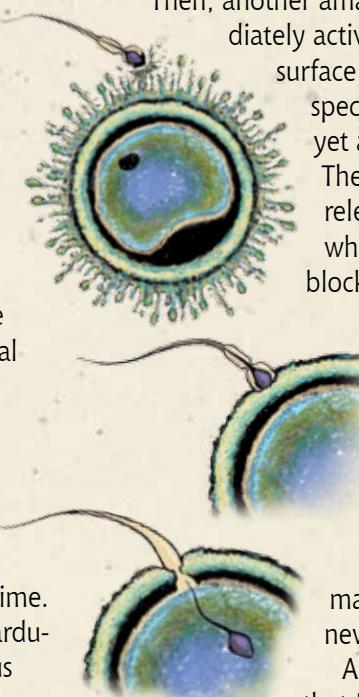
enough to get the job done. Fortunately, the sperm is moved up the oviduct by contractions in the musculature of the mother's uterus and

oviduct. At the same time, the egg is moved down the oviduct by the movement of trillions of tiny hair-like structures called cilia. But these cilia don't move in just any old way. They must move in a special coordinated rhythm like fans doing the "Wave" in a stadium or wind in a wheat field. If the egg is not effectively moved down the oviduct, a potentially lethal tubal pregnancy could result.

Fertilization:

After ovulation, fertilization must occur within 12-24 hours. The sperm must be in the correct spot during that time. However, even after the long, arduous journey, there are enormous hurdles to overcome. 1) Sperm must be activated to fertilize an egg.

Fortunately, the mother's body produces a special substance capable of activating them. 2) The egg cell is surrounded by a zone of



cells which secrete a sticky substance that makes it possible for the cilia to get hold of the egg in order to move it. **Unfortunately**, this also creates a barrier for the sperm. **Fortunately**, the sperm have a highly specific enzyme that can digest the sticky substance. 3) The egg also has a "shell" around it, a skin of gelatinous material. **Fortunately** (again), the sperm has another enzyme that digests through this material. 4) The membrane of the egg cell also contains various "recognition factors" which "test" the sperm to make sure it is the right species, etc. It is truly amazing that a sperm is ever able to penetrate the egg! **Just good fortune?** No way! God's creative design is evident at each juncture.

When the first sperm overcomes the hurdles and touches the membrane, the membranes of the sperm and egg open up to let the contents of the sperm in. Then, another amazing system immediately activates. Just under the surface of the membrane are special granules containing yet another special enzyme. These granules explode, releasing the enzyme which hardens the shell, blocking any more sperm from entering. Once that happens, the genetic material of the egg and the sperm come together, and if all goes well, a baby will be born approximately 9 months later. A new person has begun.

Amazing! It's no wonder that Dr. Menton calls this system "irreducibly complex."

So many factors are involved, yet, we've barely scratched the surface. Everything must work or none of it is any good at all. Truly, we are fearfully and wonderfully made! 

[*Note: This article is based on the DVD, **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made**, by Dr. David Merton. Get his DVD for many more fascinating evidences of God's creative design.]

Directors' Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



As we come to the end of another year, we want to thank you for your interest in creation

and for your prayers, encouragement, and support! It's been a busy and good year, despite economic stresses and miscellaneous challenges. We praise God for the opportunity to continue sharing the truth of His Word, beginning with Genesis.

Much ground has been tilled and good seed has been planted. Many children, youth, and adults have been amazed to hear the problems with

evolution and to learn evidence of creation from science and the Bible.

Like most ministries, AOI is very dependent upon year-end giving. Typically much of the annual giving comes in the last 6 weeks of the year. Personally, we'd prefer to see it come in steadily over the course of the year, but maybe this keeps us humble, dependent, and praying! 😊 In any case, we ask you to consider a generous year-end gift and a regular monthly commitment in 2010. Together we can make a difference in the lives of people who need to hear the truth.

God Bless You! May you know His peace and provision in the coming days. **AOI**

Plan Ahead! Creation Mountain Adventures 2010

Winter at Redcloud: March 14-19

Summer, Redcloud 1: August 1-6

Summer, Redcloud 2: August 8-13



Don't miss it!
Call today to reserve your spot!



From the Mail Bag

"Your presentations helped me get through college as a Christian!"

– Young Parent

"[The time at camp] opened our eyes much more to God's amazing power and design, and made His Word even more real in our lives."

– Creation Family Camp Participant

"You do an incredible job of taking a subject some people consider a lecture, and making it interesting."

–12 Year-old Boy

Do you have a testimony of how God has used AOI or creation teaching to impact your life? If so, please send us a short note. They are a huge encouragement not only to our readers, but also to the staff!

E-mail Addresses

Would you like to be better informed of the latest "discoveries" and newsworthy items. Please send your e-mail address to update@DiscoverCreation.org or go to our website and sign up. (Note: We do NOT sell or share our e-mail or address lists.)

**Happy Thanksgiving,
Merry CHRISTmas,
and a huge Thank You**

As we remember with gratefulness the birth of our Savior, and thank Him for His abundant blessings, we also thank you for being part of the AOI family. May God bless you richly now and throughout the coming year.
– from all of us at AOI.



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