



Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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God is Good!

(by *Dave and Mary Jo Nutting*)

Thanksgiving is upon us! Join us in thanking God for His abundant provision. Look what He's provided for Alpha Omega Institute in **just the last few weeks!**

*** Study Carrels!** To improve efficiency around the office, we needed desks for staff and volunteers. Dorothy and Mary Jo had thought about constructing some from materials we had on hand, but God had plans beyond our expectations. Without even knowing our need, our landlord, Turkish World Outreach (TWO), donated three connected work stations they no longer needed. These beautiful desks are solid wood (oak), complete with drawers, bookshelves above, individual lights, and computer outlets. We thank God and TWO for this wonderful provision!

*** Computers!** Another need has been computers for staff and library users. Praise God again! When one of our donors heard that her employer was upgrading, she worked with them to donate **four** 486 networkable computers to AOI. We are in the process of getting these up and running. We are grateful for this provision. Please pray now for two more computers (586's would be best for network service and graphics, but good 486's will do), monitors, and miscellaneous networkable software to complete this project.

*** Mongolia Project!** Praise God once more. Enough donations have come in to cover airfare and living expenses to bring the first man from Mongolia to be trained in creation ministry. We are grateful! We are trusting there will be enough to finish developing materials and to send him back with a projector and a set of slides, also. Thanks to all of you who are helping with this project.

*** People!!** More important than the "things" God supplies, are the people He has brought our way! Several individuals have volunteered part-time office and computer help. Others have helped in the library, stuffed newsletters, moved desks, etc. We're thankful for each one! There's still room for more, so keep praying!

*** People!!** Sarah McGuire, our intern from Virginia, has developed and is teaching a "hands-on" creation science series for home-schoolers. Rich Stepanek and the Johnsons are on the road doing church and school programs. This is freeing some of our time to develop training materials for in-depth intern training and begin focusing on a training center.

*** Salaries!** Despite all the above, wonderful provisions, the regular operating budget was becoming a concern. We wondered if there would even be enough money to pay salaries this month. But praise God! **Within three days of making this a special prayer focus, the funds came in.** We thank all of you who are helping!

*** All of this just in this last month!** Praise God with us for His bountiful supply! Please pray He will continue to open His storehouses and send forth laborers to share the message of our great Creator, Redeemer, and coming King.



Notes & Quotes

□ You heard from Rich Stepanek last month. This month we thought you might like to get to know some of the other Alpha Omega staff a little better.

Donna Henderson: (Secretary, Receptionist, etc. etc. etc.) I worked as a volunteer when AOI helped sponsor a Back to Genesis seminar in 1992. Later, I found out that AOI needed a secretary. When I asked Dave if he would hire me, he asked if I knew anything about computers. I said no, but he said, "Well, I guess we could train you." Shortly after that my girls and I took over the newsletter stuffing job and I began helping out in the office.

I really believe in this ministry. I never believed in evolution, but now I believe even more strongly in the importance of creation. I love truth. I can't stand for people to believe in a lie. What matters is the ultimate effect it has on people's lives. I want the truth to be known and believed. So I am trying to do my part to keep AOI going -- answering the phone, doing paperwork, keeping up the mailing list, etc. [We really appreciate Donna's faithfulness, her concern for details, and her desire and ability to "be stretched" and keep on learning. She wears many "hats" at AOI!]

Dorothy Hahn: (Director, AOI Resource Center & Library) How did I get involved with Alpha Omega? Would you believe I was just looking for a piano? That's when I first met the Nuttings. Well, one thing led to another. After years of walks and talks and owl-hooting adventures, a vision and plan formed for developing a Christian Educational Resource Center. The idea was compatible with the work I was doing on a master's degree program in education and I was invited to officially join the AOI staff. ... I was only looking for a used piano. Little did I know what that would lead to!

My focus now at AOI is on developing a resource center and library to serve the community and AOI staff and interns. We provide a monthly Focus on Creation Family Night for families to be challenged to learn more about the evidences all around us pointing to our wonderful Creator. We also sponsor science workshops and an annual science fair to encourage students to be careful observers of the world they live in. Other classes, field trips, and educational activities are anticipated for the future.

I believe creation as presented in Genesis is foundational to understanding the gospel and reaching Biblically-uninformed people. Jesus, the One who spoke all creation into existence, is my Savior and King. He has proven in my life that all things truly are held together by Him.

Lanny and Marilyn Johnson: (Directors, AOI Children's Ministry) After attending a seminar by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting, our eyes were opened to the truth of God's creation. Several years after becoming creationists, we realized that the children of this nation are under spiritual attack. We saw the way that the secular world of television, museums, magazines, newspapers, and schools were very biased and evolutionary in content. Our hearts were so burdened for them to know the truth, that we started volunteering to do children's programs for AOI whenever we could get away from our business. It wasn't very long before the Lord made it clear that He wanted us to do this ministry full time and five years ago we sold our business and began our full time faith ministry with Alpha Omega.

Now we travel throughout the year doing seminars in churches and schools, usually with one of the adult-ministry team members. During the summer we do Vacation Bible Schools and Camps. The desire for VBS's has been greater than our ability to meet those needs, so we have started training teams of local church members to do their own Creation VBS. (Call us if you would like to schedule a training session.)

As we minister to children, we have come to realize that we just don't have enough time. The information that we get to share with kids concerning God's creation just barely scrapes the surface. It has to fall back into the laps of parents. Our children are constantly being influenced by an outside world that is teaching that God doesn't really exist - that we are just here by random chance and accident, an animal product of evolution. A few hours each week in church and Sunday school is not enough time to "unlearn" the ungodly information they are receiving the rest of the week. As parents, we have to take a very active role in raising our children. We need to equip them with a strong foundation based on God's Word. Before they go out into that world on their own, they need to really know who God their Creator is.

□ We all want to wish you a very blessed holiday season and thank you for your interest and support throughout the year! God bless you!

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Spotlight On Science

❑ **“What’s your favorite creation evidence?”** How would you answer? Here are the favorites of some of our staff and their families:

Lanny Johnson: With my background in geology, it would seem that something dealing with geology would be my favorite evidence for creation, but actually it’s the live things that are my favorites. As you look at the creatures and see their wonderful design, you realize that there had to be a Designer behind that design, it couldn’t have happened by chance and accident. Since Robin chose my favorite animal, I’ll give my second favorite, the Gecko. The Gecko is an amazing lizard that can run up glass and upside down on a ceiling. He is equipped with a highly-engineered valve system that can actually pump up and expand pads on his toes. On these pads are microscopic hairlike projections that act like tiny suction cups, adhering to almost any surface. Amazing design like that demands a Creator!

Marilyn Johnson: There is so much evidence out there that it becomes very difficult to narrow it down to only one, but one piece of evidence that fascinated me when I learned it was the importance of tides. They keep the oceans from stagnating, creating waves that add necessary oxygen to the water so even fish deep in the ocean can survive. I’m sure the creatures of the tidal zones would agree with me that it took a pretty awesome God to think of even the small detail of tides to make their little part of this complex universe work perfectly!

Rich Stepanek: My favorite creation evidence is the exciting information being produced from the research of Mount St. Helen’s and of other evidence for catastrophism (e.g. polystrate fossils). If all these strata layers could be deposited in such a short time (roughly in one year), then you have eliminated the time needed for evolution to happen. Thus, evolution is dead in the water. I believe the eruption of Mount St. Helen’s (scientific evidence supporting God’s judgment at the Flood) and increasing frequency of earthquakes is a wake-up call for Christians to evangelize and disciple a lost world before it’s too late. As one Christian mentioned to me while we were doing a seminar, “The best place to invest today to bring the greatest return is in the mission field both here and abroad.”

Sue Stepanek: The complexity of the human body. It’s just obvious that we’re made in God’s image.

Donna Henderson: My favorite creation evidence is the blood clotting mechanism described in the last issue of Think & Believe. That’s so fascinating! It’s great evidence for creation. I also think it’s powerful evidence that all the supposed “proofs” of evolution actually fit creation better.

Dorothy Hahn: Jordan, my 15-month old grandson, is my favorite and most-loved evidence of God’s glorious designer capabilities! I pray he will trust Jesus at an early age and grow in all wisdom and knowledge of his King.

❑ And now let’s hear how some of our staff kids answered the question, **“What’s your favorite creation evidence?”**

Robin Johnson: The Sea Slug ... it’s amazing how it can eat sea anemones without being poisoned by the stinging cells. It eats them, digests everything, and implants the stinging cells in its own spines without a single cell firing until a fish gets too close. Pow ... pow ... pow! Incredible design!

Mandy Johnson: The inaccuracies of the dating methods. I feel that enough errors have been shown in the systems to totally invalidate any ages acquired. Yet, the evolutionists must continue to hang onto this faulty system because they need long ages and lots of time to accomplish the impossible feats of chance and accidents.

Abby Stepanek (age 6): Dinosaurs and pine cones!

Claudia Stepanek (age 6): Horses!

Ryan Stepanek: The Bombardier Beetle. [Why? We assume it’s because teenage boys like explosions!]

Kim Stepanek: The Laws of Thermodynamics. [Being the oldest of the Stepanek clan, she’s undoubtedly cleaned up enough messes to know that it takes more than explosions to bring order out of chaos!]

Steven Nutting: The beauty of the mountains and stuff. Apart from creation, there is no purpose for beauty. [Steven is now on staff at Camp Redcloud, in beautiful southwest Colorado. He is blessed to witness the wonder of God’s creation everyday. Come to one of our family camps next summer and you will understand what he means!]

❑ What’s **your** favorite? Drop us a line and let us know!

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**** Prayer Requests ****

- Please pray for Bazarsad, our intern from Mongolia. He plans to be with us mid-December to mid-February:
 - (1) His safety and health
 - (2) Effective communication, teaching, and learning
 - (3) The well-being of his family while he is away
 - (4) Funds for teaching materials and equipment for his creation ministry in Mongolia.
- Pray for writing projects in progress: Intern Training Manual and VBS Program.
- Pray for the on-going needs of Alpha Omega Institute: financial, material (see list below), and people (office help, library supervisors and helpers, newsletter stuffers).

**** Can You Help? ****

We are still looking for the following items in good, working condition (new or used). Do you have or would you be willing to purchase any of them for our use? Thanks!

- Kodak carousel slide projectors and 80-slide trays.
- Portable projection stands with telescoping legs.
- 486 or better computers, monitors, & software.
- High capacity copy machine.
- Phone system (8 phones, 3 or more lines)
- Good quality office and stacking or folding chairs.
- Labeller (for attaching labels to newsletters).
- Bible study aids, reference books, encyclopedias.
- Creation books and magazines for library.
- Tall metal rolling stand for TV/VCR.
- Good quality microscopes and microprojector.
- Video Projector

Alpha Omega Institute

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