



Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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Living Puzzle Pieces

(by *Dave and Mary Jo Nutting*)

When we were younger, we enjoyed working jigsaw puzzles. Somehow it was very satisfying to see the beautiful pictures come together piece by piece. Today, we enjoy watching and participating as God works a much bigger puzzle -- carefully bringing together the picture of Alpha Omega Institute, piece by piece.

You jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts understand the time and effort it takes to work a difficult puzzle, and you understand that different people approach the project in different ways. Some spend much time carefully observing shapes, colors, and patterns, and often get the right piece the first time. Others make quick observations and manage to find a piece occasionally almost by trial and error.

Of course, God's method is even more complex. He is crafting the individual pieces at the same time as He is putting together an intricate multidimensional "puzzle." Each **living** piece must be carefully molded, shaped, filed, textured, and painted precisely to fit in the finished picture.

As we work with God to build this puzzle called Alpha Omega Institute, we are rejoicing over the "puzzle pieces" He brings to us. Placing these individuals in the overall picture requires much prayer and careful observation of their giftings, backgrounds, and abilities. We'd like to introduce you to some "puzzle pieces" God has brought to us.

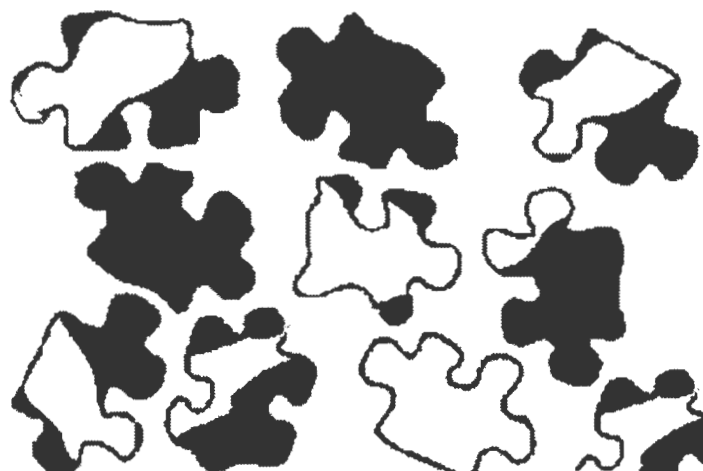
Steve Austin (not to be confused with the geologist from ICR or the bionic man!) became interested in botany to stimulate his mind and relieve the monotony of driving a Denver city bus. He has been volunteering with AOI leading botany field trips, stuffing newsletters, and helping in the office and library. At the same time, he has been studying voraciously to increase his understanding of the Biblical and scientific evidences and relevance of creation. Steve

recently became an "official" intern with AOI to learn all he can and hone his skills. We appreciate his knowledge, commitment, and willingness to fit in wherever needed.

When we first met Dan and Andrea Korow, we sensed almost immediately that God was bringing them into the Alpha Omega puzzle. They began to help out as volunteers with AOI and kept us hopping to answer their questions. They are quick and eager learners. As we continued to pray and spend time with them, we came to really appreciate their enthusiasm, interest, and heart for the ministry. It was evident they were "intern material."

Dan enthusiastically accepted our invitation to study with us as an intern. His experience as a doctor of veterinary medicine will give him a "jump start" on his studies. Andrea plans to continue to be involved as her work schedule permits. Her background in geology and communications will be a great asset. We are excited to be able to be involved in their training for creation ministry.

Please pray for Steve, Dan, Andrea, and all of us at AOI as we are being joined together with many other pieces in God's much bigger, worldwide puzzle. We are eager to see His finished work!



Notes & Quotes

□ Quote of the Month: *"If I'm not there when I get there, proceed without me."* (Dave Nutting, Director of Alpha Omega Institute; overheard in phone conversation by his loving wife, Mary Jo who also won't let him edit this quote out! Is this a sign of getting too busy?!)

□ The following items are taken from articles sent by some of our faithful "watchdogs." If you find something of interest, send it along. We need all the help we can get! Although the first couple are meant to support evolution, they really don't help the case at all.

● Headlines declared: **"All dog breeds descended from wolves."** The article stated, "They all evolved directly from only one ancient canine forebear -- the wolf -- with no ancestors among coyotes, jackals, dingoes or other similar species. ... The origin of dogs is very old -- perhaps 100,000 years ago or more. ... That contradicts the archaeological date. ... While many people think that a high level of sophistication was required to domesticate wild mammals, our data imply that very primitive societies may have had domestic animals." (Daily Sentinel, June 13, 1997. p. 6.)

□ Maybe these societies were not as "primitive" as evolution says! Incidentally, this is not evidence of evolution since most of today's dog breeds have been recently bred. The differences are merely the result of shuffling genetic information already present in the genetic pool of the dog kind.

● Another article reports on the find of **shoes in an ancient burial site**. Not only was there one pair of shoes, but several, and there were several designs of these shoes to boot! These people were not primitive! In fact, it looks like they were even into fashion!

● An August 22nd article from Scripps Howard News Service reports that the belief in creationism is much higher here in America, than in other industrialized nations. According to Bishop, "Nearly a third of college graduates in recent Gallup polls still believe in the biblical account of creation. This is somewhat of a theoretical riddle."

□ It looks like we still have lots of work to do in America - and the situation is even worse in other countries. That is one of the big reasons we believe the Lord is leading us to embark on the Training Center. Students need information to combat the continual barrage of evolutionary indoctrination. That is why we feel the training center is so vital so that many more interns like Dan Korow and Steve Austin can be equipped and sent into the battle with knowledge and the power of God to make an impact.

□ You have met Steve Austin even before he was an "official" intern. (Remember his excellent article on plants?) You will probably be hearing more from him in the future. For this issue, we asked Dan Korow why he chose to become an intern with Alpha Omega Institute? Here is his reply:

"Years ago, God placed on my heart a strong desire to be used in a creation/outdoor ministry. Alpha Omega Institute provides a wonderful springboard to proclaim the Gospel through the creative works of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The programs, talks, and camps are all Christ-centered as well as exciting and educational. We appreciate that this ministry is geared towards reaching the entire family.

"I have believed in God's Word for many years, but, even with an extensive science background, I didn't know the answers to many of the claims of evolution. Now my wife and I are excited to share the many ways in which science really does support God's unerring, infallible Word. As people begin to see the truth of God's Word in Genesis, they are much more receptive to hearing about the Creator, the Bible, and His redemptive work of salvation.

"As an intern, I've already been blessed by discovering the unfolding story of His tremendous wisdom throughout the ages. This knowledge has inspired me to witness more to nonbelievers and Christians alike. It is our prayer that God would use this to reach out to a wide variety of people. Our long term goals may include leading seminars, developing creation-based field trips, writing for the newsletter, raising up and training other interns, etc. according to what God directs us into. Our greatest desire is to see people come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

□ We are excited to have Dan and Steve on board. We believe God will use them in the creation ministry.



Dan and Andrea Korow

Spotlight On Science

Molecular Motors and Paddle Boats

(by Kristy Dean)

[Editor's Note: Kristy Dean, one of our avid 16 year old readers contributed this article about this marvelous "machine." Thanks Kristy!]

While unpacking from a recent move, I found a small model of a wooden boat. This boat has four paddles that rotate in a manner similar to the rear paddles of a Mississippi river boat. The model is powered by a rubber band that is stretched between two prongs which stick out of the back of the boat. Between the prongs, in the middle of the rubber band, are four small paddles assembled in a "+" shape. The rubber band circles around the middle of these paddles (where they all connect), holding them in place. To run the boat, you turn the paddles to wind up the rubber band, put the boat in the water, and let go. As the rubber band unwinds, it turns the paddles, pushing the boat through the water.

Some types of microscopic bacteria are like the boat because they have a tiny motor and paddle system attached to them called flagellum (flagella, if more than one). These tiny "outboard motors" move bacteria around in the same basic way, yet on a much more complex level, than the boat's rubber band and paddles.

Four things are required for these tiny systems to work. First, a motor is necessary. In the example of the model boat this is the rubber band. Second, a propeller or paddle is needed. In flagella these are tiny hairlike filaments. Third, there has to be a connection between the paddle and the motor. Experiments have shown that if the filament was separated from the motor at its base, the filament becomes rigid and cannot move. Fourth, these two parts must be reasonably matched in size and power. Imagine a huge Mississippi river boat with a huge engine having paddles only three inches long and made out of thin plastic. That wouldn't work, would it? Neither would a river boat with paddles the correct size, but with a tiny lawn mower engine. In the same way, it is impossible for the bacteria to move unless all four requirements are fulfilled at the same time — no room here for individual evolutionary development. This is an example of "irreducible complexity." A system is irreducibly complex if it is composed of a

certain number of parts that must all be present at the same time or none of it works at all. Evolutionists will have a hard time explaining the irreducible complexity of flagellum.

That isn't all, either. A flagellum consists of more than forty proteins which build it, anchor it to the cell, and turn the motor on and off. These bacteria aren't exactly simple and undeveloped! Another part of this incredible system is the fact that these motors don't get their power from stored energy "packets" but from acid flowing through the bacterial membrane. There are several complicated theories about this, but no one really knows how it works or how it could happen by chance.

When bacteria are in a place that does not have food material (attractants) or harmful ions (repellents) — the flagella whirl first counterclockwise, then clockwise. This results in the bacteria tumbling and taking short bursts in all directions, until the bacteria senses (through another very

complex system) the presence of attractants or repellents. Then the flagella whirl in a way that carries the bacteria toward the attractant or away from the repellent.

Another amazing part of this system is how the rotation of the flagellum is controlled by three sensors. One is on the outside of the bacteria, another on the cell membrane, and another reaches into the center of the cell. Attractants stick

briefly to the sensors on the outside of the cell and then fall off. If the cell detects more and more attractants as it moves forward, then it moves in the same direction. If, instead, there are less, the flagella will switch the direction of rotation, so that the cell tumbles and stays in the best area.

From all of this we can see that the flagellum is a complex (irreducibly complex!) system, designed to work with other complex systems in an intricate way. This tiny motor system in a one-celled bacteria is one more witness out of the hundreds of thousands on the earth that "... by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him: and he is before all things and by him all things consist." (Colossians 1:16,17)

[Ref: Darwin's Black Box by Michael Behe and The Design of Life by Renato Dulbecco]

***"Even though we are told that all biology must be seen through the lens of evolution, no scientist has ever published a model to account for the gradual evolution of this extraordinary molecular machine."
Behe, Darwin's Black Box***

The Back Page...

** Praise **

In the seminar ministry, we go through slide projectors like most people go through socks! We've had times when they've been held together with duct tape, super glue, and prayer! It seems we have worn ruts in the road leading to the repair shop.

Praise God, several people noticed our need, contributed to help meet it, and challenged others to do the same. We are happy to report that we are now well-supplied with **3 brand new donated projectors** and several good used ones. They arrived at about the same time as the repairman gave us the final autopsy report on our old ones. Thanks to all who have participated in this provision.

** Support for Alpha Omega **

As you plan your giving for the coming year, would you prayerfully consider beginning or increasing regular support to Alpha Omega? Would you also ask your church to include AOI or individual staff in their regular missions giving? We praise God for the resources, dedicated staff, and volunteers He has already provided. Additional funds will be used to multiply the effectiveness of the ministry by broadening the Intern Program, developing the Training Center, and increasing the outreach of the Resource Center. **WILL YOU HELP?**

** 1999 Creation Vacations **

Mark your calendar now to bring your family and friends to one of our exciting creation family vacations. Contact us for brochure and registration information.

Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure: Jun 27-Jul 2
Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure: Aug 15-20
Redcloud Homeschool Family Adventure: Aug 22-27

** Training Center Update **

We are narrowing in on the master site development plan. An architect and several engineers are analysing the property and finalizing sites for buildings, wells, waste water systems, etc.

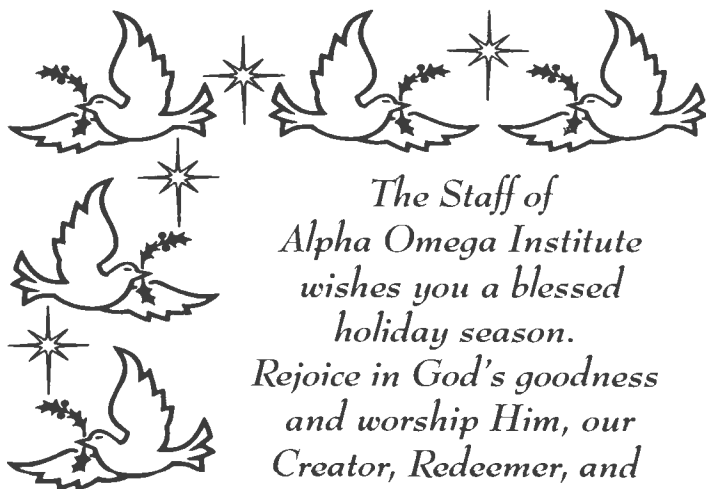
- Pray for wisdom in completion of master plan.
- Pray for the Lord to show any "hidden" factors we need to take into consideration.
- Pray for a good well site with an abundant supply of fresh water.
- Pray for God to provide a qualified and willing construction manager.
- Pray for finances to move into the next phase.

Would you like to host an exciting Creation Seminar or Children's Program?

We are planning a speaking trip to New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma for February/March. Contact us ASAP if you would like to be included in this trip or host a seminar in your area.

**Call for more information.
970-523-9443**

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*The Staff of
Alpha Omega Institute
wishes you a blessed
holiday season.
Rejoice in God's goodness
and worship Him, our
Creator, Redeemer, and
Lord!*



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