

Think & Believe

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A Gentle Approach

by Dave Nutting

During the Christmas season, we are told, "Tis the season to be jolly and of good cheer!" Can we extend that to rest of the year when approaching those who disagree with us? It is so easy to "combat" the person who just told us we are a stupid, dark-aged neanderthal for believing in creation. In some cases, we just want to punch them right between the eyes (in Christian love, of course). Even if not physically, we might want to hit them with our best argument and put that rude person right back in his or her place. We all have those tendencies at times, don't we? However, when we look at the Bible we see:

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous (ie. harsh) words stir up anger." (Prov. 15:1)

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." (2 Tim. 2:24-26)

We are also told:

"...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."


(1 Pet. 3:15)

The word translated meekness in

King James English today means a spirit of gentleness. So be ready to give an answer to your evolutionary teacher or fellow worker. Study hard to learn the information you find in Think & Believe and creation books so you have something to share, but share gently with patience. We don't want an abrasive attitude to keep people from seeing the real hope we have in God our Creator and Redeemer.

Here are some tips:

1. Pray for those that oppose you and bless them. (Matt. 5:44, 1 Pet. 3:9)
2. If you are a student, ask questions of your teachers and bring up well-phrased points in a gentle, respectful way. Do this in class if possible and when appropriate--otherwise ask out of class. Why in class? Unquestioned evolutionary statements made in class by teachers or textbooks will be considered fact by others unless another viewpoint is presented.
3. Talk often with your classmates in a nonthreatening way. Likely, by the end of the year, you will have several others on your side to help reach even more students.
4. Give books like Refuting Evolution or the latest version of the Answers Book to those in opposition. Ask them to review them in order to provide a platform for further discussion.
5. Avoid phrases like, "Here, read this book, it might straighten out your brain!"

6. Make creation books and videos available to your children and/or Sunday school class. Give them a copy of this article and emphasize "proper use" rather than using these materials as "clubs" physically or verbally. Have more copies available so they can feel free to give them out.
7. Remember, we are not out to simply "nail someone to the wall". Proceed knowledgeably, gently and, first and foremost, prayerfully. 

Thank You

for supporting
AOI this year.
Please
consider
AOI staff
and the Elk
Creek Ranch Project in
your year-end giving.



Creation Mt. Adventures



Dates for Summer 2001:

June 24-29 (Redcloud 1)

July 1-6 (Twin Peaks)

Aug.12-17 (Redcloud 2)

For complete camp info:

www.discovercreation.org

Welcome to Grand Junction...

By Andrea Korow/Rachel Painter



The next time you call AOI you may hear a new voice. Please welcome our new intern/part-time secretary, Rachel Painter from Tyler, Texas. (Now y'all who call from Texas won't need an interpreter!) We have really enjoyed getting to know Rachel this past summer during camp and now these past 6 weeks. Rachel's help is freeing up Dan Korow to focus a lot more on speaking, working with our present interns, and developing more training curriculum. Rachel's help is also freeing up Andrea to accomplish other very needed projects including seminar scheduling and coordination. Here is some background information along with a few of Rachel's goals for the next year, so you can get to know her too.

How long have you believed in Creation?

As long as I can remember I have believed in God's literal six-day creation as described in

Genesis. I attribute this to the blessing of being raised in a Christian, Bible-believing family and to attending a Christian school whose foundation for every subject was the Word of God.

Where did you go to school?

From kindergarten through high school I attended Christian Heritage School in Tyler, Texas, associated with YWAM. In fact, my teachers and experiences there sparked my interest and love for Creation and God's Word. After high school I went to Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Tyler and earned a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies and a teaching certificate.

What did you do after college?

The next school year I taught third grade in public school in Tyler. Not having the option of teaching from a Biblical perspective made me realize how much I desired to be able to teach the way I had been taught. So I began to pursue other avenues of interest, one of which was Creation.

How did you hear about AOI and what are some of your goals?

Well, Dave and Mary Jo spoke at my school in 1994 and we have received Think & Believe ever since. I knew about the internship program and

applied. God directed all the rest. I am looking forward to spending this year on in-depth study of the Bible as related to Creation. One of my goals is to develop a curriculum for home school families that would focus on critical thinking. I would also like to critique some of the arguments that support evolution.

What are your plans after your internship?

That is really up to God, and to be honest, He hasn't shown me what is in store. I would really love to teach others about Creation and God's Word. Life is so exciting when you see it from God's perspective, and creation is an excellent starting point for sharing Christ. Without the account of creation and man's fall as described in Genesis there would have been no need for God to send His Son. It all starts in the beginning. I'll go where God leads me. I'm just waiting on Him for the details. I look forward to meeting many of you over the next year, whether in person or on the phone. We're all in God's service together. **T&B**

Highlights from the Road

The Johnsons and Stepaneks just completed a rigorous 6 week tour through Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. In Oberlin, Kansas, they presented a series of seminars 5 nights in a row, starting and ending with a combined family night. They also had a section after the family night for college students. It was well received with consistent attendance each night.

Rich's lecture on Evolution and

the New Age, helped one woman finally recognize the cause of her 6 year old son's negative attitude.

The teams were also able to teach in some of the public schools where their reception was very positive. They were even offered letters of recommendation from a science teacher and two principals.

Six weeks on the road is a long time. Please keep our staff in your prayers. **T&B**

**Please
Pray for:**

Elk Creek

- Funding that is needed
- Engineering to be completed

Staff

- Stamina and health
- Wisdom and direction for 2001 scheduling

Some Scientists Are Breaking the Law

by Dr. Dan Korow, DVM

Life only comes from life. This universal truth, called the Law of Biogenesis, was well established by Francesco Redi (1668), Lazzaro Spallanzani (1767), and Louis Pasteur (1864). The Law still stands. This unbridgeable chasm between living cells and nonliving matter is a devastating blow against the theory of naturalistic evolution. If unaided naturalistic processes lack the magic to create life, then a supernatural source is the only logical alternative.

Unwilling to believe in God, many scientists have chosen instead to dismiss this Law. They willfully embrace the defunct notion of spontaneous generation, or abiogenesis which Websters 1979 Dictionary defines as *"the generation of living from nonliving matter. A former theory, now rejected."* Today's belief in spontaneous generation is spun into a myriad of contradictory, imaginary stories about life's origin. One flimsy opinion is met with another unsubstantiated speculation, followed by yet another — each interpretation having its own religious dogmatism. For example, where did the so-called simplest, ancestral proto-cell come from? One group says the shallow primordial ponds, others say the terrestrial clay environment. And yet another boldly proclaims, "outer space." This third group recognizes the impossibility of life originating spontaneously on Earth.

The process of unintelligent, non-directed, lifeless chemical evolution is said to bring dead matter to life. Let's look at the reality of this notion. If Mother Nature and Father Chance are its parents, then this phenomena should be commonplace.

But there is a problem. We do not observe it happening anywhere! Even with numerous attempts to manufacture life in a test tube with the most sophisticatedly designed equipment, life still remains out of reach. Repeated failures in the lab continue to plague our most brilliant, dedicated scientists. A student's textbook states the following, "Scientists have no evidence that modern organisms can come from nonliving matter. However, at some time in Earth's long history, life had to begin."¹ Without experimental data supporting their proposition of abiogenesis, this is merely a faith statement. Wishful thinking and imagination are replacing true science.

The mysteries of life and its properties continue to baffle scientists. The simplest unit of life is the cell. It is a breathtaking, miniature chemical factory orchestrating hundreds of specific biochemical pathways.

Specific chemicals react to form specific products. Each product is in the right amount and in the right sequence, for a specific destination, and purpose.

In the same way that one line of falling dominos can trigger other lines of dominos to fall, products of one chain reaction become the starting chemicals for the next reaction. These coordinated pathways are specially engineered and predetermined. This linkage of chemical pathways is unique to living cells.

However, when chemical reactions

occur in lifeless matter we see a different scenario. Assuming that life is merely the collection of cellular components, then reassembly of its various parts should produce life, Right? Wrong!!!! Even when we have all the pieces, all the chemicals together in the right arrangement, we still do not have life.

Efforts to reassemble and resurrect a once living cell continue to evade scientists. Even when all the components are in place, the chemical reactions run to a screeching halt. There is still no linkage, no cascade, no life. There is nothing but chemical dead ends which are incompatible with life. Intelligent scientists can't put "the Humpty Dumpty cell" back together again. Life is the missing ingredient.

Can true empirical science answer this most fundamental question, of when, where, and how life originated? No!!! It is hidden in a "black hole" of philosophical conjecture. Yet today's textbooks still indoctrinate our

kids with the evolutionary faith statement that abiogenesis is the only "scientific" explanation for life's

origin. The Bible states that God alone is the author and sustainer of Life. That's why we can't create it. It is given by God.

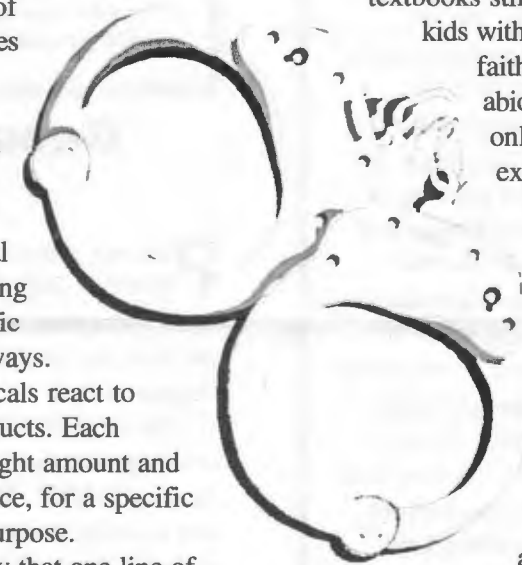
"In Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life." Only God can bridge the infinite gulf between life and nonlife. **T&B**

References | Resources

¹Focus On Life Science, Merrill Publishing Co., Copyright 1989

Life, An Evidence For Creation, Dr. George T. Javor, ICC 1998



Elk Creek Ranch Update

by Dave Harper & Dave Nutting



This year has been a stretching one as we have sought God's direction and will for the Elk Creek

project. For nearly three years we have concentrated on engineering assessments to guide us toward full-scale design and development of the center. Throughout that time we have earnestly prayed that God would help us focus our financial resources to best meet His goals. Although engineering is moving ahead, a shortage of funds continues to add delays to the project and property utilization. This has caused us to reconsider our present direction. We are presently evaluating ways to more quickly utilize the property for training by starting with a few key buildings. We believe a prudent phasing of the project would allow us to focus on the work that we believe God has originally given to AOI - the work of training a phalanx of interns to present the gospel message of Jesus' saving grace through creation ministry. As God adds the increase, we can expand as He leads. As always, we urge you to pray that our efforts will fulfill God's will in this ministry. **T&B**

Michael Card Concert Update

by Andrea Korow

Thank you immensely! To all of you who prayed, helped, donated to, or in any way supported our efforts in the Michael Card concert: It was truly a miracle. Here's why:



- In six weeks concert preparation was done. It normally takes 6-12 months!
- This was the first "big" event for the Canyon View Vineyard Church in their new building. They only had 7 Sunday services prior to the concert!
- Attendance was nearly 1200 people..Michael normally averages 800-1000!
- Alpha Omega gained enormous exposure.
- Several churches and many individuals worked well together.
- Just one week after the concert, Grand Junction's major Christian radio station was suddenly sold.* If this had happened earlier, the concert may not have been as well-attended or even covered our costs!
- After expenses, about \$3000 was generated for Alpha Omega! That helps a lot for this month!

Here are a few of the comments from the concert: "It was like being in my living room while a friend shared the music God had given him."-Dorothy, Grand Junction. "This was a healing concert,"-Cheryl, Grand Junction. From some younger listeners: "it was totally awesome."

Again, thank you so very much for your prayers and support! **T&B**

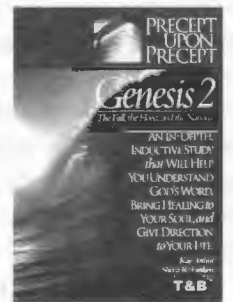
 *For those with questions or comments regarding the sale of KJOL/KDRH and the future of Christian radio on Colorado's Western Slope, you may contact: Ken Andrews at (970) 243-4385 or e-mail: KJOL@Juno.com. You may also call Trish Norris at (970) 243-9314.

Genesis Precepts Bible Study Resumes Jan. 8

Plan on attending the next Precepts Bible Study, hosted at AOI. More than a dozen people attended the six-week course covering Genesis 1 & 2.

The second half of the Bible study, covering Genesis 3-11, will begin on January 8, 2001. This class holds the key to understanding the origin of sin and evil, the justice of God's judgment, the mercy of God's plan for the redemption of mankind and hope for a lost and dying world. You can

discover the promises God makes in Genesis that lay the foundation for the rest of Scripture. This 8 week class will meet at the AOI office on Monday nights from 6:45-9:00 PM. Preregister by December 1. For more details call the AOI office at (970) 523-9943 or Dorothy Hahn at 245-0952. **T&B**



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