



Think & Believe

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

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AN OPEN LETTER TO STUDENTS

(and Their Parents, Pastors, Teachers & Friends)

Dear Student:

We wish we could sit down personally with you and give you a "crash course," not only in creation vs evolution, but also in general strategies for surviving and even thriving in the public schools. However, since that is impossible, maybe this letter will help.

You may not realize it, but every time you walk into school, you are in a very strategic but vulnerable position. (See the article written by a student on the next page.) Our nation's schools are on the front line in the battle for your mind. If you are not alert and prepared, you will probably become a war casualty. However, if you are prepared, you can become a mighty warrior for the Lord and win some real victories right there in your public school.

The first step in the battle is to **BE PREPARED**. Colossians 2:8 says, "See to it that no one takes you captive . . ." Get some books. Take the time necessary to study and understand the issues. It takes extra time and effort, but you need to know both sides. Pray that God will give you insight and wisdom.

Next, **BE DILIGENT**. Be a good student. Do your work well. Demonstrate to your teacher that you understand the material being taught, but that you have well-reasoned convictions.

BE COURTEOUS AND RESPECTFUL. Memorize and meditate on II Timothy 2:24-26. Ask the Lord to help you be kind, gentle, and not quarrelsome. Ask questions in class when appropriate, but try not to be argumentative or put the teacher on the spot. Take time to talk with the teacher after class, offer some books to read, and calmly present your views. On tests and papers, we recommend giving the answer the teacher is looking for, but qualifying it by saying, "According to the theory of evolution," or some such

statement. Include your view in the answer or a footnote as appropriate. Use well-documented term papers and special projects as an opportunity to present your beliefs whenever possible.

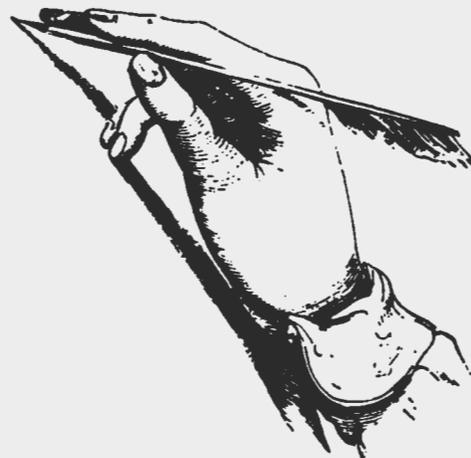
Even if you follow these suggestions, no matter how tactful you are, you may run into opposition or even open ridicule. If that happens, don't be surprised or discouraged. II Timothy 3:12 warns us that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." So expect opposition. Endure it joyfully, knowing that your reward in heaven is great (Matt. 5:11,12). **PRAY** for those who oppose you and **BE PERSISTENT**. Keep on sharing with all who will listen, and then **LEAVE THE RESULTS TO GOD**. Remember, some plant and some water, but God causes the growth.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might" (Eph. 6:10), and may God use you in a mighty way as you gently and persistently stand firm.

Love,

Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

Dear



NOTES & QUOTES

** The Family Watch for Educational Excellence recently printed an enlightening "inside look" at the issues faced by Christians in the public schools. The author is 16 years old and attends a small public high school in Colorado. She is a member of the National Honor Society, is on the Student Council, and is Secretary of the junior class. Her article is reprinted here with permission in its entirety.

The Battle is the Lord's A Personal View by Honey Wilkinson

"For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything created, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39.

People have often wondered what it's like to be a Christian teen attending public school. Well, here's my perspective.

I have been attending public school since kindergarten. I was raised in a strong, loving Christian home, so I was drawn to the Lord at an early age. I can testify to both the positive and negative aspects of this route of education.

First I'd like to share what I see as the positive attributes. A child who attends public school, through experience with society, gains the ability to interact with people. This affirms several survival skills necessary in the world today. It is also an opportune chance to lead people to Jesus. The majority of kids at public school nowadays have broken hearts. When they see a spark of true light, hope enters their lives. Now for the yeechy side . . .

During public schooling, a child's consciousness (and his subconscious) are totally at the mercy of the latest lies from the pit of hell. A parent will never know what type of garbage has been subtly, but systematically fed to their child until it's too late. The latest "new age" innovations are experimented with on a daily basis, the children playing the role of a laboratory experiment. For Christians there is ridicule, and temptation, because darkness is present in such force.

What I see day to day is the influence of years of this kind of education on kids' minds. Teachers try to get discussions going on issues when they know what the kids' answers are going to be. But they want it voiced so that it is accepted, so that it is understood that "This is truth."

I think textbooks are not being truthful. For example,

in our history book, we are taught that the Minoans were happy, life-loving, cherishing people who spent the day painting neat pictures, picking flowers and chasing butterflies -- almost in those words. But if you care to research what they really did, they sacrificed their children to their god, were enthralled with the death culture of the Egyptians.

In biology, there is six weeks spent on evolution. Then you choose sides and have a debate on creation versus evolution. After the intense indoctrination in class, you're made out to be a fool if you defend creation. Guest speakers like the Nuttings [creation science] are talked about as if they were comedians coming to entertain us.

Assemblies are the thing. Attendance is required. Every kind of idea you can imagine is done at assemblies. They had a lady decked in crystals speak at an assembly who said "Believe in yourselves as gods." When New Agers say, "Challenge yourself, set goals, realize your full potential," they mean something other than normal people do. They have their own language that's hard for me to convey.

If you are a Christian in public school, you don't take psychology because that's where they teach you, step by step, meditation principles, channeling, yoga. . . sometimes they even hold seances.

Some parents think that the New Age philosophies, evolution, higher-self discovery ideas are just random things that children can dodge. This is not true. In public education there is absolutely no way to avoid it. Well--utter defiance kind of works.

I'm trying to describe it as if it were raindrops falling around me, but it's more like a flooding river and I've thrown a little rock in the middle of it and I'm standing on it, trying to stop it.

There is a trust between teachers and students, and teachers have betrayed that trust. Truly this is a battleground between light and dark, truth and deception, hope and despair. To sum it all up, don't even consider public education unless you're prepared for war. It's not worth the risk. The children in public schools need intercession. So much goes on that we can't even comprehend.

Listen to the Shepherd and keep your feet on the Rock. Daily we live the verse, "greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world."

** Honey makes a good point -- students need our prayers and our encouragement. Will you pray for godly students and teachers who are willing to go against the flow? By the grace of God, they can stand firm and make a difference.

MAMMALS FROM REPTILES?

According to evolutionary scenarios, the first mammals evolved from reptiles as scales magically turned into fur and mammary (milk producing) glands suddenly appeared. Skeletal structures also somehow changed without leaving any transitional forms. The cerebral cortex (outer layer of the brain) developed unparalleled sophistication and uniqueness yet mysteriously left no clue as to how it might have happened. Reptile jaw bones became ear bones, and numerous other changes conveniently occurred.

Although evolutionists are entirely serious about this proposition, they do admit (but rarely in textbooks) that there are some "puzzling" steps. Take for example, the appearance of hair. Only mammals possess hair, and although there are minor variations in hair structure, all mammals possess the same basic hair design. The typical hair is quite complex, yet no clues have been found as to how hair could have become hair. As Michael Denton states in, **Evolution: A Theory in Crisis** (page 106):

"... no structures are known which can be considered in any sense transitional between hair and any other vertebrate dermal [skin] structure."

Another puzzle is how the hinged jaw of the reptile somehow changed into the delicate little bones in the mammalian ear. Duane Gish points out in **Evolution: the Challenge of the Fossil Record** (p. 101):

... the anatomical problems associated with such a postulated process are vastly greater than merely imagining how two bones precisely shaped to perform in a powerfully effective jaw-joint could detach themselves, force their way into the middle ear, reshape themselves into the malleus and incus, which are precisely engineered to function with a remodelled stapes in a vastly different auditory apparatus, while all at the same time the creature continues to chew and to hear. As insuperable as this problem appears to be, it pales into relative insignificance when we consider the fact that the essential organ of hearing in the mammal is the organ of Corti, an organ not possessed by a single reptile, nor is there any evidence that would provide even a hint of where this organ came from.

Mammals do possess an amazing collage of features not found in any other group. To imagine how they developed by evolution, without leaving a trace of evidence, taxes credulity!

FOSSIL ALTERS HISTORY OF MAMMALS?

An article entitled, "Fossil alters history of mammals," appeared in the **Rocky Mountain News**, on September 4, 1990. It starts out, "The piece of bone was only the size of a fingernail ... It may help explain more than any other fossil how [notice "how," not "whether"] mammals ... evolved from reptiles. . ."

Isn't it interesting how **one** tiny fossil can "force paleontologists to re-examine what they know [!] about how mammals evolved?". Somehow from reading textbooks, one would derive the idea that they have **conclusive** evidence for the evolution of mammals from reptiles. After all, the pictures of the transitional stages that adorn these books look very convincing. If they are really so sure of themselves and the evidence was indeed there, how can the whole scenario change because of one fossil discovery, especially such a tiny one?

Because the fossil was found in rock strata dated at 220 million years old, it was declared to be the "oldest and possibly the most primitive mammal ever known." The fossil itself is presumed to be the brain case from a small, shrew-like creature about 5 inches long. What really interests paleontologists about this particular fossil is the indication that it had a mammalian ear. However, apparently there are other traits which lead them to believe it was a reptile. The article doesn't mention what these "reptilian" traits are, but undoubtedly the "age" of the fossil enters into the picture, since this was supposedly the time of the earliest dinosaurs.

The discoverer says, "The animal is a 'mosaic.' Some of the 'tiles' say 'reptile' and some of them say 'mammal.' **Isn't that interesting?** That is **exactly the term** creationist, Dr. Gary Parker, has been using for years to describe the distribution of traits in living things. He points out that various features are not in the process of developing from one thing to another, but appear to be "complete and well fitted into the whole, like the tiles in an artist's mosaic." (**What is Creation Science?**, 1982, p.70)

We will have to wait and see what this fossil really shows. From the article, however, it appears to be another case of "stretching the evidence" . . . taking a little evidence and drawing sweeping conclusions from it. The unfortunate thing is that this newspaper article is all that most people will ever hear about this fossil. They will probably go away totally convinced that another link has been found for evolution. We hope you, our readers, will more critically evaluate what you read in the paper, and ask appropriate questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 11 - Oct 9: Tuesday Night Youth Meetings, Redlands Community Church, Grand Junction, CO 245-9020
- Oct 3-5: Rocky Mountain District Lutheran Teachers Conference Estes Park, CO Contact Wendell Robson 801-266-8714
- Oct. 21: Sunday Seminar, Pleasant View Berean Fundamental Church Omaha, NE Contact Pastor Jost 402-592-2025
- Oct. 22: Grace College of the Bible Omaha, NE Contact us (Tentative)
- Oct. 25: Staff Meeting, Greater Europe Mission Wheaton, IL Contact Tom Terry 708-462-3702
- Oct. 28: Sunday Seminar, Grace Chapel West Liberty, OH Contact Jack Brandt 513-465-4278
- Oct. 29-30: Evening Seminar, Grace Brethren Church North Canton, OH Contact Fred Brannon 216-499-7380
- Oct. 31-Nov 1: Evening Seminar, Trinity Presbyterian Johnstown, PA Contact Dr. Kemp 814-467-6074
- Nov. 2: Evening Presentation, Christian Covenant Community Orangeville, PA Contact Jesse Shingler 717-864-3378
- Nov. 4: Sunday Seminar, Contact Phil DeVries 215-628-2263 (Tentative)
- Nov. 5-6: Evening Seminar, Faith Baptist Church Brookhaven, PA Contact Craig Bean 215-874-1162
- Nov 8: Evening Presentation, Christ's Community Presbyterian Salisbury, MD Contact Judy Ellis 301-546-9405
- Nov. 9: School Seminar, Salisbury Christian School Salisbury, MD Contact Judy Ellis 301-546-9405
- Nov. 11: Sunday Seminar, Trinity Presbyterian Church Charlottesville, VA Contact Mike Sharrett 804-977-3700
- Nov. 14-15: Evening Seminar Eleanor, WV Contact Tom Barron 304-586-2290
- Nov. 16-17: Week-end Seminar (Tentative) Parkersburg, WV Contact Phil Creecy 304-275-3290

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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PRAYER AND PRAISE

PRAISE the Lord for:

- * the successful summer speaking trip (3 week-long Family Camps, 2 week-end Family Camps, a week at YWAM Discipleship Training School, a major Homeschool Conference, a city-wide creation seminar, and 4 church seminars),
- * many miles of safe travel (Colorado to Texas to Minnesota and back),
- * relatively good health,
- * lots of interest in the material presented.

PRAY for:

- * dependable, economical transportation -- we had nothing but trouble on the last trip (although we missed no speaking times)
- * continued safety, health and energy,
- * open hearts and minds in upcoming seminars -- please note dates and pray specifically for each one,
- * possible trip to Europe in the spring -- several invitations to return plus new opportunities in Eastern Europe.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NEXT SUMMER'S FAMILY CAMPS!

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