



Think & Believe

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Lanny Johnson's Testimony

(Director of Alpha Omega Institute's Children's Ministry)

Why do Marilyn and I go around the country playing with puppets and kids? It started when I was nine years old. I came to know Jesus at Vacation Bible School and I was on fire for the Lord! I wanted to tell everybody about Jesus! In fact, my mom tells me I was going to be the next Billy Graham -- but something happened. We moved around a lot as pipeliners. Although I sometimes went to church, I never grew as a Christian. At home we never prayed, blessed the food, or read our Bible. The fire dwindled.

By the time I finished high school there were only a few coals left. When I learned about evolution in college geology, I fell right into it. I believed everything my professors told me. When I realized that evolution and the Bible didn't mesh, I threw the Bible away. When I did that, I also threw God out of my life. For over 25 years I claimed to be an atheist. In fact I was such a strong atheist that I argued with everybody I could that God didn't exist because evolution is true.

In 1987 something happened in my life. I moved to Grand Junction, Colorado. Every man that came into my life at that time was a Christian. As I look back at it, I didn't stand a chance. Thank the Lord for that. Five years ago, a friend asked me to go to a debate on evolution and creation with him. I had been arguing with him about evolution and the existence of God, but my arguments for evolution were stale, so I decided to go to hear new arguments for evolution. Well he tricked me. It wasn't a debate at all. It was a seminar given

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting. Amazingly, I didn't leave; I even came back the next night. I realized that I had never asked some very important questions in college. I had always assumed what my professor told me was fact. Dave and Mary Jo's ideas made sense to me, but I still didn't buy it. I determined to do some studying.

I couldn't afford to buy books that night, so I went to the public library -- **nothing**. I was cleaning a church (I wouldn't attend church, but they paid me to clean it) so I snuck into their library. They, too, had **nothing** on creation. Finally I asked the pastor what he had. He gave me **The Genesis Record** by Henry Morris. **Wow!** I started studying other creation books and finally realized the "facts" of evolution I'd been taught had no basis. I had just assumed they were true. In fact everything pointed to God. **We really do have a Creator!** When I came to know God as my Creator, I was able to really know Who Jesus was.

My daughters were still in public school then. We asked the teachers not to teach our children evolution; but, they did anyway. When we watched those nature programs on the **Discovery** channel or went to museums, all we heard was that a big mistake did it all! Never once did they give glory to God, the Creator. They talked like evolution was a deity in itself. I finally realized we are in a major spiritual battle!

That's when God led me to this ministry. I didn't even use to like children, but Jesus changed me that way, too. I have such a love for these kids now and a real burden for what's happening to them.

We have such a short time with the kids, though. We can share information with them and recommend resources, but it's really up to you to teach them who their Creator is, so they won't get trashed, like I did.



NOTES & QUOTES

■ We recently had an opportunity to teach a great group of students in a YWAM Discipleship Training School. These students are devoting 5 months of their lives to intensively concentrate on knowing God better and learning how to make Him known. Here are what several of them had to say after our week with them:

□ I deeply appreciate the teaching that you have given to us this week. I learned about creation when I was very young and believed it. As I went through my schooling, I kept trying to reconcile the "facts" of evolution and "science" with creation. God, in His grace, allowed me to learn and remember bits and pieces of evidence that helped me to see some inconsistencies in evolution. But for many years I have had some confusion in trying to understand what the scripture "really means." (is 6 days "6 days" or "6 periods of time," etc.) The teaching I have received this week has cleared up so much of the confusion and has helped me to know how to communicate the truth of creation to others. I have also been very much encouraged by your love for God and His people as seen in words and actions. Thank you.

□ The lectures given by the Nuttings really opened me up to the truth that evolution is a philosophy, not true science, and that creation is a reasonable and absolutely believable explanation for the origin of life. God, the supreme being, created us in His image with this beautiful world.

□ I grew up going to a Lutheran Church that taught creation as truth as well as the rest of the Bible. I felt I was really grounded in the Bible and creation, even at a young age. The earliest recollection of being taught evolution in school (public) was in the 4th grade. I can still see the picture of "the big bang" on the textbook page in my mind and remember thinking, "I know the truth from the Bible and church and this is wrong. They told me at church that we would be taught this and to remember God's Word is the Truth. I don't believe it." All through high school I never wavered from that. I don't remember when my mind set started wavering, but I do know everywhere I went -- to zoos and parks and other scenic attractions -- there would always be a sign or guide saying how many millions of years ago such-and-such happened. Then I would hear on T.V. or radio news that more bones of early ape-man had been discovered, or this time they found the oldest bones ever. It seemed there were new findings every few months! I remember thinking, "Wow, I keep hearing about these bones over and over

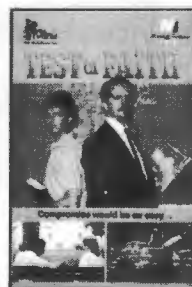
again, and everywhere I go I'm told how old the earth is, there must be something to this -- there must be some way all this fits into God's creation scene!"

Until you came, I had pretty much left things in a blurry, hazy condition in my mind, because it was much simpler not to think about it. The puzzle seemed too confusing. Thank you both for clearing things up and bringing me back TO THE BEGINNING!!!

■ Like these students, most students in this country and around the world are continually bombarded with evolutionary dogma. Many of them do not even realize they are being taught evolution, but are still subtly indoctrinated. One of the YWAM students was like that. He told us that he had learned creation, not evolution, in the public schools in South Africa, so he thought he was not much affected by evolution. We told him just to wait and see. To his amazement, he discovered how much evolution he had actually bought into along the way. Like his classmates, he was able to get rid of some excess baggage by the end of the week.

■ Evolutionary teaching is so pervasive and subtle, that unless we take definite steps to protect and arm ourselves and our students, we will all incorporate many evolutionary ideas without even realizing it. Scripture tells us: "Don't be taken captive" (Col. 2:8); "Stand firm," (Eph. 6:14); "Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (1 Cor 10:5), and "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Rom. 12:2). God's Word remains true whether or not we believe it, but as we exercise faith and submit to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, we will not only believe, but also understand the truth of creation (Heb. 11:3).

Great Video: Test of Faith



We recently came across an excellent tool to help in preparing students to "stand firm" and "make a defense for their faith." The 55 minute video, **Test of Faith**, depicts the struggle a young man faces in his freshman physics class as he encounters a very hostile evolutionary professor. Though it is a fictional story, the arguments presented and the attitude of the professor are all too familiar; unfortunately, the gracious attitude and diligent preparation of the student are not quite so common. We recommend this video as a discussion starter for youth groups or with your own children and their friends. It is available from Alpha Omega Institute for \$29.95 plus \$3.00 S/H. (CO residents please add \$0.90 tax.)

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

Short Answers to Textbook "Proofs"

Do you and your children have answers for the most commonly used "proofs" of evolution? Obviously it would take more space than available here to provide in-depth answers, but the following discussion should hit a few high points. Be sure to obtain the resources listed below for a more complete discussion.

Fossils: Evolutionary textbooks often give fossils as the "best evidence" of evolutionary development of life over eons of time. Intermediate forms were expected to show now the transition from one type of animal to another took place. However, these hypothesized transitional forms are called "missing links" for good reason -- they're missing! Creationists say they're missing because they never existed. The fossil record shows that life forms were fully-developed, not transitional forms. (E.g., no half-leg, half-wings are found. In fact, transitions between all major groups are missing.) The pictures of transitions in textbooks and museums are the product of artistic imagination and evolutionary bias, not actual finds. In addition, most fossils are found in types of water-deposited strata which is consistent with a global flood.

Homologies (Similarities): Similarity of physical form or biochemicals in various creatures is most often interpreted by evolutionists as evidence of common ancestry. If no ancestral relationship seems to exist, these similarities are interpreted as "convergent evolution" (the development of similar structures in dissimilar organisms due to selection pressure from the environment). Creationists recognize that some similarity exists because of close relationship, but also recognize that similarity may be the result of design for similar functions (such as between different style boats). Similarities also point to one Creator, not several, much as an artist's work is recognized by his particular style.

Embryological Similarity: Evolutionists point to the similarity in the pattern of embryological development as evidence of common ancestry. They say certain parts appear to be "left-overs" from evolutionary development. Creationists again point out that similarity may be interpreted as evidence of design by the same Designer. They also show that the so-called "left-overs" such as "gill slits," "yolk sac" and "tail" are not really left-overs at all, but have important functions in human development. Gill slits are not slits but pharyngeal pouches which develop into important structures in the jaw and neck region; the "yolk sac" produces the first blood cells, not yolk; and the "tail" is not a tail but is a vital point of muscle attachment.

Vestigial Organs: These are structures evolutionists interpret as having had function only in the evolutionary past. Researchers, however, have discovered functions for most of the structures that have been called "vestigial"

including the human appendix. We predict that functions will be found for those remaining, but even if not, it seems more likely for originally-created structures to **lose** function than for functional complexity to develop by chance.

Peppered Moth: Changes in relative numbers of light and dark phases of moths before and after the industrial revolution in England is used as evidence of natural selection. Many evolutionary textbooks falsely convey the idea that by demonstrating natural selection, they are proving evolution. Natural selection, though, is **not** evidence of evolution. It fits easily with creation. The peppered moth color phases are simply variation within a created kind. Also, the moths have not changed into anything new -- they are still moths.

Radioactive Decay and Other Dating Methods: Evolutionists use these methods to give ancient ages for Earth. Young-age creationists have shown inconsistencies in these methods including recent layers dated as millions of years old. They cite numerous dating methods which give much younger ages and also show that all dating methods are based upon assumptions which may or may not be true. (Dating methods are only as reliable as the assumptions upon which they are based.) Creationists also point to fossil evidence (e.g. polystrate fossils which cut through many rock layers spanning supposedly millions of years) and observed geologic catastrophism (e.g. the rapid layer deposition and canyon formation following the eruption of Mount St. Helens) to show that geologic processes do not take as long as usually taught.

Human Evolution: Evolutionists point to many "ape-men" in the human family tree. Creationists point out that many of these have been initially based on fragmentary or inconclusive evidence. Later finds have made it clear that these creatures were either pure ape, pure monkey, or pure human, with nothing in-between but a lot of artistic imagination. Some "species" have been pieced together from remains found miles apart, including the *Australopithecines*, of which "Lucy" is the prize specimen. The "missing links" are **still missing!** Evidence is consistent with the Biblical record of the creation.

The following resources provide good discussions of these and other topics. They all make excellent gifts. Order them from Alpha Omega Institute. FREE SHIPPING if ordered by Christmas!! (CO res please add 3% tax.)

1. **Amazing Story of Creation** (Gish) (\$18.95)
2. **Creation: the Facts of Life** (Parker) (\$9.95)
3. **The Young Earth** (Morris) (\$14.95)
4. **Bones of Contention** (Lubenow) (\$12.95)
5. **Origin Series Set of 6 Videos** (\$149.00)

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- Sep 13-15: ICR Yellowstone Tour**
Contact ICR, 619-448-0900
- Sep 17-19: Walla Walla, WA:** Trinity Baptist Church
Contact Alan Walter, 509-529-7447
- Sep 20-21: Kennewick, WA:** Calvary Chapel
Contact Church Office, 509-586-8902
- Sep 24-26: Kennewick, WA:** Cornerstone Christian Church
Contact Don Robison, 509-783-5658
- Sep 27,28: Richland, WA:** Richland Baptist
Contact Church Office, 509-943-9177
- Sep 29,30: Hood River, OR:** Location TBA
Contact John Hergenrather, 503-386-1942
- Oct 1: Portland, OR area:** Location TBA
Contact our office, 970-245-5906
- Oct 3: Hood River, OR:** Location TBA
Contact John Hergenrather, 503-386-1942
- Oct 20-21: Greeley, CO:** Faith Ministries
Contact Kathy Manley, 970-330-5942
- Oct 22: Ft Lupton, CO:** Four Way Baptist Church
Contact Church Office, 303-536-4649
- Oct 23-24: Oberlin, KS:** Gateway Civic Center
Contact Lowell Highby, 308-345-2006
- Oct 25-26: York, NE:** Arbor Drive Baptist Church
Contact Church Office, 402-362-3491
- Nov 5-6: St Francis, MN:** First Baptist Church
Contact Church Office, 612-753-4291
- Nov 9-11: Aurora, IL:** Central Bible Church
Contact Church Office, 708-896-7571
- Nov 12-13: Rockford, IL:** Temple Baptist Church
Contact Church Office, 815-399-2665
- Nov 19: Rockville, IN:** Rockville Christian Church
Contact Church Office, 317-569-3563

Please keep this schedule and pray for us!

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Alpha Omega Institute

P. O. Box 4343
Grand Junction, CO 81502
(970) 245-5906

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

In This Issue:

- Lanny Johnson's Story
- Quick Answers to Textbook "Proofs"
- "Test of Faith" Video Review
- Booklist and Important Letter Enclosed

Creation Teaching

Have you ever thought about teaching a Sunday School class or home fellowship group on creation but weren't quite sure how to go about it? Maybe you'd like to direct a creation vacation Bible school, camp, or retreat but feel you need some training first. We would like to help by sharing our knowledge and experience with you. If you, your family, or a team from your church, are interested in learning to teach creation to children or adults, please call and let us know. We'd love to train you to help spread the truth about God and His marvelous creation! Call today to find out more about exciting training opportunities.

Did you miss out?

If you missed our Creation Mountain Adventures this summer, you missed a great time of fun, fellowship and learning for the **whole family**. You also missed the delicious meals, beautiful mountain scenery, new friends, super singing and Eugene! Mark your calendar NOW so you won't miss out next year! You will probably find it to be one of your family's **BEST** vacations ever. Write for more information and watch for the registration brochure in the next issue of **Think and Believe!**



Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure: Jun 30-Jul 5
Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure I: Aug11-16
Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure II: Aug18-23

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