



Think & Believe

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To God Be the Glory!

(by Rich Stepanek)

I grew up attending church regularly with my family, was baptized as an infant and confirmed. As an adult, I followed all of the church's rules and regulations and was basically a good, moral person. I knew a lot **about** Christ, but I didn't really know Him. Even though I had a good family and was financially secure, there was an emptiness in my heart that couldn't be filled with the things of this world. I was insecure about my salvation and had many unanswered questions as to who I was and what my purpose in life was.

In the fall of 1989, I began working full time as a rural mail carrier. Rural carriers spend most of their day in the car. I would switch to various radio stations, and after a few weeks I started listening to a Christian station. The more I listened the more interested I became. I enjoyed the teaching of God's Word and the uplifting music. One day, after several months of having my heart prepared, I submitted my life to Christ, and asked Him to be my Lord and Savior. At that point Jesus filled that empty void in my life and gave me the purpose and meaning I was searching for.

At this time I still believed in evolution. The church I was attending taught that the Genesis accounts about creation, the flood, etc. were not literally true, but were significant only because of the "deeper truths" they taught. Consequently, I thought there were mistakes and contradictions in the Bible. What a way to destroy your faith in the Word of God! I didn't realize it at the time, but evolution was a great stumbling block that kept me from truly believing God's Word.

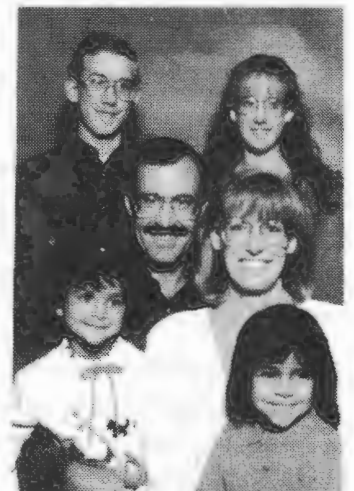
A couple years later I attended a creation seminar by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting. As a result, the Bible came alive and I realized its truth and accuracy like never before. When I rejected the evolution that I'd been taught for so many years. I began to have an intense desire to know more of

God's Word and more of the evidence supporting creation. For the next several years, I studied and read in every spare minute I had. I also started to attend a Bible believing church. I believe now that God was preparing me for what He was calling me to do.

I praise God for the change He's made in my life, first by using Christian radio to lead me to Jesus and then through the ministry of Alpha Omega Institute to cement my faith in the Word of God and not in the teachings of men. Understanding the truth of creation has helped me to believe the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. I am now excited to share what I've learned with adults and young people who need to hear about our great Creator and the truth of His Word. To God be the glory!

[We praise God for bringing Rich Stepanek to work full time at Alpha Omega Institute. Rich has been doing conferences and camp speaking. Besides general creation evidences, he speaks on the mysteries of ancient man and on evolution and the New Age Movement. Rich's wife, Sue, has been a great help in the office and on the road. It has been a joy to work with Rich and his family and catch their excitement about creation and the Word of God. -- Dave Nutting.]

*The Stepaneks
Ryan (14), Kim (17)
Rich, Sue
Claudia (6), Abby (6)*



Notes & Quotes

□ We recently received a remarkable list of more than 100 quotes compiled from the Internet by David Johnston. He says, "The following statements were made by scientists of high standing, the vast majority of them evolutionists." With his permission, we share just a few of them here:

● *Scientists who go about teaching that evolution is a fact of life are great con-men, and the story they are telling may be the greatest hoax ever. In explaining evolution, we do not have one iota of fact. (Dr. T.N. Tahmisian, Atomic Energy Commission)*

● *Biologists are simply naive when they talk about experiments designed to test the theory of evolution. It is not testable. (Professor Whitten, Professor of Genetics, University of Melbourne)*

● *Facts do not 'speak for themselves;' they are read in the light of theory. (Professor Stephen Jay Gould, Professor of Geology and Paleontology, Harvard University)*

● *...science found itself in the unenviable position of having to create a mythology of its own: namely, the assumption that what, after long effort, could not be proved to take place today had, in truth, taken place in the primeval past. (Loren Eiseley, Ph. D. -- Anthropology)*

● *Evolutionism is a fairy tale for grown-ups. This theory has helped nothing in the progress of science. It is useless. (Professor Louis Bounoure, Director of Research, French National Centre for Scientific Research)*

● *Darwin's theory of natural selection has always been closely linked to evidence from fossils, and probably most people assume that fossils provide a very important part of the general argument that is made in favor of Darwinian interpretations of the history of life. Unfortunately, this is not strictly true. (Dr. David Raup, Curator of Geology Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago)*

● *The absence of fossil evidence for intermediary stages between major transitions in organic design, indeed our inability, even in our imagination, to construct functional intermediates in many cases, has been a persistent and nagging problem for gradualistic accounts of evolution. (Stephen Jay Gould, Professor of Geology and Paleontology, Harvard University)*

● *The problem with a lot of anthropologists is that they want so much to find a hominid that any scrap of bone becomes a hominid bone. (Dr. Tim White - Anthropologist, University of California)*

● *All paleontologists know that the fossil record contains precious little in the way of intermediate forms; transitions between major groups are characteristically abrupt. (Stephen Jay Gould, Professor of Geology and Paleontology, Harvard University)*

● *Contrary to what most scientists write, the fossil record does not support the Darwinian theory of evolution because it is this theory (there are several) which we use to interpret the fossil record. By doing so we are guilty of circular reasoning if we then say the fossil record supports this theory. (Ronald R. West, Ph. D. -- Paleocology and Geology)*

● *There is no fossil evidence of the stages through which the remarkable change from reptile to bird was achieved. (W. E. Swinton, British Museum of Natural History)*

● *It seems, from the complex construction of feathers, that their evolution from reptilian scales would have required an immense period of time and involved a series of intermediate structures. So far, the fossil record does not bear out that supposition. (Barbara Stahl, 'Vertebrate History')*

● *Why should we accept the spontaneous origin of life? If considered as an observable phenomenon, in any other sphere of human thought, it would be discarded as a figment of a deranged brain. Is there any evidence of a dynamic (extremely complicated) machine coming into existence (spontaneously)? The belief in the spontaneous origin of life is a negation of the very principles of Science. (Professor James Gray)*

□ These quotes and others like them certainly show that evolution is not a proven "fact" of science. Thanks for sending them, David! The observable facts still fit superbly with the biblical record: In the beginning God created.

□ Whoops! We goofed! We should have included credit for the picture on the front cover of our last issue of **Think & Believe** (July/August, 1997). It is a detail of the famous painting, The Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776, by John Trumbull (American, 1756-1843). We wish to thank the Yale University Art Gallery for permission to use this historic painting from their Trumbull Collection.

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Spotlight On Science

Blood Clotting, Mousetraps, and Irreducible Complexity

(by Mary Jo Nutting)

In the last issue of **Think & Believe**, we included quotes from Michael Behe's book, **Darwin's Black Box**. We will now look in more detail at the concept he calls "irreducible complexity," and describe briefly the blood clotting process which he uses to illustrate this concept.

Behe defines an irreducibly complex system as "a single system composed of several interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, and where the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to cease functioning." (p. 76) He claims that such systems can only result from intelligent design, not random evolutionary processes.

Behe illustrates this idea with a simple mousetrap, consisting of several interacting parts (a wooden platform, a spring, a metal "hammer," a bar to hold the hammer in ready position, and a catch to hold the bar). All contribute to a basic function (catching mice); removing any one causes the system to cease functioning. He goes on to show that none of the parts could have "evolved" step-by-step by small minute changes from any of the other parts. In other words, the whole system must be present and operating or none of it works at all. The conclusion is that it must have been made as a functioning unit by intelligent design.

I like Behe's approach because it is the complex interrelationships of parts and functions which have always fascinated me as a student of physiology and biochemistry. I have always marvelled at "how" things worked -- how each molecule or each part is needed for the whole system to work. It is all so complex, logical and orderly; yet, due to my blindness and the incredible power of evolutionary teaching, I never stopped to think that it demonstrated so clearly the handiwork of God and not chance and accidents. How blind we can be! Praise God He opened my eyes to see and appreciate not only the marvels of the physical world, but also to see Him as Creator, Redeemer, and Lord.

One system that Behe describes in detail is the blood clotting mechanism. On the surface, it seems all that happens when you cut your finger is that the blood eventually dries up. However, as you study the process in detail, you can't help but marvel at the creative ingenuity involved.

Consider the immensity of the task. The clot must form quickly or you will bleed to death. If it forms at the wrong time or place, you may suffer a stroke or heart attack. It must completely seal the wound, but if not restricted

only to the wound, your whole body could solidify. Every reaction must happen precisely at the right time and place.

Aren't you glad your body does all this without you having to think about it? Actually, the blood clotting process involves the intricate interaction of a score of specific proteins and other substances working in a precise, interrelated fashion. Like with the mousetrap, all are needed or none of it works. Follow along as I give a much-simplified explanation of what happens when you get a cut. (Hang in there with me, it gets a bit technical, but you can do it!)

Fibrin is the protein that forms the "fibers" that make the clot. It floats around in your blood all the time, but it must be kept in an inactive form (fibrinogen) or all your veins and arteries would be clogged with a mass of fibers and you'd be dead. Another protein, called thrombin, is needed to "activate" the fibrinogen. However, if thrombin was present in active form all the time, it would soon activate all the fibrinogen and again you would coagulate and die. So, thrombin must also wait in inactive form (prothrombin) until needed. A third protein, called Stuart factor, is needed to activate the prothrombin; but as you can see, it too must be present in inactive form or the whole system would gel and you would die. What activates it? It turns out there are two different pathways to activate Stuart factor, and each is incredibly complex and beyond the scope of this article. (If you want the whole scoop, see Behe's book.)

Ahhhhh, but there's still more! Not even activated Stuart factor is enough. Another protein called accelerin is needed to increase the activity of activated Stuart factor. Otherwise, the process goes too slowly, and you bleed to death. Now (you guessed it), accelerin needs to exist in an inactive form (proaccelerin). What activates it? Thrombin! Apparently there is always a trace of it in the blood. But, here's another problem. Prothrombin must first be modified by a specific enzyme and Vitamin K before the activated Stuart factor and accelerin will convert it to thrombin which can then activate fibrinogen and initiate clot formation. Whewwwww!

Since everything exists in inactive form, and it takes one thing to activate another, how do you get the whole process started? When you get a cut, a special "tissue factor" existing on the outside of cells comes in contact with the blood, and sets the whole marvelous system in motion.

Do you think all this could happen by chance and accidents? If so, you might be interested in a special deal I heard of on a piece of land in Florida! As for me, I'd rather believe that our Creator is a Master Engineer!

Upcoming Events

Please pray for these seminars. Thanks!

- Oct 4: Sharron Springs, KS:** Youth and Adult Programs
Contact Debbie 913-852-4837
- Oct 5-7: Quinter, KS:** Mount Pleasant Church
Contact Stan, 913-754-3521 or 754-3583
- Oct 8-10: Gothenburg, NE:** Church Seminar (Tentative)
Contact us, 970-523-9943
- Oct 12-20: Southwest Iowa:** Several Church and School Seminars
Contact Christine, 712-589-3645
- Oct 21-24: Olathe, KS:** Church Seminars
Contact Kim, 913-782-7399
- Oct 26-30: Kansas City, KS:** Church/School Seminars
Contact us 970-523-9943
- Nov 1-3: Nashville, MO:** Nashville Christian Church
Contact Louis 417-842-3364
- Nov 2-4: Brazil, IN:** Christ Community Church
Contact Terry 812-443-0423
- Nov 4-5: Mountain Grove/Norwood, MO:** Liberty Faith Church
Contact Lance or Becky 417-926-3710
- Nov 7-8: Colorado Springs, CO:** VBS Training
Contact us 970-523-9943

Open Dates

AOI staff and interns do exciting and informative programs for churches, schools, homeschoolers, community groups, clubs, camps, retreats, youth events, you name it! We have some openings in Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, or Nebraska (November -- January) and in Texas, New Mexico, or Oklahoma (January -- March). Contact us to schedule a creation event in your area.

Summer Recap

It's been a busy summer for AOI staff with plentiful opportunities to share the truth about creation. We praise God for the opportunity to minister to the many children, youth, and adults who attended one of our many conferences, camps, VBS's, or church seminars.

Please pray that God would bring others to "water" the seeds which have been planted and that many would grow and bear good fruit for eternity. (1 Cor. 3:6,7)

Note: You may have noticed that we are not including return envelopes with every issue of this publication. For the percentage returned, it doesn't seem to be good stewardship to spend the extra money (unless our accountant says we'd better start sending them out!). **Thanks** for taking the extra minutes and cents involved to use and address your own envelope when sending a donation or book order. If you would prefer a supply of pre-addressed envelopes for your convenience, please contact us and we'd be glad to send you some.

Mongolian Project Update

We are thankful for the interest and response to the efforts to bring one or two Mongolian men to AOI for training in creation ministry. To date, approximately \$1500 has come in to help with the project. This is a great start. We anticipate needing another \$2000 to pay for airfare, expenses, training and teaching materials and equipment to take home with them. Would you join us in reaching the country of Mongolia? You and your church can still get involved in two ways:

- 1) Prayer: For adequate finances and required visas.
- 2) Financial Help: Mark your check, "Mongolia Project."

HELP!!

Praise God! The ministry outreach of AOI is expanding. We **desperately need** someone with hardware/software computer skills to do graphics layout, word processing, and general computer services. We also need an administrative assistant to do seminar coordination, project management, and general office management. We have been trying to do all these jobs in addition to scheduling, speaking, writing newsletters, training, and ministry oversight. We're stretched beyond our skills and limits! Are you retired, willing to raise support, or financially independent? Maybe you could help, full or part time, or contribute monthly support for these needed staff.

Other Needs

We are 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? (How about watching garage sales, second-hand stores, etc.?) Thanks!

- Kodak carousel slide projectors and 80-slide trays.
- Portable projection stands with telescoping legs.
- 486 or better computer systems.
- High capacity copy machine.
- Good quality office and stacking or folding chairs.
- Labeller (for attaching mailing labels to newsletters).
- Bible study aids: Strong's, Zodhiates, etc.
- Reference books & recent encyclopedias.
- Back issues of creation publications, especially
Creation: Ex Nihilo; Technical Journal; CRSQ
- Creation books for library.
- Tall metal rolling stand for TV/VCR.
- Good quality microscopes.
- Microprojector or micro-video projection system
- Video Projector
- Fossil Specimens

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