

Think & Believe

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Running the Race – Dodging the Bombs

by *Dave Nutting*

The starting gun fires, the cross-country race begins. Ahead of the runners are steep hills, narrow valleys and dense forests. However, this isn't an ordinary race. There are snipers on the ridges shooting at the runners, minefields along the way, and hurdles to jump with coiled razor wire on top. In the forest there are snares, and overhead, squadrons of bombers are dropping bombs on the runners.

No, this isn't an ordinary race. It is the race of life all of us as Christians want to win. We want to get to the finish line! The Apostle Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (II Timothy. 4:7, NKJV) Think of the bombs that were being dropped on him: persecutions, torture, stoning, lashings, shipwrecks, etc.

Today's "bombs" are usually not physical, at least not here in the United States of America, but nonetheless, they are deadly for the spiritual life. Watch out for the sniper on the ridge. He is shooting fiery darts: "Evolution is a fact." "You can't trust the Bible." Boom! A runner falls!

Look carefully at the razors on the wire: "Tolerance!" "Truth is relative." "Legalism!" Runners are cut and bleeding trying to get over these hurdles. Other runners are hanging upside down from the trees caught by the snares that read: "If evolution is true, who cares what we do?" "Drugs,

sex, alcohol – anything goes."

Take cover! Bombs drop from the airplanes: "Evolution is science. Creation is religious myth!" KA-VOOOOOM – and another bunch of already shell-shocked students are taken out of the race.

A few do make it to the finish line, but many are wounded and limping. Only a handful finish well, running strong.

Is this case overstated? Maybe it's not. Years ago, I watched a video by Bill Gothard, the founder of a major youth ministry. He said that 85% of the young people from **evangelical church** homes who attend public education beginning in kindergarten have nothing to do with the church by the time they graduate from college. A recent church report stated that in Oregon the number was as high as 90%.

So what do you do? First, tell your children more than, "Just believe because the Bible says ..." Why? It's because in this so-called religiously neutral environment, students are being taught to laugh at

the Bible, to be "tolerant" of all other views, and to conform to keep the peace. Students don't hear the other side since Christian teachers' hands are tied – captive to the misapplication of "separation of Church and State." Meanwhile the opponents of Christianity hammer away, dropping the bombs, firing the darts, and setting the snares, with little Christian voice to oppose.

Christian parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends – it is up to you. Help your kids finish well. Don't leave it to others. Yes, teach your children to believe the Bible and honor the Living Word, but also give them the reasons why. Give them ammunition in this battle. Read top quality books defending the reliability of Scripture. Equip them with creation books and top quality creation videos.

Take them to, or even sponsor a creation seminar yourself! Teach them not to "be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of their

minds" (Romans 12:2) – to stand firmly on the Word even if they must stand alone. Teach them also to reach out and impact others rather than watch them get torn up in this race. You can make a difference! T&B



If Animals Could Talk

by Mark Sonmor



Did you know that some whales can swim up to 105 mph, compose music and pump their blood through vessels the size of city water mains?

Did you know lightning bugs can produce light without producing any heat?

Did you know that the heart of a field sparrow can beat 7 times a second or from 460 to 760 beats per minute?

Did you know that the Golden Plover's migration requires it to fly 88 hours straight? That's about 250,000 wingbeats! Can you imagine doing that many pushups?

If animals could talk, they

would tell you these things. Since they can't however, you'll have to read this book. Dr. Werner Gitt, writing as if the animals were talking, relates the amazing design of:


- The Field Sparrow
- The Whales
- The Platypus
- The Swallow
- The Glowworm
- The Dragonfly
- The Human Eye
- The Earthworm
- The Intestinal Bacteria
- The Golden Plover...and more.

Rather than being a dry list of scientific facts, this little book (115 pages) is an engaging dialogue between animal and reader. Each animal

praises its Creator and honors Him while presenting some interesting problems for evolution.

If Animals Could Talk is accessible for everyone – young or old, layman or expert, Christian or “seeker.” It would be an excellent book to read during family Bible times or during a Sunday school class. Pastors might even find some interesting illustrations for their sermons.

This book concludes with a chapter on animals in the Bible that *did* talk and then gives a concise presentation of the Gospel.

If Animals Could Talk is available from AOI for \$10. See the enclosed flyer, call 970-523-9943, or visit: Discovercreation.org. 

The Amazing Bearcat

by Randy Williams, Jackson Hole Bible College Student

The bearcat is neither a bear nor a cat, but is the common English word for the Malaysian “Binturong” (*Arctictis binturong*). It is a type of civet in the same family as the mongoose, that lives in the trees of tropical and subtropical forests of Southeast Asia. Its fur is black with gray, white, or gold tips. It can weigh 30-40 pounds and measures 46-73 inches long (which is almost 50% tail!).

The bearcat is one of only two carnivores to have a prehensile tail. This means its tail can be used to grip things and hang from branches. It can also be used for braking when descending a tree headfirst, and for maintaining balance.


Bearcats' feet are also interesting structures. The front feet are designed to grasp, dig, climb, hold, and open fruit. The back feet are designed to grip and balance. Each foot has four main toes and an innermost, slightly shorter toe, which serves as the oppos-

ing thumb. When climbing or hanging, the bearcat uses the toes on the front feet all together, with no opposing digit. The back foot, however, uses a two-and-three split, so no one toe carries too much weight. It can also rotate its hips and ankles so the soles of its rear feet face its tail (up & behind) and will hook the two back most toes as additional support for the tail.

An interesting trait helps bearcats heal themselves. Their saliva has remarkable antiseptic qualities. While most animals benefit from licking their own wounds, the bearcats also lick each other's wounds, and wounds they spot on people. Several scientific studies confirm that licked parts of cuts and scratches healed literally overnight, while unlicked parts took several days. Also, the amount of scarring was greatly reduced.



In the wild, the bearcat plays a key role in processing seeds, especially those of the Strangler Fig. This vine makes up a large part of the canopy of the rain forest, but its seed cannot germinate without assistance. A process in the bearcat's intestines called endozochory breaks down the outer seed coating and prepares it to begin growing. It is then deposited usually below, or in a convenient host tree.

At first glance, the bearcat might look like a comic coda to creation, or a freak of evolution. Yet, as science has studied this unique animal, it has found that it was specifically designed and given a precise role to play in its environment. It is wonderfully equipped for the task God called it to do. What appear to be random parts of the body thrown together as an afterthought, actually go together well to give the bearcat all the tools he needs to thrive in his environment. 

Infant Reflexes: Evolved or Designed?

by Natalie Jo Leisman, DC

Most of us are familiar with the “kneejerk” reaction that comes when a doctor taps our kneecap with a rubber hammer, but do you know what happens when you gently turn a baby’s head to one side? What about when you stroke a baby’s spine with your fingers?

Infants possess several unique reflexes that adults do not have. Because these are initially present at birth and disappear within the first few months, some scientists have speculated that they indicate some kind of evolutionary progression. For example, on page 534 of *Pediatric Chiropractic*, we find the statement, “...the disappearance of these movement patterns demonstrate that higher cerebral pathways have established dominance over the primitive reflexes as the nervous system matures.” The overlying use of the word *primitive* brings to mind evolutionary stages and changes.

Are infant reflexes left over from evolutionary processes that fade away as the infant evolves into a higher being? No! It can be shown that these reflexes are designed to assist in the birth process and diminish as they are no longer needed.

Dr. Carol J. Phillips teaches that the following reflexes are specifically designed to help the baby maneuver through the birth canal:

Placing and Stepping

Reflexes: (Present from birth to 6-8 weeks) The baby steps up and “walks” when held upright over a flat surface with the feet just touching. This reflex helps the baby “push off” against the top of the uterus to increase the head’s pressure on the cervix, which stimulates the start of labor and harder contractions.

As labor continues, the placing and stepping reflexes assist the baby in descending into the birth canal.

Asymmetric Tonic Neck Reflex/ Fencer Reflex: (Present from birth to 2-6 months) When the baby’s head is gently turned to one side, the baby straightens the arm and leg on the side the head is turned toward, and the opposite arm and leg remain bent. The Fencer Reflex assists in positioning the baby during labor. The baby’s head enters the pelvis facing to the side. As the mother’s pelvic muscles turn the head 90° to face toward her back, the turned head will cause that shoulder to rise. This narrows the shoulder width so the baby can continue to descend through the birth canal.

As the baby prepares to enter the birth canal, cranial molding decreases the amniotic fluid in the cranial cavity forcing it into the spinal canal. The walls of the birth canal perform something similar to a Heimlich maneuver to force the fluid from the baby’s lungs and decrease the volume and circumference of the chest cavity. This systematic decrease in fluid volume leads to the next reflex, which empties the abdominal cavity.

Perez Reflex: (Present from birth to 24 months) Stroke gently up the baby’s spine, and the baby’s back and head arch backward, knees bend up toward the chest, and urination occurs.

As the baby descends in the birth canal and continues to rotate into position, the uterine contractions

on the spine initiate the Perez reflex which causes the head and back to arch backward. This also moves the head out from underneath the pubic bone as crowning occurs. Urination empties the bladder of amniotic fluid and decreases the abdominal volume, and thus circumference, before passing through the birth canal.

Galant Reflex: (Present from birth to 8 weeks) Stroke downward, from shoulder to hip, on one side of the baby’s spine. The baby’s hip bends up on that side.

Once the shoulders are through the pelvic outlet, the hips have to come through. The contractions of the mother’s muscles stimulate the back muscles on the baby, and the Galant Reflex causes one hip to go up, and the other to drop. This assists the hips in exiting the birth canal.

As these reflexes demonstrate, we are learning more of how God has designed our world and, more specifically, the birth process. Ecclesiastes 11:5 reminds us that as we “do not know...how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so [we] do not know the works of

God who makes everything.” Psalm 22:9-10 states that He is the God “who took me out of the womb.”

So, rather than witnessing a repeat of some primitive



evolutionary progression, we see mother and baby in an intricate dance where the baby is stimulated by the mother’s muscles at just the right time to move into the next position enabling a successful birth. Truly we are fearfully and wonderfully made by our Lord, who carefully designed and engineered our entry into His world. T&B

Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



For years AOI has taught the creation message to many thousands of children and adults – but far too many still have not heard. With the completion of our DVD series imminent, we feel now is the time to expand one of the major visions of AOI – the training and equipping of more individuals to join in the battle. Here are two ways you can share the creation message in your own church or community:

1. Use our DVD Series to teach a class. Our Discover Creation DVD series is on the verge of duplication and will be ready soon! Plan to use this excellent 12-part DVD series to teach a Sunday school or other class to young people or adults. We also have an

exciting package for teaching creation to elementary school children. Check the web!


2. Have us train you.

Do you wish to teach creation or desire to be a local creation resource person? Our training session will reinforce the

Want to teach Creation? We can help!

creation message, give you hands-on practice teaching, and equip you with the tools needed to begin.

Our next training session is set for March 5-9, 2007 in Grand Junction, CO. We will be taking a limited number of individuals. Call 970-523-9943 or email: AOI@DiscoverCreation.org (Attention: Gail) to schedule your training.

Even if these dates don't work for you, let us know of your interest. We want to help you become dangerous in this battle for the mind! 

Upcoming Events

L&MJ = Johnson, D&AK = Korow,
D&MJN = Nutting, RS=Stepanek,

- 9/20-21, Fort Collins, CO, Colorado State U., John Hartman, (970) 420-9744, D&MJN
9/23-24, Aurora, NE, Pleasant View Bible Church, (402) 694-2604, D&MJN
9/26-28, Joplin, MO, Ozark Christian College, Geoffrey Bare, (417) 624-2518, D&MJN
9/30, Jefferson, CO, Jefferson Community Church, Herb Sanford, (719) 836-4514, D&MJN
10/1-2, Orangevale, CA, Cornerstone Bible Church, (916) 987-3248, RS
10/6-8, Belmont, CA, Fellowship Bible Church, (650) 591-1322, RS
10/13-15, San Ramon, CA, Chinese Maranatha Bible Church, (925) 820-0383, RS
10/14-15, Salt Lake City, UT, Intermountain Baptist, Dean Shriver, (801) 969-1593, D&MJN
10/15, Delta, CO, First Assembly of God, Jason Neely, (970) 874-3568, D&AK
10/15-28, Jackson, WY, Jackson Hole Bible College, Holly Austin, (307) 733-3134, D&MJN
10/22-23, Lockeford, CA, Grace Church of Lockeford, Jack Ryan, (209) 727-5668, RS
11/8-11/12, Minnesota, Jonathan Bislew, (612) 644-0422, D&MJN
11/8, Minneapolis, Maranatha Christian Fell.
11/9, St. Cloud, St. Cloud State University
11/9, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota
11/10, Mankato, Minnesota State University,
11/11, Minneapolis, Maranatha Christian Fell.
11/12, Minneapolis, Total Victory Christian Cntr., Alan Holt, (612) 825-0001, D&MJN (tentative)
11/13-16, Dekalb, IL, University of Northern Illinois, Wendy Marshall, (815) 519-5214, D&MJN
12/3-17, Grand Junction, CO, Weekly creation classes, Monument Baptist, (970) 242-3859, L&MJ

Mark your calendar for a 2007 Creation Mountain Adventure!

Play and learn in the Colorado Rockies!

Family Snow/Ski Adventure

Feb. 25 – Mar. 2 Ski Wolf Creek Pass, play in the snow, and soak in the world-famous Pagosa Hot Springs.

Twin Peaks Family Mountain Adventure

July 1– 6 Fossil dig, geology and dinosaur tours, fishing, archery, commando, hikes, plant walks, and fabulous scenery!

Redcloud Family Mountain Adventures

July 29 – Aug. 3 • Aug. 5 – 10

Ride horses, take a 4-wheel drive trip, fish, rock climb, rappel, mountain bike, white-water raft, & enjoy world-class accommodations in the majestic San Juan mountains.

Call today for details!



ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

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It's easy.

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