

Think & Believe



A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

Spring, 2004; Vol. 21 No.2

Celebrating 20 Years! Looking Back — Looking Ahead

by *Dave & Mary Jo Nutting*

Can you believe it? This year, we are celebrating Alpha Omega Institute's 20th Anniversary! We have seen many changes over those years besides grayer hair and a few more wrinkles. Twenty years ago very few people had ever heard the case for Creation. Most hadn't even known there were books available on the subject. As we, along with other creation ministries, shared the evidence for creation and the fallacies of evolution, eyes began to pop open to the Truth of God's Word!

Today, a whole generation of children has completed its formal education and is now raising a new generation. Praise God that so many of these young adults have now heard creation teaching and have been equipped to share the truth of God's Creation and to arm their own children to withstand evolutionary indoctrination. Others have also been trained to teach

Creation and they are actually training others to teach as well. *There has been much progress — but the battle still rages.*

Evolution is still strongly promoted in schools, media and even in some churches. Too many children and adults still have not heard the truth of God's Word and the problems with evolution.

Some have asked us, "So what? Why bother?" Well, this is why we still continue this ministry:

- Evolution is the #1 reason young people give for rejecting the Gospel.
- Evolution undermines acceptance of the truth and authority of God's Word.
- Evolution is one of the main reasons young people leave the church.
- Evolutionary teaching takes away from our view of God and how He values us.
- Belief in evolution makes people believe they are just animals; therefore anything goes.
- Evolution is just plain bad science.

As we look ahead, we are committed to continue spreading the Good News — That *God is our Creator*; That *His Word and His world agree*; and that He wants all of us to enter into an eternal relationship with *Him* through faith in Jesus Christ. We are also committed to see people of all ages grow in that relationship as they

Discover Creation and walk confidently in the truth of God's Word.

As we look back over these years, we are so grateful for the abundant opportunities God has given us to minister to

people here in the USA and internationally. We praise God for the dedicated staff at AOI and for all of you faithful partners who stand with us in this battle for the hearts and minds of this generation. God is using you to make a difference! **T&B**



1986
First Creation Camp



1989 First Foreign Outreach, Resource Center developed



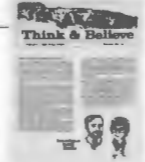
1995 First Issue: *Kid's Think & Believe Too*



1997 Bazarsad begins ministry in Mongolia



2000 - 2001
Korows/Training & Speaking, Glenn Pearson/Accounting, Rachel Painter & Gail Tompkins/Office



1984 Nuttings begin speaking ministry & publish first issue of *Think & Believe*



1988 First Science Fair



1992 Johnsons/Children's Ministry, Donna Henderson/office



1996 Office moves to Fruitvale Court, Stepaneks join speaking staff.



1999 Sonmors/Art Department



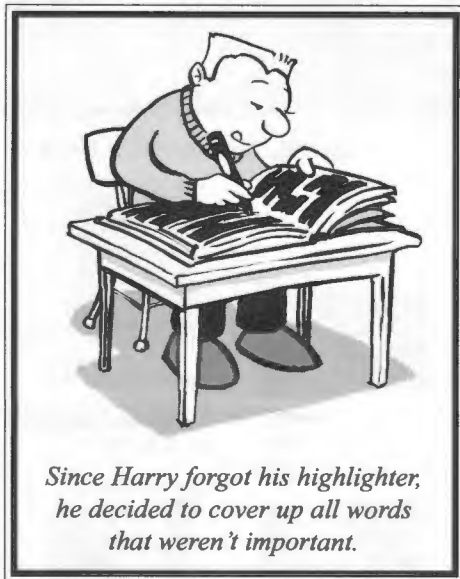
2003 Zentmeyers/Film Production



2003-2004
Discover Creation Children's Adventure

How Blind Is the Watchmaker?

A book review by Mark Sonmor



When I started reading *How Blind Is the Watchmaker*, by Neil Broom, I was strangely reminded of a cartoon like the one above. Although I can't remember the source, it illustrates the all-too-frequent practice of modern science. Words like "meaning," and "purpose," are covered up because they go against the prevailing notions of materialism—that we exist in a vast, meaningless, cosmic machine that is driven completely by chance.

Ironically, to fabricate their story, scientists can't escape using terms like, "advantage," "struggle," and "survival" to describe the process of evolution. These words imply a purpose and intention that should not exist if life is a product of blind chance. Broom says (p.188), *"We find the entire living world operates within a rich gradient of meaning... It is a world driven by an overwhelming 'urge' to live and to keep on living. It seeks to 'attain,' to 'achieve,' to 'improve.'...All of these attributes...lie completely outside and beyond the power of [secular]science to explain."*

This is the central theme of the book

which is reiterated in various ways.

I believe most people, at one time or another, have felt at the mercy of what Broom terms "aristoscience"—or a secular priesthood where only a few scientists have access to truth and dispense it on their terms. By citing the shortcomings of modern science and the questions beyond its scope, the author helps the average person dismantle these ivory towers and see their philosophical shortcomings.

These inconsistencies are revealed further in sections dealing with proposed scenarios of the origin of life. Although he thoroughly refutes them, I appreciated Broom's desire to respond to the more "reasoned" attempts put forth to explain naturalistic origins.

At times, the illustrations used from the author's field of research and other areas of biology, were a bit daunting for someone with a rudimentary science background. However, the philosophical conclusions the author arrives at make it worth the struggle.

The section I found most rewarding was the Appendix. There, Broom recounts the rise of modern science and the way many God-fearing men used science to dispel superstition and discover laws and physical properties operating in the universe.

However, this mode of thinking also opened the door for subsequent generations to exalt man's ability to observe and reason and assume that everything can be explained by strictly material causes.

Although I appreciate the clarity

with which the author exposes the problems of materialism, he appears to be partly trapped in a compromise of his own. In a footnote on p.135 Broom states,

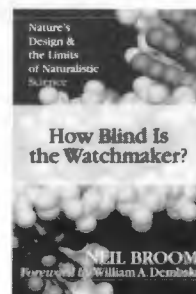
"Creation science...makes the dubious assumption that Gen 1-2 must be read in a strictly literal sense...It is not at all clear to me that the language is literal and even remotely scientific in its intent. The passage contains a very simple story line that is timeless and relevant for all people for all time. But is it science? Science wasn't even invented when the Genesis narrative was written."

When I read this quote, I was struck with several questions. In Broom's mind what role does man's reason play in determining truth? Does he have an overestimation of the ability of science to deal with

events of the unobservable past? Is he compromising scripture by relying on the interpretations of the very materialistic scientists whom he discredits? Since science is limited, wouldn't it be safer to accept the straightforward teaching of scripture rather than the fallible opinions of men?

In my (fallible) opinion, the author, who valiantly defends God's ability to create, stops short in defending His word.

Overall, this book makes some



excellent points and confronts many difficult issues — including the problem of evil. Skeptics, should find it very thought-provoking. However, it is a

reminder that we need to read with discernment and stand firmly on the truth of God's Word. **T&B**

Is Science Neutral?

by Rachel Painter

When asked, “What is science?” the picture that comes to most people’s minds is a man in a white coat, peering into a microscope, discovering some significant truth. For most people, including Christians, science is basically observation and experimentation—a neutral pursuit of knowledge. But, is this really science?

Our modern view of science has become very narrow when compared to the great scientists of the past. For example, *Webster’s 1828*

Dictionary defines science as: “In a general sense, knowledge, or certain knowledge; the comprehension or understanding of truth or facts by the mind...”

At its very core, science is knowledge.

If this is true, then science goes far beyond the scope of the laboratory. It is the study of *everything*—material and immaterial. In reality, there is a science to everything—from tadpoles to teleology.

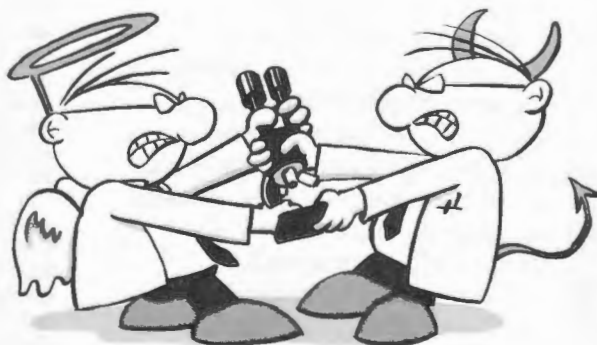
Now, pay attention to the phrase “...the comprehension or understanding of truth or facts by the mind...” Science cannot simply be a collection of facts. Facts are part of science, but science is not complete unless we comprehend and understand those facts. Having knowledge of a thing is meaningless without also having an understanding of its purpose.

Look at the scientific method for example. It basically arises from a thought, an idea, or a need. Someone has a question and sets out to find the answer. As the search begins, it is done so with an intent—a purpose. This purpose is inherently subjective and determined by the worldview of the pursuer.

So, what about the scientist?

When he steps into his lab, does he leave his worldview at the door, and enter as an unbiased observer into the world of science? Of course not. The worldview a man holds, and the presuppositions he believes, are inseparable from him. Whether he is an atheist or a christian, these direct anything he puts his hand to.

Ironically, the atheist, functions in a world that is driven by the purpose and intent of its Creator—whom he



denies. Yet, every day the atheistic scientist uses the natural laws that God instituted in the beginning to move from the unknown to the known. So, whether he realizes it or not, he is functioning within God’s parameters.

On the other hand, some Christians believe in the superintendence of the Creator, yet they do not extend that to the area of science. This is a distressing paradox. The atheistic scientist functions in a way that he doesn’t believe, and the Christian believes in a way that he doesn’t function.

In reality, they both believe that science is a realm from which you can extract God and still maintain the integrity of the discipline. But, if you do, then who governs the discipline of science? “Nothing” cannot govern something. Either God governs it, or

man does. There is no neutral area in between.

The idea of neutrality so permeates our culture that we do not realize how many areas of our life it has infiltrated and caused us to think unbiblically. It affects more than just the area of science. For example, what about government, and the idea of the separation of church and state? Doesn’t this idea advocate that there is a neutral, middle ground, where moral and religious absolutes don’t belong? But then, what do laws do, if not legislate morality? What are the implications when we compartmentalize life into sacred and secular realms?

What are the consequences when we remove Biblical truth from a section of our society for the sake of tolerance? When Biblical truth is removed, what is going to take its place? Something *will* fill it. It will not remain void.

What does the idea of neutrality do to our understanding of Scripture, church, family and education? You see, this false idea undermines our faith little by little, and, as a result, our effectiveness for God’s Kingdom. I challenge you to turn back to the Bible as your primary source. Examine it. Consider where the myth of neutrality has influenced your life. **T&B**

[To express thoughts or questions on this topic, or others in this newsletter, write us or send an email to: thinkandbelieve@discovercreation.org.]

Editor’s note: In our Fall, 2003 issue, we made the statement that a lecture at a local college entitled: The Pseudoscience of Intelligent Design “just happened” to fall right in the middle of three weeks of our own lectures on creation. One of the sponsors of the event expressed concern that our words “just happened” might insinuate that the lecture “was arranged to interfere or in some way compete with AOI’s ‘outreach’ program at [the college].” He assured us that this was not the case. It was not our intent to insinuate that the lecture was orchestrated by the college to undermine our efforts. Though, some people might call the precise timing coincidence, we feel that it was a “God-cidence” — orchestrated by the Great Orchestrator Who is active in the affairs of His people. Nevertheless, we appreciate the comment and apologize for any misunderstanding.

Creation Mountain Adventures



Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure June 27 to July 2, 2004

State-of-the-art creation seminar with hands-on science! Dig fossils, tour the CO National Monument and a dinosaur museum. Enjoy all this plus camp activities, guided plant walks and fabulous scenery.

Redcloud Family Mountain Adventures Aug 1-6, 2004 • Aug 8-13, 2004

Solid Biblical and scientific family-oriented teaching, horseback rides, 4 wheel drive trips to old ghost towns, fishing, climbing, rappelling, world-class accommodations—all in the majestic Lake City region of the Colorado Rockies.



Creation Celebration

September 23-25, 2004

You are invited to come celebrate with AOI staff and special guests. Your entire family will enjoy dynamic creation speakers, hands-on activities, field trips, and Eugene the puppet. A special feature will be the benefit concert and teaching on creativity by *Michael Card*. This affordable regional event will be held at beautiful Canyonview Vineyard Church in Grand Junction, CO. Churches, homeschools, Christian Schools and youth groups are also encouraged to attend.



Get Involved! *First* and foremost, *pray*—that this entire event would glorify God and be a blessing to many, many people. By the

way, the auditorium can hold 1300 people! *Pray* for a full house!

Second, we have a variety of “practical helps” needs like stuffing envelopes, sending e-mails, making phone calls, helping with promotion, delivering tickets, assisting with science activities, running book tables, cleaning up, and more. This could be a great family or school service project.

Finally, plan to attend and bring your family. Also, please consider who you might invite to come with you. It would be a great “nonthreatening” way to reach another family with the message of Christ. We hope to see you there! For more info: 970-523-9943

Discover Creation Children's Adventure



\$125
(Save \$45) (handouts sold separately)

Great for:
VBS, Sunday School, and kids clubs!



Kit includes:

- Teacher's Guide & Manual
- Lecture Videos (5 sessions)
 - Crafts • Fossil Molds
 - Music • Games
 - Fossil Flash Cards
 - Instructional Video
- Presentation CD-ROM
- Decoration Templates
- Samples of Daily handouts
- Promotional Materials

Call: **970-523-9943** or
visit: www.discovercreation.org

- Topics:**
- Creation vs. Evolution
 - Design • Dinosaurs
 - Noah's Flood • Origin of Man

Upcoming Events

L&MJ = Johnsons, D&AK = Korows
D&MJN = Nuttings, RS=Stepanek

- Mar 14-26 Jackson Hole Bible College Field Trip and Ministry, 970-523-9943 D&MJN
- Mar 17 Page, AZ Location TBA
- Manny Parks, 928-645-1699 D&MJN
- Mar 24 Crest, CA, Crest Community Church 619-442-3736, D&MJN
- Mar 28 McCook, NE, Evangelical Free Joan Kozh, 308-345-1661, RS, L&MJ
- Mar 28 Santa Clarita, CA, Grace Baptist 661-296-8738 D&MJN
- Mar 30 Santa Clarita, CA, Homeschool Groups, Helena, 661-251-3947
- Mar 31 Redbluff, CA Location TBA Ruth Rowan, 530-385-1590, D&MJN
- Mar 31 Wauneta, NE Hamlet Union Church Rod & Joy Wheeler 308-394-5594 RS,L&MJ
- Apr 3 Grand Junction, CO, CHEC - GJ Lyda Savoca, 970-283-5634, D&AK
- Apr 4 Aurora, NE, RS, L&MJ
- Apr 4 Anderson, CA, Crossroads Bible Julie Petersen 530-365-9188 D&MJN
- Apr 14 Pipestone, MN, Christ King Lutheran David Wold 507-825-5958 L&MJ
- Apr 18 Pinedale, WY, Pinedale Bible Church Jim Silvey 307-367-4476 D&MJN
- Apr 18 Towanda, KS, Fairview Baptist, Tom & Theresa Boerma, 620-753-3723 L&MJ
- Apr 21 Ingalls, KS, Mike Whalen 620-335-5305 RS, L&MJ
- Apr 25 Plevna, KS, Plevna Community Bible Alva Goossen 620-286-5362 RS, L&MJ
- Apr 28 Arapahoe, CO, Arapahoe Comm. Chu Tom Burch 719-767-5598 RS, L&MJ
- May 1-9 ICR Grand Canyon Adventure 619-448-0900 D&MJN
- May 17,18 Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Ministries 719-685-9103 D&MJN
- Jun 1,2 Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Ministries, 719-685-9103 D&MJN
- Jun 15,16 Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Ministries, 719-685-9103 D&MJN
- Jun 16-19 Aurora, CO, CHEC Homeschool Conference, 720-842-4852
- Jun 27-Jul 2 Collbran, CO, Twin Peaks - Family Science Adventure, (970)523-9943
- Jun 29,30 Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Ministries, (719)685-9103 D&MJN

Steps for Prayer and Action

Pray for AOI staff, finances, camps, speaking, and Creation Celebration.

Sponsor an AOI event in your area. (We still have openings for summer and fall 2004. Contact us ASAP.)

Volunteer to help with special events, newsletter stuffing, office, etc.

Send your e-mail address so we can keep you better informed of creation events and AOI news and prayer needs.

Give generously so that this ministry can continue to impact lives.



ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • www.discovercreation.org

Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2004