

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator



Celebrating
40 years of
Ministry! Save
the dates:
April 26-27.

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

January/February, 2024; Vol. 42, No.1

A Speck of Dust

by Mary Jo Nutting (with a little help from King David in the Psalms)

Perspective makes all the difference in the world. In the busyness of life, it is easy to become tunnel-visioned and focus only on my needs and concerns. During times like this, I need to step back and look at my life from a different perspective. In the vastness of space and time, who am I? Just a speck of dust? A fleeting breath? A wilting blade of grass in a vast universe? A molecule in the sea of time? A drop in the ocean of space?

Additionally, what do I have that I can truly call my own? What do I have that I haven't been given?

In truth, every single breath is a gift...every drop of water...every bite of bread – It all belongs to Another. Apart from Him I would cease to exist. I cannot even claim the molecules that make up my body. They all belong to Him – and will someday return to the dust from which they came.

And yet, somehow, among the billions of human beings and the trillions and trillions of stars, somehow my Creator knows my name. He created me and knows every detail about me – every hair on my head, every blink of my eye, every freckle, every wart. He knows and He cares. He knows where

I am right now. He knows my thoughts, my groans, my struggles, my pain, my hopes, my desires, my victories, and my defeats.

He knows me! I can't hide or get lost. I can't escape or be ignored. He knows me – and He cares. How awesome...and terrifying...and wonderful...and amazing. "Oh, Lord, my Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! How wonderful are Your ways. How awesome are Your deeds! You walk on wings of fire. You pierce my heart. You are higher and greater and bigger, more vast than all of space and time – superintending and ruling over all. And yet You invite me to call you, "Abba" – Papa, Father, Daddy."

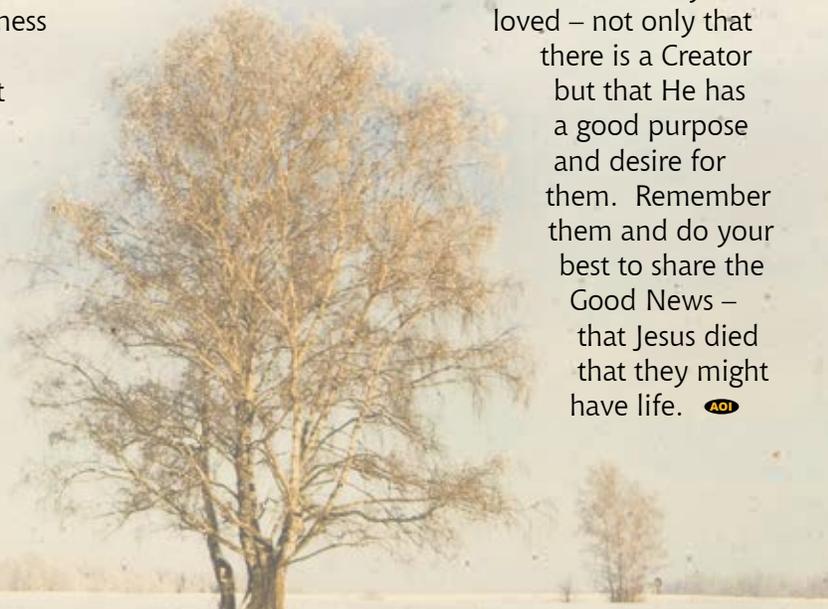
I sit amazed, awestruck, thankful. In all the vastness of time and space, I'm not just a cog in a giant machine. My life has meaning and purpose and value because of Him. He made me

in His own image – to worship Him, to walk with Him, to do His will. I'm a living, breathing, human being created at this time, in this place, for a special purpose that I might exist to the praise of His glory.

Who am I that He should care? Who am I that He should even notice me? Yet, He has crowned me with lovingkindness and compassion. He has smiled on me and shown me mercy. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. I can't imagine it. I can't attain to it. I can't grasp it nor get my arms around it. All I can do is humbly bow in awe and gratefulness. "Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth." Psalm 8:9 NAS

P.S. It's not just me. It's you too! Put your name in here. Read it like you mean it. Then, think of all the people you know who

need to hear that they are loved – not only that there is a Creator but that He has a good purpose and desire for them. Remember them and do your best to share the Good News – that Jesus died that they might have life. 



Brrrrrrrrrr, It's Cold!

by Dave Nutting

OK, it **is** the winter season! Many lament, “Brrrrrrrr, it’s freezing cold! We sure could use some global warming right now.” There is even a group on the internet called Minnesotans for Global Warming. Mary Jo could certainly identify with that, having grown up in Minnesota. That was at a time when skirts were required at school and leggings hadn’t become the “in thing.” (They were called Long Johns and were taboo to expose underneath clothing let alone as clothing!)

Many retired “snowbirds” migrate south to escape the cold season. Others “tough it out,” but can be heard groaning, “Ohhhhhh, if it were only summer!” They might

forget that last summer they were heard complaining how insanely hot it was! Hmmmm! We humans are pretty hard to satisfy, aren’t we? Through all of our complaining, we should keep in mind that seasons were created and appointed by God! After the Flood, He made this covenant with Noah and his descendants:

*“While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat,
Winter and summer,
And day and night
Shall not cease.”*

(Gen 8:22, NKJV)

Those of us who live in areas with 4 distinct seasons (like Colorado) should rejoice – whether we are shivering or sweltering. The cold

and heat should be a good reminder of God’s promises and faithfulness. Like the four seasons, He also promises his continuing care and provision throughout various “seasons” of our lives.

Hopefully, we look beyond the temperatures and see the wonderful evidence of our Creator-God’s amazing design. Whether it be the new life and amazing flowers of spring or the gorgeous fall leaves and intricate design of snowflakes in the winter (see page 3), we can praise God...I’ll try to remind myself of this while shoveling snow and scraping my windshield! **AOI**

Book Review: *Echoes of Ararat* (by Nick Liguori)

Review by Dave Nutting

In my lecture, *Noah’s Flood, Fact or Fiction*, I present evidence that Noah’s Flood was not only true, but it was indeed global. This evidence is not just from the Biblical text itself, but also from archaeology and geology. In that lecture, I mention that there are over 270 flood legends from around the world. However, a new book, ***Echoes of Ararat***, gives 300 flood legends from tribal peoples *in just the Americas alone!* These legends point to a real event in history!

From the publisher: More than 300 Flood traditions from all over North and South America are included, organized by regions beginning in Canada and proceeding southward. In ***Echoes of Ararat***, author Nick Liguori contends that oral traditions of the Flood – and the survival of the few inside the floating

Ark – are even more prevalent than previously thought, and they powerfully confirm the truth of the Genesis account. This unprecedented work carefully documents hundreds of native traditions of the Flood – as well as the Tower of Babel and the Garden of Eden – from the tribes of North and South America. Learn what the Cherokee, Lakota, Iroquois, Cheyenne, Inuit, Inca, Aztec, Guaraní, and countless other tribes claimed about the early history of the world. Liguori also shares many evidences for the historical reliability of Genesis, and shows that the Genesis Flood account is not dependent on the Epic of Gilgamesh or other Near-Eastern texts,

as skeptics claim. Rather, its author Moses had access to ancient records passed down by the early Patriarchs, including Joseph, Jacob, Abraham, and even Noah himself.

Mary Jo and I sent a copy of one of these great books to our good friend and AOI volunteer, Diane Galbraith. Here is part of what she said after a couple days of receiving it: “Dave, what a very fun book ***Echoes of Ararat*** is to me. I have spent, to date, a couple of mornings reading vignettes. I am currently smiling. Such fun...”

This is an amazing collection of Flood legends and accounts which collaborate very frequently with the Bible regarding Noah’s Flood Softcover, 304 pages, 8.5” x 11,” Teens – Adults. Available from AOI for **\$30** + shipping. **AOI**



Snowflakes – Each and Every One His Design

by John T. Perrodin, guest writer

The snowflake – a tiny creation of matchless beauty – was God’s idea. God created water knowing exactly what would happen when it freezes. Snowflakes didn’t start out as round blobs or square masses of snow and then slowly evolve over eons into the

crystalline snapshots of beauty that we enjoy. He knew that the water molecule would form into six-sided flakes, every one different, each touched by His fingerprint.

From a scientific standpoint, we know that the differences in the patterns depend on air temperature and the level of humidity. We also know that each atom God made follows His rules. Obviously, every variable of timing, temperature, and humidity creates a different outcome. But from the start, it appears obvious that snowflakes were meant to be beautiful and intricately formed.

The snowflakes that tickled a child’s tongue hundreds of years ago are of the same type and nature as those seen today. We’ve all heard that no two flakes are exactly alike, but why not? How could this possibly matter? Beyond beauty, beyond science, beyond logic, these “miracles in miniature” exist for an important reason. They point out how God cares about the smallest

details – how He has placed His holy touch on creation. It is His unique design that accounts for the many differences in each of these tiny ice sculptures – and in us. We all know that not a single one of us is exactly the same. Even identical twins have genetic anomalies that vary one from the other. If God made each of us to be unique and individual, He could certainly do the same for a snowflake.

It seems mankind is ever seeking to “tame the Maker,” by trying to put His inventiveness into boxes. For example, humans have made attempts to classify snowflakes into various patterns – columns, plates, prisms, crystals – and innumerable variations of each. There are even snowflakes called Stellar Dendrites, which

are not to be confused with *Fernlike* Stellar Dendrites. By quantifying these features into categories, it gives the illusion that snowflakes are mundane somehow and under man’s mastery.

Yet, as scientists “see more” of God’s incredible artwork in ice, they aren’t discovering anything new but rather gaining a sharper image of God’s mighty works,

“Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do His bidding...”

Psalm 148:7-8, NIV

creative forethought, and stunning imagination. Not only does God know everything about snowflakes, He also understands us at the most intimate level. He knows our needs and witnesses our weakness. From the very beginning of our lives, God

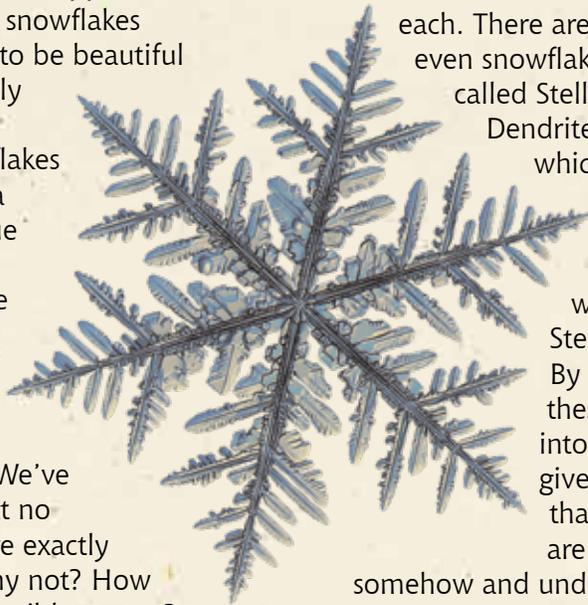
saw the miracle of tiny cells dividing and growing as we were knit together in our mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13-14). And guess what? God can tell identical

twins apart even if Mom and Dad can’t be completely sure! That’s because every one of us is special to Him. While we are all gloriously different, we are each fully known and loved by our Heavenly Father. Each snowflake reminds us that we are the one-of-a-kind handiwork of a Creator who truly cares.

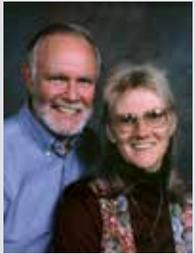
Every snowflake falls to earth in a unique way. Some spin, some circle, and some swirl. Those differences play a crucial role in their unique appearance. One might say that our individual journeys toward Christ are similar. Although the routes are all different with some trusting the Truth since childhood, others being new believers and still others having taken long, circuitous routes to accept the Savior’s forgiveness, He draws us to Himself and softens our hard hearts by the Holy Spirit.

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Psalm 139:14 NIV

Note: To find out more about snowflakes visit: <https://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/class/class-old.htm>



Director's Column: Building Remodel is Complete!



AOI's upstairs remodel is complete! There have been many long months of work, various

problems to solve, new and unannounced regulations we never heard of thrown at us, then a patience-taxing, two-month-long-patience-taxing wait for fire and final inspections to be scheduled.

At this writing, we believe a certificate of occupancy is only days away! We are extremely glad the construction season is over, and we are now entering a new season – filling the rooms for ministry purposes! Many thanks to all who have been

part of this major undertaking – staff, board of directors, volunteers, paid workers, prayer warriors, and those who helped with the finances.

We were required to hire way too many facets of this project because of city ordinances.

There were many projects that staff and volunteers could have done but were not allowed. Some projects were such that I would not wish on my enemies – like hanging extremely heavy drywall! (We wanted to keep our volunteers on speaking terms and as friends!) In spite of these obstacles, many projects were still completed by faithful volunteers and staff.

Now, please pray for wise utilization of the units that will result in fruit for eternity! 

AOI Partners:

AOI is financed primarily by individuals and churches who are interested in reaching and discipling others with solid scientific and Biblical teaching, focusing on the historical events of Genesis 1-11 and the Gospel. Please pray about becoming an AOI Partner today. (www.DiscoverCreation.com/donate)

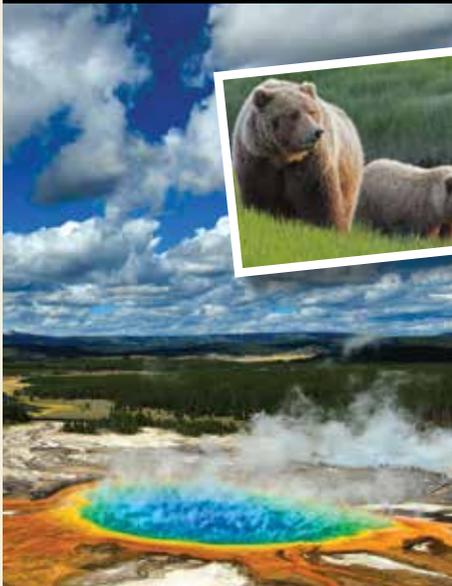
40 Years of Ministry for AOI!

We thank God for His provision, protection, and opportunities for ministry over the years. We are planning a celebration in Grand Junction, CO, for **April 26-27, 2024**. Please mark the dates and stay tuned for more details and additional activities. See: www.DiscoverCreation.org/40Years.



Yellowstone Tours

June 16-21, Aug 23-27, and
Aug 30-Sep 3, 2024



Costa Rica Creation Adventure

February 25 – March 5, 2024



Still a
bit of room
but hurry! Call
ASAP!



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • 1011 N. 10th • 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 2024

