

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

May/June 2024; Vol. 42, No.3



AOI: Celebrating 40 Years of God's Goodness

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

How could AOI be celebrating 40 years of Creation Ministry? Are we THAT old? Little did we know that a book that Mary Jo found in a second-hand store in Sitka, AK, would turn our lives upside down and ultimately impact the lives of thousands of others! "Evolution, The Fossils Say NO!" by Dr. Duane Gish was only 67 pages long. She bought it for a grand total of 5 cents. When we first read the book, we thought Dr. Gish was either crazy or he knew something we didn't know! Praise God, we didn't just toss the book. We decided to study the topic on our own – and as they say, "The rest is history."

We were college instructors at the time living a long-time dream! We enjoyed the adventure of Alaska and loved working with college students! But God broke into our dream and set us on a different path. He challenged our belief in "Theistic Evolution" and got us wondering how we ever thought we could squeeze evolution into Genesis. We found that theistic evolution was both bad science and bad theology!

As God continued to work on our hearts and minds, we discovered that the creation/evolution debate was not just a scientific debate, but that it had profound spiritual,

social, and personal implications. When one of our agnostic students became a follower of Jesus after becoming convinced of the truth of Genesis, we felt the call of God to go into Creation Ministry. We ended up going back to school, earning additional degrees in biology and geology, and founding Alpha Omega Institute, in the spring of 1984.

We immediately began teaching and speaking wherever we found an open door. Early on, it was just us and our 2 young sons traveling around the country in our orange VW pop-top camper van (the Orange Pumpkin!). We would talk to whoever would listen. We had no clue how God would

grow the ministry – or that we would



ever travel internationally with the creation message. We just wanted to share what we had learned.


Again, God intervened and surprised us with a 5-month European speaking tour in multiple countries. That was invaluable in helping us realize the global need for this message.

In 1993, God surprised us again – by bringing Lanny Johnson out of atheism then launching him, Marilyn, their two daughters, and a very cantankerous lion puppet named Eugene into a specialized creation ministry aimed at kids. Thousands of kids have been impacted for the Lord by their faithful ministry over the last 31 years!

God continued to grow the AOI family with board, staff, volunteers, prayer and financial partners – each one playing a valuable part in reaching kids, youth, and adults with the much-needed message of the Truth of Creation and the Gospel. AOI speakers have now gone to most of the states and about 30 nations.

We are SO thankful for God's leading over 40 years. SO MANY testimonies of God's grace, protection, and provision – and most of all, for the opportunity of being involved with Him in reaching and equipping people to trust and follow HIM in this adventure called life! We didn't have any idea how one little book, one very small investment, and one step at a time of following His leading, would grow.

So, our challenge to you – when God leads, just say YES! Take that first small step and the next and the next – and see how He will work in and through you to reach this very lost and needy world – whether at home or to the ends of the earth.

Happy 40th AOI. Hmmm. I wonder what adventures God has for AOI in the next 40 years! 

Is there an Elephant in the Room?

by Dean Rickman, Guest Writer

If all animals started in the same swamp and branched off over time, it would seem reasonable to assume that certain ones would be vastly more developed than others. Yet, each seems adequately suited to its environment and uniquely capable of surviving and thriving in its own way. We don't, for example, see one species flourishing and others bumbling around waiting for a miracle mutation to help them "get it right."

Further, consider that many animals, like elephants, have very long gestation periods. Although their breeding cycle is much, much longer than a mouse or a bug, their "evolutionary" progress has curiously kept selective pace with their more prolific counterparts. Since flies, rats, and cats crank out babies much faster **and** have more generations with which to acquire "improvements," you could assume that rats would be highly, **highly** developed by

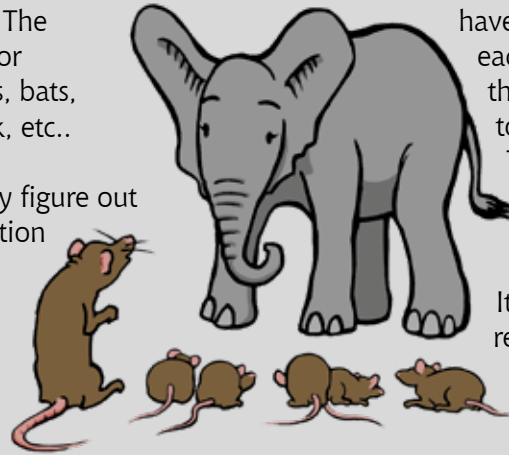
now – capable of writing symphonies while flying in formation at the speed of sound. But no, all creatures appear to have perfect "evolutionary" balance. As of 2024, none seem to be "evolving" to be anything more than what they are. I never see, for example, winged giraffes or dogs with horns, or turtles with fur. The combinations are endless and comical to ponder!

Also, consider that there is no "elephant blueprint" for elephants to follow. They simply "developed" by chance to arrive at African and Indian elephant perfection.

(See page 3.) The same is true for harvester ants, bats, octopuses, elk, etc..

Each had to:

- Immediately figure out that reproduction is essential.
- Achieve reproduction perfection.
- Along



with their mate, find a suitable environment.

- Define specific goals such as body type, sight, flight, hearing, etc.
- Start breeding!!
- Pray that the following generations understand the objective and not replace these functions with variations. For instance, no substitutions of a beak for an elbow or an eye for a tusk.
- Successfully repeat these steps for millions of generations.

To finally arrive at 2024 with a perfectly balanced ecosystem, this evolutionary pattern would

have to happen with each creature and living thing – from bacteria to Macaw parrots.

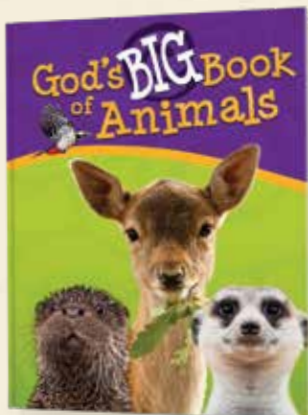
This adds still another layer of complexity to these wishful "scientific" musings.

It's important to remember that imagination is not observation. **AOI**

God's Big Book of Animals

Review by Dave Nutting

Weighing approximately 4 pounds, this literally is a "Big Book!" Measuring 10" x 13.75" and containing 260 color pages of nearly 60 animals, birds, insects, etc., this hard-bound volume quickly became my animal-loving granddaughter's favorite at age 8. Choosing one per day, she read the fascinating information on each animal to her grandmother, Mary Jo, and spent plenty of extra time poring over



the content and gorgeous pictures. This book made "science" much more interesting to her!

Most children love to learn about animals, but this unique book helps children acquire a biblical worldview as they do. Even though the recommended age range is 8-12, adults will enjoy it too. This great book can provide children with a fun learning experience for

Christian homeschool, individual reading, or just spending quality time

with parents or grandparents. This would be an excellent gift!

Special price: Regular \$37.99, but get it from AOI for only **\$28**, plus S/H. A great value! Remember: Your purchase from AOI helps us spread the creation message! **AOI**



Making Elephant Sense

By Dean Rickman, Guest Writer

These thoughts came to me a few days ago when I was listening to an evolutionist explain how she thought sight developed. “It all started with light sensitive cells,” she said. Wait...let’s back this train up. How does a common ordinary cell acquire sensitivity to light? “It’s easy,” they say. “With chance mutations and natural selection over eons of time, anything’s possible.”

Is it really? Using elephants as an example again, let’s go back millions and millions of years and imagine, as a given, that elephants have finally evolved but none have trunks...yet. Ten thousand trunkless elephants are wandering around the planet. Suddenly, one of them, Frank, is born with the mutation of a slightly longer nose bump. But none of Frank’s peers has this “lucky” single mutation. Just Frank.

Eventually Frank has a son and look! Junior has a similar nose bump – just like pop. So, Frank has a few more kids before he dies but only Junior has the longer nose bump. Eventually, all 10,000 trunkless elephants from Frank’s generation die off leaving **only** Junior with the “benefit” of a longer nose bump. None of Junior’s elephant peers have nose bumps.

Soon, Junior matures and has several kids but only one has a questionably advantageous longer nose bump. This cycle repeats itself generation after generation and suddenly, a distant offspring of Junior’s actually has a **longer** nose bump! And, WOW, his nose is twice the length of Junior’s. As usual, NONE of this pachyderm’s peers have this same bump. They all continue to be elephants without trunks. As this scenario is repeated thousands of times over thousands of years, the non-bump elephants

still remain trunkless. The elephants with useless elongated bumps appear on occasion, breed, and die off.

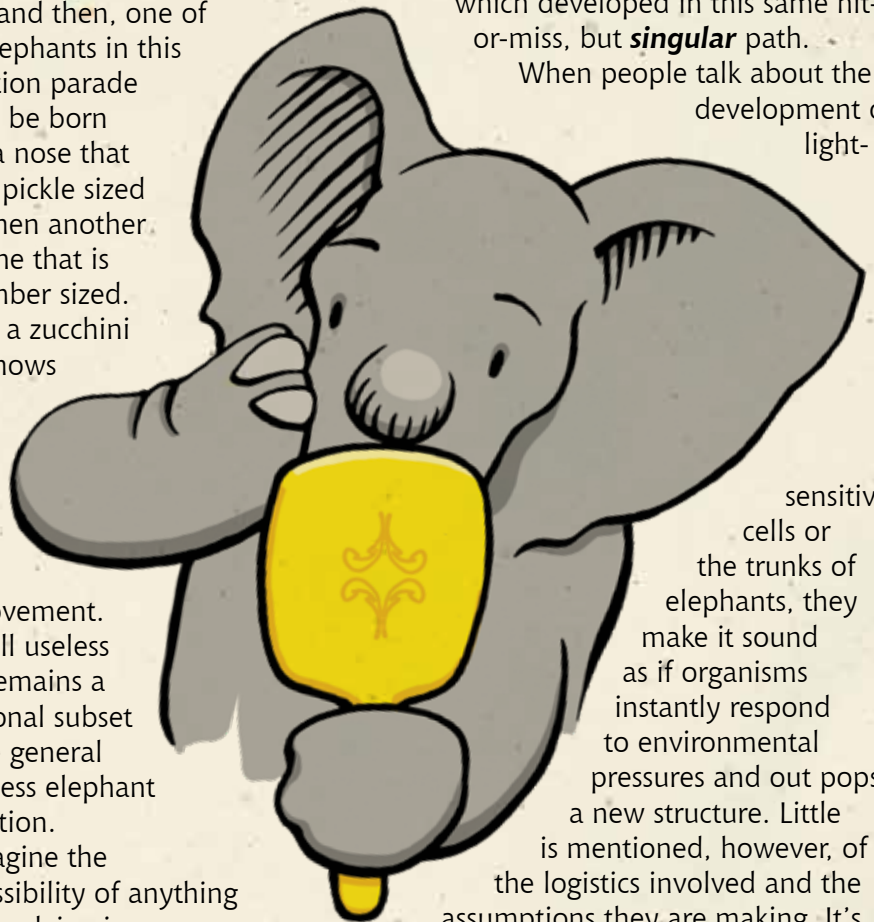
If the bump’s evolutionary purpose is to become a fully functional trunk, that will obviously take millions of years. All the while, the bump is never really needed. Nor, is it asked for. It’s just there. It’s just a gherkin cucumber of a nose flopping around. It can’t reach the water for a drink nor can it reach the trees to eat. It’s just a blob looking for a job and isn’t improving anything in the elephant’s life. Still, it continues to occasionally have a generational growth spurt. Now and then, one of the elephants in this mutation parade might be born with a nose that is dill pickle sized and then another has one that is cucumber sized. Then, a zucchini size shows up. Still, it’s not much of an improvement. It’s still useless and remains a fractional subset of the general trunkless elephant collection.

Imagine the impossibility of anything ever evolving in any manner of volume. Junior never propagated hundreds of kids that all had bumps who then, in turn, bred hundreds of kids

each of whom had even longer noses...all striving for some trunk goal and then leaving behind mass grave sites of elephants with longer noses – elephants who understood and actively pursued the eventual purpose of this still useless trunk. Nope! A more likely scenario is that only one or two of Junior’s kids presented this trait and then it simply disappeared...as it was useless and even a hindrance. So, they might have all died off (perhaps from embarrassment) because of this useless boat anchor that would be under development at all times and for the next million years or so.

And...while all **that** was going on, elephant ears, eyes, toes, and tails, sprouted alongside countless other mandatory systems such as thought, sight, nerve systems, hearing, circulation, and vocalization – all of which developed in this same hit-or-miss, but **singular** path.

When people talk about the development of light-



sensitive cells or the trunks of elephants, they make it sound as if organisms instantly respond to environmental pressures and out pops a new structure. Little is mentioned, however, of the logistics involved and the assumptions they are making. It’s important to realize the amount of generations it takes to pass on a trait and how that trait can be lost just as easily as it may be gained. **AOI**

Director's Column: 40th Anniversary

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting




One major goal of AOI to achieve by this fall is to have a group of eager students occupying AOI's brand new

"Upper Rooms." Eager? Yep. The students we wish to invite to stay in these "Upper Rooms" would eagerly desire to be trained in Creation vs Evolution and Worldviews so they can impact others with the truth of God's Word. This select group is meant to be part of the AOI Outreach Team.

Some of this select group could be Colorado Mesa University students who want to impact their peers and want to live in

Christian community. These could be part-time participants in AOI's instruction/discipleship programs. Others may wish to go full-bore with us, taking advantage of a comprehensive 9 month to 1-year training in worldviews, and Creation vs Evolution apologetics. This includes several Creation tours to exciting locations as well as coming alongside AOI staff to minister to others in a wide variety of avenues.

Interested? If so, email BrianMariani@DiscoverCreation.org and copy DaveNutting@DiscoverCreation.org. If you know of others who may be interested, please pass this information on. 

Twin Peaks Creation Family Adventure

July 21-26, 2024



Great Camp! Great Value! Canyons and Dinosaur Museum tours included!

Contact AOI or visit:
DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/family-camp-colorado/

Yellowstone Tours

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



Great family getaway based out of Old Faithful Christian Ranch near Island Park, ID.

See web for more details.

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Discover Creation Training Adventure

1-year learning adventure

- **Discover** evidence that God's Word is true beginning in Genesis.
- **Answer** evolutionary challenges.
- **Grow** in your relationship with God with like-minded fellow students.
- **Share** and confidently **defend** your faith.



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