

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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## El Salvador and Costa Rica Outreach

By Dave Nutting

Recently, AOI had the opportunity to do an extended creation outreach in Central America. I ministered in El Salvador to churches and a university. This was the first time AOI has been in this beautiful but needy country, and I was blessed by the people and the interest there. Following this intensive time, I continued on to Costa Rica, joining Mary Jo and a group of intrepid adventurers for AOI's exciting "Discover Creation" Tour. It was a great week experiencing God's creation, which, though still under the impact of the Fall and the Flood, is amazingly beautiful. Following this jam-packed adventure, Mary Jo and I launched into a 9-day outreach to churches and universities in Costa Rica. Thank you for praying! God sustained us with safety, health and energy, for which we are very grateful.

We are also thankful for the great reception and interest we found at the churches and universities in both countries. The opposition was almost non-existent, even at the university – very different from what we frequently encounter in the United States. Most university presentations were reasonably well-attended,

and church programs had receptive audiences of up to 175. Some seminars were live-streamed to reach others who could not attend. After presentations which included Q&A, we were able to speak personally with many individuals. A 3-hour radio call-in program was also videoed and live-streamed on the internet. Viewer response came not only from people in Costa Rica, but as far away as Sweden! Yes, interest is great and invitations have been extended to us for future Latin American ministry.

We were especially encouraged with the growth in the Costa Rican creation group which began after our last couple of outreaches. The leaders (many pictured here) are maturing in their faith and growing in their knowledge of creation and a biblical worldview. They are eager to reach Costa Rica and Latin America with the message of Creation and the Gospel! We plan to

continue their training partly through Skype and the internet.

This outreach was a real team effort. Mary Jo and I were blessed to work with enthusiastic individuals who hosted us, coordinated events, and translated for the speaking opportunities. Meticulous graphic artists did a great job producing advertising fliers. They

also worked closely with us, hour after hour, to upgrade and translate the visuals for our PowerPoint@

presentations. Others worked on passing out fliers, social media publicity, videotaping, photography, radio hosting,

working literature tables, preparing meals, providing housing, and engaging students in conversation in the university public areas after presentations. This collective effort helped make the events successful!

A big "Thanks," goes to all of the team players in both countries as well as all of you on our stateside team who prayed for this outreach or contributed support to make it possible! Several attendees already indicated they were greatly impacted by the presentations. Please pray that the seeds planted will sprout and grow, and that God will open many more doors for future ministry in Central America and beyond!

AOI



## Worldview Inoculation by Scott Mauser

**W**hen we are inoculated for various diseases, we receive just enough of the disease to allow our bodies to begin building a resistance to it. So hopefully, when we encounter a heartier exposure, the likelihood of victory over the invading agent is drastically improved. Our body has 'learned' how the virus or bacteria acts, and has created a plan to counteract the destructive pathogen.

In general, this strategy of immunization has proven to be effective and has saved countless lives. However, many people do not vaccinate for various reasons.

In this case, it becomes imperative to avoid the invader by preventing any exposure to the disease. But as we know, avoiding something unseen is never an easy task. Consider the recent Ebola outbreak. In many cases, even medical workers who did everything "right" came down with the dreaded disease.

If vaccinations work so well in the physical world, why not administer a worldview inoculation – exposing believers to measured quantities of differing beliefs? This will allow them to build resistance to inevitable spiritual invaders, such as evolutionary and atheistic philosophies.

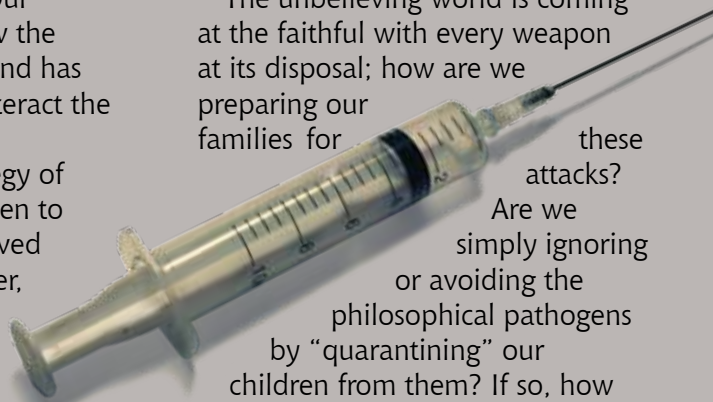
The unbelieving world is coming at the faithful with every weapon at its disposal; how are we preparing our families for these attacks? Are we simply ignoring or avoiding the philosophical pathogens by "quarantining" our children from them? If so, how can we expect them to be salt and light in a dark world?

When it comes to preparing ourselves and our children for the ubiquitous assaults on our faith, we need to move from the quarantine paradigm (of avoidance, hiding, or even total disengagement), to a much more preventative and proactive approach.

Also, just as most inoculations

are performed under medical supervision, I believe that worldview inoculation is best undertaken with a spiritually mature and discerning mentor. Because of sin, attacks can come from without **and** from within, unexpectedly breaking down defenses. What are the results when the invader finally sneaks through? Well, without the wise counsel from experienced "practitioners" and well-designed resources, it can be disastrous. Therefore, here is a thoughtful regimen of inoculation for the church: education, reading, discussion and exposure. Ye, exposure (in the right degree and at the right time) can provide the necessary training to engage the prevailing ideas and paradigms of the culture around us.

Think about the ideas above and see how your worldview would handle a "foreign invader." I believe that with the right training we can be better prepared to go among the spiritually sick. The fields are white for the harvest. **AOI**



## Is Genesis History? – DVD by Dave Nutting

**I**f you missed out on seeing this when it was released to theaters, you really missed out. Tickets were sold out and more showings were then scheduled.

Many of the Creationist leaders have given it rave reviews. We are so glad that it has just been released on DVD! We at AOI highly recommend that you get the DVD for yourself and several copies for your friends and relatives!

After having seen it at the

theater, Brian and Aimee Mariani of AOI agree:

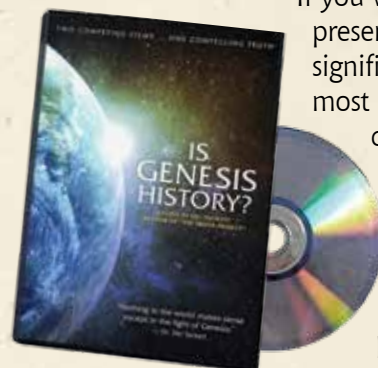
"This well-done overview of the major aspects of the creation model brings together stunning scenery and informative interviews with experts from a wide range of fields which everyone will appreciate.

Presented in a format designed to appeal to a variety

of ages and interests, this new movie is a great talking point that can lead to broader discussion of issues related to creation and the gospel!"

If you want a graduation present that can have eternal significance, this is likely the most life-changing resource you can give to a graduate.

They need to hear the Truth! (Available from AOI. Special price: **\$17.00!** Please add **\$3.00** for shipping and handling.) **AOI**





# Evolution's Take on Baby Teeth

by Brian Mariani

**W**e humans, along with some animals, are blessed to have a set of smaller “baby” teeth that grow in our mouths first, and then give way to larger ones years later. Can you imagine only getting one set of teeth for your whole life? You might be left with tiny little teeth spaced out around your mouth or freakishly, huge teeth that don't fit your mouth as a baby.

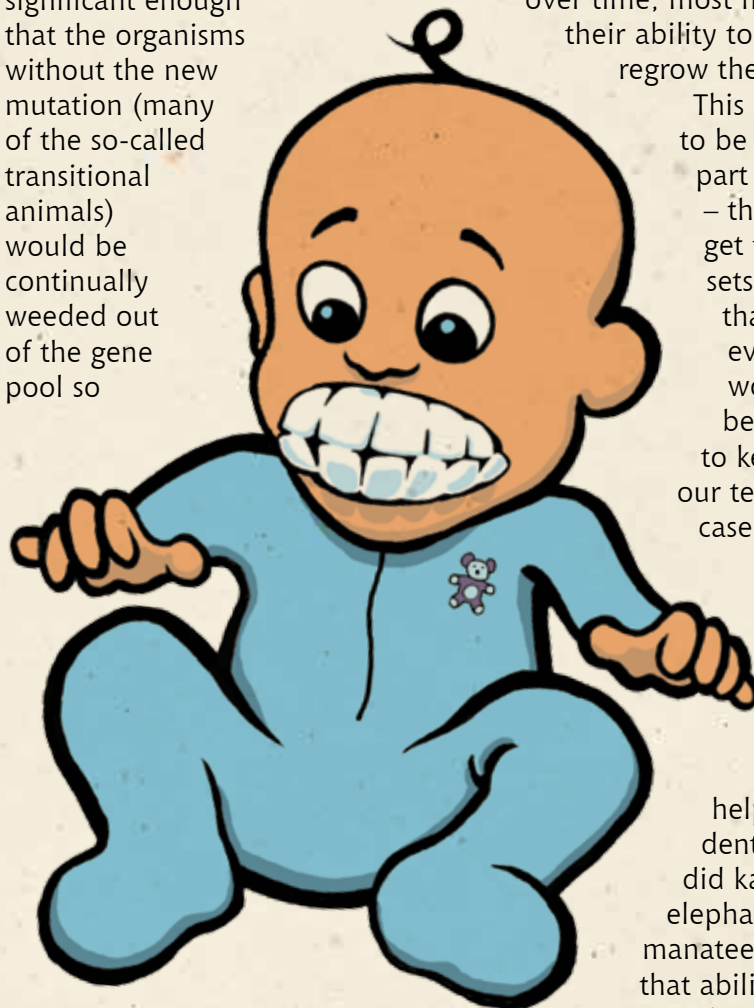
Baby teeth are also called milk teeth or deciduous teeth. You might recognize the reference since the leaves on deciduous trees fall off just like our deciduous teeth fall out. But how do evolutionists believe baby teeth evolved?

One idea goes something like this: Fish evolved from simpler creatures and so, initially, they would have had simple mouths without teeth. Then, some fish acquired the right genetic mutations to cause the scales around the outside of the mouth to point towards the opening of the mouth. These rudimentary spears would be better able to catch prey. Eventually, genetic mutations preserved through natural selection, could have caused these sharp scales to arrange themselves closer to the mouth or eventually in the mouth. These sharp scale structures would then start getting bigger and stronger (since bigger and stronger would be more advantageous) to form what we now know as teeth. In fact, many fish today still have teeth.

These teeth, just like every other body part, would be the fish's only set of teeth for its entire life – that is until the toothy fish acquired the traits to regrow lost teeth. This ability is common for modern crocodiles

and other reptiles. Animals that continually regrow teeth are called *polyphyodonts*.

In this scenario, all of these steps along the way seem to appear by magic. To steal a line from the movie, **Princess Bride**, “It's inconceivable” how many genetic changes and, ultimately, programming would be necessary to make all of those modifications to an organism. Those changes would also have to be significant enough that the organisms without the new mutation (many of the so-called transitional animals) would be continually weeded out of the gene pool so



that those new traits would continue to propagate within the rest of the animal population.

In addition to some fish and reptiles, mammals such as kangaroos, elephants, and

manatees are also *polyphyodont*. Humans on the other hand, like most other mammals, are *diphyodont* – meaning that they will only have two sets of teeth in their lifetime.

Evolutionists have postulated that early mammals were like small rodents. It is reasoned that their diet was more varied and would have required continually regrowing teeth, because they were eating nearly anything and everything. As mammals supposedly evolved, they changed to a more specific diet; thus their teeth didn't wear out as fast. As their genetics mutated over time, most mammals lost their ability to continually regrow their teeth.

This again, seems to be the mysterious part of the process – that we still get to grow two sets, but no more than that. If evolution is true, wouldn't it still be advantageous to keep re-growing our teeth – just in case disease, drugs, accidents, or boxing knock them out? It would also

help with our dentist bills. Why did kangaroos, elephants and manatees get to keep that ability?!

There are so many things that the Theory of Evolution **has** to explain and concurrently, so many things that the Theory of Evolution **cannot** explain. I think God designed all of His creatures just right in their own way! **AOI**



# Director's Column by Dave Nutting



**O**n the front page, I mentioned that while Mary Jo and I were in Costa Rica, we had a long radio interview followed by call-in answers which was also

videod and live-streamed in English with Spanish translation. They also recorded several of the presentations at churches and universities. Here is a link view them and pass on to others: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/DialogosCIV/videos/>

Next, have you been checking out AOI's blog? If not, you are missing out! Recent articles include Mary Jo and my blogs giving some of the play by play action of the El Salvador and Costa Rica ministry as well as the Discover Creation Costa Rica Tour and teaching time. There should also be several upcoming articles related to the Bible College spring geology field trip of the southwest.

Rich and Sue Stepanek tell about their "marathon" speaking tour as well as a tour of a dinosaur museum near Salt Lake City. The museum employee who had followed him around, commenting positively afterwards on what she heard. Sue wrote blogs as well that you will want to read.

Lanny and Marilyn Johnson have written about writing of **Kid's Think & Believe**, stepping into Texas history, and the power of prayer – a touching article where he recounts how his mother's prayers helped him come out of his atheist persuasion.

Keep visiting as there are several new posts weekly. Go to the Blog: <http://www.discovercreation.org/articles/blog/>

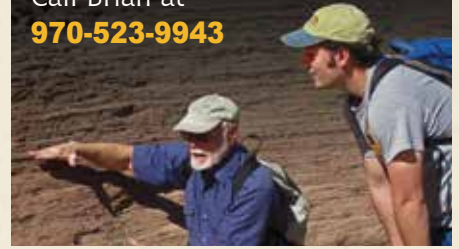
Also, Brian Mariani has been posting short articles, photos, and short videos on to AOI's Facebook pages. (<https://www.facebook.com/AlphaOmegaInstitute/>)

And Scott has been taking care of the Twitter account. The Twitter handle is: [@DscvrCreation](https://twitter.com/DscvrCreation).

Be blessed as you utilize these opportunities. Also, please help us spread the creation message. Passing these links on to others will help spread the message and could result in eternal fruit! **AOI**

## Internships! Training!

Call Brian at **970-523-9943**



## Costa Rica 2018

Interested? Email us ASAP at: [AOI@Discovercreation.org](mailto:AOI@Discovercreation.org)



## Would you like a seminar in your area?

Call now! Speakers are scheduling for Summer, Fall, and Winter.

**Connect with AOI! Follow us, like us, etc.**



**There's still room for you!**



**Family Mountain**  
*Creation Adventure* • July 8 – 15

- Spring Canyon near Buena Vista, Colorado – delicious meals and very nice, private lodge rooms.
- Dynamic Creation Teaching!
- Age-specific kids'/teen programs
- Climbing, mountain biking, ropes course, kayaking, horses, fishing, and relaxing!

## Rock & River

*Creation Action Camp* • July 3 – 8

- Fabulous Colorado high country and famous Arkansas River!
- Dynamic Creation Teaching!
- Whitewater rafts/kayaks, rock climbing/rappelling, and hiking
- For adventurous families & teens



## Yellowstone

*Creation Tour* • Sept. 1 – 5

- Geysers, hot pools, geology, waterfalls, and wildlife!
- Dynamic Creation Teaching!
- Affordable family tour with experienced creation guides
- Lodging at Old Faithful Christian Ranch

