

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

September/October, 2017; Vol. 35, No.5

Rock the Boat

By Dave Nutting

A good friend recently told me, "I would like our church to have a creation seminar, but our pastor says he doesn't want to rock the boat." Can you imagine my reaction? Forget about "rocking the boat." **The boat is sinking! We need to bail the boat!**

Along the same lines, we have even been told by campus ministry and youth leaders that they are concerned about mentioning creation very much since students may turn off and not attend their meetings. In both cases, these individuals fail to take into consideration the reality of what is happening to these students who are daily sitting in classes getting a boatload of anti-God philosophy. The "don't rock the boat" philosophy doesn't equip students to withstand the strong evolutionary indoctrination they receive from school, the Internet, social media, and their peers. This continually rocks their boat of faith and it leaves them vulnerable to shipwreck or aimless drifting. They drastically need a lighthouse to guide them and a "Coast Guard" to rescue them.

Mary Jo and I frequently encounter students at the universities who say, "I used to believe the Bible, but..." or "I used to go to church, but not anymore." The reason they give is that they have "learned" that evolution is a fact and the Bible is wrong.

Some middle/high school teachers and university professors openly

attack the Bible in their classrooms. They teach their students that archaeology has proven the Bible wrong. After all, they tell students, there was no evidence that King David or even Jesus ever existed. One atheist website that makes the claim that Jesus never existed, also claims there was no city of Nazareth during that time period. It proposes that the idea of Jesus and his parents being from Nazareth is all part of a story concocted by religious zealots – going so far to even state that this "account" was pious deception.

Because students are unaware that archaeology supports each and every one of these Biblical accounts, they are easily swayed into skepticism. Sadly, some students who came from evangelical church homes are now championing the atheist perspective.

You probably received a letter from us in mid-July requesting funds to purchase a building for AOI's Creation Outreach Ministry Center in a fantastic location only a block from Colorado Mesa University. I'll bet you know what we have in mind with this center! Thanks to each of you who prayed and gave! We are now in the

building! (See the progress report on the back of this issue.)

With our new ministry outreach center, we are excited about the opportunity to become a lighthouse that gives students a beacon of hope and a safe harbor where they can have their questions answered. We look forward to students being fortified in their faith, encouraged in their walk with the Lord, and equipped with real answers. We want to help them (maybe your son or daughter?) not only survive, but actually thrive and impact others.

What can you do?

1. Pray that God will open hearts and minds to hear His truth.
2. Volunteer to help.
3. Direct students our way who might be interested in joining in our ministry to CMU and nearby schools.

Join us in this ministry here in Grand Junction, or in your own community. Throw some students whose "faith boat" is being rocked and sinking, a lifeline – quickly! **AOI**





Our culture is changing. Deception, confusion, and inconsistent worldviews are abundant. However, there are real answers and there is real truth. There is reason, purpose, and a foundation for what we believe.

We are excited to be stepping out onto the local college campus in greater outreach. Please be praying for us that we may give wise answers to students with questions like these:

1. “If God created everything, then who created God?”

God is not created.¹ No one or nothing created God and that, in part, makes him “God.” This question is an example of a category mistake. The question implies that everything, including God, must be in the “created” category.

God is both “beyond” His creation and also within His creation. God is “totally transcendent and totally immanent at the same time. The author is both transcendent to his story, as its creator, and immanent in it, as a creature. If even a human author can do this, why can’t a God?”²

In fact, there are only two explanations – either something has created the Universe or the Universe has always existed. The expanding universe is evidence that leads most naturalists to say that there was a Big Bang. But...what caused the Big Bang? From a naturalistic perspective, they cannot adequately account for the original cause of the Universe without resorting to the supernatural.

¹Rich Deem, *If God Created Everything, Who Created God?*, Last modified May 17, 2011, http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/who_created_god.html, accessed March 10, 2014.

²Peter Kreeft, *The Journey: A Spiritual Roadmap for Modern Pilgrims*, Intervarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1996, p. 96, 117-118.

2. “If there is a God, then which God is the true God?”

If there is a God, He has to be: uncreated, eternal (technically more than eternal – outside of time and space), immaterial, perfect, good, holy, just, all-knowing, all-powerful, unchanging, infallible and loving. If a God is missing or is deficient in any one of those attributes, then He cannot be the true God because there may possibly be a “bigger and better” God other than himself. God, as explained in the Bible, fulfills all of those attributes! He is a big God!

The Bible is also consistent and confirmed, which is evidence that God is who He says He is. Hear more answers to questions that students ask next time! **AOI**

Have You Considered: Evidence Beyond A Reasonable Doubt

(A Daily Devotional by Julie VonVett and Bruce Malone; Reviewed by Dave Nutting)

We regularly hear how much our readers are enjoying the daily devotional, **Inspired Evidence** by Julie VonVett and Bruce Malone. So, I am sure you will be excited by this new daily creation devotional by the same authors covering 365 additional evidences for creation and our awesome Creator. **Have You Considered** presents amazing testimony from every area of science. Read one of the 365 examples each day of the year (if you can put it down), or enjoy all of them at one long sitting! You will see how



the Bible and science go hand in hand when interpreted within a biblical creation model. Like their other devotionals, VonVett and Malone, include topics such as biology, geology, botany, genetics, anatomy, history, microbiology, and give marvelous demonstration of design. We like the fact that this book is loaded with colorful pictures and is easy to understand – yet technically accurate! Parents can read it to young children while they, themselves, get a huge amount of beneficial information

and gain a great appreciation of our awesome Creator.

This is a tremendous tool for anyone who wants their family to learn more about the Creator and honor Him in their home! Includes references, a topical index, daily Bible verses, and 200 high-quality, color illustrations.

You can do your Christmas shopping right now as this would be a huge blessing to receive as a gift. You can also use it to provide 365 devotional gifts for your own family! (Paperback, 432 glossy 5.5”x 8.3” pages. Cost: Only **\$12** each plus S/H.)

Remember: Your purchase from AOI helps us spread the creation message to your family and others! **AOI**

The Evolution of Antlers

by Brian Mariani

Did you know that the Irish elk, believed to have gone extinct around the ice age, was about the size of a moose and had antlers that stretched up to 13 feet across? It is believed that these antlers could have weighed up to 100 lbs – more than double most modern moose antlers.¹

Yet, the proposed evolutionary purpose and development of antlers is less than clear. Listen to these quotes: “Headgear evolution remains an open and intriguing question because phylogenies (molecular and morphological), adult headgear structure and headgear development (where data are available) all suggest different pictures of ruminant evolution.”²

“Such a wide variety of headgear has long stumped researchers... many questions remain unanswered... Further research into these animals and their ancestors is needed to decipher this deepening mystery.”³

According to Jennifer Welch, writing in *Live Science* (7/5/2011), there are four different groups of animals that have supposedly evolved their own distinctive headgear in different ways: “the bovids (cows, goats, antelope), the cervids (deer, moose, elk), the antilocaprids (pronghorn antelope) and the giraffids (giraffe and okapi).”⁴

Antlers of male cervids generally reach their full extent just before the mating season.⁵ After this, the antlers drop off. It is assumed this is in order to conserve energy for the winter.⁶ Once the winter gives way to spring, it only takes 3-5 months for cervids to fully regrow their antlers. This makes antlers some of the fastest growing organs among animals.⁷ Welch relates there is a special reason for this. “These animals have special stem cells in the knobs at the base of their antlers, which allow this regeneration.”⁹

Given the standard evolutionary mechanisms, it would seem that

mutations would likely be source for any initial, rudimentary antler origins – maybe bumps on the top of the skull? If enough genetic information could be acquired in this way, it would still require generation after generation to select for any genes favored by the environment.

Still, there are more questions for the evolutionist. If antlers began to grow, would they continue to grow indeterminately like hair and fingernails? If so, what blind, genetic forces would come along in time to arrest that development? At what point did the animals acquire enough genetic programming to start seasonally shedding and then regrowing? After all, wouldn't it be more advantageous to have antlers year-round rather than just during the warmer months? To annually repeat this cycle would seemingly require a higher level of genetic programming than blind selection in response to environmental pressures. Keep in mind that each new pair of antlers grows larger as an animal ages. To think that antlers are believed to have evolved independently in the four different animal groups requires a lot of faith.

Furthermore, we see that hormones may play a huge

factor in the structure, form, and function of the antlers. According to researcher Dr. Valerius Geist, as summarized by Wikipedia, “if a bull moose is castrated, either by accidental or chemical means, he will quickly shed his current set of antlers and then immediately begin to grow a new set of misshapen and deformed antlers that he will wear the rest of his life without ever shedding again...In extremely rare circumstances, a cow moose may grow antlers. This is usually attributed to a hormone imbalance.”¹⁰ The supposed evolution of antlers, a complicated enterprise in itself, is made even more complex by trying to factor in all the related systems of the body such as the endocrine system. The theory of evolution faces steep challenges when seeking to explain all of these changes over time. **AOI**

1.⁵Petersen, David, Of Deer, Elk and Moose Antlers, March/April 1989, Mother Earth News, <http://www.motherearthnews.com/nature-and-environment/deer-elk-and-moose-zmaz89mazraw.aspx?PageId=1>, accessed September 13, 2016.

2 Edward Byrd Davis, Katherine A. Brakora, Andrew H. Lee, Evolution of ruminant headgear: a review, published July 6, 2011, The Royal Society Publishing, <http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/278/1720/2857>, accessed September 13, 2016.

3,4,8 Welch, Jennifer, How Did Animals' Dazzling Headgear Evolve?, July 5, 2011, Live Science, <http://www.livescience.com/14907-ruminant-headgear-evolution.html>, accessed September 13, 2016.

6,7,9 Wikipedia, Moose, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moose>, accessed September 13, 2016.



Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



Join us in praising God for how quickly the ministry center acquisition came together! We are still a bit stunned. It's been a whirlwind since, after

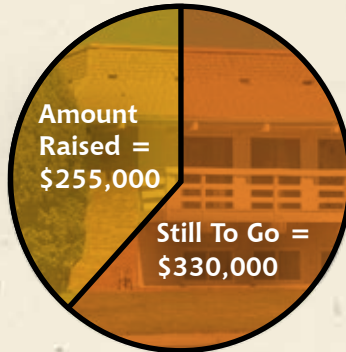
obtaining the contract on June 1, we were able to close on August 7. This new center, one block from Colorado Mesa University, **is now open and outreach ministry to the university and schools has begun!** If you see the huge potential of this outreach center, please get behind it prayerfully and financially. If you live in the Grand Junction, CO, area and **want to volunteer** in any capacity as well, please contact us at AOI.

The terms of the loan were quite favorable with a very good interest rate and **no prepayment penalties, no loan origination fees, and no points!** Income from renting surplus office space should cover the loan payments and some other expenses, but since none of us like loans, our goal is to treat it as a bridge loan and pay it off ASAP so we can expand this important outreach

endeavor. So...please pray, and give as you are able. Also, if you know of any foundations or individuals that might want to invest in this ministry with a grant, please send us contact information.

A big **Thank You** to everyone who has prayed, donated, or helped in any way thus far! You are truly important partners with us in reaching, teaching, and training others with the truth of creation and the gospel. Let's continue to move forward in faith and see what God will do in the hearts of children, students, and adults here in the Grand Valley and to the ends of the earth. **AOI**

AOI Ministry Center Purchase



Opportunities for 2018! Plan ahead!

Kids or Family VBS

The Johnsons and other AOI speakers are now scheduling kids' and family VBS events for 2018. Call soon if you'd like your church to be included!

(If you prefer to do your own teaching, check out AOI's Discover Creation Children's Adventure. Call or see web for details.)



Schedule an AOI

Speaker for your camps and custom tours. Fortify your children, youth, and family campers next

summer with sound, Biblical teaching, and scientific evidence affirming the truth of Creation and the Gospel.

Creation/Worldview Training

Learn to defend your faith and reach out to atheists, skeptics, and seekers. Online training, coupled with a week of practical outreach in Southern CA, including the University of CA, Irvine, or Boulder & the University of CO (Summer dates TBA). Do you have a youth-group-specific date request? Call Scott ASAP at 970-523-9943.



Costa Rica

Creation Tour • March 2-11

Marvel at the beauty and wonder of God's creation with veteran creation teachers, Dave and Mary Jo Nutting, and a highly-trained Costa Rican naturalist. Call ASAP if you are interested or check the web for more info.



Rock & River

Creation Adventure • July 2-7

We had a blast this summer with youth groups and families – 3 days rafting/kayaking, 1 day rock climbing, 1 day ascend a mountain. Youth leaders, parents, call ASAP to schedule this exciting, informative adventure. We were full last year, so let us know of your interest soon!



Creation Training and

Excursion Equip yourself to stand firm and reach others with this creation intensive short course. Sunday Evening – Fri PM. Includes fabulous

field excursions to Arches National Park, Canyonlands National Park, and Dinosaur National Monument. (Dates TBA. Call Dave at 970-523-9943 or with your date requests April – June).

Connect with AOI! Follow us, Like us, etc.



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (800) 377-1923 • 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 2017

