

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

November/December, 2013; Vol. 31, No.6

The Message of Hope

by Dave Nutting

Have you noticed the difference? People of the Christian faith are exuberant about this time of year. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and later Holidays are certainly times to be thankful. Why? Because we are celebrating a message of hope and expressing gratitude for what God has done and will yet do on our behalf. Contrast this with the message of atheistic evolution which has no hope. Why celebrate anything?

Years ago, Mary Jo and I had an opportunity to share for many hours with a zoology graduate student who claimed to be an atheist. Near the end of our time with him, he said that his parents were atheists and that they were getting old. Then he said, "You know, there is not much hope in atheism." Boy, did he ever hit the nail on the head! **There is no hope in atheism.**

OK now, think from an evolutionary, atheistic perspective. Somehow the first life accidentally formed as a single cell in the slime of a primordial pond. Later generations evolved more and more, turned into fish, and finally crawled onto land to begin their march to eventually become humans after 3.5 billion years. So looking back, according to this perspective, people are nothing but glorified pond slime. That doesn't sound like anything I want to impress on my grandkids!

The evolutionary heritage doesn't give much foundation on which to build hope. The atheistic worldview says there is no more to life than what there is right now. In a short time, we pass on, leaving little trace that we were here before something else (perhaps bacteria) finally surpasses or destroys the human race and takes a new direction in evolution. Our individual lives, hopes, and dreams really don't matter. Our only job is to pass on our genes. Since there is no afterlife in this view, we just pass out of existence and into evolutionary oblivion. Where's the hope in that?

Some atheists will debate this idea, and say they find joy in each day and hope in "leaving the world a better place." I suppose it's good that they find good in life, but that doesn't negate the futility of their beliefs. Maybe what they are really seeing, in spite of their worldview, is the goodness of God and His kindness, even to the ungodly.

For Christians who are celebrating this season, we have a reason to celebrate. There is hope! The whole message of the Bible, including the account of our Lord's birth, the coming of His Kingdom, and eternal life with Him is a **REAL** message of hope. Jesus is our Salvation, YES! But here and now he is also our Creator, our Shepherd, our Wisdom, our Comfort **and** our HOPE! Think about all of that as we celebrate this time of year. There is quite a difference between the Biblical and the atheistic worldviews. The message of the Bible and Jesus' work in our hearts and lives is certainly reason to be thankful for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. We hope you share your hope with others.

By the way, after our discussions with the student mentioned earlier, and through the prayers and patience of his friends, he later became a Christian. He saw the futility of the evolutionary, atheistic worldview and found **HOPE** in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord! **AOI**



Nuttings' praise: College Ministry, Spanish DVDs

By Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



We are grateful for God's grace, strength, and provision to share the truth of God's Word with people of all ages this year. One major highlight includes the launching of the Creation Action

Boot Camps for teens and college students. These are meant to equip students with the tools to stand firmly under pressure when confronting evolutionary teaching. We are looking forward to expanding these camps in the future, with the help of the Marianis, who joined us in June. We are grateful that God has called them, prepared them, and equipped them for this ministry. We are also excited about the completion of

the Spanish subtitling of our DVD series and are looking forward to using this resource to expand our outreach here and internationally.

We are also grateful for the opportunity to minister at 5 universities this fall. We really enjoy coming alongside campus ministries to help them reach out to students who are being hit on all sides by anti-God, evolutionary, and atheistic propaganda.

Finally, a major highlight this year, as in the past, is meeting new people and renewing so many ongoing friendships as we travel and speak. This ministry is really about relationships – helping people grow in their relationship with God and others. So we are grateful when this occurs. There is so much for which to be thankful to our Lord!



Gail Tompkins – Office Manager

I can see the Hand of God over every aspect of my life. Because I was able to take my grandson, Nicholas, to Camp Redcloud last summer (AOI's Family Camp) I was able to take the registrations this year with more knowledge of how great the food is, the comfortable rooms, the wonderful teaching, and the fun activities.

I love the diversity of my job. I process donations & book orders, take phone calls, answer emails, supervise newsletter stuffing, enter new patrons into the database, order, pack and unpack books for the speakers, and many other tasks. I love being busy and the staff usually makes that happen! I am blessed to volunteer at several different organizations and it helps to keep me busy when I'm not working.

My big praise is that the Lord has given me wisdom to know how to heal the hip problem that I have had for 25 years, what a relief! May God bless each of you with good health, peace and provision.



AOI ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

Scott Mauser
Manager, Teacher, Coordinator, and
All-around-hold-down-the-fort Guy

Highlights 2013:

This last year has truly been a year for casting our anxieties on the Lord, and God has shown Himself faithful and again. He doesn't always answer the way we would want, but He answers nonetheless and always for our benefit. I am so grateful to know He will never leave or forsake us. It has been a year of changes for me. I have started teaching a worldviews class at Lutheran day school for 7th and 8th graders. It has been a blessing in many ways, but the blessings far outweigh those struggles. I am also preparing a group of high school youth to defend their faith and beliefs in a 2014 trip to the UC Berkeley campus. It has been a little daunting. Currently at AOI, we are transitioning our database to another, and will soon be converting to a new system. All the above blessings need a lot of patience from me. He does provide, as well as some growth. No matter how frustrating, 2013 has been a year for growing closer to Him for his tenacious grip.



We thank the Lord for the health and strength He has provided to minister throughout 2013. He truly is our rock, fortress, and deliverer! (Ps. 18:2)



Johnson 2013 highlights:

We saw many in leadership roles (pastors and camp directors) under spiritual attack this last year. We were able to minister to several of these by simply listening to their trials, encouraging and praying for them.

We noticed that a great number of the kids we ministered to not only had a lack of respect for authority, but also a general lack of enthusiasm for life or anything spiritual. We know that older people generally view the younger generation with criticism, and we qualify as the "older generation"! However, this has put a heavy burden on our hearts to keep on keeping on as long as God sees us fit, to strengthen a remnant of the next generation to serve Him in an ever increasingly difficult world. They need Jesus and the hope He gives of eternal life plus the reassurance that God's word is true.

We were blessed to witness two of our grandchildren being baptized and taking that next step in their Christian walk.

God allowed us to attend the graduation at Cornerstone Bible School for Abby and Claudia Stepanek (we have become their second parents by doing ministry with them over the years). What a blessing to see these two faithful young ladies stepping out to serve The Lord!



year started with a home Genesis Bible study at a friend's house. has presented a number of these home Bible studies and they are a blessing. We really enjoy these interactive, personal times of worship in the Word of God. The encouragement and hunger to know about God and His Word from these home Genesis Bible studies inspired us to write a book on Genesis.

was blessed to again travel to India for several weeks. As in the t, the need continues to be overwhelming. We are excited to see onals really becoming trained and prepared to share and teach the ation message themselves.

March, we enjoyed our time with several churches in California. It always a joy to visit and to minister to a dear Chinese arch who has blessed us in so many ways.

summer was very busy with the CHEC conference, JFCA National Youth Convention in WV, and several weeks teaching at various other camps AT, NE, and CO. It brings fulfillment and joy to see both young and old hungering to know more about the Word of God.

ersonally, we had two daughters, Claudia and Abby, graduate in May from Cornerstone Bible Institute, of which Rich is a new member of the board. Abby is continuing her studies at Appalachian Bible College, and Claudia and her fiancé, Keith, are planning their wedding for early next year. What an eventful year!

Thank you to those who pray and give to make this all possible.

ares and
ful again
like, but he
so thankful to
a year of many
class at a local
been a challenge
ight bumps. I
end their faith
That can be a
hing from one
a new website.
God, but patience
the blessing or
to God. I thank



AOI Welcomes Brian & Aimee!

- Praise God for His work in our lives this year:
- God has called us to this ministry with AOI and clearly confirmed that calling throughout the past year!
 - We finished our year teaching (or substitute teaching for Aimee) at our Christian school where we were blessed to share the Bible, Creation, and the science behind it all. We also had many opportunities to mentor students along the way.
 - In June, we packed up and moved everything to Colorado. There were many challenges but God faithfully showed His providence! He even provided a place to rent right away making the transition a lot smoother!
 - We were blessed to begin our ministry with AOI at 2 weeks of summer camps and we are now starting our own speaking trips around the country!



Director's Column by Dave Nutting



A university student who had just become a Christian was really excited to hear the creation program since evolution was a big stumbling block in his coming to know the Lord. He told us, "Evolution is a huge lie. It's huge!" We praise God for the work of the campus pastor who was able to answer his questions and lead this student to the Lord; but how many students are continually bombarded by atheistic, evolutionary claims and don't know there are answers?

AOI is a small organization, yet each year we are privileged to speak to thousands of "students" of all ages through many church seminars, camps, children's programs, and

university presentations. However, there are hundreds of thousands more who need solid answers and a consistent witness of believers who understand the issues and will patiently bear with their questions and skepticism. We wish we had a huge task force to help reach them through live presentations, newsletters, blogs, website, and social media. For this, we need your help. **Please**

- **PRAY** for AOI staff and ministry.
- **Share** the AOI website and materials with others.
- **Host** a seminar, VBS, or camp in your area.
- **Get additional training** so you can share with your family and others.
- **Pray for the fall launch of our Creation Training Institute.**

Please support the ministry of AOI.

This time of year is crucial for AOI since this is when a good share of the funds to finish the year and propel us into the next traditionally come in. Please pray. Without these year-end gifts, the ministry is negatively impacted the following year. If you see the foundational importance of the creation issue, please help us reach many more students and adults by sending a generous year-end gift – and then commit to regularly supporting AOI in 2014. **AOI**

Give Life-Changing Gifts!

This year, give life-changing gifts such as the tremendous books recently featured in T&B (**The Global Flood**, **The Genius of Ancient Man**, and **Chronicles of Dinosauria**). For each of these books you order this Christmas season, we will include a free copy of **50 Archaeological Proofs for the Bible** or Lanny Johnson's amazing book, **The Hand of God**. Also, make sure you browse our website for a list of **specials** – some more than **50% off!** These are all great books, but we are overstocked! Visit: www.DiscoverCreation.org/Specials.html (Offer expires Dec. 31, 2013.)



New for 2014!

More activities, more locations! Along with our Creation Action Boot Camps, AOI is offering brand new creation opportunities for 2014 which include:

- **New Family Camps and Tours**
- **Teen Whitewater Creation Adventure**
For more information, visit: www.DiscoverCreation.org/Camps.html
- **Fall 2014 Launch! Creation Training Institute Pilot Class**
For more information, visit: www.DiscoverCreation.org/TrainingInstitute.html



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 2013

