

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Costa Rica Adventure Update

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

If you missed this Adventure, you missed a great time of fun, fellowship, learning, and ministry outreach. Fifteen intrepid explorers joined Mary Jo and me, two DCTI students, and 3 Costa Rican assistants for a wonderful time exploring Costa Rica's amazing diversity and natural wonders. Sites included an active volcano, beautiful waterfalls, stunning ocean beaches, mountains, cloud forests, rain forests, a coffee plantation, and more. In the wild, we saw 4 types of monkeys, sloths, coatimundis, peccaries, and crocodiles. We also observed a fantastic array of colorful birds (including hundreds of various hummingbirds!), fabulous butterflies, and amazing flowers/vegetation. Just to see such variety and diversity by itself would make the trip worthwhile.

Granted, some commercial tours offer a lot of similar features. So what makes this trip different? Why does AOI sponsor this tour and other great adventures?

Everything we do at AOI is guided by our ministry purpose – encouraging people to grow in their relationship with God as they Discover Creation and walk confidently in the truth of His Word. Because of this, our goal for all of our adventures is for participants to

discover the wonders of God's creation firsthand; to be exposed to a sound Biblical worldview in interpreting what they see; to be encouraged to grow in their relationship with their Creator; and to enjoy the fellowship of fellow travelers of like mind. In particular, we challenge participants to explore the way in which the natural and archaeological features can be understood in light of the foundational overview of recorded history found in Genesis 1-11.

Using this interpretive framework, we see abundant evidence of design, complexity, and interrelationships, as would be expected from the events described in Genesis 1-2 (Creation). We also see evidence of suffering, disease, brokenness and death as a result of Adam's sin and its spread to his descendants (Genesis 3-5, the Fall). As we continue exploring, the impact of the global Flood described in Genesis 6-8 becomes evident – especially in geology. Evidences abound for catastrophic geological processes including earth tectonics and massive catastrophic erosion during, and following, the Flood. This resulted in rapid deposition of layers quickly burying animals and plants (now preserved as fossils).

Finally, we see evidences of post-Flood events (Genesis 9-11) giving rise to the distribution

of plants and animals around the globe; the dispersion of varying people groups (tribes, nations, languages); and the evidence of a common root of history, religion, and culture as seen in archaeological and anthropological studies.

Following the tour time in Costa Rica, we and the DCTI students switched gears a bit and stayed for another 8 days of intensive ministry at churches, the University of Costa Rica, and a Christian school. This part of the trip was organized and hosted by Scott Leisner, a missionary with Campus Missions International. This outreach phase gave DCTI students an opportunity to experience and be involved in cross-cultural ministry. We were much encouraged by the cooperation and interest shown by groups from several



different churches and the opportunities for ongoing ministry in the future. Attendance at the university meetings was lower than hoped for, but some good contacts were made and we have begun to lay plans for enhanced student participation and impact in the future.

The time in Costa Rica was very rewarding! We are grateful for those of you who prayed for the trip and the outreach. God abundantly blessed us with health, safety, energy, fellowship, and abundant ministry opportunities. All praise goes to Him, our great Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer, Lord, and Coming King! Discover Creation... Worship the Creator! 

Testimonials from the Costa Rica Adventure



We received this from Oscar who did a superb job as our Costa Rican tour coordinator. He upholds the authority of the Bible and has this to say about Creation:

“I’ve been a Christian for around 20 years, and have always been attracted to apologetics, struggling to convince non-believers or atheists about God. At a certain point, I got discouraged to find I needed stronger arguments for I seemed to be losing with the arguments I was using for debate. In my spiritual journey, I realized convincing has to do more with the work of the Holy Spirit rather than man’s argumentative debates, which ultimately are also necessary. I may have been discouraged to keep talking to non-believers based on this reasoning, but when I came across presentations by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting, my apologetic perspective changed completely. I realized that we can use facts and science to convince people to get to know God in such a way that we don’t have



to bombard them with Bible verses and spiritual content they may not understand initially, and may have an opposite effect.

Of course, the Bible is the basis for Creationism, but spiritual understanding and growth will probably come more smoothly after non-believers accept the principles of Creationism. And that’s why I found this is an extremely useful and intelligent strategy. Getting acquainted with Creationism principles has changed the way I see the world!

As a Christian, I see many brethren struggling to make their personal beliefs and secular beliefs fit into the Bible, oftentimes contradicting the Scriptures and creating doubt for themselves. Creationism is helping not only non-believers but also Christians to understand and confirm many supernatural accounts in the Bible, such as the Flood. I’m entirely thankful to Dave and Mary Jo, and most of all, God, for using them in such a way!”

Others had this to say:

“I want to thank you and Mary Jo for such a wonderful tour of Costa Rica. It

was everything we hoped it would be. God was evident everywhere; from the beautiful country we saw, the excellent teaching we received, the caring trip staff He provided, and the wonderful people we had the privilege of traveling with. Cathy and I felt truly blessed!”
– Dave S.

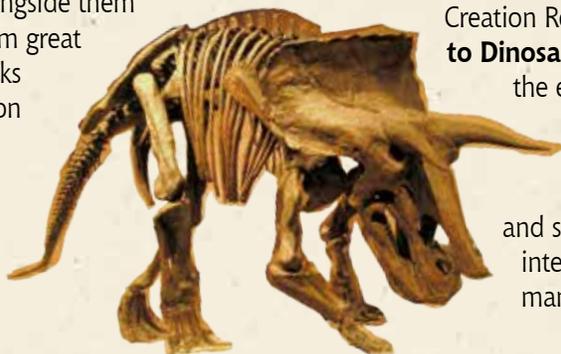
“Oh my, were we well-fed?! Absolutely!” – Carol F.

“The tour was wonderful. I have never been on a tour like this before and it was a great experience seeing as much as we did in a short time...Our last night was a HUGE treat. The food was excellent, the view was beyond beautiful, and the history and entertainment felt like a true Costa Rican experience that not many get to enjoy. Thank you for that. What a way to end a wonderful week.”
– Sharla R.

Contact us soon if you wish to join a future Costa Rica Tour. Also check out our website for photos and information about other upcoming camps and tours: <http://www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/>

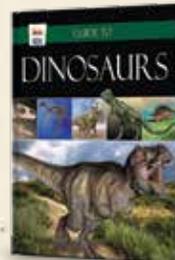
Guide to Dinosaurs

One way to spread the word about creation is by providing high-quality resources to those around you. Since a lot of children are drawn into evolution through dinosaur books and DVDs, you can come alongside them by giving them great dinosaur books from a creation perspective. We have advertised this book earlier,



but if you didn’t get it, this would be a good time to order this excellent resource for your children’s summer reading or for your adult friends who need a different perspective.

Published by the Institute for Creation Research, **Guide to Dinosaurs** challenges the evolutionary model and presents a biblically-minded and scientifically-solid interpretation of the many types of dinosaurs



and the issues surrounding their fossils. We highly recommend that Christian homes and church libraries have a wide variety of dinosaur books and DVD’s from a creation perspective for their children. Otherwise, they may get the impression that the sheer volume of evolutionary books must mean they are right. Also, we encourage you to have enough on hand to loan to neighborhood children. Great for all ages! 8.5 x 11.25 Hardcover, 120 pages. (Remember, your purchase helps the ministry of AOI.) 

Costa Rica Adventure Tour and Mission Outreach

by Jesse Hey, DCTI Student

When I arrived in Costa Rica, I was amazed at the abundance of vegetation. Even the mountaintops were green. I was further intrigued by how overgrown many of the forested areas were. Because only 20% of the available sunlight hits the forest floor, the advantage goes to the plants that can grow higher. Epiphytes are amazing plants that have the ability to grow on tree branches, tree trunks, and other structures. Most of them do not harm their host (other than perhaps by adding weight). They grow best in areas where moss and/or debris have collected providing better sources of nutrients and water build-up. Some are called air plants and can grow on almost anything. They use their roots to anchor themselves to an object – not to absorb nutrients or water. Instead, their leaves absorb nutrients and water from the air. Amazing! It was fascinating to learn about these plants that have their leaves do all the work. The abundance of these epiphytes on the trees was sometimes so overgrown you might think they were part of the tree itself.

We continued to see beautiful scenery but the wildlife was also very colorful. It was awesome to go snorkeling for the first time. The water was refreshing and blue. Many of the brightly-colored fish even swam up to me or let me float next to them. It was a lot of fun.

The most beautiful fauna would have to be the birds. Costa Rica is very famous for the over 800 species of birds that make their home in the lush forests. Though some we saw were considered

rare, I would have to say I liked the Scarlet Macaw the most.

According to Darwinian Evolution, beauty in nature is only for survival purposes (mating, hunting, camouflage, etc.). So the Scarlet Macaw's beautiful feathers must be for attracting a mate



(Normally the male tries to impress the female. Therefore, the male should be more "impressive" than the female). However, the male and female Scarlet Macaw have the exact same color patterns. They also mate for life. Even if their mate dies, they will not find another one. This seems foolish if their purpose is guided simply by reproduction. There were many other symbiotic relationships and design features we learned about on this trip that all point to an awesome Creator!

After our adventure tour of Costa Rica, it was nice to stay for the ministry outreach phase with the local people and university students. We were able to share some of the design features of the local flora and fauna that point to a Designer and indicate problems with evolution. Many had never heard of evidence contrary

to evolution and were eager to learn about the scientific evidences that support the Biblical accounts of Earth history and point to an intelligent Creator.

They had many questions. It was exciting to help give them answers and see their eyes light up when they were told they something that strengthened their faith in God the Creator, and the accuracy of the Bible.

I wish I would have really focused in school when I took Spanish. I would love to have had more conversations but sadly, there were many people and few interpreters. I tried to make the most of the time while I was down there and enjoyed every minute I had to talk with the people. We even put together a puppet show for the children and talked to them about dinosaurs. They were really excited and happy.

The whole trip was amazing. I pray the people will continue to seek out the evidences that point to God as

the Creator of all the beauty around them. 



Director's Column by Dave Nutting

Can you believe it? We are graduating our first class of students from the Discover Creation Training Institute!

Several years ago, a business-savvy person asked me why I would want to "shoot myself in the foot" by training others to teach creation? Wouldn't it lead to competition since groups may want those I train to speak rather than me? Of course, this logic is strictly from the business concept of "protecting your turf." However, that is not how the Kingdom of God is meant to work! Paul tells us in II Tim. 2:2, "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

We don't see the creation/evolution controversy going away. With so much evolutionary teaching entrenched in schools and universities, **we need an army of trained individuals to teach creation!** In order to make a dent, these individuals must train others to do the same.

There is a lot at stake here! Thousands of young people are shaken to the core by evolutionary indoctrination. A huge percentage of our students are falling away from church because they've been told they can't believe the Bible.

This last weekend, I had Jesse Hey, one of our DCTI students, give much of my lecture entitled: "Was Darwin wrong about Fossils?" Jesse did an excellent job! He is equipped and ready to be an active force in Creation ministry. I want to "shoot myself in the foot" even more, by having a thousand Jesse-quality trainees giving presentations to churches, youth groups, universities, etc.

This message has to be spread!

Are you (or someone you know) wanting to make an impact on the world? Then talk to us! We would love to train you to be a force in your community, local school, church, or ?? Apply now for the fall, 2017 semester of the Discover creation Training Institute! **AOI**



DISCOVER CREATION TRAINING INSTITUTE

Unique 1-yr college-level program featuring:

- Exciting Field Trips
- Hands-on Learning
- Costa Rica Outreach
- Worldview Studies
- Creation Science
- Biblical Studies
- Apologetics



Students, apply now for 2017-2018!

See the **new pricing** structure and **additional options** online:

www.discovercreation.org/discover-creation-training-institute/

You can help! We are a small organization with some big goals. Your financial help makes a huge difference! Please consider providing regular support and generous special gifts.

Schedule a Seminar!

We have openings in our schedule for fall and even yet this summer. Would your church or group want to have a creation program? Please call us.



Follow Us:



Creation Family Adventures!



Rock & River

Creation Action Camp July 4 – 9

- Fabulous Colorado mountain adventure!
- Whitewater rafts/kayaks, rock climbing and hiking
- For teens and adventuresome adults



Creation Family

Mountain Adventure July 17 – 22

- Fabulous outdoor activities for all!
- Whole-family program with the Johnsons
- Great accommodations near popular tourist attractions



Yellowstone Tour

Creation Tour September 2 – 6

- See Yellowstone sites from a creation perspective.
- Enjoy geysers, mudpots, geology, and wildlife.
- Fun fellowship. Great teaching for all ages!



Military Family

Creation Week July 16 – 23

- Spring Canyon Conf. Ctr. - near Buena Vista, CO
- Visit: www.springcanyon.org.



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