

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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When God Moves, Hang On for the Ride!

By Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, a special time of remembering the bounty of God's goodness, my mind is drawn to the first AOI Board meeting in AOI's new ministry center. As we recounted the steps God had used to get us to this place, we were all in awe of God's leading and provision to make this ministry center a reality. There have been so many miracles along the way!

Board member, Andrew Massey, very emotionally said his mind is just "blown away" by what God has done on behalf of AOI in just a few short months. From seeing the building, to getting the contract, and having a donor step forward on the very day the contract was to be signed with \$141,250 to cover the full down payment, God has provided what was needed in every step of the process. This includes the favorable appraisal, inspections, closing, and providing a renter for the rentable portion of our new building so quickly. Andrew repeated, "It just blows my mind! It's all God."

I think it's fair to say that we all feel this way! It has all gone so quickly! We were not even looking for a building when Mary Jo "discovered" it. She called Dave and asked, "How serious are we about university ministry?" From then on, it's been a whirlwind! Both the listing realtor and our

banker were amazed by the unusual "hoops" the seller put before us, and the way that God provided the full, stipulated down-payment and all other conditions. On top of all that, God surprised us and another realtor by how quickly He provided a tenant that fit perfectly with the portion of the building we weren't going to be using. We serve a mighty God! As one of our former board members used to say, "When God moves, hang on for the ride!" It certainly has been a wild ride this summer and, from the looks of it, it isn't over yet!

While all of us are grateful and in awe of how God has provided a building, the building is really not the point at all! Much more, is the potential for expanded ministry this new strategic location, just one block south of Colorado Mesa University, provides. Outreach to students has already begun! On August 21, just 4 days from our official "move-in" date, Brian and Aimee Mariani organized a successful eclipse party. What a thrill it was to see 60 students, neighborhood people, and friends of AOI show up to view the eclipse, eat free hot dogs, and receive information about creation

and the ministry of AOI! This was the first of what we hope to be many outreach events at AOI's new location.

It seems significant that the first event at AOI's new ministry center was an eclipse party! Just as the sun's light was dimmed by the eclipse for a time, so too the light of God's Word has been "eclipsed" "for a time" by the pervasive teaching of evolution and other anti-God ideas on campus. We are excited and awed that God has given us such a strategic location to reach out to university students and others with the true light, the truth of His Word, and the good news of Jesus Christ and His coming Kingdom!

Will you join us in prayer that God will clearly lead all of us at AOI as we seek ways to minister effectively to CMU students, area high school students, and others in the Grand Junction community while continuing our "on-the-road" ministry to children, youth, and adults across this nation and around the world? Praise Him for His provision – and the opportunities set before us – and pray for wisdom and faithfulness on our part. Ask Him for open doors, open hearts, abundant fruit for His Kingdom, and most of all, that it would all be to His honor and glory. **AOI**





1. How can you believe the Bible when it has been translated so many times over thousands of years?

The New Testament has 5,795 manuscripts – all of which are incredibly similar. Many are very old, produced within 40 years of the original sources. They are consistent, virtually unchanged, and trustworthy. Noted Biblical scholars Bruce M. Metzger, PhD, and Bart D. Ehrman, MDiv, PhD, testify to the great reliability of the New Testament by saying that:



“The textual critic has available the numerous scriptural quotations included in the commentaries, sermons, and other treatises written by the early Church fathers. Indeed, so extensive are these citations that if all other sources for our knowledge of the text of the

New Testament were destroyed, they would be sufficient alone for the reconstruction of practically the entire New Testament.”

2. Why believe the Bible? Wasn't it made up and influenced by other religions and cultures?

The Bible is too complex to have been simply made up. Think about it. Biblical authors would not have made up the mistakes of their heroes in faith like Adam and Eve, Noah, David, Peter, etc. These writers also give credibility to women in cultures where the testimony of a woman was not accepted and where their roles were diminished and undervalued. There is even the inclusion of embarrassing situations surrounding women in Jesus' bloodline. It seems logical to assume that the writers would only have included those details if they had actually happened.

The diversity of its authors, as well as the scope and span of the text are compelling evidence

for why we can trust that the Bible is God's Word. It is a compilation of 66 different books by approximately 40 different authors over a span of around 1,500 years. It has been preserved in its entirety for at least 2,000 years – yet is amazingly unified. It's transmission has been very accurate, and its historicity is well documented by outside sources. It's holy inspiration is evidenced by its supernatural fulfillment of prophecy, as well as its unity in theme and purpose. This is further evidenced by the insight it provides regarding the origin/nature of man, events in history, and man's future destiny. Its survivability continues to indicate its inspiration as well as the impact on the world in the form of changed lives. **AOI**

Jones, Clay, The Bibliographical Test Updated, Christian Research Institute, Christian Research Journal, volume 35, number 03 (2012), published online at <http://www.equip.org/articles/the-bibliographical-test-updated/>, accessed February 7, 2014.

Bruce M. Metzger and Bart D. Ehrman, The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration, 4th ed. (New York: Oxford, 2005), 126.

“I love to receive our copies of the Think and Believe. I could use about a dozen copies of the mailing each month so I can pass them out to my students at school. Is that a possibility? I will ‘thank and believe’.” – Ed from Oregon

2nd Chance: Have You Considered?

(A Daily Devotional by Julie VonVett and Bruce Malone)

What a fabulous Christmas gift! Start the new year off right with this full-color, daily devotional. Informative, easy-to-read, one-page articles spotlight fascinating evidences of creation from science and the Bible. This is a great way to increase your knowledge of creation in daily bite-sized pieces throughout

the year. We are spotlighting it again since it is such a terrific resource for families. It can be used as an effective outreach tool and also makes a great gift for family, friends, students, or coworkers. Order several today! Single copy **\$12.00** plus \$3.00 S/H (total for each address). **AOI**



Staff Ministry Highlights



Brian and Aimee:

We first connected with Dave and Mary Jo on their Floods of the West

field trip while we were students at Jackson Hole Bible College. That field trip was a “once-in-a-lifetime” trip since we got to see and experience sooooo much. Well, this year, we got to do the trip twice! In April, Brian was Dave’s assistant, but, when the trip got rescheduled again in October, he assumed the leading role teaching the students!

During two weeks of summer camp as well as our worldview trip to Southern California, we were blown away with how God worked. It was amazing as well to watch God miraculously provide the new building for AOI – at the same time that He was putting it on our hearts to reach local students. We’re gradually establishing ministry on campus as we realize, more and more, the importance of one-on-one opportunities.

On a personal note, we have thoroughly enjoy watching our two kids learn and grow as we await “baby-on-the-way” in January!



Rich and Sue:

We praise the Lord as we celebrate our 20th year of ministry with AOI. We are thankful for the opportunities

God has provided, for good health, and the financial and prayer support that make this possible. It has been an exciting year with lots of travel, some old and a few ‘new’ speaking venues, and numerous opportunities for local ministry in Grand Junction. Recently, a grateful mom shared how her son’s faith was solidified with the creation message that he heard as a teen. It helped him tremendously to survive the evolutionary

indoctrination that was presented at the university he attended. We receive many comments similar to this and are encouraged to know lives are being changed!



Lanny and Marilyn:

Our biggest blessing of the year was to see 16 young people respond to the

Gospel! This summer at a Bible camp, one of the counselors shared that, just before camp, he was packing for college and came across notes and literature he had saved when he sat under our teachings as a camper at this same Bible camp. His mother, who came to camp the next week, told us that what he had learned from us years ago had helped strengthen his faith in the Word of God. She wished that her younger son could have come this year because she felt the Creation message might be the answer for his struggles.



Dave and Mary Jo:

Besides seeing God’s amazing provision of AOI’s new ministry center, 3 dynamic youth groups joined us

for the Rock & River Creation Adventure. We were impressed by the passion and commitment of their youth leaders and were encouraged to hear how the week impacted the faith of many.

In an age where many college ministries are soft-peddling, compromising, and even denying the foundational account of Genesis, we are much encouraged to see the campus ministries we work with in Minnesota and Costa Rica taking a stand for Creation and the truth of God’s Word.

A highlight for Mary Jo was taking

our grandson Samuel (7) along on the Yellowstone Creation tour. It was fun seeing him greet people as they arrived, show them to their cabins, enjoy the sites, and announce what was coming up next on the tour. He later “taught” his sister (with visuals) how a geyser works!



Gail Tompkins:

On December 1, 2015, we were told we had to vacate the building we had occupied for almost 20 years – by the end of the month!

We frantically started packing and moved into a temporary space where, after several months of remodeling, we moved into the adjoining space. One year later, the Lord provided our newest building so we moved again! I think all on staff are glad we won’t have to go through that again. I am thankful that the Lord always provides, no matter the challenge.


I am praying that He will bring college students to us who will be strengthened through classes on Creation and world views. I am also thankful that I will be a great grandmother in February!



Scott Mauser:

This last year has been a time of change, new adventures, and challenges. I am most excited about the

first worldview and apologetics trip to Southern California that I both planned and executed for 17 eager explorers. We did everything from on-the-street interviews, interacting with a university biology professor, to observing services at a mosque during Ramadan.

Our move to AOI’s first owned location (Wow!), has positioned us well for some great opportunities to minister at CMU as well as a nearby middle school and high school. What God can do in less than a year is breathtaking and I truly look forward to what He has for AOI in 2018. 

Director's Column by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



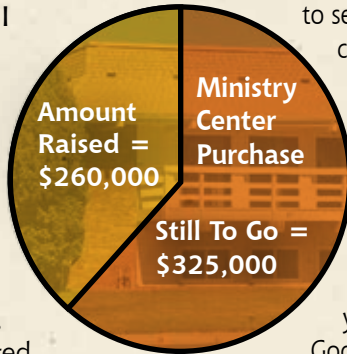
We want to take this opportunity to thank our donors, prayer partners, and volunteers. **YOU** are an important part of this ministry. We can't do it without

you! Through your faithful prayers and support, AOI speakers have brought the message of Creation and the Gospel to children, youth, and adults this year. Some have made a first-time profession of faith in Jesus; others have been strengthened, equipped, and encouraged in their walk with Him. The **Think & Believe** newsletter and **Kids Think & Believe Too** continue to reach thousands with the truth, while our website (DiscoverCreation.org), FaceBook, YouTube, and Twitter are on 24-hour duty, reaching seekers throughout the world.

With our new ministry center, AOI staff and volunteers are eager to expand AOI's outreach and to impact students and others

here in Colorado. This center will also serve as a base for AOI's ongoing national and international speaking ministry, and exciting Discover Creation camps, and tours.

We are more convinced than ever of the importance of Genesis as both the foundation for faith and a key to a true understanding of science. We are excited to see what God has for AOI in the coming years – and grateful for your part insuring that this important message will continue going forth. Your faithful monthly support and year-end gifts are vital to AOI's outreach ministry. We take seriously your investment in expanding God's Kingdom and in the lives of those who need to hear the message of Creation and the Gospel. If you are not yet a ministry partner, please get on board. Together we can make a difference! **AOI**



If you can help the ministry of AOI in any way, it is greatly needed right now and very much appreciated!

Opportunities for 2018! Plan ahead!

Schedule an AOI Speaker for your camps, custom tours, or **Kids and Family VBS**. The Johnsons and other AOI speakers are currently 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 visit the web for details.)



Creation and Worldview Training
Learn to defend your faith and reach out to

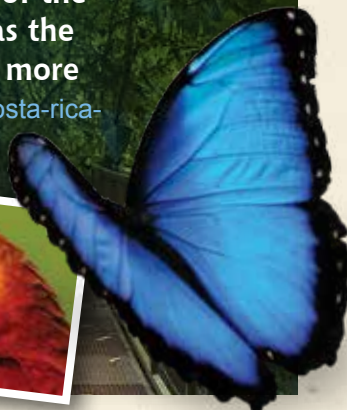
atheists, skeptics, and seekers. Online training, coupled with a week of practical outreach in Southern CA, including the University of CA, Irvine, or Boulder & the University of CO (Summer dates TBA). Do you have a youth-group-specific date request? Call Scott ASAP at 970-523-9943.



Creation Tour of Costa Rica 2018

March 2-11

Combine a once-in-a-lifetime experience with creation teaching! Immerse yourself in one of the world's best-protected ecosystems as well as the culture of this Latin American paradise. For more info visit: www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/costa-rica-creation-adventure



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!



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