

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Impacted by Creation and Worldview Teaching

by Dave Nutting with Dave and Jill Evans

Over the years, AOI speakers have seen seminar attendees get excited about what we share, dig deeper, and get involved with Creation ministry. Dave and Jill Evans have taken it even further by becoming dedicated volunteers with AOI. I asked them to share what they see is so important that they would volunteer so much of their time and energy to help. Here is some of what they shared:

“Despite incessant indoctrination from evolutionary teaching through our school years and beyond, God had blessed us with a biblical worldview and kept us from error in that regard. Until we were exposed to the creation science teaching of Dave and Mary Jo however, we knew of no scientific basis with which to defend our faith. We didn’t even know our worldview was supported by scientific evidence. We had never heard of ‘creation science.’ AOI’s ministry has provided us with the scientific truth we needed in order to convey to others the reason for the faith and hope we have in Jesus.

“Since that first encounter with Dave and Mary Jo, we have been blessed to learn even more from other staff, including Lanny and Marilyn Johnson, Richard Stepanek, and, most recently, through Brian Mariani and Scott Mauser. All that teaching has substantiated our understanding, belief in, and appreciation of Genesis.

“We have tried to support AOI prayerfully and financially as much as our limited resources can provide. When we moved to Grand Junction, we were blessed to take an active part as volunteers to help them spread their ministry message.

“We think it is important that truth can be known, particularly regarding our view of life and how we fit into God’s plan for us. We all have a view of life and how things work and fit together. This is often referred to as a ‘worldview.’

“Our worldview is based on God’s account of creation given to us in Genesis. We believe God’s creation process occurred over a literal six-day period a little over six thousand years ago. Unfortunately, since Darwin wrote his ‘Origin of Species,’ a naturalistic, or materialistic worldview has

taken root and misled many – even among fellow Christians. In fact, George Barna, of the Family Research Council, recently pointed to research showing that only 6 percent of American adults have a biblical worldview – even though 51 percent think they do. That

means 94 percent of Americans do not hold a biblical worldview. Since we are exhorted to ‘...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you...’ (1 Peter 3:15), we find it imperative that we understand and are able to convey God’s truth to those around us. It is through AOI’s teaching and training that we, and others around the world, are being equipped to do so.”

We at AOI are so thankful for the part Dave and Jill play in the AOI ministry. (See page 2 for more of their story.) Please contact us if you also have the desire, time and skills

to help extend our efforts. Some ways to help: Prayer ministry, Think & Believe stuffing, media or advertising expertise. Perhaps submit a potential article for T&B and/or for the website, a question to answer, or watch for and send us pertinent articles

(perhaps with a paragraph of what your take is on it). Some of you may want to join Brian Mariani to interact with students on campus. Please let family and friends know about the resources offered through AOI and how we can help build a biblical worldview. **AOI**



Dave and Jill Evans taking part in AOI’s Yellowstone Creation Tour.

Dave and Jill Evans – Faithful Volunteers *by Dave Nutting*

We at AOI are so thankful for faithful volunteers! We first got to know Dave and Jill Evans when they came to a family camp we conducted. At that time, they lived near Crawford, Colorado, where they were very busy ranching and nursing. Little did we know how much they hungered for truth and that they were soaking in our daily creation presentations at that camp. We also had no idea of the important part they would later play as dependable and faithful volunteers when they moved to Grand Junction.

I asked Dave and Jill to outline some of their important involvement with AOI as dedicated volunteers. Here is their response:

“Since we moved to Grand Junction, we have been able to join the stuffing parties for AOI’s Think & Believe, and have been

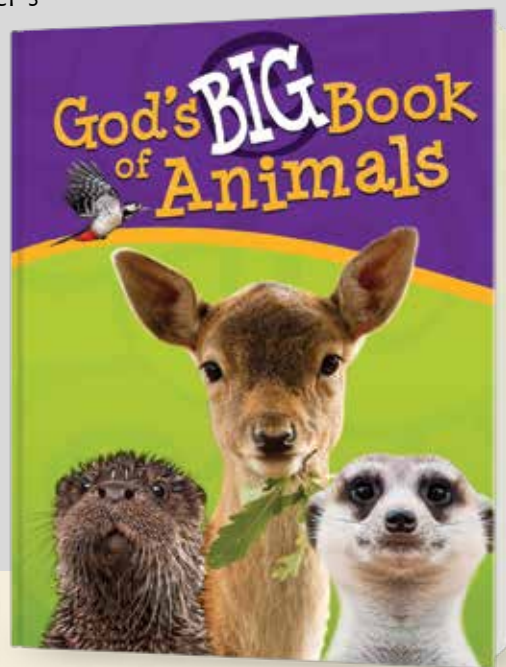
able to take part in more AOI events and local church presentations. We have also enjoyed interacting with students through AOI’s important ministry to the Colorado Mesa University students (a block away from AOI’s current office) through Brian Mariani’s ‘Truth Matters’ outreach as well as his ‘Do Hard Things’ Christian service training for younger students. Not only have we immensely learned from Scott Mauser’s Worldview classes for both teens and adults, we now enjoy assisting with AOI’s video podcast (‘The Brian and Scott Show’) to further

get the worldview and creation message out to a broader audience.”

We are certainly blessed to have volunteers like Dave and Jill. Not only are they involved with the above aspects of AOI’s teaching, but they also take care of cataloging and maintaining AOI’s Creation lending library, Dave also uses his skills to solve

various mechanical issues at the office. You name it, they are willing to help! A key verse for Dave and Jill is: “Love the LORD with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind,” (Mt 22:37).

Thank you, Dave and Jill, for your faithful service! **AOI**



God’s Big Book of Animals

Review by Dave Nutting

This literally is a “Big Book!” weighing about 4 pounds, measuring 10” x 13.75” and containing 260 color pages of nearly 60 animals, birds, insects, etc. This hard-bound book quickly became my animal-loving granddaughter’s favorite at age 8. Choosing one per day, she read the fascinating information on each animal to her grandmother, Mary Jo, and spent plenty of extra time poring over the content and gorgeous pictures. This book made “science” much more interesting to her!

Most children love to learn about animals, but this unique book

helps children acquire a biblical worldview as they do. Even though the recommended age range is 8-12, adults will enjoy it too. This great book can also provide children a fun learning experience for Christian homeschool, individual reading, or just spending quality time with parents or grandparents. This would be an excellent gift for Christmas and birthdays!

Special price: Regular \$34.99, but get it from AOI for only **\$28**, plus S/H. A great value! Remember: Your purchase from AOI helps us spread the creation message to your family and others! **AOI**



Forest Fires – God’s Design for Restoration

by Dave Nutting

As we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, I believe many people are thankful that the west coast fires have finally been extinguished – partly by the help of firefighters, but also by rainfall and colder temperatures. This relief is not just for those living near the fires in California and Oregon, but even for us who live far away in Colorado. We’ve awakened to the smell of smoke some mornings and wondered if our houses were on fire. In fact, the drift of smoke from the coastal states even obscured our views of the surrounding mountains. I can only imagine how bad it was near the blazes.

In 1988, huge lightning-set fires burned 36% of Yellowstone National Park’s 3,472 square miles. Firefighters worked extremely hard to battle the blaze, but finally, in September of that year, it was God Who put them out with a snowstorm. Today, Park visitors can still see tall stands of dead trees. Yet, more impressively, visitors are amazed at how quickly the forest has recovered with new growth.

Being an avid Christmas tree hunter who, for decades, has enjoyed venturing into forests seeking and “bagging” the “perfect”

tree, I covet Yellowstone’s plethora of “perfect” trees that have sprouted since the fires.

One might think that Yellowstone would be a blackened wasteland, but it’s not! Visitors actually stand amazed and wonder how those vibrant forests grew back so quickly.



Pixabay #3836834

The answer lies in the ingenious design of the cones that God invented for pine trees. Comprising 80% of the trees in Yellowstone forests,

lodgepole pines (as well as many other pines) have two types of cones – serotinous



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and non-serotinous. Serotinous cones often stay on the tree for many years remaining tightly closed and sealed with a waxy,

resin coating. Non-serotinous cones open normally and disperse seeds on an annual basis. In a fire, these non-serotinous cones are usually destroyed. However, the serotinous cones’ resin coating protects them until temperatures of a forest fire reach 113-140 degrees and melt the protective coating. The cones

then open to release their seeds either by gravity or wind. These seeds germinate in the now fertile and open forest floor and, in a relatively short amount of time, produce a new and vibrant forest of “perfect Christmas trees.”

Mary Jo and I were in Yellowstone just 4 or 5 years after the big blaze and found new growth all around. It is amazing to understand how God’s design uses fire to clean out an older forest of trees. More amazing is how He also provides a mechanism to quickly rejuvenate the old forest with one that is fresh, young, and healthy.

God does much the same in our lives using the fire of trials. James 1 (NKJV) says:

“Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

In other words, those fiery trials can help us get rid of our “old ways” and make us flourish like a fresh forest as He replaces those “old ways” with a much more vibrant relationship with Him. **AOI**



NPS/Diane Renkin

Director's Column

by Dave Nutting



On the Road Again!




Even though Covid is still rearing its ugly head, AOI speakers have gotten back into the swing of

live presentations where possible, including events at churches, schools, camps, and tours. Lanny and Marilyn's schedule has been packed, including a great opportunity to speak to a group of 250 homeschoolers at a father-son retreat. Scott Mauser was the keynote speaker at this area's Right to Life fund-raiser dinner and also teaches worldview classes at our office. Rich and Sue are currently speaking at several events in Texas, and Brian is active with college ministry and video podcasts. He has teamed up with Scott to produce the "The Brian and Scott Show." In addition, Rich, Sue, Lanny, and Marilyn conducted a family camp and Mary Jo and I led two back-to-

back 4-day tours of Yellowstone that were well-received.

As we write this issue of Think & Believe, we are in Minnesota. We already have completed a series of lectures at Minnesota State University in Mankato and will be giving a second 3-nighter this coming week at the main University of Minnesota campus. In addition, we will be giving several other church, creation fellowship, and homeschool presentations.

Some have asked, "How does it feel to be on the road again?" Actually, it was hard to get back into the swing of packing –especially considering this is a fly-out trip which is much harder than just throwing things into the minivan. However, face-to-face relationships are hard to replace with Zoom seminars. Although we will continue with online seminars, that relationship atmosphere is what our staff prefers. On the road again, yes. Back to normal, NO! 

Thank You!

From all of us at AOI to each of you: Have a very blessed and worshipful Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

We certainly appreciate each and every one of you who read and share Think & Believe as well as those who volunteer, pray for, or financially support the ministry of Alpha Omega Institute.

May God bless you and keep you and your families in His protective hands!

– The staff of AOI



Yellowstone Tour

Aug. 26-30 and
Sep. 2-6, 2022

Creation seminar & bus tour of Yellowstone. Great for the entire family! Call AOI for info.



For more info visit:
www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/

Christmas gift ideas for the family:

1. Give books or DVD's that can solidify family members in their faith. See www.DiscoverCreation.org/store.
2. Creation Tours: Give the gift of a vacation with a purpose! See www.DiscoverCreation.org/Camps-Tours for more detailed information on these great options.



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