



Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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Celebrating God's Faithfulness

(by *Dave and Mary Jo Nutting*)

It hardly seems possible, but Alpha Omega Institute turns 15 this year. (Does that mean we are also 15 years older?!) Time certainly does fly when you're having fun -- and when you are busy about the Lord's work.

Little did we know, back in 1975, where we would be today as a result of a little book we found in a secondhand store in Alaska! Up to that point, we were content teaching college and working with students outside of class -- leading Bible studies, helping them with homework, witnessing to them through friendship evangelism, and just enjoying spending time with them. We had committed our lives to the Lord and read His Word, but had not yet dealt with the issue of origins.

We had both been thoroughly indoctrinated in the theory of evolution during our years of schooling, and we thought it was a "proven scientific fact." We reconciled the conflict as many "educated" people do today -- by believing a form of "theistic evolution" (though we didn't have a name for it at that time). We believed that Genesis was written as a figurative, not literal account of creation -- a story with a message behind it. We thought the "days" of creation represented long periods of earth history and that somehow God used evolution as His method of creating.

We were pretty comfortable with our position, believing some of the Word, but not all of it -- but God wasn't! One day, in His sovereign grace, He led Mary Jo to a little book called, *Evolution: The Fossils Say No!* by Dr. Duane Gish. She bought that book for 5 cents! We weren't convinced right away, but it was the beginning of what God would use to set us on a different path. We began reading

everything we could get our hands on to learn more about the problems with evolution and the evidence for creation. After time, we "evolved" into creationists! Pretty soon we were sharing the evidence with whoever would listen.

At that time, we found it to be a fascinating topic from the scientific point of view, and we were "relieved" that we really could believe all the Bible. We didn't really understand the "spiritual" implications of the topic though, until an incident occurred with one of our students. Dave had talked with this student about Christ many times to no avail. Finally he said, "Dave, I can't buy this Jesus stuff." When Dave asked why not, he responded, "Because evolution is

a fact. If God can't get the first book of the Bible right, why should I trust Him to get any of the rest of it right?" He had a good point. Not too long after that, this student heard several presentations on creation by Dr. Henry Morris. Afterwards he told us, "If evolution isn't true, that doesn't leave much, does it? I'd better start doing some thinking." Within

a short time after that, he put his faith in Christ -- and we began to see the spiritual implications of the topic. At that time, we believe God made known His call to us into the creation ministry and we took steps to follow that call.

As a result, Alpha Omega Institute was established in 1984, and is growing and expanding today. As we think back over the past 15 years, we are amazed what God has done -- starting with such small beginnings. We are so grateful for the people He has brought together and the opportunities He has given to share the creation message, not only in this country, but overseas as well. HE is FAITHFUL and will accomplish the work HE has begun. Celebrate HIS FAITHFULNESS with us in this 15th Anniversary Year for Alpha Omega Institute.

**Celebrating
AOI's 15th
Anniversary**

Notes & Quotes

□ The Israelites erected memorials and alters to remind them of God's faithfulness. **Praise God and rejoice with us** as we recall mileposts in the history of Alpha Omega Institute.

1984: AOI is founded by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting. Seminars begin in churches, schools, universities, and wherever anyone will listen. Publication of **Think & Believe** begins.

1985: AOI receives 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Creation speaking opportunities increase.

1986: AOI sponsors first week-long Creation Family Camp at Camp Redcloud. Four families attend. CBS 60 Minutes approaches Dave for filming in school classroom--School PR man hits ceiling and vetoes it!

1987: First TV programs and interviews. Schedule gets busier with 88 presentations and seminars including 15 public school and college programs and 4 week-long seminars.

1988: Dorothy Hahn coordinates the First Annual AOI Science Fair. Grant Harvey begins as a volunteer business manager. AOI expands to international ministry with Nutting's 5 month speaking trip to Europe -- Creation seminars presented in 8 different countries.



1989: European outreach continues--highlight behind the iron curtain in Hungary. Dorothy Hahn and Elizabeth Martin work with other volunteers to begin a small Resource Center. Second week of Family Camp is added--this one at Camp Id-Ra-Ha-Je West.

1990: First annual Twin Peaks Family Camp begins. Many out of state seminars. **Dodge** van bought--Gooood deal--Right! Didn't miss any seminars, but went from seminar to mechanic to mechanic to seminar.

1991: Packed seminar schedule--a blur of cities, churches, schools, and mechanic shops!

1992: First AOI Wet and Wild Adventure--Canoeing and rafting on the Colorado River during flood stage. Board advises against future ones after hearing of the "adventures."

Too wet--too wild! Seminar ministry continues to expand. AOI co-sponsors Back to Genesis in Grand Junction coordinated by Terry Bridgman. Donna Henderson begins as a volunteer with AOI. Little does she know what she's in for!

1993: Lanny & Marilyn Johnson accompany Dave & Mary Jo on a long speaking trip. Robin & Mandy Johnson, begin talking about going crazy in that blue **Ford** van. Marilyn finds out that some drivers don't take many rest stops.



1994: Johnsons join AOI full time to direct Children's Ministry. Snow Camp and 2nd week of Redcloud Family Adventure are added. Motorhome donated to the Johnsons. Marilyn stops razzing Dave about lack of rest stops, but learns a lot about their own mechanical problems.

1995: International ministry expands with Nutting's trip to Mongolia and Singapore; **Kids Think & Believe Too!** begins. Donna becomes first full-time secretary.

1996: AOI moves from Nuttings' home to larger rented facility. Dorothy Hahn joins staff to upgrade and direct Resource Center and Library; Intern training begins! Sarah McGuire is trained as intern in children's ministry. Rich Stepanek serves as an intern in adult ministry.

1997: Rich Stepanek joins AOI staff. Bazarsad from Mongolia becomes our first international intern. VBS Team training begins. International ministry expands again with Nuttings' trip to France, Hungary, and Malta.



1998: Bazarsad begins a branch of AOI in Mongolia. AOI receives contract for donation of 60 acres to develop a Creation Training and Retreat Center. Dave Harper joins staff of AOI to direct development of Training Center. International ministry in Israel and Egypt. Johnsons take children's ministry to Alaska. Artist, Mark Sonmor, begins to raise support to join AOI staff in January, 1999.

□ We praise God for his leading and provision through 15 good years! Thank you for your prayer and support!

Spotlight On Science

Neanderthals Revisited Again!

(by Dave Nutting)

Just who were the Neanderthals? Where did they go? This subject has puzzled evolutionists for a long time. In the Sept./Oct. 1998 issue of **Think & Believe**, we mentioned Dr. Jack Cuzzo's research conclusions that they were ordinary people with great longevity. Now, new association of old observations may indicate another piece of the puzzle. According to the Dec 1, 1998, **New York Times Science**. Dr. Jerome Dobson, from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, in Tennessee, is convinced that Neanderthals were humans who lacked iodine in their diet. He also claims we have pictures of them in ancient art!

According to Jerome Dobson, several of the traits that were common among the Neanderthals, including heavy brows, thick bones and musculature, and frequent degenerative joint diseases, are also associated with iodine-deficiency diseases. It is well known in the medical profession, that lack of iodine, whether it be from poor diet or malfunction of the thyroid gland, causes goiter which disfigures the neck. It can also lead to a more severe condition, cretinism, which leads to physical deformity and mental retardation. Dr. Dobson's study of cretin and Neanderthal morphology in 300 Neanderthal and 17 cretin skeletons along with modern medical descriptions led him to conclude that Neanderthals were iodine deficient. Another interesting observation is that art objects called Venuses linked to Cro-Magnon people bear remarkable resemblance to cretin forms. Dobson poses the possibility that they are not fertility symbols as generally assumed, but depictions of cretin traits in "Neanderthals."

Not all of the scientific community is overjoyed. Many are concerned that this is "at odds with evolutionary biology!" How about that?! Others think it just too much to explain away 100,000 to 400,000 years of human evolution based on pathological condition. But what if it is true? Then maybe all those years are mere imaginations.

The puzzle of who the Neanderthals were and how they disappeared may have very simple and logical solutions. They were humans who may have lived to a very ripe old age or suffered from dietary deficiencies such as a lack of iodine or vitamin D (results in rickets and arthritis) All of these ideas account for the "deformities" without evolution. What happened to them? Either they no longer lived as long as they did before, or conditions changed allowing them to change their diet.

Evolution Theory in National Geographic

(by AOI Intern, Stephen B. Austin with Dave Nutting)

The March 1998 issue of **National Geographic** contained a letter by editor, Bill Allen. He wrote: "Whenever we feature an article concerning scientific evidence of evolution, I can be certain of two things: The story will represent the latest physical evidence presented by leading scientists in the study of early life -- and my office will be deluged with letters from readers who reject evolutionary theory."

Allen says, "Faith and science have at least one thing in common: Both are lifelong searches for truth. But while faith is an unshakable belief in the unseen, science is the study of testable, observable phenomena."

Allen writes, in closing, "Science is in a perpetual state of becoming. Yesterday's observations give rise to today's theories, which will be tested through painstaking research. Just as any good scientist must be ready to abandon a bad idea, he or she must stand by the results of unbiased empirical evidence and experimentation. The current studies of how life arose, most scientists believe, stand up to that scrutiny."

It seems that Mr. Allen misses the point creationists are trying to make. Belief in evolution is itself a type of faith or philosophy and not true science. If "science is the study of testable, observable phenomena," as Allen says, then evolution is not science since it is neither testable nor observable. It seems that the normal, ardent belief in evolution is "an unshakable belief in the unseen," making it a form of faith as Allen defines it.

Although those who accept the theory of evolution believe it is a fact and also science, it is not GOOD science. The theory of evolution does NOT stand up under the scrutiny of "unbiased empirical evidence and experimentation." It actually flies in the face of the acknowledged laws of science, especially the second law of thermodynamics which states that our universe is slowly running down and not evolving into something more complex. What we can see, and what we do observe supports creation, not evolution.

We also see that the fruit of evolutionary faith is not good. Belief in evolution has contributed greatly to the moral decline of this generation. By undermining the respect for the Bible, it gives people an excuse to establish their own moral standards rather than believing and following God's Word. After all, if we are nothing but apes, why not act like it?

Evolution does not fit Allen's definition of science and faith in it bears bad fruit. We believe, it should be "abandoned" as just another "bad idea."

The Back Page...

** Upcoming Events **

(N=Nutting, J=Johnson, S=Stepanek)
Please pray for these events!

- Jan 16-23: NM & AZ: Calvary Love Ministries**
Contact Andrew Begay 505-722-7407 (JS)
Jan 16: Shiprock, NM
Jan 17: Window Rock, AZ
Jan 18-19: Crown Point, AZ
Jan 20-21: Rehoboth, NM
Jan 23: Albuquerque, NM
- Jan 26-27: McAllan, TX: Covenant Christian Schools**
Contact Rick Powell 956-994-9800 (JS)
- Jan 27: McAllan, TX: First Baptist Church**
Contact Pastor Bill Sulton 956-686-7418 (JS)
- Jan 29-Feb 1: Rockport, TX: Rockport Baptist Church**
Contact Pastor Walter Knight 512-729-6382 (JS)
- Feb 5-6: Houston, TX: Houston Chinese Church**
Contact Pastor Fred Tow 713-663-7550 (JS)
- Feb 7: Houston, TX: TBA**
Contact AOI 970-523-9943 (JS)
- Feb 9-11: Longview, TX: Location TBA**
Contact Dr. Robert Cary 903-757-4548 (JS)
- Feb 15-17: Fredericksburg, TX: Fredericksburg Bible Church**
Contact Pastor Fred Bates 830-997-8834 (JS)
- Feb 19-20: Boerne, TX: Hill Country Baptist Church**
Contact Bonnie Frantzen 830-755-8621 (JS)
- Feb 22-23: Snyder, TX: Area Wide Program**
Contact Pastor Gary Nussey 915-573-6230 (JS)
- Feb 26-28: Pueblo, CO: TBA**
Contact Mary Lou Greene 719-545-5649 (JS)
- Mar 14-29: Mexico City, MEXICO TBA**
Contact AOI 970-523-9943 (JS)
- Mar 20-28: ICR Grand Canyon Adventure**
Contact ICR 619-448-1900 (Nuttings teaching on bus trip)
- Apr 12-16: Jackson Hole Bible College Field Study Trip**
Contact AOI 970-523-9943 (N)

** 1999 Creation Vacations **

- ✓ Entertaining and Informative Creation Programs
- ✓ Exciting Recreational Activities
- ✓ Inspirational Times of Praise and Worship
- ✓ Fantastic Colorado Mountain Beauty
- ✓ Delicious Food
- ✓ Fantastic Fellowship



*Register early! Bring your family and friends.
See enclosed brochure.*

Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure: Jun 27-Jul 2
Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure: Aug 15-20
Redcloud Homeschool Family Adventure: Aug 22-27



AOI's 15th Anniversary Celebration

May 7-8: Grand Junction, CO:
Mark your calendars! Plan to Come
Watch for further details

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** Prayer and Praise **

- Pray for health, safety, open doors, and eternal fruit as AOI staff travel and present the creation message.
- Pray for progress on the Training Center project. Pray for wisdom and God's favor as we proceed.
- Pray for our interns as they progress in their training, and for God's direction in their ministry.
- Praise God for faithful supporters. Pray for His continued provision throughout the coming year.
- Pray for artist, Mark Sonmor and his family as they raise support, prepare to move, and join us at AOI.



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