

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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## AOI: 25 Years and Counting

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

This year, by God's grace, AOI is celebrating its 25th anniversary. It's a time for reflection and celebration! It is also a time to look ahead in hope and expectation. We are humbled by God's faithfulness over the years, and very grateful for the opportunity to be involved in His work.

Over the last 25 years, we have spoken in many places, but the bulk of our work has been "waking up the sleeping church." Thankfully, there has been progress, though the task is far from done. So what have we seen over the past 25 years?

- Back then, practically nobody had heard scientific information supporting the Bible – now, many people are familiar with the evidence, and some are passionate about the topic.
- Back then, there were so few resources on creation, that we were able to read almost everything that came out – now, there are so many quality resources that it's almost impossible to keep up with them.
- Back then, few families had books or videos on the topic – today we have people telling us, "I've read these books and watched those DVD's, what else do you recommend?"
- Back then, there were very few scientists who were vocal creationists – now there is a

growing number who openly question the theory of evolution or espouse intelligent design or a creationist view.

- Back then, there were very few creation ministries – now there are many groups focusing on this issue.
- Back then, most "creationists" were new converts from evolution – now we meet many "second generation" creationists.
- Back then, AOI was just the two of us, now there are 3 full-time speaking teams, a small, but great support staff, and a variety of people who have been trained for ministry.

Yes, by God's faithfulness and the work of dedicated creation ministries, the "creation movement" has come a long way. Much ground has been plowed and many good seeds have been sown, but there is much to be done. **Now is not the time to coast!**

The current generation of children and youth is still being inundated by evolutionary dogma. Radical atheism, skepticism, humanism, new age pantheism, and a variety of other "-isms" are on the rise. Evolution is just assumed to be true in textbooks, museums,

national parks, the media, and sadly, even in many churches. The battle for truth continues to rage.

AOI is committed to move ahead with sound Biblical teaching and accurate scientific evidence. By God's grace, we plan to:

- Continue teaching at churches, youth events, children's programs, homeschool groups, schools, and universities, both here and internationally.
- Expand our training programs and seek additional opportunities to impact pastors, teachers, missionaries, and students at Bible Schools and seminaries.
- Increase distribution of our Discover Creation DVD Curriculum and Discover Creation Children's Adventure, and develop other teaching tools.
- Widen our outreach through better use of media, internet, and other technology.
- Expand our local outreach and ministry to tourists by upgrading our resource library, offering regular local classes, and developing a Creation Discovery Center in the Grand Junction area.

We are encouraged by the work accomplished in the past 25 years and eager to see what God will do in the next 25. To accomplish these plans, we will need people to partner with us by praying, serving, and giving. Where do you fit in the picture? Together we can make a difference. **AOI**



# Sea Anemones, Sea Slugs, and an Amazing Missile System



**L**ife in the sea is filled with beauty, intrigue, and evidence for an amazing Creator. Sea anemones and sea slugs are beautiful from an artist's standpoint, giving good evidence of the Master Artist Who created them. And it gets better! Note the tentacles of the sea anemone: Positioned at the end of each tentacle is a special missile system. It is a spring loaded, poison-tipped dart capsule that sports a trap door and a trigger. When a fish brushes the trigger, the trap door opens and the missile fires. That fish now becomes a good lunch for the sea anemone! Since missiles don't happen by accident, they give good evidence of a Designer.

The evidence goes even deeper when the unique relationship between the sea



anemone and the sea slug is explored. Note that the sea slug also has tentacles. However, it has no ability to manufacture a poison missile system of its own. Of course, with all those deadly missiles, you wouldn't want to eat the sea anemone. However, the sea slug does, darts and all. Due to a simple chemical reaction, the missiles don't fire. Instead they are transported from the stomach of the sea slug to the end of its own tentacles. Once in place, the sea slug is now armed and ready!

WOW! The sea slug is a creature that pirates another's missile system and uses it for its own! How could that have happened by accident? It shows evidence of a Master Designer! (For additional notes about these creatures with more pictures, see the Kid's Page at [www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org).)

## Predator-Prey Relationships and the Bible?

When you see creatures like the sea slug which are uniquely equipped to pirate

a missile system, or when you see the power of a lion bringing down its prey, you might wonder how that fits with the "very good" creation described in the Bible. That is a valid question, but it is answered by considering the "Fall" as described in Genesis 3. When sin entered into the world, it brought the consequence of thorns, thistles, and death. In fact, the whole creation still groans from the impact of man's sin (Rom. 8:22). Consequently, we still see many elements of that beautiful design, but the "very good" creation is now marred and scarred.

This "Fall" did not take God by surprise. I believe that in His foreknowledge and grace, He had everything in place because He knew what would happen. To keep things in balance, He not only provided for creatures to eat in a fallen world, but also to keep from being eaten. He did that in unique ways that truly exhibit His master design. 

## Discover Creation Children's Adventure

**S**eeing how the "educational" system has taken a toll on students' faith, it focuses the need to equip young children with the truth of Creation and the Bible. An important tool that you can use is the VBS package developed by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson, AOI's Children's Ministry Directors. It is the VBS organizer's dream. The Children's Adventure has what you need to conduct a successful VBS specifically dealing with Creation vs. Evolution, the Truth of God's Word, and salvation. Teaching

### For VBS, Sunday School, homeschool, and Kids' Clubs

materials include DVD's, PowerPoint programs with graphics, and many other teaching aids which make it very user friendly. It is also equipped with organizational helps such as job descriptions, duties, timelines, decoration aids, publicity, and

full color take home material.

We have had tremendous feedback from those using this VBS. It is not just fluff. It is a fun but very meaty VBS designed to be effective both in equipping



children and for evangelism.

**Special Pricing: \$99 for the entire kit.** (Daily handout sheets in bulk quantities are available separately.) See the enclosed flyer and order sheet for more information. 

# Teaching Kids About Creation, Science, and the Bible

by Mary Jo Nutting

**O**n a recent speaking trip, we had the opportunity to spend time with a 5-year old boy who is absolutely fascinated by dinosaurs. He builds dinosaur models with his grandpa, wears pajamas decorated with dinosaurs, and keeps his kindergarten teachers scrambling to find new dinosaur books.

Unfortunately,

with these books, he is getting a steady dose of evolution, and is being primed to question the Bible. That's why we believe that it's so important to begin early to teach children the **truth** about creation, science, and God's Word. Hopefully the books we are sending him will help. Otherwise

he could easily end up like so many of the university students that we spoke with on that same trip – skeptical, sarcastic, and antagonistic to Christians and the Bible.

So how do you teach kids about Creation, science, and the Bible? What are the foundational topics? First, it's important to teach children at a very young age that God is the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them and that the Bible is His true Word. As soon as they have some concept of time, they can learn the days of creation week and what God did on each day, and they can understand that at the end of that week, it was all "very good," without any sickness or death. Then, as they study the Fall, Flood, and Dispersion at Babel, they can learn about the consequences of sin, and God's provision of a Savior. From there they can learn how these historical events relate to their own lives and their own

need for a Savior.

However, there are many forces laying obstacles to faith – some unknowingly undermining the faith of children by compromising the clear teachings of Scripture; others actively seeking to indoctrinate them into pantheism, atheism, humanism, or agnosticism. Often the attack comes subtly by teaching a definition of science based upon the philosophy of

naturalism or espousing an erroneous interpretation of "separation of church and state." Other times, it comes as a frontal attack, openly

ridiculing the Bible and anyone that believes in it. That's why it's important that children are not just taught Bible "stories," but are also instructed in basic apologetics and in ways to defend their faith. They need a basic understanding of worldviews, bias, and presuppositions. In addition, they need to understand what science is – how it works, what it can do, and what it can't. They need to learn to read carefully, to think critically, to ask the right questions, and to distinguish between data and interpretations, between facts and assumptions.

When children understand these things, they will be more likely to see for themselves that there is no conflict between **true** science or

**true** history, and the Bible. They can learn to recognize design as evidence of creation by an intelligent Creator, and degeneration and death as a consequence of the Fall. (As an example of how to instruct your children, look carefully at the articles on the previous page.) Kids can also see how rock layers, fossils, and erosional features fit

within the Biblical perspective of pre-Flood, Flood, and post-Flood events. They can understand the various "races" as reminders of the Dispersion at Babel. Along the way, they can discover that archeological evidence affirms the accuracy of the Bible.

Teaching kids to **think** does not happen overnight, but it is possible with consistency and determination. Fortunately, there are now **many** good resources to help with this task. (See our website for some suggestions.) We encourage you to do your part. Oh, yes – how **do** dinosaurs fit with the Bible? Ah ... that's a topic of another lecture. Stay tuned, visit our website to get one of the recommended books or

DVDs, or come to one of our camps or seminars. 



## Directors' Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



We'd like to introduce Scott Mauser, the newest addition to the AOI team. Scott brings a unique background and gifting, with experience in administration, a long-term interest in science and Biblical apologetics, a passionate commitment to the Lord, and a deep desire to help fulfill the mission of AOI. We are excited to have Scott "on-board," and are already appreciating his heart to serve, his ability to learn, and his willingness to work. Scott will focus on bringing consistency and coordination in the areas of administration and development, freeing us up to focus on speaking and writing. He will also begin implementing new ways to present the creation message.

Considering the economic



**Scott Mauser**

struggles and global challenges this country is currently facing, it may seem like a strange time to bring on someone new. However, we and the Board of AOI believe that God has been saying, "Now is the time," so we are stepping out in faith – "counter-current" to culture (but then, hasn't AOI always been a bit "counter-current?") We cannot afford to drift while this generation of students continues to be bombarded with one-sided, humanistic, evolutionary dogma. As Scripture reminds us, we need to redeem the time, because the days are evil (Eph. 5:16) and to work while it is day because the night comes when no man can work (John 9:4).

Will you stand with us in prayer and financial support as we take this important step of faith? Together we can bring light and truth to this lost and hopeless world. 



**Plan Ahead!**

Call now to reserve your spot for an exciting time of fun, fellowship, and learning! 2009 **Creation Family Mountain Adventures**

**Twin Peaks: June 28-July 3**  
**Redcloud 1: August 2-7**  
**Redcloud 2: August 9-14**  
(See website or enclosed brochure for more details.)



## Training Week: March 23-27

Would you like to share the creation message with family, friends, and others? AOI's next Discover Creation Training Week includes Bible study, science topics, teaching tips, field trips, and practice teaching. Classes are kept small to allow time for group participation and interaction with instructors. Benefit from the many years of experience gleaned by AOI speakers. Call today for information.

## 25th Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendar for AOI's 25th Anniversary Creation Celebration, May 1-2 in Grand Junction, CO. Join us to celebrate God's faithfulness and to learn more about His wonderful creation. Events are being planned for kids and adults. Watch for details! Please call if you'd like to help! (970-523-9943)

## Note the Color!

When our printer went out of business, we switched to one of the largest and most competitive color printers in the country (also locally based). Since they will "gang run" our T&B with other color print jobs, we can actually increase the quality of our publications and save money! PTL! After all, God made an awesome and colorful world.

**Please note:** If your business needs color brochures, our printer rep says he can offer you a great rate and tag our printing with it at a tremendous savings to AOI. This is one way you can donate to AOI without extra cost to you. Call for details.



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