



Think & Believe

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ARMED FOR BATTLE

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

School is well in swing and many students have already come to us for help. Either they are really getting bombed earlier this year with evolutionary, humanistic ideas or more of them are recognizing the issues. We thank God for those who are standing firm and making an impact. May He grant many more the courage and wisdom to do the same.

A couple years ago we published an article written by a sixteen year old student describing her experience as a Christian teen in the public schools. She ended by warning, "Don't even consider public education unless you're prepared for war." Her words have awakened many parents to the battle their kids face every day in school.

While students are especially hard hit, they are not the only ones on the front lines. There are many dedicated Christian teachers within the school system, who face the battle daily. They care deeply for their students and want to teach the truth, but so often they must "tiptoe" around it, measuring their words carefully, while still trying to be "salt" and "light" in a largely pagan society. We are thankful for each one. We are also thankful for the many non-believers who are fair and genuinely interested in the welfare of their students. These teachers face an uphill battle. Pray for them and encourage them.

For over 100 years, evolutionary bias has become increasingly pervasive in the textbooks and curriculum of our schools. Other humanistic, atheistic, and just plain immoral teaching has become the order of the day. Our public schools have fallen to the humanistic worldview without much of a fight and millions of students have been taken "captive."

In Ephesians 6, Paul tells us to "Put on the full armor of God" and "Stand firm," for our struggle is not

against "flesh and blood," but against spiritual powers and the world forces of darkness. One of Satan's basic tactics through the ages has been to water down the truth of God's Word and encourage doubt. Way back in the Garden, he tempted Eve by getting her to question God's Word and His character. He uses the same tactics today by interjecting doubt in the very foundational issue of creation. Since all other doctrines of Scripture rest on this foundational doctrine, it has naturally become the focus of extremely heavy and persuasive attacks.

We need to arm ourselves and our students for this battle, spiritually and scientifically. The Word of God clearly teaches that God is the Creator and true science affirms this teaching. By "girding our loins with truth" and accurately wielding the "sword of the Spirit," we can withstand the attacks, and go forward to help release others who have been taken captive.



**Are You Armed
And Ready?**

NOTES & QUOTES

■ We recently read that 70% of kids brought up in church homes reject their faith by the time they get to college. Since no specifics were given, we don't know the details of the study or the accuracy of this figure -- obviously, many factors are involved -- however, we do know that kids are being heavily bombarded by continual evolutionary indoctrination, and it's not by accident.

□ I think that the most important factor moving us toward a secular society has been the educational factor. Our schools may not teach Johnny to read properly, but the fact that Johnny is in school until he is sixteen tends to lead toward the elimination of religious superstition. The average American child now acquires a high-school education, and this militates against Adam and Eve and all other myths of alleged history. (Paul Blanchard and Edd Doerr, "The Principle of Separation," *The Humanist*, Nov/Dec 1971, p. 17.)

■ This prevailing bias was driven home to us in a very graphic way this summer at a conference we attended called, "Science and Faith," sponsored by a local church. One of the speakers was a geology professor who saw no conflict between his "faith" and his belief in evolution. Dave had studied under him for awhile and had done very well in his classes, "acing" several of the tests and setting the curve on many others. The professor had remarked to him on several occasions that he would "go far" in geology with his kind of thinking. At the conference, though, he was very dogmatic in his reaction to Dave and his comments. When Dave reminded him of the remarks he had made while Dave was in his class, the professor asked if he was a creationist back then. When Dave said, "Yes," the professor said, "Well, I might not have passed you if I had known that." So much for grading based on merit. Apparently some professors think it is their duty to grade more heavily on what you believe than what you know.

■ Speaking of professors, what does it take to get a position in the science department of this particular institution? The same professor gave us two clues. First, he talked about the fact that he had gone through the third degree when he had applied for a position. Apparently the committee was afraid that he might take an "unorthodox" position because he was a Mormon. He assured them that he went along with the standard evolutionary interpretation of geology. He said he

evidently passed their screening test because they hired him. Unfortunately, a creationist would have a hard time passing this test, unless he lied about his beliefs. When Dave asked this professor what would happen if he applied for a teaching position, he said it would have to go through a committee, but he himself would vote against him because he was a "kook geologist." Again it seems what you believe (or don't believe) is more important than what you know.

□ Suppose the student gives the correct scientific answers in his or her science course and suppose he/she also knows and gives the correct scientific arguments and reasons for the follow-up question, but still insists on rejecting all this for reasons of incompatibility with his/her religious beliefs. In this case, I would prefer to pass the student strictly according to the usual scoring criteria, but with the provision that his rejection of the subject matter for religious reasons be noted on his transcript of grades. (Letter from Professor John W. Patterson (of Iowa State University) to Mr. Kevin Wirth (Feb 7, 1984). Quoted from "The Origin of the Species Revisited," Vol. II, W. R. Bird, p. 403, as quoted in *Christian Home Educators of Colorado Newsletter*, Apr-June 1992.)

■ How effective have these tactics been? A recent poll taken in 17 Australian universities by the Australian Institute of Biology found that 43% of the students responding to the survey believed life had arisen through evolution and that God had taken no part. Poll-takers were dismayed, though, by the fact that almost 20% believed "God created man pretty much in his present form at one time within the last 10,000 years." (*Creation Magazine*, Sept-Nov, 1992, p. 21)

■ And now for the good news ... Despite the intense evolutionary indoctrination common here, in the United States, a recent Gallup poll (quoted in *Creation Magazine*, Sept-Nov, 1992, p. 21) found 47% of those surveyed believed God had created humans in their present form within the past 10,000 years. Unfortunately, no breakdown was given as to age or educational level, so it is impossible to tell if it is increasing or decreasing or if this same number would apply to students.

■ "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm." (Eph. 6:13)

Yellowstone's Specimen Ridge

We recently travelled to Yellowstone to work with a team on a creation-based guidebook to Yellowstone and the Grand Teton National Parks. While there, we visited the famous Specimen Ridge, where trees now stand as pillars of stone.

Of all the geological sites in the world, Specimen Ridge stands out as a major stumbling block to some Christians. Until just recently a park sign has proclaimed to visitors that over millions of years, 27 successive forests grew at this site. Each one had supposedly been wiped out by a volcanic eruption with many years intervening while a new forest grew on top of the old layers.

Many earth science and geology instructors have convinced students that the "facts" at Specimen Ridge are indisputable and thus prove their "outdated" religious views are wrong. However, like other arguments against Scripture, this one has also fallen in light of recent discoveries!

Praise the Lord!! The signpost is gone, the rangers (at least those I talked with) are telling a new story and old tales are being forgotten. Why? It may be because creationists have embarrassed the rangers too often by pointing out that numerous soil zones don't exist (after all, a forest needs soil), or that the necessary root structure is absent (trees don't do well without roots), or that trees at least in the very bottom layers have identical tree ring chronologies (they should be different if they lived at different times). Most likely, though, it was some of these "minor" problems coupled with recent findings at Mount St. Helens that caused them to rethink their position.

One ranger/geologist at Yellowstone said that hundreds of feet of layered deposits were formed during the eruption and subsequent activity at Mount St. Helens. Significantly, he reported that these layers contained similar upright trees; yet these trees definitely did not grow on those layers but were trapped by high velocity flows travelling in excess of 100 MPH. The results at Mount St. Helens look remarkably like the layers and features found at Yellowstone. Maybe Specimen Ridge too was formed in a few hours or days, and not over "eons of time" as has been taught for so long.

This discovery is exciting to creationists, but how many "eons" will it take to hit the textbooks and reach the ears of most high school and college instructors? Maybe you can help shorten the time.

Instant Petrified Wood!

Having grown up looking for petrified wood and other fossils, I naturally believed that petrification took millions of years. Thus, it came as a real surprise to me to discover examples of rapid petrification. In the September, 1986, issue of **Think & Believe** we listed several of these, including a miner's hat, human remains petrified within 50 years, and a family cat petrified in 5 years. We can now add to that list some other interesting specimens.

We've had reports of a petrified cow bone discovered by a rancher in Colorado -- unusual because cows have only recently been introduced to the state and thus "should not" have had time to petrify. The partially petrified fence posts found on another ranch are also unique. The tops of the posts are normal wood, while the underground parts are petrified. Other examples of partially petrified wood are found at the Ginkgo State Park in Washington, and at a museum in Dubois, Wyoming.

Recently, while we were studying the petrified trees at Specimen Ridge in Yellowstone, we discovered and photographed a specimen which was petrified on the outside but still fibrous wood material on the inside. If petrification really takes eons of time, the fibrous portion should have rotted long ago.

Probably the most unusual examples of all, though were the pieces of petrified wood shown to us by Dr. Glen McLean. These root sections formed when a high-voltage power line fell across the stump of a freshly cut tree. The electricity sparked into the ground, causing the wood to burn out and form a mold into which hot, molten sand flowed resulting in an "instant" petrified tree root. Dr. McLean enjoys walking into a geologist's office, laying his specimens on the desk, and asking how they were formed. After listening to their "scholarly" explanation of how they were formed over eons of time, he tells them what really happened. At this point some become fascinated, others embarrassed, and a few even hostile.

Although this is indeed a "special case" scenario, it does give us some clues into the petrification process. The crucial factor seems to be heat. In this case, the heat came from the electrical power surge, but heat could also come from volcanism, hot springs, etc. Dr. Mclean points out that when heat is involved, petrification can and does occur very rapidly. The traditional viewpoint of slow, gradual, cold water percolation does not fit the facts.

EVENTS

(Call local contact for time and place.)

- Jan 8,9,10: Moab, UT:** Tentative Area-Wide.
Contact Us, 303-245-5906.
- Jan 15,16: Olathe, CO:** Community Outreach.
Contact Jeri Arbaney, 303-323-5681.
- Jan 17: Telluride, CO:** Telluride Baptist Chapel.
Contact Frank Avery, 303-728-2058.
- Jan 29,30: SW Denver, CO:** Vineyard HS Support Group.
Contact Tom or Donna Stoner, 303-922-1641.
- Jan 31: Westminster, CO:** Westminster Reformed Presbyterian.
Contact John Duke, 303-466-7657.
- Feb 1,2: Arvada, CO:** Tentative
Contact Pastor Don Miller, 303-431-5653.
- Feb 3,4: Wauneta, NE:** Community Outreach.
Contact Rod Wheeler, 308-394-5594.
- Feb 7: Sterling, CO:** First Baptist.
Contact John Roberts, 303-522-9002.
- Feb 10,11: Estes Park, CO:** Abundant Life Christian Center.
Contact Pastor Bill Hite, 303-586-4340.
- Feb 26: Grand Junction, CO:** Alpha Omega Science Fair.
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- Mar 1-5: Lake City, CO:** Camp Redcloud Winter Adventure.
Contact us, 303-245-5906.
- Mar 28-30: Idaho Falls, ID:** Calvary Baptist.
Contact Pastor Herb Stoneman, 208-522-3601.

PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR US!

♪ ♪ *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, ♪ ♪*
And to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High.
♪ ♪ *Psalm 92:1* ♪ ♪

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

In This Issue:

- "Instant" Petrified Wood?
- Armed for Battle
- Winter Camp – Register NOW!

CREATION VACATIONS

Creation vacations are a great way for you and your family to share a week of fun and learning. These high-quality vacations fill early, so mark your calendar now and make plans to join us:

Redcloud Winter Family Adventure, March 1-5.
(Informational brochure and registration enclosed.)

Twin Peaks Family Science Adventure, August 8-13.
Redcloud Family Mountain Adventure, August 15-20.
(Watch for brochure and registration in next issue of **Think and Believe.**)

SCIENCE FAIR

For the past 5 years, Alpha Omega Institute has sponsored a Science Fair for students in Christian Schools and Home Schools. Participants from kindergarten to high school have submitted quite a range of projects in biology, chemistry, geology and the earth sciences. This year's fair will be held February 26, 1993. Individuals or schools are invited to participate. We urge you to get an early start on your projects. Time goes quickly! Contact us for details and registration materials.

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