

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

March/April, 2011; Vol. 29, No.2

Why Creation Vacations?

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

This year we are celebrating 25 great years of Creation Family Adventures at Camp Redcloud near Lake City, CO. We do not own Redcloud, but have contracted with them for our "Vacations with a Purpose." Since we started doing creation vacations at Redcloud back in 1986, we have held family camps in a variety of locations in addition to Redcloud. So why do we continue to put so much emphasis on Creation Family Adventures?

It could seem like a waste of time and resources to spend 2 or more weeks every summer with a relatively small number of families and individuals. However, we believe the time is extremely valuable both in terms of relationships built and lives positively impacted for the Kingdom of God through in-depth teaching. There is something special about devoting time away from "normal" activities to learn about God and His Word in the beautiful world that He has created.

When we first started doing these family adventures back in 1986, we knew that people had limited time and resources for vacations, so we decided to provide creation teaching in special spots that would also provide

fantastic recreational and family-building activities, opportunities for worship and personal growth, and time just to relax and enjoy God's beautiful world.

We also wanted time to do more in-depth teaching than possible in a normal seminar setting. The camp/retreat setting with informal meals and free time allows plenty of time for attendees to get their questions answered in a one-on-one setting. Creation family vacations also integrate plenty of time for worship, fellowship, and just plain relaxing.

An additional spin-off has been the opportunity for campers to build relationships in the relaxed family camp setting. Friendships made or deepened in the camp environment have been rich and full. Personally, we deeply appreciate and enjoy these opportunities to develop relationships that have enriched our lives in so many ways.

Over the years, hundreds of children and adults have attended AOI's Creation Family Adventures.

We are so grateful for the lives God has impacted through this ministry. People have come into a personal relationship with the Lord, others have grown and deepened their walk with Him, and hopefully all have been better equipped to share their faith and the truth about creation and the Gospel.

We encourage you to come this summer to experience a real "Vacation with a Purpose." Bring your family – bring a friend – bring several families. Grandparents, these vacations provide a wonderful way to build great memories with your grandkids while at the same time equipping them to stand firmly on God's Word.

Singles, bring a group or come alone – you won't be alone long with so many loving people to interact with. Youth workers, talk with us about bringing your youth group. Pastors, come to relax, learn, and be refreshed.

Invest in your family!

Come to the beautiful Colorado mountains this summer for AOI's Creation Family Adventure at Redcloud! (Call 970-523-9943 or visit www.DiscoverCreation.org for more information.)

New Prices
for teens & group
rates! – See
Brochure.

AOI



The Moon: Critical to Life on Earth!

by Mark Sonmor

In 1991 some scientists advocated blowing up the moon. According to Don DeYoung and John Whitcomb, in **Our Created Moon**, this idea originated with American math professor Alexander Abian. He believed that the destruction of the moon would eliminate severe climates and ultimately end world hunger. However, the situation is quite the opposite.



DeYoung and Whitcomb say that without the moon, the earth's axis would swing erratically due to the gravitational pull from other planets. This could eventually lead to oceans freezing and ultimately, the end of all life.

Even if the oceans didn't freeze, tides would be greatly reduced causing the oceans to stagnate from lack of oxygenation. It is important to

remember that 70% of the earth is covered by water which is actually filled with plant life – more oxygen-producing plant life than there is on land. Without this source of oxygen, the atmosphere would deteriorate and life would end...again.

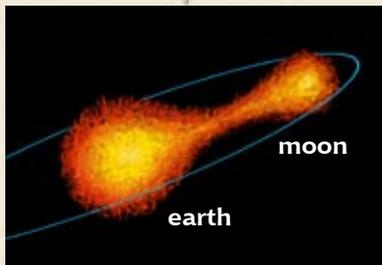
Few realize what life on earth would be like without the moon. So, when you gaze at the moon, think about God's power and care in His creation. **AOI**

Moon Origins?

by Mark Sonmor

In **Our Created Moon**, Don DeYoung and John Whitcomb discuss four main theories suggested for a naturalistic origin of the moon.

The fission theory proposes that, while the early earth was in a molten state, a tidal bulge formed due to the sun's gravitational pull. Eventually, this bulge separated or "fissioned" from Earth forming the moon.



For this to work however, it would require the earth to rotate 10 times faster than the present. Secondly, the materials of the moon are not a close match to the earth's. Iron makes up 30% of the earth's mass and only about 2% of the moon's. Also, if the moon split from the earth as proposed, it should orbit in line with the equator. However, it's orbit is inclined at an $18\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ – $28\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ angle.

In the capture theory, scientists proposed that the moon was

wandering through space and was trapped by earth's gravity. It sounds somewhat plausible but is physically problematic. According to DeYoung and Whitcomb, "there is no known means by which the moon's velocity could be largely dissipated on a single pass." Additionally, we would expect the moon to have an elliptical orbit. Instead, it is highly circular.

If the moon wasn't captured and didn't break off from the earth, could

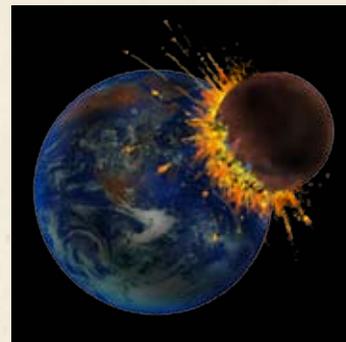
both have formed side-by-side from a cloud of gas and dust? This is known as the nebular, sister, or condensation theory.

The problem? Gas clouds tend to dissipate unless compressed together by some major (and unknown) outside force. Even if such a force existed, it would require both the moon and the earth to grow at exactly the same rate while maintaining the precise speed of rotation in order to avoid colliding together or drifting apart.

The most widely-accepted naturalistic theory, the giant impact theory, states that a Mars-sized object struck the earth, throwing massive amounts of debris into Earth's orbit. Later, the earth slowly regained its shape and the debris coalesced into the moon.

One major problem, according to DeYoung and Whitcomb, is the earth's Roche limit. In 1849 Edouard Roche demonstrated mathematically that if a moon was too close to its planet (within

2.44 planetary radii), the planet's gravity would exceed the moon's and essentially pull it apart. Thankfully, our moon is 21 times as far away as the breakup distance.



Considering the precision required to establish a moon-planet relationship, naturalistic origin theories face some formidable questions. With over 100 solar system moons, this is compounded even more. **AOI**

The Moon: Test Your Knowledge

by Mark Sonmor

Q True or False? The age of moon rocks is what secular scientists use to determine the age of the solar system.

A True (and False). The assigned age of 4.6 billion years for the solar system is based on radioisotope study of moon rocks and meteorites. However, check our web to understand the problems with these dating methods.

Q True or False? Most earth rocks tend to yield younger radioisotope ages than moon rocks.

A True. Using the same evolutionary dating methods, most earth rocks give dates at least a billion years younger. This discrepancy is usually blamed on some type of alteration or reworking of the earth rocks.

Q True or False? The temperature on the sunlit side of the moon is 266°F and the temperature on the darkened side is -32°F.

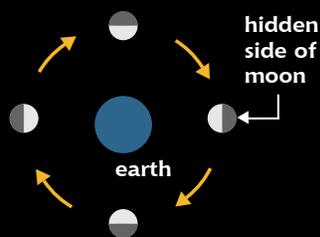
A False. The temperature on the darkened side is -292°F.

Q True or False? The moon has an atmosphere much less dense than the earth's.

A False. The moon has no atmosphere.

Q True or False? There is only one side of the moon that is visible from earth.

A True. The moon is gravitationally "locked in" to the earth and rotates only once per orbit. Because the moon rocks slightly, we actually see a total of 59%.



Q True or False? The moon is gradually separating from the earth.

A True. The earth's rotation, acting with the tidal bulge, causes the moon to enlarge its orbit about 4cm per year. According to Don DeYoung, if we extrapolate backward in time, the moon would have been in the near vicinity of the earth only 1.4 billion years ago – a big problem for evolution.

Q True or False? The phases of the moon are caused by the earth's shadow.

A False. They are caused by our view of the sunlit portion of the moon.

Q True or False? The side of the moon that faces away from the earth is called the dark side because the light from the sun never shines on it.

A False. It is fully lit during the new moon phase. It is better described as the hidden side, not the dark side.

Q True or False? If you weigh 150 lbs on earth, your moon weight would be 25lbs.

A True. Your moon weight would be 1/6th of your earth weight.

Q True or False? Moon rocks are made primarily of a limestone that has been modified under heat and pressure.

A False. Unlike the earth, the moon lacks any sedimentary rocks. It also lacks granite. Basalt and Anorthosite make up the bulk of the moon's surface.

Q What's the difference between an asteroid and a meteorite?

A An asteroid is a chunk of rock larger than a kilometer. Anything smaller is called a meteoroid. If one passes through our atmosphere, its flash is called a meteor. Any parts that actually reach the earth are called meteorites.

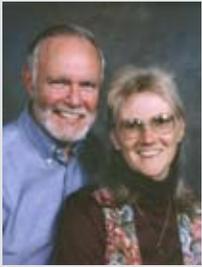
The moon. It's always there passively lighting the night sky with no other apparent purpose than to quietly mark off the seasons. In *Our Created Moon*, Don DeYoung and John Whitcomb show the moon is far more than a giant night light. It reveals God's creative genius.

How old is the moon? What keeps it in place? Could there be life on the moon? What would happen to the earth if the moon were not there? Learn answers to these questions and more in this 95-page hardcover book. With stunning graphics and colorful pictures, there is plenty of visual information to interest upper-elementary to adults. This is a great witnessing tool that can also be used as a textbook. \$16 includes domestic shipping.



Director's Column

by Dave Nutting



It was a real blessing recently to hear Rich Stepanek's report on his latest trip to India. The month-long trip involved LOTS of travel by plane, train, bus, taxi, rickshaw, and foot. Despite delayed flights, cancelled trains, crowded buses, a major computer crash, overnight travel, and miscellaneous "adventures," God blessed Rich with many wonderful opportunities to share truth from science and Scripture. Rich found a refreshing hunger among the Indian people to learn about creation and how it relates to the gospel message, and a welcome eagerness to sit and listen for many hours on end.

Over the years, AOI speakers have appreciated the hunger and

openness found internationally. People from many countries have also asked us for materials and training for them to teach. The need is so great that we feel an urgency to train nationals to carry the message to their own people. Rich has identified and begun to train several key people in India. Mary Jo and I have been working with others who desire to see the ministry expand in Latin American countries and with Spanish-speakers here in the States.

This is a huge need for an even greater potential. We ask you to pray with us for specific direction on how to most strategically meet the need both here and abroad. Your financial partnership with AOI is crucial for us to move forward with teaching and training others. If you see the importance of this ministry, please get involved. 

Upcoming Events

Visit www.DiscoverCreation.org for information. Speakers are currently scheduling for parts of 2011 and 2012. Call to SCHEDULE an event in your area!

Visit our Website

for Creation Nuggets; Blog; Think & Believe; Kids' Section; Resources; Information on Camps, Seminars, and Training. Remember, it's easy to donate on-line! Do it today!

New! **AOI Webinars Coming Soon!**



Check our website for announcements of our Webinars!

Training Week: May 23-27

Would you like to learn how to share creation with kids, youth, or adults in your area? Call TODAY about our practical training. Our training sessions include Creation teaching, teacher training, field trips, and practice teaching. This is valuable time with AOI speakers. If these dates don't fit your schedule, email us TODAY about your interest and we will find dates for another session that will work. (AOI@DiscoverCreation.org)

Please support the ministry of AOI

generously throughout 2011! Children and adults are struggling with their faith because of evolutionary teaching. Together, we can make a difference!



New Prices for teens & group rates! - See Brochure.

Discover Creation Family Adventures at Redcloud Ranch

Start planning now to bring your whole family! Fun, food, facts, and fellowship in the beautiful mountains of Colorado: July 31-Aug 5 or Aug 7-12, 2011! Join us for what many have called "the best vacation of their life!" **CALL TODAY** for information or visit www.DiscoverCreation.org



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • www.DiscoverCreation.org

Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2011

