

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

January/February, 2023; Vol. 41, No.1

## Should We Keep On Teaching Creation?

by Dave and MaryJo Nutting

Over the years, we have heard comments in response to our teaching, like the following:

**“...changed my life forever;”**  
**“...got me through college with my faith intact;”**  
**“...caused me to give up atheism;”**  
**“...now I believe the whole Bible.”**

Should we keep on teaching Creation? The simple answer to this question is YES! Schools at the elementary level on up to universities still keep on indoctrinating students with evolution. This often includes “evidences” that have been proven wrong decades ago. More than ever, students need to hear the Truth as the battle has been intensifying.

It’s easy to look around at the world and at the current culture war in America and despair. Sin is rampant and blatantly in your face. Christianity is openly mocked. Cancel Culture is aimed at believers, and persecution

based on one’s faith is on the rise. One student recently challenged our “right” to even be on his university campus. He was obviously heavily indoctrinated by “Cancel Culture.” He wanted to cancel our right to even speak as a Christian in a public forum, just like the media has been cancelling conservative Christians.

Jesus and his followers were no strangers to Cancel Culture. In their days, being cancelled frequently involved torture and even death on a cross. Yet, even in that hostile environment, Jesus told His disciples that the “fields are white unto harvest and the harvest is plentiful.” Matthew 9:37-38 (NASB)

Amid opposition, they faithfully preached the message of the Gospel including Creation. We have the Gospel today because they obeyed Jesus’ command to go and make disciples (Mathew 28:19,20) and Paul’s instructions to teach others (2 Tim 2:2).

So, we at AOI are working to combat anti-Creation, anti-Biblical philosophies. We are looking for new ways to reach students and

have been praying for workers that we can train and equip to take the message of Creation and the Gospel to harvest fields wherever God leads. We are grateful that He is granting our request! This year we’re already training one young lady and one couple (see page 2). Another couple is planning to begin in

early 2023. We are excited to see this multiplication and eager to have more interns to train. If you, or someone you know is interested in receiving training in creation ministry, please contact us.

YES! We need to “keep on keeping

on.” The battle for hearts and minds is still raging. As the darkness increases, pray that each of us can bring the light! Let’s trust God’s Word that the fields truly are “white unto harvest.” Many are seeking answers. They need the Truth of Genesis and the Gospel. As the darkness increases, the true light shines brighter. Thank you for praying with/for us at AOI as we seek to be faithful workers in God’s harvest field. Pray that He will send us many interns to multiply the ministry and reach more people with the Truth. It’s a big job and the workers are few. Thankfully, we are not alone. We have the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us to be His witnesses. **AOI**

***“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”***



# Introducing Josiah and Stephanie Wilhelm


Meet AOI interns, Josiah and Stephanie Wilhelm, and their 1-year-old daughter Josie. Josiah and Stephanie joined AOI last spring for our Creation Training Week and field trip to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. They got excited about participating in creation ministry and joined AOI as interns in October.

Josiah is a graduate of Jackson Hole Bible College where he met Brian and Aimee Mariani on JHBC's annual southwest geology field trip. During this time, he became excited about evidence for Creation and the Flood. Stephanie has been involved with Child Evangelism Fellowship since

age 13 and has a heart to train teams of teens in evangelism. We are excited to incorporate her experience with CEF into AOI's Creation ministry. Meanwhile, little Josie has won the hearts of the AOI staff, reminding us all of the wonder of God's creation!

Josiah and Stephanie are currently focused on children's ministry. They are being trained primarily by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson along with input from Dr. Steve Thornberg, AOI's Board Chairman. Josiah



and Stephanie are regularly giving short presentations to AOI staff for feedback and getting "boots on the ground" training by doing programs with the Johnsons for AWANA clubs and other children's programs. We are encouraged by their diligence, progress, and the youthful enthusiasm they bring to AOI! Please pray that God will grant wisdom to all of us who are working with interns and that He will use this year at AOI to lead and grow Josiah and Stephanie in life and ministry! 

## Evidence for the Bible by Clive Anderson and Brian Edwards

Review by Dave Nutting

I really like this easy to read, well-referenced, and beautifully illustrated book with hundreds of color photos. It would be a great conversation starter with your guests who spot it on your coffee table or for your student who is being bombarded by teachers who say you can't trust the Bible. Does archaeology support the Bible? Yes! Directly from the introduction of **Evidence for the Bible**, the authors clearly state what the pages of this book certainly illustrate:


"One thing will become clear: contrary to the claim of many, the

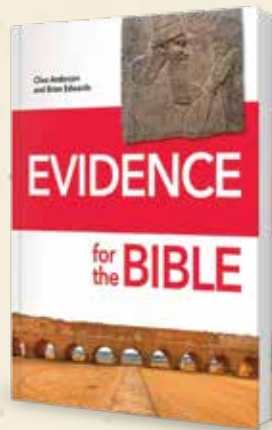
records in the Bible are intended to be taken as historical fact.

They are not legends or myths. Foreign rulers and kings of Israel and Judah who are featured in the Old Testament are found in the order and places that we discover from contemporary texts; battles and their outcome are exactly as we know them from inscriptions; the setting of narratives

fits the period they relate to; and the details of prophetic utterances

are precisely what are known to have happened."

I invite you to take this book's chronological journey through the Bible giving page after page (one page per topic) of archaeological discoveries that authenticate Biblical events and passages. Truly, the Bible is a very accurate historical text that you can trust. (8.7 x 10.9" Hardcover, 252 pages) Special until March 1, 2023: Normally \$35, get it from AOI for \$30 + S/H. Remember, your purchase helps support the Creation Ministry of AOI. 



# A Tree Convicts a Murderer

By John Perrodin, RN, BSN, JD (Guest writer)

All of God's creation is unique and wonderfully complex. Each tree, for example, is genetically different. That's the way our patient and detail-oriented Creator made them. It's another reason to stand in awe at the thoughtful design of this amazing world.

In May of 1992, young Denise Johnson was the victim of a heinous murder. Yet, it was the unique genetic code of two seed pods from a spindly, green, desert tree that pointed an accusing branch at her vicious killer.

Forensic botany has been used effectively for many years. Such scientific analysis helped determine the origin of the wood in a ladder used to kidnap Charles Augustus Lindberg, Jr., the 20-month-old child of Charles and Anne Morrow Lindberg in 1935. The many and unique benefits of forensic botany have only blossomed since then.

Why – and how – do plants become “witnesses” to crimes? Take a quick look outside for the answer. First, and foremost, plants can be found everywhere. They have been designed by our Creator with seeds or fruit, twigs, leaves, air-borne spores, and pollen. They can be found on the ground, under water, or in a bird's nest – just about anywhere and in any climate.

Each plant's unique characteristics are passed along

to the next generation. This allows a plant's DNA to help law enforcement determine the location of a crime, the season it occurred, whether or not a body has been moved, and how long a corpse has been buried.

Pollen and spores, for example, stick to clothing and can be inhaled into the lungs. Since they are slow to decay, having even been found in fossil samples, and because they're microscopic in size, they can serve as a voiceless witness to a crime. In contrast to fingerprints, footprints, and voiceprints, pollen is virtually invisible, making it nearly impossible to locate – let alone eliminate.

Scrubbing a crime scene of its presence is extremely unlikely.

In 1993, a University of Arizona plant geneticist, Tim Helentjaris, used forensic botany to source the specific genetic codes of trees near and around where the Johnson murder occurred. This included a palo verde tree that had recently been hit by an unknown vehicle. He realized that if he could connect the tree to the suspect's vehicle, he could pinpoint the murderer.

In the accused's truck, there

happened to be two seed pods from a Palo Verde tree. Twelve separate trees were examined including the “injured” tree using the RAPD (Randomly Amplified Polymorphic DNA) technique. The conclusion: As expected, genetic segments differed from tree to tree.

Yet, amazingly, the samples from the tree scraped by a vehicle exactly matched the pods found in the suspect's truck. The geneticist testified that it was “highly likely” that the pods came from the injured tree and explained that it was “highly unlikely” that they could have come from any of the other trees at the scene. The jurors at the trial agreed and found the suspect, Mark Bogan, guilty of first-degree murder based on the unique “plant-prints” discovered.

Atheistic evolutionists dismiss the obvious details which point to a Creator God but trust in sheer, blind chance. It's far wiser to “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine

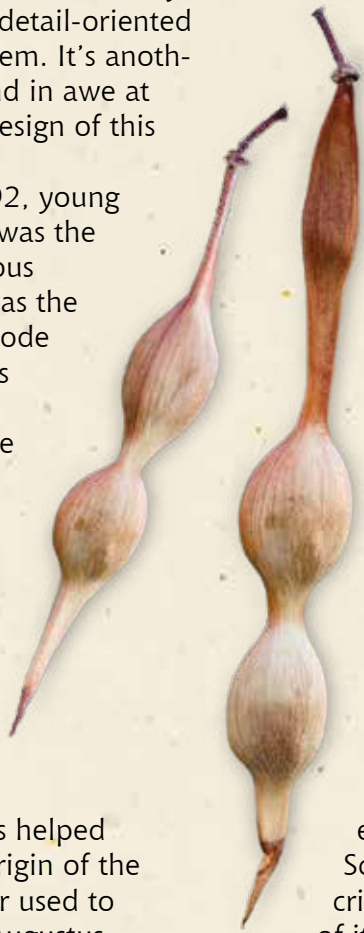
own understanding. In

all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6, (KJV). Risking your eternal security on the long odds that evolutionary theory is

both accurate and reliable is like anchoring a swing to a broken branch. It is neither a good idea nor a secure one. **AOI**

## References:

- Plant's DNA 'Fingerprints' Lead to Man's Murder Conviction, AP News, Walter Berry, 1993
- Crime Scene Botanicals – Forensic Botany, Plant Science Bulletin, Dr. Shirley Graham, Missouri Botanical Garden



# Director's Column: Creation Vacations

by Dave Nutting



As you read this, you may be in the midst of a cold, blustery winter. What a great time to make plans for you and your family to come to one of AOI's "Creation Vacations with a Purpose!" Why should you join us on one of our Creation Tours or camp experiences? These unforgettable options provide an excellent way to help solidify you and your family with the Creation message and truth of the Bible. Consider the phone call we received from a man who started out with, "25 years ago I heard you speak," and then recounted how the Creation

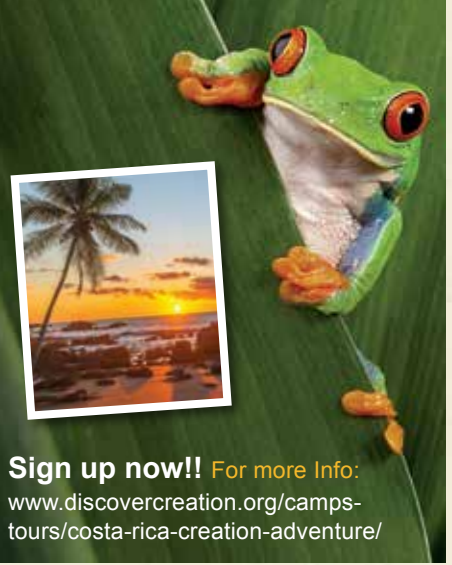
message he heard at one of AOI's Creation camps when he was about 13 had kept him on track ever since. This is just one of many testimonies we have had confirming the importance of these camps and tours.

AOI's Creation Vacations provide fun, facts, fellowship, and great food. Call today for more information or to register.

- **Costa Rica Creation Tour**  
*March 5-14* – Almost full!  
Call ASAP (Beat the cold of winter!)
- **Yellowstone Creation Tour:**  
*June 18-23, August 25-29,*  
and *September 1-5*
- **Twin Peaks Family Mountain Creation Vacation**  
*July 30—August 4*

## Costa Rica Creation Adventure

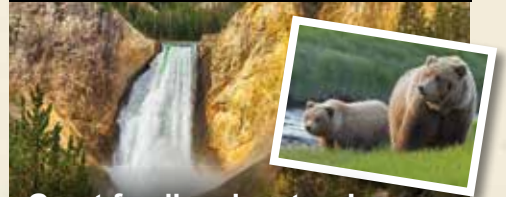
March 5-14, 2023



Sign up now!! For more Info:  
[www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/costa-rica-creation-adventure/](http://www.discovercreation.org/camps-tours/costa-rica-creation-adventure/)

## Yellowstone Tour 2023

June 18-23, Aug 25-29, Sep 1-5



Great family adventure!  
For more info visit:  
[www.DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/)

## Twin Peaks Family Mountain Creation Vacation

July 30 – August 4



Canyons and Dinosaur Museum tours included!

Contact AOI or visit:  
[DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/family-camp-colorado/](http://DiscoverCreation.org/camps-tours/family-camp-colorado/)

## Arches & Canyonlands

This Spring. Call to show interest



### Training Week

Want to teach creation? Join AOI staff for a one-week training session which includes tours of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Dates? Please let us know your interest.



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • 1011 N. 10th • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • [www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://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 2023

