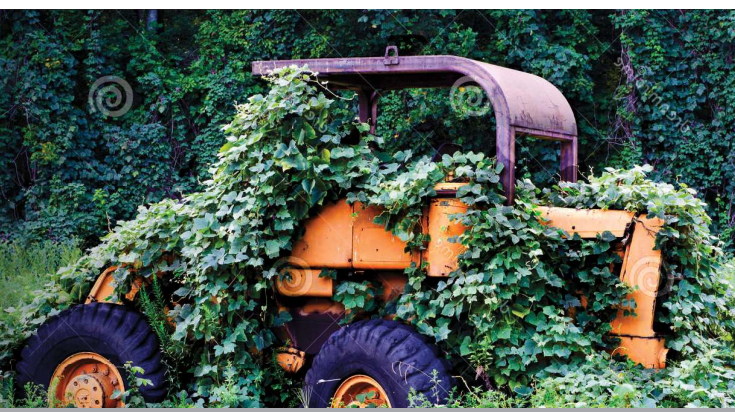


Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

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Not As We Planned!

by Dave Nutting

AOI's Creation Tour of Costa Rica did not go as **we** planned! Mary Jo and I were scheduled to lead it but **ended up missing the whole thing!** The night before the tour started, I found myself in a Costa Rican emergency room with COVID. With Mary Jo showing symptoms as well, there was no way either of us could join our tour group.

But, PTL! Thanks to Oscar Arias, the tour carried on very nicely – without us!

Oscar, a native Costa Rican, has coordinated and accompanied all of AOI's past Costa Rican tours. He is also one of the main players in the Costa Rican "Creation Team" that we have been training over the past several years. It was very easy for us to say, "Oscar, take over!" Even though I was very "out of it," Mary Jo was able to Zoom in the first night to welcome the group, give the introductory lecture, and let them know that we had full confidence in Oscar's ability to make the tour special.

Scott Leisner, another Creation Team player, covered some of the busy speaking schedule that was planned before and after the tour. Scott has been a missionary in Costa Rica for many years, and has translated for many of our university, church, and school presentations. Using my programs, and some of his own, he very capably gave presentations – in Spanish! No

translation gave more time for Q&A.

Some people have since asked us, "Aren't you glad that you had already trained qualified people like this Costa Rican team?" **The answer is an emphatic YES!** They did an excellent job! (Actually, several in this team have referred to themselves as AOI - Costa Rica. I like that!)

Train Others!

Our recent experience in Costa Rica underscores our desire to multiply and train others to spread the

message of Creation and the Gospel. We are grateful to have 2 intern couples currently in training. Josiah and Stephanie Wilhelm are being trained primarily


by the Johnsons in Creation and Children's Ministry. Praise God, they have now begun to venture out to minister without their mentors!

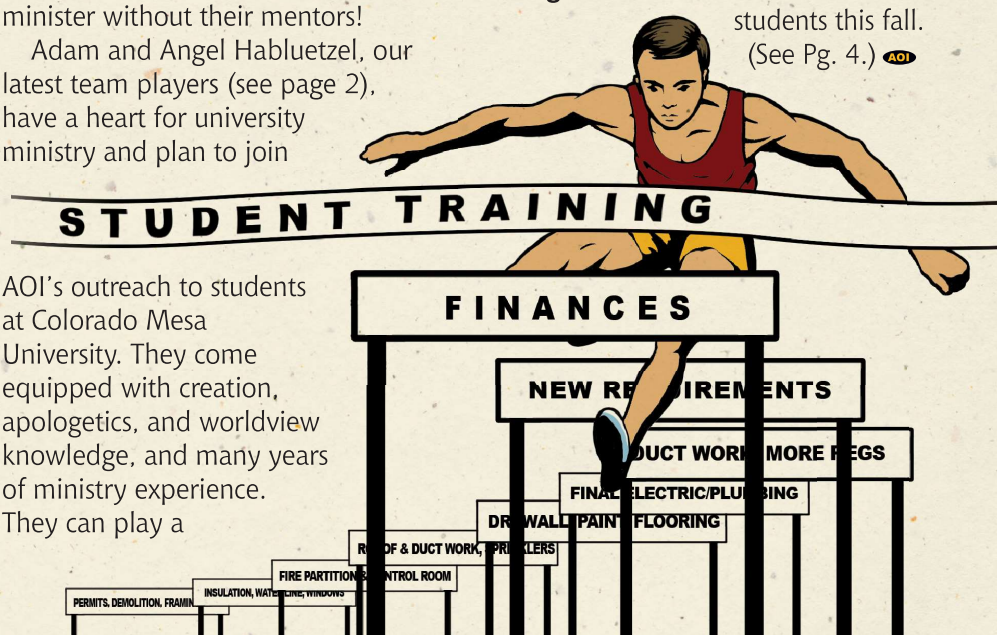
Adam and Angel Habluetzel, our latest team players (see page 2), have a heart for university ministry and plan to join

crucial role working with AOI's Brian Mariani to impact the students at CMU (1/2 block away from AOI's office).

But how can our small staff make an impact when CMU's 10,000+ students are being indoctrinated daily in evolutionary, anti-God philosophies? **Our vision is to train many faithful people** who can train others also. (2 Timothy 2:2). That is the primary reason we are converting the upper level of AOI's building to student-friendly apartments. We hope to have a community of believers who are part of our discipleship/training program and want to reach others.

So, where are we at with the building? The picture below should make that clear. **We are in the homestretch!** Please pray that we will receive sufficient funds and be able to finish the remodel by early summer.

Our goal is to fill the rooms with students this fall. (See Pg. 4.) 



AOI's outreach to students at Colorado Mesa University. They come equipped with creation, apologetics, and worldview knowledge, and many years of ministry experience. They can play a

Meet Adam and Angel Habluetzel *by Dave Nutting*

On page one, we mentioned Adam and Angel Habluetzel who are AOI's newest intern/team members. Adam spent 20 years in young adult/youth ministry after Christ transformed his own life as a teenager. He loves to see this same eternal change in the young people he helps disciple. Angel has mentored high school and college-aged women and excels in the gifts of helps and administration. They share a passion for teaching Biblical worldview and apologetics, including Biblical creation, the Flood of Noah,



logic, reasoning, and the dangers of unexamined assumptions.

When asked why a Biblical worldview, especially concerning creation, is important in discipling students, they responded, "In our long experience teaching and shepherding young people, one of the two most common issues that inevitably comes up is that of science and origins (The other is why God allows evil). We have found that most young people have bought into an evolutionary, old-earth foundation for their worldview without even consciously choosing it – even kids raised in the Church. When taught an alternative view from Genesis, backed with scientific evidence, many of those students **have an 'aha' experience** that opens

their eyes to the validity of the Bible and strengthens their faith tremendously. For many non-believing students, the issue of origins can stand as a huge roadblock to taking Christianity seriously. Conversely, hearing a young-earth-creation take on origins can start them down a path toward genuine faith!"

Please pray for the Habluetzels (pronounced "Ha-blet'-zel" – or as Adam says, like Pretzel!) as they develop their financial support team and prepare to move to Grand Junction. They are excited to "get boots on the ground" with AOI's student outreach. We, at AOI, concur wholeheartedly! Lord willing, the Habluetzels hope to get settled with plenty of time to prepare for fall semester students. **AOI**

Biblical Geology 101 *by Dr. Robert Carter and Michael Oard*

Review by Dave Nutting

While studying geology in college, I was confronted daily with concepts framed in millions of years of geologic time. Sometimes, I had professors introduce a topic by saying, "We knew those creationists were wrong decades ago." Then, they would mount a case against the Bible and creationists. This was in a conservative college. But conservative or not, students like me, were (and are even more so today) being indoctrinated by anti-Biblical propaganda. For me, it was too easy to buy into that concept since that is all I had ever heard. At that point in my life, I had no inkling of Biblical Creation, let alone a Biblical perspective of Geology. Today, the same is

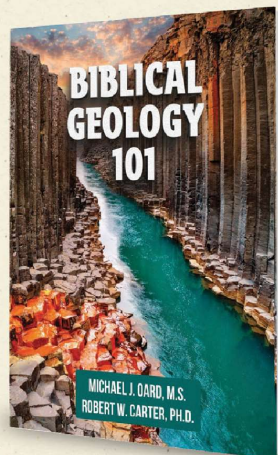
true for a high percentage of middle school and high school students or students in virtually any college course – especially those who study physical science or geology.

However, the exciting thing is that there **is** a Biblical perspective of geology that fits with the scientific data – even better than the long-age perspective. Keep in mind, if those "millions of years" of earth history didn't exist, and the Biblical time frame is valid, then the "goo-to-you" story of evolution crumbles

since it is totally dependent on vast amounts of time.

Biblical Geology 101 is a very easy-to-read resource for you and your family. Learn the key concepts of geology and how rocks are formed without having to wade through a bunch of technical jargon or an anti-biblical philosophy. I highly recommend this excellent book. Geology can be fun – especially when you see how it fits with the Flood of Noah's day. **You can trust the whole Bible!**

(200 full-color, 8.5 x 11 pages!) **\$20** plus shipping/handling! **AOI**



The Plant That Ate the South

By Stephen B. Austin

What is this plant? It climbs over everything – fences; stone walls; telephone poles and electrical lines; sheds and houses; shrubs and trees. It invades and grows rapidly, as much as a foot per day, and its vines can grow to be 100 feet long! Some say you can even “see it grow!”

The Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) is an invasive vine that is native to southeast Asia. It was first introduced to North America in 1876 at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, but was then destroyed, as per federal law. Later, in 1883, it was re-introduced at the New Orleans Exposition. Initially, it was marketed in the Southeast as an ornamental plant “to shade porches.” Later the Soil and Conservation Service promoted it as a great tool for erosion control and the government touted it as excellent cattle fodder.

Later, when the boll weevil infestations and the failure of cotton crops caused many farmers to abandon their farms, Kudzu plants were left unattended and began to grow unchecked. Uncontrolled, Kudzu grows rapidly, initially by forming dense mats on the ground through runners that can root at the joints. Its roots can penetrate the soil to as much as 12 feet, forming massive tubers that can weigh 400 pounds! Its mats can anchor and form new roots every foot or so at the nodes. If the vine separates at that node, it can form an entirely new plant, thus encouraging further growth.



When Kudzu begins to climb, its rapid rate of growth continues. Sometimes it seems as if one can actually watch that vine advancing higher and higher! It prefers to invade the edges of forests and can climb 100 feet high into the trees. It produces a velvet-like covering of leaves that may look attractive, but underneath there is destruction and death. The plants smothered by Kudzu are weakened, branches are broken off, and photosynthesis becomes difficult, if not impossible. Thus, beneficial habitat, with a diversity of understory plants, is lost for various insects, mammals, and birds.

When the leaves die off after the first frost, the vines, which can be greater than one-quarter inch in diameter, resemble the tentacles of an octopus. It reminds this writer of mankind’s plague of sin, because it is so ravenous. Even its tiny, half-inch long reddish-purple to purple blossoms remind one of the enchantments and seeming attractiveness of sin.

Why would our Creator God cause such an evil-like plant to exist? Does it have an adversary? Yes, an adversary does exist – an insect called the “Bean Plataspid”

(*Megacopta cribraria*) which was accidentally introduced some years ago. The problem is that this insect also feeds on important agricultural crops like soybeans and hog peanuts.

So how can one control such an invasive plant like Kudzu? One solution is to rely on cattle, goats, or pigs to graze it. Another solution is to use toxic chemicals to kill it, but such chemicals can also destroy other plants around it.

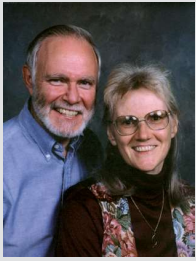


What about God’s role in this matter? Could it be that this is one of many results of the fall of man? See Romans 5:12 and Romans 8:22. Could it also be that God has provided Kudzu as an example of the devastating effects of sin?

Thankfully, though Kudzu remains a perplexing problem, our Creator God has provided the perfect solution at least to **our** problem of sin – the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross. God graciously provides forgiveness, cleansing, and life eternal for all who put their faith in Him. Have you put your faith in Him? If not, we encourage you to do it today. Feel free to call AOI if you would like more information or someone to pray with you. **AOI**

Director's Column: Two Big Needs

by Dave Nutting



We are in the homestretch of completing the conversion of the upstairs

of our building to residential apartments. Our goal is to utilize these apartments for students who want to be part of AOI's discipleship training. Some may be CMU students who desire a supportive environment and wish to reach their friends; others may want to take part in AOI's in-depth training. We hope to involve all of them in AOI's ministry outreach.

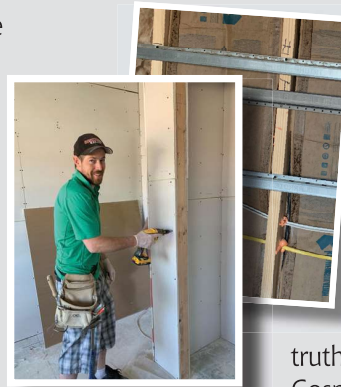


We need two things to make this vision a reality:

1. Students who are dedicated to Christian growth and ministry for this fall. Please copy and pass on the enclosed flyer to someone who might be that person.

2. Funds to finish the last phases of the remodel.

We have encountered many obstacles along the way, causing significant delays and expenses beyond what we had reasonably planned for. **We need financial help to complete the project in a**



timely fashion. If the AOI ministry has blessed you or your family, I'm sure you understand the reason to reach others. So, please pray about these needs – **and help financially** as you are able. **Will you join us to invest in the lives of students** and impact many with the truth of Creation and the Gospel? **AOI**

Reminder:

Alpha Omega Institute is supported by your faithful giving. Your donations help our creation speaking teams minister to youth and adults.

Yellowstone Tour 2023

Choose: **June 18-23**, August 25-29, or September 1-5

new dates

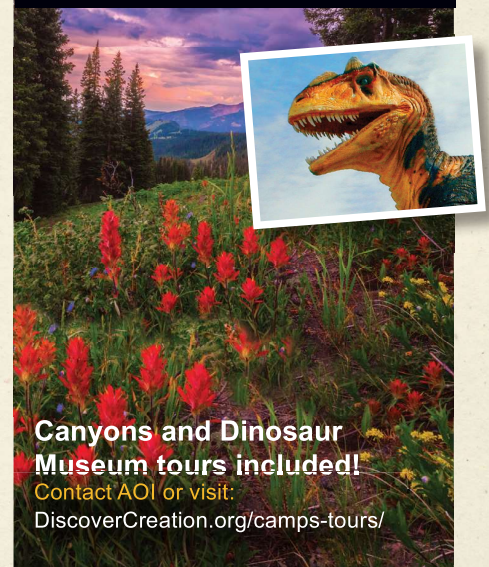


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