

Think Believe



Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

November/December, 2023; Vol. 41, No.6

Living in a World that's Cursed and Going – Crazy!

by Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

Years ago, our son, Tim, recorded a song with the words: “We’re living in a world that’s cursed and going crazy.” Looking around the world today, those words certainly ring true. Wars, economic woes, pandemic, famines, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, racial tensions, gender confusion, political strife, religious persecution, and more. Yes, the world seems to be going – crazy! What’s happening and what’s the answer?

Psalm 11:3 says, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” The foundations of society are under attack on so many fronts today. The founders of the United States had a basic belief in God as Creator. They realized that our style of government is only good for a moral and religious people. It has been said: “America is great because she is good. If America ever ceases to be good, she will also cease to be great.” Though this statement has often been attributed to Alexis de Toqueville, there is no clear evidence that he actually said it. However, it has been widely quoted. Nevertheless, it is increasingly clear that America has lost its way and needs to return to the founding principles that allowed us to be a beacon of hope and freedom.

So what are these foundations?

To answer that we need to go back to the very beginning, the foundation starting with Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” At the end of 6 days (yes, real 24-hour days, defined by evening and morning), He looked at His creation and said, “It is **very good!**” (Gen. 1:31) No sin, no sickness, no disease, no death – and perfect fellowship between God and His creation.


Since that is true, what happened? When Satan tempted the first man and woman, they “fell” into sin and all the troubles we see in society began – pain, death, and broken relationships. (See Genesis 3) Over time, wickedness increased and filled the earth (Genesis 6). Finally, God brought the Flood as judgment for this evil. “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” (Gen 6:8) and through Noah’s obedience, mankind was saved. However, even after the Flood, the sad story of corruption continued and is quite evident today. This leads some to wonder, is there any hope?

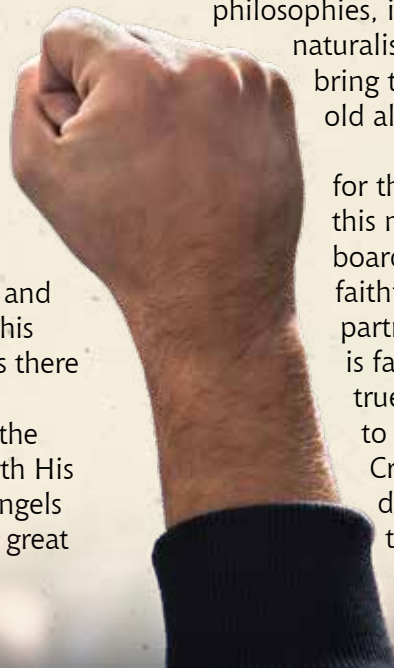
Fortunately, God, “in the fullness of time, sent forth His Son ...” (Gal 4:4). The angels brought “Good News of great

joy...in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ [Messiah] the Lord. ...” (Luke 2:10-14) Later, both Jesus and His disciples taught that men should, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Repent = turn around, cease to do evil, learn to do good.) But the rulers of Jesus’ day rejected the good news and crucified Him.

Thankfully, He defeated death and rose from the grave! Still many refused to believe. “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God ...” (John 1:12) And one day soon, He will come again in power and glory and take His rightful place as King.

Now **that** is good news! That’s why we follow Him and celebrate His birth. And it’s also why we, at AOI, are working to restore the foundations – the foundational truths of Genesis, Creation, and the Gospel. That’s why we continue working to “destroy speculations” (II Cor. 10:5) and anti-God philosophies, including evolutionary naturalism, (Col. 2:8) and to bring the truth to young and old alike.

We are so thankful for those who join us in this mission – AOI staff, board, interns, **and** all the faithful volunteers, prayer partners, and donors. God is faithful! His Word is true – from beginning to end! Our great Creator-God will one day put an end to all this craziness! 



What's Happening With CMU Campus Outreach?

by (Adam Habluetzel)

The students arrived in August shortly after Angel and I moved to Grand Junction, and we hit the ground running! Along with the Marianis, we have been intentional about introducing ourselves to as many students as we can in a variety of ways. Foundationally, we desire to build lasting relationships and trust at CMU.

To help facilitate this, we have conducted surveys and asked students questions to get them to re-think their worldview. We also hung out at the University Center playing games and watching Monday Night Football. In addition, we set up "family picnics" with our kids on the campus for four Thursday evenings in a row. We made sure we had plenty of food

so we could invite students to join our families for the meal. This resulted in many more conversations and "Bible chats." We had the privilege to follow up with a few students over other meals. Our aim is to bring these individuals together and provide a consistent group setting for Christian community.

We pray these endeavors will result in opportunities to disciple these students and develop long-term relationships with those whom God is bringing our way. Hopefully, these students we pour into will, in turn, be able to disciple others, multiplying our work for God's glory. We are looking forward to using the



newly renovated apartments, above the AOI offices, for the right student interns to help AOI spread the creation/gospel message.

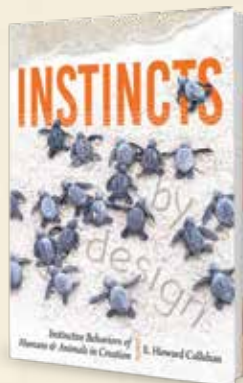
"Truth Matters" is the main student-run college ministry that AOI comes alongside. We also offer AOI's unique services of presenting Biblical truth and the scientific evidence to other campus ministries. In a world that will lie to students and manipulate them, the truth certainly does matter and students need to

clearly hear it. Pray with us over the next several months as we, along with Truth Matters, lay more groundwork and offer presentations on relevant creation/worldview topics. **AOI**

Book Review: Instincts by Design (by E. Howard Callahan)

Review by Dave Nutting

I am enjoying a fascinating journey through the pages of a brand new book that shows a vast number of sub-conscious instincts in both humans and animals. These reveal God's creative design as well as His providential protection for His Creation. The sheer number and sophistication of these features defy evolutionary explanations for their origin. The back cover of



this book gives a good synopsis of its content:

"Instinct is the word used to describe behavior that is built into us and into animals. The sheer complexity and integration of systems governed by instincts are a major problem for the theory of evolution. Uncover the unseen programming that has been ingrained in human DNA and the animal kingdom since Eden and the Fall. Learn how our ancestors harnessed the power of instincts to navigate

the world, from detecting danger to forming intricate social bonds.

"Examine the animal kingdom and the unique God-given designs built into predators... and their prey. Each instinct is unquestionably a very intricate set of instructions for a specific action in a specific creature, and it is hard to even imagine how these internal instructions could be made without a designer."

This book would make a great holiday gift! 192 full-color 8.5 x 11 pages. Available from AOI for \$25 plus shipping (\$5.00). Remember: Your purchase helps support the AOI ministry. **AOI**

In Everything, Give Thanks

As the holiday season approaches, we asked AOI staff, "What are you thankful for?" Here are some of their answers. We hope you will join all of us at AOI in giving thanks!

Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

- Surviving the building remodel
- Dedicated interns becoming actively engaged in Creation ministry
- Loving care by missionary friends when we got covid in Costa Rica
- Having one of our Costa Rican trainees lead the Costa Rica Creation Tour for us
- Fun time with grandkids on our Yellowstone Tour
- The blessing of family and friends
- God's faithfulness, love and provision.



Lanny & Marilyn Johnson

- 53+ years of marriage and the good relationship we have with each other and God
- Our daughters, their spouses, and our grandchildren serving the Lord in ministry
- Thirty-plus years of teaching children and their families about God's Creation
- The many Christian friends we have met and had the pleasure of serving with.



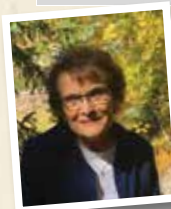
Scott Mauser

- Being selected for the fifth year to speak at a large conference in Phoenix, AZ
- Teaching 9 classes at a public charter school in El Paso, TX
- Celebrating a decade of annually giving a defense of Christianity in a public high school totaling over 1,000 students reached.
- Developing and using a new Worldview Curriculum for 7th grade and older.
- In-depth apologetics and discipleship studies with multiple high school through college-aged students.



Gail Tompkins

I am so thankful that the remodel is almost complete and ready for CMU student disciples and interns. A few weeks ago, some young men from the CMU Football Team started attending our church. Later, one of the players was baptized with most of the team cheering him on. Please pray for many more. Many blessings to you and your family.



Adam & Angel Habluetzel

Our family is very thankful to the Father for leading us to Grand Junction and to AOI. God has provided a wonderful house and given us great neighbors. We thank Him for growing good relationships for us and continuing to prove His Word is completely true and trustworthy!



Brian and Aimee Mariani

We are so thankful for some amazing ministry and family opportunities – including making memories like traveling, experiencing new things, and spending time together. We are continually blessed (and entertained) by these beautiful children – gifts from the Lord! When we are not traveling, we enjoy spending time at our new property where friends like you can stay for special fellowship!



Josiah and Stephanie Wilhelm

We are thankful that the Lord provides for us in many ways. We are also thankful for AOI and all the supporters and prayer warriors. We praise the Lord for a good birth of Judah in July and are grateful the Lord is working through us!



Rich & Sue Stepanek

Thanksgiving is not just a day to celebrate. It should be the constant state of the heart of believers (1 Thess. 5:18). One of the most rewarding aspects of ministry this year is seeing the Lord use the teaching to help others understand the Bible more clearly and enjoy a closer walk with Him. The relationships we have in the body of Christ bring enrichment and thanksgiving!



Director's Column: Looking Backward; Looking Forward



As we look back over 2023, we are grateful for the many ministry opportunities God has given us. Following are some of the highlights of this year and prayer requests for AOI moving forward.

- Numerous events in churches, schools, universities, homeschool groups, VBS, homeschool conferences, and more.
- Enthusiastic participants for AOI's Creation camps, tours, and field trips.
- Utilization of the Yellowstone and Colorado National Monument tour apps.
- Quality interns trained and

now actively involved in ministry.

- Completion of the building remodel – ready for discipleship: students and interns.

- Expanded ministry to high school and university students.

Looking ahead, **please pray for:**


- Open doors for ministry and boldness to speak the Word.
 - Committed, faithful students/interns to disciple and train.
 - Participants for 2024 camps and tours.
 - Expanded online outreach. (Short "Crash Classes" and ongoing multi-session classes.)
 - Additional partners to pray for and support the ministry.
- We at AOI are committed to presenting the Gospel as we teach on Creation and the Biblical worldview. **Thank you** for praying and joining with us to share the truth! 



PHOTO BY DAVE NUTTING

We wish you a **Happy Thanksgiving** and **CHRISTmas season!** We pray you will experience God's love and rejoice in His goodness during this special time.

*"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."
(1 Chr 16:34 NKJV)*

Join our support team!

We are very thankful for those who support this ministry. Here are **3 ways to give:**

1. Mail to AOI, PO Box 4242, Grand Junction, CO 81502.
2. Visit www.discoverCreation.org/donate
3. Call (970) 523-9943

Yellowstone

June 16-21, Aug 23-27, and
Aug 30-Sep 3



Costa Rica Creation Adventure

February 25 – March 5, 2024



**New
and exciting
locations added!
Been before?
Come again!**



Alpha Omega Institute • PO Box 4343 • 1011 N. 10th • 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 2023

