

### 4-5 GOD AND SCIENCE

By Jerry Thomas and Dianna Wineinger

Some people question how a person can be both a Christian and a scientist. Hear from two scientists who believe science actually points us to God.

### 6 WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

By Rob Leitheiser

Ministering to a young burn victim in Kenya, crossing a rickety bridge held only by metal cables during a storm to reach an isolated church, praying for members of a church in such disrepair it is literally collapsing down the side of a hill ... these are just some of the mental pictures that left their mark on GOU teams this past summer.

### 8 BEFORE WINTER

By Verle Sterns

Putting off that apology you need to make? Still holding onto a decade-old grudge? You'd be surprised how soon it can be too late.

### 12 GOD'S GRACE

By Brock Rexius

One of the most helpless feelings in the world must be watching one's own child suffer. Read about a young couple's journey to save their 10-month-old son.

Plus Much More!

## Not Enough Faith



ANDREA JOHNSON/Editor

During my freshman year at Open Bible College, I underwent a mini crisis of faith. I had known Christ most of my life. Yet having

been raised in a non-Pentecostal denomination, I was rather guarded about some of the demonstrations of the moving of the Holy Spirit. Since I had not yet experienced these types of encounters, I naively concluded that either I was doing something wrong or "these people" were being moved by their emotions rather than the Holy Spirit. Additionally, a former Christian indoctrinated with the theory of evolution constantly tried to convince me that "religion" was just an emotional crutch. I was confused. Perhaps Christianity was a hoax.

A dear friend listened patiently as I thought through the process, and eventually concluded there must be a God. I simply did not have enough faith to believe this amazing universe could have been formed by accident.

When one sees even a rudimentary object, such as a snowman, one automatically thinks of its "creator," the child who built it. When looking at a piece of art, our thoughts are directed toward the artist. Consider Stonehenge, studied extensively by archaeoastronomers. Not one person has suggested the huge, stone slabs were placed by chance. Besides contemplating their construction, experts have focused on the stone rings as astronomical observatories once thought to have magical powers and used for religious purposes. Yet some scientists would have us believe the creation of our entire planet was unintentional.

I also stumbled over the notion that life slowly evolved through random genetic mutations without the help of a creator. Darwin himself

noted the process of natural selection acts only by taking advantage of slight successive variations; "she can never take a great and sudden leap, but must advance by short and sure, though slow steps." He conceded, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down." An irreducibly complex system is one composed of multiple parts, all of which are necessary for the system to function. Each individual part is integral. Such a system could not have evolved slowly, piece by piece.

The eye, the ear, and the heart are some of many examples of an irreducibly complex system. Darwin acknowledged, "To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree."<sup>1</sup> Adding to the complexity is the fact that life forms are also able to reproduce, with all the intricacies involved in that process.

Realizing that creation depends on a Creator, I reaffirmed my belief in the one true God and surmised that if He is that powerful, it would be wise to serve Him. Of course as I learned more about the Holy Spirit, I realized He moves in different ways at different times with different people. As the third person in the Godhead His ways are beyond mine. I'm fine with that. What I don't understand is how people can place their full trust in a theory that says this incredible, vast universe is here simply by accident, and be willing to bet this life – and the next – on that theory.

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<sup>1</sup>Michael Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, 1986.