



SCIENCE MATTERS

Science Partners Newsletter

January 2024 – In This Issue:

- New Year's Devotion from *"A Closer Look at the Evidence"*
- Bruce Malone, *Search for the Truth Ministries*, Speaking in Orlando on **January 28**
- *New Year's Resolutions* – Adapted from *The Gospel Coalition*
- **UPCOMING "OPEN" CREATION ADVENTURES:**
 - February 2:** *For the Birds* - Orlando Wetlands. *Deadline for minimum number: January 15.*
 - March 15:** *Manatee Snorkel Encounter* - Crystal River and Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park.
 - April 26:** *Florida's Water Systems* - Canaveral National Seashore, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Indian River Lagoon, and St. Johns River.
- Plan a *CREATION ADVENTURE* for Your Group!

New Year's Devotion from *"A Closer Look at the Evidence"*

Evidence from Creation Foundation

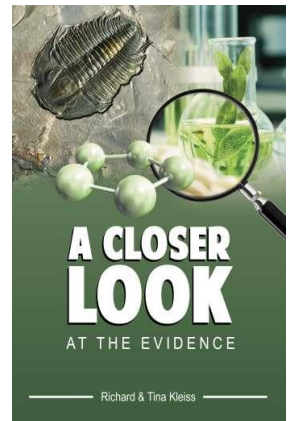
True Christianity, as set forth in the Bible, is a credible faith and not one based on emotions, superstitions, or groundless belief. Christianity is founded on truth that can be tested and is for the thinking person. Followers of other religions can quote their texts and give glowing testimonies of how their religions make them feel, but their beliefs are based on feelings rather than historical facts. It is quite possible to be devoted and sincere about your religious belief; but wholeheartedly believing a lie does not make it true. Although some beliefs can bring comfort, will they ultimately help or harm us if they are false?

Christianity alone is based on verifiable historical truth. The Bible states in Romans 1:20 that no one has any excuse for disbelief in the one true God because God clearly makes Himself known to everyone through what He has made (His creation.)

God also makes Himself known through His Word, the Bible. He challenges us to examine and test it. Each person is responsible to investigate the Bible's claims of authenticity. Our eternal destiny depends on it.

***...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone
who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15.***

Note: This daily devotion was taken from the book, *"A Closer Look at the Evidence"* by Richard & Tina Kleiss, published by Bruce Malone and *Search for the Truth Ministries*. It offers awesome evidence, primarily scientific – yet easily understandable, for the existence of a Creator. Arranged in an enjoyable daily devotional format, each provides yet another reason to trust God's Word. It is organized into different subject areas (anatomy, astronomy, biology, botany, chemistry, fossil record, genetics, geology, history, prophecy, etc.) and draws from over 50 expert sources. We highly recommend this book, and we have used it as part of our daily devotions. To purchase your own copy, go to <https://searchforthetruth.net/store/>.





Bruce Malone gave his life to Christ over 40 years ago, as the Lord miraculously preserved him through a close call with death. Since that time, Bruce has looked for a deeper purpose in life and realized that rejection of Biblical truth, justified by belief in evolution, is the acid that is eating away at the moral foundation of our culture. Bruce spent 30 years working as a research leader for the Dow Chemical Corporation. He has a degree chemical engineering and is responsible for key innovations that resulted in 17 patents. But, his passion is sharing the relevance and evidence for creation. So, he retired early to become full-time director of *Search for the Truth Ministries* in Midland, MI.

Bruce has spoken extensively in 15 countries, from secular universities to Christian groups. He is author or co-author of eight books on the evidence for creation, with 700,000 copies in print, including 330,000 donated to students and prisoners. Bruce brings science to life through stories and demonstrations, showing that Biblical creation is the most rational explanation for the world around us. The purpose of his books and lectures is to help non-scientific laymen understand the importance of creation, while motivating and equipping them to share these truths.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Bruce Malone at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 6000 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, on Sunday, January 28, at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

New Year's Resolutions – Adapted from The Gospel Coalition

New Year's resolutions are typically based on our definition of what it means to be healthy. And these definitions are often based on what is good for us as **individuals**. We want to lose weight, exercise more, eat healthier, sleep better, and so on. But how does God define health? Consider these verses:

- *Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God, Matthew 4:4.*
- *My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. . . This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones, Proverbs 3:1–2, 8.*
- *For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come, 1 Timothy 4:8.*
- *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you, Isaiah 26:3.*



Beware of resolutions fueling an unhealthy preoccupation with **self**. *If I achieve this goal, then I'll be noticed, accepted, applauded, loved.* When resolutions are done in community, individuality goes out the window; accomplishment becomes connected to the **group**. Success becomes related to how well we encouraged *one another* and persevered *together*. Not only does this kill pride, it also reflects the communal nature of God, who worked in community to achieve the great act of creation:

“Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness,” Genesis 1:26.

It becomes easier to be healthy, as God defines health, when we are connected to others in our resolutions.

UPCOMING “OPEN” CREATION ADVENTURES:

For the Birds: Friday, February 2, Orlando Wetlands



Join Bill and Merilee Clifton – creationists, authors, Florida Master Naturalists, and science educators – as we **focus on Florida birds at Orlando Wetlands** in Christmas in east Orange County. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, birding is the number one sport in America! On this “Introduction to Birding” field trip, we will **learn how birds were specifically designed by their Creator** to do what they do. We will get down to the basics of birding as we **learn how to use binoculars, how to use a field guide, and how to identify birds.**

We’ll also **take a nature walk observing birds and other wildlife.** Students will have the opportunity to **earn a Junior Birding Certificate** through Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and also learn how to continue earning advanced birding certificates on their own. Our day will include information on birding resources, how to start a bird “life list,” how to create a backyard habitat, where to see birds around Florida, and more!



Deadline for minimum number is Monday, January 15.

For an information / registration form, click on the link below:

<https://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/2024 - 02-02 for the birds.pdf>

Manatee Snorkel Encounter: Friday, March 15, 2024



Join the Cliftons as we **focus on “Florida’s Gentle Giant” - the West Indian Manatee.** Our destination is Crystal River on *Florida’s Nature Coast*. In the morning, outfitted with **wetsuits, snorkels, masks, and fins,** we will **take a pontoon boat ride in search of manatees.** When we find them, we’ll join them in the crystal clear, spring-fed waters – the only place in Florida where it is legal to swim with manatees! During our **manatee encounter,** we’ll observe these sociable, threatened mammals “up close and personal.” We’ll study them in their natural habitat, learn what threatens their survival, and find out how we can help.

After our picnic lunch we’ll tour **Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park.** This 166-acre park, located at the headwater of the Homosassa River, is a **showcase for native Florida wildlife.** We’ll visit the **Discovery Center** and also see many examples of Florida wildlife, some endangered or threatened. We’ll take the **“Wildlife Walk”** through natural wildlife habitats, keeping an eye out for alligators, snakes, deer, Florida black bear, bobcats, otter, Florida panthers, manatees (underwater viewing), and a variety of birds including endangered whooping cranes.



Deadline for minimum number is Friday, February 16.

For an information / registration form, click on the link below:

<https://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/2024 - 03-15 manatee snorkel encounter.pdf>

Florida's Water Systems: Friday, April 26, 2024

Come enjoy the great outdoors of Florida with the Cliftons! They'll lead our group from Canaveral National Seashore to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the Indian River Lagoon, and the St. Johns River, exploring Florida's Water Systems from the perspective of God's design in creation.

At Canaveral National Seashore, we'll begin with an orientation, beach walk, and sea bean hunt at this saltwater ecosystem. Then, we're off to **Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, where we'll look at their educational displays and see a film on the ecology of**



the area. After lunch, we will **get into the brackish water of the Indian River Lagoon with**



seining nets. Our *Capture and Release* permit allows us to study the marine specimens we catch in our nets and then return them to the water. We never know what we might find, but have caught fish, shrimp, crabs, seahorses, jellyfish, puffer fish, horseshoe crabs, stingrays, and more! Sometimes we see dolphins and manatees. Our last stop is the **Saint Johns River where we'll observe the plant and animal life of this**

freshwater habitat from an airboat! Watch for alligators, bald eagles, many other birds, turtles, and more! There's an awesome gift and snack shop at airboat place.

Deadline for minimum number is Friday, March 29.

For an information / registration form, click on the link below:

https://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/2024_-_04-26_floridas_water_systems.pdf

Plan a CREATION ADVENTURE for Your Group!

Join the Cliftons as we take a hike, snorkel with manatees, ride an airboat, go beachcombing, seine in a lagoon, go birding, earn a birding certificate, see the heavens in a portable planetarium, learn about bears, bugs, dinosaurs, marine science, Noah's ark, and much more!

To Schedule Your Creation Field Trip or Workshop:

1. Go to www.sciencepartners.net. Click on the **"Creation Field Trips"** and **"Creation Workshops"** tabs to review the field trips and workshops that we offer.
2. Go to the **"Calendar"** tab to check on available dates.
3. Once you've decided on an event and a date, contact us so we can begin contacting our vendors and making reservations.
4. Once everything is confirmed, we will contact you, and your event will be added to our website calendar. For homeschool families, a registration form will be linked to your event date (unless your event is "closed" for your group only). Christian school classes do not need a registration form for each participant.



Our goal is to provide participants with a unique and fascinating creationist perspective of God's great design in nature and to teach them how to see God's handiwork in all of creation!