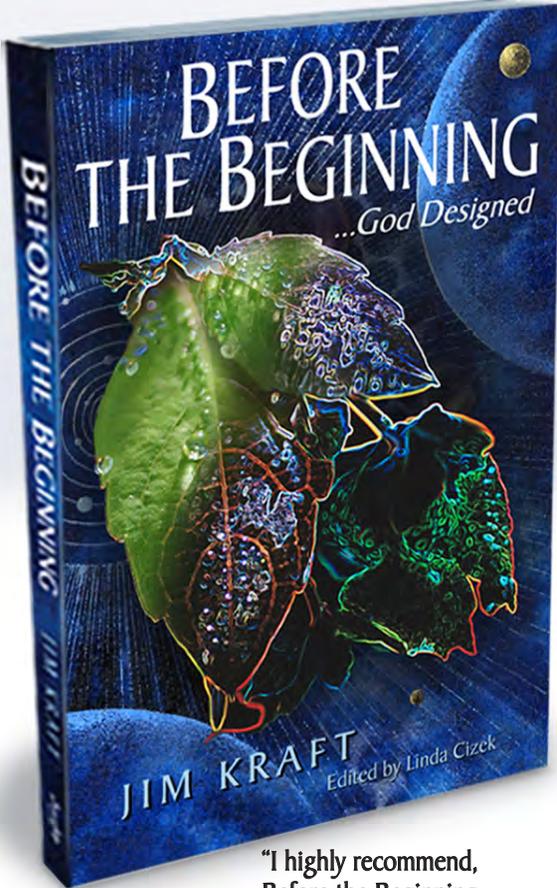




Got Awe?SM

Revealing God's Glory Through the Design of Creation

The Blossom Ridge Mission: To provide an inspirational introduction to the origin of creativity and Biblical Creation. To help discover the epic passion that our Creator has for each one of us. To build faith that encourages the use of our God-given passions and gifts. To remind others to consider His works of creation as part of our worship and to reveal the glory of our Creator!



When we journey back to the beginning something extraordinary – almost unexplainable – begins to happen, and that changes everything.

Psalm 77:1 invites us to consider all God's works and great deeds and there is a wonderful reason for it! *Before the Beginning... God Designed* is an inspirational introduction to Biblical creation. The book gives the reader a starting point in considering the amazing world around us in a new and thoughtful way.

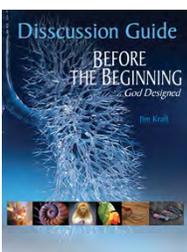
Abiding in our Creator—in fact, searching for Him— helps us to draw near and experience the freedom that He has for us. Romans 1:18-19 teaches that it's not a good idea to hide truth. Science, politics, industry and even religion can veil creation origins. Recognizing the "Who" behind creation helps us to keep the big picture perspective in today's uncertain times.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we begin to understand who our Designer God is. As our understanding grows, it awakens our capacity for childlike wonder; something which gives our Father utmost joy!

"I highly recommend, *Before the Beginning* for exciting, truthful reading."
Bob Devine, MBI Nature Corner

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The Beast and the Little Boy



All is well as the boy rests in his father's arms. The boy knows his father will take care of everything. His father has learned the nature of this particular beast and has determined that all is well. Dad is doing his part by simply being there for his son. The boy can't help but to do what comes naturally, and that is to simply draw near to his father when he sees something frightening.

Somewhere along our journey we learn to be independent. As adults, we must learn to lean on our Heavenly Father. He tells us to come to Him like a child. This begins a new kind of relationship with our Father God.

This picture shows us the relationship between a father and his son, but it also shows a different kind of relationship. What did our Creator God have in mind when He created the elephant? What kind of symbiosis did God intend for us to have with this oversized engineering wonder? Jesus designed these gentle giants and their future masters alike. The beast was a help for us a few thousand years ago, and is a help for us

today. The elephant is firstly an inspiration: When machines weren't around man's helper, the elephant, was. Through the "lift action" of his trunk, he inspired man to work with metal and mind. "What can I achieve with my observations—my ingenuity?" man asks. Inspirations from the elephant are many, from the concept of a crane to a vacuum hose, a trumpet's blow, and a tree-gripping machine; they are all found in the elephant's trunk! Not to mention the garden-hose, piping, liquid relocation and today's robotic motion abilities. God was so good to create this beast for us. In return, we use our God-given knowledge—based brain to care and care for these beasts. Pretty amazing stuff! But on top of the obvious, we find a relationship between us and the beast. This is a reminder of Jesus' bigger-than-life, intentionally—designed realities.

God designed the need for awe. These fleeting moments designed for us can be considered little peeks into Heaven. These glimpses of the divine offer us hope of the Creator's thoughtful plan. The Word invites us to "consider the birds of the field." Are these designs—God's "creation thoughts" expressed toward us—worth our consideration, praise and adoration? The answer is beyond a doubt!

"I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds."

This Month's Prayer: Lord keep us acknowledging your "wonder-full" creative works! Amen!

We will be adding a new section in the winter newsletter called, "Creativity in Action." This section displays photos of creative projects that reflect God's gifting. These projects can be altered to suit your particular application. Here is one example: If your church wants a new and creative way to reach the community at Christmas time, then building the area's biggest Christmas tree (I mean huge) in your sanctuary might be an idea. As people enter and pass under this tree they become aware that they are gifts to each other, as well as gifts to God. This promotes an important message of acceptance. We are gifts to each other from God and to God! It's a great reason to invite a friend or new acquaintance to church. One can do much with cardboard, tree bark, and pine roping! We did it for our own kids and family. We would be happy to assist, build or instruct you on how to build one for your church, ministry or office. This, tied in with the nativity/ Christmas message from the pulpit would do quite well. People will be sending pics with their phones as soon as they see it!

A Tribute to the late Bob Devine



"Some Wrestle with God and Some Walk with God." - John Devine

At his father's memorial service, John Devine reminded us of the challenges that passing

from this life to the next brings. It's frustrating to see that even the most faithful of Christ's ambassadors are not immune to the ugliness of the fall. The journey to eternity can be quite a ride. As you may know, Bob Devine blessed listeners in the northeastern Ohio listening area through WCRF Radio for 40 years. With the sound of the rooster crow and his daily cheerful march around the breakfast table, we began many a day. I must admit though that on some mornings I would have liked to see "Red" the rooster on my kitchen table as a "golden brown" chicken dinner!

Bob was afflicted by throat and mouth cancer and the parts of the body he used to bless us were afflicted. However, we learned that his heart, soul and mind were rock solid and could not be shaken. According to Bob's family, he didn't wrestle with God in his journey, Bob "walked" with God all the way!

The strong, steady and cheerful example Bob gave us will never be forgotten. The creativity and passion that Bob found in the design of creation was certainly an inspiration for my book. Bob researched, produced and voiced 450 program characters for Moody Bible Institute's Creation Corner. Products and sample programs are available at <http://www.mache.org/store/catalog/nature-corner>. We can continue to use Bob's work to bless our kids and grandkids with the perspective that Jesus is indeed our intelligent designer!

Bob attracted many to Christ with his courtesy, kindness and God-given creativity according to his son John. Bob attracted me to the Designer God; the Lord Jesus Christ. One of Bob's animal interviews was with the owl. Once I heard about the radar dishes that surround the owl's eyes and how they were the key to his incredible hunting ability, the sophistication in design blew me away. The feathers work quadruple duty: as camouflage, an insulating covering, a muffler to quiet its flight and a no-light required, night vision, radar-sensory response system! God is indeed the transcendent designer!



STELLA SYTHI

If we all could have just an ounce of Bob Devine's character and wisdom, the world would be a much better place. Thank you Bob for inspiring so many, especially for inspiring me! Thank you Wanda Devine for making the Devine team truly divine!

I sincerely thank God for arranging for (and moving) Bob to read and endorse my first work for the Lord, *Before the Beginning... God Designed!* In fact, Bob's work is the reason why I chose an owl photo for the masthead of our monthly newsletters.

Is there such a thing as a *tiny* miracle?



If the God of the universe is involved in creating THE solution to virtually any problem that can exist, who are we to measure or define its' significance, or dare to put a value on it?

True awe is fleeting on this side of Heaven. God's works can be easily forgotten and taken for granted. Just look at what happened when the Israelites forgot who saved them and in whom they should put their trust. God let them wander for 40 years. Maybe it could have been only four years of wondering if they got the message earlier! We easily shrug off God's works and life-sustaining care, even when it miraculously takes place right before our eyes! He is the shadow on our right hand and we need to walk with that truth. Our Creator God is always with us. Why did Jesus bother to say, "I will never will I leave you or forsake you?" if this were not true?

Let's go over a few of these miracles....

Bursts of Glory— The flower

- Flowers are pick-able. The stems break off with the slightest tug. Jesus could have made the stem stronger than steel as He did in a spider's web (Jesus has this ability), but He didn't. The idea of the flower itself begs a question for the both male and one for the female of our kind:

Male: "Why did Jesus make the flower easy to pick?" (We men like to muse and ponder the mechanics of things.)

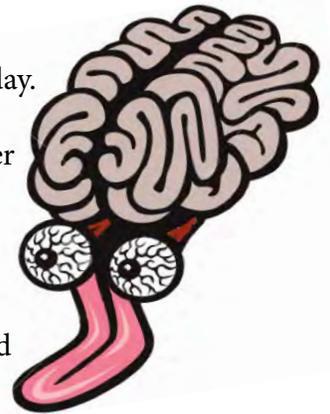
Female: "Why do a woman's eyes and heart easily light up when flowers are presented to her?" (Could this be a hint on the points of wooing her heart?)

At any rate, the needs and desires of our hearts are intimately designed into creation. Maybe emotions are not such a bad thing after all, fellas...

The tongue;

- Flavor sensor and sifter! You know about the taste buds —some for sweet, some for salty —but the idea of the tongue as a sifter?! That really smacked me in the face when we got ice cream the other day. I am sure it was a "deja vu" moment (I do love ice cream), but this time I got the message.

Same place, same product, but a different day. As Tammy took a lick of her "crunchy dipped ice cream" she felt something harder than normal. We all have been there! Ugh! the prospect of a chipped tooth is on the horizon. But instinctively, the tongue begins to exercise its' wiggling and sifting behavior. Like panning for gold, but instead of visual inspection, the tongue identifies the tiny piece of hard matter through determined focus and the sense of touch, and the bit of bone quickly emerges—sifted from all else! And, unfortunately, the worst is confirmed! The dentist will be hailed in the morning!



It was neat to hear my wife acknowledge the design of the tongue to be able to do such a feat! The identical experience happened to me at the same ice cream stand a few months earlier. But I didn't acknowledge the designer—I just took it all for granted! I am very proud of my wife for recognizing that if there is a design, there is a Designer!

When our ancestors figured out that the earth wasn't flat, they changed what they taught. I believe that the world and all that is in it was created by God, therefore evolution is foolishness and disproves itself. If we are so highly evolved, how is it we do not see the utter impossibility that we evolved from a puddle of goo?

“...For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

Romans: 1: 18-20

Technology and research breakthroughs—really?

Man has manipulated a goat gene by adding a spider’s protein. The protein can be extracted from the altered goat milk. This web can be spun into a 7-10 times stronger than steel web. This will open doors to volumes of significant invention and the unknown (some of which could be good and some could be very, very bad). I hope it doesn’t hurt the goat. Furthermore, should the altered goat breed with a non-altered goat, will the meat and milk produced negatively affect man?

A new working material for man—from a designer’s perspective.

What raw form will the bio web take? Will it just be spooled like thread? Will it come in jars with separate hardeners for mold formation, like Jell-O molds? Or maybe it will come in bar stock or just thick chunks of bio web. Then fabrication issues emerge. Can you make a cutting tool strong enough to mill it? Can it be cut with a gas or a laser?

Will the fumes be toxic? Will it rust? Can you recycle it? Will it hold paint or a finish of some sort? Can you pre-color or dye it? As a thread, will it shrink or stretch? What happens to it under duress such as pressure, heat or cold temperatures?

Out of the box thinking would include: What application is best for this particular material? Where has the heavy weight of traditional metal been unusable in the past—or what situations would improve when fabric gives out? Is this an element for flight, personal safety apparel, and maybe even creepy nano robotics???

This is a very small, finite example of the mental gymnastics man can go through in the design thinking process. Our infinite God had to think through not only material usability but material and element creation, strength, compatibility with other materials, mankind helps in pre and post “the fall of man” conditions. (Environment and physical conditions changed with the fall. E.g.: From no pain to pain in child birth) —and the list goes on! He indeed is an awesome God!

Applications of artificial spider silk could include using it for artificial ligaments and tendons due to its elastic tendencies. The bio web is a natural product which will synthesize well with the body. Other applications include the creation of bulletproof vests which could possibly be thinner, yet stronger, than Kevlar vests, improved vehicle airbags and stronger, more reliable parachutes.

After Jesus performed some of His miracles, He stated, “You will do even greater works than these.” I can’t help but to wonder was Jesus referring to man’s discovery and invention types of works?

Blossom Ridge Update

Blossom Ridge Blessings:

- Ingram Books is now stocking Before the Beginning...God Designed!
- WORLD Magazine has responded to our query letter for a book review!
- Friends Church Yearly Meeting had a table set up for us to help raise awareness of our book, discussion guide, talks and mission. Pray that divine connections are in the process of being made.

Needs:

- Newsletter reach. If you know of anyone who could be blessed by this newsletter or our book, please pass on this newsletter or send us their email address.
- A Mac Powerbook pro laptop, 2011+, 15 would be such a blessing.”
- Creation Fest 2014: This is a three day, youth gathering sponsored by Liberty University. 40-50k people are expected to attend. God could use us to create some great connections

at this event. This year's Creation Fest theme; "A Tribute To Our Creator."
<http://www.creationfest.com/>.

- (\$) for 90 second book trailer video production.
- (\$) for a news release program that reaches 850 Christian media outlets.
- Discussion group leaders for fall and winter Sunday schools or home -based discussion groups. The book makes for great discussion with current cultural-forming news. Can be done in a 12 or 24 week format.
- Connect with people that are free from fear who live boldly for Christ. Christians indeed have the best message on the planet!

Fruit:

- We recently connected with Pastor Schaefer at Grace Church in Middleburg Hts., Bob Devine's family and Mache.org.
- The discussion guide for Before the Beginning...God Designed! is coming together nicely.
- Many flyers describing the book and mission were picked up at the Yearly Meeting conference. Samples books were handed to a number of pastoral leaders!



-The book is starting to get into more reader's hands...all the way to China and Sweden!