

From: Mark and Debbie Blosser

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Speaking Hope to the World

"Hey, Peter, those rapids ahead look wicked. Better get ready!" We zipped up our rain suits to the max. Previous experience told us that any water that found its way into our suits was extremely cold. This one required a good grip with both hands on straps attached to the raft. We were headed into a #10 rapid, the highest rating. Feet placement was extremely important, too, as flexing of the raft could cause physical harm. We were warned of what to do if we fell into the river. Getting us out quickly would be critical due to the potential for hypothermia. So, we grabbed the straps and made sure everything was tied down. Wow, what a ride! A wave came over the front of the raft and lifted Peter six inches off his seat! It seemed we were under water for a moment! Good thing we had a good grip, or we'd be swimming!



Those were the most critical moments of our 187-mile rafting trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Yes! It was the trip of a lifetime! For a number of years, I dreamed of rafting maybe a day or two but had all but given up on the idea. No one seemed interested in going with me. Then Debbie told me of a nine-day trip sponsored by Answers in Genesis that she'd seen on the internet. That piqued my interest, but when I heard that Andrew Snelling, a top geologist, would be one of the two main guides on the tour, I got excited and started checking into it. Debbie said there was no way she would go but encouraged me to grab the opportunity. I think she wanted to encourage the "boy" in me. My son, Peter, added to my excitement when he said he'd love to

join me. But getting a place on a once-a-year excursion was a challenge. We waited well over a year to get included among the 24 places on the two rubber rafts.

We rafted roughly four hours a day and hiked down side canyons another four hours. The rest of the time was taken up making camp on sandbars, eating and sleeping. On the last day we were lifted out of the canyon by helicopter to the Bar 10 Ranch and then flown back to the starting point at Marble Canyon, where we had left Peter's car, which he had driven out from Longview, Texas. It is hard to pick out what parts of the trip to share with you, as there was so much we learned and experienced. But the thing which impressed me the most were the evidences we saw that pointed to the worldwide flood



Peter, Andrew Snelling & Mark

told about in Genesis 6 to 8 of the Bible. To me it seemed similar to when Thomas said he would not believe Jesus was alive unless Jesus showed him the wounds in his hand and his side. Andrew Snelling time after time pointed to unresolved problems if we see the canyon with the view that it took millions of years to form. It seemed as if God was saying to us, "Look at this gash in the earth I have left for you to see. It removes doubt if the flood seems hard for you to believe."

Peter and I took many pictures. But I also recorded all the talks and devotionals we had along the way, including the briefings before we started the trip. You can see and listen to these at the following links:

My pictures: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/rJU4RNDFqaZaVGar7>

My audio files: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SfMF6-AqdFB89lxMNNj6LDJax5ENbfPc?usp=sharing>

Peter's rafting pictures: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/3A9wV5X6vMCA7s61A>

In the audio section, Dr. Snelling's talks are very informative, but I felt the following audio was the most interesting, as he related it to what the Bible says and why it is important for us as Christians to believe the first eleven chapters are historical narrative. The name of the file is: 2019.5.03..10.09.DrSnelling Creation Apologetics.mp3. His talk doesn't start until a little ways into it, and it is fairly long.

As I write this letter, we are traveling to our TWR office at Cary, NC, to attend a training session for some new folks who will be beginning their support-raising process to become TWR missionaries. If all goes as planned, I will be coaching some of them through that process. I'll keep you posted.

Blessings!

Mark & Debbie

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