

Fresh Facts from the Fishers

August 2018

55 Years & Counting!



"You've reached new heights this year!"
TWR staff sent this card, celebrating
Dave's first 55 years with TWR!

We Don't Like Fan Mail...

...at least not the superficial kind, where someone merely says he or she enjoyed a program. Applause is nice, but we prefer **affirmation that God has used us to be a positive influence in someone's life.** So we thank God for recent responses like these:

Spanish: "It challenges me to think critically from a biblical perspective. Thank you and 'go ahead'." (In other words, "Keep climbing").

Czech: "One evening...we were talking in family about what each of us is experiencing with God. My youngest son, who is 15, said that God assures him that there is no problem between science and faith, and he quoted a lot of the arguments from the TTT programs. He has been listening to all of them several times. He is a very logical boy, and he is at the age where young people deal with these questions. The TTT programs are **a great help** for him."

Raquel in Spanish: "...I listened to a TTT program where they talked about sex and the consequences of having relationships with several people. Unfortunately, **someone close to me has a very promiscuous life and lives with the emotional aftermath of his [behavior].** But his mother thinks he has a psychological problem. **I would like to share that audio so that he can understand the truth biblically and scientifically.**"

A **Czech Atheist** listened to the episode "How Much Faith Does It Take to Be an Atheist?" He reacted, "Blabol, blabol, blabol..." That can be translated "Blah, blah, blah..." or "Babble, babble, babble..."

Why does this mocking response encourage us? Because 1) he reveals that he's listening, and 2) it sounds as if the program provoked him enough that he felt a need to rebut it.

That reminds us of a young Chinese man who wrote several years ago. He had begun listening as "a complete skeptic," then became "a half-skeptic/half-believer," and ended "Now I'm a complete believer. You have rescued a dead soul!"

One TWR missionary said, "May God grant this listener grace to move from 'blahing' to knowing to believing to following."

Did Man Create God?

French philosopher and historian Voltaire said, "God created man in his own image. And **man**, being a gentleman, **returned the favor.**"

To answer that charge, Biola philosophy professor Garry DeWeese wrote a chapter entitled, "Is God Just a Human Invention?" in a book by the same name (from Kregel Publishers).

Among his many good points is one by C. S. Lewis: "Creatures are not born with desires unless **satisfaction** for those desires exists. The baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex."

Then Lewis nails it: "If I find in myself a desire, which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that **I was made for another world.** Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it – only to arouse, to suggest the real thing."

Prof. DeWeese closes, "So...it is...possible to infer that the reason so many humans have desires for and beliefs in the divine, points to **God's desire to be known.** This coheres nicely with the portrait that we find in the Bible, for as the writer of Ecclesiastes observes, God 'has set eternity in the hearts of men.'" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

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How to Handle an Exception?

On his BreakPoint broadcast/webcast, John Stonestreet said, "Humans have ten fingers and ten toes." Can one **exception** stop us from saying that is the norm?

He continued, "Perhaps you've heard someone challenge the pro-life view with 'Well, what about rape or incest, or the life of the mother?'"

Wikipedia defines therapeutic abortion as "abortion induced...in order to avoid the risk of substantial harm to the mother." In the real world, how often must a doctor choose between saving the baby and saving the mother?

Very seldom. The late Dr. C. Everett Koop observed, "In my 36 years in pediatric surgery I have **never** known of **one instance** where the child had to be aborted to save the mother's life. ...If, toward the end of the pregnancy complications arise that threaten the mother's health, [her doctor] will take the child by inducing labor or performing a Caesarean section...to save the life of both the mother and the baby. ...**The baby is never willfully destroyed** because the mother's life is in danger."

Even former Planned Parenthood president Dr. Alan Guttmacher admitted decades ago, "Today it is possible for almost any patient to be brought through pregnancy alive..."

Ultrasound and DNA reveal the developing fetus is not merely a "growth" inside the mother, but a separate individual. But the more convincing the evidence becomes, the more strongly "pro-choice" people "dig in their heels" to resist the evidence.

Stonestreet presented a novel angle: "...[F]or the sake of discussion, instead of arguing about the exceptions, why not just grant them? ...[T]ry replying...: 'Okay, let's say we keep abortion legal in these rare cases. **What about the other 96%...that are elective? Can we end those?**' Nine times out of ten, you'll hear silence. Or they will admit they're using rare cases as **wedges for their real agenda.**"

He concludes, "So the next time someone argues for abortion from an exception, grant it." But grant it **as an exception** – a rarity.

"Then confront them with the vast majority of cases. And if they refuse, just ask them how many fingers and toes they have."

Health Updates

- **Eleanor** has graduated from the boot on her foot. Current treatment involves wearing a bone stimulator 3 hours per day.

- **Dave's** latest PSA is 0.11, the lowest EVER! But Parkinson's plus some knee damage limit his walking – to the extent that he canceled going to a science conference in July. Walking from dorm to cafeteria to lecture hall several times a day would have been too much. He's doing physical therapy and taking medication to control the problem.

Most of his work is on a computer at home, so that's not affected much.



Targets for Prayer

- **That doctors will be able to control our health issues.**
- **For the Czech atheist who wrote to ridicule our "blah, blah, blah."**
- **For wisdom in choosing topics that will attract the attention of unsaved people, and presenting biblical points convincingly.**
- **For God's wisdom and provision for potential new languages and formats.**
- **That each grandchild will follow God's will in all life choices. Some need extra prayer for this!**

Yours for Christian credibility,
Dave and Eleanor Fisher

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