

PHOTOGRAPHY

For much of my adult life I have pursued photography, it was one of the things mentioned by me in my high school yearbook regarding ambitions for the future: "Own and operate a campground or become a photographer."

With no training I did find some part time "stringer" jobs at a local newspaper and did some occasional work for a professional photographer in our area. This was always very part time. With a young family I did what I could to put food on the table. I worked in a factory, as a laborer, garbage collector, heavy equipment operator, much later becoming a nurse.

In 1988 I found an opportunity to purchase a photography studio from a man who was retiring. It was a bad move, a reckless move, and one that was made out of pure self-interest. The studio, along with my talents, was marginal. In a matter of months I had to begin to sell equipment to pay bills. I eventually sold all the equipment that I had except the 35mm equipment that was not worth much. In less than a year I was back to operating heavy equipment, not really caring if I ever took another picture.

In 2000 the Lord gave us the opportunity to travel to Bombardopolis, Haiti for a month (well it was February, you know the shortest month). I decided to take the 35mm equipment to a local shop beforehand and have it cleaned and checked out and take it with us. I have to say that I felt I made some of the best and most useful photographs in my life on that trip. I also have to say that from that time until this time the Lord has returned my love of making pictures to me.

With the advent of digital technology, photography is just so much more accessible. I have continued to pursue taking photos, pictures of family of course and pictures of God's creation. It is just awe inspiring to me to be able to use God's light to illuminate His creation and make an image of it that I can show others on paper or a screen. A couple of years ago we were able to travel to the Grand Canyon with some friends and camp for a few days. I remember the deep sense of reverence and relative smallness I felt upon catching my first glimpse of the Canyon. I was up every day at 4:30 to go out and make pictures at sunrise. I was also out every day at sunset to do the same. On the last day we were there I awoke to two inches of new fallen snow which just added so much to the pictures, a gift from God I believe on that April day.

People and places, rivers and mountains, lighthouses on ocean coasts, waterfalls and wildlife, all give testament to the unlimited creativity of the Creator, from Whom any creative abilities we have come. Sadly mankind has found an explanation, albeit a flawed one, to attempt to explain away the fact of our Creator God's existence. The theory that the universe had its beginning when a "point of singularity" exploded begs the mostly unasked question, "where did the point of singularity come from?" Relying on the evolution of species from single celled organisms slowly into all manner of higher forms of life totally ignores the fact that no transitional life forms have been found. This evolution also does not address the fact that so much of life's structures are irreducibly complex, that is if one piece, often among millions, is missing the whole structure will fail, or more to the point could never have evolved in the first place.

There is no doubt that species can adapt, that bird's beaks, such as Darwin's famous finches, can change due to environmental conditions for instance. Adaptability is not the issue; it does not touch on the change necessary to go from one species to another. Can mistakes in the genetic makeup happen at the cellular level to cause change? Sure, but this always involves loss of information which can never move organisms from simple to more complex. Acceptance of evolution is not based on evidence, but the interpretation of evidence which requires speculation as theories relating to origins and evolution cannot be replicated and thus proven.

Hummingbirds are amazing. If they could not do what they do they would cease to exist. If they were not able to do what they do in total right from the start they would never have come to be.

So anyway, I have wanted to get photographs of hummingbirds for a long time. Try as I may at our home in the US, with lots of hummingbirds and feeders I never did. Less than two months after moving to Haiti the Lord was gracious to me and gave me the opportunity to get some really cool shots of some of His most interesting and beautiful creations. I hope you enjoy the photos taken as the birds were so engrossed in the beautiful (and obviously tasty) Poui tree that they hardly cared that I was banging away frame after frame (view photos at <http://www.haitihospital.org/photoGallery/photoGallery1.htm>).

Take some time to think and research (there is no end of resources) for yourself which is more likely: eternal matter or eternal Creator God. And if (since) it is God wouldn't we be wise to follow Him and His plan.