



Canyon Ministries

Christian Leaders Grand Canyon Trips Attendees and Recommendations

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Christian Leaders Trip Alumni

Dr. George Athas, Lecturer in Old Testament, Hebrew and Church History, Moore Theological College, Australia

This trip is a spectacular adventure experience through some of the most amazing scenery on the planet. Furthermore, the trip gave me a chance to understand and explore issues relating to the origins of humanity and the earth in an environment that included diversity of opinion, as well as collegiality of fellowship. I am still thinking through the many issues, and probably will be for a long time. However, as a result of the trip, I have a better grasp of certain issues to help me continue in my understanding. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Richard Aeverbeck, Professor Old Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

This was the trip of a lifetime for me. I had always wanted to visit, travel, and study the canyon, and this was a first class opportunity to do so. The rafting on the Colorado River, running the rapids, was a delight. The side trips hiking and climbing up some of the side canyons was vigorous and also very instructive. One of the major highlights of the trip was the explanations of the geological strata and fossils etc. and the discussions of all this in light of young-earth creationist readings of the Bible and up-to-date scientific theories of the formation of the canyon that could support a “literal” interpretation of the 6 days in Genesis 1. There were substantial lectures on the Bible and the science of creationism, and open discussions that allowed all participants to interact from their own points of view, some of whom do not currently accept the recent creationist position. The leaders of the trip were all personally and passionately committed to the recent creationist position, but willing to allow others to be passionate about their views as well. The whole experience was challenging (personally, physically, and intellectually) as well as full of fun and the building of meaningful relationships with brothers in Christ. I recommend it most highly. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Ernie Baker, Professor Biblical Counseling, The Master’s College

Do you want to be sharpened theologically? If so, this trip is for you. Do you want to interact with colleagues on crucial theological issues in a setting where you will be heard? If so, this trip is for you. Do you enjoy learning? If so, this trip definitely for you. Most importantly—do you want to be a better worshipper of our great God and be refreshed spiritually? Then this trip is for you. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Tony Beam, Vice President for Student Services and Christian Worldview, North Greenville University

I am happy to give my highest recommendation for the Canyon Ministries Christian Leaders Grand Canyon Trip. The trip proved to be one most inspirational, challenging, and exciting trips of my life. The teaching is scholarly, informative, and very helpful in defending a Christian worldview interpretation of a young earth. The trip leaders are highly accessible during the trip providing multiple opportunities for one on one discussions that augment the group teaching times. The evidence presented from science is solid providing a sound foundation for a factual argument for the Genesis account of creation. The Bible exposition and teaching is excellent and hermeneutically sound. The camaraderie and fellowship of the team members creates an atmosphere where real friendships develop. And, of course, the Canyon is a spectacular display of God’s creative beauty. Sleeping under the stars with moonlit Canyon walls extending over 6000 ft. in every direction and the sound of the river in your ears is an unforgettable experience. The rapids are thrilling and a bit scary but you soon come to trust the expertise of the boatman as they successfully navigate the biggest white water in North America. It was one of the most marvelous experiences of my life! ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Seth Bible, PhD student in ethics, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

I'm not sure I have ever questioned whether the earth was created as God explicitly stated in Genesis 1. However, I am certain that I never really thought through both sides of the debate in a coherent way. The team from Answers in Genesis in conjunction with Canyon Ministries did a phenomenal job of laying out the arguments and clarifying some of the misconceptions about Creationists science and philosophy. I benefited greatly from the interaction with men of God who were honestly seeking to know and understand the truth of God in a clear fashion. I can't imagine anyone ever turning down an opportunity to attend this event. In short, this was the trip of a lifetime. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Fred Blackburn, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, San Diego Christian College

If you have been invited on the Christian Leaders Canyon Trip, count yourself among the blessed. This is truly a trip of a lifetime. Not only will you get to see the wonders of God's creation and destruction, but you will travel with scientists and scholars whose range of knowledge and insight is truly astounding and thought inspiring. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone who has a love of God's word both in its written and non-written form. The canyon declares the glory of God and His Holiness. Creation, judgment and redemption can all be seen made physically manifest in the canyon. It is an experience that will change your life and perspective forever. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Richard Blumenstock, Professor of Bible, Cedarville University

I highly recommend this trip to all those who seek to better understand evidences of the early earth and scientific explanations of the geology of the flood. It not only will enhance your understanding of the biblical record, but will also encourage your understanding of the accuracy and veracity of the text. You will also experience the beauty and the wonder of God's creation in one of the most magnificent areas of the world, The Grand Canyon. You will be awestruck by the power, judgment, and creativity of our awesome God. Worship will come easily by observation of the magnificence of God's grace, and the reverence for God's judgment. You will never see the work of God in all of His characteristics more completely than in the experience of the Grand Canyon trip. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Ray Bohlin, Probe Ministries, Garland, Texas

The trip is just excellent fun and scholarship. As a veteran hiker in the Grand Canyon I relished to see and visit sites on the River accessible only from the river. The food was terrific and the fellowship even better. Your mind will be challenged! You will hear the biblical and scientific sides of the young earth/flood geology perspective explained with patience and expertise. If that is not your persuasion your perspective and questions are welcomed. We had some vigorous discussions! I highly recommend this trip. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Kevin Boling, Mountain Bridge Bible Fellowship, Greenville, South Carolina

The AIG Leadership Trip to the Grand Canyon provided the opportunity to view first-hand the physical results of the global flood described in Genesis. Prior to this experience I must admit that I held to a very domesticated view of the flood. However, as I viewed the Canyon and heard the descriptions of how various aspects of the canyon were formed, I realized that I had grossly underestimated the catastrophic nature of the flood. This revised view of this Biblical event, produced in me a heightened sense of God's holiness and hatred of sin. This in turn developed into a greater appreciation for the mercy of God in sending His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who absorbed the wrath of God on our behalf. I would whole-heartedly recommend this trip to anyone interested in the serious consideration and study of the events surrounding the global flood. The instruction given by the leadership team on this trip was well delivered and thought-provoking. The combination of faithful exegesis of God's Word, godly fellowship, and fun was refreshing. Take my advice, if the opportunity presents itself, clear your schedule for a week and prepare to be amazed. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Stephen Bramer, Professor of Bible Exposition, Dallas Theological Seminary

The Grand Canyon Scholars tour is an academic course unlike anything you have ever taken in university or seminary! With 23 other rafting-scholars discussing and learning, and with 4 knowledgeable presenters who carefully and graciously inform and challenge, all in the context of the amazing Grand Canyon, this is an experience you will never forget. It will enhance your teaching, deepen your appreciate of the Word of God, and give you a chance to worship the Lord we love and serve. I highly recommend this study tour to you and encourage you to take advantage of this unique, wonderfully-planned, river trip in the Grand Canyon. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Gerry Breshears, Theology Professor, Western Seminary

The Christian Leader's trip is the first time I have seen Flood geology presented with scientific integrity along with on-site evidence. Not only is it good science, but it an incredibly worshipful experience. The new friendships forged in the close fellowship of the life on the river and in the camps went deep fast. I was a bit worried that the physical demands might be a bit much, but that was not the case. The professionalism of the boatmen combined with outstanding well prepared meals were beyond my expectations. There was a lot of horsing around enhanced by sleeping under the stars. It is a life-time experience. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Con Campbell, Professor of New Testament, Moore Theological College, Australia

This was a trip of a lifetime. It was wonderful to experience God's incredible creative power and the majesty of his creation as seen in the Grand Canyon. The leaders of the tour were fantastic too. I learned a great deal from them, was challenged to reconsider my views about creation, and left with much food for thought, new friends, and very fond memories. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. E. L. Carballosa, itinerant Bible teacher in Spain and Latin America

I had the privilege of participating of the Scholars Grand Canyon Trip July 10-17, 2010. It was one of the most memorable experiences that I have ever had. The trip was well planned and excellently organized. It was very instructive both scientifically and biblically. It was an example of teamwork, spiritual communion and learning together. I warmly recommend this experience to anyone who is interested in combining fun, fellowship and learning in one package. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Ken Casillas, Old Testament Professor, Bob Jones University Seminary

The Christian Scholars' Trip provided outstanding first-hand exposure to the scientific evidence supporting a literal understanding of Genesis 1. The tour leaders brought expertise from a variety of theological and scientific fields. Their instruction was scientifically precise but accessible to the non-scientist. The logistics were professionally—and sometimes amazingly—handled, particularly the provision of top-rate meals all week long. There was a good deal of fun mixed in with the teaching on Creation and the Flood. The opportunity to interact with fellow believers and teachers topped off the experience as one of the most memorable of my life. ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Tec Clark, Reef Ministries, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Outdoor ministry is a wonderful way to experience God's creation firsthand. However, outdoor ministry in the Grand Canyon escalates the pure truth of creation and global flood events. This trip brings the science and scriptures to life in a very bold, beautiful and physical way. Men truly gifted in creation geology, biology, scripture and the Grand Canyon itself seamlessly entwine their expertise in educating participants. To touch rocks formed at creation, to feel fossils entombed in sediment, to sing songs of praise in granite canyons, to hear scripture echo off water and mountains – all combines to be

one of the most intensely powerful experiences that will forever change the way you interpret creation and flood accounts of Genesis. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Victor Clay, Senior Pastor, Dynamic Life Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri

I am an African American Christian and Pastor in Kansas City, Kansas. I was blessed to attend the Grand Canyon trip for Scholars. This trip was totally out of an urban/suburban boy's comfort zone. The trip allowed God to stimulate me mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. The basic belief on the literal interpretation of Genesis 1-11 is vitally important. More urban Pastors and Bible scholars need to experience the information and visible evidence of the canyon trip. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Bruce Compton, Professor of Biblical Languages and Exposition, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary

The Canyon Ministries Christian Leaders trip sponsored by AIG provided a wonderful week of boating down the beautiful Colorado River in the magnificent Grand Canyon in the company of an international group of Christian educators and pastors. The informative teaching from the team leaders, the stimulating discussions among colleagues, the excellent cuisine, the thrill of white water rafting, and the breath-taking grandeur of the Grand Canyon combined to make the trip a once in a lifetime experience. I heartily recommend this trip to any Christian leader grappling with the issues of young earth creationism and a global flood and wanting to be better equipped for a defense of the faith. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Brent Cook, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Apologetics and Church History, Bob Jones University

The Christian Leaders Trip sponsored by Answers in Genesis and Canyon Ministries proved to be a delightful tour of the Grand Canyon. The lectures were outstanding. The interaction with fellow believers was life-changing. The testimony of the Canyon to the authenticity of the biblical flood was powerful and sobering. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me that will have rich dividends in my teaching ministry. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Mark Coppenger, Philosophy Professor, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Perhaps you've heard of those wilderness challenges called Outward Bound. Well, this one could be called Upward Bound, with plenty of physical rigor and team building, but also a wealth of biblical and scientific insight. Just being with the leader/instructors would have made it abundantly worthwhile. Throw in the community of Christian professors, and you have a landmark week. And if you haven't seen the Grand Canyon from below, you might think of something roughly akin to a week's tour of the Alps, with majestic peaks rising above you at every turn. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. David A. Croteau, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Liberty University

The Grand Canyon trip with Answers in Genesis, Master's Seminary, and Canyon Ministries is an educational and spiritual experience. While you will appreciate the humble teaching and strong evidence, both scientific and biblical, for a worldwide flood and young earth, you will also find yourself in one of the most majestic places in God's creation. I found myself worshipping God throughout the day in spontaneous praises to our Creator. This is a great, safe place to work through the issues related to the age of the earth and to meet and fellowship with other Christian leaders. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Jason DeRouchie, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Bethlehem College & Seminary

The Grand Canyon Christian Leaders Trip is a journey of sweet fellowship around God's Word in one of the most amazing places in God's world. I went into the trip a convinced young earth creationist from the perspective of the Scriptures. I left highly encouraged about the science being done, more grounded exegetically in the young earth model, and more aware of how the issue of the earth's age may relate not only to Scripture's authority but even to the Gospel. We cannot celebrate the work of Christ fully until we ponder the nature of the curse he came to reverse. This trip let me go deeper into God's truth, and I now take this experience with me back into the seminary classroom and the local church. Jesus was exalted on this trip, and I left encouraged at the commitment to the pursuit and proclamation of biblical truth that was modeled in both the trip leaders and participants. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Greg Downes, principal & professor, The Centre for Missional Leadership, London School of Theology, United Kingdom

I had an amazing time on the Christian leaders trip which presented evidence and biblical reasoning for a young age perspective of the earth, using the Grand Canyon as an impressive example, as we journeyed 200 miles down the Colorado river together in rafts. The trip was beyond my wildest expectations, not only because of the sheer beauty of the canyon itself, but also because of the amazing fellowship and camaraderie with a group of fine Christian men who cared passionately about God's Word and sought to extend his mission in the world. Any prejudices about a young-earth position being one of intellectual suicide, were soon blown away by scholars on the trip who presented the young-earth perspective as not only persuasive but also intellectually robust and thought through. Questions were handled courteously and graciously, with not the least hint of defensiveness, which meant that a genuine exchange between the different perspectives on the age of the earth was not only possible but also happened freely. Many of the delegates spoke of the life-changing impact of the trip and I would heartily agree and commend this without reservation to anyone interested. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Robert J. Doornenbal, Theology Professor, Ede Christian University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

For me this trip was a life-time event. I loved the variety of boating & hikes, lectures & discussion, Christian fellowship & camaraderie etc. All this in combination with an excellent atmosphere within the group and great food. As to content, the YEC-position came to receive my respect and appreciation, thanks to the expertise and attitude of the excellent team (Tom, Terry, Bill, Andrew). Although I am not ready yet to embrace a young earth creationist perspective in all aspects – due to some hermeneutical and scientific questions that I am still working on – it is possible that I will eventually adopt this position. This – for me – striking outcome was not to be expected by my just reading books or articles. It was the interaction with YEC-proponents, in Bible study and prayer, lectures & discussion, and personal interaction, that resulted in my almost 'conversion'. I recommend the trip heartily to anyone who is not a YEC but who is open to learn and to honestly and prayerfully consider the issues involved. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Rick Faison, President & Co-Founder, Philadelphia Society for Creation Science Ministries

Sleeping under the open canopy of the multitude of the stars and the band of the Milky Way is incomparable. Imagine awakening from a sound sleep by the light of a half-moon that completely illuminated the Canyon with its ethereal light! Wading in warm water the color of turquoise and beholding waterfalls spontaneously bursting forth from Canyon walls is breathtaking! These and many other wonders along with great fellowship await anyone who accepts the challenge of this intrepid

expedition along the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon! It is truly the experience of a life time!
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Dr. Christ Firestone, Philosophy Professor, Trinity International University

This Grand Canyon rafting trip challenges the whole person to consider and reconsider the history of our world and the story of God's relationship to humanity. It is designed by experts of the Canyon who love God and love his handiwork. They have deep convictions about the truth of the Bible and how to apply this truth to the science of the past. More than this, however, they are members of an elite group of "River-Men" who know the story of the Canyon like no others, who navigate its treacherous terrain with the ease of skilled adventurers, and who encourage everyone with them to consider the deep meaning behind the multiple layers of hardened earth that rise up from the river along the way. Everyone interested in the topic of origins should be encouraged to take this once in a lifetime journey.
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Dr. Russell Fuller, Old Testament Professor, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

I highly recommend the AIG teacher's trip to the Grand Canyon. Whether one is young-earth creationist or old-earth creationist, the trip is an enjoyable time of running rapids/hiking and of stirring the mind again with the important truths of creation and flood. The trip is led by experts in various fields from geology to history of the Colorado River, from astronomy to Bible. A first class trip. The trip challenges the body and mind. Come with a charitable spirit and you will go home tired, but greatly blessed by the teachings, fellowship, and fun. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Dr. Ken Gardoski, Theology Professor, Baptist Bible Seminary

I came into the trip already holding to six literal days of creation, young earth, and the worldwide Noahic Flood; however, the trip still exceeded my expectations as to the overwhelming scientific evidence for these positions as demonstrated throughout the Grand Canyon. Each of the four trip leaders brought expertise to present the compelling case from their areas of knowledge. With the scholarship funds provided to offset the cost, this trip is a once-in-a-life time opportunity of study that you should not pass up. All aspects of the trip were professionally organized and carried out; we were treated well, fed well, and kept safe throughout the week. Add to all of this the beauty of the Canyon and you have a week-long trip that you will remember for a lifetime and use to enrich your ministry for years to come! [\(Back to top\)](#)

Dr. Jeffrey A. Gill, Dean and Professor of Pastoral Studies, Grace College and Theological Seminary

This was a great trip spiritually, intellectually, and relationally. It was very helpful for me personally to get away from the stresses of work and observe God's amazing creation without the normal distractions of life. It was very edifying to spend time and talk with scholars/men of God from whom I learned much. And it was fun! The white-water rafting part of the trip was therapeutic and exhilarating! Finally, it was powerful to see the Grand Canyon up close and understand in a much greater way the impact of the Genesis Flood on the earth and the reasonable explanation of an earth which is thousands, not millions of years old. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Dr. Michael Grisanti, Old Testament Professor, The Master's Seminary

I was honored to be invited to the 2010 Scholars Grand Canyon trip. From the time I was fairly young I believed in a young earth position. I had to defend my belief in public high school, but then primarily attended colleges and seminaries that held to an early earth position. Even though I always viewed myself as holding to a young earth, my studies did not allow me to spend much time in that area of study. The Grand Canyon trip was a great encouragement to me and strengthened my understanding of

early earth creationism. The mix of men from early earth and old earth perspectives provided great opportunities for stimulating questions. I was thankful for the fair treatment all questions were given. The kinship that developed between men from different ministries and various perspectives was another blessing. There was no arm-twisting, but consistent and fair treatment of the major issues within the creation—evolution debate. In addition to the stimulating conversations and helpful lessons, the river crew and the staff did a great job providing marvelous food and an enjoyable time. I would strongly recommend anyone who is invited on the trip to snap up the opportunity. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Gary Gromacki, Bible and Homiletics Professor, Baptist Bible Seminary

The trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon was an adventure of a lifetime. I appreciated the leadership and teaching of Tom Vail (Canyon Ministries), and Terry Mortenson and Andrew Snelling (Answers in Genesis). Their explanation of the geology of the canyon helped me to see that the sedimentary rocks were laid down as a result of the Genesis flood (Gen.6-9). I enjoyed the opportunity to personally get to know 28 Bible profs and young earth creation scientists from around the world. We had opportunities to see a petrified log in the rock, some petroglyphs of Anasazi Indians, some big horn sheep, and even a rattlesnake. The most thrilling thing of the trip was running the rapids and enjoying the scenery as we traveled 190 miles down the Colorado River. I would recommend this trip to any Bible prof who wants a better understanding of the relationship of the Bible and science including Genesis and geology. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Steve Halla, Art and Philosophy Professor, Union University

The Christian leaders and scholars trip through the Grand Canyon is a trip of a lifetime. It provides a rare opportunity to engage internationally known geologists and biblical scholars in fruitful and God-honoring discussions of some of the most important biblical and scientific topics of our time. The trip is a model of Christian fellowship and demonstrates that it is indeed possible for God-fearing scholars of differing positions to engage and challenge one another in the bonds of Christian peace, unity, and love. While enjoying the beauty and splendor of the Grand Canyon, your mind will be challenged, your heart will be opened, and your spirit will soar anew. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Martyn Hallett, Pastor, Hope Church Goldington, Bedford, United Kingdom

The Grand Canyon Christian Leaders Trip is a journey of sweet fellowship around God's Word in one of the most amazing places in God's world. I went into the trip a convinced young earth creationist from the perspective of the Scriptures. I left highly encouraged about the science being done, more grounded exegetically in the young earth model, and more aware of how the issue of the earth's age may relate not only to Scripture's authority but even to the Gospel. We cannot celebrate the work of Christ fully until we ponder the nature of the curse he came to reverse. This trip let me go deeper into God's truth, and I now take this experience with me back into the seminary classroom and the local church. Jesus was exalted on this trip, and I left encouraged at the commitment to the pursuit and proclamation of biblical truth that was modeled in both the trip leaders and participants. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Jim Hamilton, Associate Professor of Biblical Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

I was deeply encouraged during my participation on a Christian Leaders' Trip. The four instructors (one of the world's leading Christian geologists, a solid OT exegete, a geological historian and biblical systematician, and the grand-daddy of all Grand Canyon river guides) each brought their areas of expertise and handled both teaching and questions with great care and humility. While they were forthright that they were all young earth creationists, their first commitment was to being faithful to Scripture and to trying to read God's book of the world through the lens of his book of the Word—the only justifiable approach for one who claims the Bible to be the highest authority for life and practice. The young earth position has not always been trumpeted successfully, so this collaborative project

(sponsored by Answers In Genesis, Canyon Ministries, and the Master's Seminary) is swimming up stream and yet doing it very well. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Greg Haslam, Senior Pastor, Westminster Chapel, London, United Kingdom

Anyone who has even a remote interest in the relationship of the Bible to the physical sciences, and more particularly any deep questions about the scientific and theological credibility of the biblical case for both God's creation and Noah's Flood, should see this as the trip of a lifetime. Outstanding guides and world-class teachers led us on a journey of discovery that was full of amazing surprises, stunning views, breathtaking river falls, extraordinary experiences, awesome night skies and deep new friendships that will impact your life forever. Most of all, you will encounter God and His word in both intellectually fulfilling and profoundly challenging ways. You will never see the world in exactly the same way again. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Joel Heck, Professor of Theology, Concordia University Texas

I highly recommend this Grand Canyon trip to anyone who is invited to participate. It was the trip of a lifetime for me, since I had heard so much about the canyon and seen so many beautiful pictures. I wanted to hear a biblical perspective on the canyon, since evolutionists seem to think that the evidence supports their position. However, I learned that the opposite is very much the case. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Michael Hildenbrand, Old Testament Professor, Toccoa Falls Christian College

This was a trip of a lifetime for me. The food was excellent; the fellowship was great, and the trip down the river very exciting. One of the best things was being challenged to think differently from the usual scientific theories. Our trip was led by world-class scholars in their fields of geology, astronomy (a real rocket scientist!), Bible, etc. If that weren't enough, the others invited on the trip were also top scholars in their fields. If you didn't get a question answered on this trip, it was because you didn't ask. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Ken Keathley, Dean and Professor of Theology, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

The Grand Canyon Christian Scholar's Trip provides an opportunity to see evidence of the catastrophic history of our world in a first-hand manner. What a unique classroom! Tom Vail, Terry Mortenson, and AIG have put together a learning experience I heartily recommend. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Tom Keiser, Professor of Biblical Theology & Exegesis, Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Virginia Beach

I strongly encourage you to accept this invitation with an eager, open heart. I pray the Lord will lead all of us to his truth, so as to bring proper stress and clarity to these issues for the glory of Christ and the good of our people and the Church's future leaders. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Dan Kim, Assistant Prof of OT, Covenant Theological Seminary

I can think of no better place than to see God's judgment blending seamlessly with his creational magnificence. On this trip, your entire being will be provoked as you will see evidence for a catastrophic event presented by the leaders of Answers in Genesis and Canyon Ministries. I encourage you to prayerfully consider joining this trip to further your own understanding of scripture and of nature. Be prepared for a trip of a lifetime. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Curt Lamansky, Professor of Theology, Northland University

The combination of five things, given in ascending order of importance, made the scholars trip one of the greatest experiences of my life. The food, fun, natural beauty, fellowship, and interpretation of the canyon collectively create a trip that one will never forget. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Carl Laney, Professor of Theology, Western Seminary

I was very blessed to be able to participate in the Scholars Grand Canyon Trip. To see the beauty of the Grand Canyon is one thing; to see the beauty and receive scientific and biblical instruction as we float the Colorado River is something else altogether! This was an experience of a lifetime. The Christian fellowship with other scholars, the lectures by leading authorities in their field, the discussion with other teachers and Christian leaders, the great food and fun time made this experience one of the most memorable of my life. I would highly recommend this opportunity to other scholars and Christian leaders. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Mark Lawrence, Senior Minister, West Street Baptist Church & Christian Centre, Dunstable, United Kingdom

I urge you not to miss this wonderful offer to experience the incredible magnificence of God's creation in the Grand Canyon! This is the opportunity of a lifetime, and I am so thankful to the Lord and to Canyon Ministries for making this trip possible. My earlier apprehensions proved groundless, and the outdoor life and journeying down the Colorado River is something that I loved and will never forget, coupled with the enjoyment of Christian fellowship with fellow leaders who love our Lord Jesus Christ. I had become concerned at the "gap" between, on the one hand, the growing consensus of science as to the age of the earth and, on the other hand, my understanding of the clear teaching of the Bible which, to me, implies a young earth. However, the privilege of being taught so well by men such as Grand Canyon guide Tom Vail, geologist Dr. Andrew Snelling, "History of Science" expert Dr Terry Mortenson, and Bible scholar and pastor Rev Dr. Bill Barrick was enormously helpful. I have returned overwhelmed with the power and love of God, our Creator and Maker, and refreshed with the reminder that my theological convictions rest upon the authoritative, unchanging and inerrant Word of God. As theologians we must be patient until the science that contradicts our understanding of God's Word has made a deeper and broader study of its field, which may well give rise to changes in the scientific consensus. ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Evan Lenow, PhD student in apologetics, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

The Christian Leaders' Trip through the Grand Canyon is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore one of the great wonders of God's creation and consider both the majesty and judgment evident in our world. The scholars with Answers in Genesis make a compelling case for young earth creationism and a global flood through scientific and biblical arguments on the trip. In addition, the opportunity to form relationships with other Christian leaders from around the world is an invaluable part of the trip. These other men stretched, challenged, encouraged, and spurred me on to continue thinking about the issues we discussed on the trip. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Steve Lewis, President, Rocky Mountain Bible College and Rocky Mountain Seminary

As one who has held to a young Earth since the early 70's while at Multnomah School of the Bible, I was so impressed by the geological evidence and the biblical attestation of the Grand Canyon and all that I saw there. It was truly a situation where a picture was worth a thousand words. The biblical account along with the geological evidence was so compelling. To be honest, it was hard not to find humor in the evolutionist's arguments as I floated down the river. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Mark Liederbach, Professor of Christian Ethics and Vice President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

This trip was without a doubt one of the 5 best trips I have ever been a part of. Over the years God has privileged me with the opportunity to travel all over the United States and abroad. I have climbed on the Great Wall, stood in Red Square and toured the Hagia Sophia. But the time of fellowship, adventure, serious scholarship and honest Q&A in the Grand Canyon makes this trip truly unique and wondrous. Not only did the trip leaders offer thoughtful and challenging perspectives and teachings, they did so in a manner that was careful and gracious. They listen to and carefully & respectfully interacted with those of us who did not fully agree with their positions. The atmosphere from start to finish was one of professionalism, honesty, worshipful respect and a desire not so much to persuade others to a particular position on creationism but to argue toward truth in light of the biblical and geologic data at hand. Given the opportunity I would jump at the possibility of returning and thus I would highly recommend the trip to anyone! ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Nate Loper, Student Ministries Pastor, Calvary Assembly of God/Genesis Creation Science Institute

The Christian Leaders' Trip with Answers in Genesis and Canyon Ministries is truly something that will open your eyes to the world around you through God's creation, and will illuminate His Word as you see first-hand the record of the Biblical Flood as laid down in the rocks. This trip combines great teaching from real science as well as diving into what the Word of God has to say about it all. It will help you place your feet and worldview firmly on the rock of God's Word and will enable you to share that truth with those around you! ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Don Love, Assistant Professor of Religion, Liberty University

This was truly the trip of a lifetime! Each day we spent about six hours on the river and numerous teaching sessions from theologian Dr. Bill Barrick, historian Dr. Terry Mortenson, Christian geologist Dr. Andrew Snelling, and the founder of Canyon Ministries, Tom Vail. These leaders taught that the Grand Canyon was formed, not by millions of years as proposed by modern science, but over the period of one year during the flood. Because sessions were on the banks of the river, the participants were able to see first-hand evidences which challenge the view that the canyon's layers were formed over millions of years. The two most convincing evidences that we saw were the nautiloid fossils and the folds in the sandstone. Seeing six-foot nautiloid fossils buried vertically in layers which took millions of years to form certainly poses a change to modern science. Similarly, it seems unlikely that sandstone would fold without breaking after it has already hardened." We were even able to physically touch what scientists call "The Great Unconformity," the place in the canyon wall that seems to be missing millions of years (according to modern science)." ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Jeremy Lyons, Old Testament PhD student, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

The Grand Canyon Christian Leaders Trip is a tremendous opportunity for being challenged to stand on the authority of God's Word as you raft down the Colorado River and observe the evidence that fits with a global catastrophe as taught in Scripture. The biblical and scientific teaching is second to none and the wedding of the heart and mind in the midst of such scenic grandeur causes one to worship our marvelous Creator and Redeemer. The fellowship and unity in Christ of the participants on the trip created unbreakable bonds for life. This trip is a great tool for being equipped to have answers to biblical and scientific issues and to take a stand on the authority of the truth of God's Word. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Dennis C. Malone, Associate Professor of Bible and Theology, Beulah Heights University

I wish to thank Canyon Ministries, Answers in Genesis and Masters University for the opportunity to experience the Grand Canyon and the biblical scriptures, specifically Genesis 1-11, in the most unique fashion – face to face. When one considers that annual visitors to the Grand Canyon on the river is limited to some 20,000, the trip is even more special. Academically, the experience was invigorating. We enjoyed the opportunity to share discourse and diverse perspectives on a key issue for Christianity with scholars and pastors from around the world. Geologically, what better way to interact with the relevant information than from the Canyon floor? Biblically, the scholarship and sensitivity to the text by the leaders of the trip was very beneficial. We were challenged to view text differently than we may have in the past and to remain open in our dialogue. Many fascinating points were made by the trip leaders during the various times spent in discussion. Not surprising, the conversations held among colleagues was inviting and highly inspirational. Naturally, there are few locations in the world that hold more natural beauty than the Grand Canyon. Given a chance to participate in this unique trip, take it.

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Dr. Dave Mapes, Professor of Theology, Luther Rice Seminary

As you enter the Canyon, it is evident that an “experiment” on a grand scale has taken place and the observer is left with layers upon layers of data to analyze. The sheer enormity of the data suggests that the event which left the layers now exposed by the cutting of the Canyon is an event that the world is unlikely to see again. What is left for the observer is to analyze this massive amount of data and answer the question: What happened? One primary purpose of this trip was to see the evidence found in the Grand Canyon which bears directly on the age of the earth. Seeing the “data” up close and personal made it come alive in a way that looking at a picture in a book cannot do. As you work through the evidence with the help of the resident geologist on the trip, one’s appreciation for what has happened in the Canyon grows immeasurably. This trip is one of those rare events in a person’s life that will leave an unforgettable impression. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Dr. Bob McCabe, Professor of Old Testament, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary

Ever since my childhood, I have believed that the Bible’s message about Noah’s flood consistently taught that this flood was universal. However, I must admit there are a few times where I have had questions about the profound impact that this would have had on earth. These few questions were answered in something of a “living color” manner on this trip. Not only did the trip satisfy a few intellectual questions, it was fun. It is a great experience to go white water rafting, to sleep under the stars at night, to eat great food and to have fellowship with other God-fearing men. Under the steady and decisive leadership of Tom Vail, you will have fun, but Tom also prizes the safety of the individual. What a joy it was to hear Tom repeatedly say as we prepared to get in our boats, “Let’s go boatin!” This is a trip of my lifetime and it can likewise be yours. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Dr. Todd Miles, Professor of Theology, Western Seminary

The Scholar’s Grand Canyon trip was extraordinary. I spent seven days overwhelmed by the glory of God in both creation and judgment. The teaching was of the highest quality, pointed but irenic in spirit. The staff raised significant questions in my mind about the intellectual, evidential, and ideological foundations of the old earth position. I feel that I have legitimate scientific grounds for teaching and defending a young earth and global flood interpretation of the Genesis accounts. The Grand Canyon trip has changed the way that I will teach the Doctrine of God. [\(Back to top\)](#)

Dr. Brian Morley, Professor of Philosophy, The Master's College

The trip was not only a great adventure into one of the most beautiful and rugged areas of the world, but was an intellectual exploration of the origins of the Grand Canyon—which has implications for the greater question of the origins of the earth. There's nothing like seeing everything up close and first hand, sharing the experience with such a fine group of men with a wide variety of views, and being guided by people who have spent a lifetime working through the issues. In all it is a terrific experience. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Ishwaran Mudliar, Professor of Old Testament, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Each day the trip supplied us with a dazzling spectacle of God's creation, judgment, and redemption. The on-site geological and theological lectures were outstanding, giving me stronger convictions on creation and the flood. The trip leaders also amazingly provided for our every need. ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Joe Mulvihill, Theology and Apologetics Instructor, Mt. Paran Christian School, PhD student in New Testament

For those wrestling with unification of all of God's truth, with the intersection of special revelation and general revelation, this canyon trip provides an illuminating and challenging presentation of the relevant data. The leaders through the canyon attempt to present an interpretation of geology that compliments the Bible in a satisfactory fashion. It is a profoundly unique trip, aesthetically breathtaking, at times harrowing (rapids/weather), featuring a diversity of personalities and viewpoints interacting with collegiate lectures (covering linguistics, theology, philosophy of science and geology) in the interim. Odds are one will never find himself in this particular scenario throughout a lifetime. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Bryan Murphy, Pastor, Roosevelt Community Church; Instructor of Old Testament, The Master's Seminary

I came to this trip a convinced young earth creationist, so the experience for me was encouraging and confirming. But the relationships I developed with those from other ministries from around the world on this trip were both personally and spiritually PRICELESS! ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Andy Naselli, Research Manager for D. A. Carson; Administrator of Themelios; Adjunct Faculty, The Gospel Coalition

This trip is a great way to equip Christian Leaders to not be too quick to feel the need to accommodate the uniformitarian assumptions of modern science. By doing so, Christians may be unknowingly eroding the authority of scripture and the truth of the Gospel. Regardless of what you believe concerning the age of the earth, this trip is something that should not be passed up. While you may sacrifice some of the comforts of home, there is nothing quite like spending your days and nights in the grandeur of one of the world's greatest natural wonders. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Jens Norved, Senior Pastor, Creek Road Presbyterian Church, Brisbane, Australia

I cannot thank the Answers in Genesis team enough for the opportunity to join in the 2009 Grand Canyon Scholars Trip. As a church pastor, and regular teacher of the Bible, it was a pleasure to take 7 days on a field trip of a lifetime. As we travelled on rafts through the Grand Canyon, our four guides explained the physical, geological, historical and biblical issues involved in the debate over the origin of the earth. Each explained the Creationist point of view and pointed to the supporting evidence with both great humility and scholarly acuity. It was obvious that even where attendees may have a differing view of how and when God created the world; that these were allowed to be raised and discussed in an

honest and respectful manner. I walked away from the Canyon trip surprised that I have been both strengthened and challenged in my thinking concerning God's nature, His power, the Authority of his Word; as well as enthused in the desire to research further some of the issues raised within the Canyon trip. For the individual who desires to grapple with the issues of creation in a setting which is both supportive and humble and allows honest and open discussion, I can think of no greater opportunity than that offered through the Answers in Genesis Grand Canyon Scholars Trip. I know of one colleague who may be offered the trip, and I am telling him, "If you get the opportunity- do it." ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Marvin Olasky, Provost, The King's College, New York and Editor in Chief of World Magazine

If you've traveled to some of the world's exotic places but not rafted through the Grand Canyon, you've missed perhaps the most mysterious and spectacular one. And if you've brushed aside young-earth theories as not worth a close look, you've been unfair. I recommend this great combination of education and enjoyment. [Editor's note: you can read Marvin's fuller comments about the trip in his cover-story article in *World* magazine, Vol 25:18 (11 Sept 2010)]. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Bryan O'Neal (Dean of the Undergraduate Faculty and Professor of Theology, Moody Bible Institute)

The Answers in Genesis / Canyon Ministries Christian Leaders trip is remarkable in every respect: as all the participants are thoughtful and articulate evangelicals, there is an immediate experience of substantial Christian fellowship which sets the context for considering together many issues of hermeneutics, theology, and science, allowing disagreement within the bounds of faith and Christian charity. The AiG/CM team is perfectly balanced (exegete, geologist, philosophy/history of science, and canyon expert), allowing them to address a very wide range of relevant issues with competence and confidence. The river guides are experienced and competent, so the participants always feel themselves to be in good hands; the food is stunningly excellent, given the context: the guides seem to take particular delight in surprising us meal by meal. And finally, the Canyon and Colorado River are overwhelming in their size and power. This trip is a lot of fun, and is stimulating spiritually, intellectually, and physically – I recommend it to any invitee as a challenging and unforgettable experience, well-worth the investment of your time and energy. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Steven Ortiz, Professor of Archeology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

This is a once in a lifetime experience and learning opportunity that is invaluable for anyone who teaches the Old Testament. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Gelu Pacurar, Professor of Old Testament and pastor, Arad, Romania

I had the privilege of participating of the Grand Canyon Trip July, 2012, and I am excited about everything this trip meant for me. It was both a great vacation and a wonderful academic course. It was an excellent organized trip and I will probably remember it my entire life. The team of the tour leaders were well prepared for their task, the food was excellent, the time well managed. It was really a trip of a lifetime. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Mart-Jan Paul, Professor of Old Testament, Christelijke Hogeschool Ede, The Netherlands

As an Old Testament scholar I realize that many questions about geology, archaeology, physics and astronomy are involved in the exegesis of Scripture. It was very good to receive help in geology and the clear explanation in the Grand Canyon. The subject of creation – evolution is very difficult and for that reason it is important to share ideas in a good and safe circle of believing scholars. For me the trip gave

useful insights, new contacts and also encouragement to proceed in the explanation of the Word of God. I can heartily recommend the trip to colleagues. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. John Piper, Pastor for Preaching and Vision, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN

This 190-mile trip down the Colorado River on the Grand Canyon was superbly planned and executed. The lectures and discussions were stimulating, the scenery rapturous, the rapids thrilling, the camaraderie rich, and the food delicious. There were surprises along the way, some of which were planned (like body-“surfing” in the Little Colorado) and some not (like 25 huge waterfalls appearing within minutes after a downpour). The spirit of the leaders was humble and helpful. All questions were admissible and serious answers were provided. Christ was always honored. It was a huge privilege to be part of this trip. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Robert Plummer, Associate Professor of New Testament Interpretation, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

You will likely never have another chance like this -- to fellowship deeply with an eclectic group of Christian brothers in a stunning outdoor setting. Also, when else can you pause in life and ministry to focus your mental energy and prayers on one issue (in this case, the proper interpretation of the Bible's account of God creating the world)? If you are invited on this trip, I highly recommend going. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Alexey Prokopenko, Professor of Old Testament and pastor, Samara, Russia

Age of the earth, character of the Noah's Flood, and evidence of the geological column—these issues have been on the forefront of the last century's apologetic discussions. They have a direct bearing on the testimony of the church, as well as the content of its message to the fallen world. Therefore every Christian minister is bound to take a serious look at these all-important questions. What can be better than to discuss them in the Grand Canyon, the Mecca of geology, with a helpful guidance of some of the finest Christian leaders who spent long years studying geological evidences and their relationship to the Bible? I benefitted from this trip personally and highly recommend you to try it out for yourself. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Grant Richison, Campus Crusade for Christ, Orlando, Florida

For Christian leaders who have never studied the issue of creation or for those out of touch with recent young-earth findings, I highly recommend this trip as a striking eye-opener to the issue. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Marcus Ross, Associate Professor of Geology, Liberty University

The Grand Canyon is far greater than even its name can evoke. It is truly GRAND. In its scope, its magnitude, and the way in which you realize your own powerlessness before its Maker. The geology is written of in textbooks, and none of their words do it justice. But for all its beauty and power, it is the EXPERIENCE of going down the Canyon, separated from the world above, that brings it all to focus. No email, no phones, no deadlines. Nothing but the sun, moon, and stars for your watch, and the flow of the Colorado River for your commute. Sharing this with 27 other men of God, consuming His creation and drinking deeply each day from His Word and World is an experience like none other. The Christian Leaders Trip will take the academic arguments of creation and evolution from the pages of mere books and lay them out on solid rock in front of your face. It is here, in the Canyon, that you must grapple with the Earth's age, its history, and its relation to the testimony of the Scriptures. I guarantee that the challenging teachings from scientists and theologians, surrounded by the testimony of the rocks and the river, will spur your thoughts like nothing else on Earth. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Samuel Saldivar, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Bob Jones University

The Christian Leaders Trip 2012 was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. A number of elements made the trip special and incapable of duplicating elsewhere. 1) The classroom is one of the seven natural wonders of the world. 2) The instructors are qualified, competent, passionate, and Christ-like. 3) The rapids are world-class. 4) The accommodations are excellent. 5) The fellowship and camaraderie with men from all over the world who are experts in their respective fields and leaders in Christendom are unprecedented. 6) The generosity and careful planning of the organizers was amazing. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. David Shackelford, Chairman and Professor, Department of New Testament and Greek, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary

Awesome! Having been to the Grand Canyon on four previous trips as a tourist, I saw beautiful formations and took great pictures. Now, having seen the Canyon from the inside out through the lens of biblical creation, I see afresh the magnitude of the God of the universe, His love for mankind, and the lengths to which He will go to provide redemption. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Paul Shockley, Professor of Theology, College of Biblical Studies

God used the Christian Leaders' Study Tour of the Grand Canyon to lift me unto Him while taking me deep into young-earth scholarship. Persuasively moving, intimately refreshing, and dynamically challenging, I found the experience to be transformational. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Pieter A. Siebesma, Professor of Old Testament, Ede Christian University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

This trip was really fantastic! The Grand Canyon is beautiful. I slept six days outside, I survived many rapids and often became soaked, but with temperatures reaching 46 and 47 degrees, that was indeed refreshing. Hotter than I ever have experienced! I saw many wild animals: lynxes, ravens, mountain goats and so on. I had encouraging talks with brothers in Christ and heard good Bible and science lectures. It was for me both mentally and physically constructive and edifying. There were a lot of critical questions asked by participants who favored "old-earth creationism" or even "theistic evolution." But the trip leaders answered their questions well and I learned a lot from it. The atmosphere was very open. I noticed that because of my past I also had some reservations about scientific young-earth creationism, although I always have believed in a creation of six days. I am very happy and grateful that I went on this trip. I particularly enjoyed the conversations with other professors of Hebrew and Old Testament, and I still have contact with some of them. Therefore I can warmly recommend this trip. It is an experience you will not soon forget. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Mark Snoeberger, Professor of Theology, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary

A first-rate study trip on every level. Every physical need is both considered and met, freeing the participants to focus on the biblical, theological, and scientific stimulation offered in the various lectures and guided "field trips" throughout the tour. Young Earth Creationism earns scientific respectability, but more significantly, biblical presuppositions are ceded their proper role in governing the sciences and offering the necessary preconditions of intelligibility in every discipline. The tour leaders understand clearly that the fear of the Lord is the beginning not only of wisdom, but also of *knowledge* (Prov 1:7), and that all the treasures of knowledge are properly hidden in Christ—never independent of him (Col 2:3). And because they understand this, every attempt is made to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). No one will agree at every point, but all will respect the noble effort to be obedient to Scripture in the area of the sciences. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Mark Soto, Professor of Theology, Grace College & Theological Seminary

The Grand Canyon is a treasure house of evidence to a catastrophe that requires one to examine the evidence in light of a worldview that either accepts that the One who Created left the evidence of His judgment for all to see or to a view that accepts that geologic models are sufficient to explain what is observed. When you join AIG and Canyon Ministries you will see first-hand evidence that will force you to critically examine your presuppositions and come to convictions about this world in which we live. The trip is compelling and full of biblical, scientific, and philosophic evidence for a global flood and normal reading of the Genesis account of creation. Bring your questions and objections to a young earth view and join scholars, pastors, and ministry leaders as they wrestle with the grandeur of the canyon, the river, and the Creator. This is an once-in-a-lifetime trip for anyone interested in Scripture and Creation. I challenge you join these godly men as they examine the evidence hidden deep within the walls of the Grand Canyon. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Michael Spradlin, President and Professor of Old Testament, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary

As a school president I understand the need to make time for the essentials. In my opinion, one of the best decisions I have made was to participate in the Christian Leaders Trip through the Grand Canyon. The trip provided information, inspiration, and an appreciation of the vast evidence of the biblical world-view provided by Answers in Genesis Ministries and their partners. I highly recommend this trip for you as a ministry leader. Miss out and you will never know the true wonders that our Creator, the Lord Jesus, has left in plain sight. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. RC Sproul, Jr., teaching fellow, Ligonier Ministries

The heavens, we are told, declare the glory of God. So too does the Grand Canyon. The canyon manifests the beauty, the glory, even the just wrath of God. Before travelling the canyon with Answers in Genesis, and a group of able scholars I asked friends to pray that I would through the trip better behold the glory of God and more boldly proclaim the Word of God. God heard and answered my prayers through this trip. It stretched me physically, but it fed me powerfully. With godly teachers leading, and godly students alongside, it was a time of profound encouragement. I surely learned a great deal, but better still I was blessed to worship the living God in one of the great earthly monuments to His majesty. I could not commend this trip more eagerly. ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Tom Steller, Academic Dean, Bethlehem College and Seminary, Pastor of Leadership Development, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

So many evangelical pastors tend to avoid the discussion of origins because they realize it is a complex issue and can be divisive. This unparalleled learning opportunity offered by Canyon Ministries, The Master's Seminary and Answers in Genesis is a wonderful model of how serious discussion can take place in an atmosphere of respect and genuine seeking after the truth. The participants came from a variety of different persuasions on the issue. The leadership team created an atmosphere where no question was off limits. And of course, the classroom was unlike any classroom I have ever studied in. The mingling together of stimulating lectures, honest dialogue, genuine worship, unforgettable fellowship, high adventure, and spectacular beauty is something I will cherish the rest of my life. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Karl Stelzer, Professor of Theology, Pensacola Christian College and Theological Seminary

A once in a life time experience – which included solid biblical instruction on origins and the global flood, genuine Christian fellowship and adventure and excitement unique to one of God's greatest wonders. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Jonathan Stephen, Principal and Professor of Theology, Wales Evangelical School of Theology, United Kingdom

Anyone who was fortunate enough to receive this once-in-a-lifetime invitation to explore one of our planet's most extraordinary places, in the company of expert scientific and biblical interpreters, would be foolish indeed to refuse it. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. John Stevens, Director-Designate, Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, United Kingdom

I was initially very apprehensive about this trip, first because I have been skeptical of the approach of Answers in Genesis, and second because I am not an “outdoors” person and have no experience of basic camping. However as an agnostic about the age of the earth, and wanting to investigate this issue with some of the leading Young Earth Creationists, both scientists and biblical scholars, I was eager to join the trip. I had a fantastic time. The Canyon was stunning and the accommodation was far from “roughing it”, with excellent food and facilities. It was a great privilege to listen to men who were passionate about the truth of the Bible and humble in their presentation of their convictions about the youth of the earth and the scientific evidence in support. I learned a great deal and realize that I have much more to think through. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the splendour of God's creation, to reflect on the horror of his wrath and judgment, and to rejoice in the salvation we have in Christ with brothers from around the world. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Jeff Straub, Professor Of Historical Theology, Central Baptist Seminary

Without a doubt, the trip down the Colorado River with AiG and company was a trip of a lifetime. Little did I know what I was in for. The experience was one that will be remembered for years to come and the information I have started to assimilate is already being put into use in my personal ministry. The week after I returned, I did a Creation Sunday for a church where I was filling the pulpit and I plan to do a chapel series for our seminary in the Fall of 2009. I had heard bits and pieces of the geological evidence over the years but never had a context in which to understand the material. Going through the canyon and seeing the “stuff” day after day was both exhilarating and a bit overwhelming. What an awesome God we serve. We were greatly blessed to have four unique individuals, experts all in their respective fields, bring their knowledge to bear on different aspects of the trip—from the geological data to the canyon itself, the OT material and the battle for creationism, all contributed in unique and important ways to make the trip both educational as well as enjoyable. Frankly a trip through the canyon without the guys we had would just be another white-water rafting trip looking at all the pretty rocks! We got to see the strata and hear Christians with a high view of Scripture suggest a better explanation than the conventional wisdom, today so popular. This is the chance of a lifetime and I am grateful for God's grace in allowing me to attend! ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Del Tackett, Designer and Presenter of “The Truth Project”, Focus on the Family

Read his blog about the trip at <http://deltackett.com/category/science/>, see articles titled “The canyon...”

Dr. Tackett's comments: The trip down the Grand Canyon was a phenomenal experience for me. The visual evidence of rapid deposition and erosion, coupled with the expert geological teaching “in the field” provided invaluable insights into the local and universal effects of God's judgment in “destroying the earth by water”. In addition, I am sure that the overwhelming beauty of the canyon itself will forever remain in my memory as a continual source of awe of God's power and might and grace, even in the midst of judgment. If you have an opportunity to go, don't miss it. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Michael Teutsch, Senior Pastor, Flitwick Baptist Church

The Grand Canyon stands as one of the most profound monuments to God's creative glory and dealings in history. The Christian Leaders Grand Canyon Trip presents an unique opportunity to explore God's glory in creation and deepening an understanding of the Young Earth position. I would recommend it to anyone seriously wrestling with these issues. ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Mike Thigpin, Executive Director, Evangelical Theological Society

Trekking through the Canyon with colleagues—experiencing the beauty of the Canyon from the river, studying the text and nature together—provided an environment that was rich with fellowship and worship, intellectually stimulating, and spiritually rewarding. I would strongly encourage anyone considering this trip to set aside other commitments and go. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity. ([Back to top](#))

Rev. Melvin Tinker, Pastor, St. John Newland (Anglican) Church, Hull, United Kingdom

This is a trip of a lifetime. It is a joy to see the glory of God's creation in the Canyon and worship as is His due, to interact with other Christians within a clear biblical framework with courtesy and understanding and be exposed to different points of view regarding the doctrine of creation. This trip is a must for all who take God's Word in Scripture and Nature seriously. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Tim Tomlinson, President, Bethlehem College and Seminary

This trip is remarkable. Not only does it provide a close-up look at one of the amazing marvels of God's creation, it challenges your way of thinking about the importance of the biblical account of creation. For those who are uncertain about the origins debate or for those who have already determined what they believe about it, this trip is strategic. Don't be afraid to go on this trip no matter what perspective you have. It is always good to be challenged to be as biblical as possible and this trip will do that. Be prepared to worship, learn, be blessed with sweet fellowship and camaraderie, and experience the Grand Canyon like never before. The importance of this issue is not going to go away and this trip can help you become better equipped to address it from a more informed perspective than just about anything else you can do. I thank the Lord for opportunity to go on this trip. ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Vladislav Treskin, National Youth Director for the Russian Baptist Union

As a minister and theologian in Russia I used to stress main doctrines of the Bible rather than issues of Creation in my work with young adults or general church attendees. Now I'm compelled to stress the Creation-Flood theme as I understand the issue to be a spiritual battle and a real fight with God when people believe the opposite things and by it reject God Himself and His Word. Also, I understood during the trip, that in the countries like my Russia people are mainly ignorant of religious issues. So our Gospel message should start not even with Christ (whom they don't know) but with God the Creator and the beginnings of the Bible. This will naturally bring to the need in Savior and make it easier to share about Christ. The rafting trip is not a formal classroom teaching – it is every minute teaching with smells, touching, sounds and even games. My mind was stretched to hear different points of view while I always delighted in hearing the sound teaching and Biblical view in the end. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Steve Vandegriff, Chairman, Department of Church Ministries; Executive Director, Center for Youth Ministries, Liberty University

I can't think of another opportunity that you could take advantage of, which is worth 7 days of your valuable time, than this trip with Canyon Ministries and Answers in Genesis. It is the perfect combination of spiritual challenge and inspiration, adventure, and science. Your learning curve will

increase dramatically, when you see evidence of creation, a young earth, and the world-wide flood, while gazing in amazement at the dramatic beauty and meaning of the Grand Canyon. The staff will be meticulous about your creature comforts and will take the utmost care of you and your colleagues, so you can enjoy your surroundings and grasp the truths of Scripture and geology. You don't want to miss this opportunity. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. John Venema, Senior Pastor, Grace Community Church, Visalia, California

In my field of history and literature, primary sources and artifacts are largely confined to the written records and the exceptional visit to a geographical site. More often than not, we are by necessity, dependent upon secondary sources, the reasoned interpretation of the evidence by others, to supplement and fill in our knowledge of and exposure to matters of consequence in our fields of study. In addition, many disciplines of study outside that of our specialty are of great importance to our world view but beyond our ability to study thoroughly, let alone with field experience and exposure to foundational records and sources. In short, a lifetime is insufficient to know first-hand all we need to know in a first hand way in order to speak with authority on matters of consequence. We are dependent upon the work of others and their interpretation of the evidence. This trip to the Grand Canyon provided an unparalleled opportunity to see first-hand the geological record. That experience offered me the advantage of validating an independent interpretation of that record. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Tim Ward, Rector, Holy Trinity Church (Church of England), Hinckley, United Kingdom

This is a terrific trip, and a privilege to be invited to come. The leaders are firm and clear in their convictions, and also deeply gracious and willing to engage in all kinds of open discussions. The outdoors-y elements are fun and extremely well organised. And not least it is a joy to see the grandeur of the Canyon from a perspective which few are privileged to see. ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Ray Williams, Community Ministries Pastor, Fellowship Bible Church

The Christian Leader's Trip was not only a great adventure; it was a time of significant worship, stimulating education, and it deepened even more, my love for God's word and its authority. The beauty was breathtaking, the white water exhilarating, and the fellowship with the other men was more meaningful than I could have imagined. I was impressed with both the humility and expertise of the men who led the trip. I would recommend this trip to any Christian Leader who is given the opportunity. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Mike Wittmer, Professor of Systematic Theology, Grand Rapids Theological Seminary

This is a trip of a lifetime. Touring the Grand Canyon with these veteran guides, geologists, and theologians is a bit like touring the Louvre with Rembrandt. They will point out fossils, bent rock, and layers of limestone that you would have missed—and that add up to persuasive evidence that Grand Canyon was formed by something catastrophic—something like a global flood. This trip is not only educational but also fun—camping under the stars, hiking to waterfalls, and riding the rapids (all very safe) is part of the adventure. But what you will treasure the most will be the new friends you will make. Imagine becoming friends with a world-class geologist, theologian, and Canyon legend. Imagine a week in the canyon with thirty men who love Jesus and look out for each other. It adds up to one of life's formative experiences. You can say you're too busy (as I did for two years), but then you'll always wonder what you missed. Or you can give one week out of your life for a trip of a lifetime. You'll be glad you did. ([Back to top](#))

Mr. Ted Wright, Professor of Apologetics, Southern Evangelical Bible College

This trip was truly a life-changing adventure! Whether you are sure or unsure about the age of the earth and the extent of the flood in Genesis, a trip through the Grand Canyon will give you a lot to ponder. How did it get there? Traditional models fall way short of the level of destruction as evidenced in the soaring cliffs and rock walls of the Canyon. We hiked up ancient sediment beds; were able to observe, photograph, and touch fossilized tree trunks; gazed at five-hundred foot cliff walls and felt the cold waters of the Colorado on our faces, and this was just day 1! Whether or not you are convinced of what the Canyon says...There is one thing is for sure...you will be changed! You will have an understanding of Psalm 147:5 like never before, "*Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.*" f that record. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Tim Yoder, Professor of Philosophy, Philadelphia Biblical University

I heartily recommend this trip, even though I do not necessarily share Answers in Genesis' position on the age of the earth. The trip is well-planned and organized, and the fellowship is tremendous. Needless to say, it is worth it just to be in the Grand Canyon for a week. Go with an open mind and lots of questions. All truth is God's truth and all beauty comes from God as well. ([Back to top](#))

Dr. Kevin Zuber, Professor of Theology, Moody Bible Institute

This was a great trip! Actually, it was four trips in one! It was a great ride on the river (from peaceful cruising and seeing awesome scenery to the thrill of heart-pounding rapids); it was an "international biblical / theological colloquium" with thoughtful scholars from a variety of disciplines and some great fellowship; it was a wonderful outdoors adventure complete with wilderness hikes and sleeping under the stars (not to mention the hearty meals provided); and it was a insightful educational experience with men who know the geology and theology of the Canyon well and communicated that knowledge with proficiency, passion and conviction. I would heartily encourage anyone invited to join the crew from AiG, TMS, canyonministires.com and Arizona River Runners for what many have called "the trip of a lifetime." That may be a cliché – but in many ways it was/is literally true! ([Back to top](#))