

Strange... But True?

by: Tonya J. Cook



The St. Valentine's Day Massacre:

"Just Another Brick in the Wall"

Let's travel back in time, at least in our mind's eye, to a time of the "Roaring '20s" Chicago. The whole town was caught in the grip of Prohibition and the illegal sale of alcohol. Gangs ruled the streets and there was not one more deadly than the Al Capone gang. Al and his gang controlled the south side of Chicago while a rival gang led by Dion O'Banion ruled the north side. Control of each side was all about alcohol, prostitution, gambling, and each vying to control the city. Eventually, George Moran gained control of the northern gang through violence and fought constantly with the southern Capone gang.

One day, as fate would have it, the Moran gang killed one of Al Capone's

top men. Al swore vengeance on the rival gang. Capone devised an elaborate trap staged for February 14th, 1929. It involved a large amount of bootleg liquor that was supposedly hijacked, to be delivered to the Moran gang. The Moran gang fell for the plan. Moran sent some of his man to the S-M-C Cartage Company at 2122 N. Clark Street, a mob-owned operation front, to receive the liquor. Moran was running late and by the time he arrived a police car was parked in front of the garage, so he waited at a diner down the street.

Meanwhile, two of Capone's men dressed as policemen and three in civilian clothes emerged from the police car, went inside, lined up the opposing mob against a back wall and sprayed them with machine gun fire. Al Capone was

conveniently out of town in Miami, Florida. The incident concreted Capone as top mob and mob boss in Chicago.

Later, Capone was arrested in Philadelphia for a short time but was given special attention, even using the warden's phone to "transact business". At night, other inmates could hear Al Capone in his cell begging for Jimmy to go away and leave him alone. It was believed to be the ghost of James Clark, one of the massacre victims and the brother-in-law of George Moran. The ghost followed him to the Lexington Hotel in Chicago where he lived for a while. Capone even hired a psychic, Alice Britt, to rid him of the spirit, but not before his personal valet, Hymie Cornish, saw the apparition. The hotel was searched but came up empty except for other mob members.

The site of the massacre grew into a tourist attraction, but was eventually torn down in 1967.

Even though the structure is gone and there is only an open lawn owned by a nursing home, with five trees in it, people walking by report hearing screams and gunfire, and feel a sense of dread or fear when passing. Dogs sense something there as well, often barking at something unseen.

A Canadian businessman, George Patey, bought the bricks from the death wall and reconstructed them at his nightclub. The club closed, and he sold the bricks for \$1,000 each. It seems the bricks "absorbed" the evilness of the massacre and are a curse to anyone having them, bringing sickness, financial ruin, disease, death, and other forms of bad luck. Of the 417 bricks, most have been returned and a refund wasn't requested.

Sources:
 •prairieghosts.com/valentine
 •wikipedia.org/valentine
 •weirdchicago.com/valentine
 •hauntedhouses.com
Remember, I'm always looking for a bit of Rockcastle history. If you have a story to tell, and all of us do, please contact me at therootsofrockcastle@windstream.net)



Lisa Ross and her students had their annual piano recital at the First Christian Church of Mt. Vernon, Saturday afternoon, February 16. Pictured are: Samayah Lovins, Sheradyn Cox, Cora Machal, Cameron Brown, Zoe Burdette, Lea Ellen Rogers, Bailee Allen, Emma Claire Edwards, Reagan Rumsey, Lisa Ross, Lauren King, Isaac Day. Not pictured: Lindsey King.



Rockcastle Shaolin Do hosted a board breaking class for kids on Feb. 8th. All kids learned different techniques to break 4 boards. Kids learned about control and confidence through the class while also meeting new friends and having fun. Pictured from top left: Kids Instructor Sensei Cassie Bullock, Gabriel Tackett, Eli Price, Brooke Renner, Jr. Instructor Haley Bullock, Logan McClure, and Head Instructor Master Eric Bullock. Midde from left: Dylan Thompson, Kaleb Whitaker, Haley Hayes and Jace Rogers. Bottom from left: Adrianna Farley and Avery Hayes.



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Special Series at Providence church of Christ!

" 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation [manner of life] in Christ." 1 Peter 3:15-16 (KJV)

Hello! I am David Eakin and will be studying with the Providence church of Christ regarding science and religion issues. I am a minister and a biologist with all the appropriate degrees. However, the 98.6 degrees in my body make me a part of the great scheme of living organisms on this earth. And like you – I am a part of the only species that chooses to study such questions. Our schedule is at the bottom of this article for your information.

When you and I meet someone new, the introductions are quite predictable: we exchange names, where we live, what we do, and perhaps - something about our future plans. The Bible begins the same way. We are introduced to the living God, who "was and is and forever will be."

Jehovah God reveals that He is the Creator of the universe and all that is in it – and He created man. He reveals a few problems that occurred because He created mankind with freewill, and then begins to reveal His plans for the future. All pretty standard stuff we hear from new acquaintances on a daily basis. It is a bit amazing that out of all the creatures God created - only mankind seems to care about these things. We appear to be the only "kind" of organism that reflects on the more philosophical and practical implications of being "human."

I have studied plants and other animals my entire career and none have ever introduced themselves to me, said a single thing about their hometowns, names, families, occupation, or future plans. In essence, it is why we call them "non-human." I read the other day that "if cats could talk – they wouldn't!" I can attest to that since presently my wife and I are the humans to whom a cadre of cats has attached. But they don't – do they? Talk – I mean? Yet two of my grandchildren insist they can "talk cat." I have never been able to speak to corn or moss or butterfly or apes – although the thought is intriguing! [a very human character lacking in animals and plants] But alas, Jehovah God introduces them as part of his creative work right alongside "mankind." So we have mankind and other kinds all living together on the same planet we have inappropriately called Earth. I am in the camp of those who say it should be called Water. But that is for later!

Now – for whom are we having this series? For other humans! And I expect no protests from my cat or dog or chimp friends - whom I love dearly – for they cannot reflect on such things! And while my beloved mosses appear to be picketing – those are capsules filled with spores they hold aloft; all part of the God-created "circle of life."

So let me explain what this series is not:

- [1] It is not for those who "know all the answer." Those who have already made their minds up and are not interested in what anyone else believes or thinks need not use these lessons. Simply put - they have no intention of ever changing their mind – so this meeting would be of no use to them.
- [2] It is not a series to give all the right arguments to win debates. Perhaps this is a corollary to #1 – but as the creator of the series, I reserve the right to make it #2.
- [3] It was not created to cover every argument that has ever arisen on the subjects covered. Then no one would be able to stay awake!

So perhaps I can now reveal why this series is in existence:

I was asked by a group of Christians if I would come and speak to help people who are interested in the two sides of these arguments. Those who would like to know if there are, in fact, two sides to the debate over what mankind really is: a created being we recognize as "human" or an anomaly of the "non-human" organisms? You will have to ask the believers at Providence why me – instead of some other human – but I suspect they will just mumble and change the subject. In this series we will examine both the evidence - and the interpretations of this evidence - on a variety of subjects presented in my biology classes by my own professors. Especially evidence offered to support that we are a strange anomaly of "non-human" origin. And as you probably already know – people are very serious and invested in this discussion!! I doubt I would ever have chosen to spend my career studying these arguments unless they had not been constantly presented in my own classes. I would have just spent my time writing about why mosses and leaf-cutter ants are not picketing.

So I will attempt to present the "evidence" as I understand it from my biological, chemical, physical and anthropological training and understanding. I will then present an interpretation on behalf of the "non-human" anomaly persuasion, followed by an interpretation from the uniquely "human" persuasion. And I will not mind if your pets – even those Brazilian cockroaches, snakes or amphibians – listen to tapes later. I always encourage all points of view. And why you say? Because evidence does not support theories – we create or develop theories to explain evidence! And there are always competing theories. And if they both can explain the same evidence - and cannot reject the other – we have a sort of stalemate of "faiths." And which position you accept will be a choice of which faith you have. Pretty simple – huh?

Creation and Evolution

A special series of lessons presented by Dr. David Eakin at the Providence church of Christ

Friday, March 8
7 - 8 PM: Similarities in Organisms

Saturday, March 9
11 AM - Noon: Natural Selection: Did Darwin Get It Right?
1:30 - 2:30 PM: Why Does That Ape Look So Much Like Me?

Sunday, March 10
9:45 - 10:30 AM: Is My Bible the One Delivered to the Apostles & Prophets?
10:40 - Noon: What About Theistic Evolution?
3:30 - 5 PM: But What About the Fossil Record? Old / Young Earth?