



## The Best Birthday Present

By Makenna Gee, 13 years old

In July of 2011, my mom and I attended an amazing Christian apologetics conference in Florence, Kentucky-the *2011 Apologetics Mega Conference* which was sponsored by Answers in Genesis. We live in Texas; thus, the cost of the trip up there *and* the registration fee would have been too much. However, a special man named Dan



Richardson, the national conference manager for Answers in Genesis, made it possible for my mom and me to go. He gave us two complimentary registrations, so I want to especially thank Mr. Richardson. The conference was definitely worth the expense of the plane, etc.

One asset of the conference was that it allowed me to hear the speakers in person. I am very familiar with Answers in Genesis, for I have thoroughly searched their website and read some of their resources. However, it takes time and dedication for me to read information, so having the opportunity to just *listen* to 20 lectures on apologetics was wonderful. All of the speakers were fantastic, and I discovered which ones had humor, wit, deep information (which amazed you even if you couldn't understand it), or just simple answers to questions. I found out which ones spoke on topics that fascinated me, such as Jason Lisle (astrophysics and logic) and Joseph Francis (microbiology). I loved Bodie Hodge and Steve Ham's humor. Although I couldn't meet Ken Ham, I loved seeing and hearing him. Answers in Genesis has some of the most spectacular speakers.



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Essay on Answers in Genesis' 2011 Apologetics *Mega* Conference

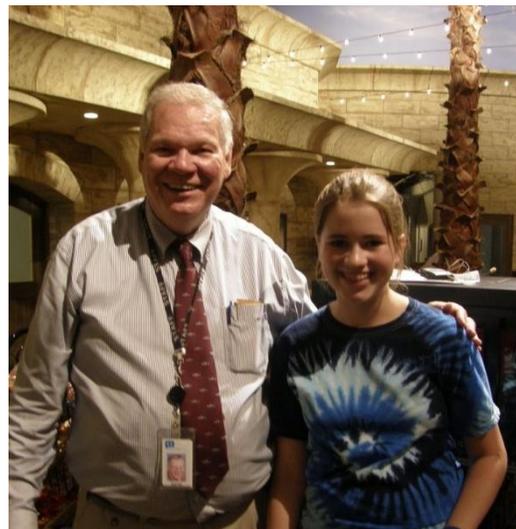
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While at the conference, I also strengthened my belief that the Bible does have answers to questions that people ask. At some points during lectures when something made me particularly excited I wanted to clap my hands and squeal “whoo-hoo!” My common sense overruled my enthusiasm, however. The conference increased my desire to find out the answers to those



questions. My mom and I purchased 16 DVD's (it was buy 10 or more DVD's for \$7 each, how could we resist?) I used some birthday money to buy several books; I can't wait to read them all! Being able to flip through the books I have browsed on Answers in Genesis' online bookstore meant so much.

The Creation Museum, as I put on the survey given out at the end of the conference, was “something of a reason for attending the conference.” My family went there once a couple of years ago, but I was too young to absorb everything. This time, my mom and I went there all three days that were free for those who went to the conference. It was absolutely breath-taking. We even took a tour with David Menton, and got his autograph on a human body pamphlet! I believe that not even three days is enough to see the whole museum and gardens. I would love to work at the Creation Museum!



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My birthday is 11 days away, and most of my gifts are associated with Answers in Genesis. (I know this because none of my family wanted to keep secrets this year.) My parents gave me the birthday present of the conference. I spent birthday money from one set of grandparents on resources available at the conference, and my other set of grandparents purchased David Menton's new *Body of Evidence* series since I want to become a nurse. This will be one of the best birthdays ever! Thank you so much Answers in Genesis for helping me

strengthen my faith in God and the Bible. Thank you again to Dan Richardson-you helped give me the best birthday present of all-the 2011 Apologetics *Mega* Conference.

