

Response to Connie Adams

By Shane Scott

In the July 6th issue of *Truth Magazine*, Connie Adams charged that I am a threat to the students of Florida College. I want to respond to his allegations.

It is true that I wrote an article in *Sentry Magazine* in which I argued that the best biblical interpretation of the days of Genesis 1 was that they were ages. However, brother Adams failed to mention the following pertinent facts about the article:

- 1) It was written over five years ago.
- 2) It was written by the request of Ken Chumbley, who was editing a small section on evidences.
- 3) It was written as part of a point-counterpoint exchange in which I was asked to give my opinion.
- 4) A counterpoint article was written and printed on the page beside my article.
- 5) The counterpoint article was written by Greg Gwin, whom I suggested Chumbley should contact.

It is also true that in my article I said the "days cannot be literal" and that they "must be ages." What I meant by this is that these conclusions are the logical consequence of the factors I raised in the article. Those statements should not be interpreted to mean that I think I have all the answers about this topic, or that I think my position is flawless, or that I believe anyone who disagrees with me is a heretic. Indeed, at the end of my article I allowed that the literal day view may be correct, though in my opinion it is not the best interpretation.

I am very sensitive to the responsibility I have in a setting such as the classroom to present various interpretations and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each. That is how I deal with Genesis 1 in the single lecture I deliver at Florida College on this topic (out of approximately 265 total lectures I present).

I would not have written the article in *Sentry* unless I knew a "counterpoint" article would have been presented as well. Though I expressed strong personal beliefs in the article, I am always open to other ways of looking at this matter. I have never "bombarded" others with my views, whether in the classroom, pulpit, or personal conversation.

My article in *Sentry* was based on the time-honored principle of interpreting Scripture with Scripture. Further, as *Truth* staff writer and Board of Directors member Steve Wolfgang has recently noted in his doctoral dissertation on creationism in churches of Christ, the viewpoint I expressed has been held by very conservative brethren throughout the history of the restoration.

I have no quarrel with anyone who questions what I teach. On more than one occasion I have shown inquirers my lecture notes and exams in which this topic is addressed. I was glad to do so, and would have been happy to offer such to brother Adams, if he had asked. Though he knows who I am and where I work, he has never contacted me about this matter.

I have been blessed to teach at Florida College the past two years, and to speak in a good number of churches in the last several years. These opportunities have afforded me the chance to build a track record of responsible teaching and preaching, a record which stands in sharp relief to brother Adams' assertions, and one I am happy to stand behind.