

## Our Visit to the Creation Museum

A couple of weeks ago our family arrived at the Creation Museum. We had greatly anticipated the visit. We were provided 4 free media passes to check out the museum. We were surprised to learn that our day would also include an interview with the CCO and VP of Outreach, Mark Looy. We must have seemed a bit befuddled as we winged our interview with questions that came to our mind on the spot as Randy jotted the answers into his blackberry. It is the stuff memories are made of! Mark was a gracious and informative host. We give a hearty thank-you to Mark and to the Creation Museum for their hospitality and free passes.

This was our second visit to the Creation Museum. Our first visit was during the Museum's first year. We had a wonderful visit that first year but my family all agreed we enjoyed this visit even more. Perhaps it is because they have added more exhibits, including a petting zoo and the neat interactive Noah. Perhaps it was because it was a less crowded day. Maybe we enjoyed it more because we took more time to really absorb the exhibits. Whatever the reason, we found ourselves soaking in the day with great delight.



The first stop after getting your tickets is for a family photo. You will be excited when you return later in the day to pick up your photos. The prices are very reasonable and you can select from a fun and beautiful array

of backgrounds. It is a family favorite of ours, destined to be a tradition. Some day we will look back at the progression of photos with amazement at how everyone has grown while we reminisce about each visit to the museum.

We began our visit by going to the Stargazer's Room. Stargazing has always overwhelmed my mind. The expanse of the sky wells up in me a healthy awe and fear of such a grand Creator God. His power is shown in the heavens. It makes me feel so very small and humbled that such an enormous God would give any thought to my existence, anymore than I am aware of an ant amidst millions in a nest in my yard. If stargazing evokes such a feeling in you too, you will be truly amazed by the presentation given in the Stargazer's Room. You are taken on a tour of the galaxy that is mind-blowing, all while being pointed to God as the Creator of the universe.

Our first visit was in December so we decided this time around to take a stroll through the beautiful garden trails. This was especially nice since the Cincinnati area is ahead of our home town area (south of Buffalo) in the arrival of spring. We appreciated the budding trees and colorful new flowers in a way those from the Buffalo area especially understand. I would love to visit again when the gardens are in full bloom.

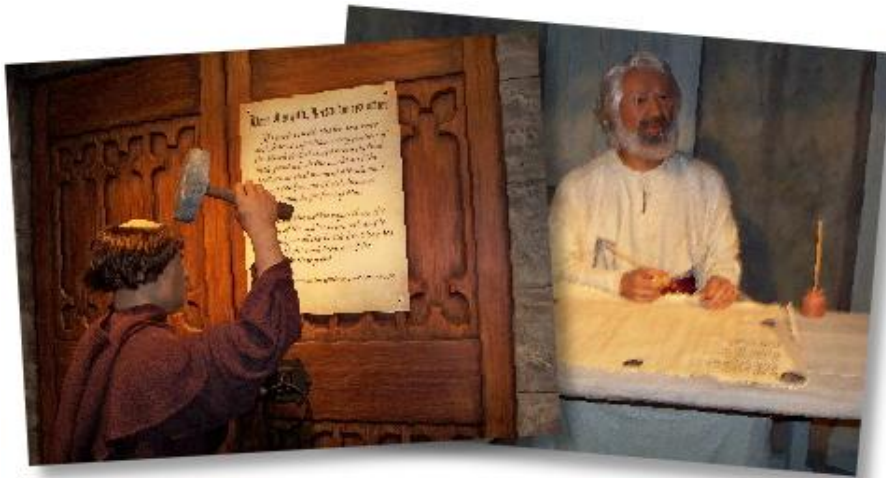


We continued on to the Petting Zoo section. The kids especially enjoyed this part. They were able to hand feed many of the animals. Have you ever wondered what a zonkey or a zorse looks like? You can find out at the Creation Museum's Petting Zoo! It makes for a great opportunity to discuss diversity among animal kinds and how Noah fit all those animals on the Ark. There are many Answers in Genesis resources to broaden your family's understanding of these topics.



We ate our lunch outside at one of the tables overlooking the gardens and pond. There are sculptures throughout the gardens, making the view a beautiful sight.

After lunch we made our way back into the museum for the heart of the tour. Based on the 7 "C's" of history, the truth of God's word unfolds through a variety of beautiful and professional exhibits. The Grand Canyon Entrance and Mt. Saint Helen's Ranger Station Exhibits present you with a dilemma. Are you going to be guided by God's truth or man's reason? The evidence is the same. It is the interpretation, or the conclusions, that we reach about the evidence that is vastly different and will take you down opposite roads, one leading to the Cross and the other to atheism.



Still mulling over the question? Next is the Biblical Authority Room where Moses, David, Isaiah, Paul, Martin Luther and even the Gutenberg Printing Press all attest to the accuracy and authority of the Bible. I encourage anyone who has questions about the Authority of the Bible to pick up the DVD on the topic in the Dragon Hall Bookstore. We can trust the Bible!

The Scopes Trial had a devastating effect as Christians compromised the Word of God. Millions of years became a wrecking ball, smashing the foundations of our faith and society. Graffiti Alley brings to life the power the theory of evolution has had in destroying the faith right out from under the foundations of our pews and homes.

Just when the darkness is about to depress you, it is time to take a walk through the Time Tunnel to the 6 Day Theatre and view the world as God meant it to be. (I look forward to watching the DVD in heaven of that first week of Creation.) You will be moved by the presentation by the beauty and

creativity of our Lord. The Wonders Room continues to instill awe of God's Creation. Contrary to popular belief, science does point to God as the designer and creator of our world. I long for the day when we marvel anyone was so foolish as to believe in evolution, much like we do today when it comes to the flat Earth theory. Popular belief does not always point to the truth, but God's Word sure does!

Are you wondering what the 7 "C's" of history are that I mentioned earlier? You will find out as you continue the tour of the Creation Museum. I encourage you to plan your visit as soon as possible so that you can learn all about the 7 "C's" of history and teach them to your children.



As we entered the Garden of Eden exhibit I felt the wonder of what it must have been like to live in a sin-free world, newly birthed by the Word of God. The giant Tree of Life hangs over the walkway in all its glory. Sadness begins to slip in as the displays unfold our history with the fall and our spiral into sin. The Cave of Sorrows is especially sad as the journey through time continues. Did you know Methuselah was alive during Adam and Noah's lifetimes? He was a witness to the decline of all humankind to the point God decided to send the Great Flood and begin again. A life sized Methuselah has a lot to say for those who pause long enough to listen.

My favorite part of the museum is the Noah's Ark exhibit. A full scale cross-section showing 1% of the size of the ark is on display to walk through. There is also a model of the ark opened up to show what the inside may have looked like. It takes very little imagination to realize every "kind" of animal could easily fit in the ark, especially since the young, smaller versions would have been sent by God. I think He is smart enough to figure that out, don't you?

The Flood Geology Room continues to explore the affects the Flood had on our Earth. Modern science supports the Flood model. There are many hands-

on displays about Noah's Ark and the Flood, including a new interactive Noah that captured the full attention of our 5 year old, to help walk your family scientifically through the event and the scars we see today on the Earth pointing to the accuracy of the Bible. We can trust the Word of God!

While Noah's Flood began the process of diversifying the species, the Tower of Babel is the event that has led to the various people groups. You may be surprised to learn that the different "races" is a myth. Our differences are cultural, not biological. It saddens me to learn about the murder and destruction of innocent people because they were believed to be a lesser race. This is the legacy of evolution. We are all "one blood." To learn more you can purchase the book on this topic at the Dragon Hall Bookstore.

The final "C's" of history are wrapped up in the Last Adam Theatre. This presentation is not to be missed. We loved it so much our first time through that we bought the DVD. It is now part of our family's traditions. Each Passover/Easter season we love to play it at home and at our church. You can also buy it at the Dragon Hall Bookstore.

Next stop is the Palm Plaza, placed conveniently towards the end of the journey, it is a chance to get a drink and snack and enjoy some dinosaur fossil and stamp displays before continuing the journey to the Dragon Theatre and Dinosaur Den. Did you know un-fossilized dinosaur bones have been found that still contain soft tissue? So much for millions of years! And what about those dragons mentioned throughout stories of old? They sure sound like dinosaurs to me! My kids especially love the animated dinos found in the Dinosaur Den. They are so real and life-like my 5 year old son actually thought they were alive when we visited the last time. No wonder he was scared of them!

This brings me to the last two must-see places in the Creation Museum, the Men in White presentation and the Dragon Hall Bookstore. I will leave it up to you whether it is best to visit those 2 areas at the beginning or end of your visit.

The Men in White presentation is unique, faith building, interactive, and a lot of fun. Your faith will grow as you join a young woman pondering the night sky and whether or not there is a God. The “Men in White” interject their wisdom, taking you on a journey that refutes evolution and supports the Authority of the Bible. You and your family will love the surprises and creativity of this experience.

The bookstore has so many resources and so much to see that it is an event in its own right. You will be blessed by the many Creation based resources available to take home to continue your journey of faith. Remember to buy extras of your favorites to share with friends and family.



When visiting the Creation Museum I always wonder where such an idea came from. How did this wonderful museum come to be? We asked Mark Looy many questions about this process. We also viewed Ken Ham's testimony. They both point to God and His glory for the vision, construction, and provision. The seed was planted many years before it came to be. Two men knelt down before the Lord on some ground in Australia and asked the Lord for a Creation Museum. God said yes, but while it did take some time, chance had nothing to do with it! As with many of the big things God has in store, the starting place is usually pretty small. In His wisdom, God leads us on a journey of many small, faith-building steps to prepare us for what He has in mind. For Ken Ham it meant moving to an entirely new country on his journey of faith. While there were many people involved along the way (I encourage you to listen to Ken Ham's Testimony to learn more of those details), the Answers in Genesis ministry and the plans for the Creation Museum came together through the founders Ken Ham, Mark Looy, and Mike Zorath. You may think they must have been rich and powerful to start such an ambitious goal; however, they had nothing but their faith in a Creator God who spoke the universe into existence and a desire to bring people to Christ.

The location for the Creation Museum was chosen through a publication that outlined the best places in the U.S. to live. The Cincinnati area is within a day's driving of 2/3 of the U.S. population. Their first choice for property fell through. Even in our disappointments, God is good. He had a much better plot of land in mind. Preliminary plans were drawn up. God has to chuckle when he sees our meager plans (You know, the ones we think are ambitious!) when He is planning something so much bigger that we can't even imagine it. Thus began a leap of faith many of us would tremble to begin. With no money, the Board of Directors approved a \$4 million budget that quickly went to \$13 million and then to \$24 million. How did the budget blossom to such proportions? God sent a visionary, Patrick Marsh, to the project. Called a creative genius, Patrick formerly worked for Universal Studios. Is it any wonder the project blossomed in scale? God knew all along the Museum was going to be bigger and better than anything the founders could have imagined at the beginning.

As the ground was broken and work began, God showed Himself faithful. Did you know that 75% of the funding came from donations averaging \$130 each? Can you imagine building a project this big \$130 at a time? God loves to demonstrate His glory. Remember Gideon? As Ken Ham said, "God has raised it up for this time in History." It took 30 years from the time 2 men knelt and asked for a Creation Museum but the wait was worth it.

This brings me to my own testimony of how the Lord has brought me to believe in the Authority of the Scripture. When I was a young child, I was an avid reader. While visiting my aunt (who lived in another state) I picked up a book from her library by Alfred M. Rehwinkel called "The Flood In the Light of the Bible, Geology, and Archaeology" published by Concordia Publishing House in 1951. Scientific topics have always



interested me. As I read through those pages I learned that the Biblical account of Noah's Flood is backed up by science. I also learned that even when science seems to disprove the Bible, just set it aside and pray for God's wisdom to shed light on the subject. God is faithful when we ask for His wisdom. (Study the story of the peanut when George Washington Carver asked God to reveal secrets of the peanut.) Each time we visited my Aunt , I would look for that book and continue my studies. Considering I was probably only in third grade when I started reading the book, I can see how the Lord ordered my steps.

Fast forward years later, after rejecting claims of evolution in my public school education, I was able to learn more about the wonders of Creation through the Christian education I had in high school. Once again the subject was shelved as I married and began a family. We chose to Homeschool our children for many reasons, but one of those reasons was to avoid the evolution indoctrination found in the public school setting. It was about 8-10 years ago (my best guess) when a fellow homeschooler handed us a set of VCR tapes containing lectures by Ken Ham. Our family devoured those tapes! We listened to them over and over again. We made copies and handed them out to anyone who would listen. We have continued to use the Creation message to reach out to a lost, hurting world. We have seen the message save souls as people realize they do have value. They are not just a product of time and chance, but rather a loved creation formed in God's own image. It is a powerful and true message.

I encourage you to visit the Creation Museum with your family, especially if you have never visited. You will not be disappointed. If you have already made a visit to the Creation Museum, I encourage you to make a return journey. There are new exhibits with many new ones in the works. Using wisdom, the creators have left space throughout the museum for additional exhibits to pop up over time. There are plans to create a "museum within the museum" featuring exhibits designed to attract the younger crowds. The interactive Noah is one such exhibit that has already been added. You will want to watch the website for the many extra events, classes, and workshops when planning your visit.

You can also look for new Creation materials offered on our website. We are working to revitalize our website with a renewed emphasis on Creation resources. It is a work in progress so keep us in your sights as we expand and improve in this area.

Looking for more information? You can find out more about the Creation Museum at [www.creationmuseum.org](http://www.creationmuseum.org). You will also find a wealth of information at [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org).