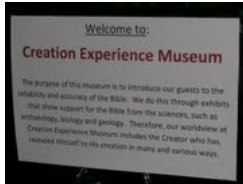


CREATION MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER PROVIDING CHRISTIANS UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CREATION/EVOLUTION ISSUE AND THE MUSEUM AT CREATION MINISTRIES OF THE OZARKS

NO. 44

250+ ATHEISTS VISIT MUSEUM



On Friday, November 18, we were visited by over 250 professed atheists who were attending the third annual Skeptic convention in Springfield, Missouri. They have apparently decided to concentrate their efforts on Springfield because they consider it the “buckle of the Bible belt” for conservative evangelical Christianity. Last year their promotional conference poster’s message read “Unbuckling the Bible Belt.”

The first thing we draw our visitor’s attention to in the museum is this sign above which reads:

The purpose of this museum is to introduce our guests to the reliability and accuracy of the Bible. We do this through exhibits that show support for the Bible from the sciences, such as archeology, biology and geology. Therefore, our worldview at Creation Experience Museum includes the Creator who has revealed Himself to His creation in many and various ways.

Of course, this is not what professed atheists would want to hear. Dr. P. Z. Myers, the head of this group, was very demeaning, condescending, and verbally rude in his name calling and language regarding ourselves, the contents of the



We could only let in about 30 at a time because of the limited size of our facility.

Contact Dr. Rod Butterworth to hold creation meetings at your church or group. 866-771-TRUE (8783)

museum and any other scientist we happened to mention with whom he did not agree. For example, on his blog he referred to “**that monument of idiocy built by the notorious leech, Ken Ham**” who most of you have probably heard of because of the wonderful creation museum in Kentucky which, like ours, is based on real science supporting the Bible’s accuracy and history.

Why this attack on our little creation museum in Strafford? Well, you’ll find some answers in the article I have written starting on page three.

I want to convey the right impression about my reaction to Dr. Myers and those who visited us with less than friendly intentions. In my prayer time I have prayed, “Lord, bless P. Z. Myers and all those with him. May they come to know You, their Creator.” This is what Jesus told us to do, to bless those who persecute us, and even “leap for joy” (Luke 6:23). I have been doing some joyful leaping lately! Blessings, RB

MANY ARE FINDING THIS BOOKLET A VALUABLE RESOURCE

Compromise with Bible truth should never be an option.

The Pastors’ Dilemma contains powerful biblical and scientific answers you and your pastor will find helpful.

\$5.00 postage paid

The Pastors’ Dilemma

YOUNG EARTH

?

OLD EARTH

Rod Butterworth

VISIT THE MUSEUM AT:

112 E. Pine Street, Strafford, MO 65757
(Just a few blocks off Interstate 44)

FALL AND WINTER HOURS:

Fridays and Saturdays
10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
OR BY SPECIAL APPOINTMENT



Blessed
is
every-
one
who
fears
the
Lord.



What a great opportunity to “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:14) . RB above talking to the group leader, P. Z. Myers.

Psalms 128:1

In Acts 17:17-34 it is recorded that the Apostle Paul “reasoned” with both the Jews and gentile idol worshipers. We felt that we were in a somewhat similar situation.

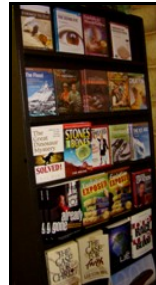


OUR NEED FOR EXPANSION

We like to give personal tours at CMOTO. We are now approaching **1500 visitors** since we opened on a regular basis in January this year. The majority of these visitors have been **young people** including many from Christian schools and home school groups. Their faith in God and His Word has been strengthened as they have been given answers to defend the truth as 1 Peter 3:15 exhorts us.

Can you imagine how many more young people we could minister these truths to when we are blessed by God to have a larger creation museum ministry in Branson, Missouri? This is our vision. Will you believe God with us for this miracle?

We have expanded our creation resources. Our bookstore area has lots to choose from for all ages. Great Christmas gift ideas that will help build faith in our Creator.



BOOKS/DVDs/CHILDREN’S CREATION ACTIVITIES

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.CMOTO.org
Or call: 866-771-TRUE (8783)
Donations can be made online or sent to:
Creation Ministries of the Ozarks (Make checks payable to “CMOTO”)
c/o Secretary Treasurer
316 N. Dogwood
Strafford, MO 65757

“CREATION MATTERS”

You can hear the two-minute spots live on: **KWFC 89.1 FM at 10.57 a.m. in the southwest MO area CST Monday thru Friday each week coming from Springfield, MO. Or, hear previous recordings at our online radio archive anytime at: www.creationmuseumOTO.org**

A WORD CONCERNING FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Financial accountability is extremely important to us. To this end *Creation Ministries of the Ozarks* has obtained 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS. Donations can be claimed as charitable giving for tax purposes. We have engaged the services of Mr. Dan Wiser, Certified Public Accountant in Springfield, Missouri.

WHY WOULD ATHEISTS VISIT A CREATION MUSEUM?

by Rod Butterworth

When I mention to people that we have had groups of atheists visit our creation museum, they usually say with a questioning expression on their faces something such as, “And why would they want to do that?” Well, after considering this for some time I believe one of the reasons might be that they are hoping to justify and validate their professed belief in atheism. I’m sure some come believing they will be able to ridicule and make fun of a creation museum.

However, I believe there is a deeper reason for their rather aggressive reaction and approach to creation museums, and it is a spiritual one. They themselves would most likely not be aware of this, but when people are deceived and living in spiritual darkness, the enemy of God, Satan, will certainly use such people as his pawns to attack the work of God. It has happened countless times throughout history.

The supreme example of Satan using people walking in spiritual darkness to accomplish his end is clearly seen when Jesus was crucified. In Luke 23:34, as Jesus hung on the cross he said of those who had crucified Him, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” People living in this world without a genuine relationship with God through Jesus Christ, are drifting through life in a kind of dreamlike state lacking real understanding of why they are here and why they exist. The old expression often used to make fun of those who became Christians and were showing real change in their lives was, “He’s (or she’s) seen the light.” Other scriptures that relate to this are John 3:19 and 8:12. “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil...Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.’”

Notice that Jesus referred to those who “loved darkness rather than light.” This, I believe, is the root reason evolutionists would feel threatened by a creation museum, and feel compelled to attack. They want to live their lives totally free and independent of anyone else telling them how to live—things haven’t changed much since Adam and Eve!. Since they love their freedom to live how they choose, including engaging in lifestyles the Bible refers to as sin; they certainly recoil at the thought of God, or any supposed god for that matter, as having absolute moral standards for them to live by. Karl Marx, a communist and evolutionist, once said that he couldn’t believe in God because that might change the way he wanted to live his sex life!

The connection between these attitudes and believing in evolution should be clear. If you believe humans are descended from lower forms of animals it means you are not created as a special being by a Creator. Therefore, believing in evolution gives the atheist a way of escape from recognition of a Creator God to whom reverence, respect and obedience should rightfully be given. This goes a long way in explaining why evolutionists are willing to take a blind leap of faith in evolution when real empirical science does not support it. It may also be the reason why in their heart of hearts they have a fear that a creation ministry could upset their paradigm of belief by identifying the faulty foundation they base their world view upon.

Another reason some atheists would choose to visit a creation museum is to cause as much trouble and disruption as possible. I have heard of at least one case where security had to be called to escort an individual or individuals out of a creation museum because of unacceptable behavior in a public place. Why such hatred? As a Christian I believe Ephesians 6:12 explains the main reason for this: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” As I wrote above, Satan will use those that he can against the work of God, even though those being used as his instruments are most likely not understanding or aware of the spiritual forces at work.

With all the above in mind Christians involved in effective ministries should expect such attacks to come. Should this discourage us? Absolutely not! We need to fortify ourselves with the truths of the Word of God. Jesus made it very clear that we have no reason to be intimidated in any way by those who would seek to persecute us. We have wonderful and awesome promises from our Lord that we need to believe without doubting. For example, in Luke 10:19 Jesus says: “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” On the basis of such a promise we should boldly speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), and know beyond the shadow of a doubt that we have the God of all creation backing us up.

As Bible believing Christians we believe in eternal destiny and the reality of heaven and hell. During an open questions time after one of my creation meetings a lady sitting near the front asked me a question that didn’t seem to relate to anything I had just taught. She asked,

“Are there going to be more people in hell than in heaven?” The Holy Spirit quickly brought to my mind the words of Jesus which I quoted to her: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13,14). The truth is that ever since the tragedy of Adam and Eve’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden, humans have continued to rebel against their Creator and will reap what they sow if they don’t change. It didn’t take long for the first murder to take place when Cain killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4).

So from a biblical perspective those who choose the belief of atheism for whatever reasons are headed for an eternal destiny in hell. One cannot play games with God and expect to come out of it without suffering serious consequences. For the sake of discussion only I could say to an atheist, “If I’m wrong about God I will have lost nothing when I die, but if you as an atheist are wrong about God you will lose everything when you die.” However, having said this, for an honest person who is willing to sincerely and objectively compare the evidence for both sides—creation and evolution, there is no doubt as to where the evidence will lead that person.

So we welcome professed atheists to our creation museum if they are willing to discuss the issues with an open mind. What could be fairer than to engage in a comparison of the two sides and let the evidence lead one to the truth? The real truth is found in the words of One who said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).



Pastor Jeff White (left) having a discussion with two professed atheists of the Skepticon group.

MORE ABOUT THE ATHEIST’S VISIT

Most of the professed atheists who visited us on November 18 were outwardly respectful. We supplied them with coffee, bottled water, and home made cookies, and I was proud of our staff and volunteers who treated the visitors as kindly and respectfully as anyone could be treated anywhere.

We told them as they entered the museum that staff members were available for discussion and questions, and they were free to ask about our exhibits and what our reason and purpose was for having them in our museum. One admitted that she was “on the fence” in her thinking about whether God existed or not.

Of course, our world views were obviously in conflict, and as various conversations took place this became obvious. There was at least one professor from Missouri State University who is influencing the students he teaches to believe that evolution is a fact and there is no God. However, after reviewing the experiences of our staff I believe that some seeds of doubt were sown as regards their atheistic world view, and some realized and even said to us, “You people are all very knowledgeable.”

As I have mentioned, this group was made up primarily of young people, and it seems to me that this is where the main battlefield is for the minds and souls of the younger generation today.

The staff and volunteers of *Creation Experience Museum* are committed to boldly witness to the truth of the Bible by encouraging Christians and exposing unbelievers to the truth.



Ron Walser (left) sharing his book *The Bible Fix* with a university student. Ron is on CMOTO’s advisory board.