



museum of the Bible

Explore!

JANUARY 2016

First Century Nazareth at Your Fingertips!

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“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Come and see!

The World of Jesus of Nazareth exhibit will be breathtaking as visitors are invited to step into history.

Guests will have already journeyed through the Hebrew Scriptures and will next encounter New Testament history. The clash of kingdoms and cultures of the time sets the stage as first century Nazareth comes to life. An entirely immersive experience, guests discover the textures, sights, and sounds of the time as docents in period dress welcome them into the scenes and realistic settings of Jesus’ daily life. The material that served as the foundation and illustration for his teachings and stories will breathe life and context into history.

- Experience the village well, the place of community and social interaction.
- Meet a Nazareth woman who shares the stories of her culture.
- Discover a first century home with its cooking courtyard, a synagogue, a winepress, a construction site, and various other stops along the way — each with skilled docents waiting...



each an opportunity to engage with and experience the Nazareth of biblical times!

This is yet another great example of how both design and content, ingeniously woven together for a one-of-a-kind exhibit experience — paired with your support for Museum of the Bible — is creating an unprecedented museum experience for visitors of all ages! It’s not just telling the Bible’s story, but drawing them into it!

Museum of the Bible will open its doors in the fall of 2017, just three blocks from the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

What good can come from Nazareth? Come — sit by the Sea of Galilee, walk among olive trees, lean against rock formations from Nazareth, live and breathe its customs and culture ... and see for yourself. Everything ordinarily “museum” about it is stripped away — Welcome to Nazareth!

www.museumoftheBible.org

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Museum of the Bible Scholar Profile

Meet Dr. Christian Askeland. He labors on a daily basis for Museum of the Bible Scholars Initiative to create and maintain cutting-edge, collaborative research projects with university students.

“Christian is the one who keeps the train moving,” says Rory Crowley, Research Fellow for the Scholars Initiative. “His influence internationally with his various publications has brought a strong and infectious

Dr. Askeland played an important role in demonstrating that the so-called “Gospel of Jesus’ Wife” was a modern forgery.

aptitude to those who work with him; he is an absolute necessity to our team.”

Beginning his second year with the Scholars Initiative as the Regional Director of the Central U.S. and Canada, he is also Assistant Research Professor of Christian Origins at Indiana Wesleyan University and a Research Associate at the Protestant University Wuppertal, Germany.

Dr. Askeland is known for his specialization in Coptic, the last stage of the Egyptian language, which flourished in Christian Egypt.



Dr. Askeland is known for his specialization in Coptic, the last stage of the Egyptian language, which flourished in Christian Egypt. His monograph on the Coptic versions of John’s gospel won an award from the International Association of Coptic Studies, and he recently played an important role in demonstrating that the so-called “Gospel of Jesus’ Wife” was, in fact, a modern forgery.

This semester, he was involved in two new Scholars Initiative projects focusing on the earliest texts of the Psalms and 1 Timothy. Future projects include English, Syriac, Latin, and probably Coptic manuscripts.

Christian and his wife Stephanie have been married for 17 years and have three children. When he is not reading ancient manuscripts, he enjoys reading comics with his children and hiking in the mountains.

Expanding Biblical Education in Cyberspace

For high school students and homeschoolers around the world, the Bible curriculum is becoming a reality!

Museum of the Bible has recently joined forces with the Gruss Foundation to expand the reach of biblical education programs into cyberspace. Through this new alliance, an exciting online curriculum platform is being developed that will allow both organizations to better disseminate their content online — reaching more effectively into classrooms and living rooms around the world.

Museum of the Bible will utilize this platform to make all 108 chapters of its Bible curriculum fully accessible to a wider audience via the Internet. The



Museum of the Bible's Bible Curriculum: Extending the learning experience beyond textbook and classroom.

curriculum will include videos, interactive exercises, and special assessment tools for high school students and homeschoolers.

Gruss Life Monument Funds provide over \$15 million annually to more than 400 educational and philanthropic institutions around the world. We are very grateful for this new ally in expanding cutting-edge Bible education curricula and opportunities.

gruss life monument funds





World Meeting of Families 2015

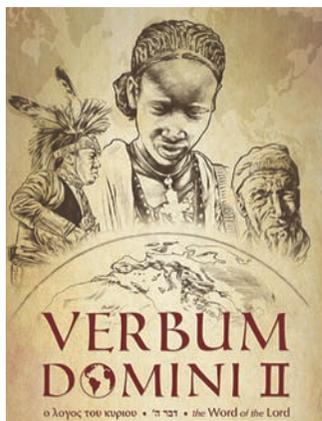
“In bringing such important religious texts to Philadelphia for this event, Museum of the Bible truly brought them to the world.”

— Robert J. Ciaruffoli, President of the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015



Museum of the Bible’s traveling exhibit *Verbum Domini II: God’s Word Goes Out to the Nations* was on display in September, a special exhibit celebrating the World Meeting of Families Congress and the visit of Pope Francis to the United States.

Originally exhibited at the Vatican in Rome, *Verbum Domini II* showcased more than 80 artifacts from the collection. Spread over 15,000 square feet in eight galleries and 24 display cases, the exhibit covered the Bible’s history as a printed book everywhere from North Africa to the Latin West to China.





Highlights of this spectacular exhibit included:

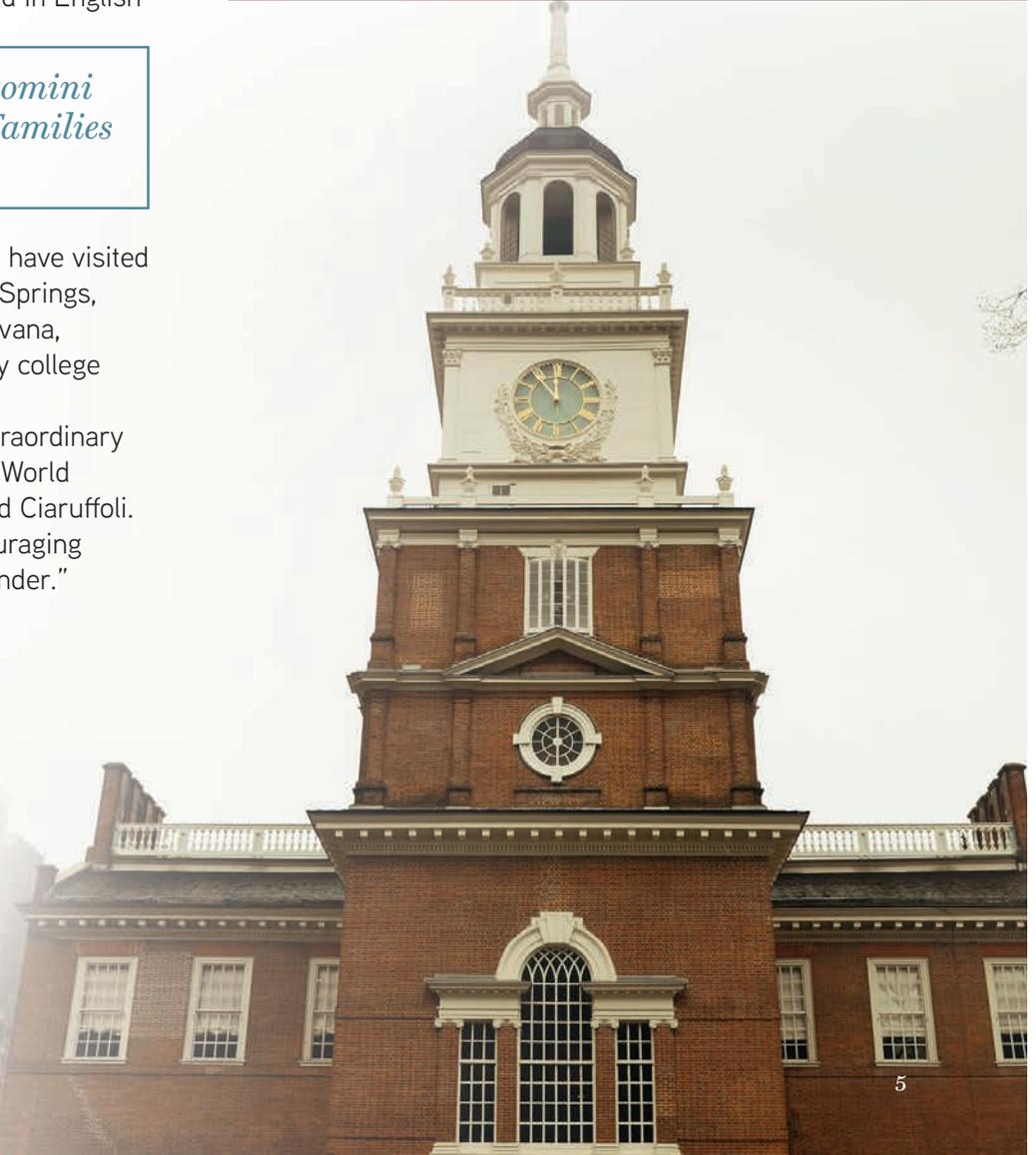
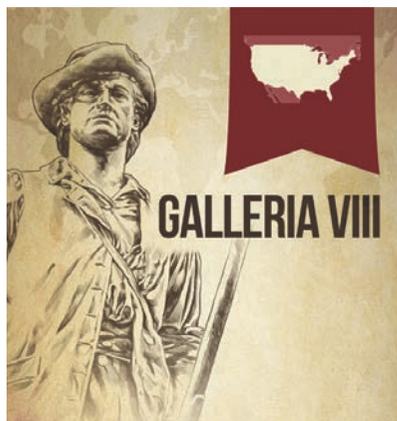
- Fragments from the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Five pages from the Bodmer Psalms Codex, a near-complete copy of the book of Psalms in Greek on papyrus from the third to fourth century CE
- Pages from the Codex Climaci Rescriptus, which contains Christian texts from the sixth to eighth century, most of them in Aramaic, Jesus' household language
- The 14th century *Hours and Psalter of Elizabeth de Bohun*, Countess of Northampton, one of the most extensively illuminated manuscripts of its kind
- A first edition of the King James Bible — the Great "HE" Bible of 1611 — the most influential translation of the Bible ever produced in English

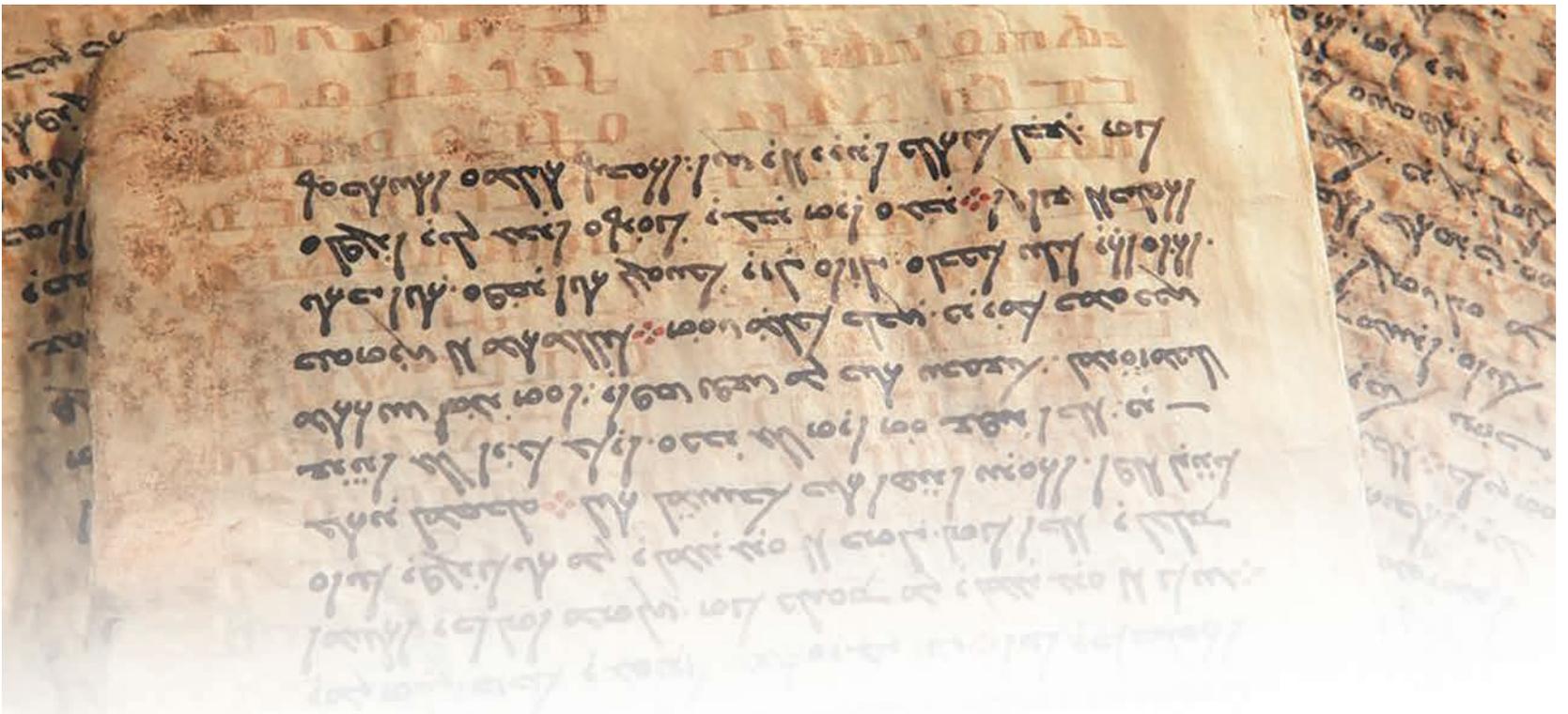


Museum of the Bible's Verbum Domini II visited the World Meeting of Families 2015 in Philadelphia.

Museum of the Bible's traveling exhibits have visited Oklahoma City, Atlanta, Charlotte, Colorado Springs, Springfield, Santa Clarita, Buenos Aires, Havana, the Vatican, and Jerusalem, as well as many college campuses across the United States.

"We were delighted to have such an extraordinary and deeply moving exhibition as part of the World Meeting of Families and the Papal visit," said Ciaruffoli. "Its appeal transcends faith traditions, encouraging families to come together to share in its wonder."





Unpeeling History's Layers

Palimpsest — there's a word you don't use every day. A *palimpsest* is an instrument on which original underwriting has been scraped away and overwritten with other text.

The Codex Climaci Rescriptus (CCR) is a palimpsest preserving portions of more than nine very early manuscripts in one. Its pages date from the fifth to the ninth centuries AD. The collection acquired 137 leaves of this manuscript in 2009.

This ancient palimpsest's messages, hidden for centuries, are now being revealed as a group of established young scholars employ technology known as Multispectral Imaging. What has been revealed?

The CCR preserves the world's largest corpus of Christian Palestinian Aramaic.

- The youngest of the manuscripts (copied in the ninth century), is a Syriac translation of two works originally in Greek. One is called *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. It was so popular in its day that its author was called St. John of the Ladder, or John Climacus — hence the name of the CCR.
- Older codices (dated between the fifth and eighth centuries) include segments of Scripture



The CCR preserves the world's largest corpus of Christian Palestinian Aramaic, visible as lighter brown text in the image.

from both the Old and New Testaments, two lectionaries — selected passages of Scripture read in worship services — and some extracanonical Christian and Greek writings.

- Several of the older codices were written in Christian Palestinian Aramaic, which is believed by scholars to be very close to Jesus' own household language.

Research on the CCR is just one example of the exciting discoveries about the Bible, its languages, people, and times. The Scholars Initiative combines traditional archaeological methods with modern technology. As a result, we are better able to understand the Bible's translation and transmission across time.

Media Inspires

You've seen their work. They've produced programming in more than 50 countries worldwide. They've filmed violent gangs in South America, human traffickers in Eastern Europe, government overthrows in Africa, and travelled with Bedouin tribes in the Middle East. They've done music videos, concerts, live global television events, commercials, and promotional presentations.

Museum of the Bible has engaged the award-winning Cooke Pictures to develop video content for the museum.

"I've always been passionate about sharing the impact the Bible has had on Western civilization," says

"The opportunity to tell Museum of the Bible's story is one of the most significant projects of my career." — Phil Cooke, Cooke Pictures

Phil Cooke. "The opportunity to tell Museum of the Bible's story is one of the most significant projects of my career."

The first presentation Cooke Pictures created for the museum won the national "Telly" award — a premier award honoring the finest in film and video



production and outstanding TV commercials and programs. The winning presentation was from Museum of the Bible's four-minute overview video played on the museum's website and at our events across the country.

That presentation was only the beginning of this exciting relationship. The Cooke Pictures team is putting their creativity to work on a number of Museum of the Bible projects, helping us tell the museum's story. Cooke says, "We're so excited about creating media projects that will encourage countless people around the world to partner in this remarkable vision."

And at Museum of the Bible, we're thrilled Cooke Pictures is part of the team.



Museum of the Bible has engaged the award-winning Cooke Pictures to develop video content for the museum. Here are just a few frames from a recent project.

A Personal Word

Dear Friend,

Eight stories. 430,000 square feet.
Where did it start? Why?

In 2009, the collection was born with the purchase of the Roseberry Rolle manuscript. Today, it is one of the largest private collections of rare biblical artifacts in the world.



Where do you house such a collection so that it can be experienced and enjoyed? A museum.

Most museums have a very focused group they're looking to attract. But we don't.

And that leads to ... Why?

The Bible is for everyone.

All people, all faiths, all backgrounds, from all areas of the world.

And it's coming to pass. Demolition is complete. New construction is underway. All aimed at giving Museum of the Bible visitors an exciting, thoroughly interactive, and totally immersive experience engaging with the most important Book in the world.

I'm thrilled you are following Museum of the Bible's progress. I invite you to get involved — to participate in bringing this vision to pass, in welcoming the world to experience the Bible in a way that has never been done before.

Now is the time. Please join us. Thank you in advance!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy Smith".

Timothy Smith
Chief Development Officer



museum of the Bible

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