



museum of the Bible

Explore!

SPRING 2015

Museum of the Bible: A Unique Opportunity

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Construction is underway! The exciting new 430,000-square-foot Museum of the Bible, scheduled for a Fall 2017 opening in Washington, D.C., is taking shape.

Dedicated to exploring the bestselling and most translated book of all time — arguably the world's most important piece of literature — the Museum of the Bible combines world-class scholarship with state-of-the-art presentation. It's thrilling to see it coming together.

It's estimated some two million people per year will visit the Museum once it opens. Visitors will be treated to an immersive and interactive multimedia experience, invited to step into the Bible's story.

The Bible has special meaning for people of many faith traditions. It's been widely



adapted, yet remains the same. It has survived the millennia, and continues today extending its influence to every corner of the globe.

When visiting the Museum of the Bible, members of all faith traditions will feel welcome and appreciate that their Bible is recognized, while also learning how the Bible

*...an opportunity like no other
— to help present the Bible in
the most unique, interesting,
and engaging way.*

is valued in other traditions.

It is a book like no other. The Museum of the Bible is a museum like no other. And we have before us an opportunity like no other — to help present the Bible in the most unique, interesting, and engaging way.



www.museumoftheBible.org

Museum of the Bible | P.O. Box 470485 | Tulsa, OK 74147-0485

Dear Friend,

When the Green family, founders of the U.S. retail chain Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., purchased their first biblical artifact in 2009, they never expected to assemble, in just a few short years, what is now one of the world's largest private collections of rare biblical texts, objects, and artifacts.

Guests will soon be able to experience the entire collection year-round, when the Museum of the Bible opens its 430,000-square-foot, world-class Museum in Washington, D.C.

Scheduled to open in September 2017, this Museum will house the Green Collection. Now nearly 40,000 items, the Collection spans time, diversity, and faith traditions. People of all nationalities and backgrounds will be

welcomed, able to explore, engage, and experience the Bible in ways most meaningful to them.

The Museum of the Bible is so much more than artifacts on display. Through the use of cutting-edge technology, guests will be able to *step into the history* of the Bible

themselves — become immersed in its story, and interact with it personally.

They'll also benefit from the very latest in research and discovery. The Green Scholars Initiative is our research arm of undergraduate and graduate students teamed with acclaimed biblical experts and scholar-mentors. Together, they're pioneering groundbreaking work — sifting through papyrus, studying Dead Sea Scrolls, examining cuneiform tablets, translating medieval manuscripts, and more.

The excitement is palpable. History is being made. Hard-hats are on. Hammers are swinging. Dust is flying. The Museum of the Bible is becoming reality. Join us!



Tim Smith
Chief Development Officer

On the Road with *Passages*:

The Treasures of the Bible

If you were able to travel the whole world, you still would not see biblical treasures to compare with what you will encounter at a *Passages* exhibit!

Santa Clarita, California, will be the sixth U.S. city to host our traveling exhibit *Passages* when it opens in April. This rare collection of treasures from the Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox faiths has been enthusiastically enjoyed by hundreds of thousands during its previous engagements.



Passages visitors have an opportunity to see monks transcribing the Bible in the St. Jerome's Cave exhibit.

Traveling an exhibit that includes many high-quality items from the Green Collection — one of the world's largest private collections of rare biblical texts and artifacts — presents quite a challenge. Let me tell you what goes into taking *Passages* out on the road.

First there are creative decisions to be made. How do we want the exhibit to look? What do we want guests to experience as they go through it? What items should be displayed? What materials do we need to showcase them?

Then there are the logistics. Months of planning, paperwork, and heavy lifting go into traveling each exhibit. From budgets and timelines, through itemizing, packing, and shipping, to receiving it all and setting it up on location — it can be a perilous journey.

To give you an idea what goes into it, guests who recently visited *Passages* in Springfield, Missouri, experienced:

- A working replica of the Gutenberg printing press
- "The Wilde World of the Bible" kids' adventure, featuring a special Noah's Ark experience and multimedia developed by Veggie Tales creator Phil Vischer
- iPod Touch audio tours for laymen and scholars alike
- St. Jerome's Cave, where guests imitate fourth-century monks transcribing the Bible by candlelight
- Holograms and video screens that re-enact historical scenes related to the Bible
- A kids' scavenger hunt guided by iPod and led by Louie the Lion
- Animatronics of historical figures like Queen Anne Boleyn and William Tyndale, who played major roles in preserving and translating Scriptures over the centuries



Passages has visited five U.S. cities. In addition, a number of smaller exhibits have traveled to colleges and universities around the country, and international exhibits have traveled overseas, including engagements in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, a year-long exhibit in Jerusalem, and an exhibit in Havana, Cuba.



Passages is opening in
Santa Clarita, CA on April 3rd, 2015!

For more information go to
ExplorePassages.com.

The Bible As You've Never Seen it Before

A Bible curriculum that could reach high school students, to be introduced into the wider U.S. educational market (public, private, and charter schools)....

That was the goal. *And now it's becoming reality!*

To find the right company to provide the best integration of new technologies, so the curriculum could reach students in the most technologically advanced ways, was the first challenge.

Museum of the Bible tasked Jeff Schneider, Vice President of Information and Interactive Systems, to find the right partner. Jeff's search led him to Israel — to the company Compedia.

Compedia is a world leader in educational technology, noted for their work with prestigious brands like Disney, Sony, and Intel, as well as institutions such as Cambridge, MIT, and Israel's own Technion and Bar-Ilan University. They've launched educational products in 50 countries and 35 different languages.

Compedia brings a vast array of resources to the table, including Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR), which enable users to experience 3D objects in a much more immersive way. With VR, a computer-generated virtual environment is formed, inviting users to interact. AR blends virtual environments together with real-life images, making it easier — and a lot more fun — for users to relate to what's presented.

Guests of all ages and backgrounds will be able to personally engage in exploration and discovery.

Over the past year, Museum of the Bible and Compedia co-developed Augmented Reality Plus (AR+), an enhanced version of the original AR, but unique unto itself. It combines the intriguing parts of Augmented Reality with the functional aspects of Virtual Reality to create a classroom experience for students that is now being sought by many educational publishers around the world. The patent for this process is underway.

Museum of the Bible faced initial challenges in rolling the curriculum out into the public school systems in the U.S. market. Compedia's Executive Director and Chairman of the Board Gil Ilutowich suggested launching a pilot project



Through the exciting AR+ activities Compedia is creating for us, every visitor to the Museum of the Bible will be able to interact with exhibits using tablets.

in Israel to introduce the curriculum to Israeli high school students. In October 2014, the curriculum was translated into Hebrew and launched in the city of Ramat Gan, Israel, a suburb of Tel Aviv.

The Ministry of Education, school administrators, teachers, and students have overwhelmingly embraced the curriculum and its presentation through AR+. The Israeli National Ministry of Education has approved this course for official school credit, clearing way for it to be launched in schools across the entire nation in the 2015-16 school year.

The "core curriculum" represents an American-English version of the curriculum from which all American and international versions of the curriculum are adapted.

The development of the core curriculum includes the expertise of more than 100 scholars, writers, pedagogues, graphics artists, and technical staff.

The U.S. public school version requires a special adaptation of the core curriculum with the assistance of legal guidance — likely taking about 18 months.

In addition to their work with the curriculum, Compedia is developing cutting-edge software for the Museum in Washington, D.C. Through the exciting AR+ activities they're creating for us, every Museum visitor will be able to interact with exhibits. Guests of all ages and backgrounds will be able to personally engage in exploration and discovery.

Compedia is helping the Museum of the Bible develop and pioneer many added features that no other museum has ever enjoyed. Their contributions to both the curriculum and the Museum are truly game-changers for Museum of the Bible.



Green Scholars Initiative's Logos Conference

From around the world, they came — 36 students and 11 mentors — and for two weeks were immersed in a community of assistance, support, and encouragement in their academic pursuits.

The Green Scholars Initiative (GSI) hosted its third annual Logos Conference this past July in Oxford. The conference is a program developed for encouraging and training students working on GSI projects in the fields of language and textual criticism.

Students heard from Alister McGrath, foremost authority on the life of C.S. Lewis and author of *The Dawkins Delusion*. Another lecture featured Christian Askeland and his evidence against the so-called Jesus' Wife fragment.

In workshops, students studied Greek under Dirk Obbink, Latin with Ralph Hanna, Hebrew with Hugh Williamson, Syriac with David Taylor, and Ethiopic with Philip Booth — a great opportunity for students to work

Eagle and Child.

Our English hosts even had a Fourth of July party to celebrate English independence from those tea-tax-evading colonists ... complete with fireworks.

Every year, the evidence of the

The exposure and relationships we're able to afford students through Logos is an invaluable asset as they advance in scholarship and discovery.

closely with top scholars.

But it wasn't all study. There were some fun excursions to famous sites: The Eagle and Child, where C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the rest of the Inklings often met, and The Lamb and Flag, where the Inklings moved after becoming disenchanted with The

Logos Conference's success is seen in presentations by returning fellows who talk about their current research to a room filled with leading scholars. The exposure and relationships we're able to afford students through Logos is an invaluable asset as they advance in scholarship and discovery.

From a Babe to a King

Celebrities and the Bible

It's not a line from a Christmas carol. An exciting new rotating exhibit debuted at *Passages* last fall. It offers a unique glimpse into the lives of celebrities — including U.S. presidents, iconic citizens, baseball's Babe Ruth, and the King of Rock-n-Roll, Elvis Presley — through their Bibles.

The Bible signed by Babe Ruth was printed when the U.S. government was giving pocket-sized Bibles to soldiers in WWII. It is speculated that Ruth, a passionate supporter of the American war effort, likely signed this copy at a rally, making one American soldier's day.

Many are familiar with Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*. Few know that Webster also published a Bible translation. A Bible he presented to his grandson William H. Goodrich, a

descendent of the B.F. Goodrich family, is a part of this collection.

A personal Bible from President Grover Cleveland and a soldier's pocket Bible signed by President Theodore Roosevelt are also on display. And these Bibles truly breathe history. They contain handwritten notes and inscriptions. The pocket Bible signed



Grammys — all for gospel albums. Elvis' Uncle Vester and Aunt Clettes gave him the Bible in the exhibit for Christmas in 1957. It contains many personal

These Bibles truly breathe history.

by Roosevelt is connected to three different wars. In it, he wrote, "This is worth reading, comrade and friend."

Elvis knew *Blue Suede Shoes*. But he also knew Scripture. You could argue that his gospel recordings were more successful than his contemporary music. During his career he won three

underlines, notes, and highlights.

From baseball to rock-n-roll, citizens to presidents, the celebrity Bible collection has gathered an enthusiastic response from guests. It offers a glimpse into the lives of legendary Americans, and a slice of American history on the side.