

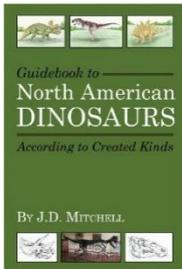


September 2015

“Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.”
1 John 2:24-25 (ESV)

Dear Friends of FACT and the Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum,

We often hear the following question from Christians who visit the museum: “Why can’t you just focus on Jesus and stop making creation such a big deal?” Some think that by presenting dinosaurs in the context of biblical history and a young earth we are erecting a needless stumbling block to the gospel message. What some may not realize is that we *do* emphasize the Gospel! We focus on Genesis and the creation account because it lays the foundation for all the major doctrines of Scripture, including the good news of Jesus Christ. Understanding the beginning and what went wrong when Adam sinned allows us to present God’s solution to the problem of sin.



J.D. Mitchell, author of *Guidebook to North American Dinosaurs According to Created Kinds*, explains how the message of creation led him to the Good News. The following is an excerpt from Mr. Mitchell’s testimony:

After five years at university, I found immediate success in the world of business and engineering and was married to my wonderful wife at the age of 24. A few years later we had two children. We were in agreement that we should get back to regular church attendance. (I wanted my children to be nurtured amongst “good” people.) I assumed there was a God, but did not see any evidence that he was personal or cared much for the universe he had created some 15 billion years previously.

For the next dozen or so years we continued our attendance in liberal mainline churches, where the emphasis was on “Churchianity” and there was little if any emphasis on eternal salvation. I was fine with this; and these churches had no problem with my naturalistic philosophy. The Bible to me was no more valuable than a number of the other great books I had in my extensive library. I had no concept of the Bible actually being God’s inerrant, authoritative, inspired Word because I was sure it was foundationally in error. While I read the Bible, I had no doubt that evolution and billions of years were scientific facts. I did not know if God set the evolutionary process into place early on, or if he was involved on a regular basis. I tried to accept the other spiritual aspects of the Christian faith, but always struggled because of the problem of Genesis 1-11. If the Bible was in error in the beginning, at what point should one start accepting it? Because of the influence of the church, I guess it would be accurate to say that I was a theistic evolutionist.

In 1984 I was Clerk of Session of the Presbyterian Church, where we had membership. I attended a Bible study on Genesis, where I waxed eloquently that Genesis chapters 1-11 were to be taken as allegory. I got no

argument from anyone, including the pastor, during the class.

But then, after the class, as I headed to the car to go home with my family, I was intercepted by a man who had been in the Genesis class. The man's name was Jim Blunck, and I am forever indebted to his God-driven intervention. He asked me to listen to an audio tape on creation science. I told him that I would do so (if only to humor him), and I did. I may have heard of creation science previously, but had no idea what it was. This audio tape was my introduction to creation science, and its messages had profound and eternal effects on me. The naturalistic scales quickly fell from my eyes, and I was able to see that my secular faith had been built on lies. Almost immediately I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior and was born again! My Bible studies took on an entirely different set of presuppositions. To God be the glory!

There are many in Christian leadership who maintain that people do not come to Christ through creation science, but they are terribly wrong. I do not know how I could have ever accepted Christ without the ability to see that His creation and His Word are compatible. Since my acceptance I have met scores of others who have similar stories to mine.

A large part of the reason the Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum exists is to help people like J.D. Mitchell see the truth of God's Word and ultimately put their trust in Jesus Christ for salvation.

In the News

What a great summer it's been here at the museum! As of September 19th, over 8500 people have toured our exhibits in 2015. Some of the controversy we faced this year (i.e., Glendive schools cancelling field trips—see our June newsletter for details) and the ensuing publicity turned out to have a positive impact on our attendance. Several visitors told us they were motivated to “see the museum for ourselves” after reading accounts that ran in various newspapers across the country.

In the process, we have had opportunities to share the truth of God's Word with numerous skeptics, who are willing to visit a dinosaur museum but would never desire to set foot in a church. Please pray for visitors like these, who wrestle with issues of eternal significance.

The museum was not the only place experiencing growth this summer. Following is a report of this summer's fossil digs from Martha Lohman (Martha and her husband Tommy are dig supervisors for FACT):

The 2015 dig season has come to a close. The months were full of enthusiastic guests. Much dirt flew about the dig site from the picks and shovels of our team preparing for the diggers, the busy working of screwdrivers by the diggers themselves—and with a little extra help from the 120 mile-per-hour wind storm that blew through town!

Tommy and I were very thankful for the addition of our friend and intern, Jonah Ruf, to the dig team this summer. His strength and laughter encouraged our spirits and helped our work, enabling us to accomplish far more than we could have without him.



Tommy & Jonah at the dig site

We had the opportunity to lead many digs this year, including grandparents with their grandchildren, families on vacation, and two week-long group digs with Tom DeRosa (Creation Studies Institute) and Buddy Davis (Answers in Genesis). It was a joy to watch faces light up as they unearthed a bone. But the deeper reason we host the digs is to connect the truth of the Bible with the widespread fascination of dinosaurs. While it's certainly rewarding to find fossils, and to teach people how to remove and identify them, it's also a unique opportunity to elevate God as Creator of all things, Judge of man's sin and Redeemer of our souls.

We are frequently asked about what we find on the digs. It's rare for us to discover an articulated or partially articulated skeleton (meaning, the bones are laid in the ground in a similar fashion to how they would have been connected while the dinosaur was alive). We attribute this to the terrific forces operating within the global Flood of Noah's day, as recorded in Genesis. It is much more common for us to uncover individual bones, or even pieces of bones.

Some of what we excavated during our 2015 season includes:

- *Vertebrae, ranging from nickel-sized tail vertebrae to a baseball-sized vertebra with complete pedicles and lamina, and partial transverse and spinous processes.*



Fibula

- *A 15-inch fibula (likely Pachycephalosaurus).*
- *A 7-inch cervical neck rib (likely Tyrannosaurus Rex).*
- *Dinosaur rib sections, ossified tendons, foot bones, teeth and some still unidentified bones.*



Vertebrae

- *Possible fossilized dinosaur skin, attached to what appears to be a foot claw. Study remains to be done on this specimen, but we are excited about this unusual discovery!*



Scute

- *A 5-inch-long alligator/crocodile scute (body armor), the largest found on the property to date.*
- *Alligator/croc femur and teeth, partial turtle skull and possible related bones, and fish teeth.*
- *Fossilized figs, marsh plants and a sequoia cone.*



Possible Dinosaur Skin

If you are interested in joining us for the rewarding work of an authentic dinosaur dig experience during our 2016 season, please visit our website at creationtruth.org/digs for more information. We hope to see you next year!

Dino Tracks

- ☞ Please also consider joining us for our Creation Celebration in 2016! While an exact date has not yet been determined for this event, it will take place in February or March. In either case, we know that those who attend will be challenged and encouraged! Please be in prayer as we work on finalizing the speaker the Lord has for us.

☞ As we end 2015, would you consider financially supporting the Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum? Enclosed is a pledge form you can use to give a one-time gift or set up a recurring donation. Since we are a 501c3 non-profit, not only are all donations tax deductible, but there are many great ways that you can use to support the museum if you wish to, especially at the end of the tax year. The following is a portion of an article from the Institute for Creation Research on planned giving (used with permission) that you may find informative and helpful:

Wills. *The most basic and important part of any estate plan begins with a well-thought-out will. A will does not need to be complicated or expensive, but it should be designed to work in concert with other planning tools you may have. After making provision for your family (1 Timothy 5:8), plans can be specified within a will for Kingdom work, usually with a short, simple paragraph.*

Trusts. *Individuals with more complex estates often find that a Trust—in which assets are managed by one person for the benefit of others—is the best way to administer their financial resources. All trusts function in a similar fashion to ensure that your beneficiaries receive property according to your wishes. Trusts are complex, so you should seek expert advice if you plan to establish one.*

Life Insurance. *One of the easiest ways to provide for family, loved ones, and charitable work is through life insurance. By simply including specific charitable organizations as a beneficiary, you can ensure that a portion of the proceeds will go to your favorite charities.*

Gifts of appreciated stock. *To avoid the significant tax burden on the sale of appreciated stock, it may make sense to give the shares directly to federally-qualified charitable organizations. Shares that have been held for at least one year may be given this way, providing significant tax savings by allowing the donor to deduct the full market value from income tax, while also avoiding capital gains tax. A double "bounty."*

Charitable Gift Annuities. *Assets that are not producing an adequate income (stock, property, cash, CDs, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) can be turned into a Charitable Gift Annuity. These special annuities provide guaranteed income from the value of the donated assets, while also providing a present tax deduction and a tax-free portion of the income stream. Another "bounty."*

(Morris IV, H. M. 2015. Giving Opportunities This Fall. Acts & Facts. 44 (10): 21. Copyright © 2015 Institute for Creation Research, www.icr.org. Used by permission.)

We are excited to have each of you on our team through prayer, encouragement and giving. We thank the Lord for you, and look forward to continuing the ministry together as He works in and through the Foundation Advancing Creation Truth and the Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum. Please pray with us that everything we do will always be for His glory alone. God bless you!

Otis

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