

THE SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE OF CHRISTIANITY

—by Peter Hammond

“The devastating effect that evolutionary humanism has had on society, and even the Church, makes it clear that everyone – including Christians – needs to return to the clear teachings of Scripture in Genesis and acknowledge Christ as our Creator and Saviour. Genesis has the answers to many of the problems facing the compromising Church and the questioning world today.”

This quote by Ken Ham clearly explains the need for Christians to identify the scientific heritage of our faith. Because of this need, he developed the Creation Museum near Cincinnati in America. It is absolutely magnificent.

I spent two days exploring, examining and experiencing it. It was not nearly enough time. As one who has visited museums all over the world, I must rate the Creation Museum as one of the very best. The museum is God-honouring, Bible-based and Christ-centred.

Science and the Bible?

The Creation Museum is effective both in education and evangelism. Not only is it extremely well thought out and laid out, but it is inspired and inspiring. It is a modern equivalent of the nailing of the '95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg. Future generations may look back at the opening of the Creation Museum as significant an event for reformation in our day as Luther's bold protest was in the 16th Century.

The museum is the brainchild of Ken Ham of 'Answers in Genesis'. Australian born Ken has become one of the most in-demand Christian conference speakers and

talk show guests. Ken Ham is heard daily on the radio feature 'Answers...with Ken Ham', broadcast in more than 900 stations worldwide. Ken and his wife, Mally, have five children and four grandchildren.

As a science teacher in Australia, Ken came to appreciate the foundational importance of Genesis to every area of life, and why Creation is often under attack in the World War of Worldviews.

Showcasing Creation

Ken Ham launched 'Answers in Genesis' in 1994. His best selling book 'The Lie: Evolution' shows how compromise on Genesis has opened dangerous doors to undermine Biblical authority and subvert the culture. In hundreds of public meetings Ken Ham has shown how the breakdown of society and the family, school violence, gay 'marriage', abortion and lawlessness all relate to the humanist rejection of the Book of Genesis.

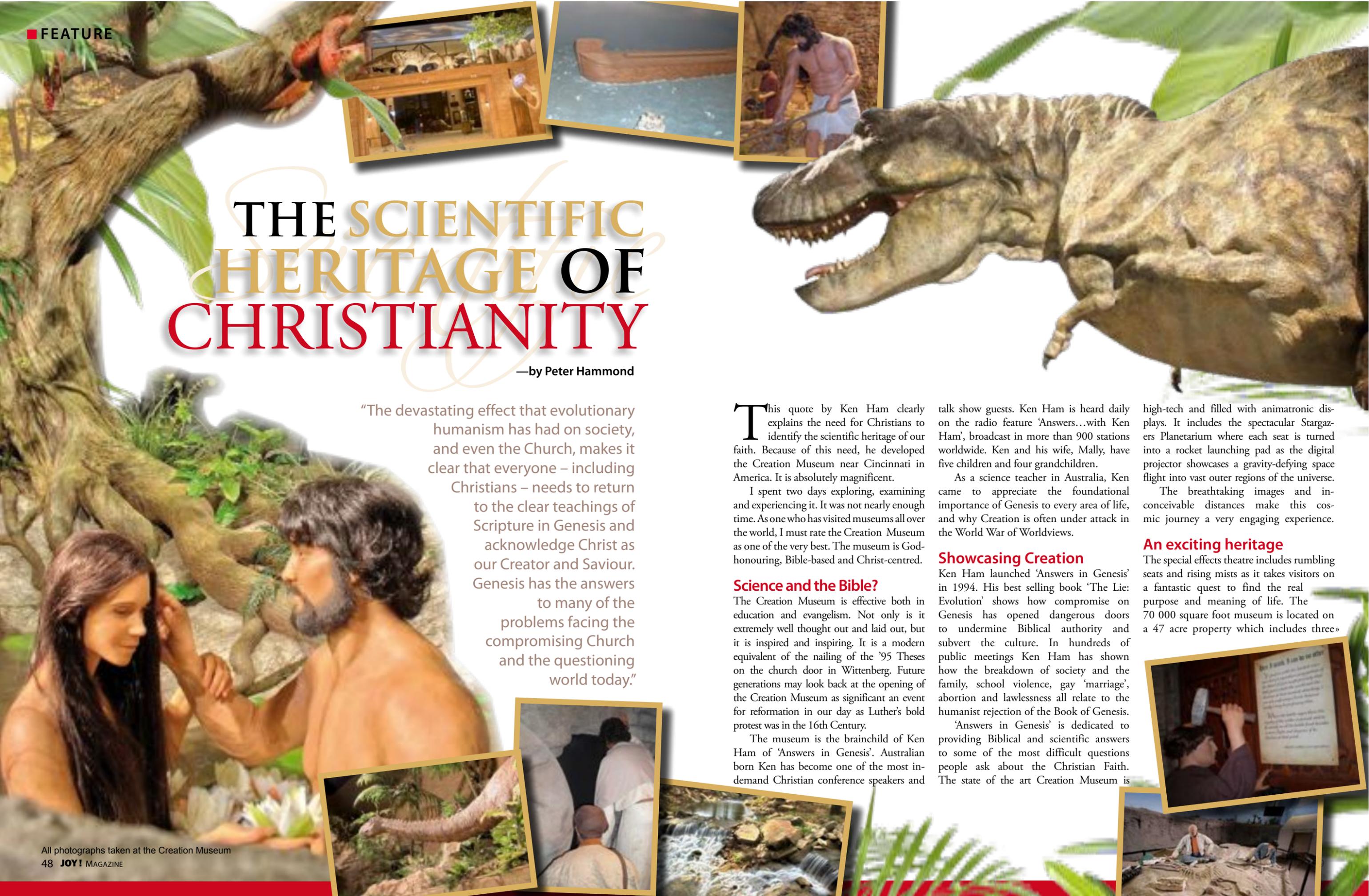
'Answers in Genesis' is dedicated to providing Biblical and scientific answers to some of the most difficult questions people ask about the Christian Faith. The state of the art Creation Museum is

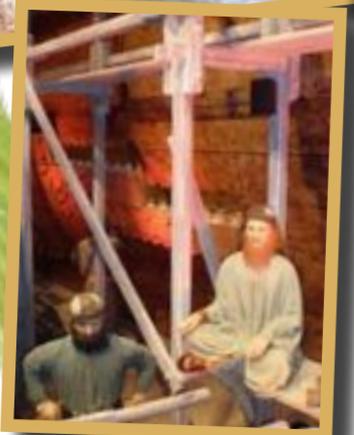
high-tech and filled with animatronic displays. It includes the spectacular Stargazers Planetarium where each seat is turned into a rocket launching pad as the digital projector showcases a gravity-defying space flight into vast outer regions of the universe.

The breathtaking images and inconceivable distances make this cosmic journey a very engaging experience.

An exciting heritage

The special effects theatre includes rumbling seats and rising mists as it takes visitors on a fantastic quest to find the real purpose and meaning of life. The 70 000 square foot museum is located on a 47 acre property which includes three»





magnificent gardens celebrating God's Creation. Over 6 000 plants surround the three acre lake, with 500 varieties of flora filling the gardens.

The mile long walkway takes one across arching bridges, through a rainforest garden, past humming birds and butterflies. Turtles rest on logs in the lake and carnivorous plants, like the Venus Fly Trap and the Spider Lily, introduce us to species of plants most of us have never seen.

Fabulous fauna and flora

The botanical gardens and lake surrounding the museum are a delightful location for picnics and walks. The museum includes in its live exhibits a petting zoo featuring such exotic animals as miniature donkeys, a zonkey and a zorse. It provides a rich and varied experience for its guests. Since its opening, in 2007, over 600 000 visitors have enjoyed the Creation Museum.

The Bible speaks for itself at the Creation Museum. The exhibit halls are gilded with Truth and the gardens teem with life. It is unique in presenting the scientific evidence for Creation alongside the obvious lies of the evolutionist propaganda. Clearly Christians do not need to be afraid of debate. In the free market place of ideas, it is clear that there is no conflict between scientific, biological, astronomical, geological and physical truth and the Scriptures.

Dinosaurs

The Creation Museum is literally breathtaking. It includes exceptional fossil and mineral collections, a reconstruction of the building of Noah's ark and eye-blinking, mouth-chewing, tail-swinging dinosaurs. A 40 foot long Tyrannosaurus Rex, a huge Triceratops and Velociraptors stand in the Dino Centre. Some studies have suggested that Velociraptors could run 60kms per hour. The T Rex stood 4.5 to 5 metres high, weighing from 5 400 to 6 800 kilograms. Lifesize figures retain authenticity.

Random chance? No, Creation is God's handiwork!

The Creation Museum not only showcases the large animals, but many of God's smaller creatures too. The chameleon is a masterpiece of nature. The

amazing design is seen in the chameleon's rapid-fire tongue which accelerates five times faster than a fighter jet and shoots twice as far as the length of its body. A cartilage rod forms the catapult while a special muscle in its tongue helps cock, trigger and catapult the tongue. The core of the tongue telescopes outward; a suction cup tip catches the prey. Each of these complex parts are useless without the others.

How could all of these parts come together by chance? It only makes sense that all these parts were designed to work together – right from the beginning.

The splendour of Creation displayed for all to see

The chameleon's skin can change colour – to communicate with other chameleons, to show off its mood and to adjust to heat and light. A chameleon's eye has a unique adjustable lens which can calculate the distance of a moving target using only one eye – much like a modern telephoto camera lens.

Since it only needs one eye to judge distance, the chameleon can move and focus each eye separately, seeing two different images at the same time. Its brain can process two completely different images simultaneously and its two independently rotating eyes can look 360 degrees at the same time.

Then there is the Poison Dart frog. A single frog has enough poison to kill 20 000 mice; just one drop can stop your heart beating. Ipibatidine, taken from the poison of this frog, is 200 times more potent than morphine as a pain killer, yet without the addictive side effects. Poison Dart frogs raised in captivity don't have poison – the poisons come from a food that they eat in the wild.

Showcasing Biblical events

There is a broad wall display highlighting Creation Science research on sedimentary layers in the Grand Canyon - a formation of petrified forests, carbon dating and radi-

oactive dating methods. The Creation Museum is dynamic and continually growing and expanding.

I was fortunate to hear a lecture from Ken Ham on the days that I visited. His Australian accent, keen sense of humour, captivating stories and exceptional illustrations, have made him one of North America's most effective Christian communicators.

Christians do not need to be afraid of debate. In the free market place of ideas, it is clear that there is no conflict between scientific, biological, astronomical, geological and physical truth and the Scriptures. The Creation Museum goes beyond presenting the compelling facts of Creation and takes us on a walk through history to proclaim the Bible as the supreme authority.

The Museum regularly hosts guest lecturers, and often presents concerts and workshops. Some of the live programming has included 'Snakes Alive!' a Genesis Creation musical adventure, 'In Search of Noah's Ark' and a Noah's ark based theatrical presentation 'Let the Rain Come'. Numerous polished film productions complement the themes of the exhibits including: 'Six Days of Creation', 'Dinosaurs and Dragons' and 'The Last Adam'.

A victory for Christianity

The Creation Museum cost \$27 million to build. Considering that 'Answers in Genesis' is a not-for-profit Christian organisation and that the building of the construction of the museum was entirely financed by private donations, it is an extraordinary achievement. This privately funded museum is vastly superior to the much better funded state museums.

The Creation Museum goes beyond presenting the compelling facts of

Creation and takes us on a walk through history to proclaim the Bible as the supreme authority over all areas of life.

Well worth a visit

For more information about the Creation Museum visit www.creationmuseum.com You may also want to subscribe to the 'Answers' magazine www.answersmagazine.com ■

DR. PETER HAMMOND is a pioneer missionary of Frontline Fellowship. www.frontline.org.za



Creation Museum founder: Ken Ham

A Biblical scene of Moses and Aaron depicted in the museum