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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A MORE HISTORICALLY ACCURATE NATIVITY ON DISPLAY AT THE CREATION MUSEUM: First-Century Bethlehem Marketplace and Home, Dramatic Presentations Bring Biblical Story to Life Beginning this Weekend

PETERSBURG, KY., December 10, 2009 – While visitors to the Creation Museum may at first be confused by the absence of a stable at the museum's annual live nativity presentation, all is soon revealed as an archaeologist character explains the more historically accurate presence of an average first-century home in which Mary and Joseph likely found refuge during their trip to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

"Research has shown that in those days (and even today) houses are built so the animals could be brought inside at night," Creation Museum founder and president Ken Ham said. "The manger was often built into the floor of the lower level of the home."

"Also, the Bible does not say there was an innkeeper, and the word translated 'inn' in many translations basically means 'guest room' or can mean 'upper room,'" Ham continued. "Finally, the text of Scripture makes it clear Joseph and Mary were already in Bethlehem – they didn't arrive at night looking for a place to stay. Luke 2:4-6 tells us that 'while they were there the days were accomplished' for her to deliver the baby. They could have been in Bethlehem for a number of days or even weeks before she gave birth."

Just as the Creation Museum and its parent ministry Answers in Genesis take the Scriptures as accurately written history regarding creation, so do they regarding the Nativity. Many long-held Christmas traditions have developed through the years into something quite different than what is recorded in the biblical accounts. Another example is that of the "Wise Men." The Bible never states that there were three of them, nor did they reach the infant the night of his birth, but rather some time later.

"Because the birth of Christ is a real event in real history, we wanted to infuse realism into our presentation," said Mark Looy, co-founder and CCO. "We want our guests to be swept back in time, and to have history come to life for them."

In addition to the live nativity, two dramatic presentations will add to guests' sense of having been transported to first-century Bethlehem. Actress Geri Campbell will portray Elizabeth, cousin to Mary, and explore the emotions the two women felt as the mothers-to-be of the long-awaited Messiah and the man who would announce his coming, John the Baptist.

Actor Deks Nordquist fills the role of a temple guard, ordered by King Herod to search out the infant—the "King of the Jews"—and destroy Him, but he instead finds hope and peace on his journey. The character of Hyam, the Temple Guard, is fictional, but his story is based on what is known to be first-century history and grounded in the historical events of Scripture. Hyam's testimony mentions some of the violence surrounding Jesus' time on earth, helping guests to understand the tense cultural climate into which Christ was born.

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Both programs as well as the archaeological presentation will be repeated throughout the evening during the live nativity events, running 6-8 p.m. on Dec. 11, 12, 18, 19, 26, 28 and 29, and Jan. 1 and 2. The museum will be open extended hours on those evenings, until 9 p.m. The outdoor presentations are all free, including the spectacular Garden of Lights display next to the museum.

Inside the museum, guests can enjoy holiday musicals and a special planetarium presentation of "The Christmas Star" (tickets are required), where guests will discover the remarkable astronomic events that occurred at the birth of the Savior. Singer/songwriter Buddy Davis will host a Christmas version of his popular Creation Musical Adventures children's workshops, playing a variety of acoustic instruments while exploring many classic Christmas carols. This event is free with museum admission and will be held Dec. 8-12, from 3-4 p.m. each day.

Answers in Genesis speaker Dr. Terry Mortenson will lead a session "From Creation to Bethlehem and Beyond," explaining where Christmas fits in the whole sweep of history and what the Babe born in Bethlehem has to do with the creation of the world and its future destiny. Through this presentation Dr. Mortenson will help people see the big picture of why Jesus came into the world 2,000 years ago. Again free with museum admission, this session is available Dec. 13, 3-4 p.m., and Dec. 17, 24 and 31, from noon to 1 p.m.

The Creation Museum, located near the Cincinnati Airport, is a ministry of Answers in Genesis, a nonprofit Christian organization dedicated to confirming the validity of the Bible from the very first verse. Since its opening in May 2007, the museum has seen more than 915,000 visitors and has hosted the world's major media.

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Note to Editors: For more information about the Creation Museum or Answers in Genesis, please visit www.creationmuseumnews.com. To arrange an interview with Creation Museum representatives, please contact Melany Ethridge of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or Melany@alarryross.com.