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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Invited to Attend ‘Ark Raising’ at Ark Encounter in Northern Kentucky June 25 Amish carpenters bringing life-size re-creation to life

PETERSBURG, Ky., June 10, 2015 – The Ark Encounter being constructed by Answers in Genesis (AiG) in northern Kentucky – a massive life-size version of the biblical Noah’s Ark – is taking shape, with about 70-80 Amish carpenters arriving over the next few weeks to help build it. They will be using some traditional wood-building techniques to bring to life what will be the largest timber-frame structure in the world.

As the first of the 32 “bents” – the vertical curved rib-like sections that give the Ark its structure – have begun to be raised, the media are invited to the site off I-75 south of Cincinnati for photo and interview opportunities as they witness the initial stages of this “Ark Raising.” The Ark, when completed, will be jaw-droppingly huge: almost the length of two football fields and standing five stories high. Media will have the unique opportunity to walk on and around the Ark’s huge platform, piers and towers.



Set for Thursday, June 25, at 11 a.m., the “Ark Raising” event will be hosted by AiG President Ken Ham, who will be available for interviews, along with co-founders Mike Zovath, the VP overseeing the Ark Encounter project, and Mark Looy, VP of Outreach and CCO. On that day, several Amish carpenters will be on-site and can be photographed or filmed as they work. Some of them will be available for on-camera interviews to explain the building techniques. (Info

Caption: Project director Mike Zovath, right, confers with construction workers at the Ark Encounter site.

on obtaining media credentials, which are a must, to visit the construction site on June 25, is found at the end of this release.)

Construction progress has been updated regularly at www.arkencounter.com, as the ground was prepared. A concrete foundation has been poured that will anchor the structure. Video footage taken by a drone flying over the site can also be viewed [here](#).

“It’s a dream come true for me to see the Ark taking shape, a long-held vision finally being fulfilled,” Ham said. “I’m overwhelmed with gratitude to God for what He has accomplished here, and I’m excited for the millions of visitors who will get to experience the Ark Encounter and learn about God’s love and provision for His people. Indeed, our feasibility study indicates a minimum of 1.4 million guests and up to more than 2 million in our first year alone. In addition, this will be a great economic boon for Kentucky.”



Funding for the Ark Encounter has been raised through bonds, donations and memberships toward the \$86 million* first phase of the project. The park’s centerpiece will be the 510-foot-long (85 feet wide, 51 feet high) Noah’s Ark off busy I-75 at exit 154. It is anticipated that the Ark will open in the summer of 2016.

Kentucky granted preliminary approval in 2011 for AiG to receive a performance-based percentage rebate of state sales taxes generated within the park after it opens in 2016. Secularist organizations, however, exerted tremendous pressure on state officials to rescind the approval. The state cited objections such as the content of the messages that will be presented at the Bible-themed park for its denial. Bowing to this

Caption: An Amish worker preps wood in a Colorado mill for delivery to the Ark site in northern Kentucky.

pressure, Gov. Steve Beshear and reversal on

other state officials announced a the incentive last December. A Bourbon Distillery Center, theme park Kentucky Kingdom, Kentucky Speedway and many other facilities have been granted this sales tax rebate.

AiG subsequently filed a federal lawsuit against Kentucky state officials for denying the park participation in the state’s incentive program to receive a future sales tax rebate. The suit asserts that the state’s action has violated a number of constitutional and statutory provisions under federal and state law. AiG has also filed a motion in federal court seeking an injunction to allow the Ark project to participate in the state sales tax rebate, even as its religious discrimination lawsuit proceeds.

Other outreaches of AiG, an apologetics organization, include the Creation Museum, which has been visited by 2.4 million guests since opening in 2007. Last year the

museum unveiled a world-class \$1.5 million exhibit of an allosaur dinosaur skeleton, and hosted the famous Bill Nye/Ken Ham evolution-creation debate (conservatively estimated to have now been watched by upwards of 15 million people).

For more information about AiG, visit <http://www.answersingenesis.org>. The Ark website, with video and photos, is www.ArkEncounter.com

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Note to Editors: For interview requests on media day June 25 and to obtain the necessary credentials and permission to visit the construction site on that day, please contact Melany Ethridge or Kristin Cole of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or Melany@alarryross.com or Kristin@alarryross.com.

***Figure reflects new, additional enhancements to the Ark Encounter.**