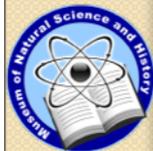


# Faith



Presented by: Ed Van Gennip  
ed@truescience.ca  
Audience: Fellowship Baptist Church – Life After 50.

Intro - Bill Gardner invited me at a wedding shower

Pastor Ball - thank you.

My wife Nancy is here today.

Each of you, 'Life After 50'. I turned 50 this past May, so I fall into your group. But, I still work at IBM each day. I must be doing something wrong!  
Talking the morning off to be here, for which I am grateful to have the opportunity.

Thank you for your prayers over the years.

This past June he gave me the opportunity to speak in Kolkata, India, on a Sunday morning and 3 evenings. I have been hoping to go for 4 years now. It is amazing to see how he works. I was there for a reason I would have never expected. 80% of the trip was covered, I did not need to pay, which was the part I never imagined.  
He does MORE than we ask or imagine. I had asked to go, but not imagined how He would do it, or if He would.

My goal is to challenge you in some way. If I talk for 45 minutes and you walk away unchanged, or at least walk away without something to seriously think about then I am only entertainment. That is not my reason for being here. I seek to continually grow in the Lord, not just be entertained. I hope you do also. Preparing and doing this helps me grow.

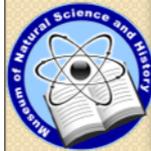
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I am very interested in science. I spend a fair bit of time studying and reading about science topics. As I talk about faith you will see science sprinkled through, as science is also about faith.

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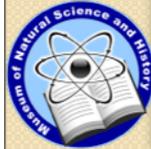
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# Faith

- A huge topic.
- Faith in action.
- Read Heb. 11.
- Definition
  - Hebrews 11:1
  - Faith & Blind faith.
- Examples
  - Hebrews 11 & all over the Bible.
- So what does it mean to me?
  - Power through faith
  - Personal response.



When you think about faith what do you think of? Some examples from day to day life?

faith in our cars, planes, drugs, water, food, government, ...

faith in gravity, in your furnace or A/C, many have faith in evolution.

faith the church will use your donations well, when you use your credit card online, faith in the company to not abuse it.

Defn - confidence, assurance

- both are states of mind. Mind over matter - our mind believes what we do not necessarily see around us.

Bible has lots of examples of faith and evidence to assist our faith. I will go over some of this.

I feel I need to share something personal, otherwise I am talking without credibility.

I don't really like doing that. At work I don't ask my team to do something I do not do. ie- carry pager.



Luke 18:17 “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

This child has faith - and it is shown by his action. He has faith dad will catch him so he takes action, he jumps.

Faith in God is similar, it affects all we do.

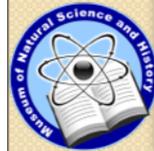
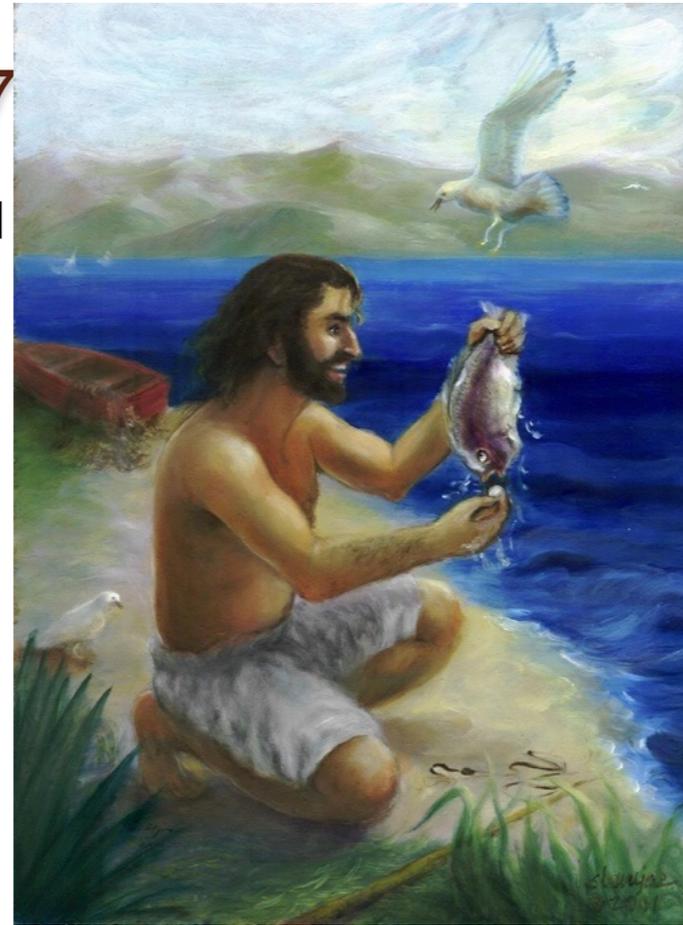
Read Hebrews 11.

See many examples.

Lets look at some other examples of faith in the Bible.

## Matthew 17:24-27

v27: "... go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel."

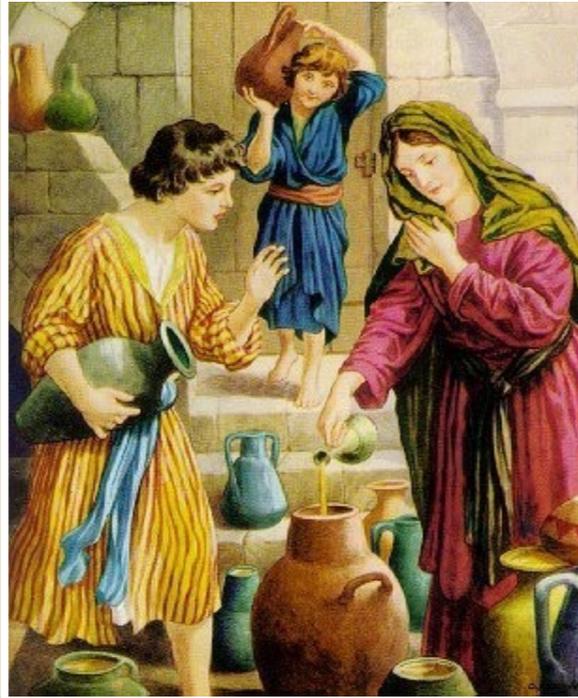


Coin in fishes mouth: a tax was requested of Jesus.  
Jesus said he did not need to pay tax. But he does to not cause problems.  
He then tells Peter what to do.

Peter does not say 'that is dumb, fish do not have money, ...' He does it. Believes, has faith in his master.

Do you believe this is a true history or only a nice story, an example that we must pay our taxes?

## 2 Kings 4:1-7

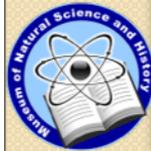


V3,4: “ Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbours for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side..”

Prophet Elisha. Womans husband died. Had some debts. Were going to take her sons to pay to debts. She had Nothing but a small jar of olive oil.

She did not question Elisha. Had faith in him.

Result - she paid the debt in full and lived on the remaining oil and value of it when sold.

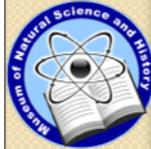




## Exodus 14:13-31

v21b, 22: “the LORD swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, so the waters were divided. The sons of Israel went through

the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the waters were like a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.”



A bigger example.

Red Sea parting. Notice 'dry ground', notice 'water like a wall on left and right'.

I once heard a pastor talking about the people walking through the mud!. Also that the sea dried up.

Not what the Bible clearly says.

Is this a true story? Do we believe it? Have faith in what the Bible tells us? I do!

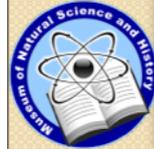
State many more miracles. Gave sight to blind, hears the lame, told people things only they themselves knew.

Jesus raised the dead, as did others like Elisha and Paul.

How about today? Can we still today believe what the Bible says as history is real? Any evidence to stand behind such a belief?

Here are a few personal example which have helped strengthen my faith in the historical accuracy of the Bible.

# Oldest Living organism

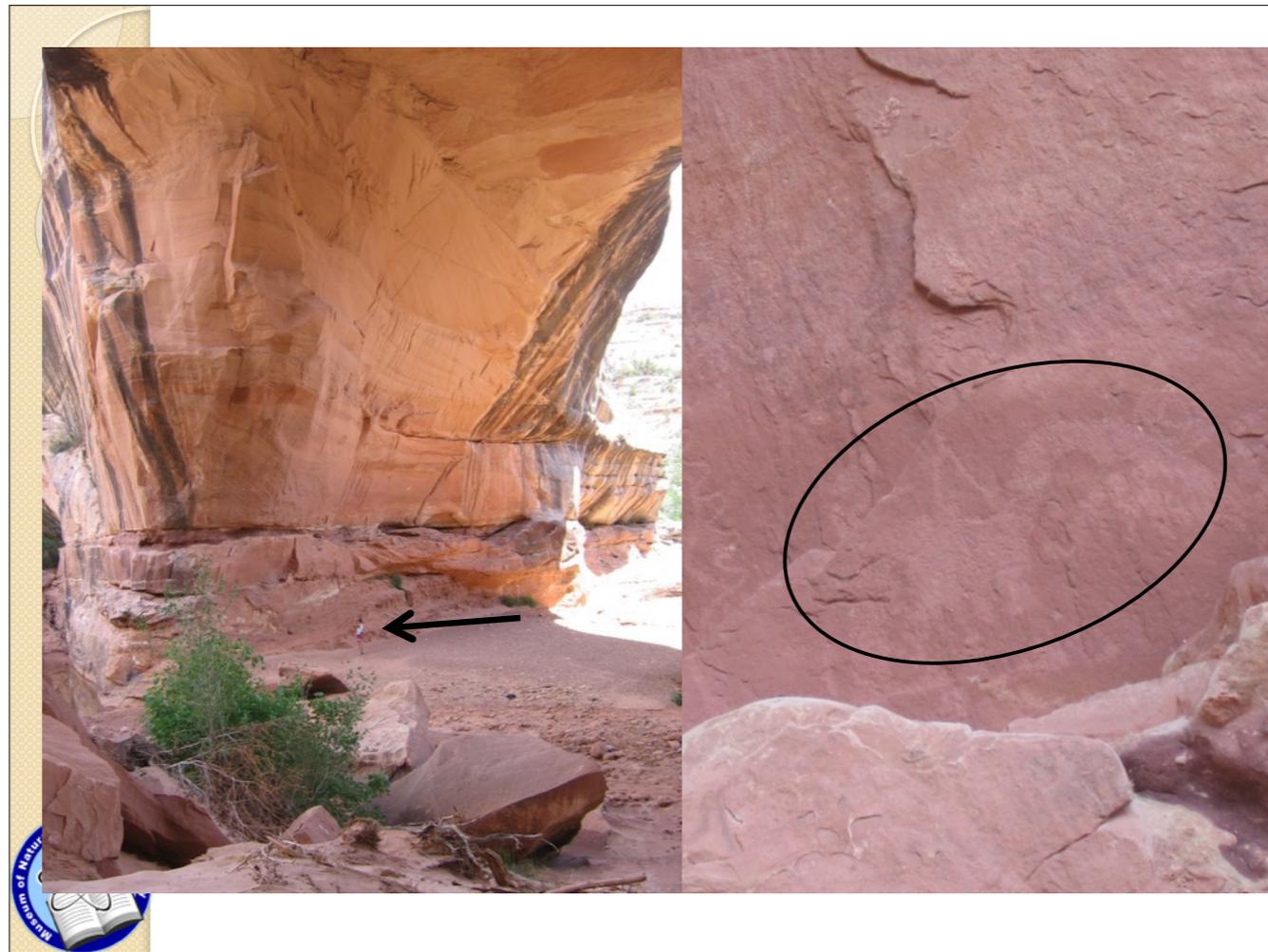


Picture of me in 2006 in the Inyo mountains of California.

It is a coincidence that the oldest living organism on earth - an Ancient Bristlecone pine tree, is about 4200 years old ( some say up to 4800 years old) which means it started growing shortly after the flood.

Our faith is not blind. Some examples in the Bible we must just believe, no evidence, but there is much evidence for many things. Some evidence not direct, like this, but when we see a lot of circumstantial evidence. It all adds up.

We can more easily have faith, believe the global flood when we see evidence like this. We see similar evidence in astronomy, geology, Cell biology, all areas of science.



Same trip, we travelled to Natural Bridges National Park, in Utah, USA.  
Pueblo Indians lived here from 900-1200 AD.  
Carved a dinosaur in the rock just left and up from where I am standing.  
But dinosaurs supposedly lived many millions of years ago and are long extinct.  
How could these Indians carve this if they did not see dinosaurs?

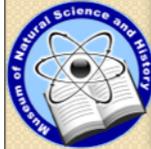
More indirect evidence against evolution, in favour of creation as it appears dinosaurs lived a thousand years ago, well within the creation time window.

You may ask why I pick on evolution when I said I am talking about faith?

Go to next slide.

# Faith – different kinds

- Faith definition:
  - Belief that is not based on proof.
  - A set of principles or beliefs.
  - Belief in God or the doctrines or teaching of religion.
  - Bible says “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
- Read Romans 1:18-23
- Both creation (a God) and evolution (no God) are faith based beliefs:
  - Is evidence in various fields of science.
  - Cannot see God, cannot see evolution happening.
  - Both are ‘things hoped for’.



A brief look at what faith is, a different angle.

Why both hoped for?

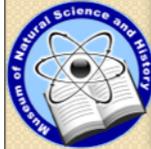
we want God to be real, to look forward to a better eternal future.

others do not want God to be real, they do not want to face him on judgment day. Do not want to be accountable for their actions.

Romans 1:18,23 talk to this.

# Scientific Community Leader

- “We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, *in spite* of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, *in spite* of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism.”
  - Richard Lewontin, Billions and billions of demons (review of *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* by Carl Sagan, 1997), *The New York Review*, p. 31, 9 January 1997.
- Look at what he says:
  - Patent absurdity
  - Failure to fulfill
  - Just-so stories
  - A prior commitment
  - To materialism
- This community has closed it's mind to 'super natural'.
- Science was once about looking at all possibilities.
- Do not exclude God because of counter evidence but an unfounded 'prior commitment'.
- How narrow minded!
- Blind faith!



15 years ago and science has advanced a lot, especially in genetics and cell biology.

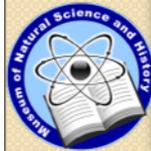
Human Genome project - one result - common single male and female ancestor from Africa.  
Hello - sounds like Adam and Eve to me. NO - aprior commitment!

Creation and evolution are big topics today. Books being written.

Bill Nye, the science guy - on youtube a month ago!

# Be ready – to give an answer

- 1 Peter 3:13-16: Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.** But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.
- Give an answer using the Bible:
  - Accuracy of historical events. Nothing recorded has yet been proven false.
  - Accuracy of prophecy. All events predicted have occurred exactly as stated, or are yet to happen. None have been proven wrong.
  - Consistency with science. There is no science that contradicts what the Bible teaches.
- Give an answer using your personal experience (testimony)
  - No one can argue with your personal experiences.



Jignesh - Hindu faith. Asked questions. Could not explain anything. Said his wife is the one who really knows. We cannot be like this.

We are commanded to share with others, in this case when they ask us. We must be ready.

To give an answer it must not be just what we know in our head, but also what we have experienced in our lives.

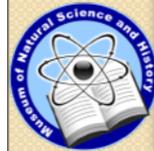
People can question the Bible but really hard to question ones personal experiences. Faith is more than head knowledge.

This is what I really want to talk about today.

# Faith – beyond the head



- Noah. Gen 6:9,10,22
- Abraham. Gen 22: 2.
- Gideon. Judges 6
- David. 1 Sam. 17:32,37,49
- Elijah. 1 Kings 18:36-38
- Jesus. Luke 22:39-44
- Paul.



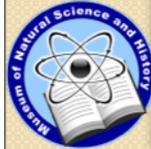
June 2012, Nik Wallenda safely cross over Niagara Falls - USA to Canada.  
First person to do it so close. First person since 1896.

If I ask you, do you think Nik can walk across the falls?  
You have faith, you think he can do it.  
If I ask you to get in a wheel barrow and let him push you across?  
Do you still have faith, or will you let fear and doubt get in the way?

Noah - righteous and faithful. Told to build an ark. V22 - did everything God commanded.  
Abraham - told to offer son. Left next morning. No hesitation to follow. Trust.  
Gideon - weak faith. Asked for multiple signs. God still used him mightily.  
David - Killed lion and bear. God grew his faith to prepare for Goliath.  
Elijah - takes on 450 prophets of Baal. Prays and calls for fire from heaven. Great faith God would answer. He did.  
Jesus - prayed 3 times. Sweat like blood. Did not want to go to the cross. But, had faith in his father - thy will be done.  
Paul - many things. Need to list ½ of NT for all his stuff.

# Faith in Action – Results

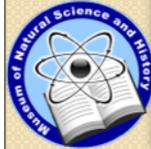
- Noah – Saved from flood. Father of all mankind.
- Abraham – father of the Jewish nation. Main person mentioned in Hebrews 11.
- Gideon – saved Israel from their enemies.
- David – saved Israel from the Philistines, became the greatest king.
- Elijah – probably greatest prophet ever.
- Jesus – saved mankind from paying for our sins. Sits at the Father's right hand.
- Paul – Greatest evangelist. Most of New Testament written by him.



Does this apply to Bible people only? How about today?

# Faith – A few modern examples

- William Carey. “Expect Great things from God; attempt great things for God.”
- Jim Elliot: “God, I pray thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus.”
- Jerry Falwell. 40 years in ministry. Raised 4 Billion.
- Bill Bright. Founder Campus Crusade for Christ. Shared the Gospel with > 4 billion people so far. Most efficient, religious org, largest religious charity.
- Billy Graham, James Kennedy, Ravi Zacharius.
- Many, many more
- Countless unnamed, unknown servants.



Jim Elliot died at age 28 by Auca Indians, or Waiodani people in Ecuador.

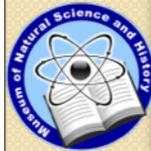
What do they all have in common?

One things these men all had in common, as far as I've read and heard - a powerful prayer life.  
Year and year. Also people praying with and for them.

Secondly - men of action. They prayed and took action allowing the Lord to guide and led them.  
Some say wait upon the Lord. True, but what is the balance? Cannot use this as an excuse.  
James 2 talks about faith without deeds, without action. It is dead.

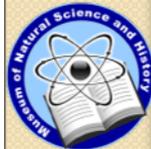
# Faith and Prayer

- “If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer.”
- Faith directly related to prayer. Power in prayer, through the Holy Spirit.
- With prayer through faith, great things can be accomplished.



Quote - Martin Luther - great reformation preacher who founded the protestant faith.  
Show EM Bounds book. Heavy reading.

# Faith to the test



Give example of teenagers going to Florida. One lived, parents happy, but 3 died.

Children die. Why? Do we trust God knows best?

Money and/or marital

Relationships: children, relatives in general, friends, work,  
health (physical and mental) problems

Faith gets tested really fast when problems arise.

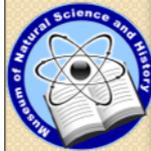
Each of you probably has had problems. How have you done? Did you faith waver?

Satan likes to plant doubt in our minds. Problems open the door for doubts.

Here is some of my story.

## Faith – day to day living

- 1978 – seriously broken leg
  - 1989 – Ulcerative Colitis
  - 1992 – Primary Sclerosing Colongitis (PSC)
  - 2000 – liver transplant
  - 2009 – Subarachnoid (brain) hemorrhage
  - 2011 – PostTransplantation Lymphoproliferative Disorder (PTLD) - Cancer
  - 20?? – only the Lord knows
- Hospital experiences – the Lord is so good!



Problems can drive a person from the Lord or to the Lord. In my case drove me, and Nancy closer to the Lord as we leaned on him for strength to ensure and face what is next.  
All growing my faith. Prepare me for bigger things.

Hospital - liver met Robin. 19. Same liver disease, had Crohns. Very similar but ½ my age. Transplanted day after me. Never fully recovered. Visited her in Nov 2001. Died in Feb 2002.

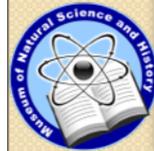
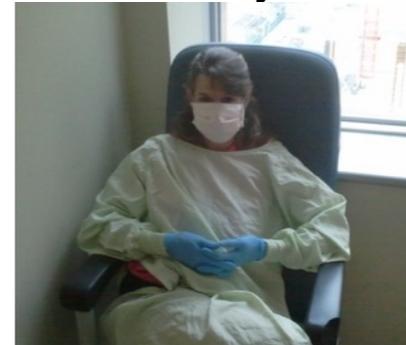
- brain - 40% die before getting to hospital. I did not go until 13 hours later, then wait 4 hours for CT scan. Then rushed to Toronto Western to neurospecialist. 20 hours before saw specialist.
- of 60% left, only 15% have no permanent effects - partial paralysis, memory ,slurred speech. I had some hearing problems for 1 month, nothing else!
- cancer - first night I was diagnosed. Roomed with Kurt. 25 or so. Double lung, then liver then kidney. In hospital for 6 years, only home 3 months.
- in hospital a few times when immune system dropped to 0. Once my roommate was affected by drugs. Saw bugs on the walls, etc.
- another time met man who was there with his 21 year old son. Transplant and other complications since a youth.

In each case and more the Lord was showing me others who were much worse off than I.  
Removes feeling of self pity and replaces it with a thankful heart, and appreciation for what others have to endure.  
Also gave Nancy and I opportunities to share.

Probably some people here who have been through much. I'm sure some of you have great testimonies of if being hard but growing your faith.  
Sadly others lose their faith - how can there be a loving God when there is so much evil and suffering in the world!

## Faith – Results

- Draw closer to the Lord.
- See Him at work in ways people who do not have hardships cannot experience.
- Be like Job. Job 2:9-10
- Be like the Apostle Paul.
- Parable of the talents. Faithful with little ...
- Be able to relate to others in new ways.
- Deeper relationship and appreciation for my wife.
- Ongoing problems
- Your story?



Job - Wife says to Job "are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die."

Jobs response: "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God and no trouble?"

FAITH - and it is rewarded after suffering and patience.

Paul - I have fought the good race.

Talents - faithful with little, will be faithful with much

Wife - always available. Visiting, keeping people up to date on status. Handling all the issues at home and with the kids.

- chemotherapy drugs - neuropathy - problems with my feet. She runs my feet whenever I ask, and often she volunteers.

- friends from camping have joked about rubbing their husbands feet. They would never do it.

- I rub hers sometimes as well.

I mentioned earlier I think the Lord uses trials, troubles to build us up, to prepare us for bigger things. What is the bigger thing for me?

# Faith – My Next Step



The Lord has put in my mind and on my heart to build a museum - a physical building, kind of like Noah's ark in size and shape.  
Museum will show evidence from science that creation, the universe was created 6-10 000 years ago is valid science. It answers a lot of questions that evolution cannot answer.  
When it goes public there will be a lot more opposition.  
It will cost 60-70 million. I do not have anywhere near that kind of money.  
I am not an entrepreneur, an executive. I do not have the skills needed.

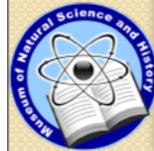
This is where faith comes in.  
God put the idea in my head on Mothers Day in 2002.  
I went to Liberty seminar, distance learning program for almost 5 years to get my master is religion degree - some added skills.  
I work on this vision regularly. Planning, designing, contacting people to get costs, researching land and other things. Setting up a charity. Many many things.  
I have faith he will make it happen, using me as he sees fit.  
He will provide the money.  
He will provide the right people with the right skills.

I've heard God does not need our ability but our availability.  
I have made my self available. I am taking action, doing what I can. I have faith he will help me with the rest.

This is faith in action in my life. Not just head knowledge but as James aludes to, faith with works.

# Conclusion – How about you?

What is your faith like?  
What is your prayer like?



Faith makes the difference between a God filled purposeful life and an existence.

How is your faith?

Does not matter how old, what matters is how faithful and what you do based on that faith.

What can I do? Maybe physically very limited. Everyone can pray, talk to others, be a friend, counselor. So many hurting lost people.

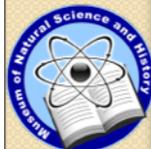
Ask the Lord for guidance. Through prayer and faith great things can happen.

Moses's life did not really start until he was 80!

Caleb did not fight the giants until he was 85. Faithful when 40, powerful still at 85!

Wrap up with some verses about faith.

- Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- Ephesians 2:8,9: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no man can boast.
- Acts 10:43: All the prophets testify about him [Jesus] that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.
- Acts 4:12: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.
- John 14:6: I [Jesus] am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- Hebrews 11:6: And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
- Revelations 3:20: Here I [Jesus] am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.



**Where do you stand regarding your faith?  
This is all that really matters!**

Many, many verses about faith as it relates to the Lord and Jesus. Here are just a few to get you thinking.

Eph 2:8-9 - tell about being good. Good person, 1 crime - stands before judge - guilty. Good does not outweigh bad and set him free.

Acts 4:12 - so simple. Only 1 way, not choices, not need to select the best way for you, God has told us the best way. WE either take it or we do not!

Some here maybe do not have strong faith. You wonder about God. Some maybe do not believe at all. There is evidence s owe do not need blind faith.

How do you strengthen your faith?

I've asked people in the past if they spend near as much time reading the Bible as they do watching movies or news or sports.

Do they spend as much time reading the Bible as they do reading novels or newspapers or magazines.

I believe if you spent only 1/10 less time on these activities and put that to time reading the Bible, studying it, being part of a group that discuss it so you understand it better, then your faith would grow incredibly strong.

I know a teenager who can read an 500 page Harry Potter novel in one sitting. If she read 500 pages of the Bible in one sitting it would take only a few days to read the whole thing.!

Read the book of John. Then start in Genesis and read the whole thing - see the whole picture of history unfold in approximate order of when it happened.

So, where do you stand? That is what really matters. The world economy does not really matter, the USA elections does not really matter in the big schema of things.

Who wins the next hockey or football games does not really matter. What really matters is what you believe and what you do with that belief. This will determine your eternal destiny.

Either with the Lord forever in paradise, or without in a very, very nasty place call the lake of fire.

The choice is yours.

Without faith it is impossible to please God!

Lets Pray.

Thank Lord for this time.

Pray for strong, unwavering faith.

Pray for wisdom to see evidence of God at work in our lives.

Pray for those who do not have faith, do not believe in you. Reveal yourself to them Lord.

Amen.