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# news release

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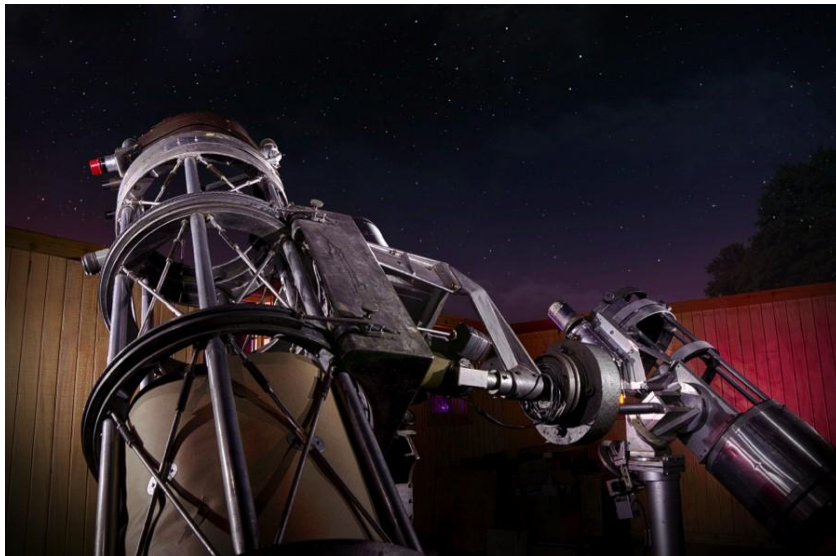
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## New 'Star' at the Creation Museum Popular Museum Unveils Well-Equipped Observatory

**PETERSBURG, Ky., April 16, 2012** — As the Creation Museum approaches its 5th anniversary in May, the museum's latest high-tech addition was dedicated Friday evening, with guests travelling from as far away as Arizona to attend the special ceremony. The new Johnson Observatory, located on the museum's grounds in Petersburg, Ky. (near Cincinnati), contains several telescopes, including two permanently mounted 16-inch reflector telescopes, which are relatively high power. One of them is of historic value, the Johnsonian Telescope; accordingly, the new observatory is named after the telescope's inventor, Lyle Johnson.

"Because our planetarium programs inside our museum have attracted over one-million guests since opening in 2007, having an observatory with excellent telescopes is a wonderful addition that will enhance the museum experience for our visitors," declared Ken Ham, president/CEO of the Creation Museum and the museum's parent ministry, Answers in Genesis. "We will be able to extend our museum operating hours with some specially scheduled evening programs so that people can peer into the heavens. They will observe the rings of Saturn so clearly and the Moon up close, plus see many other fascinating features of our incredibly designed universe. Indeed, as the Psalmist proclaimed: the heavens declare God's handiwork" (Psalm 19:1).



The famed Johnsonian telescope now resides in the new Johnson Observatory at the Creation Museum.

The Johnsonian telescope has great historic significance. Lyle Johnson, who was a Christian and creationist, designed and built this telescope in the 1940s.

The telescope was a part of NASA's "Project Moon-blink" (1964–1966), and was used to check for hazardous gases on the Moon's surface before any astronauts would be allowed to make a lunar landing. Johnson's invention was so innovative

that telescopes based on his design are known today as "Johnsonian telescopes."

Cutting the ribbon at Friday's observatory dedication was Barbara Johnson Perry, daughter of Lyle Johnson. About 130 people attended the ceremony.

Prior to its installation in a specially constructed building with a retractable roof, the Johnsonian telescope was used at a Christian camp, "The Wilds," in North Carolina. Not having the qualified astronomers to use and maintain the telescope, the camp, with the permission of the Johnson family (Mr. Johnson passed away in 1996), offered it to the Creation Museum.

## Creation Museum opens Johnson

It had been suggested to “The Wilds” that the telescope be donated to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. Johnson family members, however, indicated that they much preferred to have their valuable telescope sent to a facility that proclaimed the Creator God of the Universe, and not the evolutionary “big bang.”

Ham stated: “We look forward to continuing the legacy of Lyle Johnson by using his telescope to tell others about God’s glory and His gospel message.”

Other telescopes will also be used as part of the Creation Museum’s “Stargazer’s” programs to teach astronomy from a biblical perspective. The special day and evening events at the planetarium and new Johnson Observatory will be listed at: <http://creationmuseum.org/events/>.

In related news, AiG is announcing the appointment of its new astronomer, Dr. Danny Faulkner. Faulkner will oversee the planetarium and new Johnson Observatory. He will be leaving the University of South Carolina later this year, where he is currently a professor and head of the Division of Math, Science, Nursing & Public Health at USC’s Lancaster campus.

Answers in Genesis is a biblical apologetics ministry which conducts about 300 teaching meetings each year and produces the “Answers” radio program heard on more than 500 stations in the U.S. The [AnswersInGenesis.org](http://AnswersInGenesis.org) website is this year’s “Best Ministry Website” as picked by the 1,200-member National Religious Broadcasters (with about 1 million web visits a month). AiG’s Creation Museum, which opened in 2007 to much international press coverage, has welcomed over 1.5 million visitors; AiG is now designing a full-size Noah’s Ark in northern Kentucky. See [www.AnswersInGenesis.org](http://www.AnswersInGenesis.org)



Lyle Johnson’s daughter Barbara Johnson Perry cut the ribbon at the Johnson Observatory’s dedication on Friday evening, with (l-r): Ken Ham (museum/AiG president), Dr. Danny Faulkner (newly appointed director of the AiG observatory and planetarium), and Dr. Andrew Snelling (director of research for AiG). A part of the Johnsonian Telescope is visible through the doors.

**Note to Editors:** For additional information or interview requests (including visiting the Johnson Observatory at the Creation Museum), please contact Melany Ethridge of A. Larry Ross Communications at 972.267.1111 or [Melany@alarryross.com](mailto:Melany@alarryross.com).