The museum was not immune to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, having to close from March 16 to June 21, 2020, and again from December 24, 2020, to January 28, 2021. It was a difficult year, but we are thankful to have been able to share the Bible's words of wisdom and comfort with the world during these tumultuous times.

In this report, you will see that our dedicated team has found creative ways to adjust to the challenges of the pandemic. In doing so, our reach has expanded beyond the walls of the museum and into cyberspace, reaching anyone with a smartphone with stories of the Bible's history, narrative, and impact.

We will also look back to 2019, where you will see how the museum had already begun to reach out to diverse communities to bring understanding and reconciliation even before the current firestorm of division was kindled.

We could not have done any of this without your faithful support. As you read about the impact the museum has had over the last two years, please know that you played a key role. Thank you for your partnership.

To God be the glory,

Harry Hargrave
CEO, Museum of the Bible
THE BIBLE’S HEALING MESSAGE

The museum did not wait until it was able to reopen to deliver the Bible’s message of healing to the world. Through our online *Words of Hope* campaign, we invited school children to share their favorite words of hope from the Bible. With the help of parents and teachers, children from as far away as Russia used their creativity to produce videos and images highlighting their favorite verses.

On June 22, Museum of the Bible was among the first two museums in DC to open. As such, we took seriously our role as a forerunner in the innovation and application of health and safety protocols. When other institutions contemplated opening, we were frequently called upon to share our experience of navigating COVID-19. One of our most lauded successes was the creation of our “COVID Commandments.” Inspired by the story of Moses at Sinai, the commandments provided guidance to museum visitors on how to enjoy their visit safely.

We also expressed our appreciation for America’s healthcare professionals by providing them with free admission throughout the summer of 2020. It was a privilege to give back to those who sacrificed so much to keep America healthy.
The Bible is a book of healing. As the world struggled against the pandemic, we shared its healing message in many ways, including:

- Publishing a series of editorials:
  - “Harry Hargrave: Book of healing – Bible offers hope, comfort in troubled times like ours,” Fox News, August 2020
  - “Newly-opened museums offer a path to history and normalcy,” The Washington Times, August 2020
  - “Museum of the Bible CEO Hargrave: We need holiday lights now more than ever,” Fox News, December 2020

- Partnering with TBN on the national broadcast of *The Truth I’m Standing On*, featuring Matthew West, CeCe Winans, and others.

- Highlighting exhibits exploring how Scripture has influenced both the medical field and social justice movements throughout history.

- Launching a new exhibition, *Light of Hope: The Corrie ten Boom Story*, that highlighted one of our newest acquisitions, a Bible given to Corrie ten Boom by the late Rev. Billy Graham. In the exhibition, the museum told the inspiring story of how Corrie drew strength from the Bible in the dark days of World War II.
UNDERSTANDING AND RECONCILIATION

Even before the firestorm of racial division ignited in the summer of 2020, the museum had begun to address the tragic history of racism in America and around the world. Throughout 2019, the museum’s groundbreaking exhibition, *The Slave Bible: Let the Story Be Told*, exposed how one missionary society used the Bible to teach enslaved Africans how to read while at the same time introducing them to the Christian faith. Unlike other Bibles, however, the publisher’s of the Slave Bible deliberately removed portions of the text that could inspire hope for liberation.

In February 2020, we hosted a homegoing event for the Slave Bible as it returned to Fisk University entitled, *A Balm in Gilead*. Along with the Fisk Jubilee Singers, the event included the Howard University Gospel Choir, museum tours, and a roundtable discussion with scholars focusing on the Bible and its impact on the African American experience.

In November 2020, the museum hosted a powerful Speaker Series program, *Cornel West and Robert P. George: On Honesty and Courage in a Time of Polarization*. These two high-profile intellectuals discussed the urgent need for honesty and courage at a time when mutual suspicion and animosity was undermining civic friendship and social order. George and West drew upon the resources of faith and reason — in the biblical tradition — to rise above extreme polarization.
“...rocks your soul.”

— Jeremy Johnson, Facebook
EXPANDING OUR REACH

Being closed for several months during the pandemic prompted Museum of the Bible to expand our digital media resources. We quickly created new opportunities for anyone with a smartphone to virtually engage with the museum.
Here are just a few of the programs we developed to keep our audience connected:

**Lonesome Curator**

This series provided a behind-the-scenes look at what the curators were up to when we were closed and highlighted some of the museum’s unique artifacts.

**Storytime**

Every week the museum hosted Storytime on Facebook Live to share Bible stories — complete with a costumed living history interpreter — with children.

**Museum of the Bible Podcast**

Every week, scholars discuss various topics relating to the history and impact of the Bible.

**And this is just the beginning!**

We are now working on several new digital projects, including virtual museum tours and an online magazine.
ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

From unfolding the world’s longest illustrated Bible to providing free admission for military members and veterans, Museum of the Bible has continued to reach out to our community, inviting them to engage with the transformative power of the Bible.

**Wiedmann Bible Unfolding at the Lincoln Memorial**

*June 2019*

With the help of hundreds of volunteers, the museum unfolded the nearly mile-long Wiedmann Bible around the Reflecting Pool at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. This event marked the first complete unveiling of the Wiedmann Bible in the United States. Volunteers received a commemorative T-shirt and free general admission to Museum of the Bible.

**Free Admission for Active Military and Veterans**

*November 2020*

To honor the sacrifice of America’s veterans and active-duty military personnel, the museum offered them free admission from November 6 through 13, 2020.

“I hope you will join us in honoring them this Veterans Day and that you will be encouraged by how the Bible has provided strength and comfort to our service members in some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable.”

—HARRY HARGRAVE, CEO
“...stirs your heart.”

— Jeremy Johnson, Facebook
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Follow the Star • Christmas 2020

This Christmas looked different than most as the pandemic forced us to stay apart and forgo many of our traditions. More than ever the world needed the spirit, story, and truth of Christmas. We wanted to remind our guests what Christmas is really about: hope.

Christmas activities included:

• The Christmas Light Spectacular
• Sculpting the Nativity with Tim Schmalz
• Christmas in Malta Exhibition
• Family Nights and a Family Fun Day that included live performances, ornament and gingerbread decorating, scavenger hunts, and more

For those who couldn’t visit the museum, we partnered with TBN to produce Night at the Nativity, featuring Max Lucado.
EDUCATION

Museum of the Bible’s mission is to engage all people with the transformative power of the Bible. We accomplish this by sharing the history, narrative, and impact of the Bible through a number of educational opportunities available to children and adults.

Speaker Series

Over 2,000 individuals attended one or more of the 24 Speaker Series events from 2019 to 2020. Moreover, the museum has increased accessibility to these programs by adding on-site and online attendance options. Now, anyone in the world with internet access is able to participate in the programs virtually. Featured speakers included esteemed biblical scholars such as Dr. Amy-Jill Levine and Dr. Ben Witherington, Pastor Max Lucado, and Washington Nationals Chaplain, Msgr. Stephen Rossetti. Participants have enjoyed in-depth discussion of many topics, including religious liberty, archaeology, and the arts.

K–12 Programs

In late 2020, the museum added virtual programs to its lineup of K–12 programs. Now children anywhere in the world can participate in live, interactive programs conducted by our museum educators and living history interpreters.
“Mind. Blown.”

— Shawn H., Yelp
THE BIBLE IN ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

The realms of art and entertainment abound with biblical references. The museum offered a full array of opportunities to demonstrating this connection over the last two years, including:

Exhibitions
- *The Tapestry of Light: A 21st-Century Apocalypse*
- *Picture Books of the Past: Reading an Old Master Painting*
- *With a Mighty Hand: The Art and History of the Passover Haggadah*

Theatrical Performances and Concerts
- *Amazing Grace: The Musical*
- An Evening with Matt Maher
- *Christmastime Is Here* with the Canadian Brass
- One Voice
- Between the Four Rivers: Armenian Spirituality

Broadcast Production (TBN)
- *The Truth I’m Standing On*
- *Night of the Nativity*

For the Foodies
- Chef Meets Curator: A Roman Banquet
- Chef Meets Curator: The Renaissance, Food, and Art
OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE HAS CONTINUED RESEARCHING THE PROVENANCE OF OUR COLLECTIONS, MENTORING STUDENTS, AND MAKING THE COLLECTIONS ACCESSIBLE TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

“DEAD SEA SCROLL DETECTIVES”

On November 6, 2019, a PBS NOVA episode, “Dead Sea Scroll Detectives,” highlighted the museum’s investigation into the authenticity of five of our Dead Sea Scrolls fragments. Additionally, the museum updated our Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit to feature the history of the original 1948 discovery, the scrolls’ impact on biblical studies, and our research on the collection.

LOCATING THE LOST CITY OF THE APOSTLES

In October 2020, the museum hosted scholar Dr. R. Steven Notley, who discussed the search for the true location of the biblical city of Bethsaida-Julias, the hometown of the apostles Peter, Andrew, and Philip.
Symposium on the Bible’s Role in American History

This event was held in conjunction with Baylor University’s Robert P. George Initiative on Faith, Ethics, and Public Policy.

Tel Shimron: A New Window into the Biblical World

In 2017, the Tel Shimron excavations, an exciting research initiative by Museum of the Bible, began. Tel Shimron is a site that spans the entire timeline of biblical history. In this lecture, participants learned about the exciting finds of the first season.

A Fence around the Torah: Unveiling an Iconic Jewish Bible

Hidden away for 1,000 years, the text of the Washington Pentateuch is the foundation of almost every Bible today. This ancient Hebrew Bible was unveiled to the public for the first time in this special exhibition.

Unveiling of the Sofer Collection

The museum’s Sofer Collection contains Talmudic materials, Jewish historical objects, art and architecture, and a wide assortment of catalogs. It is now housed at Oklahoma Christian’s Beam Library to facilitate access by students, faculty, and visiting scholars, as well as the general public.

Washington Theological Consortium

Museum of the Bible officially joined the Washington Theological Consortium in July 2020 as its first public educational institution member.
ENHANCING THE GUEST EXPERIENCE

COLLECTIONS UPDATES

Olhausen–Tenny Collection

To mark the re-opening, the museum featured two items from its acquisition of the Olhausen–Tenny Collection: The Carey Bible (1790) in the *Bible in America* exhibit and a copy of the Bishops’–Reims New Testament (1601) on the History Floor.

The Pietà

A generous donor provided the museum with an exact replica of one of the most famous statues in the world, Michelangelo’s Pietà.

Tatev Monastery Model

Tatev Monastery, situated in the mountains of southern Armenia, is one of the most significant cultural heritage sites in Armenia. This 1:100 model is a gift of Aurora Humanitarian Initiative.

Armenian Khachkar

Also donated by our Armenian friends, this cross-stone, known in Armenia as a *khachkar*, shows the rich, Christian history of the country.
ENGAGING OUR PARTNERS

Our Third Anniversary Gala: Light of the World

Livestreamed into homes around the world and hosted by Nick Hall, the gala featured testimonies of the transformative power of the Bible. Viewers heard from a diverse array of speakers, including Rabbi Stephen Weil, Fr. Robert J. Spitzer, and Anne Graham Lotz, and enjoyed moving performances from Heather Headley and Chris Tomlin.

Insider Briefings

These virtual events offer the museum’s major partners a special opportunity to engage with biblical scholars, authors, and influencers each month as they discuss the Bible’s ongoing impact in our world. Insiders will also hear from museum leadership about events and updates, and will even have a chance to interact with Co-Founders Steve and Jackie Green.
MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE – BY THE NUMBERS
FROM JANUARY 2019 – DECEMBER 2020

520,000 guests were welcomed

Over 200 organizations held events at the museum

1.412 million followers across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, remaining in the top 10 most followed museums on Facebook (#7) behind the Louvre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the British Museum

3K total media clips for a total reach of 4.9 billion impressions

Over 200 organizations held events at the museum

Major media outlets have featured stories mentioning Museum of the Bible, including:

• USA Today
• The Washington Post
• The New York Times
• National Geographic

Many of these were positive or neutral mentions related to the museum’s transparency regarding its research into the provenance of items in its collections.

Awards and Recognition

• 2020 Travelers’ Choice Awards from TripAdvisor
• Themed Entertainment Association Award for Outstanding Achievement — Museum Exhibit
• Fodor’s Travel 23 Best Museums in Washington, DC (#19)
• USA Today’s 10 Best Religious Museums of 2020 (#3)

Overall ratings based on reviews

Google 4.7
TripAdvisor 4.5
Yelp 4.5
FinaCes

Museum of the Bible Fiscal Years:
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2020. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

Income

2019

- $128 million contributions and grants
- $10 million program services revenue
- $2 million other income
- $61 million programs
- $14 million general and administrative
- $5 million fundraising
- $460 million property and equipment
- $4 million other assets
- $20 million receivables

2020

- $38 million contributions and grants
- $7 million program services revenue
- $0 million other income
- $58 million programs
- $14 million general and administrative
- $4 million fundraising
- $441 million property and equipment
- $4 million other assets
- $15 million receivables

Assets

2019

- $441 million property and equipment
- $20 million receivables
- $15 million cash

2020

- $441 million property and equipment
- $15 million cash
- $1 million cash
- $15 million receivables
- $15 million endowment

- $4 million other assets
- $20 million other assets
- $14 million other assets
- $58 million other assets
- $4 million other assets
- $2 million other assets
- $2 million other assets
- $2 million other assets
- $2 million other assets
WE INVITE ALL PEOPLE TO ENGAGE WITH THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE BIBLE

museum of the Bible