

## Training the Next Generation - Bob and Lois Gillespie



- **What:** [Christmas Town](#): Free Live Nativity and Garden of Lights
- **When:** 5-8 PM, December 9-10, 16-17, 26-27, and 30-31
- **Where:** Creation Museum, 2800 Bullittsburg Church Road, Petersburg, KY
- **More Info:** Call (888) 582-4253

### Gillespie Update Christmas 2011

## Help Stop the Already Gone Phenomenon!

Many churches today make the mistake of discipling adults but only entertaining children. They don't teach our young people the "deep" things of the Christian faith because they believe children cannot understand much of it. We are failing our children when we don't teach them the Word of God and give them answers in today's modern scientific world. Children in our churches are largely biblically illiterate and don't see Scripture as relevant in their lives. We shouldn't be surprised that two thirds of the young people growing up in the church will leave the church in their 20's (as we examine in our book [Already Gone](#)). If the casualty rate of our church kids is so great, where does that leave the unchurched kids? We are losing an entire generation!

This season, these children will help us celebrate *Christmas* with delightful children's programs complete with animals, angels, shepherds, wisemen, an innkeeper, and Joseph, Mary and the Baby in the manger. It's really not necessary for the 'actors' to remember their lines or even for us to hear their lines, because we all know the 'story' - we just love to watch those adorable kids! Imagine the surprise of one children's worker when a child asked her, "Who's that baby in there?" It seems that not everyone knows this story anymore.

As gripping as that question is, none of us is surprised. While parents don't mind if kids are told in school that there is no God, they really get upset if kids are told there is no Santa Claus. TV specials ask us "Do you believe in Santa?", and everywhere we look, "Christmas" is being replaced with "Holiday".

Our Sunday School programs year after year tell the story of a Baby in the manger, but are our children also

taught about the real man Jesus related to the real man Adam? Or does it all fall into the category of "the magic of Christmas" - nothing to do with reality, true history and science?

How do we connect spiritual things with reality to a generation growing up in an anti-Christian environment?

*"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)*

But wait...the same scientists who tell me the earth is billions of years old also say virgins can't conceive and dead men don't rise...I guess the Bible got it wrong...

I wonder when God starts telling the truth...



Answers in Genesis is excited to host the first "Children's Ministry Leaders' Conference," March 22 and 23. We're inviting all Christians who lead, teach, or serve in any children's ministry role to join us here at the Creation Museum's brand-new Legacy Hall.

Numerous passages throughout Scripture command us to teach truth to our children, "That the generation to come might know, even the children which should be born, that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:" (Psalm 78:6-7).

Because about two thirds of our young people are leaving the church when they become adults, the need

Please check us out at [www.gillespiesonline.com](http://www.gillespiesonline.com) or [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)!



to reach children has never been greater. Our research for the book [Already Gone](#) clearly revealed that even well before college age, young people are already “checking out of church” in their minds. As they sit in church, they are “already gone.”

Our children are continually bombarded with worldly, anti-Christian ideas throughout the media and public schools. In response, AiG is pulling together some of our best resources and speakers to equip leaders in children’s ministry with relevant apologetics with this unique March conference. Children today need content, not just fun and games.

Please share the information about this conference with youth leaders in your church and encourage them to

attend and receive some wonderful teaching and practical ideas for various ages.

SAVE by registering as a group - bring your whole children’s team (including Sunday school teachers)? Visit [www.answersingenesis.org/go/childrens](http://www.answersingenesis.org/go/childrens) for complete details and to register.

We will also be giving many details of our soon-to-be-released, three-year [Answers Bible Curriculum!](#) This will be another effective way to reach the young people in our churches.

Don’t miss out—register today for the March conference.

*Excerpts taken from “Around the World with Ken Ham”, Dec. 9, 2011; <http://blogs.answersingenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/>*

Thank you so very much for supporting us in this answer-giving ministry, and for allowing us to be a part of your lives this year. Because of you, we’ve ministered in (and safely traveled to) Ohio as well as PA, WV, MI, IN, IL, KY, FL, NC, and TN; at conferences, retreats, camps, schools, VBS’s, and even college campuses.

We cannot say enough how much your prayers and financial support mean to us. We know God answers prayer! Just recently, friends asked us how they could pray for us specifically. We shared something we’d been struggling with for several months. Within the week, we were once again in awe of God as He started answering those prayers.

We invite you to follow our adventures at <http://www.gillespiesonline.com>. We’re committed to updating this blog more often in 2012, so please check it out!



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

We pray you will truly know *this* Reason for the Season!

Bob and Lois Gillespie

Contact us today for more information - [bob@gillespiesonline.com](mailto:bob@gillespiesonline.com) or 419-566-2145.