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**“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised,
and his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.” Psalm 145:3-6 (ESV)**

Dear Friends of FACT and the Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum,

When Otis established the ministry of FACT in Glendive, MT, part of his purpose was to make the opportunity to participate in a fossil dig available in the context of biblical history and creation science. Glendive is a prime location for this, because land animal fossils, including those of dinosaurs, which were laid down during the global Flood of Noah’s day, are abundant in the area.

Below is a summary of our 2016 dig season. Enjoy this update and consider joining us on a fossil dig in 2017!

2016 Dig Summary

by Martha Lohman (Martha and her husband, Tommy, are our dig supervisors)



The sun climbs higher as you absentmindedly swish your hand toward a gnat hovering around your face. A bead of sweat trickles down your brow. It won’t be much longer before there are no more shadows into which to tuck along the sand-colored wall in front of you. Your hand pushes the shiny blade of a screwdriver into the sediment. Grains of dust blow past your face in the slight breeze. Click! You pause. Maybe you just imagined the subtle sound. Maybe it was just a rock. But maybe...just maybe...

Welcome to our summer lives as paleontologists. Each day at the dig site is a treasure hunt. Each push of the screwdriver might be the one that reveals that first glimpse of a fossil. More often than not, it’s the hope of discovery that keeps you going. To those who haven’t been “bit” by the dino-bug, the sun is hot, the bugs are annoying and the labor is hard. But to us, it’s an adventure. Yes, the sun is hot. Yes, the bugs are annoying. And, oh yes, it is work! But when the thrust of the tool meets resistance in the dirt and your thoughts transform from, “It could be something,” and into the thrill of, “How big is it?”

or “What condition is it in?” or “What is it?” suddenly the challenges melt away, and we wonder why we were so fatigued 30 seconds before.

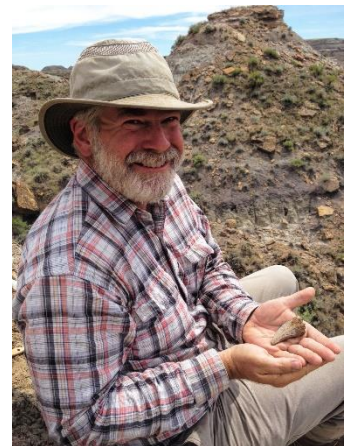
Hope. It’s a powerful thing. Hope keeps the weary soul pressing on. Withhold hope, and we crumble. Offer hope, and we soar. “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life,” says Proverbs 13:12 (NAS).

Last year, our team worked on excavating a *Triceratops* skull. Unable to finish it, we did our best to protect it over the winter. It was one of the first projects to be addressed this season. However, to our dismay, the beautiful brow horn we exposed last summer had crumbled during the winter month—along with our spirits. By contrast, one day Tommy discovered “float” (fossilized bone pieces that had broken up and washed down a hillside). As is our habit, he began to trace them up the hill, looking for the source. This time, he found it. Test digging uncovered a large section of bone. Further digging revealed many bone pieces, a few teeth (alligator, *Edmontosaurus* and *Triceratops*) and several good-quality gar fish scales. And then, Tommy uncovered a *Tyrannosaurus rex* tooth! A few weeks later, more digging revealed a beautiful 6-inch vertebra. One day, our hearts were sick with lost hope. Another day, they soared with the hope of the future! This summer was a tug-of-war between hopes deferred and hopes fulfilled, but “the rope of hope” always remained.

We had a lot of rain this season, which created several muddy days, but also kept the grasses green even when the temperatures swelled over 100 degrees. Our summer interns, Natalia and Sarah, were hard workers and eager to help. Their enthusiasm and cheerfulness brightened our days. We also enjoyed having last summer’s intern, Jonah, return for two weeks. These strong hearts and hands helped transform the dig site from hopeful projects to accomplished tasks!

Some of what we excavated during our 2016 season includes:

- 2½-inch *Tyrannosaurus rex* tooth (see photo to the right)
- 9¾-inch fibula portion (likely *Edmontosaurus*)
- 13-inch cervical neck rib (*Tyrannosaurus rex*)
- Vertebrae, ranging in size from 3/16-inch (fish) to 6-inch (likely *Edmontosaurus*)
- Dinosaur rib sections, ossified tendons, toe bones, teeth and some still unidentified bones
- Alligator/crocodile teeth and scute portions, turtle shell portions and bones
- Fossilized figs, seeds and plants



We always hope and work for special discoveries: fossils that are unique, in great condition and/or give us a special thrill during discovery, and we always try to share that thrill with our guest diggers. If you are interested in joining us for the rewarding labor of an authentic dinosaur dig experience during our 2017 season, please visit our website (creationtruth.org/digs) for more information, but don’t wait too long—the schedule is already filling quickly!

Otis

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Robert

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