



**For more information:** The Great Passion Play  
935 Passion Play Road  
Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632  
Toll Free: 800-882-7529  
Local: 479-253-8559  
[info@greatpassionplay.com](mailto:info@greatpassionplay.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Great Passion Play Sets Attendance Record**

EUREKA SPRINGS, AR – The Great Passion Play set a 5-year attendance record on Friday, August 9, 2013. According to the Institute of Outdoor Drama at Chapel Hill, The Great Passion Play is “America’s #1 Attended Outdoor Drama,” a mark that the Play continues to hold after Friday night’s attendance of nearly 1,200 people.

“Our numbers continue to be much stronger than in previous years,” Randall Christy noted. Christy, founder of The Gospel Station Network out of Ada, Oklahoma, spearheaded the fundraising effort that prevented the Play from entering foreclosure. “It has been a year of *good news* for us,” said Christy, who now serves as the CEO of the nonprofit foundation that runs the Play. “We raised \$75,000 in 10 days at the beginning of the year to save the Play. We welcomed our 7.7 millionth visitor. And, we just set our 5-year attendance record.”

“We are excited and hopeful for more good things to come!” Kent Butler shared. Butler has been a cast member since 2005 and joined the management team in January. “This year, we are also trying to break a 10-year attendance record. We need 2013 people on August 31, 2013 to come in order to do so.” Butler went on to say that average attendance per performance was up 25% this year and that tickets were already available and selling for the 2014 season.



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The Great Passion Play was also the beneficiary of a concert put on by John Michael Talbot and Michael Card. The well-attended concert was held in the Eureka Springs City Auditorium and raised over \$12,000 for The Great Passion Play. Earlier in the year, the Play also hosted Jason Crabb in concert in the Auditorium, raising \$5,000 for the purchase of buses in the Holy Land. "We hope to do more concerts and events in addition to the Play throughout the year," Christy said. "I am happy to welcome my good friend, Arch Bonnema, on October 5 at 10:00 AM on the grounds of The Great Passion Play for a free conference on Noah's Ark." Bonnema will share his incredible story: "I was a member of an expedition that found an ancient ship at 13,000 feet in a mountain range that in ancient times was known as the Mountains of Ararat. Scientists have confirmed that this was in fact a ship that carried animal species which are found all over the globe today." Come see the evidence, pictures, and videos and decide for yourself.

To order tickets for the Play, the Holy Land Tour, the backstage tour, the tabernacle teaching, and all of the other wonderful events and performances on the grounds, visit [www.GreatPassionPlay.org](http://www.GreatPassionPlay.org), call toll free at 800-882-7529, or visit the box office. The Great Passion Play's 2013 season runs through the end of October.

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Since 1968, people from all over the world have witnessed the events surrounding Christ's last days on earth, including his life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Featuring a cast of over 150 actors, the Play is performed amid a 550-ft historically accurate, multi-leveled stage. This year's performance also features Arabian horses, donkeys, and dozens of birds as well as 3 camels donated by the "Wild Wilderness Drive through Safari" in Gentry,



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Arkansas. The Great Passion Play runs 1 hour and 45 minutes, featuring an original musical score composed by Phil Perkins and performed by the world-renowned National Philharmonic Orchestra of London.

**For high resolution pictures of the Play:**

<http://www.greatpassionplay.org/high-resolution-photos.html>

<http://www.greatpassionplay.org/videos.html>

Contact: Kent Butler

479-253-5358

[kent@greatpassionplay.com](mailto:kent@greatpassionplay.com)