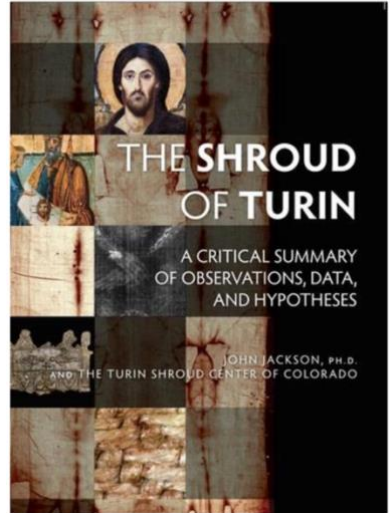


Sharing the Message of the Shroud

Jim Bertrand, M.Ed.

One thing I've learned from giving Shroud presentations over the past seven years is that people everywhere seem to have an interest in the Holy Shroud. Why is this? My own opinion is the Shroud is for everyone, because the Resurrection is for everyone. I'd like to share with you some experiences which I've had as a 'communicator' – one who does their best to communicate factual information concerning the Shroud to a variety of audiences (ages 5 to 95). When we unite truth with the human heart, it nurtures both mind and soul. In case you're wondering about the author here, I taught high school science for 39 years and I retired two years ago.

In January I gave my 239th Shroud presentation, which has covered 13 states so far, plus the Eucharistic Convention in Auckland, New Zealand. I can honestly say that each of these encounters have been a pleasant experience. One need only present the facts and let the facts speak for themselves. Besides the constant lifelong learning that one must do to keep up with the research, my principal reference document has been *The Shroud of Turin – A Critical Summary of Hypotheses, Observations, and Data*, by Dr. John P. Jackson, 2017 (Chief Editor – Robert Siefker). I'm not selling books here, I just wanted to let you know where I'm getting much of my information.



Some Observations of Audiences

To be sure, there remain some open questions regarding the Shroud (it's whereabouts during the early centuries, the missing years of 1204-1355, and the mysterious mechanism for image formation, to name a few). But people recognize and appreciate the vast array of consistencies we find in the Shroud. Such as;

- The correlation between the cloth-to-body distance at the moment of image formation, resulting in the raised 3D nature by light intensity (VP-8 Image Analyzer)
- The contrast of clear and blurred scourge marks found on the back and shoulders respectively, which are consistent with a scourging followed by bearing a weight across the shoulders.
- The fact that the blood was on the Shroud prior to the image (Good Friday followed by Easter Sunday?).
- The consistencies between the Shroud and Sudarium of Oviedo (blood type,

blood stain shapes, similar pollen grains, similar travertine aragonite soil.)

During the Q & A after a Shroud talk, on many occasions people have remarked, ‘After seeing all of this information, how could the Shroud not be authentic?’ It’s as if their perspective has now changed to ‘The onus of proof is now on the doubters’. It’s not my intent to win some scientific debate. It’s my intent to share the facts and let the facts speak for themselves. People can come to their own conclusions

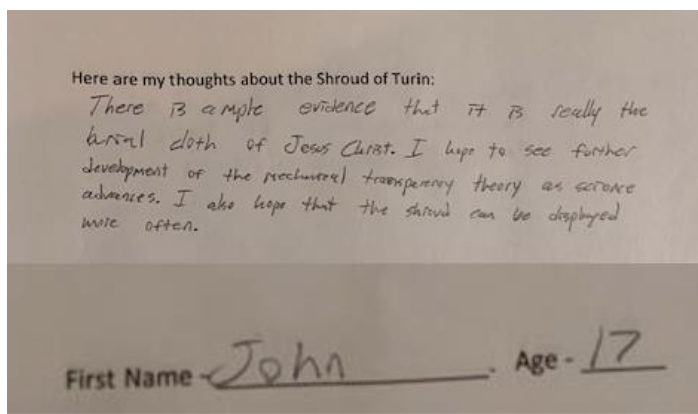
A Message of Hope

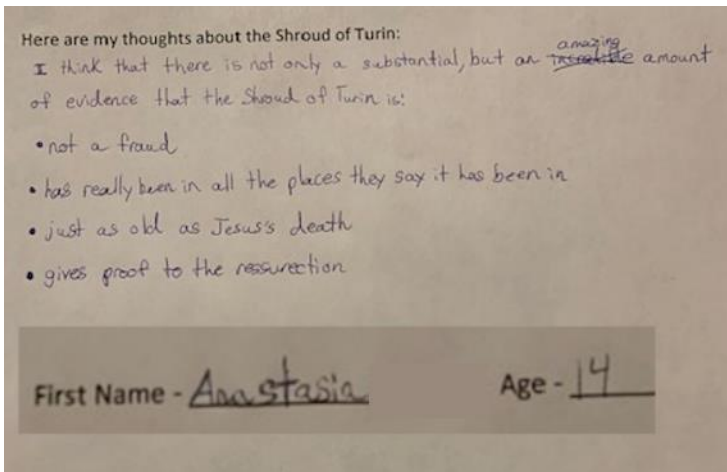
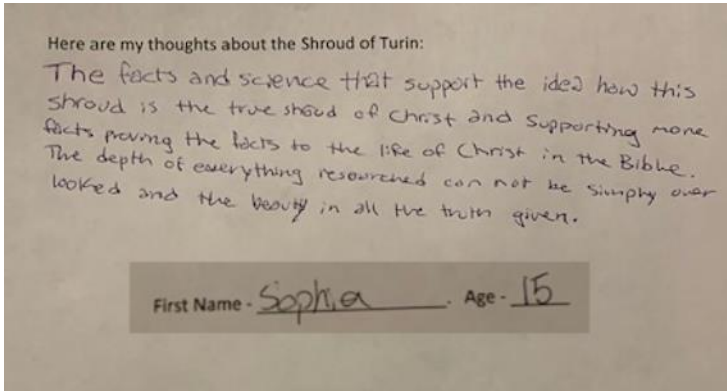
One of the prisons I went to was a women’s prison for the state of Nebraska. There were about 35 of them there on Good Friday, 2017. Usually people save their questions for the end of the talk. But these ladies were keen on asking questions along the way, after every few slides! Most of them had never heard of the Shroud and they were so interested to know more. What can account for this?

Being in prison, they were living through their own Good Friday. But here was this man on the Shroud, who rose from the dead, and promised that a Resurrection awaits each of us. This is what inspired these women to hope. By the end of the talk they were beaming with smiles. They came to realize that they too, have an Easter Sunday in their future.

The Shroud and Young People

It’s been my experience that less than half of young people have ever heard of the Shroud. Think about it, where would they have been exposed to information about the Shroud? Surely not in their textbooks or in a public school (and perhaps not even in a Catholic school). Here’s a brief sampling in their own words:





In the end, if it's not a natural process, and it's not the work of an artist, what else is left? Our faith rests on the reality of the Resurrection, and not the authenticity of the Shroud. More importantly, how does God wish us to respond to that?

About the Author

Jim Bertrand and his wife live in Lincoln, Nebraska. They have 6 children, 8 grandchildren, and have been married 38 years. He has never made a dime from giving these presentations. All donations are sent to the The American Confraternity of the Holy Shroud and the Turin Shroud Center, both headed by Dr. John P. Jackson and located in Colorado Springs, CO.