

News and Current Events :: 6-story Jesus statue in Ohio struck by lightning

6-story Jesus statue in Ohio struck by lightning - posted by narrowpath, on: 2010/6/15 18:10

This must have been an act of God, striking down this tacky statue of Jesus!

Ex 20:4 4Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

MONROE, Ohio — A six-story statue of Jesus Christ was struck by lightning and burned to the ground, leaving only a bl ackened steel skeleton and pieces of foam that were scooped up by curious onlookers Tuesday.

The "King of Kings" statue, one of southwest Ohio's most familiar landmarks, had stood since 2004 at the evangelical So lid Rock Church along Interstate 75 in Monroe, just north of Cincinnati.

The lightning strike set the statue ablaze around 11:15 p.m. Monday, Monroe police dispatchers said.

The sculpture, about 62 feet tall and 40 feet wide at the base, showed Jesus from the torso up and was nicknamed Touc hdown Jesus because of the way the arms were raised, similar to a referee signaling a touchdown. It was made of plasti c foam and fiberglass over a steel frame, which is all that remained Tuesday.

The nickname is the same used for a famous mural of the resurrected Jesus that overlooks the Notre Dame football stad ium.

The fire spread from the statue to an adjacent amphitheater but was confined to the attic area, and no one was injured, police Chief Mark Neu said.

Estimated damage from the fire was set at \$700,000 — \$300,000 for the statue and \$400,000 for the amphitheater, Fir e Capt. Richard Mascarella said Tuesday.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was at the scene Tuesday to prevent traffic jams and potential accidents from motorists stopping along the highway to take photographs.

The patrol began issuing citations about 4 p.m. Tuesday to motorists for stopping on the side of the highway, dispatcher Adam Brown said. The number of gawkers coupled with construction had slowed I-75 traffic in the area to a crawl, the st ate Highway Patrol said.

Some people were scooping up pieces of the statue's foam from the nearby pond to take home with them, said church c o-pastor Darlene Bishop.

"This meant a lot to a lot of people," she said.

Keith Lewis, of nearby Middletown, arrived at the church around 7 a.m. Tuesday to photograph the remains for his wife. Lewis said he had viewed the statue as both an oddity and an inspiration.

Cassie Browning, a church member from Dayton, said she was driving home when she saw smoke and noticed the stat ue was missing.

Travelers on I-75 often were startled to come upon the huge statue by the roadside, but many said America needs more symbols like it. So many people stopped at the church campus that church officials had to build a walkway to accommod ate them.

Bishop said the statue will be rebuilt.

"It will be back, but this time we are going to try for something fireproof," she said.

The 4,000-member, nondenominational church was founded by Bishop and her husband, former horse trader Lawrence Bishop.

Lawrence Bishop said in 2004 he was trying to help people, not impress them, with the statue. He said his wife propose d the Jesus figure as a beacon of hope and salvation.

See http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_lightning_strikes_jesus_statue

Re: 6-story Jesus statue in Ohio struck by lightning - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2010/6/15 18:46

"...nicknamed Touchdown Jesus because of the way the arms were raised"

that makes me want to cry. That is so sad.

Re: 6-story Jesus statue in Ohio struck by lightning, on: 2010/6/15 19:27

Excellent shot Lord.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGTBFPte-MY>

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/dayton-news/church-will-rebuild-large-jesus-statue-gets-calls-from-around-the-world-763039.html>