

# APOLOGETICS FOR THE CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2024





# **WELCOME** FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dr. Mark Farnham Founder and Director

I am pleased to present the new and improved annual report for Apologetics for the Church. In previous years I used a Microsoft Word formatted document to summarize all that God has done through the ministry, but this new annual report reflects the massive changes taking place in the ministry. 2024 was a seminal year for Apologetics for the Church, in many ways. Thanks to generous donors and a flood of volunteers, we purchased more than \$10,000 of recording equipment and launched a YouTube channel, a second (and much improved) season of our podcast, secured a long-term commitment on our radio program and began a serious effort to spread the work of the ministry across multiple social media platforms.

These efforts have brought national and international exposure to the ministry. I hear regularly from people across the globe about how they have benefitted from our focus on equipping ordinary believers to effectively and confidently engage unbelievers with the good news of the gospel. I hope your excitement grows as you peruse this report, and I ask that you continue to pray for the continued growth of Apologetics for the Church.

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# **OUR MISSION**

# We exist to equip ordinary believers to effectively and confidently share the gospel.

## **Core Values**

Strengthening the confidence of believers to know that the Christian faith is true.

Making effective engagement with unbelievers accessible to every believer.

Winsomely drawing unbelievers to Jesus by answering their intellectual questions and their heart concerns.

Encouraging believers to boldly look for opportunities to engage unbelievers in conversation that leads to Jesus.

Providing answers to the most challenging objections raised against the Christian faith today.

Building our apologetic methodology on the foundation of the Scriptures and orthodox theology.



# OUR TEAM MEET OUR KEY PLAYERS OF 2024









### Jeff Mindler Research Assistant

Jeff Mindler is a researcher and apologist with a passion for equipping believers to defend their faith. A graduate of Lancaster Bible College, he is pursuing a Master of Theology at Union Theological College. Jeff has extensive experience engaging unbelievers with the Gospel and training others in apologetics.

# Brandon Anchant

Brandon is a Rock Climber, General Manager of Reading Rocks Climbing & Fitness, and aspiring Apologist/Evangelist. He has been an intern of Dr. Mark Farnham with Apologetics for the Church since 2024. He is a public speaker, Podcaster, musician, and currently serves in his Adult Bible Fellowship at Calvary Church Lancaster.

# Lauren D'Antonio

Social Media Strategist

Lauren has been a marketing strategist by trade for 14 years. She works daily giving c-level professionals digital marketing strategy overviews. She has earned bachelors in Communications and in Biblical Studies at Lancaster Bible College.

### **Jason Ehmann** Email Campign Manager

Jason enjoys life with his wife and four kids at the base of the Ruby Mountains in Lamoille, Nevada. He works as a communication professional at Nevada Gold Mines and has ministered with Dr. Farnham for over a decade. He contributes to Apologetics for the Church by producing the email newsletter.





# Michelle Perez

**Communications Director** 

Michelle is a graphic designer and marketing specialist. She has earned a Master of Arts in Ministry from Lancaster Bible College | Capital Seminary, and teaches the Bible to groups of women. Michelle and her husband, Chris, have been married since 2008 and have two children.





## **Ethan Scott**

Video Production

Ethan works in live production and loves recording, mixing, and editing audio and video projects. He earned his bachelor's degree in Media Arts Production from Lancaster Bible College and lives in Lancaster Pennsylvania with his wife, Evelyn.

### Kayla Willing Communications Intern

Kayla Willing is the Communications Intern for Apologetics for the Church, using her skills in writing and media to share the ministry's mission. A student at Lancaster Bible College and a professional emcee, she is passionate about equipping believers to defend their faith and share the Gospel.

The team at Apologetics for the Church has come together by God's grace, uniting our diverse backgrounds, skills, and passions for a common mission—to equip believers to confidently share and defend the Gospel. Through His provision, we have seen doors open for training, resources developed, and lives transformed. Every step forward has been a testament to God's faithfulness, allowing us to reach more people, strengthen the church, and engage the lost with truth and love. We are humbled by what He has accomplished and excited for what lies ahead.



# **OUR BOARD** OF TRUSTEES

#### John Marsella, MA

For many years John served as the President and COO of the Summerwood Corporation in Philadelphia. For over twenty years he has also designed, led, and supported Christian counseling ministries around the world.

#### Al Huss, PhD

Al earned doctoral degrees in both chemical engineering and New Testament and split his working years between the oil and gas industry and teaching Greek and New Testament at seminaries around the world.

#### Sam Harbin, DMin

Sam served as a pastor for eleven years before transitioning to seminary and college teaching, where he has served as a seminary president and professor. He is a widely respected leader and counselor.

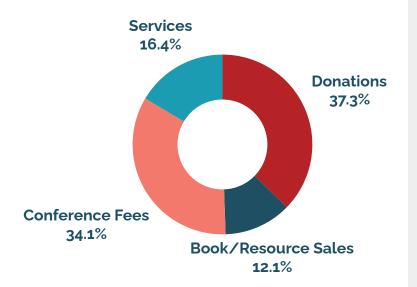
#### Rodney Pearce, MDiv.

Originally from Australia, Rodney worked as an aircraft mechanic for Qantas Airlines before heading off to seminary in California. He has served as assistant pastor in York, PA for more than twenty years and teaches in the Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics program at Lancaster Bible College.

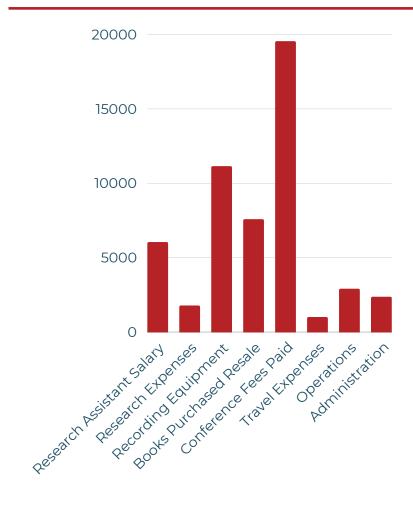
#### Dan Esquirell, CPA, MBA, CFP

Dan worked as an accountant for many years before becoming a professor of accounting. He eventually entered investment management and oversees the portfolios of executives at a Fortune 100 company.

# **FINANCIAL REPORT**



| Income: \$49,571   |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Donations          | \$18,150 |
| Book/Resource Sale | \$5,900  |
| Conference Fees    | \$16,600 |
| Services           | \$8,800  |



#### Thank You for Your Partnership in this Vital Work!

In 2024, our total income was \$49,571, primarily from generous donations, resource sales, conferences, and services. Expenses totaled \$52,421, covering research, podcast production, books, conferences, travel, and operations. A significant investment in recording and editing equipment has enhanced our podcast's quality, enabling us to reach a broad online audience with impactful apologetics teaching. While costs exceeded income, every dollar was invested strategically to advance our mission.

Notably, Dr. Mark Farnham does not take a salary at this time, allowing funds to directly support ministry efforts. We remain committed to wise stewardship as we expand our reach.

| <b>Expenses:</b> \$52,421    |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Research Assistant<br>Salary | \$6,050  |
| Research Expenses            | \$1,786  |
| Recording Equipment          | \$11,150 |
| Books Purchaced<br>Resale    | \$7,587  |
| Conference Fees Paid         | \$19,550 |
| Travel Expenses              | \$1,011  |
| Operations                   | \$2,913  |
| Administration               | \$2,374  |



# **OUR GOALS**

FOR 2025

## Podcast, Print, and Video Production

In 2024 we produced 16 videos for our new YouTube channel and a new season of podcast episodes. In 2025 we hope to produce 75 videos and podcast episodes as well as a number of short, printed pieces for free distribution on popular topics, such as the problem of evil and suffering, the reliability of Scripture, and the deity of Christ. In addition to our YouTube channel, we are now posting short videos on several social media sites, which has an extensive reach around the world.

## Refined Internship Program

We began welcoming interns in summer 2023 and refined the program to some degree in 2024 with our first year-long intern, Brandon, and our second student intern, Kayla (see the Team page). In 2025 we hope to take on more interns with the intent that we multiply the impact of Apologetics for the Church. This will help us move closer to the goal of employing Associate Apologists who can travel to conference opportunities that we presently cannot fill. In recent years Mark has received invitations from Egypt, Togo, Uganda, and other countries that he hasn't been able to fulfill.

# **Redesigned Website**

As you can see, God has brought together an amazing team of volunteers to help the ministry grow in new directions. One of the benefits of this team is that we have completely redesigned our website to make it a place with many more resources to equip ordinary believers. The website now provides links to such resources as our blog, podcast, YouTube channel, free study guide, Everyone Worships website, and other free resources.

## Publication of the Apologetics Curriculum

In 2020, Dr. Farnham completed a sevenyear project of writing a 35-week Christian School and church curriculum. Initially, a publishing company contracted to develop the curriculum, but rescinded the contract in 2023, due to creative differences. In 2025 we will seek either a new traditional publisher or an online platform to make the material available to schools and churches.

## **Increase Support**

Our fundraising efforts at the end of 2024 resulted in \$7,000 of one-time gifts and the addition of three new monthly supporters. Because new opportunities are arising all the time, we hope to raise \$20,000 in onetime gifts and ten new monthly supporters in 2025. This will enable us to continue to produce new resources, accept more interns, and invest in new projects, such as hosting regional conferences for churches.

# SUCCESSES

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2024



# **Book Publishing**

A major publishing effort was completed in 2024. A two-year project concluded on the basic philosophy book, *Talking About Worldviews: A Conversational Introduction to Philosophy* (Kregel, forthcoming). Written from a distinctly Christian perspective, it teaches philosophy through a fictional discussion between four young adults—a Christian, an atheist, an existentialist, and a Buddhist. The book will be released in late 2025 or early 2026.

## Formation of an Amazing Team

Throughout 2023-24 God has miraculously brought together a number of truly talented people to volunteer their expertise for the improvement and advancement of the ministry. This may be the single greatest success of the year, and it was all God's doing. He is the one who laid it on the hearts of all the people who now comprise "The Team."

## **Quick Facts:**

- Conferences and seminars in 2025: 17
- People trained: 2,600+
- College groups addressed: 5
- Largest conference attendance: **500**

## Consultations

In addition to the conferences and seminars held in 2024, Dr. Farnham has consulted on dozens of podcast interviews, apologetics-related meetings, zoom calls, phone calls, and emails. Requests for help come almost weekly from people, pastors, and churches around the country.

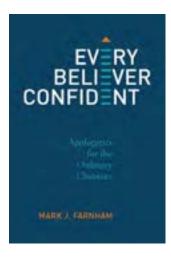
## Special Seminar Hosted

In September, Apologetics for the Church co-sponsored an event, Dignity Beyond Accomplishment: Valuing All People in a Culture of Death with Dr. Justin Hawkins (PhD, Yale). As the brother of someone born with Down Syndrome, Justin is a leading advocate for the sanctity of all human life. Justin lectured to an audience of more than 30 ministry leaders and proposed ways believers can continue to exalt the sanctity of life.

# REPUBLICATION

P&R Publishing contacted Dr. Farnham in early 2024 to consider republishing his first book, *Every Believer Confident: Apologetics for the Ordinary Christian*. They offered a contract in August and the project was fast-tracked in 45 days. This was an intense accomplishment that required almost daily communications between Mark and P&R. The project was completed in October and the new cover and layout were complete by November. The new edition was released in January 2025, with an extensive marketing campaign.

The new edition of the book includes a number of changes. The last three chapters on theological topics have been removed and replaced with a single chapter on "Gospel Conversations in Ongoing Relationships." The publisher felt this replacement fit the general tenor of the book better. Additionally new study questions and case studies were added to every chapter. This makes the book more useful in small groups and Sunday School classes. Early sales of the book have been outstanding!



# **GET INVOLVED** WITH APOLOGETICS FOR THE CHURCH

Join us in equipping believers to share and defend the Gospel! You can support our mission by praying for wisdom and boldness, giving financially to expand our reach, and sharing our content to spark conversations about faith. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, and subscribe to our podcast on Buzzsprout. Want to go deeper? Host a teaching event, volunteer, or collaborate with us-reach out to learn more. Stay connected by signing up for our newsletter!



# **IMPACTS!**

HEAR FROM TESTIMONIES THEMSELVES:

#### Meet Juli

Juli is a student leader of the Student Evangelism Fellowship at Lancaster Bible College. She uses Dr. Mark Farnham's resources to equip her team and share the Gospel more effectively. With a heart for missions, Juli is preparing to take her passion for evangelism to the field, reaching people for Christ.



JULI'S STORY



I just wanted to let you know that I got some excited feedback after the introductory video lesson yesterday. Several people are ready to learn how to confidently share with others about their faith! Jesse Hoffman, Coventry Church of the Brethren, Pottstown, PA

I wanted to let you know that your beach ball illustration about suppressing the truth from Romans 1 was useful to my sermon yesterday, and many people commented on its helpfulness! Thanks again for being a faithful, steadfast witness for the one unchanging gospel. Adam Swift, Pastor, Grace Church Willow Valley, PA

Your Everyone Worships site is a wonderful ministry and evangelistic tool, and so please keep it going! I was able to send it to my daughter who is building a relationship with an unbeliever. I am excited to wear my Everyone Worships T-shirt and see what comes from it!

Bruce B., Gap, PA

My wife and I have learned so much from your book, *Every Believer Confident*, that is helping us with evangelism on the college campuses where we minister. Our outreach and discipleship has been strengthened by the principles you teach. **Vinh Hoang, Tampa, FL** 

I have continued to hear great feedback from your teaching. Many people were encouraged by your sermon Sunday morning and just your pastoral, caring approach to evangelism and apologetics. One lady shared that at work this week she encountered an agnostic. She practiced your method and just kept asking questions. She was brushing up on these questions to continue the conversation the next day. She said, "With these tools, I am now actually excited to go into this conversation about Jesus with her!" **Ethan Swartz, Pastor, Church of the Living Christ, Loysville, PA** 

I am from Buenos Aires, Argentina. I wanted to thank you for writing *Every Believer Confident*. I grew up in an evangelical Pentecostal environment and it was through a group of brothers that I began to have an understanding of the presuppositional method of apologetics. However, there is a small problem. I don't know how to speak English (if I write to you now I do it through a Google translator). There are few books in Spanish on presuppositionalism. The one you wrote and which was translated by EBI is the first one I have read so that is why I want to express my gratitude.

# EQUIPPING ORDINARY CHRISTIANS INTO 2025



ApologeticsForTheChurch.org