Meeting for 2017 Set!

With the gracious efforts of ISCA Past President Kerby Anderson and ISCA Vice President William Roach, we have secured a venue for our annual meeting. On March 24-25, 2017, ISCA will be meeting at The Hope Center (http://www.thehopecenter.org), in Plano, TX (Dallas area). “The Hope Center is a one-of-a-kind ministry home to over 40 Christian nonprofits. ... Our mission impact powerfully extends beyond our four walls. Our Christian Nonprofits are the physical hands and feet of the body of Christ sharing the gospel to people locally and around the world — every single day” (from The Hope Center website). With the tremendous experience we had the last time ISCA was at The Hope Center, it is a privilege to return.

Be sure to reserve the date and plan now to attend. Also, if you are a current member of ISCA, we encourage you to submit a paper proposal for one of the breakout sessions.

Do you know someone who is not yet a member of ISCA? Send them here (http://www.isca-apologetics.org/how-to-join-isca) for information on how to join.
2017 ISCA Conference Info

Where will the conference be held?
The Hope Center, 2001 W. Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75075.

When will the conference be held?
March 24-25, 2017.

Does one have to be a member of ISCA to attend the conference?
No. However, only active members are allowed to participate in Q & A and discussion during the sessions.

Does one have to be a member of ISCA to be a break-out presenter at the conference?
All break-out session presenters must be either full members or student members with dues paid to present.

How do I submit my paper proposal?
Your paper proposals for the breakout sessions should be sent to ISCA Vice President William C. Roach (Bill) at roawil@gmail.com.

When is the paper proposal due?
Paper proposals should be emailed to Bill Roach before the end of Jan. 1, 2017.

When will I know if my paper is accepted?
Decisions on papers will be made by Feb. 1, 2017, with notification by email being sent out to individuals immediately.

What is the conference theme?
The conference will seek to highlight the vast range of issues that constitute the defense of the faith. To that end, papers can be on any topic that deals with an apologetic issue.

What is the conference schedule?
The conference schedule is being worked on. When finalized, it will be posted to the ISCA website.

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Daniel Lacaria
Operations Supervisor, FedEx Freight


Jason Moore
Ph.D. Student, Columbia International University


Juan Valdez
Reasons for Hope Ministries


What’s Happening in the World of Apologetics

Aug. 18-20, 2016. Cross-Examined Instructor Academy, Costa Mesa CA.


Oct. 1, 2016. Apologetics Conference (in Spanish), Iglesia Casa Sobre la Roca, Orlando FL.

Oct. 13, 2016. Southern Evangelical Seminary National Christian Apologetics Women’s Conference at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC.


Nov. 5-6, 2016. Women Teaching Women Conference, Long Branch Covenant Church, Long Branch, NJ.


Nov. 15-17, 2016. Evangelical Philosophical Society, Grand Hyatt and Marriott Rivercenter, San Antonio, TX.


Mar. 24-25, 2017. International Society of Christian Apologetics Annual Conference at The Hope Center, Plano, TX.

International Society of Christians

April 7-9, 2017. World of Apologetics: What Happens When Science and Religion Collide at The Orchard, Tupelo, MS.

June 6-9, 2017. The Defense Never Rests Conference at Calvary Church, Charlotte NC.

July 11-13, 2017. Southern Evangelical Seminary National Christian Apologetics Women’s Conference at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC.

July 14-15, 2017. Southern Evangelical Seminary National Conference on Christian Apologetics at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC.


October 14-15, 2017. Southern Evangelical Seminary National Christian Apologetics Women’s Conference at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC.

November 15-17, 2017. Southern Evangelical Seminary National Conference on Christian Apologetics at Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC.


February 10-11, 2018. International Society of Christian Apologetics Annual Conference at The Hope Center, Plano, TX.
No one told me that I couldn’t use my tenure as President of ISCA in as self-serving a way as I wanted. With that in mind, because I am by training a philosopher (not unlike some of you) and by motivation an apologist (just like all of you), I thought I’d muse on how I see the role that sound philosophy must play in some of our thinking as apologists and, by extension, in some of our thinking as Christians who inevitably do theology.

In the interest of full disclosure, my thinking here has been pinched off from what I’ve been teaching for some years and what I have been writing lately with the aim of finishing my book on the subject, the working title of which is *Defending the Handmaid: How Theology Needs Philosophy*. My title (which may not survive the publisher, if I even get that far) was inspired by Winfried Corduan’s important book *Handmaid to Theology: An Essay in Philosophical Prolegomena* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1981).

Not too long ago, I was accused by another apologist (who, by the way, is not associated with ISCA, and who, in all likelihood, would consider himself more of a theologian than an apologist) of being an elitist—or at least making apologetics or theology itself elitist. If philosophy was necessary for apologetics or theology and, further, if philosophy was surely out of the reach of many Christians (which is to say, if not many Christians would have the opportunity or, indeed, the desire to pursue academic philosophy), then it would follow (so my accuser contended) that apologetics or theology would be out of reach of many Christians. They could only be done by the expert philosophers.

At the time, I wasn’t quite sure what to make of the accusation. Having thought about it, this is what I should have said in response to my friend. While I might appreciate his concern, it stems from a misunderstanding of exactly what I hold to be the relationship of philosophy to apologetics and theology.

To illustrate what I am (and am not) saying, consider a child whose mother asks her to go pick a flower and bring it to her. The child knows what a flower is. She knows that there is a difference between the flower and her mommy. However, to delve deeper into the physical nature of a flower, one would need to understand botany (which would certainly be out of reach of the child). To delve deeper still into various aspects of the flower and the plant on which it blooms (for example, its photosynthesis), one would need to understand chemistry. Finally, to delve deeper still, one would need to understand physics to grasp the workings of the plant at the atomic and sub-atomic levels.

Now suppose we wanted to account for a number of other aspects of the flower and the person of her mommy. What makes a flower a flower and makes a person a person are their respective natures (or essences). At least this is what I would maintain philosophically (though here, without argument). This would take us into the philosophical discipline of metaphysics (the study of the nature of reality). We can know beginning with our senses that one is a flower and the other is a person. This would take us into the philosophical discipline of epistemology (the study of the nature of the knowledge of reality). We value the person over the flower because of the different kinds of things they are. This would take us into the philosophical discipline of ethics. We insist that others value the person over the flower and hold them accountable when they don’t. This would take us into the philosophical discipline of political philosophy. We can know that both the flower and the person cannot account for their own existence but are created by God. This would take us into the philosophical discipline of philosophy of religion.

So the upshot here is this. It’s not so much that whenever one is doing apologetics or theology, he is *ipso facto* doing philosophy. Rather, there are elements of both apologetics and theology the deeper analysis of which requires philosophy. Anyone who wants to pick a flower is free to do so. Such activity is not reserved for the elites. But if one insists on commenting upon the deeper physical dimensions of the flower, he must take on the responsibility of these deeper natural sciences. By analogy, anyone who wants to defend the faith is free (and encouraged) to do so. Such a noble activity is not reserved for the elites. But if one insists on commenting upon the deeper philosophical dimensions of apologetics and theology, he must take on the responsibility of doing sound philosophy.

Your Fearless ISCA Leaders

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Phil Fernandes, Secretary
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Tim Adkisson, Webmaster
Software Engineer
New festschrift in honor of ISCA founder Norman L. Geisler!

I Am Put Here for the Defense of the Gospel

Dr. Norman L. Geisler: A Festschrift in His Honor

With personal tributes to Dr. Geisler and articles covering apologetics, biblical studies, philosophy, ethics, other religions and cults from contributors such as J. Kerby Anderson, John Ankerberg, Winfried Corduan, Wayne Detzler, F. David Farnell, David Geisler, Mark Hanna, Joseph M. Holden, Richard G. Howe, Thomas Howe, Walter C. Kaiser, Terry L. Miethe, William E. Nix, Paige Patterson, R. Phillip Roberts, Patty Tunicliffe, Donald T. Williams, Ravi Zacharias, and more!