

Evidence For Christianity Newsletter

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Teaching Trip to Bergen and Stockholm

By John Oakes

September 1-3 Bergen, Norway

I flew through Copenhagen, arriving in the beautiful city of Bergen, Norway. This is the second largest city in Norway, with a population of about one-half million. It is located at the end of a stunningly beautiful fjord. Norway has no shortage of these! The weather here is not all that cold, considering that it is at over sixty degrees of latitude. The city is on the southwest coast of Norway, and because of the Gulf Stream, it generally snows here very little. They tell me that in June it never gets totally dark here, although the sun does set for a couple of hours. Bergen is the old capital of Norway. It was founded in 1070. There are many old buildings here, especially churches. Unfortunately, most of these churches are no longer used for worship because Norway is now largely agnostic or atheist.

But that is why I am here. I have been invited to do some Christian apologetics classes for the church. There are eighteen members here, mostly young. They are quite evangelistic and determined to spread the gospel in a country which, at least at first glance, appears to be not very open to the gospel. They believe that many will be open, but understand that some very basic teaching about God must come before people will be open to Christian ideas. The group here is led by Ronny and Katrina Yttrehus. I also had the pleasure of meeting Joseph Neyland, son of my friend Reese Neyland. He is in school here in Bergen and recently married a Norwegian from the church in Bergen. Looks like he might stay.

Thursday evening I did a class on how to use Apologetics to reach out to non-believers. This is the need of the hour here in Norway. On Friday we visited the old city, with its warehouses from the late middle ages. Bergen is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, especially for those who like to get a sense of history. Ronny and I took a tram to the top of one of the mountains at the edge of the fjord. From there we could see hills, islands and fjords all the way to the horizon. It was absolutely stunning. In the evening I was able to teach an evangelistic lesson on God and Science. It was such an encouraging meeting. The fifteen members present had at least thirty-five guests. This was by far the biggest turnout ever for this young missionary church. The excitement was palpable and many studies were set up.



Bergen, Norway Waterway



Friday night campus class



Ronny & Katrina Yttrehus

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5:30 PM Friday
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Cost \$40

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OPEN TO ALL

For more information
www.evidenceforchristianity.org
joakes01@san.rr.com

Registration form
in attachments

September 4-6, Stockholm, Sweden,

From there, I was whisked off to the airport by Henning for a 10:30 PM flight to Stockholm, Sweden. This is the Venice of the North, the most beautiful city in Scandinavia, second only to St. Petersburg in all Northern Europe. It is a city on seven islands. The population is about 1.8 million. Sweden is a very prosperous country which relies on its very strong educational system and a thoroughly socialist political culture to sustain that prosperity. Sweden is perhaps the most progressive country in the world, for better or for worse—probably both. They are fantastically generous of their money and accept refugees with open arms. The people are honest and corruption is virtually unknown. Yet the culture seems almost without religion and a sense of fixed morality. There is little patience for the idea of moral absolutes or even for religion with any conviction at all. The church here is a shining light in a humanistic/agnostic culture. Relativism is a national religion. But enough of the negative, they are a truly charming people. They are very hesitant to express their feelings and generally quite shy and reserved, but as a rule the Swedes are deep thinkers and culturally well aware. Their initial reserve hides a wonderful friendliness and warmth. I love this country.

I am staying with Chris and Kim Reed, the leaders of this church of 120, along with their daughter Hannah. The church is quite mature, having been planted more than twenty years ago. This is in stark contrast to Bergen, where most of the members are very young. On Saturday, I gave two lessons at Stockholm University. The first lecture was on the Existence of God, while the second one was on Christianity and Evolution. As in Bergen, I am able to speak in English without translation. The people here have much more patience for philosophical and intellectual topics than is typical in the US. The turnout was really amazing. There were about 175 people, including more than eighty guests. The church here has only one campus member, but there were a great number of students at the lecture. What a great encouragement. Please pray for this ministry. There were so many people open to the gospel, yet many seemed fearful of the idea of absolute truths. The questions were very insightful. The two lectures were followed by the Swedish version of a barbecue.

Sunday I was able to teach/preach for the church on the book of Daniel. There were perhaps 20-30 guests and an attendance of about 140. Many returned from the Saturday lectures. Particularly encouraging was a man who drove over two hours and spent the night in a hotel so that he could take part in the classes and stay on for church. He is now studying the Bible. I spent the afternoon touring Stockholm with Rasmus Lind. He and his wife led the church here until the Reeds came a year and a half ago. We visited the Stockholm Town Hall where the Nobel Prizes are awarded, as well as the old city. This is one of the most charming places I have ever had the pleasure to visit. There are so many amazing buildings, nar-



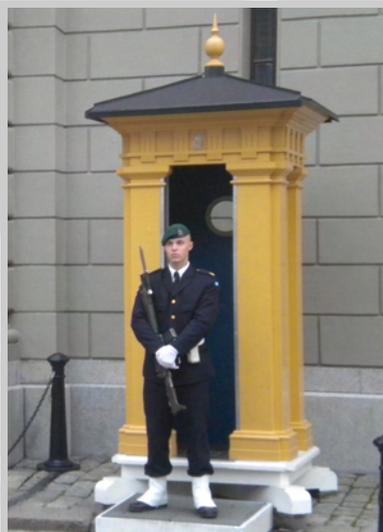
Stockholm view from City Hall



The Old City of Stockholm



Parliament Building



Palace Guard



Rasmus at City Hall

2011 Christian Evidences Conference



Christianity and the Paranormal

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THE QUEEN MARY is freeway accessible to Los Angeles International, Long Beach, and John Wayne Airports. Rental car facilities are currently available at each airport, as well as aboard **THE QUEEN MARY**. Shuttle service may be pre-arranged through Super Shuttle from any area airport. Current fees are available by calling Super Shuttle at (800) 554-3146.

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To make a reservation call:

800-437- 2934 (outside of southern CA)

877-342-0742 (from southern CA)

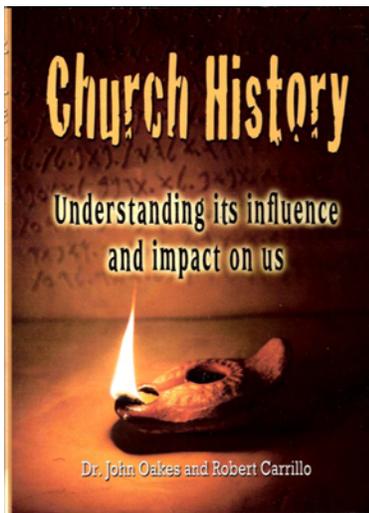
Mention Apologetics Research Society to secure special room rate.

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Hear real-life testimonies from Christians about their encounters with the paranormal and learn the opinions of expert biblical teachers.

**Classes from International Christian Evidence Conference are now available.
Includes Handouts and Power-points All messages are in MP3 audio.**

Four Christian Views of Evolution on DVD will be released soon and can be ordered now at www.ipibooks.com



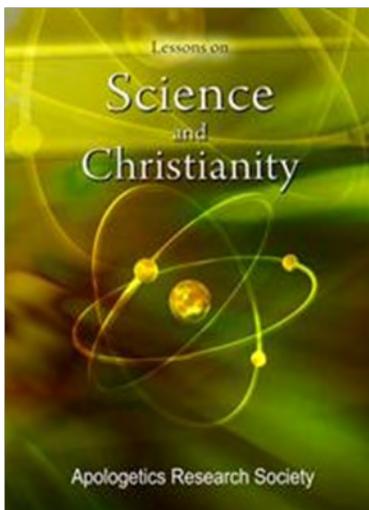
Church History

Church history is at times discouraging and at times inspiring. So why should we explore it? The obvious reason is as the famous motto states, "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." If church history is a litany of mistakes and false statements then it offers an unlimited number of opportunities to learn: it is a great source of practical advice on what not to do. No part of Christianity is without fault. All of us need significant mid-course correction to the path of or particular congregation, or church movement.

Church history is important because it shows how movements went astray, stayed on track, and even became stagnant. This series is important because it gives us insight into how to "do" church today. The CD (MP3 format) contains 8 hours of in-depth messages, and includes a class and outline and a Power-point presentation.

Dr. Oakes is a professor at Grossmont College in San Diego, California. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry at the University of Connecticut and his PhD in chemical physics from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1984. Having been a professor for over 20 years, he is well qualified to teach in area of science, history and the bible. John also serves as the president of the Apologetics Research Society. He has taught in churches and on college campuses across the United States and around the world.

Robert Carrillo graduated from the University of San Diego with a degree in history. He is pursuing a masters at Pepperdine University. He has served as an evangelist in Kingston, Jamaica, New York City and currently serves as evangelist with San Diego Church of Christ. He and his wife, Michele have three children.



2010 ICEC

Lessons on Science and Christianity

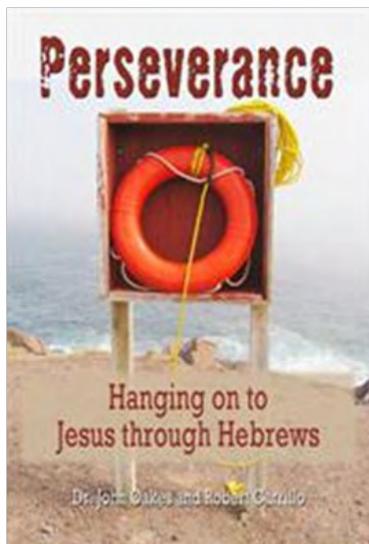
Disk One

1. Why Did God Create Man/Why is There Suffering?, John Clayton
2. Science: Christianity's Long Lost Child, Robert Kurka
3. A Defense of the Soul from a Neuroscientist, John Beggs
4. The Moral Argument, Dan Conder
5. A Defense of Christian Theology, Dr. John M. Oakes
6. Adam and Human Evolution, Foster Stanback
7. Toward an Intellectually Fulfilled Theism, Dr. Denis Lamoureux

8. The Urgency of Apologetics, Dr. Douglas Jacoby
9. God and Cosmology, William Golightly
10. Why I Left Atheism, John Clayton

Disk Two

11. On the Nature of God, John Clayton
12. Evolutionary Creation, Dr. Denis Lamoureux
13. Faith that Answers the Hard Questions, Dr. John M. Oakes
14. Question and Answer Session, Panel



Perseverance

The letter of Hebrews is a pivotal document in the history of the Christian faith. It bridges the gap between the Old and New Testament and clearly outlines the supremacy of Christ. It emphasizes his deity; the greatness of his sacrifice and the pre-eminence of his new covenant.

It was written to Christians generally, but especially those of Jewish descent. It addresses disciples who have "been around" for some time but have not matured in faith as they should. The author warns that

greater persecution is coming and he is concerned that they are unprepared and will not endure.

The power of Hebrews lies in its call to hang on to Jesus to weather the storms of doubt and fear. This series will help you persevere with your faith and your trust in Christ.

The CD (MP3 format) contains 8 hours of in-depth messages, and includes a 44-page outline and a Power-point presentation.