

## Religion Analysis Service 2019 Conference on Christian Apologetics

October 5, 2019 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Great Room on the campus of the University of Northwestern-St. Paul

Free event – Register on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) (Just put RAS in Eventbrite searchbar)

### Conference Registration - 8:30 - 9:00 AM

#### 9:00 - 9:15 *Introduction and Worship with Don Anderson*



Pastor Don has served as the director of Christ for People with Developmental Disabilities for the past 39 years. He loves encouraging individuals with disabilities in their Christian faith and bringing the joy of the Lord into the lives of those who have remained isolated from the local church community because of various handicapping conditions.

Don's background includes residential care and special education. He, and his wife Mary, also served as family treatment foster care providers for children with developmental disabilities for several years.

#### 9:20—10:05 *Jim Tullar: A Story of Three lives*



Jim traces his life journey. His parents became Jehovah's Witnesses while he was a young child. He was raised as a Jehovah's Witness and was very active in the Watchtower until he became disillusioned with the organization in his later teens. This led to a period of about 14 years during Jim's early adult years in which he "wandered aimlessly" in a spiritual vacuum. In 1992, while at a low and suicidal point, Jim became aware of the existence of other ex-JW's, and later found faith in Jesus Christ.

Jim Tullar lives in Coon Rapids with Sue, his wife of 24 years. They have three children and one grandchild. He is a production manager at Precision Associates. His education includes: an A.S. in Business Management, North Hennepin Community College 2001 and a B.A. Business Management, Bethel University 2008. He attends North Point Church in Coon Rapids.

**10:10 - 10:55     Steve Lagoon**

***The Failure of Atheism to Explain the Nearly Universal Belief in God.***



The New Atheists are frustrated at the ubiquitous nature of God belief in modern times. They had believed that belief in God was going to fade into obscurity with the advance of the sciences. Yet belief in God is as strong as ever. Atheists struggle to explain this reality. Steve Lagoon will weigh these attempted explanations in the balance and show that they are wanting.

Steve Lagoon is the President of Religion Analysis Service. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies and a Master of Divinity degree, both from the University of Northwestern-St. Paul. He is the co-author of *Blood, Medicine, and the Jehovah's Witnesses* with Steve DeVore (1995) and *Oneness Pentecostalism: New Truth or Old Heresy* with Thomas Sheehy (2000).

**10:55 – 11:10     Coffee Break**

**11:10 – 11:55     Cindy Marty - “And the Truth Shall Set You Free”**



Cindy will share how her search for truth brought her out of the Jehovah's Witnesses and into an incredible adventure for God.

Cindy Marty is the founder of Tomorrow Clubs International, a ministry reaching more than 17,000 kids every week in eleven former communist countries. Cindy grew up in the Watchtower organization. At the age of thirty, her life was transformed by saving faith in Jesus Christ. In 1997, God called Cindy and her family to mission work in the country of Ukraine. Cindy and her husband Paul have five children, eight grandchildren, and now live in Eagan, Minnesota.

**12:00 – 1:00             Lunch Break**

**1:00 – 1:20             *Worship with Rev. Don Anderson***

**1:20 – 2:05      Kathy Magdal**

***This Is My Story: Leaving Mormonism Behind***



Kathy will share what made her decide to join the LDS church, her commitment to the church, what caused her to re-examine and eventually leave the LDS church, and what her life is like now that she has found a Bible teaching church and “the true” Jesus.

Kathy became a member of the LDS Church about the age of 35. “We had lived in our neighborhood for about 2 years and our neighbors were Mormons. We started attending church with them. Our family made friends with the people at church and I became a member in 1987. Our boys were baptized when they turned 8, but my husband never became a member. I was very active for about 18 years. I began to question whether or not the LDS church was indeed “the true church” in 2005 and officially cut all ties with the church in 2009.”

**2:10 – 2:55      Rick Dack - *The TV Said What? How Hollywood has Attacked Jesus’ Final Days (Gethsemane – The Resurrection)***



Was Jesus eaten by wild animals following the crucifixion? Did Jesus forgive Satan’s sins? Is The Simpsons/Family Guy satire rooted in comedy or bitterness? Is the content we see on TV (animated series, Bible movies, and

documentaries) Scripturally/historically accurate? This presentation covers the good, the bad and the unscriptural. Rick will also show where to find reliable, conservative archaeological organizations that help us defend our faith?

Rick Dack, of *Defending the Bible International*, holds a Bachelors of Science in history from the University of Northwestern (St. Paul) stressing apologetics and biblical archaeology. He serves on the boards of the Institute for Biblical Archaeology and Religion Analysis Service. He is an animator, media researcher and author. Dack has a burden for Christians and faith-seekers who are led away from their faith by media Bible myths (films, tv series, liberal - academic opinion).

**2:55 – 3:10          Coffee Break**

**3:10 – 3:55      Bruce Laughton**

***Cult Mind Control - State of the Art Manipulation.***



Bruce will explain the process used by cultic groups to mentally capture and retain their members.

Bruce Laughton founded Answers Inc. in 1994 together with John and Theresa Kelly. During the 10 years of its existence Answers devoted its efforts at educating the public about the manipulation employed by the cults, helping ex-members of cults to heal and move forward with their lives via walk-away exit counseling and monthly support group meetings and assisting families to free family members ensnared in a cult.

Bruce and John Kelly were speakers at the Cult Awareness Network's annual convention in 1997 which resulted in C.A.N. recognizing Jehovah's Witnesses as a group that employed mind control manipulation. While Answers Inc. no longer exists, Bruce, John and Theresa continue to field enquiries from families and speak on the subject of cult manipulation.

**4:00 – 4:45          Dennis Ingolfsland**

***The Historical Reliability of the Book of Acts***



Written in the first century AD, the Book of Acts is the earliest history of the Christian church. For critics who want to produce revisionist histories of the first century church the Book of Acts poses a significant obstacle. Some critics try to argue, for example, that there were multiple and widely divergent "Christianities" in the decades after Jesus' death. The problem for them is that the Book of Acts does not leave that impression at all. To produce revisionist

histories of the earliest church, therefore, it is necessary to discredit the Book of Acts. This presentation will discuss and answer some of the most serious objections to the reliability of the Book of Acts.

After directing academic libraries and teaching college students for over thirty years, Dennis Ingolfsland is now the pastor of Randolph Baptist Church and adjunct professor in Crown College's "School of Online and Graduate Studies." Dr. Ingolfsland is the author of two books,

one evangelistic booklet, 40 magazine and journal articles and more than 80 book reviews. He has also presented numerous papers at the Evangelical Theological Society. Ingolf's travels have taken him to numerous countries including, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Jordan, England, et al. In 2015 he taught a class on Christology at an extension of Moscow Theological Seminary in Khabarovsk, Russia.

**4:45 – 5:00                      Worship with Rev. Don Anderson**

**5:00 – 6:00                      Keynote Speaker - Dr. Brett Williams**

***The Devolution of Adam: How Denying a Literal Adam Undermines the Gospel***



Is an historical Adam necessary for orthodox Christianity? Should the creation account in Genesis be somehow reconciled to the prevailing scientific paradigm? The answers to these questions are at the forefront of contemporary debate and may very well shape the future of the evangelical landscape. This presentation will explore the contemporary arguments against a literal interpretation of the

Genesis account, specifically the historicity of Adam, and expose the current attempt to reconcile Scripture with scientism. It will also explain how the orthodox view of Adam help shape the message of the Gospel.

Dr. Williams was born and reared in Littleton, Colorado. He was saved as a young man and has been pursuing ministry since he was a teenager. He and his wife Naomi have three children: Evelyn, Lillian, and Lukyn. Brett holds degrees in theology, history, and divinity and has a PhD in Systematic Theology from Central Baptist Theological Seminary. He pastored in Austin, Minnesota for ten years prior to assuming the Provost position at Central Seminary. He enjoys reading theology and philosophy, backpacking, anything that deals with mountaineering, and spending time with his family. Dr. Williams primary influences have been Anselm, G. K. Chesterton, Martin Heidegger, and Augustine.