

A Testimonial to Faith and Courage

by Jeffrey Breshears

One morning in late January, 1998, I walked into a classroom at Georgia State University to deliver a lecture in my Modern U.S. History course on the origins of the Cold War. Just as I was getting ready to start, a knock came at the door. An interruption like this was unusual, but when I walked over to open the door, a young woman stood looking at me, and with a hint of slight self-consciousness she asked, "Professor Breshears, can I talk to you for a minute?" This was a rather odd request and odd timing, but something compelled me to step out into the hall and shut the door behind me.

She immediately began by saying, "You probably don't remember me [I didn't], but I was in one of your classes two years ago. After class one day, we had a talk. I had just found out that I was pregnant, and it seemed like my whole world was falling apart. I wasn't married, I didn't know what to do, and my boyfriend and I had decided to abort the baby."

As I stood staring quizzically at her, she continued: "You listened patiently, and then you told me, 'Well, you know abortion isn't the solution to your problem. You know what is right, and you know that the right thing to do is to let your baby live and have a life – either with you or someone else.' And you went on to say, 'If you do the right thing, God will bless and protect and reward you.' Then you encouraged me to get involved in a church that could help me through this."

At this point she reached into her purse, pulled out a picture and showed it to me. It looked like the kind of photo one might see in a church directory, and it was a picture of her, a nice-looking young man, and a beautiful little boy who looked to be about a year old.

With tears welling up in her eyes, she said, "I just want wanted to come and say, 'Thank you,' because what you said changed my mind about getting an abortion. My little boy is alive today because of you."

As I stood there in stunned silence, she put the photo back in her purse, and she hugged me and turned to leave. I'm sure I must have said something to her, but in retrospect I have no recollection of what it was. I watched for a moment as

she walked down the hall, then I opened the door, went back inside the classroom, and spent the next 80 minutes lecturing on Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, and the Cold War.

Later, when I had time to reflect on what had happened, I was overcome with emotion. Had this been some kind of dream or vision, or had it really happened? Was there really a little boy out there who was alive because of something I had said to this girl? I racked my mind, trying to remember the conversation that had taken place a couple of years earlier. Gradually, if vaguely, I began to recall the incident.

This encounter served as a reminder for why God had put me in the position that he had. Sure, it was to teach history as effectively as possible and to turn students on intellectually. But far more important, it was to be an ambassador for Christ and to speak truth in love.

I thought about this incident from time-to-time over the years, and occasionally I would share this young woman's story of faith and courage with others. But I always regretted that I never thought to get her name or contact information. I wondered how her life had turned out, and I wondered about that little boy. I remember thinking several years ago that he must be about 12-years-old at the time, and a few months ago it even occurred to me that he might be a senior in high school by now.

(Continued on the back side)

The Areopagus Calendar

Forums

New Reasons To Doubt Darwin The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design

Bruce Phillips

Associate Director, The Areopagus



Two books come close to defining the current discussions around Intelligent Design, both by Stephen Meyer. In the first, *Signature in the Cell*, Meyer sets out the case for Intelligent Design based on the kind of information we find in DNA. In his more recent work, *Darwin's Doubt*, he takes this argument several steps further and looks at the complexity involved in creating new animal forms compared to the incredibly short time period over which most forms show up in the fossil record.

It is difficult to understand the complexity marvel at the burst" of animal forms 500 million years ago, and not conclude that there was more going on than random mutation and natural selection as the Darwinists maintain.

Thursday, May 15th
7:30 PM
Perimeter Church
Fellowship Hall

Areopagus Profiles

Areopagus board members and associates

Eric Smith

I was born into a devoted Christian family, so from the very beginning I was exposed to the Truth. Though my church showed some of the typical Evangelical anti-intellectualism, they still taught basic apologetics (mainly the work of Josh McDowell), and I learned more through my father's extensive library. Nevertheless, like many others, my first exposure to more advanced apologetics and Christian philosophy was through C.S. Lewis. I read the Narnia books at an early age and devoured the Space Trilogy in High School, but it wasn't until I was in graduate school that I discovered his more advanced apologetic and philosophical works.

Starting in my twenties, my spiritual state was one of dissatisfaction, not with God or Christianity, but with the state of the modern church, especially its lack of education. Having grown up in the church, I felt that there was little more to be learned from it; I often felt I could predict the entire content of a sermon within the first five minutes. I turned more towards literature, such as the writings of Lewis, Manning, and even Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, to find the wisdom to help me grow spiritually. Despite these sources, however, I was still disconnected from the majority of Christian thought.



It wasn't until I was in my thirties that I discovered there was a wide world of intelligent Christian scholarship that had been heretofore

unknown to me, when my wife Andrea suggested we go to a talk on C. S. Lewis sponsored by a ministry called The Aréopagus. We very quickly became involved not only with the Aréopagus but with other apologetics ministries we discovered through it, satisfying the craving for quality Christian education we had both lived with for so long.

Currently, Andrea and I do everything we can to contribute to the ministry of the Aréopagus, including managing the Facebook page and other social media outlets. Given our backgrounds in the sciences (Andrea in biology and I in astrophysics), we are also active in the Atlanta chapter of Reasons To Believe, a science-based apologetics organization. We look forward to many years of educating both ourselves and others in the truths of Scripture and Christ.

A Testimonial to Faith and Courage

Then about a month ago, my questions were answered when I received an e-mail from a woman who had found me on the Internet. Her name was Nakia (Nikki), and she wanted me to know that her son, Matthew, was graduating from high school in May and that she would like for him to meet me. In her e-mail she wrote, "...your words of encouragement to me saved my baby's life... and changed the course of my life."

By God's grace, my wife and I were privileged a few nights ago to have dinner with Nikki, her husband and their family, and I had the opportunity to finally meet Matthew. I could not have been more impressed. Matthew is courteous, articulate, an excellent student, a member of the National Honor Society, and a leader in his school. (He's also a talented baseball player!) Most impressive, he and his family are very committed Christians.

The Areopagus Calendar

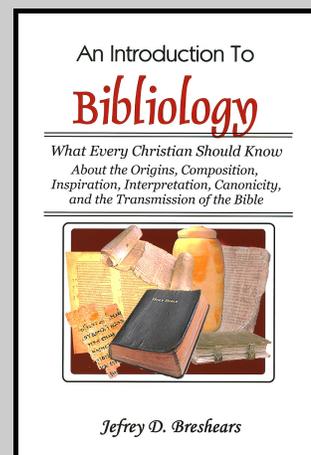
New Publication

– RELEASE DATE: JUNE 2014 –

An Introduction To

Bibliology

What Every Christian Should Know About the Origins, Composition, Inspiration, Interpretation, Canonicity, and the Transmission of the Bible
By Jeffrey D. Breshears



I hope that my wife and I are able to continue to develop our relationship with Nikki's family in the future. But regardless, I know one thing for certain: God rewarded Nikki's act of faith and courage some 18 years ago and blessed her with a beautiful life and a beautiful family. *Soli Deo gloria!*

"This day... I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life!" – Deut. 30:19



www.TheAreopagus.org