



### Centers of Ministry

By Jeffrey Breshears

Earlier this summer I spent two weeks in Poland on a lecture tour sponsored by Faculty Commons, the faculty division of Campus Crusade for Christ. I began the tour by speaking at the Warsaw Apologetics Conference, a weekend event that included a few philosophers, theologians and ministerial students but mostly professors and students in the natural sciences, where I addressed two topics: “Are Christianity and Modern Science Compatible?” and “Origins of the Phony War Between Science and Christianity.”

In the first lecture I emphasized the prominent role of philosophy in the sciences, and in the second presentation I made the case that, historically, the Christian faith provided the worldview and the philosophical foundation for the development of science in the medieval and early-modern eras.

Following the conference I spent the next ten days speaking to various groups of students and professors at several universities (and one Catholic church) on a variety of topics including “Has the Bible Been Accurately Preserved and Transmitted Through the Centuries” and “Reconciling the Reality of God and Evil” to “The Roman/Jewish Wars and the Extinction of Ancient Israel.”

This was my second such lecture tour in Poland, and I respect the work that Campus Crusade and Faculty Commons are doing as they seek to present an evangelical witness in a nation divided between traditional Roman Catholic beliefs and values and the rising tide of secularism that is engulfing Poland along with the rest of Europe.

Yet in the end I left with the same feelings that I had on my previous visit. Despite having defended the veracity and integrity of Biblical Christianity, I felt overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenge. Not only are there very few evangelical churches in Poland (evangelical Christians are probably less than 2-3% of the population), but there are virtually no evangelical schools, colleges or seminaries. Therefore, evangelicals often work through the auspices of the Catholic Church – a situation that not only complicates their efforts but, in many instances, actually neutralizes their message.

Despite the good work that my Campus Crusade hosts are doing, their efforts seem fragmented and their energy seems dissipated. In retrospect, a major problem with evangelical ministry in Poland seems to be that there is no center – no base of operations from which they can launch their forays into the culture and to which they can direct those who are seeking Truth and true Christian discipleship.

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### The Areopagus Calendar

#### — Fall Seminar —

**“A History of Christianity in America, Part II: From the American Revolution to 1900”**

**Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Breshears**

**Tuesdays, Aug. 31 - Nov. 16, 7:30 PM at Perimeter Church**

**Wednesdays, Aug. 25 - Nov. 17, 7 PM at Mt. Bethel Community Center.**

Part 2 in a 3-part series that highlights the major people, issues and events in American Christianity from colonial times to the present. In addition to being a survey of American Christian history, this course focuses on the controversies over the proper relationship between church and state, and the challenges of living in a society that is increasingly pluralistic, secularistic, and skeptical of Christian beliefs and values.

#### — Fall Forums —

**“Addicted to Entertainment: Why Christians Have So Little Impact on Contemporary Culture”**

**by Wes Widner**

**Thursday, Aug. 12, 7:30 PM at Mt. Bethel Community Center.**

**Thursday, Aug. 19, 7:30 PM at Perimeter Church.**

A critique of our society’s obsession with entertainment and technology based on three modern classics: Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*, Marshall McLuhan’s *The Medium Is the Message*, and Neil Postman’s *Amusing Ourselves to Death*.

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From my observations, what they desperately need is an evangelical study center – including a book store (and, ideally, a Starbucks-style coffee bar) that can attract Christians and non-Christians for both formal and informal faith-based discourse.

Upon further reflection, that is also what our Areopagus

ministry needs: a venue where we can expand our outreach to the metro-Atlanta area by offering interactive seminars, forums, workshops, discussion groups and other events that appeal to both Christians and non-Christians. We have the personnel, the curriculum, the programs and the experience. What we need is a center.

— Now showing in Atlanta —

## AGORA

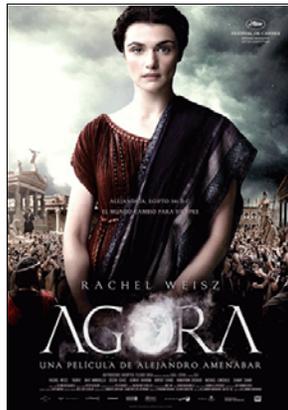
America is in the midst of an intense culture war, but we sometimes forget that there is nothing unique about such conflicts in history. In fact, there have been many times when culture wars were considerably hotter (and bloodier) than today. One such period is depicted in the new film, *Agora*.

Whenever worldviews collide, collateral damage is inevitable, and *Agora* is based on such a scenario – a relatively obscure event that occurred in Alexandria, Egypt in the early 400s as the city was transitioning from a predominantly pagan society and culture to one that was officially (if superficially) “Christian.”

Hypatia, a renowned Alexandrian philosopher, mathematician and astronomer, was a religious skeptic who was nonetheless respected by many pagan and Christian scholars of her day. In the film she is depicted as a voice of reason in a society torn apart by religious fanaticism, a portrayal that is generally supported by the historical records. Tragically, she was brutally murdered by a “Christian” mob, although the exact circumstances surrounding her death are anything but certain.

*Agora* is an intriguing if disturbing film, and one that I’d certainly recommend that Christians see. Unfortunately, its retelling of the Hypatia story is based on a questionable account of her death written by the pagan historian Damascius, which many scholars regard as tainted due to his anti-Christian bias. Given the antagonism toward Christians in contemporary popular culture, this is probably to be expected, but it is nonetheless disappointing.

*Agora* reminds us of the dangers of power politics. It is also a sober reminder that modern Christians aren’t the only ones who have often failed to live and act faithfully in the Spirit of Christ.



### The Areopagus Calendar

#### “Compelling New Evidence For Intelligent Design”

by Bruce Phillips

Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:30 PM at Mt. Bethel Community Center.

Thursday, Nov. 11, 7:30 PM at Perimeter Church.

Based on Stephen Meyer’s 2009 book, *Signature in the Cell*. Incredible new discoveries in various fields of science offer additional evidence that random, purposeless, naturalistic evolution is not only unlikely but irrational.

#### “Reflections on the Campus P.C. Battles: The Georgia Tech Case”

by Ruth Malhotra and Orit Sklar

Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:30 PM at Mt. Bethel Community Center.

Thursday, Oct. 21, 7:30 PM at Perimeter Church.

A review of the circumstances surrounding Ruth Malhotra and Orit Sklar’s civil rights lawsuit against Georgia Tech for violation of their freedom of speech. Malhotra and Sklar were awarded the Ronald Reagan Award by CPAC in 2009 for their stand against Political Correctness speech codes and the harassment of conservative and Christian students at Georgia Tech.

#### “I Don’t Have Enough Faith To Be an Atheist!”

by Dr. Frank Turek

Date and Time: To Be Announced

#### “The Liberation of Black Theology”

by Dr. Anthony Bradley

Date and Time: To Be Announced

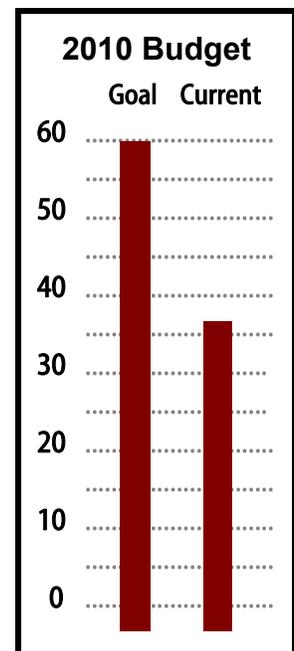
# The Areopagus

As an independent and self-sustaining ministry, The Areopagus depends upon the financial support of our Areopagus Associates – those who value our ministry and desire to help us expand our outreach in the metro-Atlanta area. Considering the many seminars, forums and other events that we sponsor each year, The Areopagus is one of the most cost-efficient ministries in operation. Our annual budget of \$60,000 covers all of our expenses including staff salaries, administrative costs, honoraria for speakers, etc.

If you would like to support this ministry financially as an Areopagus Associate, be assured that your contributions are much appreciated. You can contribute in either of two ways:

- (1) In the "Support the Areopagus" box on our website home page ([www.TheAreopagus.org](http://www.TheAreopagus.org)), simply click on the "Donate" button and follow the directions; or
- (2) Make your check out to "The Areopagus, Inc." and mail to...

The Areopagus, Inc.  
1220 William Robert Drive  
Marietta, GA 30008



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