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## News, Announcements, and Remembrances

The Editors  
*Liberty University*

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### Abstract

News from various organizations in related disciplines. Announcements from *Eleutheria* editors about internal matters. Remembrances of people and events that include *in memoriams*, retirements, interesting lookbacks, etc.

### Keywords

Gary Habermas Magnum Opus, PhD Support Group, MACA, Ratio Christi, Center for Moral Apologetics, Reasonable Faith, Liberty Champion, Troy Temple, John D. Morrison, Lee Webb, Fall Issue Deadlines

### Cover Page Footnote

From the Editors

## NEWS

***Habermas Magnum Opus.*** Gary Habermas has in the works a huge resurrection of Jesus multi-volumed magnum opus. The project has reached the place where publishers are being considered informally, though not yet at the point of making specific inquiries. It will still be a long trek to complete, with editing being by far the most consuming task. The work includes an entire projected volume on the minimal facts plus other historical evidence. Another volume treats the birth, growth, and many problems facing the famous nineteenth-century naturalistic theories that have continued intermittently ever since then, like the charge of pre-Christian resurrection stories in pagan sources. Included are lengthy discussions concerning why the majority of critical scholars have rejected these alternative scenarios. Throughout, large portions of material treat David Hume's argument against miracles, as well as treatments of many key historical events such as the crucifixion, empty tomb, and nature of the resurrection appearances. Another completed volume presents a line-up of critical views, both pro and con, on over 170 relevant issues without critiques, amounting to a Who's Who survey of recent scholarship. The last projected volume relates the resurrection of Jesus to both Christian theology and practice. Many individual subjects are virtually never discussed in the relevant literature.

***PhD Support Group.*** This fall, student leaders from the Ph.D. in Theology & Apologetics program will be offering support groups to those currently enrolled in the program. These will be small groups that will meet weekly or biweekly online or in person. Topics will focus on post-intensive discussions, degree completion planning, dissertation project management, and using classes for career advancement. These groups are a grassroots effort to build fellowship among students, increase the quality of Christian scholarship, and enrich the students' experience in the program. The formation of the project is headed by Ph.D. Candidate, Delia Ursulescu, with assistance by David Ochabski.

***MACA with Ratio Christi.*** Ratio Christi, the international apologetics organization, is partnering with the School of Divinity to offer courses that will count towards Liberty University's Master of Arts in Christian Apologetics (MACA). Students will be able to take one of three tracks: philosophical apologetics, historical apologetics, or master of apologetics, with a maximum of 18 credits transferring into the 36-credit hour MACA program. After graduating from the MACA program, students will meet the degree requirement for

admission into the Doctor of Philosophy in Theology & Apologetics program at Liberty. Students will also be in advanced standing in pursuing affiliation with Ratio Christi, eligible to be a community apologist. The certificate program, officially named *Defensor Christi*, is currently in beta testing. Subscribe to the Ratio Christi email list on their home page for more updates.

***Center for Moral Apologetics.*** Houston Baptist University has launched its Center for Moral Apologetics. The center is directed by the moral philosopher and former Liberty professor David J. Baggett. He envisions the center to be a hub of interdisciplinary scholarship and practical resources surrounding the moral argument and its manifestations in fields such as chaplaincy and counseling. They will be offering a certificate in moral apologetics, student fellowship opportunities, and church ministry resources. This month, they will be offering a two-week intensive co-taught by David Baggett and William Lane Craig.

***Reasonable Faith Chapters.*** Reasonable Faith is an apologetics organization spearheaded by philosopher and theologian William Lane Craig. Tyson James, the National Chapters Director for Reasonable Faith, shared some updates on what they have going on. First, they will be opening up their 200<sup>th</sup> chapter this month. With that, there will be chapters in 32 countries, more than half of which opening in the last four years. Second, they are in the testing stages of a free online course platform available on their website. Finally, they will have completed eleven of their animated videos in Chinese and are releasing them monthly, both on their international YouTube channel and on social media inside China.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Fall Issue Deadlines.*** Our “Call for Papers” will officially begin on June 30<sup>th</sup>, however authors may start submitting manuscripts immediately. The submission deadline will be October 1<sup>st</sup>. Peer-reviewers will need to complete their review of accepted papers by November 1<sup>st</sup> for the article to be included in the fall issue. From there, authors will have until November 15<sup>th</sup> to request editorial changes to the manuscript. The advisory board will hand down their approval by November 30<sup>th</sup>, and publication will be on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

***Eleutheria in the News.*** We sat down with Kaitlyn Nyhan of the Liberty Champion student newspaper. Because of Liberty’s strong online presence, the newspaper has a wide (even international) readership. If you do not receive the

newspaper by mail, search “Liberty Champion Eleutheria” to find the online article. Share this with friends who may be interested in submitting an article!

**Temple Appointed Dean.** Troy Temple had been serving as interim dean after Ed Hindson had retired. Dean Temple has been serving in academic and ministry positions for over 28 years at Liberty University, Boyce College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Youth Ministries International. He continues to be an innovative leader in developing online and residential programs in biblical studies, theological studies, church leadership, and church ministries. In addition, he has approved the relaunch of Eleutheria and expanded its authors to include undergraduate students who have exceptionally scholarly works in the making.

**Reviewer MVPs.** We aim to recruit scholars who display intellectual virtues and provide servant reviewership through transformative feedback. In this issue, we would like to recognize Brian Chilton for his contributions as a peer-reviewer with Eleutheria. Thank you, Brian, for your time and thoughtfulness in providing critical recommendations in a ministerial demeanor. We have read your referee reports and were blown away at the effort and care you provided.

## REMEMBRANCES

**John Douglas Morrison.** In his forty-first year in professional education, three in public education and thirty-eight at Liberty, the beloved John Morrison is retiring. John received his Th.M. in Biblical and Systematic Theology from Western Seminary in 1983 and his Ph.D. in Philosophical Theology and Philosophy of Religion from the University of Virginia in 1993. He is the author of *Has God Said? Scripture, the Word of God and the Crisis of Theological Authority* (2006), *Knowledge of the Self-Revealing God in the Thought of Thomas Forsyth Torrance* (1997), and more than a dozen articles on Christology, Barth, the Trinity, Scripture, and theological methodology. He has guest lectured over two dozen times at symposia hosted by Evangelical Theological Society on subjects such as balanced biblical criticism, interactive models of scripture, and hermeneutics. John also has guest lectured at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary since 2014 and been given honors such as “School of Religion Teacher of the Year” (1990), “Who’s Who Among American Teachers” (1991, 1996), “Marquis’ Who’s Who in America” (1999-2000), and was nominated to the Honor Society of Hebrew Studies. He is a current member of the Evangelical Theological Society, North American Paul Tillich Society, and Karl Barth Society of North

America. Students know him from his honor's undergraduate theology surveys, his graduate classes in modern and contemporary theology and soteriology, and his doctoral seminars in bibliology, Christology, and pneumatology in the Ph.D. in Theology & Apologetics program (whom he and Gary Habermas were the first dedicated professors). In retirement, John will spend much earned time hiking, traveling, reading, golfing, and playing with his wife, two children, and ten grandchildren. When asked what his favorite memories were, he answered, "My favorite memories at Liberty University and the School of Divinity are too many to count. But inevitably, they each and all relate to the joy experienced in connection with my students and colleagues who were always such a blessing to me." To all his students, faculty, and staff colleagues, he gave the following benediction: "Thank you! I love you and pray God's blessings upon you! And, as I am so widely known for saying: Persevere brethren!"

***In Memory of Lee Webb.*** Lee was a husband to Missy, a father to Ronnie, Cameron, and Molly, a pastor at Salisbury Bible Fellowship in Maryland, and an adjunct professor at Liberty University. Friends knew him as a gentle soul who "kept his messages so simple...[with] strength in that simplicity." Lee was "a kind, gracious, and godly man" with "a true pastor's heart" who "even during seasons of his hardest suffering and most challenging days, consistently pointed people to the cross." He had been with Salisbury since 1997 and entered into the first-ever Ph.D. in Theology & Apologetics cohort that began in Fall 2008. In May of 2019, he participated in the graduation ceremony where he received his Ph.D. in Theology & Apologetics from Liberty. In reflecting on this achievement, he stated, "God is faithful and it was only His strength and help that made this possible. I would like to encourage everyone not to give up on their dreams, no matter what challenges or obstacles come your way." Lee went to be with his Lord at 9:48 PM on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, after battling cancer for two years. His last sermon was on October 6<sup>th</sup>, the day before being admitted to the intensive care unit at his local hospital. He preached on "Future Glory" as part of a series on Romans 8 titled "The Greatest Chapter." Although it has been a while since Lee's passing, we wanted to formally honor his contributions to the John W. Rawlings School of Divinity in particular and to Christendom in general.