

June 2022

## In Memoriam: Mark Foreman

The Editors

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### Recommended Citation

The Editors, . 2022. "In Memoriam: Mark Foreman." *Eleutheria* 6, (1). <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/elevol6/iss1/16>

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## **In Memoriam: Mark Foreman**

### **Abstract**

In the article that follows, we give special remembrance to Mark W. Foreman, professor of philosophy and religion at Liberty University, who went to be with the Lord on Friday, June 17, 2022, in his sleep. We gave space for several co-laborers in academia to pay tribute and recount their experiences of him, ordered by length. We also attach his, then-present, curriculum vitae given at the time of his passing (with sensitive information redacted).

### **Keywords**

Dighton Head, Alex Mason, Michael Scott Jones, Gary Habermas, Joshua Waltman

### **Cover Page Footnote**

From the Editors

**MARK FOREMAN**  
**1954-2022**

He was always an example of a humble servant when he interacted with our Ratio Christi club, which he had foresight to bring here. He was gracious in answering students' questions and offering advice for living the Christian life.

Dighton Head  
*Chapter Director*  
Ratio Christi at Liberty University

I did not know Mark for as long as several of the people on this list, but I did have the pleasure of working with him for the last couple of years. He was a man of many talents on and off campus, and I can attest to his fantastic sense of humor. In contrast to the stereotype of the haughty professor in an ivory tower, Mark was not bewitched by his own sharp intellect and impressive academic pedigree. Instead, he wore his scholarship lightly, by which I mean he sought to exercise humility and generosity in his work and toward his colleagues. Always driven by his Christian faith, Mark's enthusiasm for teaching and love of wisdom made him a true embodiment of a philosopher.

Alex Mason  
*Department Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies*  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Liberty University

Mark was a great colleague and a genuine friend for the 17 years that I've taught at LU. His office was adjacent to mine, both while we were in the SOR and then in the CAS, and I sought his advice over and over again. His experience was invaluable to me. All of the classes that I currently teach are classes that Mark taught at one time or another, so I've had many questions for him. He never seemed to mind at all. This fall I'll be taking over his biomedical ethics class, and I'll be using his new bioethics textbook. It's a great book, and I'm really, really glad to have it. He finished it less than a year ago. Praise the Lord for all of the work that Mark did: for him, teaching and writing were a genuine ministry.

Michael S. Jones, PhD  
*Professor of Philosophy and Theology / Assessment Coordinator*  
Department of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Liberty University

Having known Mark Foreman very well for over 30 years and actually having hired him in the Philosophy Department soon after those early years, I think it can be said without fear of refutation that Mark was the best communicator in our department. In fact, when our son Kevin, a Philosophy major, heard of his death, he responded by remarking that Mark had been his favorite professor at LU. Mark was my graduate student at LU (MA program) before he went on to earn his MA and PhD in Bioethics at the University of Virginia. He also wrote several books, such as *Prelude to Philosophy: An Introduction for Christians* (InterVarsity Academic, 2014), *How Do we Know? An Introduction to Epistemology* (co-authored with James K. Dew, InterVarsity Academic, 2014) and *Christianity and Bioethics: Confronting Clinical Issues* (College Press, 1999). A new version of the latter work was recently co-authored with his daughter, Lindsay Leonard (JD) and published by Kregel Academic in 2022 under the title *Christianity and Modern Medicine: Foundations for Bioethics*. Mark and his wife Chris, plus his other two daughters, Erin and Kelly, also have been good friends of our own family over these years. We will miss Mark profoundly, including his smile and his ever-present humor, his expert knowledge in several fields, as well as the literally dozens of professional plays that he either starred in or directed, where many of the production photos adorned his office walls for years. He will be missed profoundly, awaiting an eternal reunion!

Gary Habermas, PhD  
*Distinguished Research Professor of Apologetics*  
John W. Rawlings School of Divinity  
Liberty University

I, like so many others, had the privilege of sitting under Dr. Foreman during my time as an undergraduate at Liberty University. I also worked closely with him for several years as a Graduate Assistant and the chapter president of Ratio Christi (of which he was the founding faculty sponsor). In reflecting on my time with Dr. Foreman, it is difficult to express the extent of the impact he had on his students. To this day, when I think of teachers throughout my educational

journey who made me the most excited about their classes, I think of him. One of his gifts was taking a complicated philosophical subject, injecting a little wit and a lot of insight, and then compelling his students to work through it with him as he lectured. As his GA, there were countless times I was given a front row seat to a section of Philosophy 201 in which I could see this pedagogical magic at work when a student first discovered that his whole manner of thought needed to be uprooted in light of a clever illustration Dr. Foreman constructed.

Of course, his gift of teaching wasn't limited to Phil 201 students who were just getting their feet wet with a little philosophy. For the nursing student who was surprised that her career preparation intersected with a philosophy professor's bioethics class, he made concepts like deontological ethics relevant and interesting. His mastery over Aristotelian logic was unquestionable to his pre-law students. In him, the ministry students who took his class found an unexpected tutor in how to structure a sermon outline with sound argumentation. For the philosophy and theology majors, I found him to be a sort of apologist for apologists. His likeable, winsome personality not only made *him* approachable, but the *discipline* as well. Every time I heard him teach on Christian apologetics, he made it inherently obvious why apologetics is so needed and how it could be wielded outside of the classroom.

I was never sure if Dr. Foreman was drawn to theater because he was quick to laugh and tell an animated story, or if he was good at those things because of his theater background. In either case, his balanced levity made him a joy to be around. He possessed a keen sense of fairness in his dealings with others, a genuine concern for those around him, and an ever-present love for his family and friends. When he invited me to join him in launching LU's chapter of Ratio Christi in 2012, I jumped at the opportunity not just because of my own love for apologetics, but because of my admiration for Dr. Foreman. I will surely miss him. However, I have no doubt that his legacy continues through his family, friends, and students.

Joshua C. Waltman, PhD  
*Coordinator*  
Learning Commons  
Liberty University

## Curriculum Vitae

### **Personal Information**

E-Mail Address: mforeman@liberty.edu

Current Position: Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Liberty

Birth: December 18, 1954

### **Educational History**

#### *Undergraduate*

Westminster Choir College 1972-1976, Princeton, NJ

Bachelor of Music in Education

Major: Vocal Conducting

#### *Graduate*

Dallas Theological Seminary 1981-1982, Dallas, TX

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, Cum Laude Area of  
Emphasis: Biblical Studies

Liberty University 1989-1991, Lynchburg, VA

Graduate Studies in Philosophy and Apologetics

University of Virginia 1992-2007, Charlottesville, VA

Master of Arts in Religious Studies

Area of Emphasis: Christian Ethics

University of Virginia 2007-2008, Charlottesville, VA

PhD in Religious Studies,

Completion Date: May 18, 2008

Dissertation: "Living within the Tension: Religion and Public Policy in  
the Thought of Gilbert Meilaender"

## Professional Positions

### *Liberty University*

Adjunct Professor of Philosophy 2020-Present

Courses Taught: Biomedical Ethics

Professor of Philosophy and Religion, 2010 - 2020

Courses Taught: Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, Biomedical Ethics, Ethics, and Christian Evidences.

Associate-Professor of Philosophy and Religion, 2008 - 2010

Courses Taught: Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, Biomedical Ethics, Ethics, and Christian Evidences.

Assistant-Professor of Philosophy and Religion, 1993-2008

Courses Taught: Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, Biomedical Ethics, Ethics, Christian Evidences, and Church History.

Instructor of Religion, 1990 - 1993

Courses taught: Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, Biomedical Ethics, and Christian Evidences

### *Southern Evangelical*

Guest Lecturer, Summer 2001, 2005, 2007 Seminar  
Seminar in Bioethics

### *Lynchburg College*

Adjunct Faculty, Spring, 2005

Guest Director for *Lend Me A Tenor*

### *New Covenant*

Schools, Lynchburg:

Adjunct Instructor of Drama and Theater, Fall 2001

Courses Taught: Introduction to Drama and Theater

*Oakland Christian Schools*

Auburn Hills MI:

Instructor in Bible and Religion, 1982-1989

Courses taught: Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, Philosophy, Apologetics, World Religions, Salvation and The Christian Life, Discipleship, Bible Study Methods, Drama.

**Professional Activities***Membership in Professional Organizations*

Evangelical Theological Society (not current) Evangelical Philosophical Society

Vice President 2013-2016 Society of Christian Ethics

American Philosophical Society (not current)

Center of Bioethics and Human Dignity (not current)

Phi Sigma Tau

Society of Christian Philosophers

*Conferences Attended*

Evangelical Theological/Philosophical Society Annual Meetings:

1987 South Hamilton, MA

1988 Wheaton, IL

1989 San Diego, CA

1991 Kansas City, MO

1993 Washington, DC

1995 Philadelphia, PA

1996 Jackson, MS

1997 Santa Clara, CA

1998 Orlando, FL

1999 Danvers, MA

2002 Toronto, Canada

2003 Atlanta, Georgia

2004 San Antonio, TX

2005 King of Prussia, PA



2006 Washington, DC  
2007 San Diego, CA  
2008 Providence, RI  
2009 New Orleans, LA  
2010 Atlanta, GA  
2011 San Francisco, CA  
2012 Milwaukee, WI  
2013 Baltimore, MD  
2014 San Diego, CA  
2015 Atlanta, GA  
2016 San Antonio, TX

Society of Christian  
Ethics Annual  
Meeting 2000  
Washington, DC

National Conference on  
Christian  
Apologetics 2003  
Charlotte, NC

International Society of Christian Apologetics  
2006 Charlotte, NC  
2007 Lynchburg, VA  
2011 Wake Forest, NC

Evangelical Philosophical Society Apologetics Conference  
2009 New Orleans, LA  
2010 Atlanta, GA  
2011 San Francisco, CA  
2012 Milwaukee, WI

*Papers Presented*

"An Evaluation of Miracle Claims in the Life of Muhammad"  
Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 1993

"An Examination of Criticisms of the Principle of Double Effect"  
Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 1997

"The Use of Narrative in Teaching Bioethics" Evangelical  
Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 1998

"Moral Luck: A Christian Response"  
Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 1999

"Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Is there a Limit to the Medical Imperative to  
End Suffering and Disease?"  
International Society of Christian Apologetics Annual Meeting, 2006

"Telling Stories as a Subversive Activity: Using Case Studies in Teaching  
Bioethics"  
Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 2007

Moderator, Panel Discussion on *Defending Life: The Moral and Legal Case  
Against Abortion Choice* by Francis J. Beckwith

Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 2007

Moderator, Panel Discussion on *C.S. Lewis as Philosopher*, ed. by David Baggett,  
Gary Habermas, and Jerry Walls

Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 2008

"Richard Dawkins' Intellectual Vices"  
Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 2009

Moderator, Panel Discussion on *Good God: The Theistic Foundations of Morality*,  
by David Baggett and Jerry Walls

Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 2011

Moderator, Panel Discussion on *Purgatory: The Logic of Total Transformation* by Jerry L. Walls

Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 2012

“Narrative as a Subversive Activity: The Use Case Studies in Teaching Bioethics”

Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 2013

Moderator, Panel Discussion on *In Search of Moral Knowledge* By R. Scott Smith

Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 2014

Moderator, Panel Discussion on “Just War and Pacifism in an Age of Terrorism”

Evangelical Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, 2015 Speaking Engagements

"Genetic Ethics: Genetic Technology and Christian Responsibility"

National Conference on Christian Apologetics, Fall 2003

"Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Is there a Limit to the Medical Imperative to End Suffering and Disease?"

Rivermont Presbyterian Church, April 2004

“Challenging the Zeitgeist Movie: Alleged Parallels between Jesus and Ancient Pagan Religions”

Evangelical Philosophical Society Apologetics Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2009

“Re-examining the Zeitgeist Movie: Alleged Parallels between Jesus and Ancient Pagan Religions”

Evangelical Philosophical Society Apologetics Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2010

“Is Jesus a Myth?”

Evangelical Philosophical Society Apologetics Conference, Fall 2011

“For Good Reasons: Critical Thinking for Christians” Truth for a New Generation Conference, Fall 2012

“Bioethics and the Christian Worldview”

Truth for a New Generation Conference, Fall 2012

“In Praise of Skepticism”

LU Faculty Symposium: Truth in an Age of Skepticism,

“Healthcare Ethics” Lynchburg College, Fall 2019

*Publications*

Book Review: *Aquinas: An Evangelical Appraisal* by Dr. Norman Geisler  
Christian Scholars Review (Spring, 1992)

*Christianity and Bioethics: Confronting Clinical Issues* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1999; Currently, Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011)

*Philosophy and Contemporary Ideas: Class Notes* (Orlando, FL: Harcourt and Brace Custom Publishers, 1997)

“Genetic Engineering: Benefits and Dangers”, *Aeropagus Journal* (Vol 3, No 1, Jan/Feb 2003)

"Abortion" in *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics*, ed. by Ed Hindson and Ergun Caner (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2008)

"Euthanasia" in *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics*, ed. by Ed Hindson and Ergun Caner (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2008)

"Embryonic Stem Cell Research" in *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics*, ed. by Ed Hindson and Ergun Caner (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2008)

"Suicide and Physician Assisted Suicide" in *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics*, ed. by Ed Hindson and Ergun Caner (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2008)

"Genetic Ethics" in *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics*, ed. by Ed Hindson and Ergun Caner (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2008)

"Amistad: Human Rights and the Nature of Man," with David Baggett, in *Steven Spielberg and Philosophy*, edited by Dean Kowalski, (Lexington, KY: University

of Kentucky Press, 2008)

“Embryonic Stem Cell Research: Is there a limit to the medical imperative to end suffering and disease?” (Christian Apologetics Journal, Vol 8 No. 1, Spring 2009)

“Stabbing Seles: Fans and Fair Play” in *Tennis and Philosophy*, ed. by David Baggett, (Lexington, KY: University of Kentucky Press, 2010)

“Bioethics” in *The Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization* ed. by George Kurian (London: Blackwell Publishing, 2011)

“Challenging the Zeitgeist Movie: Parallelomania on Steroids” in *Come Let Us Reason* ed. By Paul Copan and William Lane Craig, (Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2012)

*Prelude to Philosophy: An Introduction for Christians* (Downers Grove, IL, IVP, 2014)

*How Do You Know? A Short Introduction to the Issues of Knowledge* with James K. Dew, Jr. (Downers Grove, IL, IVP, 2014) Revised edition forthcoming

“The Image on the Shroud: A Best Explanations Approach” in *Raised on the Third Day: Defending the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus* ed. By W. David Beck and Michael R. Licona (Lexham Press, Fall 2020)

#### *Forthcoming Publications*

*Modern Medicine in a Moral Fog: A Christian Approach to Issues in Bioethics*  
(Publisher open)