

FAITH BEYOND BELIEF

WINTER 2022 DONOR UPDATE

Dear Faith Beyond Belief family,

As we grow as a ministry, we get more letters asking us why we talk about issues like the truck convey in Ottawa or where we stand on CRT (Critical Race Theory) or the age of the earth. It's encouraging to know so many Christians are reaching out to us because it shows they care about where we stand. Many also reach out asking for help in engaging in these difficult conversations.

Apologetics, the rational defense of our faith, stems all the way back to 1 Peter 3:15, when Peter emphatically declares that we are to "always be ready" to give a good reason (apologia) for our faith. This is a critical time for a defense of the faith because social media, secular universities and even governments espouse a worldview that assumes the Christian worldview is indefensible on a variety of different issues. Thankfully, the field of apologetics is attracting more and more Christians. Even in Canada, new apologetics ministries are sprouting.

However, apologetics is not just the "what" but the "how" of what we do. Even Peter writes in that same verse that we are to provide the apologetic defence with "gentleness and respect." As a ministry, we at Faith Beyond Belief have always branded ourselves

as the "conversations" ministry. We may not have the most PhDs or MDivs (we have one), but we do have speakers and staff who want to model how to have effective conversations. Our emphasis on conversations is one of the main reasons why we tackle difficult subjects that not every one of our supporters or friends may see eye-to-eye.

I provide three reasons to those who ask me why we tackle certain issues that may not be traditionally apologetics-related.

1. We can't escape difficult conversations.

Controversial issues will always be part of our everyday lives. Whether they are political or social or personal, we are confronted everyday with tough topics we may not want to talk about. Though there are appropriate times to delay a conversation, we cannot escape difficult conversations.

The good news is that because God is the Creator of our reality, He has something wise to say about the tough topics we talk about or at least the principles we should consider when having difficult conversations. Whether it's about a child who has just come out as transgender or a discussion on how to handle political differences, God's Word gives us important truths to help us in these conversations. Often, the conversations are difficult because we know we need to engage in them but we simply don't want the discomfort or the hurt that could occur if we enter into that dialogue.

2. We need to learn both what to say and how to say it.

Like many of you, I follow great biblical teachers' podcasts and sermons. I often listen to them because I'm often the one giving the sermon or doing a talk at another church and can't benefit from my own church fellowship.

BE READY CANADA
A FAITH WORTH SHARING
APRIL 29-30
LIVE IN CALGARY ONLINE AROUND THE WORLD BEREADYCANADA.CA

IN-PERSON! &

ONLINE!

Consistently, though other than a handful of ministries, very few Christian teachers talk about the “how” of conversations. They don’t go over how to strategize what questions to ask or how to link a secular topic to God’s word. I remember talking to some Christian campus leaders wanting to invite non-believers to their event. They were discussing what they needed to put on posters advertising the event to their campus. After several minutes of discussion that didn’t seem to go anywhere, I asked them what messaging they would need to attract a secular student to a Christian event. Only then were they able to come up with a plan. But this told me that their own spiritual leaders didn’t train them to think as ambassadors for Christ. Like too many churches, we don’t spend enough time teaching our members how to converse with non-believers.

3. Spiritual growth won’t happen when we can’t be honest.

Lastly, we talk about difficult issues because we can’t be honest about our faith if we don’t cover the issues the culture is talking about. It’s much easier to bring God into the conversation when we’re already engaging in conversations everyone else is in. Christians can’t be afraid of winsomely discussing topics just because they may be difficult because it forces us to honestly examine our own beliefs. Are they based on facts? Are they reasonable? Perhaps someone who isn’t a believer is able to point out ways we can correct our behaviour? Because we’re open to correction from others, others will be much more open to hear corrections from us.

When we’re honest with our beliefs, we can also reveal what we truly value. Whether that is freedom or safety or health, we can point out to others that God is the ultimate source for all three. And since we provide honest answers, we’d also be able to honestly ask those we engage in about what they think about God’s role in our discussion.

As staff, we don’t all agree on all these debates. But as you peruse our resources, I hope you can see that we don’t shy away from the conversations that matter.

May your conversations always be full of grace and truth.



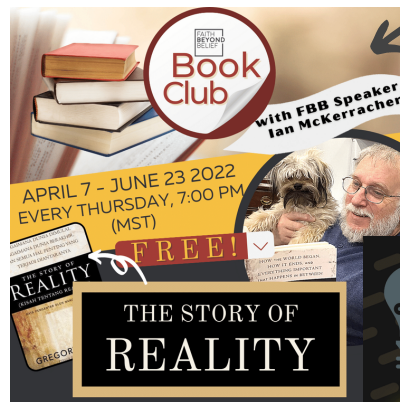
Jojo Ruba
Chief Ambassador



Jojo Ruba

PS As previously announced, I’m officially back to FBB full-time! I look forward to producing high quality podcasts, blogs, and events along with our great team. Let me know if there’s a worldview-related topic we should cover.

PPS Please don’t forget to register for this year’s Be Ready conference! After the Covid delay, we’re glad to announce we have a live event in Calgary around the theme, “A Faith Worth Sharing.” Register at our website today: www.bereadycanada.ca



Our upcoming events!

