

Centered in Christ

Bonaire First Baptist Church

www.bonairefbc.org

922-1924

September
2015



9/2	AWANA Theme Night Crazy Hat
9/5	Men's Breakfast 8:00 am
9/7	Labor Day Office Closed
9/8	W.O.M. 10:00 am
9/13	Deacon's Meeting 5:00 pm
9/17	Joyful Hearts Luncheon 12:00 pm
9/18-19	Lifetouch Picture Days
9/23	Autumn Begins
9/23	AWANA Store Night

Ephesians 5:15-16
"Everyone Has A Worldview"
 Do you know what yours is?

This month we are copying an article from the RTS quarterly magazine "Ministry & Leadership." We are grateful for their permission to reprint this timely article. The article is by Dr. James Anderson who teaches philosophy and theology at RTS—Charlotte. If you are interested in this subject then you might want to buy his book *What's Your Worldview?*

The street on which I live is remarkably diverse. Alongside several American families there is also an above-average number of internationals. When we (the Brits) moved into the cul-de-sac, our neighbors included people from Cuba, Russia, Israel, Jamaica, Germany and Poland.

Just as notable as its ethnic diversity, however, is the religious diversity represented in our street. In the five years we've lived here, there have been two families of evangelical Christians, an Eastern (Russian) Orthodox family, self-described "lapsed Catholics," observant Reform Jews, secular Jews, Muslims, Hindus, atheists and some whose religious convictions I'm still trying to figure out. I imagine our street is more diverse than the average street in Charlotte, North Carolina. But its diversity is practically a microcosm of Western culture. It illustrates the bewildering and unprecedented variety of religious and cultural outlooks—or *worldviews*—we find around us today. And this striking plurality of worldviews presents some real challenges for Christian apologetics and evangelism.

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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Youth @ 505 CALENDAR



Sept. 2nd	Student Worship Every Wed. 6:45 pm
Sept. 3rd	Prayer Breakfast Every Thurs. Chick Fil A Hwy 96 6:00 am

Sept 2nd Theme Night
Crazy Hat

Sept. 9th Club Night

Sept. 16th Club Night

Sept. 23rd Store Night

Sept. 30th Club Night

Student Ministries COMING★UP...

Watch for brochures in the youth area.



Fall Festival
October 31st
5:00—7:00 pm
Mark your calendars



David is enlisting volunteers and collecting candy starting September 13th. Watch for the sign up sheets.



Why support Mission Georgia Offering?

Some of the impact of the Mission Georgia offering across Georgia:

Tent ministry—of the 13,810 attendees 516 salvations were reported.

1,000 decisions for Christ were made through the Youth Ministries Evangelism - focused events.

1,500 children and youth attended Camp Kaleo.

Through the 54 Baptist Collegiate Ministries, we saw one new believer for every five students involved.

And a lot more successful programs.

In 2014 the Georgia Baptists provided 22,501 back packs for children in Appalachia resulting in 701 professions of faith. There were 153 summer missionaries appointed and 893 collegians served in summer ministries. Human trafficking in middle Georgia there were 68 women assisted. Disaster relief volunteers had 728 people trained.

These are just a few of the ministries our offering impacts. Let's do our part in supporting these worthy ministries during the Season of Prayer and Offerings for State Missions.

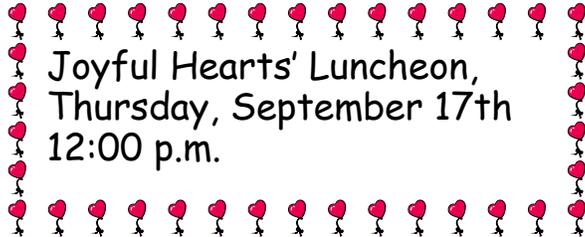


Men's Ministries

Men's Breakfast-
Saturday, September 5th
8:00 a.m.

Ladies' Ministries

Women on Mission
Meeting
Tuesday, September 8th
10:00 a.m.



Joyful Hearts' Luncheon,
Thursday, September 17th
12:00 p.m.

The Baby Comfort Station for the Oct. 8-18 Georgia National Fair is in need of more helpers—men and women. If you would like to help, contact Kathy at 987-0005



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Put simply, a worldview is *a way of viewing the world*. It's not a view in a physical sense, but rather a *philosophical* view. A worldview is an overall outlook on reality, an all-encompassing perspective on everything that exists and matters to us as human beings. Stated more precisely, a worldview is *a network of ultimate beliefs, ideas, values and assumptions about the universe and our place in it that shapes how a person understands their life and experiences (and the lives and experiences of others) and how that person acts in response*.

A worldview also typically has a narrative dimension; it includes a “grand story” about where we came from, how our lives have been shaped by the past, what our place is in the world, and where our world is heading. Worldviews are typically communicated in terms of stories. In every culture or subculture there is a dominant narrative, passed from one generation to the next, which defines how people within that culture understand their place in the cosmos. Everyone has a worldview, whether or not they're aware of it. Indeed, I'd say most people aren't aware they have a distinctive worldview that shapes how they interpret their experiences, and fewer still have critically reflected on their own worldview and their reasons for holding it.

Worldview, then, is one of the most significant things about people because of the role it plays in their responses to those experiences. But what are the basic ingredients of a worldview? What kinds of “ultimate beliefs, ideas, values and assumptions” constitute a worldview? I've found it helpful to analyze worldviews in terms of five major areas they address, either explicitly or implicitly.

First of all, a worldview reflects a theology: a perspective on God. Is there a God? What is God like? Is God a personal being? How does God relate to the universe? How does God relate to humans? How does God relate to me?

Secondly, a worldview includes an anthropology: a perspective on human beings. What kind of beings are we? Where did we come from? For what purpose (if any) do we exist? Where are we heading? Why are humans significant and worthy of dignity—if indeed they are? What fundamentally distinguishes us from other organisms on this planet?

Thirdly, a worldview reflects an epistemology: the philosophical term for a perspective on human knowledge. What is truth? Is truth objective and attainable? What do we know and how do we know it? What are the main sources of our knowledge? Can we know anything with certainty—or even with confidence? Should we rely on divine revelation, human reason or some combination of the two?

(continued on Pastor's page)



Fourthly, a worldview incorporates a distinctive perspective on *ethics*. What is morality? Is morality real or illusory? Is it objective or subjective? Are there any moral absolutes? What is the highest good we should aim for? What are our fundamental duties in life? Are there “human rights” - and if so, where do they come from? What does it mean to be a “good person” - and why *should* we be good?

Fifthly, a worldview reflects what theologians call a *soteriology*: a doctrine of salvation. Christians, of course, are very conscious of this doctrine, since it is centered on the person and work of Jesus Christ. But all human beings have a doctrine of salvation in a broader sense: everyone thinks there’s something *wrong* with the world, and everyone has some ideas, however rudimentary, about how the wrongness of the world is to be put right.

With this basic understanding of worldviews before us, let’s turn to consider the connection between worldviews and Christian apologetics. The Bible gives a very clear mandate for believers to engage in apologetics—that is, a reasoned defense of the Christian faith. Just to give one example, Peter exhorts us to always be prepared to give an answer to those who ask us the reason for the hope we have (*1 Peter 3:15*). The Reformed tradition has always affirmed the place of apologetics in Christian preaching. But as I noted earlier, our 21st-century cultural situation raises some particular challenges. So here I suggest five reasons why it’s particularly helpful for Christians to think in terms of *worldviews* as we engage in apologetics.

The first reason is the contemporary challenge of pluralism, illustrated by the diversity of religious and philosophical outlooks represented in my own neighborhood—and yours too! We’re faced with a diversity of worldviews like never before, and our apologetics must be equipped to address it.

Secondly, Christians today need to recognize that we no longer enjoy the cultural common ground that previous generations enjoyed. Some approaches to apologetics take that common ground to much for granted, which means they often fall flat when dealing with contemporary unbelievers.

Thirdly, as I explained before, our worldviews have a huge impact on how we reason about the world and our experiences of it. Since apologetics is about *reasoning* with people to lead them to the truth, it follows that our method in apologetics must be worldview sensitive.

Fourthly, the Bible affirms a fundamental antithesis between belief and unbelief, between those who are in Christ and those who are not (*Romans 8:5–8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and 2:14-16*). Believers have different ultimate commitments, standards and values than unbelievers, and the way we engage in apologetics should recognize that basic biblical truth.

Finally, having studied apologetics for over 20 years, I’m convinced that most of the objections to Christianity we encounter today are grounded in anti-Christian worldviews from the very outset. The objections themselves make assumptions that are fundamentally at odds with a biblical worldview. This means that these common objections take a *non-Christian worldview for granted* and then criticize biblical Christianity on that basis. But as any logician will tell you, that’s circular reasoning! Worldview-oriented apologetics is well placed to expose the fallacious nature of these objections.

Quotes:

“Kids today possess knowledge without context... And that can be dangerous. Minimally, many stop hungering for genuine reality, risk, and uncertainty, being satisfied with a virtual reality.”

~Colonel Randy Allen, U.S. Air Force

“A wealth of information creates a poverty of attention.”

~Herbert Simon

Christian Clippings

Yogi Berra Quotes

“Yeah, but we’re making great time!” *In reply to “Hey Yogi, I think we’re lost.”*

“The other teams could make trouble for us if they win.”