

## [Apologetics Forum Legacy](#)

### Footprints Museum 25th Anniversary Luncheon - Tillsonburg, ON

- An honor to speak on the occasion of the **25th anniversary of Footprints Museum**
- Asked to speak on the **Legacy of the Apologetics Forum**: - how it came to be
- Our legacies are intertwined in some very special ways
- The Legacy of **Footprints In The Sand Poem/Foundation**/Ministry
  - Immigrated to Canada in 1948 ([Heinz](#)) & 1952 (Gerda); met in Burlington, ON in 1955
  - Attended schools in ON; Married in 1964; Immigrated to USA in 1969
  - The Footprints poem was written by Margie in 1964
  - Gerda found Footprints poem (author unknown) in a NJ store in 1973, Gerda bought a copy since Audrey (our oldest daughter - 8 years old) was so impressed by it
  - Met Margaret Fishback Powers (author) at Long Hill Chapel in Chatham, NJ in 1974
  - We moved to CA in 1978; moved to Everett, WA in 1994
  - Powers moved to BC in 1980's
  - Met the Powers again at Grace Baptist Church in Marysville, WA in 1996 (missions)
  - Margaret and Gerda recognized each other at GBC Missions Conference, but could not remember where; finally remembered meeting in NJ in 1974
  - Met Paul for 1st time; Paul was our Youth For Christ leader in Hamilton, ON - 1960's
  - Renewed acquaintance with the Powers at various missions conferences (quilts)
  - Gerda wrote one chapter in each of Margaret's two books on Footprints
  - Alysa, our granddaughter (Audrey's daughter), wrote a poem in the first book
  - Attended **50th anniversary of Footprints Poem** in 2014
  - Paul and Margie, you have a legacy that you can be proud of
- What about the **Legacy of the Apologetics Forum**? - how did that come to be?
  - Started with our oldest daughter (Audrey) while in public school in NJ
  - Audrey came home from school one day (4th grade); told Gerda that her teacher said we came from monkeys (Evolution)
  - We have a strong Christian heritage; I believed in biblical Creation
  - Challenged in my Christian Faith by University professors
  - PhD degree in Nuclear Physics from McMaster Univ. in Hamilton, ON
  - Transferred Audrey out of public school to Christian School
  - Eventually all five children in Christian Schools in NJ and CA
  - Became leaders of Youth Group at a church in CA
  - Concerned about Truth and our children, taught children biblical Creation
  - Taught through books of the Bible in SS and Bible Studies over the years
  - Involved in Missions Committees for many years
  - Chairman of Missions Committee at Arlington, WA church for ten years
  - Developed series of lectures (and courses) on **Creation vs. Evolution**
  - Then lectures/courses on **Christian Apologetics** and **Biblical Worldview**
  - Taught at Bible Schools, churches, universities & other venues overseas
  - Heinz still gives lectures and sermons on Apologetics locally and overseas
- Skeptics question The Truth of our Faith
  - Our faith is under attack more than ever today
  - The New Atheists define Faith as blind and without evidence

- Skeptics claim that the Bible is based on ancient myths
- They claim that the Bible contradicts itself and is not true, e.g.
  1. **Gen. 1** and **Gen. 2** tell two different stories about Creation
  2. People in Moses' day could not even write – how could Moses?
  3. The Hittites mentioned in the OT never even existed
  4. Sodom and Gomorrah were not real places, **Gen. 14:2**
  5. Scientific statements in the Bible can't be believed
- How can we answer these claims by atheists and skeptics?
- **Issue #1:** Why is our challenge in defending our faith so important?
  - According to the latest Barna polls:
    - 26% of Christians don't think it matters which religion one follows; they all teach the same lessons
    - 40% of Christians say Christians & Muslims worship the same God
    - Only 9% of adult Americans have a biblical worldview
    - Only 34% of American adults believe in absolute truth
    - Only 9% of "born again" teenagers believe absolute truth exists
    - At least 60% of the children from evangelical homes are estimated to leave the church once they leave home
- **Issue #2:** We need to understand the reasons for the challenge:
  - Indoctrination of our youth in secularism and evolution
  - No answers from the church for the hard questions asked by our youth
- **Issue #3:** We find (in the US) many believers do not know:
  - What we believe
  - Why we believe what we believe
  - How to defend our faith
  - We are commanded to be ready to defend our faith
  - **1 Pet. 3:15**, .. always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.
  - We can use our mind and logic/reason.
  - **Matt. 22:37**, Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your **mind**.'
- Know how to answer the questions put to you
- **Col. 4:5-6**, Walk in wisdom toward those [who are] outside, redeeming the time. [Let] your speech always [be] with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.
- **Jude 3**, ... I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.
- **Acts 17:11**., ... they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. [Bereans]
- **1 Th. 5:21**, but test everything; hold fast what is good.
- Understand the times in which we live (with a biblical worldview)
- **1 Ch. 12:32**, Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.
- Roadblocks in coming to faith
  - There are many reasons that people give for not coming to Christ

1. Lack of intellectual knowledge of God
  - **Hos. 4:6**, My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; ...
  - God is evident in the nature of man by reason and by moral law
  - **Rom. 1:18-22**, For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. [v19] For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. [v20] For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ... [v22] Claiming to be wise, they became fools,
  - Our conscience gives us a sense of right and wrong
  - **Rom. 2:15**, They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.
2. Perceived hypocrisy of other Christians
  - Unbelievers watch what believers do
  - In many cases their walk does not match their talk
3. Accepting Christ would require turning away from sin
  - It is a moral issue
4. Pain, suffering and evil in the world
  - If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is there so much pain, suffering, and evil? Only the Bible explains it.
5. Perceived conflict between Science and the Bible
  - The reliability of the Bible scientifically
  - Creation v. Evolution
6. No answers from the Church to the hard questions
  - Children who go to Sunday School and do not get answers are more likely to leave the church over the years
  - Sunday school programs had a negative effect on their beliefs about Christianity
  - Ultimately parents are responsible for their children's training
- Postmodern challenges for the church:
  - Defending The Faith [**Apologetics**] - defense
    - **1 Pet. 3:15**, ... prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.
  - Discerning/Confronting error [**Polemics**] - offense
    - **Jude 3**, ... I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.
    - **Col. 2:8**, See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.
  - Distractions from true worship [**Apathy**] - too involved with the world
- What is Apologetics?
  - The defense of The Faith
  - Know the True Gospel
  - Recognize the fake gospels

- Living the gospel message
- Why defending The Faith is so important
  - 60+% of our youth leave the church in the postmodern culture
  - Equip believers so that they know what and why they believe
  - Provide answers to skeptics and atheists
  - Discernment and recognition of false gospels
  - Knowing, living and sharing The Faith
- Classical arguments for God's existence
  - Cosmological
  - Design
  - Moral
  - Ontological
- Presuppositions
  - The Bible is God's Word
  - Inspired, inerrant in its original autographs, authoritative
- Evidence for Truth:
  - We trust Scripture in spiritual matters
  - Archaeology, History, Geography, Prophecy - confirm the Truth
    - Dead Sea Scrolls in 1948
      - Scroll of Isaiah found, dated to 125 BC [previous earliest - 1100 AD]
      - One person is to fulfill the prophecy in **Isaiah 61**
      - **Is. 61:1-2**, ... the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; ... to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; ...
      - Jesus confirmed that He fulfilled the prophecy in **Is. 61:1-2b** in **Luke 4:18**, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. ...
    - Ebla Tablets in 1974
      - The **Dead Sea Scrolls**, the **Ebla Tablets**, and other archaeology digs verify biblical events, people, places and geography
      - Moses could write in his day [Ebla Tablets written 1000+ yrs. before]
      - Hittites did exist [verified by Ebla Tablets and other writings]
      - Five cities of the plains, including **Sodom** & **Gomorrah**, are among 5000 cities listed on the Ebla Tablets, **Gen. 14:2**
    - Dr. Luke wrote Luke and Acts - accurate in all details of events, countries, islands, places, titles of officials
    - More than 500 of 1000+ prophecies in the Bible fulfilled
  - Science in the Bible
    - **Gen. 1:1**, time, force, action, space, matter
    - **Rom. 1:19-20**, we are without excuse [design -> designer]
    - **Rom. 2:15**, their conscience also bears witness [moral law -> moral law giver]
    - **Heb. 11:3**, By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.
    - **Lev. 17:11**, life of the flesh is in the blood
    - **Gen. 17:12**, circumcision of males on day 8 after birth

- **Eccl. 1:6-7**, hydrological cycle
    - **Is. 40:22**, It is he who sits above the circle of the earth ...
  - Creation vs. Evolution'
    - **Genesis chapters 1-11**, foundations of our faith
  - 300 so-called holy books in the world
  - **The Bible is Unique**
  - Alleged errors in God's Word are refuted
    1. **Gen. 1** and **Gen. 2** tell two complementary stories about Creation
    2. People in Moses' day could write – Moses did write the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 books
    3. People named the Hittites did exist – Ebla Tablets
    4. Sodom and Gomorrah were real historic cities, **Gen. 14:2**
    5. Scientific statements in the Bible are accurate and can be believed
  - We can answer atheists and skeptics
- **Legacy of the Apologetics Forum** - finishing the story
  - Personal involvement in Apologetics for many years (overseas since 2004)
  - Gave lectures, sermons and courses overseas and locally
  - Challenges
    - How can we answer the claims by atheists and skeptics?
    - How can and do we defend our faith?
    - If God is who He says He is, then His Word and Work must agree
    - Does your truth (what you believe to be true) match reality?
    - Does what you believe to be true match reality?
    - Integrity in science is essential
  - Overseas ministry interrupted by Audrey's illness and care in 2012
    - She was our ministry during this time in her life - her faith carried her
    - She left her mark/testimony - God took her home in October 2013 at age 48
  - Started the local **Apologetics Forum** during the time of Audrey's illness
    - Help Equip Believers in the Defense of The Faith
    - Provide answers for skeptics and atheists
    - Monthly meetings with Live Streaming
    - Apologetics/Creation speakers - cover all aspects of Apologetics
    - Online video and audio recordings
  - Motivation for the **Apologetics Forum**
    - Gratitude for my salvation
    - Parents' sacrifice in immigrating to Canada
    - Use of God-given gifts - Science/Bible
    - John Piper's book - Don't Waste Your Life
    - Retirement - just a change of career
    - Promoting integrity in science
    - Audrey's testimony, support, and memory
    - We now do Apologetics with greater zeal in Audrey's memory
  - Living out The Faith (**Jude 3**)
    - Walk the talk - use words only when necessary
    - Learn The Faith
    - Live The Faith
    - Share The Faith