

# Last week speaking to Christian Faculty at the Air Force Academy

**S**hort and sweet: it went well as hoped and prayed for. Thanks for praying! In our last update I explained that I was asked to speak on the topic of **Christ and Academic Culture** at the USAFA Christian faculty fellowship. It was such a broad and deep topic that I literally studied intensely for two months in preparation for giving it.



*Giving my presentation on Christ and academic culture in a language lab at the Academy.*

In a sense it is a part of a continuing series of lectures and conferences that I've worked on or been a part of for about 30 years! In fact, the first conference I put

together on this topic was co-sponsored by the University of Colorado's philosophy department way back in 1997 and it was entitled, ***Christian Scholarship: Knowledge, Reality, and Method***...so that was 25 years ago.

Then in June of 2000 I participated in a conference entitled, ***God and the Academy: Charting a Course for the New Millennium*** held at Georgia Institute of Technology. Since those earlier times, there's been a lot of meetings and work that have been done.

## Getting to the Bottom of It

**W**hat motivated me was the clear memory of how going through my early college years had led me to the conclusion that the smart people—those who taught at the university—were for the most part practicing atheists. Some of those were seeking converts. That was over 50 years ago.

However, I was very blessed in that through a series of providential situations the opposite happened to me. Someone I respected witnessed to me while I was yet in college and others answered questions that had built up over the years of my young life. Instead of losing my faith, I found it.

In the years afterward, it was troubling for me to realize that one of the most powerful influencing institutions in the world seemed aimed at undermining the credibility of faith in general and Christian faith in particular. Some of its best and brightest were direct in their opposition, while others were subtle with their anti-religious subversion.

Going into the ministry right out of college as an evangelist in 1971, I thought of myself as being a part of God's work to save a few people "out" of this pervasive influence that is antagonistic to faith in Jesus Christ. Now I see myself, besides being an evangelist, as joining with other Christians to be **a redemptive influence to the collegiate institution itself** besides. Of course, the relevant question is, how do you do that at secular universities?

Practically, that meant years of studying while in the trenches of spiritual warfare in ministry and many subsequent outreaches to unbelieving university faculty. It also meant training insiders—Christian professors—to be a part of the redemptive solution.

Speaking of those outreaches, on this coming February 9th, we are having Dr. Tim Shaw, a clinical lecturer in Medical Microbiology at Queen's University Belfast speak to our IChristian faculty fellowship at CSU. He is a visiting professor in the

Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology. His talk to the CSU fellowship that day is entitled, ***Reaching the European World (views) with the Gospel.***

Please pray that God will use that meeting to advance the cause of Christ with those key Christian professors. I'll be video taping it, too, so it can be viewed by others at different colleges.

Thanks for your prayers and faithful support!

Best regards,

Jim for Phyllis and Scott