

From Jim & Phyllis

Update

Autumn is here, but it seems that winter is arriving, too! We've gotten our first hard freeze and today there's snow in the yard and in the streets.

We have a few things coming up in the near offing and I wanted to catch you up with some of that.

Is Faith Required for Mathematics? Is Mathematics Required for Faith?



Russell Howell, PhD
Kathleen Smith Professor of Mathematics Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California.

“Most people, when answering the questions posed by the title of this talk, would give an emphatic no as answers, but we will contend for the opposite, in part by examining an essay written in 1734 by Bishop George Berkeley entitled *The Analyst, or a Discourse Addressed to an Infidel Mathematician.*”

Hosted by the Christian Faculty Fellowship
 30 October 2023
 1130 – 1230
 Room 1A78

POCs: Constance Leonard 719-660-2190
 Mark Grotelueschen 719-333-3281

(Above) Flyer for coming talk at CFF at USAFA

One of the things I kept on doing through the years is endeavoring to **get Christian professors involved in the cause of Christ at their universities** and beyond. Opportunities, as we have documented, come up from many sources,

and we enjoy our calling to reach and change the academic world for His Kingdom's sake.

In the Offing...

You may have noticed on our first page the flyer for the upcoming Christian Faculty Fellowship meeting at the USAFA. We're having Dr. Russell Howell address our group about our faith and his discipline of mathematics. Perhaps you don't see why this is of any importance, but one of the important tasks besides saving souls is **saving minds**. I encourage and challenge our scholars to think Christianly about their academic work and Dr. Howell is one that already has. I'm hoping his presentation will inspire other scholars to take their Christian faith and God's word seriously in **all the disciplines**.

Why, because universities **are seminal in the distribution of important ideas** and it has become (and seems determined) to become even more secular in everything it addresses. This secularization trend plays out in what students are taught about religion, politics, economics, and the limits of science. From there, it trickles down into every important area of our culture. It is sadly ironic.

The early universities in America **were started by Christians** to educate the clergy and to educate the "knowing" class. One hundred and five of the first hundred and eight universities *in America* were founded by Christians, for instance, schools like Harvard, Yale, William and Mary to name only a few. However, over the last few centuries (especially the 19th—21st), they have become more and more secularized—not just in the way they conduct business, but also in the way they now understand the meaning of Reason and faith .

I want to be part of **resisting** that trend of secularism by turning it on its head and I want to **continue to train** Christian faculty in universities to do that.

Prayer & Thanksgiving:

- Please pray that Christian faculty at the Academy come to this talk on Monday! See the ad for details.
- Phyllis continues to get better and feel better recovering from her fall in March. She's gained about 11 or 12 pounds and needs only about 3 or 4 to reach her "normal" weight. She's fully active now. Praise God for this improvement!

Blessings, Jim for Phyllis and Scott