

Apologetics Network Profile: Eugene Curry

The MBC has launched the Missouri Baptist Apologetics Network, a group of church leaders committed to the defense of the Christian faith and called to equip believers to more effectively share their faith.

Following is a profile of Eugene Curry, senior pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church in Kansas City.

Eugene Curry enjoys a good debate.

Curry is a member of the Missouri Baptist Convention's Apologetics Network, a group of church leaders committed to the defense of the Christian faith and called to equip believers to more effectively share their faith.

Curry serves as senior pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church in Kansas City, but has also taken to the podium in some unusual places. At the University of Kansas' "Reasonfest," Curry debated an atheist on the topic, "Is the world better with Christianity?"

Curry said the experience turned out to be fun, even as he realized the audience hoped he would lose.

"If the worst thing I have to do is stand up in front of a room full of people who hope I look foolish – that's not the worst thing Christians have had to face," he said.

Curry sees two primary purposes for apologetics: to assure people who are already convinced that their faith can be defended rationally, and to present Christian ideas to non-believers.

About five years ago, Curry began to dig deeper into the reasoning of Christian faith. He particularly enjoys presenting arguments for God's existence and the reality of the resurrection of Jesus.

He has written several articles and participated in debates at Provocateurs and Peacemakers, Park University and with members of the Kansas City Atheists Coalition at Abundant Life Baptist Church in Lee's Summit. Videos of the presentations are posted on YouTube.

"It's a chance to share the truth of the Christian faith," Curry noted. "Debates will attract the kind of people who would be less likely to show up at church."

Many non-believers have never really taken a serious look at the arguments for Christianity, he has found, and a debate may spur them to start questioning atheism.

He has also published articles in the *Journal of the International Society of Christian Apologetics*, the American Scientific Affiliation's journal *Perspectives on Science and the Christian Faith*, and guest columns in the *Kansas City Star*.

As a member of the Apologetics Network, he is available to work with churches – such as giving presentations on arguments for faith, coaching in apologetics or participating in round-table discussions. He hopes to encourage churches not to be timid about tackling tough questions.

“I’d like for our churches to be more confident in regard to science,” he said. “Far too often, Christians feel threatened by science. There’s no need for that.”

Curry has found that college students are often interested in apologetics.

“Those in their late teens and early twenties are most willing to re-evaluate their beliefs in relation to their place in the world,” he said.

As much as he enjoys debating, Curry sees it as only one step in sharing the truth of Jesus Christ.

“Whatever else apologetics may be, I do hope it is a way to bring people into an openness to the gospel and strengthen the faith of Christians. If it is just an intellectual exercise, that cheapens it.”

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