



2025-26

MBAN DIRECTORY

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



Learn more at mobaptist.org/mban



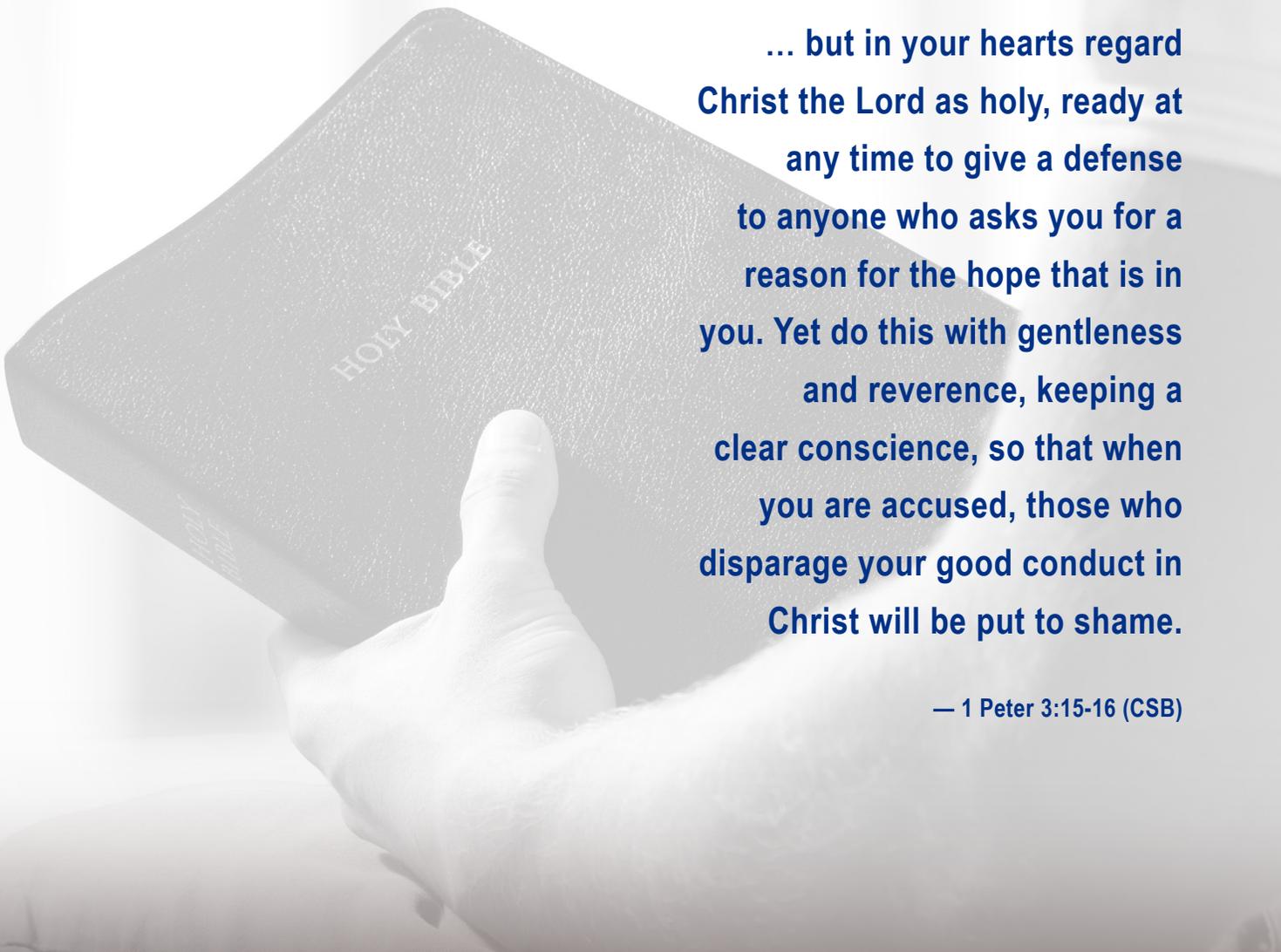


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... but in your hearts regard
Christ the Lord as holy, ready at
any time to give a defense
to anyone who asks you for a
reason for the hope that is in
you. Yet do this with gentleness
and reverence, keeping a
clear conscience, so that when
you are accused, those who
disparage your good conduct in
Christ will be put to shame.

— 1 Peter 3:15-16 (CSB)

A MESSAGE FROM MBAN PRESIDENT JIM SCHURKE



Did you know that your Missouri Baptist Convention is one of the very few state conventions in Southern Baptist life to provide resources to address the ever-increasing need for Christian apologetics?

Apologetics, or a strong defense of the faith, is needed now more than ever. As followers of Christ, we're inundated with subtle – and not-so-subtle – attacks on our beliefs and practices. The standards upon which our nation and our culture are founded are subject to open ridicule daily. We must be prepared to defend our faith in such a way that Christ is honored in our actions and speech.

I think it was very well said in 1 Peter 3:15: "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (NIV).

This is where the Missouri Baptist Apologetics Network (MBAN) comes in. It's a statewide network of volunteers who are eager to help equip our local church members in apologetics. This network, made up of nearly 30 pastors and laypeople, brings an impressive list of resources to support the apologetics efforts of our churches across our state.

On the following pages, you'll find a brief biography, photo, and contact information for each member. And as you'll see, MBAN offers a vast array of subjects: apologetics for children, creation vs. evolution, the cults, worldviews, the afterlife ... and on it goes. Please call on us; we're here to help.

Until He comes ... go!

Jim Schurke
Layman, Ridgecrest Baptist Church
Springfield, Mo.
President, MBAN



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TRENT BLAKE

Layman Apologist, Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Evidence for God; evidence for the resurrection; evidence for the Bible; textual criticism; addressing suffering; addressing hell; relational evangelism; workplace evangelism

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DUSTIN BURDIN

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Webb City, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Marriage and sexual ethics; homosexuality; transgenderism; abortion; end-of-life ethics; ethical decision making; using ethics for apologetics

Phone: 417-673-4655
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CLAYTON CARVER

Pastor, Small Groups and Administration, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mo.

Apologetics topics: C.S. Lewis; human design; apologetics and culture; theology of apologetics; history of apologetics; arguments for God's existence; reliability of Scripture; reliability of the resurrection; world religions; new religious movements; the problem of evil; secularism; postmodernism; natural theology; ethics/morals

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BRUCE CLARK

Director, Greater St. Louis Chapter of Reasonable Faith; Lay leader, Faith Baptist Church, Festus, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Biblical doctrine; theology; arguments for the existence of God; the historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus; the problem of evil

Phone: 314-680-0664
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DR. JEANIE CRAIN

Layperson/Teacher, Frederick Blvd. Baptist Church, St. Joseph, Mo.

Apologetic's topics: Reading the Bible as literature; biblical studies; philosophy; Christian apologetics

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ED CROTEAU

Lay Pastor-Apologetics, Abundant Life Church, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Introduction to Christian apologetics; American cultural worldviews; creation vs. evolution; biblical reliability; the deity of Jesus Christ; the doctrines of salvation

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DR. TIMOTHY FABER

Director of Missions, Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association, Eldon, Mo.

Apologetics topics: What it means to be created in the image of God; ethics; religious liberty; God-ordained government

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JONATHAN HAYASHI

Lead Pastor, Sola Church, Kansas City, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Introduction to Christian apologetics; fideist apologetics; world religions; worldviews; the existence of God; Imago-Dei; biblical studies; the problem of evil; the doctrine of soteriology; the doctrine of Christology; the doctrine of bibliology; biblical exegesis

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WIL HOFFMANN

MBAN President 2021-23
Fulton, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; the paranormal and cryptozoology; Jehovah's Witnesses; the Church of Scientology

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BRANDON HOLLEN

Layman, Rooted Church
Carl Junction, Mo.

Apologetics topics: worldviews; current cultural issues

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TRAVIS HORINEK

Layman, First Baptist Church,
Buffalo, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Biblical inerrancy and authority; combatting false approaches to Scripture (Rationalism, Mysticism, etc.); covenant theology; hermeneutics

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DENNIS JACKSON

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Independence, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Resurrection of Christ; reliability of Scripture; creation

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JULIE LOOS

Contributing Writer, Mama Bear
Apologetics, Ballwin, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Apologetics training for women and children; how apologetics can inform your prayers; youth exodus and faith retention; reliability of the Scriptures; igniting a passion to pray

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ROB PHILLIPS

Associate Executive Director, Missouri Baptist Convention,
Jefferson City, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Introduction to Christian apologetics; worldviews; Islam; Jehovah's witnesses; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; same-sex attraction; the afterlife; the doctrine of salvation; the Trinity; Satan; eschatology; ghosts, UFOs, and aliens

Phone: 573-636-0400, ext. 304
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JIM SCHURKE

MBAN President 2023-25
Layman/Apologetics Instructor,
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; cult identification; Jehovah's Witnesses; interfaith witness

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LACEY SHELTON

Women's Bible Teacher, FBC Ozark,
Ozark Mo.

Apologetics topics: The history of feminism vs biblical womanhood; The Restoration Movement: Latter-day Saints; Jehovah's Witnesses; Seventh Day Adventists; a brief history of the prosperity gospel

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ROGER SHERRER

Senior Pastor, Teaching and Connections, First Baptist Church, Lebanon, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Atheism; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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HANNA SIMS

Layperson/Teacher, Red Bridge Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Evidential apologetics for kids, teens, and adults; tactics for asking good questions to plant seeds of truth; worldviews

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DAVID STAMPS

Lay Leader, Fellowship of Wildwood, Wildwood, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Church history; historical theology; systematic theology; textual criticism; defense of the resurrection

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JOHN VAUGHAN

Lay Leader, Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Mormonism (LDS Church); church growth; sex and gender; evil, suffering, and pain; biblical truth in a culture of truth, half-truths, and lies; miracles and science; God, Jesus, and culture

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DANIEL WEYAND

Pastor, Sunrise Baptist Church, Bonne Terre, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Hamartiology (a study of sin); why we can trust the Bible; hermeneutics (interpreting biblical texts)

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COLTEN WRIGHT

Pastor, Linn Creek Baptist Church, Linn Creek, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Presuppositional apologetics; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Oneness Pentecostalism; apologetics as it applies to everyday living

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GABRIEL ZELAYA

MBAN Secretary-Treasurer 2023-25
Worship Leader, Pisgah Baptist Church, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Classical, presuppositional, and evidential apologetics

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Learn more
at mobaptist.org/mban



HOSTING AN APOLOGETICS* WORKSHOP AT YOUR CHURCH IS AS SIMPLE AS 1, 2, 3:

1 Pick a date

Popular formats include:

- One-day (typically Saturday or Sunday)
- Two-day (typically Saturday-Sunday)
- Three-day (typically Friday-Sunday)

2 Select your topics and speakers

Go online to mobaptist.org/apologetics/mban and select from the speakers and topics that meet your needs. Reach out to them by phone or email and confirm dates, topics, and other details.

Popular topics include:

- Creation vs. evolution
- Atheism and evidence for the existence of God
- Worldviews
- Christian apologetics
- The reliability of Scripture
- The Watchtower (Jehovah's Witnesses)
- The LDS Church (Mormons)
- The Baptist Faith & Message

3 Promote the workshop

Promote the workshop from the pulpit, through Sunday school classes and small groups, in church bulletins, on your website, and through social media.

** Apologetics simply means a reasonable defense of the Christian faith. Followers of Jesus should be ready at all times to share a reason for the hope in us (1 Pet. 3:15-16).*



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