



# LTI

# LIFE TRAINING INSTITUTE

*Persuasively Communicating the Pro-Life Message*

August 2010

Dear Friends,

What a week!

No sooner had I returned from training students at Summit Ministries (see pictures below) than I got an urgent message from Biola University asking if I would co-teach a graduate level course in pro-life apologetics for M.A. students. The students, I was told, were working toward an M.A. in Christian apologetics and Biola wanted to make our training part of the lecture curriculum. I nearly jumped out of my chair with excitement.



So, yes, I'm off to Biola September 16-18. What an answer to prayer! For weeks I'd been tossing around in my mind a proposal to train graduate students with our material. With my own M.A. in Christian apologetics already in tow, the proposal was doable.

In fact, we were already laying the groundwork to provide graduate training at a major theological seminary in Indiana. Biola was next on my list, but alas, before I put anything down on paper, the university contacted me with a proposal to provide the very training I'd dreamed up weeks ago. We're now in the game of equipping graduate students! True, it's only a start, but we're in the game.

Make no mistake. This new development is *not* a subtraction from our ongoing outreach to high school and undergraduate students. Indeed, that mission continues full steam ahead. Rather, we are expanding our influence by going after graduate students at Christian universities to help them defend the *foundations* of a pro-life worldview. And, boy, is it ever needed.

Consider what's happened in the last five years. While the street-level debate over abortion rages on, a serious intellectual discussion about the foundation for human rights continues almost unnoticed. What makes humans valuable? Can secularism provide an adequate grounding for basic human rights? How do natural rights differ from merely positive (legal) ones? These questions are foundational and must be addressed persuasively. At LTI, we've dedicated our lives to that task.

When pro-life students are told their views are inherently religious and involve comprehensive doctrines that can't be proven scientifically, we teach them to counterpunch with a question that levels the playing field: *"Tell me, why does anything have value and a right to life?"*

The answer from critics will inevitably involve some comprehensive doctrine about the nature of human beings and their place in the world that cannot be proven empirically. Pro-life students are then taught to explain that although the pro-life view is implicitly religious, it is no more religious

than alternative explanations of human value. Everyone is asking the same exact question: What makes humans valuable in the first place? Science can't answer that question because science only deals with things we can measure empirically through the five senses. To get an answer, you'll have to do philosophy.

Indeed, can a thoroughly materialistic (secular) worldview tell us why anything has value and a right to life? According to materialism, everything in the universe came about by blind physical processes and random chance. The universe came from nothing and was caused by nothing. Human beings are thus cosmic accidents.

In the face of this devastating news, secularists simply presuppose human dignity, human rights and moral obligations. But on what naturalistic basis can human rights and moral obligations be affirmed? Why think that impersonal, physical and valueless processes will produce rights-bearing persons? The Christian worldview has a better explanation: Humans have value because they bear the image of their Maker.



At the end of the day, Christians aren't *imposing* their ideas; they're *proposing* them in hopes their fellow citizens will vote them into law. That's called democracy.

Here at LTI, surrender is not an option. We are committed to equipping students to defend life. It's not enough to merely state that abortion is wrong. They must be equipped to say *why* it is wrong. Trying to meet that need keeps my speaking calendar very busy and full. Even in summer we don't take a break. In the last two weeks, I've trained 500 students in Indiana (Friends for Life Camp at Concordia Seminary) and Tennessee (Summit at Bryan College) to make a case for life. This month, I'll train more students at a Summit Ministries camp in Wisconsin.

I'm excited beyond words to see our work is expanding into new academic frontiers, and I can't thank you enough for making it possible. During the upcoming school year, LTI staff members Jay Watts and Megan Almon will join me in reaching high school and college students. At the university level, I will again engage former ACLU President Nadine Strossen in a series of debates.

I want to thank you for making it possible for us to reach students with persuasive pro-life content and for the support you give us so sacrificially. We need your support and we need your prayers. We are committed to our task, we work hard, and we trust God to provide. Please pray for us and stand with us. We are grateful to you.

Thanks for the assistance as we grow!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Klusendorf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Klusendorf

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