

Scott R. Burson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology
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EDUCATION:

- 2015** **Ph.D.** **Brunel University** **London, England**
“Apologetics and the New Kind of Christian: An Arminian Analysis of Brian D. McLaren’s Emergent Reconstruction of the Faith”
• **Areas of Concentration:** Philosophical and Systematic Theology
• **Ph.D. Supervisors:** Dr. Laurence Wood, Frank Paul Morris Professor of Systematic Theology, Asbury Theological Seminary; and Dr. Graham McFarlane, Vice Principal Academic and Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology, London School of Theology
• **Viva Examiners:** Dr. John R. Franke, Professor of Religious Studies and Missiology, Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven, Belgium; and Dr. Marvin Oxenham, Theological Education Programme Leader, Lecturer in Applied Theology, London School of Theology
- 2000** **Master of Arts** **Asbury Theological Seminary** **Wilmore, Ky.**
Major: Theological Studies, Philosophy of Religion emphasis, 3.97 gpa
• Received Senior Award for Excellence in Christian Philosophy
• Inducted into International Society of Theta Phi, an honor society for theological students, scholars and leaders in the field of religion
• Served as part-time InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff at the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University.
- 1985** **Bachelor of Science** **University of Rio Grande** **Rio Grande, Ohio**
Major: Communications, Public Relations emphasis; cum laude
• President of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
• Played varsity basketball, becoming first player in school history to be nominated for academic All-America honors
• Traveled with Athletes in Action basketball team to Asia
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Philosophical Theology, Philosophy of Religion, Systematic Theology, and Sports Ministry
- Calvinism and Arminianism
- Morally Intelligent Cultural Engagement
- Free Will and Determinism
- Apologetics and Multiple Intelligences
- Postmodern Expressions of Christianity
- Moral Intuition and the Christian Life

PUBLISHING:

Books: *All About the Bass: Searching for Treble in the Midst of a Pounding Culture War* (Cascade, 2021)

Working out of the framework of Moral Foundations Theory and with the primary metaphor of an audio equalizer, *All About the Bass* proposes 10 action steps to help Christ-followers counterbalance the bass of righteous conviction with the treble of empathic compassion.

Holistic Apologetics: Advancing the Gospel with Moral, Emotional, Social, and Rational Intelligence (Baker Academic, in-process, forthcoming), co-authored with Jerry L. Walls

This 23-chapter book is a fresh integrative proposal for defending the Christian faith with comprehensive intelligence. While this monograph is technically a co-authored project, I am doing all of the research and writing. Manuscript to be completed during Fall 2020 sabbatical.

Brian McLaren in Focus: A New Kind of Apologetics (Abilene Christian University Press, 2016)

In 2005, *Time* magazine named Brian McLaren one of the most influential evangelicals in America. This monograph is the first comprehensive academic assessment of McLaren's emergent theological and apologetic project.

C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer: Lessons for a New Century from the Most Influential Apologists of Our Time (InterVarsity Press, 1998), co-authored with Jerry L. Walls

This 308-page book went into 10 printings and has been translated into Portuguese, Korean and Indonesian. Numerous college and seminary apologetics and C.S. Lewis courses have used this book as a required text.

Why I am Not a Calvinist (InterVarsity Press, 2004).

Contract secured to co-author this book with Jerry L. Walls.

After researching and writing a portion of the manuscript, a temporary illness forced me to hand my portion of this project over to Joe Dongell who completed the book as Jerry's co-author. In the Acknowledgments section of the book, Walls and Dongell wrote the following: "Several persons deserve thanks for helping in various ways in the writing of this book. First of all, Scott Burson deserves credit for conceiving the idea for the book and writing the initial proposal. He originally planned to coauthor the book until illness forced him to pull out of the project. But without his energy and vision, this book would likely never have been written."

Articles: "The Enormous Influence of C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer" in *A History of Western Civilization from a Christian Perspective*, Triangle Press, Jerry Pattengale, editor (completed—pause in production)

This essay discusses the apologetic contributions of these authors.

"God's Sovereignty and Human Significance," chapter 3 from *C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer*, InterVarsity Press, used by permission in UNV 180 *Becoming World Changers* course supplemental textbook at Indiana Wesleyan University, 2007-08.

This chapter from my co-authored book on Lewis and Schaeffer was required reading for all 800 students who took this course at Indiana Wesleyan University.

“Top of the Line.” *Sports Spectrum*, November-December 2006

This article focused on the Colts’ All-Pro center Jeff Saturday and how his Christian faith impacts his life on and off the field. I also wrote a sidebar on Colts’ Coach Tony Dungy and the Problem of Evil.

“Small-Time Coaches Make Big-Time Impact.” *Sports Spectrum*, March-April 2006.

This article focused on the spiritual contributions and athletic success of NAIA men’s basketball coaches Jim Kessler (Grace University) and Mike Lightfoot (Bethel College).

“A Comparative Analysis of the Apologetic Systems of C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer,” *The Lamp-Post of the Southern California C.S. Lewis Society*, Summer 1996.

This journal article served as the foundation for the subsequent book on Lewis and Schaeffer.

“Holy, Holy, Holy: A Journey through the Lands of the Bible,” *The Asbury Herald* Summer 1996

This article documented a three-week tour through Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Greece.

“That Was Then, This Is Now: Former All-Pro receiver Carroll Dale reflects on Green Bay glory and the evolution of the Super Bowl over the years,” *Sports Spectrum*, January 1996

This article focused on the career and spiritual impact of this former Green Bay Packer wide-out.

“Who Is Jesus?” *The Asbury Herald*, Winter 1996

I facilitated a round-table discussion on the identity and claims of Jesus with several Asbury Seminary faculty, including Ben Witherington III, Jerry Walls, and Mathias Zahniser.

“Creative Ministries: By All Means We Might Save Some,” *Alliance Life*, June 1995

This article, which originally appeared in *The Asbury Herald*, featured an innovative evangelistic restaurant ministry in Lexington, Ky.

- From 1985 to 1992, I wrote approximately 30 articles for several universities, athletic conferences, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

PRESENTATIONS:

**“Compassionate Conviction: How to Win Friends without Losing Your Faith,”
Day of Courageous Conversations, Indiana Wesleyan University, February 13, 2018**

This talk and PowerPoint presentation was given during IWU’s second annual Day of Courageous Conversations.

**“Look Inside an Online Course: Discover the Possibilities,”
PowerUp Lunch Presentation, Indiana Wesleyan University, March 24, 2017**

After evaluating all of the CAS online courses during the summer of 2016, Dr. Brian Fry asked me to provide a training session on constructing a media-rich online course.

**“All about the Bass: Searching for Treble in the Midst of a Pounding Culture War,”
Day of Courageous Conversations, Indiana Wesleyan University, February 14, 2017**

This talk and PowerPoint presentation was given twice during IWU’s inaugural Day of Courageous Conversations.

**“Lessons from Brian McLaren and the Emerging Church Movement,”
Summit 2016, Abilene Christian University, September 19-20, 2016**

This was a two-session presentation. The first session was entitled, “Understanding Brian McLaren and His Emergent Project.” In the second session, I spoke on “What Evangelicals Can Learn from Brian McLaren.”

**“Holistic Apologetics,” West Michigan Holiness Association Apologetics
Conference, Hart Wesleyan Church, Hart, Mich., August 1-4, 2016**

Over the course of this four-night conference, I offered four presentations on the importance of holistic apologetics. The four presentations focused on moral, emotional, social, and rational intelligence.

**“Brian McLaren and Social Intelligence,”
The Wild Goose Festival, Hot Springs, N.C., July 15, 2016**

In this seminar, I discussed how Brian McLaren embodies the main principles of social intelligence in Christ-honoring ways.

**“Embedding Media in Your Courses,”
PowerUp Lunch Presentation, Indiana Wesleyan University, January 29, 2016**

Dr. Brad Garner asked me to make a presentation on the integration of video into online and onsite course offerings.

“IWU Sports Ministry,” New Life Church, Auckland, New Zealand, Summer 2013

This talk and PowerPoint presentation was given at a Fijian Wesleyan church in Auckland during a Sunday morning worship service.

**“What Is Sports Ministry?” New Zealand Sports Ministry Blitz Training,
Indiana Wesleyan University, Spring 2013**

Led large-group training session in the Globe Theatre on the nature of sports ministry.

“My Sports PR Story,” COM 233 Principles of Public Relations, Guest Speaker, Indiana Wesleyan University, Spring 2013

Spoke to YoungAh Lee’s public relations students about the nature of sports PR and marketing.

“A New Kind of Mere Christian? Exploring the Apologetic Intersection Between C.S. Lewis and Brian McLaren,” Indiana Wesleyan University, February 2012

I presented this paper and PowerPoint to the College of Arts and Sciences faculty.

“A New Kind of Mere Christian? Exploring the Apologetic Intersection Between C.S. Lewis and Brian McLaren,” Taylor University, April 2011

I presented this paper and PowerPoint to the Taylor University C.S. Lewis Society.

“Building a Market-Centric Website” Presentation, Independent Colleges of Indiana Instructional Technology Summit, University of Indianapolis, Spring 2007

This presentation discussed the importance of collaboration between university marketing and information technology while developing web properties.

“C.S. Lewis & Francis Schaeffer: Modern Relics or Postmodern Guides?” Religion and Philosophy Colloquium, “To Defend or Not to Defend?” Indiana Wesleyan University, Spring 2005

I presented this paper and participated in the subsequent panel discussion.

“Millennials Go to College” and “Millennials and Pop Culture” Presentations, Indiana Wesleyan University, Fall 2004

The first presentation was given to the IWU CAS division chairs. Jerry Pattengale has used material from both PowerPoints in many of his presentations on Millennials and sophomores.

“Blaise Pascal Goes to UK,” InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, University of Kentucky, April 1999.

This apologetic presentation focused on reasons for believing in God, including Pascal’s Wager.

“Tough Love or Tough Luck? C.S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer and the Fate of the Unevangelized,” Wheaton College Theology Conference, Spring 1998

This paper explored how this apologetic issue crystallizes the key theological differences between Arminians and Calvinists. I also participated in the panel discussion.

EXPERIENCE:

08/08-Present

Indiana Wesleyan University

Marion, Ind.

Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology

- School of Theology and Ministry faculty member
- Teach courses in the areas of Philosophy, Theology and Sports Ministry
- Teach multiple sections of **PHL 180: Humanities Philosophy**. Each section includes approximately 60 students. The course surveys major topics, figures, eras and schools of thought during the past 2,500 years of Western Philosophy.
- Developed the **PHL 180: Humanities Philosophy online** course during the Spring of 2015. I've taught multiple sections of this course during the summer and regular school term.
- Teach multiple sections of **THE 101: Theology of Christian Life**. This course examines the basic beliefs of historic Christianity as summarized in the Apostles' Creed and connects them to Christian practices and life.
- Teach **PHL 430: The Theology and Philosophy of C.S. Lewis**. This course examines Lewis's views on soteriology, holiness, the nature of God, sovereignty and free will, revelation, miracles, afterlife, apologetic method, and apologetic arguments. This course is offered every odd year and includes a spring break trip to Oxford and London, England.
- Teach **REL 340: Models of Sports Ministry**. This course exposes the student to a myriad of sports ministry models and explores the nature and dynamics of quality sports ministry in various settings.
- **THE 589 Special Topics in Systematic Theology: Issues in Contemporary American Evangelicalism**. This course, which I developed for STM's new Master's program, focuses on various theological issues that divide contemporary evangelicals.
- **THEO 500: Introduction to Christian Theology** for Wesley Seminary. This course reviews the historic beliefs of orthodox Christianity, including the nature of revelation, God, Christ, the Spirit, creation, humanity, sin, salvation, the church and the end of the age.
- Taught the following courses in the past: **REL 345: Sports Evangelism and Discipleship**; **UNV 180: Becoming World Changers** (large-group lecturer and small-group facilitator); **LDR 150: Introduction to Life Calling**; and **PHE 248: Intercultural Studies in Physical Education & Sport**.
- Guest speaker in YoungAh Lee's **COM 233: Principles of Public Relations** class in 2013
- Taught a First-Year Experience section in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019
- Sports Ministry Academic Program Coordinator, 2008-present
- Advise Sports Ministry and Youth Ministry students
- Selected to serve as School of Theology and Ministry Intercultural Fellow, 2018-present
- CAS Faculty Mentor—2019-20 Mentee: Josh Ostrander, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
- Day of Courageous Conversations presenter in 2017 and 2018
- Safe Zone Advocate, 2016-present. Led discussion group reading of Andrew Marin's *Us Versus Us*
- Chair of STM Marketing committee, 2008-20
- Enrollment Management Committee Faculty representative, 2017-present
- STM faculty representative on several CAS search committees, including 2020 Public Relations Faculty Search
- Past committee service includes the Student Success and Spiritual Life committees
- Conduct Assessment for the Sports Ministry Program with support to other STM areas
- 2013 IWU Athletic Department New Zealand Sports Ministry trip leadership team member
- Spearheaded the marketing campaign for the new Wesley Seminary in 2009-10
- Faculty representative on IWU Marketing Brand Identity Study Team

09/04-05/08

Indiana Wesleyan University

Marion, Ind.

Adjunct Instructor

- Taught five sections of **PHL 180: History of Philosophy** during a three-year period for the Division of Religion and Philosophy
- Taught **REL 475 Independent Study on C.S. Lewis** in the Spring of 2005
- Taught five sections of **UNV 180: Becoming World Changers** and served as guest large-group lecturer in Dr. Jerry Pattengale's UNV 180 class. Excerpts from my co-authored *C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer* book were included in the course supplemental textbook.
- Helped develop **REL 228: Defending the Faith** course for the College of Adult and Professional Studies and taught a section in Fort Wayne, Ind., during the Fall of 2006.

07/02-08/08

Indiana Wesleyan University

Marion, Ind.

Assistant Vice President for Marketing

- Supervised University Relations and In-House Design Departments
- Marketed university programs with emphasis on traditional and adult admissions
- Directed the production of all marketing recruitment media, including print and web, advertising, print and radio spots, billboards, brochures, CDs, DVDs and powerpoints
- Served as Marketing Manager for the IWU website
- Managed 10 full-time employees
- Spearheaded market research and planning
- Served on the University Strategic Planning Council
- Chaired Public Relations and Marketing subcommittee for Dr. Henry Smith's Presidential Inauguration
- Served on Institutional Self-Study Communications Task Force

03/92-06/02

Asbury Theological Seminary

Wilmore, Ky.

Executive Director of Communications

- Supervised all facets of marketing and communications, including publishing, public relations, media relations, advertising, printing, and video production for Asbury's Kentucky, Florida and virtual campuses.
- Managed *The Asbury Herald* (circ. 28,000), *Alumni Advance* (circ. 6,000), and *Asbury Theological Journal* (circ. 1,500)
- Researched and wrote news, feature, advertising, fundraising, and promotional copy
- Conceptualized and implemented an annual Communications and Marketing plan
- Coordinated approximately 450 annual publication and printing jobs
- Supervised four full-time employees, three students, and numerous freelance writers and designers

07/89-03/92

Host Communications

Lexington, Ky.

Senior Managing Editor

- Co-managed publishing staff (10 editors, four artists) at national sports publishing firm
- Responsible for \$1 million publications and printing budget
- Edited numerous NCAA Championship newsstand magazines and souvenir programs, including the 1992 Men's Final Four and the 1990 College World Series
- Supervised accounts for the University of Kentucky, University of Notre Dame, University of Pittsburgh, University of Texas, and the Naval Academy
- Worked closely with the leadership at several Division-I conferences, including the Big 10

04/88-06/89 **University of Florida** **Gainesville, Fla.**

Assistant Sports Information Director

- Won more than 20 national publication awards
- Served as managing editor of 176-page football recruiting book
- Supervised football interview process, handling over 1,500 interviews annually
- Traveled with football team as media relations representative
- Served as sports information director for nationally ranked baseball team
- Designed/edited/wrote all materials for baseball, golf, tennis, swimming & diving, and track & field
- Directed statistical compilation and coordinated all media activities for the above sports
- Worked closely with live television (ESPN, ABC, CBS, SportsChannel, Sunshine Network)
- Supervised and trained four full-time interns
- Formatted and organized football press release distributed to over 800 media outlets weekly

07/87-04/88 **University of Florida** **Gainesville, Fla.**

Assistant Director of Sports Information

- Designed/edited/wrote materials for swimming and women's basketball
- Directed statistical compilation and coordinated media activities for the above sports
- Coordinated, designed and formatted weekly press release sent to 400 media outlets
- Helped manage numerous Southeastern Conference and NCAA championship events

02/86-06/87 **University of Florida** **Gainesville, Fla.**

Sports Information Intern

- Worked full-time in all phases of the sports information operation
- Served as assistant editor of 184-page football media guide and 144-page game program
- Administered athlete interview system for football and basketball
- Coordinated \$20,000 promotional campaign for 12 home basketball games

09/83-05/85 **University of Rio Grande** **Rio Grande, Ohio**

Director of Sports Information

- Handled publicity for nine intercollegiate sports
- Wrote/edited/designed brochures, including award-winning basketball media guide
- Organized and supervised a student volunteer sports information club
- Served as interim University Relations Director while finishing undergraduate degree

AWARDS: BEST IN THE NATION (College Sports Information Directors of America)

- 1990 Florida Gator Track Guide (Men's)
- 1990 Florida Gator Golf Guide (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Swimming Guide Cover (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Golf Cover (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Track Cover (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Spring Sports Recruiting Guide Cover (Men's)

- 1988 Florida Gator Tennis Guide (Men's)
- 1988 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Men's)

SECOND IN THE NATION (College Sports Information Directors of America)

- 1990 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Football Recruiting Guide
- 1989 Florida Gator Golf Guide (Men's)
- 1988 Florida Gator Spring Sports Recruiting Guide (Men's)
- 1988 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Women's)

THIRD IN THE NATION (College Sports Information Directors of America)

- 1989 Florida Gator Spring Sports Recruiting Guide (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Track Guide (Men's)
- 1987 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Women's)

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (Printing Industry Association of the South)

- 1994 Presidential Inauguration issue, *The Asbury Herald*
- 1997 75th Anniversary issue, *The Asbury Herald*
- 2000 Asbury Seminary Viewbook

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION

- 2007 Indiana Wesleyan University Search piece National Silver Circle of Excellence Award in the Individual Student Recruitment Publications category. Out of 189 entries, IWU finished in the 95th percentile of the judging.
- 2001 "Ministers R Us" Asbury Seminary print ad—best advertisement in the state of Kentucky

REFERENCES:

Jerry L. Walls

Scholar in Residence, Professor of Philosophy
Houston Baptist University
jwalls@hbu.edu

John R. Franke

Professor of Religious Studies and Missiology
Evangelische Theologische Faculteit
Leuven, Belgium
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Graham McFarlane

Vice Principal Academic and Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology
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Laurence W. Wood

Frank Paul Morris Professor of Systematic Theology
Asbury Theological Seminary
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Dave Ward

Associate Professor, Homiletics and Practical Theology
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Christopher Bounds

Scholar in Residence/Professor of Theology/Gardner Professor for the Promotion of Holiness
Asbury University
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MEMBERSHIPS:

- Wesleyan Theological Society
- Society of Christian Philosophers
- Heterodox Academy— a group which promotes viewpoint diversity within higher education
- Emmanuel Community Church, Fort Wayne, Ind. Involved with Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University and the sports ministry program.

PERSONAL:

- Born in Athens, Ohio
- Lettered three years in baseball and two years in basketball at Athens High School
- Played varsity basketball at the University of Rio Grande, becoming first player in school history to be nominated for Academic All-America honors
- Married to Debra Burson. Three adult children: Ashley, Lindsey, and Ryan; three adult stepchildren: Jacob, Justin, and Jared.
- Community Service and Volunteer experience: The Fort Wayne Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Upward Sports Ministry, Athletes in Action Sports Ministry, Heritage Pointe of Huntington Nursing Home, and several Grant county service days