



# A New Ministry

with a focus on ministering  
to college students

**Today's  
college students  
face unique  
challenges**



# Faculty Bias Against Christian Students



*Gary A. Tobin & Aryeh K. Weinberg*  
Institute for Jewish and Community Research (2007)

# “Religious Beliefs & Behavior of College Faculty”

**1,269** faculty members interviewed  
in **712** Colleges & Universities

“53% [of faculty members] said that they have cool/unfavorable feelings towards Evangelical Christians . . . . Faculty feelings about Evangelicals are significantly cooler than any other religious group . . . . These negative feelings are noted across academic disciplines and demographic factors. . . . Conservative Christians have for some time been concerned about their children’s campus environment. These data certainly legitimize their concerns.”

(pp. 80-81, 77)

“While faculty strongly reject most forms of religious influence in politics, overwhelmingly asserting their desire to see Christian influence lessened, they are far less critical and even supportive of increasing Muslim religious influence in politics.” (p. 73)

“[T]he third and most troubling finding in the survey: faculty feelings about Evangelical Christians. Faculty do not feel positively about Evangelicals at all. In fact, they feel less positively about Evangelicals than about any other religious group. The combination of responses—showing so few faculty Evangelicals on campus, showing imbalance in the support of Muslims versus Christians advocating their religious beliefs in American politics, . . .

“ . . . showing strong negative views of Evangelicals compared to tolerance for other religious groups—raises serious concerns about how Evangelical Christian faculty and students are treated or feel they are treated on campus. The levels of faculty disapproval are high enough to raise questions about the overall climate on campus.” (p. 86)



# Students Become Disconnected

*You Lost Me: Why Young Christians  
Are Leaving Church . . . And  
Rethinking Faith*



*David Kinnaman*

Barna Research Group  
(Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011)

“59 percent of young people with a Christian background report that they had or have ‘dropped out of attending church, after going regularly.’ A majority (57 percent) say they are less active in church today compared to when they were age fifteen. Nearly two-fifths (38 percent) say they have gone through a period when they significantly doubted their faith. Another one-third (32 percent) describe a period when they felt like rejecting their parents’ faith.” (p. 23)

***Of the 6 major reasons for why  
teens drop out of church when  
going off to college, at least  
half of them can be addressed  
by apologetics***

# **1. Students view Christianity as “antiscience”**

**“science seems accessible in a way that the church does not; science appears to welcome questions and skepticism, while matters of faith seem impenetrable.”**

## **2. Students view Christianity as being too “exclusive”**

**“they have been shaped by a culture that esteems open-mindedness, tolerance, and acceptance. Thus Christianity’s claims to exclusivity are a hard sell. They want to find areas of common ground, even if that means glossing over real differences.”**



### **3. Students view Christianity as requiring Christians to be “doubtless”**

“Young Christians (and former Christians too) say the church is not a place that allows them to express doubts. They do not feel safe admitting that faith doesn’t always make sense.” (p. 93)

Focusing on the Faith  
of College Students

Risen Jesus, Inc.

a 501(c)(3)





A portrait of Dr. Mike Licona, a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a dark shirt. He is standing outdoors with a blurred background of green foliage. The image is tilted slightly to the right.

# Dr. Mike Licona

- Ph.D. New Testament Studies
- Author/Co-Author of 6 books
- One of the world's leading scholars on the historical evidence for Jesus' resurrection
- Has spoken on more than 50 university campuses
- Interviewed by Lee Strobel in *The Case for the Real Jesus* (book) & *The Case for Christ* (DVD)
- [www.risenjesus.com](http://www.risenjesus.com)

Mike has a wide influence among Protestant denominations which have invited him to speak at their events including Southern Baptists, Calvary Chapel, Presbyterian, United Methodist, Episcopal, Pentecostal, Willow Creek Association churches, and non-denominational churches.

# Mission Statement

*to equip 100,000 Christians—  
mainly high school  
upperclassmen & university  
students—to share their faith  
using a historical case for the  
resurrection of Jesus and (for  
Mike) to champion that case  
publicly through debate.*



# Debating on Campus



*Mike speaking with Muslim students after a debate. Many students have moved closer to faith in Christ or committed to Christian ministry after attending a debate.*



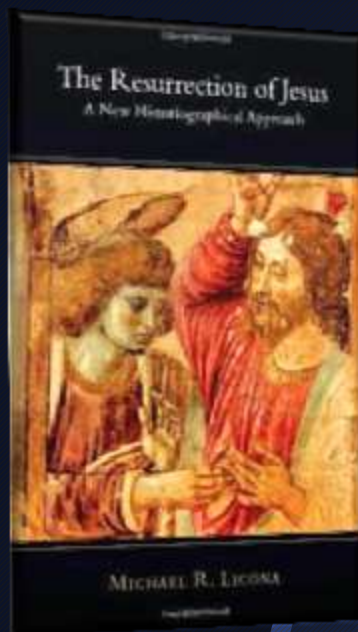
*“[I]t was a David vs Goliath situation. Spannenberg and Wolmarans were so outgunned by the eloquent, logical and well prepared Licono/Craig duo that it made me really ashamed to be South African, but at least I could be proud to be a Christian. These two men demonstrated that Christianity is logical and intellectually tenable. They demonstrated that Christians can be logical, solid and, for lack of a better word, COOL.”*



# Speaker at National Conferences



# Cutting Edge Research



“a cautious, thorough and painstaking study that could scarcely be outdone . . . . This is simply required reading for anyone who wants to master this subject.”

**Gary Habermas**  
Liberty University

“I am not aware of any scholar who has previously offered such a thorough and fair-minded account”

**Richard B. Hays**  
Duke Divinity School

“Licona models what a true historian should do as he investigates the evidence for Jesus' resurrection.”

**Daniel Wallace**  
Dallas Theological Seminary





“Mike Licona combines the mind of a scholar, the heart of an evangelist, the clarity of a communicator, and the persuasive skills of a debater. His ministry is vitally important in answering objections currently being leveled against Christianity. Mike has my strong endorsement as an effective and winsome apologist.”

**Lee Strobel**  
Author, *The Case for Christ*



“Mike Licona is simply a wonderful communicator. Never speaking over the heads of his various audiences, he employs humor and overall winsomeness to grab his audience’s attention and to keep it riveted on the subject at hand. Throughout, Mike’s greatest assets come across well —his own personality along with his scholarship. As one listens, it is obvious that behind the excellent eye contact, humor, and clear outline is a scholar with whom skeptics ought not try to spar.”

**Gary R. Habermas**, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy & Apologetics  
Liberty University





“When I first saw Mike Licona in a public debate on the resurrection of Jesus, I realized that here was a young man whom I needed to get to know. He dismantled his opponent’s arguments with surgical precision and yet with such graciousness that no one could be offended. I have found Mike to be a person possessing a rare combination of careful scholarship, winsomeness, and debating skill. You will find that as a speaker Mike will not brook bad arguments, but will present an honest, solid case for his conclusions, delivered with his characteristic and unshakeable good humor.”



**William Lane Craig**, D.Theol., Ph.D.  
Research Prof. of Philosophy, Talbot School of Theology



"I often tell my students, 'You must pursue truth rather than protect your presuppositions.' This is axiomatic for honest investigation, a *sine qua non* of historical research. Sadly, it is a rare commodity among scholars today, even among biblical scholars. Dr. Licona is one who exemplifies this approach in his treatment of the resurrection of Jesus. Frankly, I can't remember when I came across a scholar whose passion for Christ so readily translates into a passion for truth. Licona is the man!"



**Daniel Wallace, Ph.D.**

Prof. of New Testament Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary

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