

2017 NPA Conference Speakers

Dr. Richard Land is President of Southern Evangelical Seminary. In addition to his presidency, Dr. Land also serves as Professor of Theology and Ethics. Since 2011 Dr. Land has also served as Executive Editor of the Christian Post.

In 2015 NewsMax magazine named Dr. Land one of the “Top 100 (11th) Christian Leaders in America.”

Dr. Land graduated with the Bachelor of Arts degree (magna cum laude) from Princeton University and with the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Oxford University in England. He also received a Master of Theology (Honors Program) degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he served as student body president and received the Broadman Seminarian Award as the outstanding graduating student.

Prior to becoming President of Southern Evangelical Seminary, Dr. Land served for 25 years (1988-2013) as the President of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the Southern Baptist Convention's official entity assigned to address social, moral, and ethical concerns, with particular attention to their impact on American families and their faith.

In February 2005, Land was featured in Time Magazine as one of "The Twenty-five Most Influential Evangelicals in America.”

Dr. Land served as The Criswell College's Vice-President for Academic Affairs from 1980 to 1988 where he had taught as Professor of Theology and Church History at that institution since 1975.

From 1998 to 2013 he co-hosted a 30-minute nationally syndicated weekday radio talk show, For Faith & Family, heard on over 250 stations across the US and worldwide on the web. Currently he hosts a daily two-minute radio commentary on faith issues and how they relate to current issues, “Bringing Every Thought Captive,” heard on over 400 stations nationwide. Dr. Land and leading Christian apologists discuss significant social, religious, and political topics on SES's “Bring Every Thought Captive” TV program, which airs 8 p.m./ET on the NRB Network.

Dr. Land is a native Houstonian and a sixth-generation Texan. His record as a pro-family advocate is capped by his proudest accomplishment—his over 45-year marriage to his wife Dr. Rebekah Land (a psychotherapist in private practice) and his personal investment with her in the lives of their three adult children, Jennifer, Richard Jr., and Rachel and their respective spouses and three grandsons.

Dr. David Marshall worked for 15 years in East Asia as a missionary and educator. He worked to awaken the Asian church to the needs of young women caught in the sex industry, researched Chinese culture, and studied theology. He then taught at Siebold University and Nagasaki University in Nagasaki, Japan, his wife's hometown, then later in southern China. Dr. Marshall is author of eight books, on China and Christianity, world religions, the Gospels, and the New Atheism, as well of articles for Christianity Today, Books and Culture, Touchstone, and other magazines, and editor of Faith Seeking Understanding: Essays in Memory of Paul Brand and Ralph Winter (William Carey Library).

Dr. Marshall is increasingly recognized as an authority on the positive impact of Christianity on global cultures, the historicity of the gospels, and the relationship between Christianity and other faiths. His latest book, *Jesus is No Myth: The Fingerprints of God on the Gospels*, has been described as "a great contribution to historical Jesus studies" and "full of fresh insights, penetrating analysis, and dry wit," with one New Testament scholar adding, "Support for the credibility of Christianity can be found here that is available nowhere else -- a must read."

Laurie Stewart is an attorney, mediator, Christian apologist and event speaker. She earned her J.D. from Chapman University School of Law in Orange, California, and her B.A. from California State University Fullerton. She is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Christian Apologetics from Biola University. Laurie is licensed to practice law in California and in Iowa.

Laurie has worked with several public interest law groups in defending religious freedom, sanctity of life and traditional marriage, including Alliance Defending Freedom, Pacific Justice Institute, and Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence. In 2006, she received the C. William Carlson award from Pacific Justice Institute for her "exceptional level of integrity and commitment." In 2008, Laurie was a guest speaker on the marriage issue at law schools and town hall meetings, and featured in a documentary on the marriage issue called "Marriage Matters to Kids."

Laurie and her husband John founded Rolling Stone Ministries, an international organization committed to training Christian leaders. She is a frequent speaker at universities, churches, seminars, conferences and women's groups. Since 2007, Laurie and John have traveled to Africa, Asia, and the Middle East many times to teach and train leaders.

Laurie is a former self-proclaimed liberal feminist. Now she inspires, engages and challenges women to re-evaluate the assumptions and presuppositions thrust upon them by the post-modern culture. Her diversified background includes acting and producing theatre, and training hundreds of consultants as a sales director for a Fortune 500 Company. Laurie and John, who are from Iowa and California respectively, currently reside in Iowa with their German Shepherd. Their three grown daughters live in California and Nevada.

Dr. Ray Ciervo has 40 years of ministry as pastor, teacher and apologist. He attended a Bible school in Brooklyn, NY and in 1974, was ordained and sent to help establish a church in central New Jersey, where he discipled many and led an association of churches. In 2002, he graduated summa cum laude at Southern Evangelical Seminary with a master of arts in apologetics (MAA). He recently completed his Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree in apologetics. Ray travels and ministers internationally, earning over 150 stamps in his passport. Locally, he presents seminars called, "No Pat Answers", free of charge, three times a year at Long Branch Covenant Church in Long Branch, NJ. He is the organizer and founder of The New Jersey Christian Apologetics Conference. He is married to the wonderful and encouraging, Joanne and has 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.