

Are Surveys Fake News?



On March 7, 2019, Probe's Senior VP Steve Cable gave a one-hour presentation drawing on his decades of statistical research and insight to probe deeply into the trustworthiness of news containing references to surveys. In this message he shows why we should remain skeptical of what surveys purportedly indicate. Sometimes the actual results are directly opposite of what is claimed.

You can download the mp3 audio recording [here](#).

Christmas Articles



[A Christmas Quiz](#) [Dale Taliaferro]

A quiz concerning the Christmas story from a biblical perspective.

[3 Points About Christmas: Evidence for Biblical Truth](#) [Paul Rutherford]

Paul Rutherford suggests using three fulfilled biblical prophecies as an apologetic for biblical truth.

[The Star of Bethlehem](#) [Dr. Ray Bohlin]

What was the Star of Bethlehem? Some people suggest it was an astronomical conjunction of planets and stars. But it might have been the Shekinah Glory, a physical manifestation of God's presence on earth.

[Christmas Film Favorites](#) [Todd Kappelman]

Todd Kappelman highlights some favorite films of the Christmas season, encouraging Christians to enjoy the films while separating the sacred from the secular: *A Christmas Carol*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

[Truth You Can Sing About: 5 Christmas Carols](#) [Steven Davis]

Probe Radio producer Steven Davis wrote the scripts providing devotional insights into five Christmas carols, and his son and Mind Games Camp alumnus Jon Clive Davis wrote and performed the music underneath.

[Truth You Can Sing About: Part 2](#) [Steven Davis]

Probe Radio producer Steven Davis wrote five more scripts providing devotional insights into five Christmas carols, and his son and Mind Games Camp alumnus Jon Clive Davis wrote and performed the music underneath.

[Truth You Can Sing About: Part 3](#) [Steven Davis]

For the third year in a row, Steven Davis and his son Jon Clive Davis collaborated on a new look at five Christmas carols, accompanied throughout each day's broadcast by new compositions of each carol.

[The Theology of Christmas Carols](#) [Dr. Robert Pyne]

A look at the theology behind five Christmas carols: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Joy to the World, O Little Town of Bethlehem, and O Holy Night.

[Christmas SHINY!](#) [Sue Bohlin]

The visible presence of God in the Old Testament—the Shekinah glory—shows up again at Christmas. No wonder we like shiny, sparkly things that remind us of the glory of heaven!

[Is Christmas Necessary?](#) [Jerry Solomon]

Christians have had to respond to the customs of the surrounding culture since the beginning of the church. In the end, though, Christmas is necessary only in terms of its historical and theological content.

[Reincarnation: The Christmas Counterfeit](#) [Sue Bohlin]

Sue blogs that Jesus is the only person who had a life before His birth, which we celebrate at Christmas.

[The Christmas Story: Does It Still Matter?](#) [Rusty Wright]

Christmas often means time with family, hectic shopping, parties, cards and gifts. But what about the first Christmas? Why is the original story the baby in a manger, shepherds, wise men, angels important, if at all? The answer may surprise you.

[The First Christmas Wreath](#) [Jimmy Williams]

The founder of Probe Ministries examines the role of the wreath in Christmas.

[The Great Light](#) [Jimmy Williams]

A short essay on the role of light at Christmas.

[The Stable](#) [Jimmy Williams]

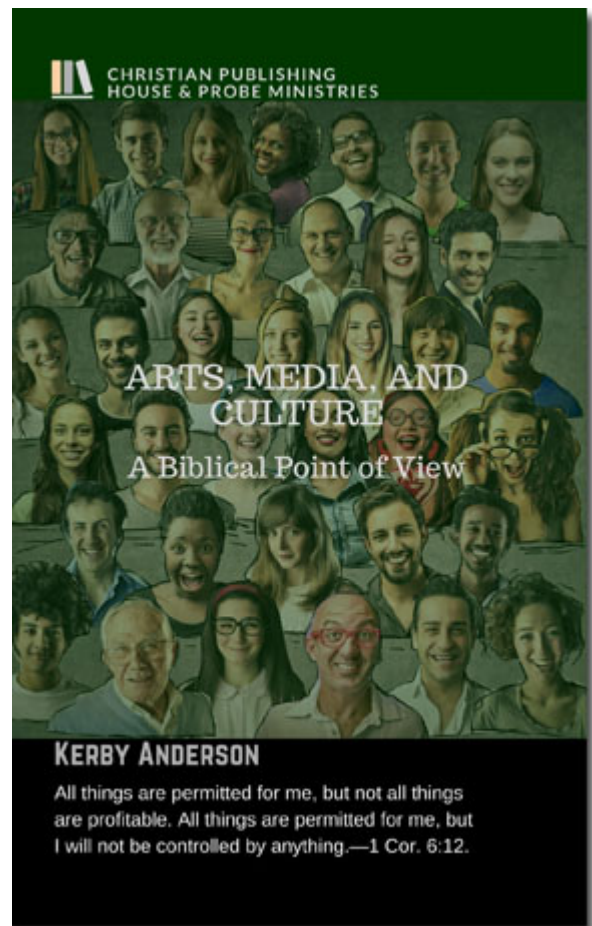
Jimmy Williams examines the symbolic and prophetic role of the stable in Christmas.

[Are You Listening? Do You Hear What I Hear?](#) [Rusty Wright]

Have you ever missed a great opportunity because you weren't listening carefully? Twenty centuries ago some clues to impending good news of monumental import eluded most folks. Fascinating prophecies of Jesus' birth and life bring revealing insights into your own life today.

Social Media, You and Your Family

Probe Ministries hosted a presentation by Kerby Anderson on “Social Media, You and Your Family” on October 16, 2018 at the Hope Center in Plano, Texas. All attendees received a free copy of the new book *Arts, Media, and Culture: A Biblical Point of View*. (You can order it from our online store [here](#).)



You can download a recording of Kerby’s message [here](#).

We are all the beneficiaries of the information on the Internet. But scientists have also been able to document that our digital devices and social media are altering the way we think and altering our ability to concentrate.

As one psychologist at Tufts University explains, “We are not only what we read. We are how we read.” The style of reading on the Internet is different and profoundly changing the way we read and acquire information. Our brains are able to reprogram themselves on the fly through a process called “neuroplasticity.”

There is a crucial need for Christians to evaluate the impact of media in their lives. We need to develop discernment and pass those biblical principles to our children and grandchildren.

The new media represents an even greater threat to our discernment processes and can easily conform us to the world (Romans 12:2). Media is powerful tool to conform us to group think and thus to a secular worldview taking us captive to the false philosophies of the world (Colossians 2:8).

Let's look at how we can harness social media to use for good while, at the same time, protecting ourselves and our children from potentially harmful effects.

Dr. Ray Bohlin Publicly Debates in Belarus

Something wonderful and heretofore-unseen happened in March 2018 in the formerly Communist country of Belarus, part of the Soviet Union until 1990. The capital city of Minsk was the site of a public debate between two scientists: Dr. Mikhail Gelfand, an atheist biology professor at Russia's Moscow State University, and Probe's own Dr. Ray Bohlin, a Ph.D. in molecular biology.

Ray had submitted a number of intelligent design-related topics to Dr. Gelfand who refused them all, deciding instead on the topic "Evolution or Creationism?" It was clear he was expecting a religious rather than a scientific argument from Ray, who presented "Is intelligent Design Science?" with the primary evidence that the DNA genetic code requires an intelligence. Dr. Gelfand did not respond to any of Ray's points.



Following their presentations, the debaters responded for an hour to written questions submitted by the audience. One question was, “Would either of you consider changing your mind if shown sufficient evidence of the other side?” With clear contempt, Dr. Gelfand dismissed the possibility that there was evidence for anything other than evolution. Ray related how, in his graduate studies in evolutionary biology, he continually asked, “Show me the evidence for evolution. Please convince me.” By the end of his studies, he was more of a skeptic of evolution than ever before.

Concerned about making his flight back to Moscow, Dr. Gelfand gathered up his things. He was very surprised when Ray came over and, smiling, shook his hand after having been insulted several times during the debate. Christian kindness and compassion is its own kind of culture.



Following the debate, 55% of participants in an online vote chose Ray as the winner. The debate was uploaded to Russian YouTube with over 1000 views that weekend (Link to English

YouTube video is [here](#)). There was quite a bit of social media buzz about it, including requests to bring Ray back to Belarus in November for another debate.

The following weekend, along with his Probe colleague Todd Kappelman, Ray traveled several hours by train to Brest (on the border of Belarus and Poland) for another debate, this time with a professor of the history of Slavic people, Dr. Alexander Svirid. In his presentation Ray pointed out that the fossil evidence for human evolution is sparse and open to many interpretations. His opponent was not able to refute what Ray said, but suggested that the way information has “evolved” from the early computer software to what we have today is evidence of evolution. Ray pointed out that it takes an intelligent mind to rewrite and update software. Dr. Svirid was quite gracious and complimentary of Ray, remarking that “each of us would have been a good student of the other.” (Link is [here](#).)

Monday through Friday for two weeks, Ray and Todd spent time with friends and potential church leaders. (Feel free to [ask us](#) for more information about that.)

Churches

This was Ray’s 14th trip to Belarus, and every time he goes, he speaks in the churches of people who have become friends. The first Sunday (of three), he preached in a church outside Minsk where one of his excellent translators is a teaching elder. He preached on Romans 1:18-20 in every church he spoke at, because after the previous day’s debate, many young people asked why the belief in creation mattered. Drawing on his worldview perspective sharpened by 40+ years of speaking and writing for Probe, he said that if there is no God, there is no purpose or meaning to any living thing—especially humans. Romans 1 assures us that we *all* know there is a Creator, so maybe the Creator’s intended purpose and meaning for us gives

us worth and value. This is especially good news in a country that was recently Communist, which denies the worth and value of people. Questions continued through lunch, turning Sunday into another four-hour marathon like the (debate) day before.

The second weekend was jam-packed with ministry opportunities. On Friday night, Ray answered questions at an English club (for those working on learning to speak English). He heard the one question he can always count on: "What do you like about Belarus?" People always love his go-to answer: "Chocolate!"

On Saturday afternoon, he spoke at a student conference sponsored by CRU (formerly known as Campus Crusade for Christ). Both the Christians and the seekers in attendance were interested in hearing Todd address problems and issues in technology, and Ray was asked to address the problem of evil. Todd and Ray, along with their translator Sasha and his wife, took the train to Brest, arriving very late at night.



The next morning was the second debate, arranged by the pastor of Brest Bible Church, who had seen the YouTube videos of Ray's 2016 debate and 2017 lecture, and really wanted him to come to his city.

The third weekend, with both men very tired, meant being driven to Brest and back the same day, to speak at a conference in another church. Todd, who doesn't use a cell phone or wear a watch, spoke to the issues and challenges of technology, particularly smartphones and computers. Ray, playing "good cop" to Todd's "bad cop," explained how helpful technology is to him as he tries to explain science to students and various audiences, especially the visual component of technology. Powerpoint is invaluable to him for showing graphs, tables and pictures, as well as showing videos using animation to demonstrate molecular machines inside the

cell. Getting personal, he also explained that his wife Sue, a polio survivor who is no longer able to walk (and thus can no longer accompany him to handicap-unfriendly Belarus), needs the technology of her scooter to be mobile at all. Otherwise she would be bedridden, or unable to leave their home—which is what happens to most disabled Belarusians.

On Sunday, their last day, both Todd and Ray gave a short 20-minute talk in the small house church of a pastor and his wife who have become good friends of the Bohlins. That night at another small church, Ray answered lots of questions about the Minsk debate.



He was especially glad for the question, “Why bother?” Why, indeed, would anyone from Probe go 5500 miles to the former Soviet Union, giving time, energy and passion to the point of utter exhaustion, year after year?

It’s an opportunity to provide unbelievers with a reasoned, rational response to evolution.

It’s an opportunity to model to Christians how to engage in controversial issues without defensiveness or anger.

We pray something sticks, planting a “pebble in people’s shoes,” so to speak, sowing seeds of new information and a different perspective by asking questions for which the listeners have no answers. It starts a journey.

For over forty years, that's what Probe Ministries has been doing. Sowing seeds, asking questions, planting pebbles in people's shoes so they *think*.

In 1973, when Probe was founded, there was no glimmer of hope for debates like these behind the Iron Curtain, much less in the Soviet Union. But look what God did in March 2018! There is a great hunger for honest answers to honest questions in Belarus. The debates are possible because they are about science, not religion . . . because true science—the study of what God created—is the truth that points to Romans 1.

And for that, we thank and praise God.

Note: The funding for this trip is several thousand dollars short of what was needed to cover expenses. There is still an opportunity to invest eternally in what God is doing through Probe in Belarus! You can donate [here](#) and designate Dr. Ray Bohlin. All gifts will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

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Mind Games 2017 Daily Schedule

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY



FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Probe Responses to “The Shack”

Probe staff members are not unanimous in their responses to *The Shack*. Sue Bohlin enjoyed it as “a good book with problems,” and former staffer Pat Zukeran sees value in the book but is concerned enough about the theological problems to give it a “thumbs down.” Those of us who have read the book have a difference of opinion with each other, but we remain friendly and mutually respectful even as we disagree.

The movie is faithful enough to the book that our takeaways still stand.

	Sue Bohlin's Response to <i>The Shack</i>
	Patrick Zukeran's Critique of <i>The Shack</i>

Originally published in 2008.

What is Probe?

Probe Ministries is a non-profit ministry whose mission is to assist the church in renewing the minds of believers with a Christian worldview and to equip the church to engage the world for Christ. Probe fulfills this mission through our Mind Games conferences for youth and adults, our 3-minute daily radio program, and our extensive Web site at www.probe.org.

Further information about Probe's materials and ministry may be obtained by contacting us at:

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Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam and Terrorism

Although the war on terror has become a household subject since September 11, 2001, we still hear many politically correct phrases. Do Muslims and Christians worship the same God? Is Islam a religion of peace? What is the true meaning of *jihad*? Kerby Anderson offers an honest, biblically-based discussion of Islam and terrorism.

Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam and Global Terrorism MP3	Download
Kerby's PowerPoint presentation from this lecture can be viewed or downloaded	Here

See also our articles:

- [What is Islam?](#) [Rick Rood]
- [Islam and Christianity: Common Misconceptions](#) [Don Closson]
 - [Islam and the Sword](#) [Don Closson]
 - [Conversation with a Muslim](#) [Don Closson]
 - [Islam and Political Correctness](#) [Kerby Anderson]
- [Breaching the Barriers of Islam](#) [Steve Cable]
- [Why Radical Muslims Hate You](#) [Rusty Wright]

Probe Answers Our Email:

- [“Would You Comment on the Pope’s Inflammatory Remarks about Islam?”](#)
 - [“Why Do You Lie About Islam?”](#)
- [“Is Islam a Religion of Peace or Violence?”](#)
- [“You Mislead People About Jesus and Allah”](#)
- [“Why Do You Believe the Bible is Inspired and the Quran is Not?”](#)
 - [“Print the Truth About Islam!”](#)

Mind Games 2016 Schedule

Mind Games 2016 Schedule

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7:30		Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	Devotions	

First Dallas Series “How Can I Know?”: Links to Apologetics Articles



<p><i>We are pleased and honored to suggest these articles and answers to email as helpful additions to Dr. Jeffress' 2012 apologetics series at First Baptist Church Dallas (Texas).</i></p>	
Aug. 26	<p>How Can I Know How To Start Over When I've Blown It?</p>
	<p><u>Grappling with Guilt</u> <u>"Will God Punish Me Forever for My Mistakes?"</u> <u>"Will Jesus Still Forgive Me?"</u> <u>The Sinfulness of Humanity</u></p>
Sept. 2	<p>How Can I Know How To Forgive Someone Who Has Hurt Me?</p>
	<p><u>Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and You</u> <u>The Keys to Emotional Healing – Part 2</u> <u>"How Do I Overcome My Hurts and Disappointments From My Church?"</u></p>
Sept. 9 & 16	<p>How Can I Know There Is a God?</p>

	<p><u>Evidence for God's Existence</u> <u>There is a God</u> <u>Does God Exist?</u> <u>Answering the New Atheists</u> <u>No Reason to Fear: Examining the Logic of a Critic</u></p>
Sept. 23 & 30	<p>How Can I Know The Bible Is True?</p>
	<p><u>Are the Biblical Documents Reliable?</u> <u>The Historical Reliability of the Gospels</u> <u>Authority of the Bible</u> <u>Bart Ehrman's Complaint</u> <u>The Christian Canon</u></p>
Oct. 7	<p>How Can I Know God Is Good With All The Suffering in the World?</p>
	<p><u>The Problem of Evil</u> <u>"I Doubt the Existence of a Good God Who Allows a Baby to Suffer and Die"</u> <u>Where Was God on Sept. 11? The Problem of Evil</u> <u>Hope For a World Gone Bad</u> <u>The Value of Suffering</u></p>
Oct. 14 & 21	<p>How Can I Know Christianity Is The Right Religion?</p>
	<p><u>Do All Roads Lead to God? The Christian Attitude Toward Non-Christian Religions</u> <u>Is Jesus the Only Savior?</u> <u>Christianity and Religious Pluralism</u> <u>"How Can I Teach Pluralism Wisely?"</u> <u>Will Everyone Be Saved? A Look at Universalism</u></p>
Oct. 28 & Nov. 4	<p>How Can I Know I'm Going To Heaven When I Die?</p>

	<p><u>“How Can I Know I’m Going to Heaven?”</u> <u>Dealing with Doubt</u> <u>“Can a Christian Lose His Salvation?”</u> <u>“Can a True Believer Commit the</u> <u>Unforgiveable Sin?”</u></p>
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Now I’m Bound

“Now I’m Bound”



Download the title song from our new album from our OnceCaptive label [here](#).

Now I’m Bound By Jennie Riddle, Don Johnson, Matt Boswell (adapted lyrics on bridge by Isaac Watts) © 2011