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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Why Every Christian Student Needs Mind Games

You've probably heard or read that the vast majority of young Christians are leaving the church after they graduate from high school. But they don't have to "graduate from God" after they get their diploma.

There are several reasons young adults leave the church, and many of them jettison their faith as well. The biggest reason is that their questions and doubts—which started in junior high school—were not answered by their parents or youth leaders.

Another reason is that they don't believe Christianity is true. Immersed in a cultural brine of religious lies and

deceptions, they don't know what the truth is and why biblical Christianity blows the false ideas and religions away.

A third reason is that they caught their unbiblical beliefs and practices from their parents and other adults in the church. It turns out that Mom and Dad were almost as pickled in the cultural brine as their kids!

But Probe offers a great way to push back on these reasons.

Our summer Mind Games camp is a total-immersion, life-changing week of instruction in worldview and apologetics designed to build students' confidence that Christianity is true, and why Christianity is true. We lay the foundation of three major worldviews to give them understanding of how other people think and why Christianity is better because it matches reality. Then we teach them why they can be sure that God exists, why the Bible can be trusted, and how we can know that Jesus is God and the only way to heaven.

After these basics, campers learn how biblical principles apply to issues they need to grapple with: truth and grace about LGBT, how faith and science work together, why a good God allows pain and evil, the value of suffering, how to watch a movie with their brains turned on, genetic engineering, understanding Islam, and more.

But it's not just lectures. Plenty of free time is built into the schedule for processing what they've learned and developing friendships with other campers. The relationships that students form at Mind Games is one of their biggest takeaways. With a max of 40 participants, everyone can enjoy connecting to other campers, and many of the friendships endure year after year.

The biggest reason for leaving the church is unanswered questions and doubts. Probe staffers assure students that Mind Games is a safe place to ask any question—anonymously—and address any doubt. Many of the questions campers come with,

are answered during the week in our lectures and discussion times. Whether in large group or the many opportunities for one-on-one conversations with Probe teachers, campers have many ways to get help wrestling with obstacles to their faith.

For over twenty years, Mind Games alumni have grown into leaders on campus, in public service, in the military, and in the church. The fruit of their time with us is "fruit that lasts" (John 15:16).

Mind Games Camp 2026 is June 14-20 at Camp Copass in Denton, Texas, in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Some scholarships are available. Check out videos and much more information at Probe.org/mindgames.

Can you think of a high school student who doesn't need Mind Games?

We can't either.

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PROBE MINISTRIES TEAMS WITH TOP CHRISTIAN NASHVILLE SONG WRITERS

PRESS RELEASE
Contact: Renea McKenzie
Direct Line: 972-941-4568
Email: rmckenzie@probe.org

“Now I’m Bound” is a practical, comprehensive curriculum currently in development for **OnceCaptive.** It is a learning experience for the entire church congregation spanning seven weeks. The integrated approach includes sermons, videos, and original music. Probe Ministries teamed up with Jennie Lee Riddle, a Dove Award winning song writer, best known for authoring “Revelation Song.” Under the direction of Probe Ministries, Jennie selected and co-wrote twelve targeted songs with a team of Nashville writers. Together Jennie Lee and Michael Farren (from Pocket Full of Rocks) co-produced the album “Now I’m Bound” that additionally features four artists from New Nation Music.

“It may seem like an odd combination for an apologetics ministry to team up with a Dove Award winning composer,” Ray Bohlin observed. “But Jennie Lee Riddle and Probe Ministries have hearts for those who are falling through the cracks due to unbelief. We both know that many of our young adults in our churches are disconnected. We recognize the need to appeal to both the head and the heart, the left side of the brain as well as the right side of the brain. This unique blend of original songs is meant to undergird the lessons and write the truths on their hearts. We can change the mind, but until the heart is captured, we have not done a complete work. The album is to be used in conjunction with our church-wide integrated experience, ‘Now I’m Bound,’ the title cut of the new CD.”

Bohlin added that Probe Ministries has developed a 10-year strategic plan for **OnceCaptive** that addresses the issues the Church is facing in order to help empower believers to become life-giving representatives of Christ Jesus to our hurting world.

“When I heard Jennie Lee express her concern for younger generations in the church,” Steve Cable said, “God slapped me upside the head saying, “You are not going to impact the lives of the people I am calling you to reach with just the spoken

word. You need music as well!" Jennie Lee seemed like the perfect person to help write the songs needed for "Now I'm Bound."

Dr. Ray Bohlin is available for radio and TV interviews and will also be available for interviews at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention (February 18-20, 2012) at The Hope Center booth (#726). For more information about *Probe Ministries* or to schedule an interview with Dr. Ray Bohlin, please contact: Renea McKenzie, 972-941-4568 or rmckenzie@probe.org.

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Probe Ministries was founded in 1973. Today, Probe's staff of theologians, scientists, philosophers, educators, and business professionals are dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission in the United States and around the world. Probe's vision is to equip Evangelicals and help free culturally captive Christians, building them into confident ambassadors for Christ. www.probe.org. Contact: Renea McKenzie, 972-941-4568 or rmckenzie@probe.org.

PROBE MINISTRIES ANNOUNCES NEW RESEARCH AND EFFORT TO REVERSE DISTURBING TRENDS IN THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION

Plano, Texas – January 18, 2012 – Probe Ministries has completed one of the most extensive surveys of born again Christians in the Millennial generation in an effort to

determine why so many of them seem to hold unbiblical views concerning belief and practice.

Probe Ministries is now moving ahead with an integrated strategy aimed at reversing these trends. The learning experience will involve an entire church congregation over a seven week period and includes sermons, videos, original music, and additional material for individuals and small groups. As a result, Probe is developing a Cultural Captivity Self-Assessment Tool that can be used before and after completing the experience.

”The time has come to stop complaining and do something positive for believers around the country who have become disenfranchised from the church,” stated Dr. Ray Bohlin, president of Probe Ministries. “We are developing a tool that can bring about real transformation in the lives 18-40 year old believers and perhaps reverse the downward trends that study after study confirms.”

Bohlin added that Probe Ministries has developed a 10-year strategic plan that addresses the issue of cultural captivity while also empowering believers to become confident ambassadors for Christ.

Probe Ministries produces a daily radio program heard on over 600 radio outlets around the country. The Probe website is visited by both Christians and non-Christians from 140 countries around the world. Probe speakers address topics ranging from apologetics to worldviews in churches, conferences, and schools around the world.

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Youth Transition Network Presentation

April 28, 2009

Beloved brothers,

Here are the links to the files from the Powerpoint Ray shared Monday night. I zipped up the PPT along with the four videos in one large file. If that proves to be tricky for your internet connection, I also uploaded each file individually.

Just make sure they are all in the same folder in order for the videos to work.

Blessings,

Sue

YTN Presentation – Zipped: http://www.box.net/shared/42jzyykui1

YTN Powerpoint: http://www.box.net/shared/1eecgt5jlp

Laurie Short.wmv: http://www.box.net/shared/0epmam79i0

Dual Life.wmv: http://www.box.net/shared/kl4a6v354s

Parents WM.wmv: http://www.box.net/shared/v5rdxm90mv

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https://www.ministeriosprobe.org/probeministries.rss

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Heather graduated magna cum laude from the University of Texas at Dallas with a B.S. in chemistry and a minor in government and politics. She received her M.S. in chemistry, also from UTD; her research was in organic synthesis and materials. She interned at Probe Ministries prior to graduate school and now serves with Probe as a Research Associate. Her interests involve science and culture issues, including bioethics, origins, and the environment. She is currently working on a M.A. in bioethics from Trinity International University. She is married to David, another former Probe intern and teacher at Trinity Christian Academy. You can find Heather's updates on her web site: www.hz-probe.ministryhome.org.

PROBE PUBLICATIONS

Amniotic Stem Cells
Healthcare and the Common Good
Human Embryonic Stem Cells Go to Human Trials
A Meaningful World
Michael Moore's Sicko Healthcare Perspective
The Mitchell Report: Christian Response to Steroids in Sports
Personhood and Origins
The Spiritual Brain
The Texas State Board of Education and Public School Content (David Zeiger as co-author)

PUBLICATIONS

"Amnionic Stem Cells." The Conservative Voice

(www.theconservativevoice.com – now townhall.com), January 10, 2007
"Can ID Contribute to Our Understanding of Genetics?" by Raymond G. Bohlin and Heather Zeiger *Salvo*, Issue 4 Winter 2008.
Book Review: "A Meaningful World," *Areopagus Journal*, vol. 7, no. 6, November-December 2007.

LECTURES

A Christian View of the Mind and Brain
Evidence for the Existence of God
Genetic Engineering
Origins
Personhood
Stem Cells
Teaching Bioethics in the Church
Worldviews

Steve Cable

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Steve Cable is the Senior Vice President of Probe Ministries. He speaks for Probe conferences and writes for the national

Probe radio broadcast. He also assists in developing strategies to expand the impact of Probe's resources in the U.S. and abroad. Prior to joining Probe, Steve spent over 25 years in the telecommunications industry. Steve and his wife Patti have served as Bible teachers for over 30 years, helping people apply God's word to every aspect of their lives. Steve has extensive, practical experience applying a Christian worldview to the dynamic, competitive high-tech world that is rapidly becoming a dominant aspect of our society.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Steve grew up in Carlsbad, New Mexico. He has been married to his wife Patti since 1976. They have three daughters, Kristen, Cassandra and Hannah. They are members of Prairie Creek Baptist Church, Plano, Texas.

EDUCATION

Rice University, B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Math Science, *magna cum laude*
Rice University, Masters in Electrical Engineering
Southern Methodist University, Post graduate courses
Rockwell International, Engineering Executive Training
Rockwell International, Executive Training
Honors: National Merit Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi, George Brown Engineering Scholarship

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Steve has been actively involved in Christian ministries since becoming a Christian at the age of 16. In college, he was active in both Campus Crusade for Christ and the Baptist Student Union (BSU). Through the BSU, he spent the summer of 1976 as a student missionary in Bangladesh. This experience contributed to a lifelong commitment to world missions and a global ministry vision.

For the past 25 years, Steve and Patti have been continuously involved in pastoring and teaching adults. This ministry has included leading ministries to young single adults and to engaged/recently married couples. At Seacoast Community Church in Encinitas, California, where Steve served as an elder, Steve and Patti helped initiate and served as pastors for Great Beginnings, a ministry to engaged and recently married couples. In addition to the pasturing/teaching role, Steve has been active in leading small group discipleship, teaching Bible courses and apologetics, and leading inductive Bible study groups. Steve currently leads an adult Bible fellowship for empty nesters and serves as a Bible teacher for the School of Christian Growth of Prairie Creek Baptist Church in Plano, Texas.

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

Prior to joining Probe, Steve spent 27 years in the telecommunications industry as a communications systems engineer and in executive management.

In 21 years with Rockwell International, Steve led the design and fielding communications systems for government and commercial applications. During his tenure with Rockwell, Steve held positions in engineering and executive management, including Director of Engineering, Division General Manager and VP of Global Wireless. In 1985, Steve was named Engineer of the Year for his division.

After leaving Rockwell, Steve spent 6 years as a corporate officer of ViaSat serving as VP of Strategic Development and then VP/GM Broadband Systems Division. ViaSat produces innovative satellite and other communication products that enable fast, secure, and efficient communications to any location. Products include satellite ground equipment, information security devices, tactical data radios, and communication simulators.

Steve’s career in telecommunications allowed him to be involved in forefront of some of the technologies shaping our world: the Internet, mobile telephony, GPS and satellite communications.

In the late 1970’s and early 80’s, he was a project engineer for advanced communications programs working directly with Dr. Vint Cerf of the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the U.S. government. Widely known as one of the “Fathers of the Internet,” Cerf is the co-designer of the TCP/IP protocols and the architecture of the Internet. In December 1997, President Clinton presented the U.S. National Medal of Technology to Cerf and his partner, Robert E. Kahn, for founding and developing the Internet.

As VP/GM for ViaSat Broadband Systems, Steve was instrumental in harnessing satellites to bring broadband Internet connections both to commercial airline flights and to underserved homes and businesses around the globe.

His business experience includes providing services around the globe in collaboration with many foreign companies. Steve has worked directly in many countries including Australia, France, Thailand, Germany, the United Kingdom, Korea, Luxemburg and China.

PUBLICATIONS

Powerpoint Presentations:

Marriage with a Purpose
Celebrating the Difference – Male and Female
Increasing Intimacy Through Conflict

Foreign Vanguard Request

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Doctrinal Statement

The final authority of our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written Word, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that the Bible was uniquely, verbally, and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that it was without error in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks (2 Tim 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Cor 2:13, 10:11; John 10:35).

We explicitly affirm our belief in these basic Bible teachings:

1. There is one true God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of Deity and the characteristics of

personality (Matt 28:19; John 10:30; Acts 5:3,4; 2 Cor 13:14).

2. God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, is the functional head of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). He sent the Son to obtain satisfaction for divine justice and to proclaim reconciliation. The Spirit He sent to teach truth. He is spoken of as the Father of all creation, of angels, of Israel, of believers, and of Christ (John 14-17, 20:17; Job 1:16; Psalm 103:13).

3. Jesus is God, the living Word, who became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. Hence, He is perfect Deity and true humanity united in one person forever. He lived a sinless life, and voluntarily atoned for the sins of men by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died. He ascended bodily into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God the Father, and there He, the only mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own (Matt 1:16,20,23; Luke 1:34; Heb 4:15; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Cor 15; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Peter 2:5-9; 1 John 2:1).

4. The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to men. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life to them, continually indwells them from the moment of spiritual birth, baptizes them into the body of Christ, and seals them until the day of Redemption (John 16:8-11; Titus 3:5; 1 Cor 6:19; Rom 8:9b; 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 5:18; Gal 5:22-23).

5. Man was originally created in the image of God. He sinned by disobeying God; thus, he was alienated from his Creator. The historic fall brought all mankind under divine condemnation. Man’s nature is corrupted, and he is thus totally unable to please God. Every man is in need of

regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit (Gen 1:26-27; Eph 2:1; Rom 1:18, 3:20, 7:21-25, 5:12).

6. The salvation of man is wholly a work of God's free grace, and is not the result, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness or religious ceremony. God imputes His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:8,9; John 3:16; Titus 3:5-8).

It is the privilege of all who are born again of the Spirit to be assured of their salvation from the very moment in which they trust Christ as their Savior. This assurance is not based upon any kind of human merit, but is produced by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who confirms in the believer the testimony of God in His written Word. The Holy Spirit's fullness, power, and guidance are appropriated in the believer's life by faith (Rom 5:9-10, 8:1, 29- 30, 38-39; John 5:24, 10:27-30, 14:16; 1 Tim 1:12; Phil 1:6; Heb 7:25; Jude 24).

Every believer is called to live so in the power of the indwelling Spirit that he will not fulfill the lust of the flesh, but will bear fruit to the glory of God. The Scriptures set out the principles and rules of the Christian life (Rom 12:1,2; Gal 5:16- 26; 2 Cor 6:14).

7. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, His Body, which is composed of all men, living and dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith. God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for worship, for participation in ordinances, for edification through the Scriptures, and for mutual encouragement (1 Cor 12:12-13; Col 1:18; Eph 2:15-16).

8. At physical death, the believer enters immediately into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of the body to everlasting glory and blessing (1 Cor 15:12ff; 2 Cor 5:1-10; Phil 1:23; John 12:26).

At physical death, the unbeliever enters immediately into

eternal, conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of the body to everlasting judgment and condemnation (Eph 2:12; Rom 3:23, 5:12; Matt 25:31-46; Rev 20:11-15).

Jesus Christ will come again to the earth—personally, visibly, and bodily—to consummate history and fulfill the plan of God (Rev 19:11-16; Zech 14:4-11; 1 Thess 1:9-10).

9. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded all believers to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to disciple men of every nation. The fulfillment of that Great Commission requires that all worldly and personal ambitions be subordinated to a total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us" (Matt 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48).

We accept those large areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all true Christians. Because of the specialized calling of our ministry, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry to which God has called us, or our fellowship together.