

‘Reality316’: Translating Apologetic Vision into Action

Translating vision into reality, and helping Christians translate their faith into the culture is the aim of Reality316. Reality316 is a Biblical worldview course now in its fourth year. This is the story of and principles underneath an apologetics course designed for the lay church member. In this workshop, we shall examine the need, principle and methodology that Reality316 adopts as one example among many. The purpose is not to see it become another course, but to see how through it your dreams and vision might be realised in your context.

John Kirkpatrick has been the pastor in Portrush Presbyterian Church for the last 21 years. This church is situated on the North Coast of Ireland very close to the famous world heritage site, ‘Giants Causeway.’ He is the director of the apologetics course Reality316 aimed at equipping a wide range of people to be relevant apologists. For a number of years he served as Chairman of New Horizon, the largest Christian Conference in Ireland and has been a chaplain to the Motorcycle Racing community, quite unique to the Irish culture. John is married to Joan and they have four children, three of whom are now married.

I. What is a vision?

A. Definitions

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B. Examples

II. Where is a vision to be found?

A. Standing in the landscape of history

B. Observing the reality of the church

C. Living in the environment of scripture

D. Encountering the interface of culture

III. Translating the vision into reality

A. The conception

B. The content/curriculum

C. The community

D. The culturally critical

E. The challenges

Resources:

Is Your Church Ready Ravi Zacharias, Norman Geisler (Zondervan, 2003)

The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind Mark A Noll (Eerdmans, 1995[USA] IVP [UK])

The Christian Mind Harry Blamires (Regent College Publishing, 2005)

The Fabric of Faithfulness (Steven Garber IVP, 2007)

The Transforming Vision (Walsh and Middleton IVP, 1984)

Hidden Art Edith Schaeffer (Tyndale house Publishers, 1971)