

Confident Christianity

Originally designed by the Christian Medical Fellowship to help medical students share their faith, and refined over 25 years, the Confident Christianity course is designed to help you understand the non-Christian mindset and share your faith confidently and articulately in the way the Apostles did it – in understandable language, in a safe place and with the opportunity for discussion. It covers such questions as: Making a worldview diagnosis, what makes Christianity unique, the journey to faith, exposing presuppositions, God's role and ours in evangelism, the Gospel message, Apostolic models of sharing it, dealing with our fears, answering difficult questions, the best reasons for belief, starting with the truth they know, avoiding circular arguments, dealing with relativism, the elements of successful evangelism and the faith decision. It is a programme which once caught can be taught to others.

Peter Saunders was born in New Zealand and originally trained as a general surgeon before serving with the Africa Inland Mission in Kenya and completing two years mission training at All Nations Christian College in the UK. From 1992 to 2018 he served full-time with Christian Medical Fellowship, a UK-based organisation with 4,500 UK doctors and 1,000 medical students as members, first as Head of Student Ministries, and from 1999 as Chief Executive. From 2006 to 2018 he also served as Campaign Director of the Care Not Killing Alliance, a coalition of over 40 organisations in the UK promoting palliative care and opposing euthanasia. Since January 2019 he has been CEO of the ICMFDA (International Christian Medical and Dental Association) which brings together national associations of doctors and dentists in over 80 countries worldwide. His work has involved leadership training, teaching evangelism and ethics, medical mission, writing, editing, and media work. His wife Kirsty is a community paediatrician and they have three sons, Christopher, Benjamin and Jonathan, and one grandson. They are members of Spicer Street Church, St Albans. www.icmda.net; <http://pjsaunders.blogspot.com/>

I. Worldviews and the Christian Mind

- A. What is a worldview?
- B. What are the six questions you can ask to diagnose it?
- C. How can worldviews be broadly categorised and what is distinctive about a theistic worldview?
- D. How does Christian theism differ from the worldviews of other theistic faiths like Judaism and Islam and why does it matter?

II. The faith process and pre-evangelism

- A. What is the cognitive process by which people embrace the Christian worldview and the Christian faith?
- B. How can one lead those who are not even thinking about Christianity to doubt their own worldview presuppositions and consider Christianity?

III. The sovereignty of God and the Gospel

- A. What is God's role in evangelism and what is ours?
- B. How do we play our part faithfully while recognising his sovereignty?
- C. What is the Gospel message?
- D. What are its important components?
- E. How do we remember its component parts in conversation and put it into words people understand?

IV. The place and nature of dialogue in evangelism

- A. What three key principles did the apostles embrace in sharing the Gospel?
- B. What are the fears that we face in sharing the Gospel and how can we counter them?
- C. What are the common questions that come up when we do share the Gospel and how do we answer them?

V. Problems we face in evangelism

- A. What are the three main ways to answer the question of why we believe in God?
- B. Which is most effective and why?
- C. How do we avoid getting into a circular argument by arguing from the Bible to Christ and back again?
- D. How do we spot relativism and how do we counter it?

VI. Successful evangelism and final steps

- A. What are the three components of successful evangelism?
- B. What questions can we ask to help people recognise the decision they have to make?
- C. How do we simply explain to someone on the threshold of faith what they need to do?