

VISITING SCHOLAR NEWS

RTB 30
REASONS TO BELIEVE

OCTOBER 2016



As the end of the year approaches, we want to take time to reflect on the Lord's provision. When we say provision, we mean that to be all-encapsulating. We're thankful for supporters like you who have enabled the Visiting Scholar Program to thrive. We are also thankful for the many brilliant minds that we have been able to partner with this year. In this issue you will meet Travis Campbell, a returning visiting scholar who specializes in philosophy and teaches high school students how to think critically about historical and religious matters. You will also read about Chuck Horst—a multitalented individual who practices observational astronomy in his "spare time." These two visiting scholars give only a small glimpse of the group of gifted individuals we have had the privilege to know and serve alongside with. Take some time to discover more by reading below.

—Karina Rodriguez

VISITING SCHOLAR HIGHLIGHT

Travis Campbell



What is your area of expertise?

I received my PhD in apologetics (philosophical-theology) from Westminster Seminary. My areas of expertise (interests) are: the existence of God,

the coherence of theism—especially regarding divine foreknowledge and human free will—the historical Jesus and evidence for his resurrection, and Genesis 1 and its compatibility with the natural sciences.

How did you find out about RTB?

When I was in college I was being challenged over the issue of God's existence, the coherence of theism, and Christianity's truth-claims vis-à-vis those of Buddhism. I saw Hugh Ross on TBN talking about his new book, *The Fingerprint of God*. After his interview I immediately went to

a local Christian bookstore and bought a copy of the book. I was incredibly impressed with the evidentiary power regarding the existence of the biblical God. I've been a fan of Dr. Ross and RTB ever since.

Tell us about a project or accomplishment that you consider to be the most significant in your career.

I am a high school teacher who is mainly involved in the daily grind of teaching young people how to think and interpret history. I have enjoyed some of the accolades given to me over the years at my school regarding my teaching; and I have also enjoyed some of the attention received over my essay on the doctrine of middle knowledge.

What do you like most about the Visiting Scholar Program?

What I love most is the people at RTB. It's a wonderful place to work, fellowship, and think about the new challenges to the Christian faith!



Chuck Horst
Astronomer
Visiting Scholar Dates:
January 2016–Present

This summer God has continued to fulfill my dream of engaging myself at the professional level of astronomical research. My “part-time” astronomy research career as adjunct professor of astronomy at San Diego State University took on another level when I was asked to assist in the College of Sciences Computer Service Center as a software specialist. I also accepted a position as an adjunct professor of astronomy at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia.

I completed my annual duties for the latter position by participating in a two-week observing run headquartered in Melbourne, Australia. Using seven ground- and space-based telescopes, our team conducted a census of the transient high-redshift universe. One of our goals was to attempt the first detection of the yet-to-be-confirmed kilonova. With the data still being analyzed, it's too early to tell if we met our goals.

However, our secondary mission has already been determined to be highly successful. Though the distant universe may appear to be static and resistant to change, we discovered quite the contrary. God has prepared yet another realm of interest awaiting our investigation.

As I develop and deploy data-visualization tools designed to collect and analyze data from the world's most powerful telescopes, I am fortunate to see in real time the wonders God has created for us to discover. I am now preparing for the upcoming semester by creating a new course at San Diego State entitled *Observing Techniques: An International Perspective*. I'll spend weeks touring observatories with graduate students, which will

present many opportunities to discuss with students some of life's most important questions. I'm looking forward to God working through me to influence these budding scientists.

VISITING SCHOLAR
NEWS

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Cynthia Cheung
Astrophysicist
Visiting Scholar Dates:
February 2016

I joined the RTB apologetics community after I retired from NASA in 2014 as an astrophysicist who worked in space science missions and technology. By God's grace and providence, I became a Christian at a very young age and had a bicultural and bilingual upbringing. When I visited RTB as a visiting scholar in February this year (2016), my main purpose was to discuss with the RTB scholars the possibility of translating the treasure trove of RTB science apologetic resources into Chinese, so that these resources could be used to reach a large population with a different cultural and (mostly) atheistic background.

Translating between English and Chinese, two languages of vastly different semantic and idiomatic structures and cultural context, presents many challenges. This translation project certainly could not be accomplished by a single person. I was able to recruit several native Chinese Christian research scientists to be my local reviewers. I also made connections with Chinese pastors who have authored books on science apologetics. They have agreed to recommend additional reviewers and translators from other locations. At the same time, RTB also started recruiting a team of volunteer reviewers and editors. Since February, I have completed the initial translation of the RTB statement of faith and begun work on two TNRTB articles. The strategy is to start with key articles on the RTB website that can be disseminated quickly by electronic means, then gradually work toward the more substantive RTB works.

My husband (a church elder) and I are currently responsible for a church plant in the Maryland suburb of Washington, DC, ministering mainly to people from mainland China. Aside from serving in the Sunday school, the caring ministry, and the music ministry, I have recently started a women's Bible study focusing on the matriarchs in Jesus' genealogy.



**EXPLORE MORE RESOURCES
FROM OUR VISITING SCHOLARS**

Travis Campbell: Watch his video on [“Did Paul Really Exist?”](#)

Cynthia Cheung: Watch her video on [“How Worldviews Affect Scientific Development”](#)