

REASONS

Reasons to Believe Newsletter | March/April 2020

Joyfully Reaching the “Nones”

By Kathy Ross



Research tells us a growing percentage of the global population—and the most rapidly growing share of Americans—are religiously unaffiliated. In short, they are the people who check “none” on surveys about religion. This group includes atheists, agnostics, and “nothings in particular,” and most are young.

Just think—if Hugh or Fazale had been surveyed years ago, they, too, would have been considered “nones.” Like more and more young people today, Hugh was raised with “no use for religion,” and Fazale grew up in a religiously mixed home with a greater devotion to education than to faith.

Yet deep down, both Hugh and Fazale had questions and longings they tended to ignore—until they couldn’t. Eventually an idea or person sparked their curiosity, stirred their longing, and challenged their assumptions about God, science, and the meaning of life.

Day after day, former “nones” call or write messages of thanks *to* you and *for* you. One of these

individuals is Daniel Taylor. Like others, he had no belief in God before he awakened to the abundant, eternal life Jesus Christ offers. Daniel needed answers to his many questions. He needed evidence from science. Once he found it, his whole life changed. Today he’s “all for anything and anyone that helps promote the reality of God.”

Who knows which of the “nones” out there will someday rise up to become vibrant ambassadors for the kingdom—ambassadors like Hugh or Fazale or Daniel? Whether you meet them in this life, you surely will someday!

RTB GOES TO UNIVERSITY

By Reasons Editors

RTB friend Brenda writes, “From the time that I was a teenager until about a year ago (I’m 42 now), I believed that science and religion were incompatible.” With no religious background to guide her, Brenda “turned to science for the answers” to her big questions.

Given the widespread perception that science and faith are incompatible—if not directly opposed to one another—it’s not surprising that so many people today doubt, as Brenda did, that the two could ever go hand in hand. Most seem to think that advancing science will increasingly chip away at faith or, eventually, even eradicate it. RTB stands ready to challenge that assumption head-on.

To equip more people with the knowledge that science supports,



rather than erodes, belief in the Bible’s truth claims, RTB has formed a vibrant partnership with the School of Divinity (Seminary) at Regent University. Together, we’re offering a master’s degree program integrating science and Scripture. “The aim,” Hugh says, “is to equip future pastors and Christian leaders to address the spiritual interests and questions of STEM professionals and other STEM-interested individuals.”

RTB scholars and staff have been working closely with Regent on everything from the strategic vision behind the program to the

content of the course lectures. All of Regent’s divinity and theology graduate students, whatever their degree program, will take at least one if not more of these RTB courses. The first three were launched in January, with more to be added soon. This is an amazing accomplishment, years in the making—and it wouldn’t have been possible without your support.

Please take a moment to pray for all the students these courses will equip with the truth about science and faith in Christ.

Thank God for Brenda, who is now one of them! She has enrolled at Regent to earn a master’s degree in cosmogony and apologetics. “For the first time,” Brenda writes, “I realized that science and the Bible are absolutely compatible! It’s been such a glorious relief to know that I can devote my life to Christ and still be a science-minded person. I truly believe that the Holy Spirit is at work.”

Thanks to your support, people with experiences like Brenda’s can now pursue gospel-centered science education at the graduate level, equipping them to remove barriers to faith for science-minded skeptics in their spheres of influence. Thank you for helping to bring this goal to fruition. We are beyond excited for this next chapter of ministry!

To learn more about our partnership with Regent visit reasons.org/college-credit.



MONTHLY PARTNERS
Advocates for Truth



RTB Monthly Partners are a special group who advocate for God’s truth by partnering with RTB through monthly giving. Many of them tell us that RTB has significantly impacted their lives and that their partnership is one way they give back.

“RTB was an answer to a prayer that I didn’t even realize was a prayer of mine. . . . I’ve loved science since I was in elementary school. . . . I studied science in college and graduate school. Before RTB, I felt like there were two incongruent sides to me, one who loves science and one who is a Christian. I thought I would never be able to merge them so I could become this ‘whole’ person and not someone who was ‘split.’ I’m now at peace with my love for science and my faith in God.”

—Rowena, Monthly Partner since 2016

Rowena was blessed by the dedication of earlier Monthly Partners and decided to become one herself to bless others. You can do the same. Will you join us in advocating for truth?

Visit reasons.org/monthlypartners to join today.



Not All Dead Men Stay Dead

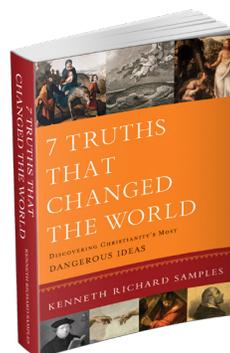
An excerpt from 7 Truths That Changed the World by Kenneth Samples

The basic reason people reject the idea of resurrection is that they intuitively know dead people stay dead. Therefore, given the extraordinary statements made in the New Testament concerning Jesus's unique bodily resurrection, powerful evidence must be marshaled to defend this claim. Christian apologists through the centuries have appealed to seven credible strands of historical evidence as support for the factuality of the resurrection of Jesus.

Because the truth-claims of Christianity hinge so closely on the resurrection, the New Testament accounts of Christ's resurrection warrant careful analysis and reflection. Not only do the New Testament writers report the resurrection as a factual event, but they also place it within a theological context and explain its overall significance in God's historical redemptive plan.

1. Jesus's Empty Tomb
2. Jesus's Postmortem Appearances
3. Short Time Frame between Actual Events and Eyewitness Claims
4. Extraordinary Transformation of the Apostles
5. The Greatest Conversion in History [Saul of Tarsus]
6. Emergence of the Historic Christian Church
7. Emergence of Sunday as a Day of Worship

RESOURCE



7 Truths That Changed the World is available at shop.reasons.org.

Have a question?
Connect with us at
RTB_Official

