



## A Crucial Year

*By Jeffrey Breshears*

Since our founding in 2003 the Areopagus has sponsored nearly 250 seminars, forums, lectures, workshops and special events, including more than 50 semester-length seminary-level courses in Christian history, apologetics, and contemporary cultural issues. In the process more than 10,000 people have attended our programs in various churches and other venues, and we believe we have made a unique and substantial contribution to the quality of Christian education throughout the metro-Atlanta area.

But the Areopagus is not only a unique ministry – it is also an extraordinarily productive and cost-efficient one given the quality of the seminars, forums and other programs that we sponsor. Obviously, we could have accomplished none of this without the active involvement of our board of directors and advisors or the generous financial support of our many Areopagus Associates. Yet despite all that we’ve done over the past several years we remain, as one person recently commented, “the best-kept secret in Atlanta.”

As you’ll notice from the announcements in this newsletter, our schedule this year promises to be as full as in the past. But I believe this is a particularly crucial year in the life of our nation. For more than 50 years traditional Christian values and the American family have been under a constant and withering assault by secular elites in government, education, the legal profession, the media, Hollywood and pop culture, aided by their “useful idiots” in liberal churches and seminaries. As a result, the social pathologies accompanying the general breakdown of morality and ethics

have become overwhelming and unmanageable. There are inevitable consequences for violating God’s moral laws, and our society is clearly reaping what it has sown.

Ours is a culture in crisis, and I think it’s rather apparent to all but the most morally moronic that virtually everything in our society is becoming dysfunctional. We know that greed and corruption were the underlying causes of our recent economic collapse, and we know that corruption, incompetence and a radical secular/socialist agenda has paralyzed the political process in Washington, D.C.

It is somewhat flattering to be referred to as “the best-kept secret in Atlanta,” but as Jesus taught, our light was never intended to be concealed. The Areopagus has much to offer in terms of educating, equipping and inspiring Christians to engage our culture and affect positive change. Thank you for all that you’ve done to help us accomplish our mission in the past, and please redouble your efforts this year to help us spread the message of the Areopagus to an ever-widening circle of concerned and thoughtful Christians here in the metro-Atlanta area.

### The Areopagus Calendar

#### Winter Seminars

#### A History of Christianity In America: From the Colonial Era To the American Revolution

Wednesdays, Jan. 11 - April 4  
6:45 PM  
Johnson Ferry Baptist Church

#### Frontline Apologetics: How To Respond to Questions From Spiritual Seekers, Religious Skeptics, and Argumentative Contrarians

Tuesdays, Jan. 10 - April 3  
7:00 PM  
Perimeter Church

#### Winter Forums

#### “Is Political Correctness A Threat to Religious Liberty?”

Thursday, January 19  
7:30 PM  
Perimeter Church

A presentation by  
**Dr. Carol Swain**  
Professor of Law and Political Science,  
Vanderbilt University



# 2011 THE BEST BOOKS

## — APOLOGETICS —

Douglas Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith* (IVP Academic)

## — SOCIETY & CULTURE —

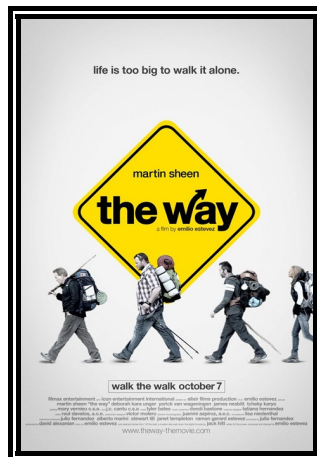
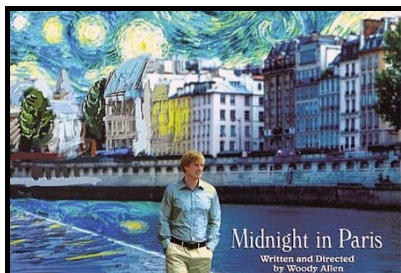
Vishal Mangalwadi, *The Book That Made Your World: How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization* (Thomas Nelson)

## — HISTORY —

John Fea, *Was American Founded As a Christian Nation? A Historical Introduction* (Westminster/John Knox Press)



Three recommended films of 2011 with significant theological, social and/or political themes



## The Areopagus Calendar

(Continued)

### Winter Forums

**“The Ladder of Thorns:  
Finding God  
In a Life of Suffering”**

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

7:30 PM

Perimeter Church

A presentation by

**Dr. Timothy Dalrymple**

Director of Content for Patheos.com  
and a columnist for *World* magazine



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**“New Insights Into the  
Resurrection of Jesus”**

Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

7:30 PM

Perimeter Church

A presentation by

**Dr. Michael Licona**

Author of *The Resurrection of Jesus:  
A New Historiographical Approach*

