

## Scott R. Burson

Assistant Professor of Religion  
Indiana Wesleyan University  
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### EDUCATION:

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| <b>2014</b> | <b>Ph.D.</b><br><b>Brunel University</b><br><b>London, England</b><br><i>“Apologetics and the New Kind of Christian: An Arminian Analysis of Brian D. McLaren’s Emergent Reconstruction of the Faith”</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Areas of Concentration:</b> Philosophical and Systematic Theology</li><li>• <b>Ph.D. Supervisors:</b> Dr. Laurence Wood, Frank Paul Morris Professor of Systematic Theology, Asbury Theological Seminary; and Dr. Graham McFarlane, Vice Principal Academic and Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology, London School of Theology</li><li>• <b>Viva Examiners:</b> Dr. John R. Franke, Professor of Religious Studies and Missiology, Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven, Belgium; and Dr. Marvin Oxenham, Theological Education Programme Leader, Lecturer in Applied Theology</li></ul> |
| <b>2000</b> | <b>Master of Arts</b><br><b>Asbury Theological Seminary</b><br><b>Wilmore, Ky.</b><br><i>Major: Theological Studies, Philosophy of Religion emphasis, 3.97 gpa</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Received Senior Award for Excellence in Christian Philosophy</li><li>• Inducted into International Society of Theta Phi, an honor society for theological students, scholars and leaders in the field of religion</li><li>• Served as part-time InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staffworker at the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University.</li></ul>   |
| <b>1985</b> | <b>Bachelor of Science</b><br><b>University of Rio Grande</b><br><b>Rio Grande, Ohio</b><br><i>Major: Communications, Public Relations emphasis; cum laude</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship</li><li>• Played varsity basketball, becoming first player in school history to be nominated for academic All-America honors</li><li>• Traveled during the summer of 1984 with Athletes in Action basketball team to China, Hong Kong, and the Philippines</li></ul>  |

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### AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Philosophical Theology, Philosophy of Religion, Systematic Theology, and Sports Ministry
- Faith and Reason
- Calvinism and Arminianism
- The Problem of Evil
- Free Will and Determinism
- Apologetics and Multiple Intelligences
- Postmodern expressions of Christianity

## PUBLISHING:

**Books:** *21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Holistic Intelligence and the Apologetic Mandate* (Baker Academic, 2017, forthcoming), co-authored with Jerry L. Walls

This is a fresh integrative proposal for defending the Christian faith with rational, emotional, aesthetic, moral, and social intelligence.

*A New Kind of Apologetics: Brian McLaren and the Goodness of God* (Abilene Christian University Press, 2016, forthcoming)

This monograph is the first comprehensive academic assessment of McLaren's emergent apologetic project.

*C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer: Lessons for a New Century from the Most Influential Apologists of Our Time* (InterVarsity Press, 1998), co-authored with Jerry L. Walls

This 308-page book went into 10 printings and was translated into Portuguese, Korean and Indonesian. It was adopted as a text by numerous college and seminary apologetics and C.S. Lewis courses.

*Why I am Not a Calvinist* (InterVarsity Press, 2004). Contract secured to co-author this book with Jerry L. Walls

After researching and writing a portion of the manuscript, a temporary illness forced me to hand my portion of this project over to Joe Dongell who completed the book as Jerry's co-author. In the Acknowledgments section of the book, Walls and Dongell wrote the following: "Several persons deserve thanks for helping in various ways in the writing of this book. First of all, Scott Burson deserves credit for conceiving the idea for the book and writing the initial proposal. He originally planned to coauthor the book until illness forced him to pull out of the project. But without his energy and vision, this book would likely never have been written."

**Articles:** "The Enormous Influence of C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer" in *A History of Western Civilization from a Christian Perspective*, Triangle Press, Jerry Pattengale, editor (completed—pause in production)

This essay discusses the apologetic contributions of these authors.

"God's Sovereignty and Human Significance," chapter 3 from *C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer*, InterVarsity Press, used by permission in UNV 180 Becoming World Changers course supplemental textbook at Indiana Wesleyan University, 2007-08.

This chapter from my co-authored book on Lewis and Schaeffer was required reading for all 800 students who took this course at Indiana Wesleyan University.

"Top of the Line." *Sports Spectrum*, November-December 2006

This article focused on the Colts' All-Pro center Jeff Saturday and how his Christian faith impacts his life on and off the field. I also wrote a sidebar on Colts' Coach Tony Dungy and the Problem of Evil.

**“Small-Time Coaches Make Big-Time Impact.” *Sports Spectrum*, March-April 2006.**

This article focused on the spiritual contributions and athletic success of NAIA men’s basketball coaches Jim Kessler (Grace University) and Mike Lightfoot (Bethel College).

**“A Comparative Analysis of the Apologetic Systems of C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer,” *The Lamp-Post of the Southern California C.S. Lewis Society*, Summer 1996.**

This journal article served as the foundation for the subsequent book on Lewis and Schaeffer.

**“Holy, Holy, Holy: A Journey through the Lands of the Bible,” *The Asbury Herald* Summer 1996**

This article documented a three-week tour through Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Greece.

**“That Was Then, This Is Now: Former All-Pro receiver Carroll Dale reflects on Green Bay glory and the evolution of the Super Bowl over the years,” *Sports Spectrum*, January 1996**

This article focused on the career and spiritual impact of this former Green Bay Packer wide-out.

**“Who Is Jesus?” *The Asbury Herald*, Winter 1996**

I facilitated a round-table discussion on the identity and claims of Jesus with several Asbury Seminary faculty, including Ben Witherington III, Jerry Walls, and Mathias Zahniser.

**“Creative Ministries: By All Means We Might Save Some,” *Alliance Life*, June 1995**

This article, which originally appeared in *The Asbury Herald*, featured an innovative evangelistic restaurant ministry in Lexington, Ky.

- From 1985 to 1992, I wrote approximately 30 articles for several universities, athletic conferences, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

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## **PRESENTATIONS:**

**“Apologetics and the New Kind of Christian: An Arminian Analysis of Brian D. McLaren’s Emergent Reconstruction of the Faith,” *Indiana Wesleyan University*, Fall 2015**

Scheduled to present a chapter from my Ph.D. thesis to the Theological Research Seminar.

**“IWU Sports Ministry,” *New Life Church, Auckland, New Zealand*, Summer 2013**

This talk and power point presentation was given at a Fijian Wesleyan church in Auckland during a Sunday morning worship service.

**“What Is Sports Ministry?” New Zealand Sports Ministry Blitz Training,  
Indiana Wesleyan University, Spring 2013**

Led large-group training session in the Globe Theatre on the nature of sports ministry.

**“My Sports PR Story,” COM 233 Principles of Public Relations, Guest Speaker,  
Indiana Wesleyan University, Spring 2013**

Spoke to YoungAh Lee’s public relations students about the nature of sports PR and marketing.

**“A New Kind of Mere Christian? Exploring the Apologetic Intersection Between  
C.S. Lewis and Brian McLaren,” Indiana Wesleyan University, February 2012**

I presented this paper and powerpoint to the College of Arts and Sciences faculty.

**“A New Kind of Mere Christian? Exploring the Apologetic Intersection Between  
C.S. Lewis and Brian McLaren,” Taylor University, April 2011**

I presented this paper and powerpoint to the Taylor University C.S. Lewis Society.

**“Building a Market-Centric Website” Presentation, Independent Colleges of Indiana  
Instructional Technology Summit, University of Indianapolis, Spring 2007**

This presentation discussed the importance of collaboration between university marketing and information technology while developing web properties.

**“C.S. Lewis & Francis Schaeffer: Modern Relics or Postmodern Guides?”  
Religion and Philosophy Colloquium, “To Defend or Not to Defend?”  
Indiana Wesleyan University, Spring 2005**

I presented this paper and participated in the subsequent panel discussion.

**“Millennials Go to College” and “Millennials and Pop Culture” Presentations,  
Indiana Wesleyan University, Fall 2004**

The first presentation was given to the IWU CAS division chairpersons. Jerry Pattengale has used material from both powerpoints in many of his presentations on Millennials and sophomores.

**“Blaise Pascal Goes to UK,” InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, University of  
Kentucky, April 1999.**

This apologetic presentation focused on reasons for believing in God, including Pascal’s Wager.

**“Tough Love or Tough Luck? C.S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer and the Fate of the  
Unevangelized,” Wheaton College Theology Conference, Spring 1998**

This paper explored how this apologetic issue crystallizes the key theological differences between Arminians and Calvinists. I also participated in the panel discussion.

## **EXPERIENCE:**

**08/08-Present**

**Indiana Wesleyan University**

**Marion, Ind.**

*Assistant Professor of Religion*

- Full-time faculty member in the School of Theology and Ministry
- Co-coordinator of the Sports Ministry major program
- Teach courses in Philosophy, Theology and Sports Ministry
- Teach multiple sections of **PHL 180: History of Philosophy**. Each section includes approximately 60 students. The course surveys major figures, eras and schools of thought during the past 2,500 years of Western Philosophy.
- I developed the **PHL 180: History of Philosophy online** course during the Spring of 2015. I will teach two sections of this course during the Summer of 2015.
- Teach multiple sections of **THE 101: Theology of Christian Life**. This course examines the basic beliefs of historic Christianity as summarized in the Apostles' Creed and connects them to Christian practices and life.
- Teach **PHL 430: The Theology and Philosophy of C.S. Lewis**. This course examines Lewis's views on soteriology, holiness, the nature of God, sovereignty and free will, revelation, miracles, afterlife, apologetic method, and apologetic arguments. This course has been approved as a travel class.
- Teach **REL 340: Models of Sports Ministry**. This course exposes the student to a myriad of potential sports ministry models, and explores the nature and dynamics of quality sports ministry in various settings with a view to equip students to create, expand, and sustain effective sports ministry programs.
- **THEO 500: Introduction to Christian Theology** for Wesley Seminary at IWU. This course reviews the historic beliefs of orthodox Christianity, including the nature of revelation, God, Christ, the Spirit, creation, humanity, sin, salvation, the church and the end of the age.
- Taught the following courses in the past: **REL 345: Sports Evangelism and Discipleship**; **UNV 180: Becoming World Changers** (large-group lecturer and small-group facilitator); **LDR 150: Introduction to Life Calling**; and **PHE 248: Intercultural Studies in Physical Education & Sport**.
- Faculty representative on IWU Marketing Brand Identity Study Team
- Guest speaker in YoungAh Lee's **COM 233: Principles of Public Relations** class in 2013
- School of Theology and Ministry Marketing committee chairperson
- 2013 New Zealand Sports Ministry trip leadership team member
- Member of Student Success and Spiritual Life committees
- 2015 FYE teaching faculty member. Also FYE teaching faculty member in 2012 and 2013.
- Faculty search committee member (for several other IWU divisions)
- Spearheaded the marketing campaign for the new Wesley Seminary in 2009-10
- Member of the Wesleyan Theological Society and Society of Christian Philosophers

**09/04-05/08**

**Indiana Wesleyan University**

**Marion, Ind.**

*Adjunct Professor*

- Taught five sections of **PHL 180: History of Philosophy** during a three-year period for the Division of Religion and Philosophy
- Taught **REL 475 Independent Study on C.S. Lewis** in the Spring of 2005
- Taught five sections of **UNV 180: Becoming World Changers** and served as guest large-group lecturer in Dr. Jerry Pattengale's UNV 180 class. Excerpts from my co-authored *C.S. Lewis and Francis Schaeffer* book were included in the course supplemental textbook.
- Helped develop **REL 228: Defending the Faith** course for the College of Adult and Professional Studies and taught a section in Fort Wayne, Ind., during the Fall of 2006.

**07/02-08/08**

**Indiana Wesleyan University**

**Marion, Ind.**

*Assistant Vice President for Marketing*

- Supervised University Relations and In-House Design Departments
- Marketed university programs with emphasis on traditional and adult admissions
- Directed the production of all marketing recruitment media, including print and web, advertising, print and radio spots, billboards, brochures, CDs, DVDs and powerpoints
- Served as Marketing Manager for the IWU website
- Managed 10 full-time employees
- Spearheaded market research and planning
- Served on the University Strategic Planning Council
- Chaired Public Relations and Marketing subcommittee for Dr. Henry Smith's Presidential Inauguration
- Served on Institutional Self-Study Communications Task Force

**03/92-06/02**

**Asbury Theological Seminary**

**Wilmore, Ky.**

*Executive Director of Communications*

- Supervised all facets of marketing and communications, including publishing, public relations, media relations, advertising, printing, and video production for Asbury's Kentucky, Florida and virtual campuses.
- Managed *The Asbury Herald* (circ. 28,000), *Alumni Advance* (circ. 6,000), and *Asbury Theological Journal* (circ. 1,500)
- Researched and wrote news, feature, advertising, fundraising, and promotional copy
- Conceptualized and implemented an annual Communications and Marketing plan
- Coordinated approximately 450 annual publication and printing jobs
- Supervised four full-time employees, three students, and numerous freelance writers and designers

**07/89-03/92**

**Host Communications**

**Lexington, Ky.**

*Senior Managing Editor*

- Co-managed publishing staff (10 editors, 3 artists) at national sports publishing firm
- Responsible for \$1 million publications and printing budget
- Edited numerous NCAA Championship newsstand magazines and souvenir programs, including the 1992 Men's Final Four and the 1990 College World Series
- Supervised accounts for the University of Kentucky, University of Notre Dame, University of Pittsburgh, University of Texas, and the Naval Academy
- Worked closely with the leadership at the Big Ten Conference, Southeastern Conference, Pac 10 Conference, and Southwest Conference
- Wrote numerous feature and preview articles

**04/88-06/89**

**University of Florida**

**Gainesville, Fla.**

*Assistant Sports Information Director*

- Won more than 20 national publication awards
- Served as managing editor of 176-page football recruiting book
- Supervised football interview process, handling over 1,500 interviews annually
- Traveled with football team as media relations representative
- Served as sports information director for nationally ranked baseball team

- Designed/edited/wrote all materials for baseball, golf, tennis, swimming & diving, and track & field
- Directed statistical compilation and coordinated all media activities for the above sports
- Worked closely with live television (ESPN, ABC, CBS, SportsChannel, Sunshine Network)
- Supervised and trained four full-time interns
- Formatted and organized football press release distributed to over 800 media outlets weekly

**07/87-04/88**

**University of Florida**

**Gainesville, Fla.**

*Assistant Director of Sports Information*

- Designed/edited/wrote materials for swimming and women's basketball
- Directed statistical compilation and coordinated media activities for the above sports
- Coordinated, designed and formatted weekly press release sent to 400 media outlets
- Assisted in game-day operation for football and men's basketball
- Helped manage numerous Southeastern Conference and NCAA championship events

**02/86-06/87**

**University of Florida**

**Gainesville, Fla.**

*Sports Information Intern*

- Worked full-time in all phases of the sports information operation
- Served as assistant editor of 184-page football media guide and 144-page game program
- Administered athlete interview system for football and basketball
- Coordinated \$20,000 promotional campaign for 12 home basketball games

**09/83-05/85**

**University of Rio Grande**

**Rio Grande, Ohio**

*Director of Sports Information*

- Handled publicity for nine intercollegiate sports
- Wrote/edited/designed brochures, including award-winning basketball media guide
- Organized and supervised a student volunteer sports information club
- Served as interim University Relations Director while finishing undergraduate degree

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**AWARDS: BEST IN THE NATION (College Sports Information Directors of America)**

- 1990 Florida Gator Track Guide (Men's)
- 1990 Florida Gator Golf Guide (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Swimming Guide Cover (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Golf Cover (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Track Cover (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Spring Sports Recruiting Guide Cover (Men's)
- 1988 Florida Gator Tennis Guide (Men's)
- 1988 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Men's)

**SECOND IN THE NATION (College Sports Information Directors of America)**

- 1990 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Football Recruiting Guide
- 1989 Florida Gator Golf Guide (Men's)
- 1988 Florida Gator Spring Sports Recruiting Guide (Men's)
- 1988 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Women's)

**THIRD IN THE NATION (College Sports Information Directors of America)**

- 1989 Florida Gator Spring Sports Recruiting Guide (Men's)
- 1989 Florida Gator Track Guide (Men's)
- 1987 Florida Gator Swimming Guide (Women's)

**AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (Printing Industry Association of the South)**

- 1994 Presidential Inauguration issue, *The Asbury Herald*
- 1997 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue, *The Asbury Herald*
- 2000 Asbury Seminary Viewbook

**COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION**

- 2007 Indiana Wesleyan University Search piece National Silver Circle of Excellence Award in the Individual Student Recruitment Publications category. Out of 189 entries, IWU finished in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of the judging.
- 2001 "Ministers R Us" Asbury Seminary print ad—best advertisement in the state of Kentucky

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**REFERENCES:**

**Jerry L. Walls**

Scholar in Residence, Professor of Philosophy  
Houston Baptist University  
[jwalls@hbu.edu](mailto:jwalls@hbu.edu)

**John R. Franke**

Professor of Religious Studies and Missiology  
Evangelische Theologische Faculteit  
Leuven, Belgium  
[johnrfranke@gmail.com](mailto:johnrfranke@gmail.com)

**Graham McFarlane**

Vice Principal Academic and Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology  
London School of Theology  
[graham.mcfarlane@1st.ac.uk](mailto:graham.mcfarlane@1st.ac.uk)



**Laurence W. Wood**

Frank Paul Morris Professor of Systematic Theology

Asbury Theological Seminary

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**Dave Ward**

Associate Dean, School of Theology and Ministry

Indiana Wesleyan University

[dave.ward@indwes.edu](mailto:dave.ward@indwes.edu)

**Christopher Bounds**

Professor of Religion

Indiana Wesleyan University

[chris.bounds@indwes.edu](mailto:chris.bounds@indwes.edu)

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**PERSONAL**

- Born in Athens, Ohio
- Lettered three years in baseball and two years in basketball at Athens High School
- Played varsity basketball at the University of Rio Grande, becoming first player in school history to be nominated for Academic All-America honors
- Attend Pathway Community Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.
- Married to Debra Burson. Three adult children: Ashley (23), Lindsey (23), Ryan (20), and three stepchildren: Jacob (22), Justin (20), and Jared (18).
- My wife and I actively volunteer at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission and Habitat for Humanity.