

January 2022



Sharon and I are very thankful for you.

This fall and winter I'm providing evangelism training to graduate students – and one professor – from the following schools:

Brown, Columbia (NY), Harvard, Michigan Tech, Rutgers, U-Maryland, U-Michigan, UChicago.

I'm teaching a philosophy class at University of Northwestern (MN), and I was able to visit Harvard Business School in person (yeah!) for their fall retreat.

Soon I'll be visiting Texas A&M and UT Austin. And at Rice I'll participate in a public dialog with a Muslim leader. All with your support. Still going strong (??!!) after 40 years.



Dear Marshall!
Etc Friends,
Thanks as always for
supporting our work!
Now for 4 decades. We
appreciate you.
Love,
Rick &
Sharon

January 14, 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

You may remember that I'm mainly in evangelism ministry these days -- that is, serving InterVarsity as a traveling evangelist/apologist and trainer . . . to graduate students around the country.

In some quarters, however, evangelism has fallen on hard times, even among Christians. Some see it as an imposition of one's beliefs on those around us.

Others, believing the American church is too entangled in politics, see evangelism as a recruitment effort into political dominance.



In my view, the Christ we proclaim on campus and to the world is essentially *historical*, rooted in the early church's understanding of Jesus as Messiah and resurrected Lord.

Our witness is thus not a political power-play but an extension of the early church's witness, as recorded in the book of Acts. This biblical/historical grounding will keep our "evangelism" on track, in lockstep with the Apostles' proclamation of Jesus.

Ironically, people of another faith tradition recently carried out the ministry of evangelism on me. Hah! Loved it. You can read the brief account of this ["Reverse Evangelism" here.](#)

Attached pic: On the anniversary of my mom's passing, Sharon and I vacationed in Naples, FL, and hit a few of Mom's favorite spots.

Rick Mattson

Evangelist/Apologist

Saint Paul, MN

cell: 651.295.5814

www.rickmattsonoutreach.com

Author

[Faith Unexpected](#)

[Faith Is Like Skydiving](#)



November 11, 2021

Hi Folks,

Ministry in the pandemic has been challenging.

Yet, the Lord opens doors.

I met a remarkable young man on the HBS (Harvard Business School) fall retreat. His name is Kyeong Sik Seong. He goes by "KSS."

KSS grew up in Korea, came to the U.S. to study econ at Yale, and, as it turns out, sing in the renowned "Yale Alleycats" acapella group.

After graduation he was hired by a top private equity firm and stationed in Hong Kong, where he thrived on the international admixture of languages and cuisine available there.

The firm made strategic use of KSS's heritage, sending him on research missions into his homeland of Korea to dig into investment and acquisition opportunities.

His sharp mind and dedication were rewarded by the firm with an offer to earn an MBA at HBS. Hence, he sat with me on the deck of a massive airbnb in the gentle hills of New Hampshire a few weeks ago.

My job on the retreat was to serve as outreach trainer.

"I pursued wealth and advancement for five years at the firm," he told me. "But when I came to HBS a year ago I decided to make a change. I re-dedicated my life to serving Jesus Christ here at school and, after graduation, back in Hong Kong."

I could only marvel at what the Lord had done.

One point in the training I provided on the retreat is that *God goes before us* in witness. We are not salespeople for the gospel; rather, we're investigators, detectives, discovering what God is already doing out ahead of us, then participating in his work.

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There's an old saying that I live by on the job: *Change the university and you change the world.*

Thanks so much for sending me into the university world with your friendship, prayers and giving.

Rich Mattson Email: rick.mattson@intervarsity.org

May, 2021



RICK MATTSON

TO THE UNIVERSITY

Serving as traveling evangelist, apologist



Oakland City University (southern Indiana) was my first in-person ministry trip in 13 months.

Wow, way better than Zoom.

As chapel speaker for the day I addressed the question, "Is God Fair?"

Today's young people are not satisfied with knowing that Christianity is true. They want to know, Is it *just*? Is it *good*?



My colleague Kweku serves as a campus staff in Chicago. He invited me to meet with a group of skeptical students on Zoom recently.

It took more than three hours to respond to about 25 of their wide-ranging questions/objections. Here's a sampling:

- What about people who grew up in devoted Muslim and Hindu homes and had no opportunity or desire to convert to Christianity? Does God accept them?
- Why is there animal suffering? What purpose does it serve?
- Won't you lose your identity in heaven because you'll no longer have free choice?
- Why can't Catholic priests be female?
- Islam and Christianity are both Abrahamic religions . . . So why does one have a Trinity and the other doesn't?

- I'm against the idea that you have to have the "right" religious beliefs in order to be accepted by God. God is not fair (see blog post link below).

Friends, thanks as always for sending me out there to college campuses.

I still think of it as a privilege to be working with students.

They are the "tomorrow" of our today.

Blog: Ben in Chicago raised the objection that it's unfair of God to require people to have "correct" religious beliefs. Isn't such a requirement rather arbitrary and unimportant? Shouldn't the quality of people's character be more important to God?

Here's how I responded . . .

[Read more of this post.](#)

Books by Rick Mattson

- ***Faith is Like Skydiving.*** This book coaches your conversations with seeker and skeptics.
- ***Faith Unexpected.*** A short book of faith stories written for church visitors, Alpha participants, and nonChristian friends.