

E. CALVIN BEISNER, PH.D.
PROFESSOR, AUTHOR, AND LECTURER

E. Calvin Beisner is a founder of and the national spokesman for the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation (www.cornwallalliance.org) and serves on the pastoral staff of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church (www.holytrinityopc.org) in Broward County, Florida. He is a former associate professor (2000–2007) of historical theology and social ethics at Knox Theological Seminary, where he taught church history, ethics, apologetics, logic, systematic theology, and non-Christian religions. Before Knox he taught for eight years at Covenant College (1992–2000), as associate professor of interdisciplinary studies in economics, government, and public policy. He is also an adjunct fellow of the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty (www.acton.org); an adjunct scholar of the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (www.cfact.org); a fellow of the Institute on Religion and Democracy (www.theIRD.org); and a member of the advisory board of the Templeton Freedom Awards program of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation (www.atlasusa.org).

An author and lecturer on the application of Christian world view, theology, and ethics to economics and the environment, political philosophy, public policy, and reasons for faith, Dr. Beisner has testified on the theology, ethics, science, and economics of global warming before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, briefed the White House Council on Environmental Policy on it, delivered a paper on it at a conference at the Vatican sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and spoken on it at the 2008 and 2009 International Conferences on Climate Change in New York City and at colleges, churches, and other venues. He has written eleven books and over one hundred fifty published articles and book reviews, many contributions to books, and many unpublished lectures and papers, technical and popular. His most recent book contributions are “The Character of the Good Apologist,” in *Reasons for Faith: Making the Case for the Christian Faith*, edited by Norman L. Geisler and Chad V. Meister (Crossway, 2007) and “Covenant, Inheritance, and Typology,” co-authored with R. Fowler White, in *By Faith Alone: Answering the Challenges to Justification*, edited by Gary Johnson and Guy Waters (Crossway Books, 2007). He is co-author, with climatologist Roy Spencer, environmental economist Ross McKittrick, and energy analyst and ethicist Paul Driessen, of *A Call to Truth, Prudence, and Protection of the Poor: An Evangelical Response to Global Warming* ([http://www.cornwallalliance.org/docs/Call to Truth.pdf](http://www.cornwallalliance.org/docs/Call_to_Truth.pdf)), a technical paper released in July 2006 by the Interfaith Stewardship Alliance (now Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation), and editor of the Cornwall Alliance’s electronic newsletter on environmental science, economics, theology, ethics, and policy. He also wrote a monograph, *What Is the Most Important Environmental Task Facing American Christians Today?*, published in 2008 by the Institute on Religion and Democracy.

Dr. Beisner’s most recently published books are *The Auburn Avenue Theology, Pros & Cons: Debating the Federal Vision*, a collection of papers defending and criticizing a controversial movement in Reformed, covenantal theology, which he edited and for which he wrote the introduction and conclusion after moderating the colloquium at which the papers were discussed (Ft. Lauderdale, FL: Knox Theological Seminary, 2004); *“Jesus Only” Churches*, a volume in the Zondervan Guide to Cults and Religious Movements (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998) (The series was a final nominee for the Golden Book Award in the Missions/Evangelism category from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association in 1999.); *Where Garden Meets Wilderness: Evangelical Entry Into the Environmental Debate*, a critique of the evangelical environmental movement’s theology, ethics, political philosophy, and science (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans/Acton Institute, 1997), *Evangelical Heathenism: Examining Contemporary Revivalism* (Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 1996); *Man, Economy, and Environment in Biblical Perspective* (Canon Press, 1994); *Psalms of Promise: Celebrating the Majesty and Faithfulness of God*, 2d rev. ed. (Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian & Reformed, 1994); *Answers: For Atheists, Agnostics, and Other Thoughtful Skeptics—Dialogs About Christian Faith and Life*, 2d rev. ed. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1993; large print edition, Thorndike, ME: G. K. Hall, 1994; also published in Russian, Estonian, Lithuanian, and Korean); *Prospects for Growth: A Biblical View of Population, Resources, and the Future* (Crossway Books, 1990; o.p.), and *Prosperity and Poverty: The Compassionate Use of Resources in a World*

of *Scarcity* (Crossway Books, 1988; Wipf & Stock, 2002). He was a contributing editor (on economics and ethics) to *The Word in Life Study Bible* and has contributed chapters to twenty other books.

At Knox Theological Seminary, Dr. Beisner taught

- ST 500, The Practice of Logic in Theology and Apologetics
- ST 501, Overview of Reformed Theology
- ST 502, Inspiration and Interpretation of the Bible
- ST 504, Christ and Salvation
- ST 505, Church and Last Things
- ST 507, Ethics
- AP 506 and 510, General Apologetics
- AP 511a, Roman Catholicism
- AP 511b, Islam
- AP 530, Theology of the Cults
- CC 504, Foundations of Liberty
- CC 505, Founding of the American Republic
- CH 501 and 511, Ancient and Medieval Church History
- CH 502, Reformation and Modern Church History
- CH 512, Reformation and Post-Reformation Church History
- CH 513, Modern Church History
- D.Min. 832, Environmental Ethics: What Every Pastor Should Know

He is also a certified trainer in Evangelism Explosion, a one-to-one gospel witnessing approach.

At Covenant College, he taught

- Self in Society I & II (two-semester required core curriculum course on Calvinist world view applied to psychology, sociology, politics, economics, and science)
- Cultural Heritage of the West, I & II (two-semester required core curriculum course on the history of Western civilization)
- Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies (required for IDS majors)
- Man, the State, and the Marketplace (lower-division elective on Biblical ethics of economics)
- Population, Economy, Resources, and Environment (upper-division elective)
- The Roots of Liberty (upper-division elective)
- Understanding the Times (upper-division elective comparing Christian, Marxist, Humanist, and New Age world views in theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history).

Beisner completed doctoral studies in Scottish history through the University of St Andrews, in Scotland, in 2003, on political ideas of the late-seventeenth century Covenanters, an important branch of Calvinist political theory. His dissertation, *His Majesty's Advocate: Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees (1635-1713) and Covenanter Resistance Theory Under the Restoration Monarchy*, is an intellectual biography of a covenanting Presbyterian lawyer who through writing, litigation, and political action opposed absolute monarchy and defended religious and civil liberties during the reigns of Charles II and James VII (of Scotland; II of England), was instrumental in bringing William of Orange to Great Britain to succeed James as king, and served as lord advocate of Scotland 1693-1713. A devout and principled Christian as well as part of the British libertarian tradition, Stewart was effective both in opposition and in government. A friend of John Locke while both were among British radicals in exile in the Netherlands, Stewart shaped later Covenanter political thought and, through it, influenced the thought of American founders, the Declaration of Independence embracing principles of liberty and resistance to tyranny that he expounded in *Jus Populi Vindicatum* (1669).

Evangelical Heathenism is a critique of a schismatic theological movement that has gained prominence in some evangelical missions circles in recent decades. “*Jesus Only*” Churches is a

critique of the Christology, theology, and soteriology of certain modalistic anti-Trinitarian sects. Dr. Beisner is also working on a much longer, more technical work on the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity and its development in the early Church. *Man, Economy, and the Environment* is a revised version of his 1991 Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Series, delivered at Covenant College before he joined the faculty there. The lectures address the implications of the Biblical doctrine of the image of God in man for population, the environment, and political economy. *Psalms of Promise* is a devotional and expository study of God's redemptive activity from creation to consummation as revealed in selected Psalms. It focuses on man's covenantal relationship with God, helping readers understand both their privileges and their moral duties as children of God.

Answers for Atheists, Agnostics, and Other Thoughtful Skeptics, a tool for evangelizing secularized college students and others, provides clear, simple explanations of the Christian faith and its applications and responds to historical, scientific, philosophical, and psychological challenges, all in dialogue form. The book is available in English, Russian, Estonian, and Korean. His first full-length book was *God in Three Persons* (Tyndale House, 1984), a study of the early history of the doctrine of the Trinity and a defense of the Nicene Creed based on New Testament teaching. *Prospects for Growth* applies Biblical ethics to questions related to population growth; resource development, conservation, and management; ecology, environmental issues, and pollution; and growth-related government planning. *Prosperity and Poverty* is a study of stewardship and economics in light of Biblical ethics designed to help readers understand how societies, churches, families, and individuals can create wealth and overcome poverty by upholding Biblical justice, compassion, and liberty.

In 2000, Dr. Beisner was involved in founding the Interfaith Council for Environmental Stewardship and was the principal author of its flagship publication, *The Cornwall Declaration on Environmental Stewardship* and of the Protestant chapter in the ICES/Acton Institute book *Environmental Stewardship in the Judeo-Christian Tradition: Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant Wisdom on the Environment*. In 1998 and 1999 he gave guest lectures for the Grove City College Summer Institute on Market Economics and Religious Faith, the Christian Worldview Student Conference, the World Journalism Institute, and the Trinity Foundation's Conference on Christianity and Economics, and he was a contributing scholar in the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty's Conference on Environmental Stewardship in a Free Economy. In 1998 he lectured for the Atlas Economic Research Foundation's Conference on Poverty and the Environment, at the University of Idaho on environmental science and ethics, for the Philadelphia Society's annual meeting in Chicago, for the Grove City College Summer Institute on Religious Faith and Economics, and for the annual meeting of the Alabama/Florida/Georgia chapter of the Society of American Foresters. In addition to lecturing on environmental ethics for the Veritas Forum at the University of North Carolina in October 1997 and giving the Staley Distinguished Christian Scholar Lecture Series (Covenant College, 1991), he has lectured for the Center for Constructive Alternatives at Hillsdale College and the Faculty Development Seminar on Christianity and Economics at Biola University and teaches annually on Christian economics and on the environment for Summit Ministries at Manitou Springs, Colorado, and at Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee, and for the Chattanooga Resource Foundation. He assisted the Contemporary Economics and Business Association and Liberty University's School of Business as a lecturer and interviewer in "Christian Perspectives on Economics," educational videos for pastors and laymen. As a delegate to the Oxford Conference on Christian Faith and Economics, at Oxford University, England, in 1990 and at Agra, India, in 1995, he conducted research and writing under grants from The Fieldstead Institute. He has also been a speaker and discussant for conferences hosted by the Ethics and Public Policy Center, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the Acton Institute for Religion and Liberty, the Liberty Fund, the Constitutional Coalition, American Vision, the Society of American Foresters, and others, and is a frequent radio talk show guest.

The Institute for Humane Studies named him a Humane Studies Fellow for 1997-1998. In 1996-1997, 1993-1994, and 1988, he was a Literary Fellow of the Marguerite Eyer Wilbur Foundation,

studying and writing on seventeenth-century Scottish Presbyterian political ideas, on the contribution of Christianity to liberty and the rule of law—a topic that led to his doctoral studies—and on the influence of Christianity on American culture. He first became a Wilbur Fellow in 1982 with a grant to study and write on economic ethics under the late Russell Kirk, noted author, historian, and philosopher. As a 1988 Chavanne Scholar of Christian Ethics in Economics for Baylor University, he contributed two chapters on free market economics to the book *Biblical Principles and Economics: The Foundations*, edited by Richard C. Chewning (NavPress, 1989).

Beisner was a founding member, in 1984, of The Coalition on Revival, national chairman of its economics committee, and principal author of *The Christian World View of Economics*, one of the Coalition's eighteen world view documents, all of which he edited. He serves on its board of directors and on its executive, steering, central editing, and theological review committees, and is a founding member of the North American Protestant Church Council, an effort launched by the Coalition. He is a member of the Evangelical Theological Society and the Evangelical Political Scholars Association and has been a member of the Association of Christian Economists and the National Association of Scholars. He has been a contributing editor to *World, The Freeman, Christian Research Journal*, and *Crosswinds*, and his over 150 articles and book reviews have also appeared in *Christian Renewal, Discipleship Journal, Christianity Today, Chronicles, Perspectives, Contra Mundum*, and other periodicals. He has written on apologetics for The Christian Research Institute and Christian Apologetics: Research and Information Service, conducting research for a combined eight years, during which he contributed to Walter Martin's *The New Cults*. He has edited *The State of Humanity*, a major analysis of long-term trends and underlying causes in population, resources, living standards, economies, and the environment, with general editor Julian L. Simon (Blackwell, 1995); David Clark's *Dialogical Apologetics: A Person-Centered Approach to Christian Defense* (Baker, 1993); Humberto Belli and Ronald Nash's *Beyond Liberation Theology* (Baker, 1992); Eugene H. Merrill's *An Historical Survey of the Old Testament*, 2d ed. (Baker, 1992); David Noebel's *Understanding the Times: The Story of the Biblical Christian, Marxist/Leninist, and Secular Humanist Worldviews* (Summit Press, 1991); *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, ed. John Piper and Wayne Grudem (Crossway, 1991); Carl F. H. Henry's *Toward a Recovery of Christian Belief* (Crossway, 1990); Les L. Steele's *On the Way: A Practical Theology of Christian Formation* (Baker, 1990); Darrell Smith's *Integrative Therapy* (Baker, 1990); Norman L. Geisler and Ronald Brooks's *Come, Let Us Reason: An Introduction to Logic* (Baker, 1990); Norman L. Geisler and David Clark's *Apologetics in the New Age: A Christian Critique of Pantheism* (Baker, 1990); J. P. Moreland's *Christianity and the Nature of Science* (Baker, 1989); and Jim Halteman's *Market Capitalism and Christianity* (Baker, 1988).

A graduate of the University of Southern California with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies in Religion and Philosophy (1978), *magna cum laude*, Beisner earned his M.A. in Society with a Specialization in Economic Ethics, *magna cum laude* (1983), from International College, then in Los Angeles, and his Ph.D. in Scottish History from The University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Scotland, in 2003. A former editor of *Discipleship Journal*, he is the son of a life-long journalist and has been a newspaper reporter, editor, and publisher and a radio commentator whose daily program, "Biblical Perspectives," examined current events and public policy in light of Scripture.

Studying widely in Bible, theology, history, apologetics, philosophy, economics, demography, environment, statistics, and political thought, Beisner serves on the pastoral staff of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church (OPC) in Broward County, FL. He and his wife Deborah, a portrait painter, live in Pembroke Pines, Florida. They have seven children: David, Susan, Kilby, Rebekah, Peter, Arthur John, and Grace.

For information about guest lecture services, visit www.ecalvinbeisner.com.