

‘FORMER CATHOLICS FOR CHRIST’

Conference in Springfield, Illinois: 17th – 19th May 2019.

Back in November 1997 I was privileged to attend and speak at a conference entitled **‘Ex Catholics for Christ’** – that conference was held in **Grace Community Church** in Los Angeles. The organisers very kindly asked me to give the opening talk on the subject of **‘Can we tolerate the error?’** and you can view that talk on this link –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THTVc0303vc>

The pastor of **Grace Community Church** is **John MacArthur** and he has just this month celebrated 50 years as pastor of that church – the folks at that church have been truly and richly blessed by having such a man as their pastor for such a length of time. **John MacArthur** himself contributed two talks to that conference in 1997 on the subjects of **‘Is faith plus works another gospel?’** and **‘Contending for the faith’**. Those two talks can be viewed on these links -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfAWODU10z0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEMtTrdQ_cA

Moving on then to March 1999 I was once again back in America for the second **‘Ex Catholics for Christ’** conference that was hosted by **Countryside Bible Church** in Southlake, Texas. I contributed to a number of the sessions but also whilst there I recorded an interview dealing with a number of matters in relation to Roman Catholicism. **Larry Wessels** of **‘Christian Answers’** subsequently posted that interview to his ministry YouTube site and it can be viewed on the following link –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXe3ugzfILY>

(My interview starts @ 3.27 into the video)

My good friends **Rob Zins** and **Mike Gendron** (both former Roman Catholics) were both in attendance at those conferences and both at some stage(s) over the history of **‘Take Heed’** have been my guest here in Northern Ireland and have stayed in our home. Another friend (and former Roman Catholic) **Tim Kauffman**, during a brief visit to Northern Ireland also spoke at a meeting organised under the umbrella of **‘Take Heed’** and likewise stayed in our home. Tim was very much involved in the publication of books by Rob Zins and has also himself authored a number of helpful books dealing with aspects of Roman Catholicism. On the **‘Take Heed’** YouTube site there are contributions by all of these friends as you can see by going to the following link and scrolling through –

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TakeHeedMinistries/videos>

Some months ago, both **Rob Zins** and **Mike Gendron** were exercised to seek to organise a conference under the title of, '**Former Catholics For Christ**', and they very kindly asked if I would be willing to be a speaker at it. Although I myself am not a '**former Roman Catholic**', because of the involvement over the years of '**Take Heed**' in 'matters Roman Catholic' (such as organising public debates involving Evangelicals and Roman Catholic priests) they felt it would be appropriate for me to once more participate in such a conference. To complete the line-up of speakers they agreed to invite **Tim Kauffman** and he readily accepted.

When searching for a host-church I happened to mention **Southern View Chapel** in Springfield, Illinois. The pastor there is another good friend, **Gary Gilley**, and he and his church were quick to agree to host the event. Gary likewise in times past was a guest of '**Take Heed**' when he spoke publicly for me on the subject of '**The Emerging Church**'. If you're not familiar with that you can view Gary's talk on these links –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqjZgQL3JQQ> (Part One)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-nHNtcs0pY> (Part Two)

The arrangements for the conference have now been finalised and full details can be accessed on the web site of **Southern View Chapel** by going to this link –

<https://www.svchapel.org/former-catholics-for-christ-conference/>

On this link you will see details of the church location, options for accommodation in the area, if needed, and a facility to register – there is no cost to register but it will be helpful to the organisers in assessing catering needs. As well as speaker-details, you can see (via the '**MORE INFO**' button) the conference schedule and topics to be covered.

As you will see, the closing session (8) will be on Sunday morning, 19th May when **Mike Gendron** will speak on '**Evangelising Roman Catholics**'. Later that day I shall have the privilege of preaching at the **5.30 pm** evening service in **Southern View Chapel**. During my time in Illinois I shall also be privileged to speak as follows –

Wednesday 15th May: 7.00 pm: Elk Grove Calvary Chapel (near Chicago).
Church web site

<https://www.ccelkgrove.org/>

I'm looking forward very much to renewing fellowship with Pastor Phil Ballmeier and his wife Cyndi, having spoken in their church back in October 2007 during a previous trip to Illinois that I mentioned in my ministry newsletter on this link

<http://www.takeheed.info/news-from-the-front-december-2007/>

(Scroll quite far down to **Ministry trips to USA [past and planned]**)

and

Wednesday 22nd May: 7.00 pm: Living Hope Bible Church: Roselle IL
Church web site

<http://livinghopechurch.net/>

I'm looking forward to meeting up for the first time with Pastor Matt Black as he and his church, like myself, are fellow members of FIRE.

Just in closing, a promotional video for the conference has been put together by **Larry Wessels** of '**Christian Answers**', who I mentioned earlier, and it can be seen on –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP9N6xUe924>

If anyone reading this article is able to make the conference known to others, that would be greatly appreciated, as will also be your prayers for the event.

Cecil Andrews – 'Take Heed' Ministries – 19th February 2019