

Year-Round Mentoring for Apologetics Leaders

with Dr. Bruce A. Little

Leader



Bruce A. Little is, since 2018, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) and since 2012 continues to serve as the coordinator of the Francis A. Schaeffer Collection at SEBTS. In addition, while at SEBTS he was the director of the L. Russ Bush Center for Faith and Culture for five years. Saved at the age of twenty, he has served as pastor and professor in the States, as well as adjunct professor in seminaries in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Since 1995, he has given numerous lectures in universities throughout Eastern Europe as well as taught at several Youth With A Mission (YWAM) worldview schools in seven different countries. Beginning in 2002 to the present he has been involved with the ministry of Forum of Christian Leaders (FOCL) as an apologetic speaker and mentor. He has published in professional journals, is the author of *God, Why This Evil?* (2010) and *A Creation-Order Theodicy: God and Gratuitous Evil* (2004) and has a forthcoming book on Francis A. Schaeffer. He is also a contributor to several edited volumes. Since retiring in 2018, he lives with his wife Nancy in Nobleboro, Maine.

Overview

GOAL: To provide Christian apologists the proper content, encouragement, relationships, and breakthrough training that would enable their apologetics ministries to grow qualitatively and exponentially.

PLAN:

1. **2026 Pre-Forum Seminar: 17 May, Saturday:** 14:00 - 17:00. A three-hour webinar for personal introductions and introductory course material.
2. Four, two-hour online webinars with webinar assignments.
3. Three-day **Retreat** from noon to noon on **1-3 December 2026** (place TBC). Seven sessions with presentations and discussion, with some of our meals together.
4. **2027 Pre Forum Conference: Friday, 21 May - 19:15 - 21:00 CEST, Saturday, 22 May - 9:00 - 13:00 CEST.** Participants will still need to apply for the Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2027 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

PARTICIPANTS: Ten to twelve Christian apologists and evangelists who are willing to commit to becoming part of a learning community.

QUALIFICATIONS: All participants will be actively involved in apologetics and evangelism and be spiritually mature Christians.

COMMITMENTS: In addition to submitting an application, in order to be accepted as a participant, you must commit to:

1. Thoroughly review a selection of pre-assigned materials before and after each webinar. These assignments will consist of reading book chapters, articles, or essays as indicated for each webinar.
2. Have a proper Internet connection and a device equipped with both a microphone and video capability.
3. Attend all sessions:
 - a. **Pre-Forum Seminar at the 2026 European Leadership Forum (16 May 2026) in Wisla, Poland**
 - b. Two webinars, one in October and one in November.
 - c. **A three-day December Retreat 1-3 December 2026** (Location TBC) Seven sessions with presentations and discussion with some of our meals together.
 - d. Two, 2-hour webinars, one in February and one in March 2027.
 - e. **Pre-Forum Conference at the 2027 European Leadership Forum (from Friday, 21 May, through Saturday, 22 May).** There will be one book required for this conference which is Os Guinness' *Fool's Talk* and each participant is responsible for obtaining a copy. Participants will still need to apply for the Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2027 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.
4. Access all webinars with a good broadband internet connection and use a headset
5. Read all assigned readings and complete assignments for each. Articles, book chapters or essays will be emailed to you before the first webinar.
6. Pay the necessary fees. The fees for **the 2026 December Retreat** are 175 Euros for a Double Room and 225 Euros for a Single Room (or 125 Euros for scholarship recipients). For **the 2027 Pre-Forum Conference**, the fees are 115 Euros for a Double Room and 165 Euros for a Single Room (or 70 Euros for scholarship recipients).
7. In order to be accepted to next years' European Leadership Forum all Year-Round Mentoring participants will need to nominate two other leaders for the following year for the Year-Round Mentoring which includes personally contacting and recruiting them by email.

2026 Pre-Forum Seminar

Date: 16 May 2026

- I. During our time at the pre-forum Conference will have time to get to know one another and learn of the different ministries represented.
- II. There will be a discussion on:
 - a. To what degree should culture influence apologetics.
 - b. Know what we are defending and spiritual warfare.
 - c. How to think well.

The Retreat 1-3 December 2026

Date: 1-3 December 2026 (Location TBC)

- I. During this three-day retreat we will eat most of our meals together where we can have a discussion of ideas presented in the sessions. There will be seven sessions with presentations and discussions.
- II. Topics addressed will include but not necessarily be limited to and not necessarily in this order:
 - a. Apologetics and Persuasion
 - b. What Apologetics Requires
 - c. Theistic Arguments Today
 - d. Pre-Evangelism within a Post Christian Culture
 - e. Relativism and Atheism
 - f. Apologetics and Culture

Pre-Forum Conference – 2027

21-22 May 2027

- I. During our time at the pre-forum conference, we will consider the different possibilities/methods in doing apologetics in light of what we have talked about this year. It will be an important time for fleshing out many of the subjects addressed during webinars as well as a time of discussion and group input. You will notice that the webinars occur on the first Monday of each month listed.
- II. Pre-Forum Requirements
 - a. Read Os Guinness' *Fool's Talk*
 - i. Write a 200 response to the book as a whole and point out which chapter was most helpful.
 - ii. Write out two questions from the reading. You will email your questions to: brucealva@proton.me. These **must be** received two days prior to Pre-Forum meeting.

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Webinar Sessions

The current apologetics mentoring includes four webinars. These webinars will be one hour long.

Webinar One: One's Vision of Reality and Apologetics

Date: October 5, 2026, 2-4 PM (New York time)

- I. The first 20 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to answering questions submitted from the reading/listening assignments. This is not optional; it is required in order to remain in the mentorship. You will email your questions to: brucealva@proton.me. These **must be** received two days prior to the webinar. This webinar will focus on the importance of a Christian view of reality as it pertains to the work of evangelistic apologetics

- II. Assignments
 - a. Read the selection from Francis Schaeffer's *The God Who Is There**
 - i. This will be emailed to you at the beginning of the mentorship
 - b. Submit two questions you have from this reading and email to brucealva@proton.me

Webinar Two: How Do We Know and What Do We Know

Date: November 2, 2026, 2 -4 PM (New York time)

- I. The first 20 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to answering questions submitted from the reading/listening assignments. This is not optional; it is required in order to remain in the mentorship. You will email your questions to: brucealva@proton.me. These **must be** received two days prior to the webinar. The focus of this webinar is the discussion of the importance of understanding how human beings gain knowledge and the importance of revelation as the source of information for Christian evangelistic apologetics.

- II. Reading, Listening, and Writing Assignments
 - a. Listen to the lecture "Current Shifts in Epistemology" * by Bruce Little from the 2008 European Leadership Forum. This audio file will be available on Oikos to download.
 - b. Write out 2 questions you have from this source and email to brucealva@proton.me

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Webinar Three: Apologetics In A Post-Christian World

Date: February 1, 2027, 2-4 PM (New York time)

- I. The first 20 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to answering questions submitted from the reading/listening assignments. This is not optional; it is required in order to remain in the mentorship. You will email your questions to: brucealva@proton.me These **must be** received two days prior to the webinar. This webinar focuses on the influence of the denial of objective truth which has come about as result of postmodernism (anti-modernism) and how that impacts the work of evangelistic apologetics.
- II. Assignments (will be emailed at the beginning of the mentorship)
 - a. Read “Pilgrim and Progress” by Bruce Little*
 - i. Submit two questions you have from this reading and email to brucealva@proton.me

Webinar Four: Answering the Problem of Evil

Date: March 1, 2027, 2-4 PM (New York time)

- I. The first 20 minutes of the meeting will be devoted to answering questions submitted from the reading/listening assignments. This is not optional; it is required in order to remain in the mentorship. You will email your questions to brucealva@proton.me These **must be** received two days prior to the webinar. The focus of this webinar is discussing the more common objection to God in general and Christianity in particular because of the evil in the world.
- II. Assignments: (Article will be emailed at the beginning of the mentorship)
 - a. Read “God and Gratuitous Evil” by Bruce Little*
 - i. Submit two questions you have from this reading and email to brucealva@proton.me
 - ii. Submit two questions you have about the problem of evil in general and email to brucealva@proton.me
- III. Some recommended reading prior to the Year Round Mentoring
 - a. C. S. Lewis (editor Walter Hooper) *God in the Dock*, 1970.
 - b. C. S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*, 1947.
 - c. Richard Weaver, *Ideas Have Consequences*, 1948.
 - d. Gary Habermas, *The Historical Jesus*, 1996.
 - e. Louis Markos, *Apologetics for the 21st Century*, 2010.
 - f. Andrew Davison (editor) *Imaginative Apologetics*, 2011.
 - g. Neil Postman, *Technology*, 1992.
 - h. Mark Cooppenger, *Moral Apologetics for Contemporary Christians*, 2011.
 - i. Os Guinness, *Impossible People*, 2016.
 - j. Timothy Keller, *Reason for God*, 2009.

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How To Apply

1. Fill out an online application by clicking [HERE](#). Please be sure to fill out every field.
2. You will also need to ask a pastor or spiritual mentor to complete a [reference](#) on your behalf.
3. Once we receive your online application form, your application will be considered complete. We will review your completed application and let you know if you are accepted into the program within four to six weeks.

If you have questions, contact us at initiatives@euroleadership.org