

# RECLAIMING A BIBLICAL VISION OF THE FAMILY



CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS AND BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW CONFERENCE - 2010

OCTOBER 29-30, 2010

CITY CENTRE BAPTIST CHURCH - MISSISSAUGA

"The family is God's basic institution. To attack and discredit the Biblical view of family is the surest way to destroy Christian influence. It must be said then, that the key to a Christian future of righteousness and liberty through Godly transformation is the development and the empowerment of the Christian family."

Joe Boot, Founder, EICC



Dr. Jonathan Sarfati  
Scientist



Joe Boot  
EICC



Dr. William Gairdner  
Social Critic



Dr. Emil Silvestru  
Scientist



Dr. Scott Masson  
Academic



Dr. Dennis Ngien  
Theologian

The Ezra Institute for Contemporary Christianity (EICC) is pleased to announce the first in its "How Then Shall We Answer?" conference series. The theme of the event is to be: "Reclaiming a Biblical Vision of the Family."

The health and vitality of the family as God's most basic institution is critical to the life, strength, and influence of the church. The importance of this simply cannot be overstated as what shapes and defines any society is the character and faith of the family within that society. This is well understood by those who would oppose the Christian faith and explains why the Biblical view of family is under such pressure. To discredit the Biblical view of family is the surest way to weaken the culture shaping influence of the Christian faith.

We believe that all Christians can and should affirm that central to a Christian future of righteousness and liberty through Godly transformation is the development and the empowerment of the Christian family.

Topics to be covered during the conference are intended to both inform and equip. They include the following: an understanding of the family in the context of God's sovereignty and social design, the family's calling under the Great Commission; the family's history in Canada, bioethical issues such as genetic engineering, the Law of God and civil law, and the role of the State according to the Bible.

We hope you will make plans to join us. As Christians unite around these foundational issues, God's Kingdom is advanced, non-believing strongholds are dismantled, and multi-generational blessings which are covenantally promised in the Fifth Commandment, Honor your father and your mother, are reclaimed.

We look forward to seeing you! Please visit our website, [www.ezrainstitute.ca](http://www.ezrainstitute.ca), for more information and to register.

Joe Boot, Founder, EICC



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## Joe Boot

Founder, EICC, Toronto, Ontario  
Joe Boot is an apologist, educator, author and senior pastor of Westminster Chapel in Toronto. He served with Ravi Zacharias for seven years as an apologist in the U.K. and Canada. He has spoken all over the world in over 25 countries in numerous universities, seminaries, churches, colleges and conferences. Joe is the founder of the Ezra Institute for Contemporary Christianity in Toronto.



## Dr. Jonathan Sarfati

Scientist with CMI Australia  
Jonathan Sarfati holds degrees in math, physics, and chemistry. He is co-editor of Creation magazine, author of several books, and also writes and reviews articles for the Journal of Creation. Dr. Sarfati is a former New Zealand Chess Champion, participating in three Chess Olympiads. He regularly accepts challenges to play chess blindfolded with multiple players.



## Dr. Scott Masson

Fellow, EICC, Toronto, Ontario  
Scott Masson has studied in Canada and Germany and has earned his PhD at the University of Durham, England. Grounded in the Classics, he has published books and articles on the crises in the humanities and modern hermeneutics, and teaches courses ranging from Homer to C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. He is an Associate Professor of English Literature at Tyndale University College and Associate Pastor at Westminster Chapel.



## Dr. William Gairdner

Author, Social Critic, Canada  
Bill Gairdner is a former Olympic athlete and professor of English, and the bestselling author of seven books, including *The Trouble with Canada*, *The War Against the Family*, and *Canada's Founding Debates* (managing editor). Although he is not an Evangelical, Bill is widely recognized as a man of deep experience, searing insight, and one of the most powerful pro-family voices in Canada today.



## Dr. Dennis Ngien

Professor of Systematic Theology, Tyndale Seminary  
Dr. Ngien has been teaching at Tyndale Seminary since 1995. He has also taught at the Toronto School of Theology, McMaster Divinity College and several seminaries abroad. He is the author of *The Suffering of God according to Martin Luther's Theologia Crucis* (1995; reprint 2003 and 2005); *Apologetic for Filioque in Medieval Theology* (2005); *Luther as a Spiritual Adviser: The Interface of Theology and Piety in Luther's Devotional Writings* (2007); *A Faith Worth Believing, Living and Commending* (2008); *Gifted Response: The Triune God as the Causative Agency of our Responsive Worship* (2008). His articles appear in journals such as *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, *Christianity Today*, *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*, *Evangelical Review of Theology*, *Themelios*, *Heythrop Journal*, etc. He runs his Centre for Mentorship and Theological Reflection in Toronto, mentoring pastors and church leaders and assisting churches in advisory and teaching capacities.



## Dr. Emil Silvestru

Scientist with CMI Canada  
Emil Silvestru earned his PhD in the formerly communist country of Romania, having seen first-hand the results of socialist ideology. An authority on global geology and climate, he has written one book, published over 41 scientific papers, and co-authored two books. In January 2002 he immigrated to Canada with his family and now works full-time for CMI Canada as a researcher, writer and speaker.



## CONFERENCE FEES

Single Adult: \$50

Married Couple: \$75

Family\*: \$99 \*Content suitable for high school age and up.

Full Time Student with ID: \$35 You must register in advance for this conference at [www.ezrainstitute.ca](http://www.ezrainstitute.ca). Includes a boxed lunch on Saturday.

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

[www.ezrainstitute.ca](http://www.ezrainstitute.ca)

CITY CENTRE BAPTIST CHURCH - MISSISSAUGA

1075 Eglinton Avenue West (Just West of Mavis Road)  
Mississauga, Ontario

"Many of Canada's laws which through recent centuries guarded the family were founded upon the Law of God. Today, a revolutionary effort is almost complete in Western society to overturn this in three areas: first, the control of children, second, the control of property, and third, inheritance. The humanistic revolution aims at the total seizure of these basic responsibilities and powers."

Joe Boot

"The first time I got deeply alarmed about the status of the family in society was when I heard an important politician tell a talk-show host that the definition of 'the family,' should be 'any four people seen together on Donahue!' I decided to fight back. I learned that throughout history the State and the private family wax and wane inversely to each other."

Dr. William Gairdner

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Friday, October 29

START	END	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
6:30	6:50	<b>Registration</b> Book Table Open
6:50	7:00	<b>Welcome and Announcements</b> Sanctuary
7:00	8:15	<b>The Battle for the Family</b> Joe Boot - Sanctuary The struggle for the family today is a question of lordship, of sovereignty, and therefore concerns the Kingdom of God. Who is the King and Lord of all of life to whom we must give our total allegiance, Christ or Caesar? Both have a vision for how society is to function; both have a plan for how history must unfold to achieve their vision; both have an agenda for the role of the family in that plan. But the vision, plan and agenda of the modern State and its elite planners are radically opposite to that of Christ. In this historical survey of the battle for the family, Christians will gain a thorough understanding of what's truly at stake.
8:15	8:45	<b>Break</b> Book Table Open
8:45	10:00	<b>The Family and Classical Christian Education</b> Dr. Scott Masson - Sanctuary The Bible says nothing about the structure of education, but declares the family's responsibility to insure that their children know and love the Lord and his word. Evangelicals are often pilloried for being 'negative', but even to announce something 'good' or 'true' entails making a value-judgment. If Christians are serious about their children's future, they must become as critical as their opponents are of the myth that education involves learning value-neutral facts. The best way to do that is through a classical Christian education.

Saturday, October 30

START	END	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
8:30	9:00	<b>Refreshments</b> Book Table Open
9:00	10:15	<b>The Family &amp; Bioethics</b> Dr. Jonathan Sarfati - Sanctuary Humanity starts at the beginning of biological life. Since murder, intentionally killing human life, is wrong, it follows that embryonic stem cell research (ESCR), human cloning, and induced abortions are wrong. Justifying the killing of embryos for research or medical benefits will help dehumanise them in the eyes of the public, and perpetuate the idea that one class of humans is expendable - the hidden agenda of the social engineers. All Christians must understand their moral duty to these complex scientific issues as God's enemies push them into the mainstream.
10:15	10:45	<b>Break</b> Book Table Open
10:45	12:00	<b>Christological Love and the Family</b> Dr. Dennis Ngien - Sanctuary I Corinthians 13, a hymn of praise to godly love, is the key to building healthy family life. The one who sat in the studio of St. Paul's contemplation when he wrote it is none other than Jesus Christ, the origin, content and measure of real love. The teleological principle of everything we are and do -- be it vocation, service, family relations, or friendship, is the love of Christ, revealed in St. Paul's ageless meditation in 1 Corinthians 13. At the centre of family life must be the love manifest within the Trinity itself, the original family, expressed to us fully and finally in Christ's person.

"We must regain a Biblical vision of manhood which is marked by maturity, responsibility, and leadership. A Christian man must be able to lead and care for his family by providing for them, defending them, and making wise decisions to disciple them. He must also demonstrate faithfulness, courage, and love to give them a future. And, above all, he must inspire them to keep Covenant with God."

Joe Boot

"Any country that allows abortion on demand has already declared that it is acceptable to destroy one class of human beings for the convenience of others. Nazi Germany did this. Now we're seeing this with human cloning. Where will it end? Harvesting organs from terminally ill patients who will die soon? Or prisoners on death row, as evolutionary-communist-dominated China does?"

Dr. Jonathan Sarfati

# RECLAIMING A BIBLICAL VISION OF THE FAMILY



Saturday, October 30 continued

START	END	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	
12:00	1:45	<b>Boxed Lunch</b>	Pickup in Fellowship Room
12:30	1:30	<b>“Demographic Winter: The Decline of the Human Family</b> Award Winning Documentary - Gym False “science” advocated by doomsayers from Thomas Malthus (1766-1834) to Paul Ehrlich (1932-) has warned of “overpopulation” leading to “depleted resources” and “mass starvation.” As a result, the devastating consequences of rejecting God’s design for the family are now upon us: the world is facing a demographic disaster due to falling fertility rates and aging populations. However, while humanists render themselves obsolete, Christians can rebuild civilization by rejecting the lies and myths, returning to God’s design, marrying earlier, and having lots of children.	
2:00	3:15	<b>Canada’s Founding Fathers &amp; the Family</b> William Gairdner – Sanctuary Canada’s Founding Fathers formed a nation based upon the traditional family as a bastion of privacy, privilege, and moral authority. Today, there is a war against the family as our civil government pursues its socialist and political motives. How did this happen? What can we do?	<b>The Family vs. Environmentalism</b> Dr. Emil Silvestru – Gym What is the latest spin? Modern environmentalism is a re-packaged religious worldview with mother earth as its god. Its purveyors are coercively promoting their anti-Christian and anti-family religion upon the world. We must respond decisively.
3:15	3:45	<b>Break</b>	Book Table Open
3:45	4:45	<b>Family Worldview Chat (Q&amp;A)</b> Joe Boot, Jonathan Sarfati, William Gairdner, Emil Silvestru	Sanctuary
4:45	5:00	<b>Short Break</b>	
5:00	6:15	<b>The Family &amp; the Law of God</b> Joe Boot - Sanctuary Throughout church history, the Law of God has tended to be seen in two extremes: legalism, which replaces or adds man-made laws to God’s Word, or seeks justification by legal obedience, and antinomianism, which denies the relevance and need for God’s Law altogether. The Biblical position is that Christ did not abolish God’s Law, but rather He fulfilled it by putting it into force (Matt. 5:17-12). All law, being an expression of someone’s morality, is an inescapable concept. Either God’s Law will define all morality, or man’s will. Jesus said, “If you love me you will obey my commandments.” Christian families need to embrace the Law of God as our moral standard in the battle for life, liberty and truth.	

**“We shall answer by reclaiming a Biblical vision of the family, thereby advancing the cause of Christ our King and His Kingdom.”**

**Joe Boot**

**“how then shall we answer”**



“Of the ten countries with the lowest birthrates, nine are in Europe. No European nation has a replacement-level birthrate It’s entirely possible that Europe as we know it will disappear. North America is not far behind. But what if the solutions [e.g., a return to the traditional family and having more children earlier] were clear to Academia... but weren’t politically correct?”

**“Demographic Winter”**

“I propose we radically de-politicize and re-federalize Canada by vigorously returning to the strict division of powers of the BNA Act of 1867, to curtail the growth of the socialist-style government we now have. People will feel united, not by universal medicare or welfare handouts, but by shared principles of liberty, responsible self-government, and spontaneous local community.”

**Dr. William Gairdner**

“Based on my experience in paleoclimatology (climates of the past), I know that ‘climate change’ is nothing new. The question today is, ‘Is it triggered by us humans?’ It isn’t. I call CO<sub>2</sub> a “political gas” because CO<sub>2</sub> is not the culprit. Apocalyptic predictions uttered as certitudes have led politicians to adopt positions that undermine the basic principles of true liberty.”

**Dr. Emil Silvestru**