

NEWS ARTICLE FOR ALL MEDIA AND PUBLIC OUTLETS

Why should religion matter to anyone who's already content and successful in life? Shouldn't belief be a matter of private personal preference? Aren't science and reason a sufficient basis for self-understanding? Religion inevitably leads to conflict all over the world, doesn't it?

On Saturday, May 7, 2016, such hard-hitting questions as these will be addressed at a unique event hosted at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, Maine. The event is called WHY JESUS? 2016: A Northern New England Conference on Evidence for Christian Faith.

According to planners, the conference is open to people of all worldviews as well as to agnostics.

Daryl Witmer says that while regular admission tickets are available through Ticketmaster at \$15 per person, those identifying themselves as skeptics or sincere seekers will be given a complimentary pass at the door, on the day of the event, while supplies last.

Witmer, Executive Director of the AIIA Institute, co-sponsor and coordinating agent of the conference, describes WHY JESUS? 2016 as a "one-time one-day all-day educational event."

He says that those living in this region of the country usually have to travel long distances for an assembly on this scale. "But not this time," Witmer says. "In 2016 we'll be the hosts, and we're hoping to see the entire 8000-seat arena respectably filled."

Plenary speakers include internationally-known author and Christian apologist, Dr. Ravi Zacharias, and Lee Strobel, former journalist for the Chicago Tribune and best-selling author, Author and speaker Randy David Newman from Washington D.C. will also be present, along with Dr. Tom Woodward of the Florida-based C.S. Lewis Society, and Dick Keyes, Director of the L'Abri Fellowship in Southborough MA.

Along with workshops, live panel presentations, and exhibits, the Oasis Chorale, an Amish/Mennonite a capella singing group of 40 men and women from ten states and Canada will offer "artful music for thoughtful worship."

Witmer explains that a major focus of the WHY JESUS? 2016 conference is to "better equip Christian believers to make a more convincing, relevant, and credible case for historic Christian faith. For that reason," he adds: "this will not be entertainment event to tickle the senses. It will be a training event to challenge the mind. But in a good and helpful way."

For more information, FAQs, and downloadable promotional material, interested persons are encouraged to visit the event web site at WHYJESUS2016.org, to email administration@whyjesus2016.org, or to call 207.997.3644.