

RICHARD ABANES

thesingingspy@hotmail.com

WRITING / RESEARCH / EDITING

- 2010–present Playwright/Freelance Author/Ghost Writer: *Conducts ongoing research in multiple fields of study. Involved in ghost writing books, pamphlets, and online blogs for several authors. Simultaneously writing his own new plays and musicals for future production in New York. (Completed/Produced original dramatic/comedy, *Five Women*, in New York for the 2019 New York Theater Festival.)*
- 2000–2010: Freelance Author/Adjunct Editor: *Conducted research on various world religions, cults, church history, extremist/fringe groups, faith-based systems, white supremacy, and anti-Semitism. Assisted various authors/professors in researching numerous world religions for multiple projects. Also worked as an adjunct editor for Horizon Publications. Adjunct editor responsibilities included researching the historical soundness and factual accuracy of the information, argumentation, and references contained various pre-publication manuscripts.*
- 1998–2000: Creative Arts Director (Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA): *Conducted research necessary to assist the Senior Music Leader in connection to weekly studies for music teams, the performing arts ministry, and annual conference lessons/courses/lectures. Also responsible for overseeing/coordinating activities of the drama ministry, writing special music for weekly services, and performing (singing/acting) at Sunday services, special events, concerts, and annual conferences.*
- 1994–1998: Freelance Author/Editor: *Conducted primary research on several world religions, cults, extremist/fringe groups, faith-based systems, white supremacy, and anti-Semitism. Assisted various authors/professors in researching numerous world religions for various publishing/teaching projects.*
- 1992–1994: Assistant Researcher (Christian Research Institute, Irvine CA): *Assisted senior researchers at the largest research organization dedicated to equipping Christians to intelligently represent/express their faith and educate the church in the area of world religions and cults. Responsibilities included: 1) analyzing primary documentation published by religions/churches/faith-based groups; 2) gathering accurate information about multiple faith-based systems (e.g., news articles, scholarly evaluations, eyewitness testimony); 3) summarizing the doctrinal structure of various religions for senior researchers to review/assess; 4) establishing the history and the evolutionary path of specific religious systems for senior researchers to review/assess; 5) replying to correspondence from constituents; 6) answering Bible questions from constituents; 7) participating in media interviews about newsworthy religious news events.*

PROFESSIONAL WRITING CREDITS

Published Books

- Abanes, Richard. *Religions of the Stars: What Hollywood Believes and How It Affects You*. Bethany House, 2009.
- Abanes, Richard. *A New Earth, An Old Deception*. Bethany House, 2008.
- Abanes, Richard. *He Is Risen: Reflections On Easter & the Forty Days of Lent*. Hachette Book Group, 2008.
- Abanes, Richard, and Abanes, Evangeline. *Homeland Insecurity: A Novel*. Harvest House Publishers, 2007.
- Abanes, Richard. *What Every Parent Needs to Know About Video Games*. Harvest House Publishers, 2006.
- Abanes, Richard. *Rick Warren and the Purpose that Drives Him*. Harvest House Publishers, 2005.
- Abanes, Richard. *Harry Potter, Narnia, and The Lord of the Rings*. Harvest House Publishers, 2005.
- Abanes, Richard. *The Truth Behind the Da Vinci Code: A Challenging Response to the Bestselling Novel*. Harvest House Publishers, 2004.
- Abanes, Richard. *Becoming Gods: A Closer Look at 21st Century Mormonism*. Harvest House Publishers, 2004 (re-titled paperback, *Inside Today's Mormonism*, 2007).
- Abanes, Richard. *One Nation Under Gods: A History of the Mormon Church*. Harvest House Publishers, 2002.
- Abanes, Richard. *Fantasy and Your Family: Exploring the Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and Modern Magick*. Christian Publications, Inc., 2002.
- Abanes, Richard. *Harry Potter and the Bible*. Horizon Books, 2001.
- Abanes, Richard. *Defending the Faith: A Beginner's Guide to Cults and New Religions*. Baker Book House, 1998.
- Abanes, Richard. *Cults, New Religious Movements, and Your Family*. Crossway Books, 1998.
- Abanes, Richard. *End-Time Visions: The Road to Armageddon?*. Four Walls, Eight Windows, 1998 (re-titled paperback, *End-Time Visions: The Doomsday Obsession*. B&H Publishing Group, 1998).
- Abanes, Richard. *American Militias: Rebellion, Racism & Religion*. InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Abanes, Richard. *Journey into the Light: Exploring Near-Death Experiences*. Baker Book House, 1996.
- Abanes, Richard, and House, H. Wayne. *The Less Traveled Road and the Bible*. Horizon Books, 1995.
- Abanes, Richard. *Embraced by the Light and the Bible*. Christian Publications, Inc., 1994.
- Samples, Kenneth, deCastro, Erwin, Abanes, Richard, and Lyle, Robert. *Prophets of the Apocalypse: David Koresh and Other American Messiahs*. Baker Book House, 1994.

Journal Articles

- “Bookstores Owners and Spiritual Discernment.” *CBA Marketplace*, Aug. 2004.
- “Why We Must Reject Millennium Madness.” *Charisma and Christian Life*, July 1999.
- “How to Spot New Age Influences.” *Bookstore Journal*, June 1998.
- “The Dark Side of the Militia: Another Men’s Movement.” *New Man Magazine*, Mar./Apr. 1997.
- “America’s Patriot Movement: Infiltrating the Church with a Gospel of Hate.” *Christian Research Journal* (1997), 19:3.
- “The New Age Movement, Mormonism, Nation of Islam, Buddhism.” *Moody Magazine*, June 1996.

News Reports

- “Aum Shinri Kyo (Aum Supreme Truth) Cult Still Alive.” *Christian Research Journal* (2000), 22:4.
- “Cult TV Network Supported by Christians?” *Christian Research Journal* (1998), 20:3.
- “Anti-Mormon Evangelists Sues.” *Christianity Today*, Nov. 11, 1996.
- “Pizza, Baptism Don’t Always Mix.” *Christianity Today*, Oct. 28, 1996.
- “The Ugly Face of White Supremacy.” *Ministries Today*, Sept./Oct. 1996.
- “Controversy Still Smolders a Year After Waco Disaster.” *Christian Research Journal* (1994), 17:1.
- “Special Report: What’s Betty Eadie Hiding?” *Christian Research Journal* (1994), 16:3.
- “Readers Embrace The Light.” *Christianity Today*, Mar. 7, 1994.
- “Longtime Watch Tower President Dies.” *Christian Research Journal* (1993), 15:3.
- “Warnke Ministries Hurt by Expose: Satanic Plot Alleged,” *Christian Research Journal* (1992), 15:2.

Book Reviews

- “Charting the Growth of Cults and Isms: *The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions*.” *Christian Research Journal* (2003), 26:2.

Video/DVD Reviews

- “Thought-Provoking *Freakonomics* Handles the ‘Truth.’” crosswalk.com, Oct. 4, 2010.
- “Christian Themes Deliver *Devil*,” crosswalk.com, Sept. 20, 2010.
- “Unoriginal *Splice* Falls to Pieces.” crosswalk.com, June 7, 2010.
- “SNL-Based *MacGruber* is Predictably Vulgar,” crosswalk.com, May 21, 2010.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO REFERENCE WORKS

Essays

- “Feng Shui,” “Holy Spirit,” “Mormon View of Native Americans,” “Stigmata.” *The Evangelical Dictionary of World Religions*, edited by H. Wayne House, Baker Book House, 2019, pp. 191, 236, 342, 495.
- “Christian Identity.” *Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, 2 vols., edited by Patrick L. Mason, Macmillan Reference USA, 2008, 1:312-315.

Book Chapters

- Abanes, Richard. “Mormon Racism: Black is Not Beautiful.” *Abuse Your Illusions*, edited by Russ Kick, The Disinformation Specialists, Ltd., 2003, pp. 339-343.
- “Buddhism” (pp. 301-329), “The New Age Cults” (pp. 333-349), “Apocalyptic Cults” (pp. 403-421), “The Word Faith Movement” (pp. 495-516). *The Kingdom of the Cults*, edited by Hank Hanegraaff, Bethany House (1997 edition).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: LECTURES / SERMONS / COURSES

- “All Saints Day: Remembering Our Past.” Christ the King Church, Celebration, FL, Nov. 1, 2020.
- “The Politics of the Gospel?” Christ the King Church, Celebration, FL, Oct. 18, 2020.
- “What It Means to Be A Christian.” First United Methodist Church, Des Plaines, IL, Oct. 8, 2010
- “Religions of the Stars.” Oasis Christian Center, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 3, 2010.
- “Pop Culture Apologetics.” National Apologetics Conference. Veritas Seminary, Murietta, CA, Nov. 6–7, 2009.
- “In the World, but of the World.” The Bible Church, Evangelism Conference, Singapore, Sept. 26, 2009.
- “Pop Culture Influences.” The Bible Church, Evangelism Conference, Singapore, Sept. 26, 2009.
- “What Would Jesus Say to Harry Potter?” The Journey Church, New York, NY, July 12, 2009.
- “Eckhart Tolle, Oprah Winfrey, and Truth.” Church Communication Network. CCN.TV, Apr. 9, 2009.
- “The History of the New Age Movement.” Oxford Summit Ministries. Oxford University, Oxford, England. Sept. 2008.
- “The History of the New Age Movement.” Oxford Summit Ministries. Oxford University, Oxford, England. Mar. 2008.
- “Harry Potter: Christian or Not Christian?” California Baptist University. Riverside, CA. Nov. 19, 2004.
- “Contemporary Occultism.” American Family Foundation Conference. Orange, CA, June 13-14, 2003.
- “White Supremacy.” American Family Foundation Conference. Orange, CA, June 13-14, 2003.
- “Fantasy and Your Family: Exploring The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, and Modern Magick.” Biola University (Talbot School of Theology), La Mirada, CA, Jan. 24-25, 2003.
- “Harry Potter: Christian or Not Christian?” Christian Retailers Convention, Atlanta, GA, July 2001.
- “Cults: Seeking Out Your Students.” Purpose Driven Youth Conference. Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA, June 2000.
- “Cults: A Clear and Present Danger.” Purpose Driven Youth Conference. Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, CA, June 2000.
- “Oneness Pentecostals.” Cults & Discernment Conference. Coast Bible Church, San Juan Capistrano, CA, Sept. 26, 1998.
- “Boston Church of Christ.” Cults & Discernment Conference. Coast Bible Church, San Juan Capistrano, CA, Sept. 26, 1998.
- “The God Question: From A Believer’s Perspective.” Skeptic Society Annual Conference, Caltech University (Baxter Auditorium), Pasadena, CA, May 23, 1998.
- “Intolerance, Anti-Semitism, and the Militia Movement.” International Conference on Racism in America (panel discussion). The Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 8, 1997.
- “Militias in America.” Annual Mensa Society Convention, Mensa Society, Anaheim, CA, June 21, 1997.
- “Why People Join Militias.” Skeptic Society Annual Conference, Caltech University (Baxter Auditorium), Pasadena, CA, Sept. 22, 1996.
- “Waco: The Big Lie.” Evangelical Ministries to New Religions Conference, Philadelphia, PA, Sept. 22–24, 1994.

HONORS / AWARDS

- 1997: Higher Goals in Christian Journalism Award (Evangelical Press Association).
- 1997: Recognition Award for the Study/Work on Intolerance in North America by The Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights); book awarded, *American Militias: Rebellion, Racism, and Religion*.

SOCIETIES / ASSOCIATIONS

- 1994–2010: Evangelical Press Association
1994–2010: Society of Professional Journalists
1994–2010: Investigative Reporters & Editors, Inc.

ENDORSEMENTS RECEIVED

- Roy Innis (National Chairman, Congress of Racial Equality)
Rabbi Abraham Cooper (Associate Dean, The Simon Wiesenthal Center [Los Angeles])
Roy Rivenburg (Religion Journalist, *Los Angeles Times*)
James Randi (founder, James Randi Foundation)
Michael Shermer (founder/president, Skeptic Society)
Ronald Enroth (professor of Sociology, Westmont College)
Leland Rykan (professor emeritus of English, Wheaton College)
Frank Beckwith (professor of Philosophy/Church-Studies, Baylor University)
Gene Edward Veith (professor of Literature and Director of Cranach Institute, Concordia Theological Seminary)
Alan Gomes (professor of Historical/Systematic Theology, Talbot School of Theology)
Norman Geisler (Distinguished Professor of Theology/Apologetics and Co-Founder of Veritas Evangelical Seminary)
J.I. Packer (Sangwoo Youtong Chee Professor of Theology, Regent College)
Hank Hanegraaff (president/CEO, Christian Research Institute)
Tom Stipe (Senior Pastor, Crossroads Church of Denver)
J. Mark Martin (Senior Pastor, Calvary Community Church Phoenix)
Lee Strobel (author, *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for the Creator*)
Doug Groothuis (professor of Philosophy, Denver Seminary)
James Bjornstad (professor of philosophy, Cedarville University)
Shandon Guthrie (adjunct professor of Philosophy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas)
H. Wayne House (professor of Theology, Law, and Culture, Faith International University and Seminary)
D. James Kennedy (Senior Pastor, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church)
John MacArthur (Senior Pastor, Grace Community Church)
Rick Warren (Senior Pastor, Saddleback Church)
Ron Rhodes (president/CEO, Reasoning from the Scriptures Ministry)
Sandra Tanner (founder/director, Utah Lighthouse Ministry)
Lee Grady (senior editor, *Charisma Magazine*)
Gary DeMar (president/founder, American Vision)
Todd Wilken (radio talk show host, *Issues, Etc.*)
Dan Kimball (author, *They Like Jesus But Not The Church*)

(NOTE: This CV does not include Op-Ed pieces, network TV appearances/interviews, bookstore lectures/signings, newspaper interviews, or radio interviews. It also does not include any entertainment industry credits.)