

THE MUSTARD SEED

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Faith Mennonite High School

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What Is Worldviews Class?

In the Great Commission, Jesus commanded His disciples to take the Gospel all over the earth – to all nations and peoples. As professing Christians and disciples of Jesus, this same command is given to us. But how can we fulfill this responsibility if we are ignorant of the situations and beliefs we are attempting to counteract? How can we present the Truth persuasively without a basic understanding of the opposing ideas and mindsets that surround us?

Worldviews is a required course for juniors here at FMH and is taught by Mr. Paul. The purpose of this class is to provide students with a basic understanding of the religions and worldviews that exist today, as well

as prepare them to use the Truth against improper views that subtly sneak in. Worldviews class uses the book *Understanding the Times: A Complete Survey of Competing Worldviews* published by Summit Ministries. The first half of the course gives a summary of the six basic worldviews in our modern world (Christianity, Islam, postmodernism, secularism, Marxism, and New Spirituality). The second half of the course compares the perspectives of each of the worldviews on more specific topics such as theology, philosophy, politics, and economics.

Mr. Paul summarized his hopes for this class by saying, “I hope that students will understand that ideas have consequences, and that bad ideas can spread like a virus. It is important for students to be inoculated against these ideas, have opportunities to wrestle with hard questions, and come away better, having a stronger sense of truth and what God intends for them.”

Worldviews class also helped prepare Evangelism Team members for their weekend of missions training in New York City in October. Dericka



Stoltzfus remarked, “Worldviews is really interesting, and learning about the different worldviews helped prepare me for the Missions Training Center. It opened my eyes to the many different worldviews people have. Knowing others’ worldviews helps us better understand them.” Kendall Bange added, “Knowing the many different terms of Islam has helped me understand more about the Islamic religion and why they do what they

do. Learning about other cultures and some of the things they find disrespectful was helpful because we were the minority in NYC.” Faith King also spoke of her MTC experience: “In Worldviews we learned how important it is to know what we be-

lieve and why we believe it. Everyone has a way they view the world, and studying the different worldviews helps us make sense of the world and know how to witness to people. At MTC, we went out on the streets and were told to stop and talk to people around us and ask them where they were from, what they believe, etc. We could then share the love of Jesus and what we believe. Worldviews helped me think about why I believe what I do so I could more easily share with others around me.” At the Mission Training Center, Evangelism Team students sat through a series of sessions where they were taught about different religions, beliefs, and how to evangelize. They then went out and practiced what they were learning by singing and talking to the people on the streets.

Learning how to effectively share the Gospel is invaluable and crucial in fulfilling our God-given responsibility. This fallen world we live in is growing continuously darker and is in desperate need of the Savior. We know what our duty is, so by God’s strength let us put forth our best efforts to bring His harvest home. *Kelsey Garman, Editor*

Twenty Years of Prayer

Faith High School’s “Moms in Prayer” group was started in 1997 and has been meeting on and off for the last twenty years. Today, I think that we take for granted the willing and caring moms that will take time out of their day to meet at FMH and pray for us and our school. Moms in Prayer meets every first Tuesday of the month in the conference room here at FMH. Mary Ann King has been leading and organizing this for the past two years, so I asked her some questions about Moms in Prayer.

Some of the things the FMH moms pray for are: student relationships with God, that we would know our identity in Christ, that we would honor each other and respect our teachers, that we would use technology wisely and be able to face its challenges, and that we would reach out to those who are hurting. There is also a prayer request box in Room 100 that we can put our own prayer requests in for them to pray for the next time they meet.

I asked Mary Ann if they have ever seen a prayer request answered and this was her reply: “I guess we’ll never know the impact our prayers have this side of Heaven. God has been blessing Faith High School immensely and is doing big things there – changing lives and growing men and women for His glory. So yes, He is answering prayers!”



This quote by Sally Clarkson helped inspire Mary Ann to lead Moms in Prayer: “The most important impact I will ever have on my children [or others] will be through my prayers for them.” Mary Ann also feels the need for Moms to wake up and fight for their children: “There is a battle being fought for their souls, but there’s hope and there’s a big God who says that they are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, that they should show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light!”

Over the past few weeks I’ve seen the power of prayer firsthand, and it is absolutely amazing. Prayer is one of the main things that will help us build a stronger personal relationship with God, and we all need that to get through the trials of life that we are handed. *Lindsey Stoltzfus, Staff Writer*

MACSA Takeaways

Teachers at FMH had a wonderful opportunity to attend MACSA (Mid-Atlantic Christian Schools Association) where they received input from professors and teaching professionals about how to become better teachers. Let’s look at what FMH computer and music teacher, Mr. Martin, learned from the sessions at MACSA:

- Unlike James and John who requested seats of authority next to Jesus, true servants are committed to their calling even when there is no personal benefit.
- The “Put Up Game” is an excellent way to encourage each other and build unity on sports teams. In this exercise, players and coaches take a few minutes after a game or practice to list things done

well by others.

- Humming as loudly as possible can help singers discover the physical sensation of “breath support” that is needed for energized singing.
- A 3D guide to making wise media choices: (1) Discover – What are the big ideas? (2) Discernment – What does Scripture say about those big ideas? (3) Decide – Immersion in media makes us oblivious to the world, to each other, to ourselves, and to God.

While MACSA is a great vacation for us as students, our teachers must “go to school.” They learn important values to teach us students.

Maria Groff, Assistant Editor

Advent in Our Hearts

The season of Advent is the anticipation and expectation of Christ's birth and second coming celebrated by many Christian churches. The meaning of "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming." The celebration of Advent began around the 4th or 5th century, where in those days it was looked to be a preparation of baptism of a Christian. However, Advent today focuses on the church celebrating the Nativity and being prepared for the return of Christ. Advent is celebrated the last four Sundays before Christmas, with each Sunday having a special theme: Prophets, Shepherds, Angels, and the Nativity. Some churches have an Advent wreath with four candles, and they light a different candle each Sunday (some lighting a 5th on the last Sunday for Jesus' birth). FMH secretary Miss Swartzentruber shares about celebrating Advent as a child: "My parents did voluntary service in Germany where many churches celebrate Advent. They wanted to bring that celebration back to their home church. When I was a kid, my church had special singing, a creative reading, or skits each of the four Sundays of Advent. Growing up in this environment developed in me a feeling of expectancy and anticipation." Advent is a special celebration and should be practiced by more churches because it helps us to fully appreciate and understand the miracle of Christmas. Many times, we can get so caught up in the Christmas season and forget what it's about and why we celebrate it. Advent can serve as a reminder of how spectacular Jesus' birth was and how we should be prepared for the amazing return of Jesus Christ. *Linda Stoltzfus, Staff Writer*

Students Speak Out

The world ends tomorrow. You have limitless finances. How would you spend your last day on earth?



Rebekah Stoltzfus - Freshman

Travel to Europe, then Australia, then the U.S. and spend time with friends.

Dawson Ressler - Freshman

Go to Djibouti and dance around a fire.



Donovan Stoltzfus - Sophomore

Go eat chocolate in Switzerland.

Dericka Stoltzfus - Junior

Give the money to the poor.



Kendrick Ramos - Senior

Buy a Dodge Demon ZRT and take a joy ride.

Calendar

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| Dec | 13 | Christmas Concert - 7:30 PM |
| | 21 | Early Dismissal |
| | 22 - Jan 1 | Christmas Vacation |
| Jan | 8 | PTF - 7:00 PM |
| | 11-12 | Alumni Basketball Tournament |
| | 16 | Last day of 2nd Quarter |
| | 18-19 | Invitational Basketball Tournament |
| | 23 | Report Cards Due |
| | 26 | Quiz-a-thon |
| | 28 | Half day - PTC for Seniors |

Alumni Feature

Ana Lapp, FMH class of 1994, completed her training as an R.N. at Lancaster General School of Nursing, then completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences. She is currently working to become a Family Nurse Practitioner through Frontier Nursing University. Ana works as a nurse at Esperanza Health Center, a Christian clinic that serves Latino patients in Philadelphia, working with HIV patients in the clinic, supervising a small HIV clinical support team,



and collecting, analyzing, and reporting on HIV data. Ana shared this about her time at FMH: "Aside from memories of ET and Senior Trip, etc., my favorite class memories are Mr. Moyer's hilarious demonstration of the 10 plagues, and Mr. Harrison

climbing up on the table to emphasize a point in science class. The science classes that I took with Mr. Harrison were great preparation for my classes in nursing school. In addition, my time on Evangelism Team really increased my passion for living missionally."

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