

SUMMIT

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journal

2015

Looking Back,
Looking Forward



INSIDE:

Ministry Updates On:
Publishing
Student Conferences
Summit Semester
And More!

A VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT

A Word From Dr. Myers



Isn't it amazing to look back and see God's fingerprints all over the things in life that you are most thankful for? That's how we feel at Summit as we reflect on what God has done this

past year. In this issue of the *Journal*, you will read about many ministry highlights, but I particularly want to share with you these three stunning developments:

1. Student Summer Conferences Are Changing Thousands of Lives.

Recently a man in an airport asked me, "Are you Jeff Myers from Summit?" When I said yes, tears spilled down his cheeks. "Last summer my son went to your program and it completely changed his life," he said. "He is filled with truth and purpose."

I wish you could be here to see how powerful truth and life-long relationships come together to change lives. One of our students this summer had such a poor relationship with her dad that she asked her small group leader to stop praying to "Father God."

After two weeks of walking with our staff, getting answers from instructors, and spending time with the Lord, we received this message:

"I've been working on my relationship with my dad. And today I started a relationship with my Heavenly Father!"

Imagine 1,700 students being released from intellectual and spiritual strongholds so they can live fully for Jesus. This is what you are helping make possible by supporting Summit.

I'm so thankful to God for using Summit in this way. But I'm also praising him for something that

makes Summit's powerful impact even more exciting:

2. The New *Understanding the Times* Book Is Putting Summit's "Secret Sauce" in the Hands of Hundreds of Thousands.

For the past 18 months I've been writing non-stop to produce a new edition of *Understanding the Times*, Summit founder David Noebel's best-selling worldview text.

A lot has happened since 1991 when Doc Noebel released the first edition of *Understanding the Times*. Back then, Boris Yeltsin was president of Russia ... Desert Storm was winning in the Middle East ... Internet porn wasn't yet available ... and *The Cosby Show* dominated television.

"You can trust Summit to keep speaking the truth no matter how loudly the culture rejects it."

My, how things have changed. It's more urgent than ever to understand our times.

You can trust the new *Understanding the Times*. It is extensively documented and yet written in everyday language. And soon it will be joined by two other books:

- *Understanding the Faith* makes theology simple so you can deepen your knowledge of scripture and answer critics' toughest questions, even if you've never had a minute of theological training.
- *Understanding the Culture* shows how a biblical world-

view can solve today's most pressing issues from entertainment to poverty to injustice to sexual brokenness to environmental extremism and more.

I'm deeply thankful for the Summit staff and instructors who researched, edited, and fact-checked to make the new *Understanding the Times* possible. They're the same people whose dedication is at the heart of the third thing I'm thankful for:

3. We're Two-Thirds Finished With a Beautifully Renovated, Safe, and Handicap-Accessible Summit Hotel.

Everyone who's been to the Summit Hotel in Colorado loves the place. But a few years ago, our tired old building needed extensive repair. Our supporters gave sacrificially, and I am pleased to report that we have completed the first two construction phases, making the hotel beautiful, safe, and handicap-accessible.

It's been especially delightful to welcome physically disabled students in Jesus' name. One student, Thomas, had been prevented from attending Summit because of cerebral palsy. This summer, thanks to an elevator, ramps, and handicap accessible sleeping rooms, Thomas not only attended Summit, he even served on staff for a couple of weeks! Serving physically-disabled students has given our able-bodied students and staff a new appreciation of God's image in every person.

As we head into 2016, there is much to look forward to. You can trust Summit to keep speaking the truth no matter how loudly the culture rejects it. Summit grads are on the front lines fighting spiritual battles on our behalf. Be of good cheer—God wins; Satan loses!

Summit Social

One of the major areas of growth in the 21st century has been social media. We have worked hard this year to increase our social presence through YouTube, Facebook, and other platforms.

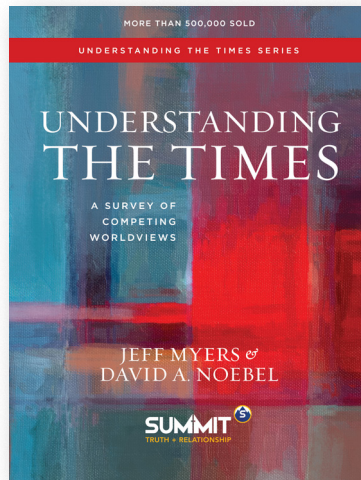
YouTube in 2015

- 240,082 minutes watched
- 49,286 views
- 449 videos
- 105 comments
- 38 countries

Facebook in 2015

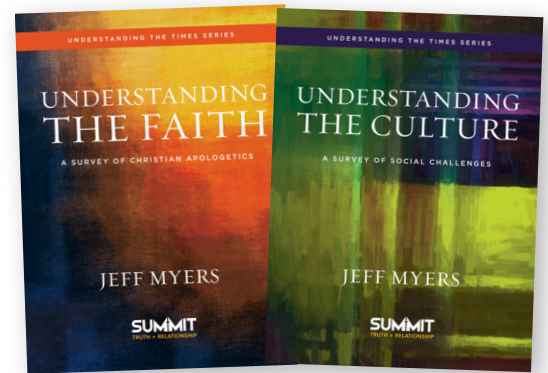
- 13,679 people like the page
- 1,420,593 people reached
- 34,021 comments
- 39 countries

Summit's Publishing Department had an extraordinary year in 2015!



This year saw the culmination of thousands of hours of work as the fully revised and expanded *Understanding the Times* book launched in September. Completely rewritten by Dr. Jeff Myers, this new edition updates and reworks Dr. David Noebel's original *Understanding the Times* for 2015. Two more volumes — a sequel and a prequel — are in development for release next year!

This fall also saw the launch of the *Understanding the Times* curriculum for Christian schools and home schools. The new *Understanding the Times* was also adapted as a first-of-its-kind digital curriculum.



We're eager to see 2016 bring:

- Completion of *Understanding the Faith* and *Understanding the Culture*
- Curriculum revisions for *Building on the Rock*
- Ministry partnership with Dr. Annie Gallagher, speaking and teaching Biblical Integration of teaching and worldview in schools
- The beginning of *Idea Catchers*, a revolutionary consumer and church publishing project for 2017

STUDENT CONFERENCES

A Look at Summit's Exciting 2015 Summer

It's safe to say that this would never work on paper — training the Millennial generation, who allegedly have a short attention span and no interest in religion — but for the past 53 years, it's worked!

2015 by the numbers:

- 1,722 total students
- 77 total speakers
- 3 locations
- 9 sessions
- \$97,770 given in scholarships

This year we settled into our third location on the campus of Biola University for Summit's second-annual California Summer Program. We were blessed to have Sean McDowell and his family join us as our Faculty in Residence.

Summit Tennessee celebrated its 20th year with a bang! It was our largest session, hosting 317 students on the campus of Bryan College. A core staff and stellar faculty made the experience a memorable milestone in our history.

The seven sessions in Colorado did not disappoint as Josh McDowell brought ancient Torah scrolls and biblical manuscripts for students to experience the evidence of God's truth for themselves. The historic Summit hotel was outfitted with a new elevator to accommodate students with disabilities as phase two of its three-phase renovation project.



Summit California 2015



Summit Tennessee 2015

Here's what Staff, Students, and Faculty had to say this summer:



“Summit is not a summer camp, it’s an experience.” — J. Warner Wallace, Summit faculty

“I went to Summit with the hope that my faith would be strengthened. My hopes were not disappointed. I was overwhelmed with the amount of solid, biblical truth that the speakers presented. Summit “fed the soul” through solid teaching, but it also brought me into a diverse community of believers. **I was inspired by Summit to take hard questions head on, love unconditionally, and pursue God daily.** One verse that stood out to me during the two weeks was Colossians 2:8, where Paul warns believers to beware of man’s hollow philosophies and instead seek completeness in Christ. Jesus — who is Truth — is the answer to this world’s questions. Summit gave me the confidence that, in spite of my questions, I can be sure beyond a reasonable doubt that Scripture is trustworthy, the gospel is true, and my life has incredible purpose. **Summit fueled my desire to know God and make Him known.**” — Joseph Cook, Student

“The staff educated us; they also cared for us and stayed present. Summit teaches you how to love and serve people as disciples should.” — Jeremiah Medley, Summit staffer

“One of the biggest things I took away from Summit was the realization that if you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything (and also the oh-so-famous mantra of **“ideas have consequences”**). Other than the informational and educational material that was thrown my way, I was surrounded by 200 other people who want to change the world, one life at a time. And that was a really, really special thing to experience. I mean, adventure is fun when you do it by yourself, but it becomes something so much more lovely when you have friends to share it with.” — Viktoria, Summit Student 2015



SUMMIT SEMESTER

A Rewarding Community

This fall 32 students

from every region of the country — plus two international students — gathered at Snow Wolf Lodge in Pagosa Springs, Colo., for Summit's Semester program. Those 32 students spent their semester being taught by some of the top Christian scholars in the country, including scholar-in-residence Dr. Michael Bauman, Dr. Gary Hartenburg, Dr. Don Williams, Dr. Jeff Myers, and more. In addition to honing their intellectual skills, students enjoyed a community environment that nurtures spiritual formation and helps develop strong interpersonal relationships.

Semester graduates are prepared for the challenges they will face at the university and are equipped to be influential leaders who shape the ideas of culture for the glory of God and the good of our society.



“Not only do I get to experience the beauty of Colorado, I get to experience the beauty of living in deep existence with others. In *Life Together*, Bonhoeffer explains, “Christians are privileged to live in the visible fellowship with other Christians. ... It is easily forgotten that the fellowship of Christian brethren is a gift of grace, a gift of the Kingdom of God.” Living so closely with more than 30 others isn’t always easy. Patience and grace are tested. **Yet, with this challenge comes a great reward: community.** We love and lift one another up, whether in small groups, work crews, on the volleyball court, hiking up the mountains, or in the classroom. We are for each other. We are the body of Christ.” — Mary Kathryn Chambers

Live in England for a term:

- Be a member of an Oxford college.
- Study with world-class scholars.
- Foster scholarly skills and virtues.
- Converse about current controversies.
- Cultivate your Christian convictions.
- Enjoy several cultural excursions.
- Earn eight to 18 credit hours.
- Relish a fellowship to last a lifetime.

Hilary Term 2016

12 January - 1 May 2016

Summer Term 2016

June - August 2016

Imagine living in England for 15 weeks this coming spring!

Now envision yourself strolling in the shadows of Oxford's dreaming spires, walking the streets trodden by the likes of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis and Dorothy Sayers and John Wycliffe and John Donne.

Combining a unique worldview course with Oxford's famed tutorials, the Summit Oxford Study Centre cultivates informed faithfulness and scholarly skills and virtues for the sake of the church and our culture.

"The worldview sessions engaged, informed, and inspired me. I love Christ more because of Summit Oxford." — Nate Spanos, Florida

Celina Durgin is a Collegiate Network fellow at the *National Review* in New York City and a 2015 graduate of The King's College. She attended Summit Oxford in the spring of 2014. This is her testimonial:

"The Summit Oxford Study Centre does not simply fulfill items on the bucket list of your own small life. Everything about the experience — from the centuries-old cathedrals and cobblestone streets, to evensong after a hard day's work, to long hours reading classic primary texts, to [Oxford Director Kevin Bywater's] repeated reminder during discussions that God has always hated idolatry, immorality, and injustice — invites you out of your own little story and into the Great Conversation. Oxford is still dedicated to the best ideas that have been thought throughout all history, and the Summit Oxford program is dedicated to these ideas' context within God's grand story, which is but history rightly conceived.

Something strange and out-of-time occurs in Oxford, something numinous moves between those high-walled structures, the remnant of a culture and a period that comprehended things we do not, or at least not nearly so well. There will be plenty of notes and essays and friends and skills to bring home from Oxford. But there will also almost surely be a quiet internal change, a new knowing, which cannot be quantified or even fully described.

A term studying at Oxford had been to me only a vague dream right until a month or so before I applied to the Summit Oxford program. Perhaps it can be the same for you: something that becomes even more than a memory."



ARISE CONFERENCE

From Denver to Your Computer

Summit's first live-streamed conference brought together Eric Metaxas, Lila Rose, John Stonestreet, Jeff Myers, and Chris August. The stage became a platform for conversation about engaging culture through truth and relationship. This was Summit's largest event ever with 800 live attendees and 2,000 worldwide attendees via the web stream!



Here's what participants had to say about Arise:

"I was really moved by Mr. Metaxas sharing openly about his experience with abortion. It inspired me to remember the importance of telling our stories in honesty as a means of inviting others into Kingdom living. I was also encouraged about keeping the message of hope and life out there so that the issue of lives lost to abortion can continue to move in a positive direction."

"I was challenged that there is hope for our world and it is our job to spread that hope. It is not time to step back in defeat but to stand up in hope and out of love for God and neighbor, to defend the truth of the gospel. Arise inspired me to continue to find my voice, and to be active in love and not passive — taking initiative in my own church and community for the sake of the gospel!"

"I learned that loving all people more and loving people first (before "preaching" to them) is showing the face of Christ in such a powerful way."

"I am thrilled with this kind of engagement. We need more and more forums such as this to educate people about the truth as it relates to culture and then encourage and instruct Christians of all generations how to be salt and light in our world, creating a ripple effect and a countercultural movement that returns us to a nation and people that loves and honors God."

Truth Conference

Summit Adult Conference

We're asked often, "Is there a Summit for grown ups?" **Yes there is!** Every March we host an intimate experience aimed at teaching and relationship building. This year, nearly 100 adults attended a week-long conference, with faculty highlighted by evangelist and best-selling author Josh McDowell along with Naghmeh Abedini, the wife of imprisoned pastor Saeed Abedini. The idyllic setting of Glen Eyrie castle served as a fitting backdrop for learning and friendship.



The next Summit for adults will be March 6-10, 2016, and spots are already filling fast.

STAND

FROM FAITH TO ACTION

2016 SUMMIT
ADULT CONFERENCE

MARCH 6-10
Colorado Springs, CO

Speakers include Jeff Myers, John Stonestreet, J. Warner Wallace, Christopher Yuan, Michael Lindsay, and others.

GO TO SUMMIT.ORG/ADULT
TO VIEW THE FULL SPEAKER LINEUP, COST, AND REGISTRATION APPLICATION

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

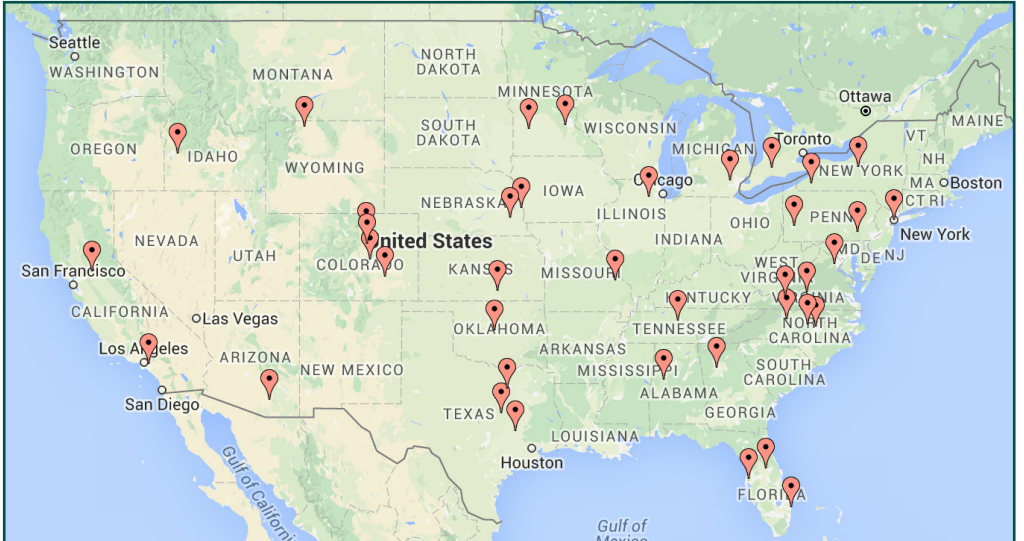
A Big Year for the Alumni M

2015 was the most exciting year yet for the now three-year-old Summit Alumni Network! The Network, which is a fabric of Christian thinkers and doers woven together by Summit Ministries' conference grads, is a way for alumni to support one another and continue growing with Summit.

Here's a quick peek into our top five initiatives of the year

1 Local Summit Communities:

2015 saw our alumni launch well over a dozen new Local Summit Communities around the country (plus one in *Singapore!*), nearly doubling the size of the endeavor from the year before. These intergenerational alumni groups exist to seek the growth of their members and the good of their cities. Over Labor Day weekend, 26 of the Community Leaders gathered at the Summit Hotel for the first ever alumni leadership retreat, exploring topics like leading out of one's strengths, how much more!



leading out of one's strengths, how to facilitate a great discussion, why eating together brings a community together, and much more!

See if there is a Local Summit Community in your area at summit.org/alumni-groups

Faculty Q&A Webinars:

2 This year, alumni had the chance to tune into seven live, hour-long, exclusive interview-style webinars with Summit faculty such as Dr. Jeff Myers and John Stonestreet. Topics ranged from Understanding God's Will, to How to Find a Mentor, to Responding to Same-Sex Marriage. Keep your eyes peeled for more free webinars in the New Year!

In the meantime, check out the recordings at summit.org/alumni-webinars

Summit Reps:

5 We are so excited about the brand new Summit Reps program, which partners with and equips 2015 alumni to share about their Summit experience as well as encourage others to attend. This winter, 77 volunteer Reps will share their Summit story at churches, small groups, schools, etc.

Watch the Summit Reps video to see what it's all about at summit.org/alumni-reps

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

cont. from page 10

4 Summit RE:SOURCE:

With the completion of the 15th issue, the monthly *RE:SOURCE* e-publication brings alumni the best of Summit in a snapshot, including free lecture videos, articles, jobs and opportunities, challenge questions for reflection, and more.

Are you an alum who would like to receive the *Summit RE:SOURCE*? Sign up at summit.org/alumni

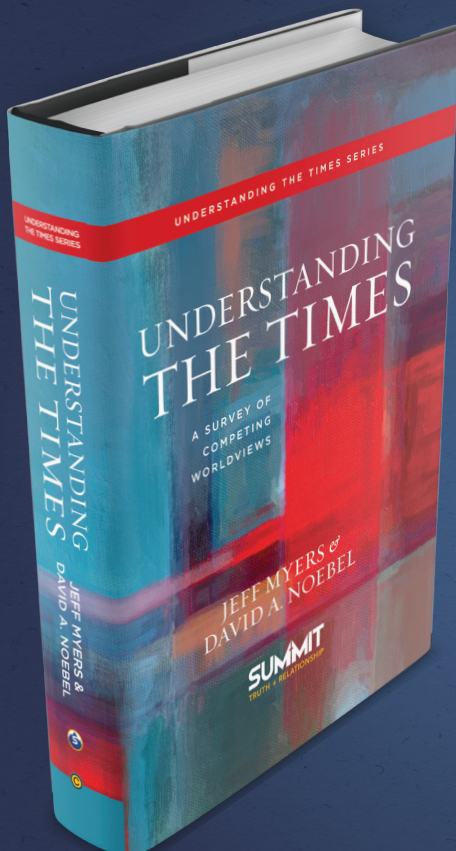


Photo by Evan Cowels

5 Internships:

This past summer, three remote interns joined the Alumni Network team, completing projects in writing, social media, marketing, and web design. They also participated in an onsite leadership development training at Summit Headquarters in Manitou Springs, Colo.

Find out about 2016 alumni internships at summit.org/alumni



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The only resource you'll need to understand biblical worldview.*



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Jim Daly

President, Focus on the Family

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INSIDE: Summit's Year in Review

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LET'S GO!

You can trust Summit to keep speaking the truth no matter how loudly the culture rejects it. Our graduates are doing it, too. But we must train more.



Would you help us raise \$673,000 to get Summit going in 2016?

Several generous donors have stepped up to help us in our plans for 2016. They've agreed to match up to \$50,000 in this season of giving. This doubles your generous gift right now.

Donate now at Summit.org

SUMMIT
TRUTH + RELATIONSHIP

The Journal is the monthly publication of American Christian College (dba Summit Ministries), a nonprofit, educational, religious corporation operating under the laws of the states of Oklahoma and Colorado.

PO Box 207, Manitou Springs, Colorado 80829 | **Phone:** 866.786.6483 | **URL:** www.summit.org | **Email:** aaron@summit.org