

Newsletter of the ASA & CSCA

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Meet the New ASA/CSCA Fellows

The ASA/CSCA selects its Fellows from among our members who have been part of the organization for five years or more and demonstrate a commitment to Christian service at work, at home, and through participating in ASA/CSCA events and publications. Read the brief profiles below, and join us in congratulating them!



J. Scott Buchanan

After coming to faith in Jesus Christ in high school, Scott planned in college to become a minister. Partway through graduate studies at Gordon Conwell Seminary, he felt called to engineering instead. It took a second bachelor's degree and a PhD in chemical engineering to get him there, but for over thirty years, he has enjoyed doing applied research in catalysis at an

industrial laboratory. He has published fifteen journal articles and is an inventor on one hundred US patents.

Scott got drawn into the creation/evolution dialogue about ten years ago, after an acquaintance at church challenged him to use his scientific training to help promote sound teaching in this area. Since 2009 he has maintained the "Letters to Creationists" WordPress blog, in which he has written articles on geology, the fossil record, genetics, the history of creationism, natural theology, miracles, and economics, as well as articles on applied technology, such as alcohol stoves, scooters for commuting, and composting toilets.

Scott has been a member of ASA since 2010. He and his wife Grace have attended most of the ASA annual meetings since then. Meeting ASA member Paul Seely in person was a highlight of their first ASA meeting, since Paul's pioneering writings had been so helpful in understanding biblical passages dealing with creation. Scott presented a poster at the 2012 meeting, and wrote up summaries of the 2015 and 2016 meetings on his blog to publicize the quality of the ASA presentations.



Stephen Contakes

A member of the ASA since 2008, Stephen Contakes is an associate professor of chemistry at Westmont College where he teaches liberal arts chemistry, inorganic, analytical, and physical chemistry. His research with Westmont undergraduates involves the synthesis of molecular assemblies and light-driven electron transfer catalysts as well as efforts to explore the relationship between chemistry and religion.

Stephen has been active in the ASA's Southern California Chapter since 2009, helped co-organize its annual Winter Day Conferences since 2009, helped co-organize its annual Winter Day Conferences since 2009, and has contributed to *PSCF*, *God & Nature*, the *International Journal for the Philosophy of Chemistry*, and the *Zondervan Dictionary of Christianity and Science*.

A participant in the 2014–2015 Oxford-Templeton Bridging the Two Cultures program, Stephen is active in promoting the science-faith dialogue on Westmont's campus through the college's Science & Faith Club. He lives in Santa Barbara, CA, with his wife and three sons.



Michael Everest

Michael Everest was raised in a Christian home in which science and faith were always considered to be compatible. He pursued these dual interests majoring in chemistry at Wheaton College, and then continued to complete a PhD in physical chemistry at Stanford. While at Stanford, he continued the science-faith conversation through his participation in the

InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship.

He taught physical chemistry for ten years at George Fox University, where he was also the local arrangements chairperson for the 2008 ASA Annual Meeting. He has taught chemistry at Westmont College since 2011. In his research, he uses a laser and a cavity-enhanced absorption method to study molecules adsorbing to the interface between glass and a liquid solution.

His recent service to the ASA includes organizing the program of the 2016 ASA Annual Meeting at Azusa Pacific, and serving as chairperson for the Southern California chapter of the ASA.



Patrick Franklin

Patrick is an associate professor of theology and ethics at Providence Theological Seminary. He currently serves as vice president of the Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation (CSCA), as president and founder of the Winnipeg CSCA chapter, and as the book review editor for *PSCF*. He is the author of *Being Human, Being Church: The Significance*

of Theological Anthropology for Ecclesiology (Milton Keynes, UK: Paternoster, 2016), two articles and several book reviews in *PSCF*, as well as several articles in various peer-reviewed theological journals.

He also serves as a pastor at The Gathering Covenant Church in Steinbach, MB, and is active in networking with and reaching out to other pastors and churches in Manitoba, in order to facilitate conversations and events concerning the intersection of science and the Christian faith.



Seymour (Sy) Garte

Sy Garte, PhD biochemistry, has been a tenured professor at three major universities, division director at the Center for Scientific Review of NIH, and interim vice president for research at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He is currently Visiting Professor at Rutgers University. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers and four books.

His blog is thebookofworks.com.

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Sy serves as vice president for the Washington, DC, metro chapter of the ASA, was a member of the Board of Advisors of the John Templeton Foundation, and has consulted and blogged for the BioLogos Foundation. He has contributed to the ASA publications, *Perspectives in Science and Christian Faith and God and Nature*, and presented at ASA conferences.

Raised in an atheist household, Sy became a Christian later in life, and is now the lay leader of his United Methodist Church in Rockville, Maryland.

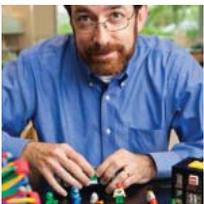


Dominic Halsmer

Dominic Michael Halsmer is a professor of engineering, and former dean of the College of Science and Engineering at Oral Roberts University (ORU) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His graduate education includes a MS in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from Purdue University, a PhD in mechanical engineering from UCLA, and a MA in biblical

literature from ORU. He also received the 2015 Scholar of the Year Award from ORU.

His current research involves contributions from the field of engineering to the science and faith conversation. He and his wife, Kate, have four children—Nicholas, Christina, Mary Kate, and Josie. Dominic and Kate reside in Jenks, Oklahoma, where, in his spare time, he enjoys trail running, disc golf, ultimate Frisbee, sand volleyball, cross-fit, basketball, gardening, salsa-making, chess, and reading up on science and faith issues.



Benjamin McFarland

Ben McFarland teaches biochemistry and researches protein structure and function at Seattle Pacific University (SPU). The McFarland research group redesigns proteins, both in biochemistry laboratory courses and through independent summer research. Ben is interested in how chemistry organizes other areas, such as geology and biology. This interest

resulted in his 2009 SPU Weter Award lecture titled “The Chemical Constraints on Creation” and his 2016 book titled *A World from Dust: How the Periodic Table Shaped Life*. These works, composed for different audiences, both describe how chemistry gave order to mineral and biological evolution, making life more predictable.

Ben joined the ASA more than a decade ago, and is also a member of the BioLogos Voices speaker’s bureau, the Protein Society, and the American Chemical Society. Ben worships, teaches, and sings in the choir at Bethany Community Church in Seattle (in fact, he married the choir accompanist 18 years ago).



Clarence Menninga

Clarence Menninga is Professor of Geology, Emeritus at Calvin College. He did his undergraduate study at Calvin College, earned the MAT in science and math at Western Michigan University, and the PhD in chemistry at Purdue University. He worked as analytical chemist at the Maytag Company, 1950–1956; taught chemistry at Grand Rapids Christian

High School, 1956–1961; worked as radiochemist at Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, Livermore, 1965–1967; then pursued further study in geology, and accepted the challenge and opportunity to initiate the geology program at Calvin College in 1967.

Clarence became a member of ASA in 1968, and has presented papers at ASA annual meetings, and has published in *PCSF*. He has presented numerous talks on science and Christian faith to church and teacher groups. He is co-author of *Science Held Hostage* and author of *If Truth Be Known*. Clarence and his wife Irene live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Annabelle Pratt

I was introduced to the ASA during a meeting of the Graduate Christian Fellowship at Oregon State University where I was pursuing my PhD in electrical engineering. I immediately joined and have appreciated the thought-provoking articles in *PCSF* since then. I moved to Colorado and started my professional career, joined the Rocky Mountain chapter, and became active on its board.

After five years working at a power conversion equipment manufacturer, my husband and I returned to Oregon where I served as a research engineer at a multinational technology company for nine years. During these years, I joined the fledgling Northwest chapter of the ASA.

Our family returned to Colorado in 2014 in order for me to join the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, where I have found satisfaction and meaning in my work as part of a collaborative team that is making a difference by enabling our society to use more renewable resources to supply our energy needs. I was delighted to be invited to be a plenary speaker at the 2017 ASA annual meeting in Colorado, and to engage in conversation with other speakers and attendees on the topic of our electric grid and the need to modernize it. I look forward to supporting the mission of the ASA in my role as an ASA Fellow.



Sara Sybesma Tolsma

Sara Sybesma Tolsma’s research projects are committed to both promoting scientific advances and mentoring undergraduates as scientists. After earning a PhD in microbiology/immunology/virology from Northwestern University, she chose to join the Northwestern College (Iowa) faculty in 1995, in part, because the college encourages the integration of science

and faith as scholarship. In addition to laboratory research in cell biology and genetics, she serves as a subject book review editor for *PCSF*, has published a number of essays in *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, which she co-edits, and is working on a book entitled *Incarnation, Evolution, and Youth Ministry* with Jason Lief for Fortress Press.

She is actively involved in the exploration of science and faith in her local church and her denomination (Reformed Church in America). The 2015 recipient of Northwestern College’s annual Teaching Excellence Award, she was appointed to the Northwestern College Endowed Professorship in 2016.



E. Janet Warren

E. Janet Warren is currently president of the Canadian Scientific Christian Affiliation. This has been a fairly rapid trajectory, having only discovered ASA six years ago. After attending her first conference, Janet felt an immediate affinity for the group of like-minded scientists and Christians. Janet is bi-vocational: she works part-time as a family physician, with a special interest in mental-health care and psychotherapy, and part-time as an independent scholar in theology.

She received her MD from the University of Toronto in 1989, and her PhD from the University of Birmingham in 2012. Janet’s interest in the science-faith dialogue was stimulated initially through reading John Polkinghorne’s work during her theology studies.

She has published two books, both related to her dissertation on understanding evil, has presented at both ASA meetings and local chapter meetings, and has published articles in both *PCSF* and *God and Nature*. Janet looks forward to continuing work on the integration of science and faith.



Director's Corner

Executive Director Leslie Wickman

Dear friends,

The fact that fall is here and the leaves are changing (yet as I wrote this in October we were still having 100-degree-Fahrenheit-plus days in southern California!) got me thinking about how fast time seems to be moving these days, so please enjoy a few “timely” quotes courtesy of Google:

We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right. ~ *Nelson Mandela*

The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is. ~ *C.S. Lewis*

You may delay, but time will not. ~ *Benjamin Franklin*

As if you could kill time without injuring eternity. ~ *Henry David Thoreau*

Waste your money and you're only out of money, but waste your time and you've lost a part of your life. ~ *Michael LeBoeuf*

No matter how much time you've wasted in the past, you still have an entire tomorrow. ~ *Denis Waitley*

The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.
~ *Abraham Lincoln*

Everything happens to everybody sooner or later if there is time enough.
~ *George Bernard Shaw*

How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon? ~ *Dr. Seuss*

Quite a range of thoughts, from the sublime to the silly! In any case, time does seem to fly by, and the holiday season is rapidly approaching, with all the celebrations and travel that comes with it.

Speaking of travel, I had a memorable trip to the Templeton-funded “Experimental Tests of Quantum Reality” workshop at St. Anne’s College in Oxford this fall, where workshop organizer Andrew Briggs had asked me to give an overview of the Science and Faith dialogue in the United States. Next, I’ll be heading to Boston in mid-December for some pre-Christmas business and meetings with local members and chapters in New England.

In September, Vicki and I had some great meetings with local members in Tennessee while we were there for the Religious News Association’s conference. We visited members at both Belmont and Union Universities, and we’re looking forward to seeing what’s ahead as the Nashville chapter expands to cover more of the state.

Please let us know if you get inspired to start something local in your own community! With that in mind, our student membership drive is in full swing, and is being extended through the end of December. We are more than halfway to our goal of 200 new student members, with incentives offered for chapters registering 10 or more new members. If you have been thinking about starting a local or campus chapter, this is a great opportunity to jump start that process!

That’s it for now; enjoy the newsletter, and I hope to see you somewhere, sometime soon!

Happy Thanksgiving,
Leslie

Boston Chapter Event: *Freedom All the Way Up* with Chris Barrigar

By Kristen Broughton

The ASA Boston Chapter met last month at Gordon College and at MIT to hear Chris Barrigar discuss a chapter of his new book *Freedom All The Way Up: God and the Meaning of Life in a Scientific Age*. Chris joined us from Montréal, Canada, where is a pastor and a CSCA member. He also has a PhD in philosophy and religious studies.

His new book reviews four intertwined elements that make up the meaning of life: self-worth, purpose, identity, and hope. He observes that for most of Western history, belief in God has

permeated each of these areas, but more recently, the philosophy of materialism (or naturalism) has increasingly evicted God from Western thought, causing us to feel as if we are left on our own to construct meaning of our lives.

In contrast, Barrigar introduces his idea of the agape/probability account of God's design for the universe. He argues that the universe does have purpose—God's purpose—which is to provide the space and conditions by which the existence of agape-capable beings in agape-loving relationships with God and with others

are possible. He counters that the universe is actually a great “freedom system” designed by God with freedom built in “all the way up”—from the Big Bang to big brains to free will.

Following his lecture, ASA Gordon College student members and local members had a chance to ask questions and engage Barrigar on his topic. For those who were not able to attend and want to learn more, you can purchase Chris's book on Amazon or listen to his talk at www2.asa3.org/movies/BASA2017Barrigar.mp4.



ASA Ohio Chapter Holds Inaugural Meeting

By David Winyard

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, the Ohio Chapter of the ASA held its inaugural meeting at Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU). As part of the ASA's push to expand local participation, Leslie and Vicki met with a group of Ohio ASA members at MVNU in June to discuss the possibility of establishing an Ohio chapter. Three members agreed to serve as officers, and the chapter was officially launched in July. Working with the ASA headquarters, the chapter invited ASA members from Ohio and surrounding states to its inaugural meeting. On a beautiful fall day, eleven people attended the meeting, which began with prayer and the singing of *Fairest Lord Jesus*.



As they developed the Ohio chapter, its officers gave careful thought to what the local organization could accomplish. Those thoughts were shared with the inaugural meeting participants and discussed in view of the ASA's commitments: the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, mainstream science, and respectful dialogue and fellowship with like-minded Christians. Topics covered the challenges of connecting with students, campus organizations, and churches, and of how to cultivate discussions of science and faith in today's society. The group resolved to focus on fellowship and outreach, with a specific goal of organizing two meetings in 2018.

The group enjoyed lunch together, and then gathered to hear biologist Joel Duff from Akron University talk about “Science and Faith: An Academic and Personal Journey.” Joel's experiences resonated with several other meeting participants, and the group adjourned feeling encouraged by the Lord's faithfulness to Christians working in the sciences.



CSCA Happenings

by Herman Proper and Mark McEwan

The Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation (CSCA), the Canadian affiliate of the ASA, held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on September 15, 2017, in Toronto, and then attended the

dialogue “Is God a Figment of Our Imagination? On Certainty, Skepticism, and the Limits of Proof” between Alister McGrath and Michael Shermer.

The AGM featured reports from President Janet Warren and Executive Director Don McNally. We also welcomed Vicki Best, the Director of Operations & Development of the ASA. Mark McEwan reported on the Local Chapters Project funded by a grant from Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc. This work increased the number of CSCA chapters and members from Halifax on the east coast to Vancouver on the west coast—truly a national presence!—and also the number of chapter events. The CSCA also sponsors fifteen local scholarships to help Canadian students attend conferences on science and religion. We look forward to our 2018 conference “From Sea to Sea... to Sky! Science and Christianity” in British Columbia. For details, visit www.csc.ca/may2018. The call for abstracts can be found at <http://csc.ca/abstracts-2018/>.

The dialogue between McGrath, an atheist turned Christian, and Shermer, a theist turned atheist, was cosponsored by CSCA and moderated by Karen Stiller, a senior editor with *Faith Today*. It drew a large live audience and more online via YouTube.

This dialogue, said McGrath, addresses a post-truth world: “We believe what we want to believe, and take offense when our imagined certainties are challenged.” Both Christians and non-Christians risk believing what we would like to be true and then providing a *post hoc* rationale for our views. Some in the New Atheism demand proof of the existence of God, yet they fail to make the same demand of themselves—to prove that their own assumed starting point is valid. We *all* must begin with a faith that we cannot “prove” so that “theism and atheism are ultimately both fiduciary judgments that lie beyond formal proof.” This does not mean we become skeptics or are free to believe whatever we like; we must still give reasons for what we think or believe. We will never find answers to our deepest questions that give “total certainty and absolute clarity.” In the end, we cannot live on the basis of what we can *prove*; we need to live on the basis of what we *trust*. McGrath finds this in the Christian faith “with its rich appeal to the heart, mind, and emotions, and its deep commitment to intellectual and cultural engagement.”

Shermer argued that we cannot prove there is no god because one cannot prove a negative. However, science uses converging evidence for its propositions, and they have so much evidence that it would be unreasonable not to believe them. Religion is no more than an assertion without evidence and can therefore be dismissed. Thus, he beseeched us “to withhold judgment on the god question and be a skeptic.” Curiously, he also made a point of answering the evening’s question: “Yes, God is a figment of our imagination.” How he could answer this in the affirmative, while still suspending judgment on the matter, he did not venture to say.



The dialogue is the kind of intellectual conversation that Christians can have with non-Christians in a manner that is reasonable and respectful. The reader can view the whole dialogue (about two hours long) at www.csc.ca/youtube.

You can also read McGrath’s opening statement (edited) at www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2017/09/25/4739706.htm.

Heading into the final year of our 3-year Local Chapters Project, CSCA is happy to announce that 2017 has been our most productive year to date. In 2016, we held about 40 local chapter events across Canada, but in 2017, we are on track to hold 60! Our grant proposed holding 54 events during 2016–2018, so we will be very pleased to enter 2018 with 100 events already completed.

We are also excited to see “cross-pollination” between CSCA and ASA during the recent visit of CSCA Montréal’s Chris Barrigar to ASA’s local chapter in Boston. Speaking on his recent book, *Freedom All the Way Up* (Friesen, 2017), Chris visited five of our eastern CSCA chapters this summer; he will soon visit Edmonton and Vancouver as well. Also touring the country is CSCA Vancouver’s Dennis Venema, who is speaking on his recent book, co-authored with Scot McKnight, *Adam and the Genome* (Baker, 2017). Dennis will have spoken in nine of our eleven chapters by the end of this year; CSCA Past President Arnold Sikkema still holds the record of visiting all our chapters for his “Quantum Physics and Christianity” talk, which is now viewable (along with a growing number of other lectures) on our YouTube channel (www.csc.ca/youtube).



ASA Friend in Glory — Virginia Hearn

By Vicki Best

It was with deep sadness but not surprise that I learned of Ginny Hearn’s passing on August 19, 2017, just four months after Walt’s death. Ginny was a devoted wife and help mate to her husband, ASA stalwart Walt Hearn, for over 51 years. I had the privilege of visiting them in their beloved home, the Troll House in Berkley, CA. They welcomed me on several occasions as if I had

been a close friend for many years. Christine Hearn, Walt’s daughter, told me that Ginny had really died of a broken heart as she was forlorn after Walt’s passing in April.

Ginny was a co-founder of the Bay Area chapter of the Evangelical Women’s Caucus (1975), a founding board member of New College Berkeley (1977), and the copy editor of Radix magazine for decades (beginning in 1973). For many years, Ginny served New College Berkeley as Adjunct Professor of Communications and taught more than eighty “Journal-Keeping Workshops.” Her books include *What They Did Right: Reflections on Parents by Their Children* (1974), *Our Struggle to Serve: The Stories of 15 Evangelical Women* (1979), and *Just as*

I Am: Journal-Keeping for Spiritual Growth (1994).

Ginny’s strong faith, vigilant attention to clarity of thought and words, and her pioneering activism as a biblical feminist were gifts to the community of New College Berkeley and to the larger church. Her faith and her commitment to the truth of the Gospel were, indeed, never surrendered.

What I fondly remember is Ginny’s warmth, her devotion, her encouragement, and her big heart. I last saw her in April when I had the privilege of attending Walt’s memorial service at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley.

ASA New Members July – September 2017

Please join us in welcoming these new members!

Neal Adam –Phoenix, AZ
Geoff Akers –Point Lookout, MO
Emily Branch –Phoenix, AZ
Peter Brissette –Broomfield, CO
Sirena Brown –Kansas, KS
Mike Brownutt –Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong
Keith Cobell, Jr –Pleasanton, CA
Jordan Craig –Lawrence, KS
Daryl Culp –Toronto, ON
Ken Dill –Central, SC
Steve Dilley –Austin, TX
Colin Dowd –Pembroke, MA
Jan Dudt –Grove City, PA
Robert Duff –Akron, OH
J. Luke Engeriser –Fairhope, AL
Thomas Everest –Santa Barbara, CA
Stephen Fahnstock –Wilmington, DE
Nahanni Freeman –Black Hawk, CO
Nathan Gill –Frederick, MD
Thomas Glenn –Lakewood, CO

Kaytlynn Godwin –Wenham, MA
Lister Guy –Toronto, ON
David Haitel –Edmonton, AB
William Hastings –Vancouver, BC
Scott Hawley –Nashville, TN
Daniel Heywood –Menlo Park, CA
Binyang Hou –Mount Vernon, OH
Yifei Hu –Chicago, IL
Amy Johnson –Rogers, MN
Lura Joseph –Mahomet, IL
Diethelm Kanjahn –Macleod, Australia
Christian Kunis –Cumberland, RI
Monique Lieuwen –Abbotsford, BC
Lydia Manikonda –Tempe, AZ
Caleb Mazzei –Tulsa, OK
Nicholas Menzies –Wagga Wagga, Australia
Joshua Midthun –Elk Grove, CA
Nathan Miller –Sioux Center, IA

Jessika Miller –Goose Creek, SC
Praise Olukilede –Chicago, IL
Kimble Osteros –Evergreen, CO
Marlys Phillips –Sydney, Australia
Rebecca Pierce –College Park, MD
Philip Riegert –Monument, CO
Peter Sawtell –Denver, CO
Joel Schneider –Redwood City, CA
Upasama Senapathi –Calgary, AB
Lauren Sepp –Golden, CO
Nicolas Sever –Nipomo, CA
Rishav Shrestha –Tulsa, OK
Mehrnaz Siavoshi –Calabasas, CA
Savanna Smith –Colorado Springs, CO
Feifei Song –Tampa, FL
Jade Stern –Weymouth, MA
Philip Tan –Charlottesville, VA
Michael Thompson –Conyers, GA
Ken Totushek –Barrington, RI

ASA 2018 Annual Meeting Call for Abstracts

Call for abstracts deadline is February 15, 2018.

ASA is on the move! We had our largest ever conference last summer at Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO, and we expect just as great a conference at ASA 2018 at Gordon College in Wenham, MA, July 27–30. Since we will be in Boston, we want to explore the theme of bioethics and biotechnology. Check out the ASA website for more details on submitting an abstract.

Nashville Event

by Leslie Wickman

Vicki and Leslie travelled to Nashville the weekend of September 8 through 11 for the Religious News Association conference, as well as a couple of gatherings with local ASA members in the area. We made some good contacts at the RNA conference with a variety of media outlets and other diverse organizations, but the highlights of the trip really centered on our meetings with ASA members at Belmont and Union Universities, which were graciously organized by Bryce Sullivan, Steve Murphree, Todd Lake, Hal Poe and Jimmy Davis. In particular, Bryce hosted a lovely dinner gathering of about 20 ASA members at Belmont. This included a variety of folks from Vanderbilt University, Trevecca Nazarene University, Lipscomb University and Western Kentucky University. We're eagerly anticipating great things as the Nashville chapter expands to include a larger territory within Tennessee.



The Newsletter of the ASA and CSCA is published quarterly for its membership by the American Scientific Affiliation.

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ASA 2018 – 73rd Annual Meeting



BIOETHICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

July 27–30, 2018

Gordon College in Wenham, MA

Genesis 1:28, NIV – God blessed them and said to them,
“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.
Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over
every living creature that moves on the ground.”



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