



ZACHARIAS INSTITUTE

CONFERENCE ROOM A



THE ZACHARIAS INSTITUTE

Believers need to learn how to live, defend, and share their Christian faith. We need to learn how to take the questions of skeptics very seriously and how to persuasively invite people to Christ. And we need to learn how to do this with love and confidence in the increasingly hostile environment in which we find ourselves.



HOW DO WE DEAL with today's cultural shifts without compromising our convictions? How do we respond to the challenge of so many religious worldviews, each claiming to be the answer? How do we respond to a scientism that dismisses God as archaic? How do we know the Bible is true? How do we commend the goodness of God in a world full of evil and suffering? We cannot set a tepid Christianity beside such scorching questions. How then do we live out the transformative power of the gospel?

The Zacharias Institute will train and equip all who desire to effectively share the gospel of Jesus Christ while also answering the common objections to Christianity with respect and gentleness. Recently RZIM has seen unprecedented numbers of people coming to Christ all around the globe. At the Zacharias Institute, Christians will be equipped to reach their friends and family for Christ. Pastors, youth leaders, and parachurch leaders will be equipped to reach our schools and universities for Christ. Business leaders will be equipped to reach their colleagues and workplaces for Christ. Emerging evangelists will be identified, trained, and sent out to proclaim Christ fearlessly and winsomely.

Those attending the Zacharias Institute will have access to world-class training in evangelism and apologetics. The global RZIM team of nearly fifty apologists—including the faculty of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics—are some of the finest teachers and practitioners of evangelism in the world today. Onsite and broadcast lectures will build one's confidence to persuasively articulate the gospel and address objections to the Christian faith. Specialized training seminars and workshops in business, government, science, academia, and the arts will take advantage of the full range of RZIM's global expertise.

The training of young people before heading to university will be a major new thrust of the Zacharias Institute. Graduating high school seniors must be prepared to respond with confidence to the religious diversity, atheism, scientism, and moral relativism that will greet them in their freshman year. We absolutely cannot continue to see seventy percent of our young people abandon their faith during their years at university.

The Zacharias Institute will also provide a safe place for those in ministry to grapple with and understand the issues confronting the church and challenging the credibility of the gospel. Sabbaticals and retreats will provide time for reflection, study, and prayer while interacting with scholars-in-residence. All guests will have unlimited access to a world-class apologetics library donated in part by Ravi Zacharias.

RZIM's long established Summer Institute and weekend conferences like "Understanding and Answering Islam" will be hosted at the Zacharias Institute. Additional thematic conferences are planned as well, and state-of-the-art technology and broadcasting capabilities will make it possible for more people to be reached for Christ.

Dr. Vince Vitale has been appointed to head the Zacharias Institute. This is an outstanding appointment and a cornerstone to the Institute's promising success. Dr. Vitale was educated at Princeton and Oxford, and has taught on the Faculties of both institutions. He also has played an instrumental role in training emerging global evangelists as Team Director of RZIM's Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. Author, teacher, and practicing evangelist, Dr. Vitale brings tremendous experience and energy to lead the Zacharias Institute.

The Zacharias Institute will greatly increase Ravi and the team's effectiveness throughout the world, dramatically expanding RZIM's reach and overcoming the growing darkness of our age with the eternal light of Christ.