



*A nonprofit effort to convince
mankind that God is real and
that the Bible is His Word.*

*Home Page: <http://www.doesgodexist.org>
dandydesigns.org; whypain.org; doesgodexist.tv*

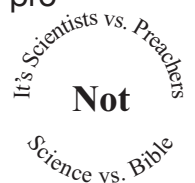
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DOES GOD EXIST? YEAR END REPORT FOR 2012

The purpose of this report is to provide anyone interested in the **Does God Exist?** ministry with an accounting for the calendar year of 2012. What we hope to do in this report is to explain what was done, some of the results that we have seen, what mon-
eys were received and how the moneys were used, and what is planned for 2013.

HISTORY: John Clayton was an atheist, raised by parents who did not believe in God, and became active in atheist causes as a young man. He majored in science in his high school and college years, and his training and defense of atheism caused him to doubt the validity of his atheist training. In his junior year of college he became a Christian. He married Phyllis Galyan in 1959 and the couple moved to South Bend, Indiana, where John taught science at Riley High School until his retirement in 2000. The couple got involved in the Donmoyer Avenue Church of Christ where they worked with the youth program. In the late 1960s John began speaking at youth rallies and in 1968 made his first lecture series on apologetics, drawing on his own experience as a science teacher and former atheist. With Phyllis managing the logistics of the program, some 400 presentations a year were made through the remainder of the 20th century at town meetings, university programs, and churches throughout the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, and Australia. Correspondence courses, books, filmstrips, 16 mm films, VHS videos and DVDs were added as the technology and resources became available. In 1972 Thelma Johnson was hired as a secretary to manage some of the logistics and in 1978 Karl Marcussen was hired as a manager of the mailing, technology, and printing aspects of the program. Thelma left us due to health issues and Phyllis passed away in May of 2008. Linda Glover was hired part time, and Roland Earnst was hired full time to take over some of the work Phyllis was doing and to open an evangelistic effort on the web. John married Cynthia Ann Gift in June of 2009 and she has worked with the program since their marriage.

LECTURESHIPS IN 2012. The main thrust of this ministry has been to reach the lost. We have always tried to keep our ministry involved in evangelism and most of our programs have been on neutral ground, not in churches. There has been a general movement in churches toward serving their own and using their resources to take care of needs in their communities, not in cold evangelism. We do not charge anything for lectureships, and I have never had a salary from this ministry, but doing a neutral ground lectureship that is highly advertised in a good neutral location with extensive follow up is expensive. Fewer congregations are interested in using their resources for the kind of evangelistic effort we do, and evangelism on college campuses has nearly come to a halt in the United States. I am sure my age has become an issue with some, and since I will be 75 this year there is a general movement toward younger men which I encourage. We will mention later in this report the results of our training others to do this work, and we have a number of young men and women who are doing public outreach programs.



In 2012 we did lectureship programs in Millersburg, Ind.; Parkersburg, W.Va.; Little Rock, Ark.; Orlando, Fla.; Sedona, Ariz.; Rochester, Ind.; Farmington, N.Mex.; Holmdel, N. J.; Holly Hill, Fla.; Lafayette, La; and Dowagiac, Mich.; where we worship when we are not traveling. In addition we did a summer seminar in the Canyonlands area to be mentioned later, adding up to 195 presentations in 2012. The programs in Parkersburg and Orlando were part of a regional workshop. In Parkersburg we were with Ohio Valley University where we taught classes and had a booth to work with people in helping them find answers to apologetic issues in evangelism. Much of that workshop was on various aspects of apologetics, and we are thrilled at the progress being made by the brethren under the leadership of Harold Shank who we have worked with for many years. In Orlando we were privileged to be with the Spiritual Growth Workshop where we had several classes and an open-ended question/answer session each evening. This is a huge workshop and we had a booth at this program as well. All in all, our lectureship work has decreased allowing us to spend more time expanding our presence and outreach on the web and on updating and expanding media materials.

SUMMER SEMINAR. The apostle Paul instructed Timothy to “commit to faithful men who shall be able to teach others ...” (2 Timothy 2:2). Over the years we have had a “Summer Seminar” which is designed to do just that. Sometimes we have had an in-depth classroom type program that crammed 50 hours of classroom instruction involving content and methods into a five-day session. What seems to be a more effective method has been a field trip program which we have been doing for many years in the Canyonlands area of the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion canyons, Petrified Forest, Meteor Crater, and Lake Powell. Our classroom has been a 52-passenger bus that journeyed between these places and we lectured on the bus. Alan Doty of Sedona, Ariz., has been our coworker in this project and this year we had 46 people who went on the trip. These folks pay their own way, so there is no cost to the program, and Mark Story, a Christian in the Denver area, of Queenslander Tours has helped us with the logistics along with Nathan Collins.

You can do a lot of teaching with this kind of environment, and we have some graduates who are doing some great things. Richard DiTullio of Buffalo, N.Y., spent six weeks in Russia this past summer presenting apologetics material, and Richard has been with us in both types of seminars we do. John Oakes of San Diego and Douglas Jacoby of Atlanta have far outstripped us in education and evangelistic thrust doing full-time work all over the globe. Both have multiple PhDs and Douglas has been in a series of debates with Michael Shermer who is probably the most effective atheist in the United States. In addition to these very visible apologetic experts who we have been privileged to work with, we have a large number of people who are working in their local congregations and communities with material they have gotten from us in our summer seminars. I am greatly encouraged by what God has done with our training efforts along these lines.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE WORK IN 2012. When we moved to South Bend in 1959, the congregation had a jail ministry going and there were a few Bible correspondence course lessons being used. We got involved in this work and in 1966 we wrote a three-lesson apologetics course to go with the program that was in operation. This was expanded to 13 lessons so it could be used in a Bible school set up, and then a second course was added in 1970. When we set up our website, our advanced course was put on the web. In 2012 we had 3,482 students actively sending in apologetics

course lessons by U.S. mail and roughly another hundred taking the electronic course. We have many people who do the electronic course, but do not send in the answer sheets, and we will talk about that later in this report. John Clayton grades all of these lessons.

We want students to be able to go on and study the Bible and personally learn what they need to do to be saved; so we lead students to eight additional Bible studies which are handled by other Christians in our geographic area who are volunteers. Cindy Odiorne has taken over the leadership of this work with the volunteers grading these lessons, sending cards, and handling follow up. In 2012 we had 715 new students enrolled in basic Bible studies and 508 are currently active. There have been 20 baptisms from these course studies that we know of in 2012. We help fund the cost of printing and mailing these lessons. We also fund our courses in India which are translated and handled by Samuel Raj who works under the eldership of the Twin Cities, Wash., church. Samuel has 519 students who completed the course in India this year and at last report had baptized 62 people. We met with Buck Griffith, Don Umphrey, and James Curry in November to expand the way we handle the follow-up of prisoners. We are especially hopeful that a drug rehab program can grow out of our meeting with these great Christian men in the Dallas and Corpus Christi area.

THE BIMONTHLY JOURNAL. In 2012 we printed 12,000 copies of our bimonthly journal every other month which would mean roughly 70,000 copies. In addition to that, we have the bimonthly on our doesgodexist.org website, and in today's electronic world many readers prefer to read it on a electronic device. This is a 32-page four-color journal that contains articles, book reviews, news items, and new evidence of interest in apologetics. It is sent free to anyone who requests it. We also send some 60 copies of the journal on CD or cassette to visually-impaired folks.

MAIL AND E-MAIL. The electronic opportunities offered by the web are incredible. I spend five hours a day 24/7 on the average communicating with people all over the world about issues related to the existence of God and the credibility of the Christian system as taught by the Bible. We still do a few "snail mail" letters (via U.S. mail) every day, but most of our communication is by e-mail. My volume of e-mails in 2012 seems to be about 46,000 or about 130 e-mails a day. A majority of these are handled rather quickly, but some are long discussions about critical issues. I am thrilled to still be able to personally discuss issues with young people in many different cultures scattered all over the globe about why they believe what they believe. How God uses all of this I may never know, but we do see wonderful things happen from time to time. My main support in this area of work is Roland Earnst who handles our websites outside of the doesgodexist.org site that Karl Marcussen manages. Roland devotes full time to preparing the bimonthly for printing (Karl does some final editing, prints, and mails it), doing our video work, and managing our other five websites. I have asked him to tell you about that work in 2012.

REPORT ON THE DOES GOD EXIST? MINISTRY AREAS HANDLED BY ROLAND EARNST DURING 2012

The internet continues to be an important way for **Does God Exist?** to reach a wide variety of people around the world. Our videos on YouTube.com are viewed 6,000 times a month. An interesting new trend is that 17 percent of the views are on smart-phones and other mobile

devices. That is a way to reach young people wherever they are. As 2013 begins we will be putting new videos on YouTube as we take segments from our newly produced video series. The new videos were recorded in high-definition which gives us the opportunity to take advantage of the new high-definition capabilities of the internet's video hosting sites and still makes the videos playable on the small screens of phones and tablets. Our videos are also on the video-hosting site Vimeo.com. We are in the process of uploading our new video series to that site where they will be complete and in high-definition. Our old videos on Vimeo have been viewed almost 60,000 times in 147 different countries all over the world. We also offer free downloads of our videos on PVPowerStore.com where they have been downloaded more than 2,800 times during 2012. Although the video download requests have been mostly from the United States, requests have also come from a number of other countries including Moslem countries where Christian literature cannot easily reach—but the internet can.

Karl Marcussen is the webmaster for our oldest website—DoesGodExist.org. That site has been on the web for more than 17 years and continues to be in the top one-half-of-one percent of all websites worldwide according to Alexa.com. According to Alexa the largest share of visitors to that site are in the age group of 18 to 24, which means we are reaching young people who are looking for answers about God. Seventy-one percent of the visits to this website are from inside the United States, which means that 29 percent are from other countries. This site allows users to read our bimonthly journal online and to read other articles showing evidence for God.

Roland Earnst is webmaster of the other websites. Our DandyDesigns.org website based on the “Dandy Designs” feature in our bimonthly journal had 50,000 visitors during last year. DoesGodExist.tv is the site which allows people to get access to John Clayton's videos and other materials. Many of the visitors to this site used the links available to download the videos to their own computers free of charge. As reported above, more than 2,800 videos were downloaded in this way. Our WhyPain.org website addresses the perennial question of why an omnipotent and loving God would allow pain and suffering in this life. This is a question many people are facing as in 2012 there were 2,000 unique visitors to this website with half of them returning for another visit. ScienceTerrific.com features interactive science lessons for kids with emphasis on God as Creator. It had 6,000 visitors with most of them returning again.

At the end of 2012 we completed a new series of 32 videos to replace the 28-video series which we have had available on DVDs and on the internet for several years. This new series contains updated information and features new and exciting graphics and is available in high-definition. As 2013 begins, this new series is being uploaded to the web and will soon be available for free viewing or download.

We look forward to 2013 with new updates to all of our websites encouraging increased traffic. The new video series will be featured on the websites and is now available on DVDs. We will continue to publish the bimonthly journal in which John Clayton writes a majority of the articles, Roland Earnst edits the publication, and Karl Marcussen puts it in final form for printing and then mails it to over 10,000 homes. Karl also puts it on the DoesGodExist.org website where many more people can read and/or download it. It is also available in audio form for the vision impaired.

In a day when there is a great amount of atheist material available on the web, we want to continue sending out the message that there is a God who cares about each person and wants us to have a personal relationship with him. We are able to do that because of your prayerful support.

Thank you, Roland Earnst

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. When Phyllis Clayton, Edith Lawson (Phyllis's mom), and Connie Parsons (John's Aunt) passed away, they left money to the ministry. This money is in a CD, and the revenue from it is used to fund scholarships for young people who

have potential in apologetics and evangelism. We did not have a large number of applicants in 2012, but did award a \$1,000 scholarship to Jeremy Jinkerson of Memphis, Tenn. No donated money is used for this project. We have heavy participation in this scholarship program from prisoners in the United States, and from Christians in Africa. They do not have the resources that are available to American kids, so their essays are usually not very competitive. As a result of that, we have funded a number of “minischolarships” in which we have paid for course work for prisoners or to African schools for students there. We covered \$1,200 of course expense in 2012 for this kind of participant. Again, that is not donated money that is being used, but is funded by the Clayton family.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2012. I am pleased to be able to report that we finished 2012 in the black. We have two funds that we use to manage the finances made available to us. One is a clearance account into which money is placed that has been given us for materials or for lectureship expenses. Sometimes we are given money beyond our expenses by congregations doing a lectureship or workshop, and that money goes into the clearance account. No donated money comes into this account. It pays for the replacement of materials, lectureship expenses, and special projects like our scholarship program and our summer seminar. The other fund is the one into which all donated money is placed and which paid the following amounts for the following expenses in 2012:

Postage	\$31,264.98	Rent	\$3,800.00
Printing	\$30,424.40	Office Supplies	\$127.29
Repair, Maintenance	\$2,400.00	Payroll Taxes	\$7,444.52
Insurance	\$9,157.91	New Equipment	\$3,272.68
Car Expense	\$4,800.00	Payroll	\$97,268.92
Computer Expenses	\$1,303.32	Utilities	\$2,640.00
Missions	\$14,100.53	Miscellaneous	\$698.64
Total Expenses	\$208,703.19	Total Income	\$166,754.42

At the end of 2011 we transferred some extra money from our clearance fund to this fund so we started 2012 with a zero balance. We are doing the same thing this year transferring \$41,948.77 from our clearance fund so our end of the year balance is zero.

EXPLANATIONS:

Postage — \$24,120.08 was for the mailing of the bimonthly. The rest is for our correspondence course work and a small amount for single letters and packages.

Rent — Office space and warehouse storage

Printing — \$29,141.35 of it is for the bimonthly. Books, booklets and courses are paid from our clearance fund, not from donated money.

Missions — Follow-up courses to our apologetic courses and prison work was \$4,800.00. India work was \$500.00. Blind ministry work was \$8,800.53.

If you have any questions about finances, please do not hesitate to write us and ask. We try to make every penny count, but we also want to make sure that there is no question about how moneys were used.

NEW MATERIALS AND PLANS FOR 2012-2013: Our major project for 2012 was the redoing of our DVD series. It was a huge project that involved massive amounts of time and work for both myself and Roland Earnst. We updated the material we had in the old series, added four more programs, and re-recorded every program except the “Why I Left Atheism” autobiography. The final editing and duplicating of that effort was completed between Christmas Day and New Years Day. We have also rewritten the teacher’s guide for the video series and have put it in a 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 format. We have used more animation and colorful graphics, and have included material on the New Atheism, Quantum Mechanics, The Higgs Boson and a variety of new issues which we hope will make the series more useful to more people.

We continue to update our current courses and are working with Lindsey Garmon and Steve Williams to add new and stronger courses to our teaching materials. Marion Owens who has been our main English guru (he is an English teacher) has written the story of his faith journey from Christian teenager to agnostic to strong Christian, and we have reproduced that story as well. We have redone our PowerPoint series and continue to update and add lessons as new challenges from atheists come about. Our work with Don Umphrey and Buck Griffith is being expanded to try to help more men and women who are in prison because of drug use, and we are still exploring how that can be done.

In February we are doing a seminar in the Galapagos Islands and with Joshua Marcum and the church in Quito, Equator. There will be 17 of us on the ship and this will be an exploratory effort to see how work in Darwin’s primary research area can be used to help people with faith issues. We do not have a summer seminar scheduled at this time.

PERSONAL: The year 2012 was a wonderful year for us personally. Both Cynthia and I enjoyed excellent health and we had some encouraging results in our travels and our ministry. We continue to work with the Dowagiac Church of Christ where I teach and preach whenever I am home, and Cynthia is active in a variety of activities in the local work of the Lord. This is a wonderful group of Christians who encourage and support us emotionally and spiritually. When I get to the end of a year and look back at all that has been done, and how God has blessed our feeble efforts, I am astounded and amazed. I have very little income as a retired school teacher, so this ministry would have come to a grinding halt long ago if it were not for the generous and sacrificial support of dedicated Christians all over the world. Thank you for your support, your encouragement, and for your prayers on our behalf.

Sincerely in Christ,

John Clayton
Director, Does God Exist? ministry