



**SOUTHERN  
EVANGELICAL**  
*Seminary & Bible College*

*Ranked as One of the Best  
Apologetics-Focused Seminaries*

# IMPACT REPORT 2025



**Celebrating God's  
Provision and Growth**

INTEGRATED APOLOGETICS-  
FOCUSED CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



After a distinguished career as both a lawyer and a judge, Judge Phil Ginn retired as the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for the 24th Judicial District in North Carolina. He holds a B.A. from Appalachian State University, a J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Doctor of Ministry from Southern Evangelical Seminary.



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## Impacting the Culture for the Kingdom of God

As we reflect on another remarkable year at Southern Evangelical Seminary, I am thrilled to share this 2025 Impact Report with you—a celebration of all that God has done and a glimpse into the vision that continues to guide us forward.

The past year was a truly historic one for SES. In 2025, we experienced an exciting relocation to Rock Hill, South Carolina, marking a new chapter in our mission to train men and women to proclaim the truth of the Gospel with boldness and clarity.

As you read through this report, I hope you catch the same sense of excitement and gratitude that fills our hearts. God is moving powerfully through SES as we launch new initiatives and expand our reach—both through our traditional educational programs and through Virtual Faith Link, which is opening new doors for ministry and training.

None of this would be possible without you—our faithful friends and partners. Your prayers, generosity, and steadfast support continue to fuel the mission and make our shared vision a reality. Most of all, we recognize that every success belongs to the Lord, whose Spirit sustains and directs all that we do.

From our entire SES family to you and yours, we wish you a joyous and blessed 2026!

**Judge Phil Ginn**  
**President**





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## Together, We're Steadfast in the Truth

Increasingly, we see reality—including the reality of biblical Christianity—being abandoned and replaced with distorted versions of the truth. Christ-followers are called to confront this flood of false ideas and point others to the Gospel (2 Cor. 10:3-5; 1 Peter 3:15; Jude 3). Yet too often, the church presents an intellectually weak faith that is shallow and seems disconnected from the pressing questions of life. It is therefore unsurprising that some Christian “celebrities” publicly express doubts or even leave the faith altogether. Recent studies highlight additional areas of confusion among American churchgoers, including:



## YOU MAKE SALT AND LIGHT IN A DARKENING WORLD POSSIBLE

Effectively confronting the harmful ideas shaping today’s culture requires intentional preparation. As SES co-founder Dr. Norman Geisler once said, “[Apologetics] is opening the door, clearing the rubble, and getting rid of the hurdles so that people can come to Christ.” For over three decades, SES has offered an integrated, apologetics-centered education—grounded in sound philosophy and theology—that equips students to develop a comprehensive and systematic Christian worldview. This biblical foundation, made possible through your support, strengthens both evangelism and the formation of mature disciples who stand firm in the truth.



### OUR VISION

Every believer equipped to effectively proclaim the Gospel, engage the bad ideas that stand in the way of the Gospel, and defend the truth of the Gospel in any cultural context



### OUR MISSION

To train men and women, based on the inerrant and infallible written Word of God, for the evangelization of the world and defense of the historic Christian faith



### OUR PROMISE

Every student will get an integrated and apologetics-focused Christian education that will equip them to be steadfast in the truth.



[Learn More](#)

# Marketing and Admissions

SES is proud to report the highest student enrollment we've seen in 14 years, including a 49% increase in for-credit students over the past six years and a 52% increase in new students during that same timeframe. At present, our seminary community spans 8 countries and 29 U.S. states — a testimony to the global reach and regional diversity our integrated, apologetics-focused education continues to attract. This growth directly reflects SES's mission to train men and women, on the basis of the inerrant and infallible Word of God, for the evangelization of the world and the defense of the historic Christian faith.

49%

increase in for-credit  
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52%

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students over the  
past six years

14

highest student  
enrollment in 14  
years

Driving this growth is SES's robust digital-first learning model, which uniquely combines live-streaming and asynchronous course formats to offer a rigorous theological education from anywhere in the world. Students engage in a vibrant virtual campus community, participating in chapel, small groups, and guest events — all while accessing the Digital Theological Library, which includes hundreds of thousands of e-books, journal titles, and peer-reviewed articles. In this way, SES continues to expand its impact and staying true to its long-term vision of equipping believers to defend the truth of the Gospel in every cultural context.



Apply Now



“I applied to  
SES and it’s  
probably one  
of the best  
decisions I  
think I’ve  
made in my  
Christian  
walk.”

**MELISSA  
DOUGHERTY**  
*Author, SES Alum*

## Faculty and Online Education

SES is committed to continually supporting faculty, recognizing that their expertise and preparedness contribute to an exceptional learning environment for students. In addition to regular teaching responsibilities, our professors have been voices of truth in the wider culture:

- Dr. J.T. Bridges appeared on numerous podcasts including the Alisa Childers podcast, Incisive Thoughts, and more. In November he gave 2 presentations and was featured in a panel discussion with Dr. Hugh Ross at the Faith and Reason: 2 Distinct Ways of Knowing God Conference.
- Dr. J. Brian Huffling released an article in *Religions* titled “Can Ethics Exist Without God? A Thomistic Critique of James Sterba’s Axiomatic Morality”.
- Dr. Christopher Winchester is writing a book exploring a scientific case for fulfilled prophecies in the Bible.
- Dr. Bernard James Mauser attended the Free-Market Economics Conference and was interviewed by Alisa Childers on Biblical Interpretation.



1,770,133  
total views

676  
total videos

26,418  
total  
subscribers

## Faculty and Online Education

- Dr. Thomas Baker enjoyed numerous speaking engagements at churches and conferences on various topics, including defending the inerrancy of the Bible. He spoke to Ratio Christi Philippines on the "Defense of the Doctrine of the Trinity" and also on the "Divine Exemplar and Creation's End (a Teleological Devotion)."
- Dr. Douglas Potter taught at churches and was featured as a guest on numerous podcasts, including the Alisa Childers podcast, the "Sean McDowell Show," and more, and his published interview with Lee Strobel is featured in Strobel's new release titled *Seeing the Supernatural* published by Zondervan.
- Dr. Richard Howe was featured on multiple podcasts including the Alisa Childers Podcast and taught at Apologetics SA Bible College (Pretoria, SA), at Ratio Christi in South Africa, the Cross-Examined Instructor Academy, and numerous churches.



# STEADFAST



# FAST

APOLOGETICS & EVANGELISM  
National Conference

## 2025: DEFINING AND DEFENDING MARRIAGE & FAMILY

The gathering of Southern Evangelical Seminary's 2025 Steadfast National Conference on Christian Apologetics and Evangelism proved to be a landmark event for those committed to defending biblical truth in the realm of marriage and family.

The reach of the conference was both deep and wide. From pastors and scholars to cultural commentators and church-leaders, the attendance profile reflected a growing urgency to engage thoughtfully with the cultural challenges to marriage and family. The presence of such a diverse geographic and national audience underscores both the universal resonance of the topic and the seminary's growing influence in the global dialogue on faith, culture, and the family.

549

conference attendees

34

states and 5 countries represented

12

sponsors and exhibitors

Keyheadliners such as Alisa Childers, Gary Habermas, Corey Miller, Jon Noyes, Fazale Rana, Hugh Ross and more brought depth, rigor, and cultural relevance to the discussion. Their combined voices framed not just a conversation about marriage, but a robust apologetic for the concept of family as revealed in Scripture. In addition to the conference itself, we hosted Reasons to Believe for a Thursday night pre-event discussion about Dr. Ross' new book on the Genesis flood.

*Alisa Childers speaks on "Can You Be Gay and Christian?" at Steadfast 2025.*



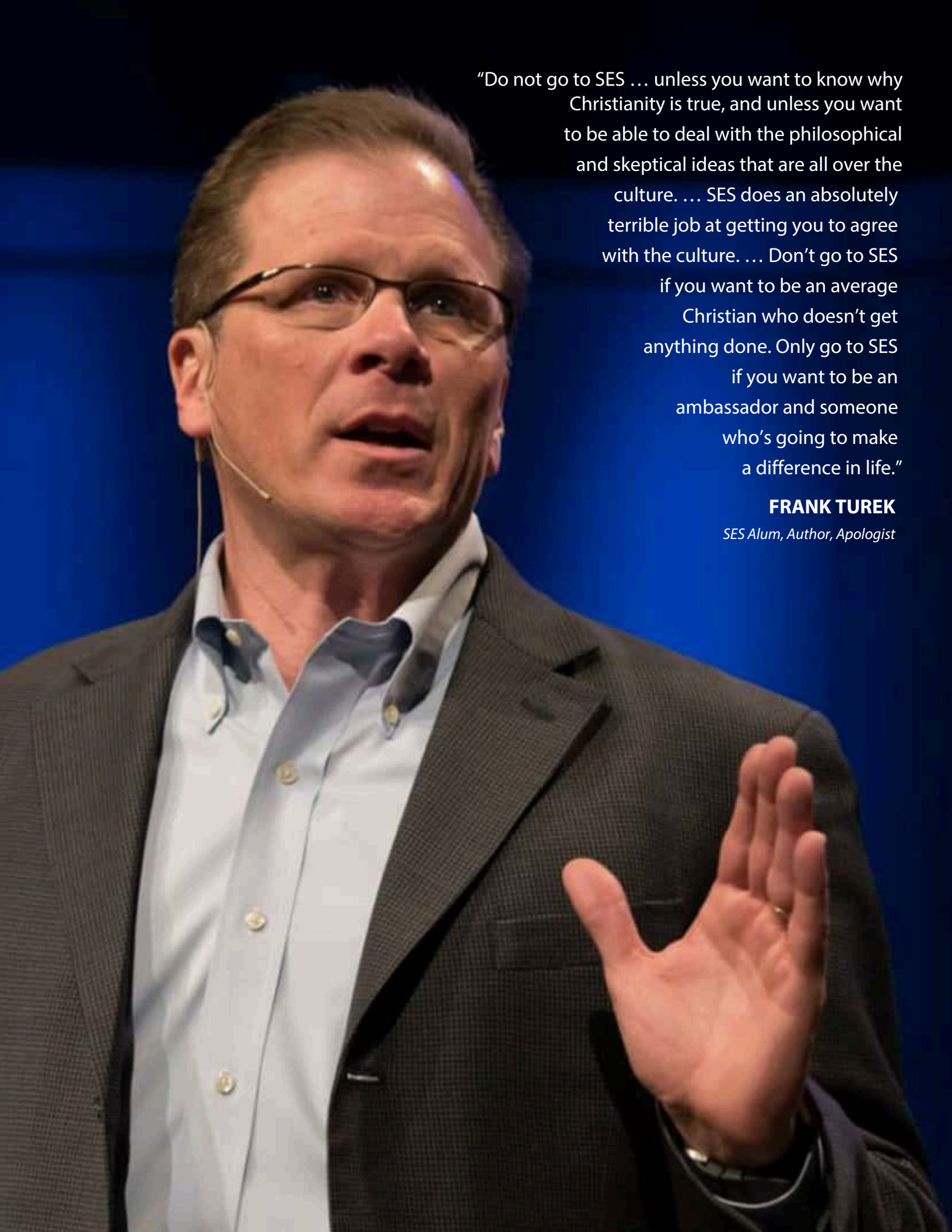
# Building Dedication

On April 15 we were blessed to welcome more than 120 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and dignitaries for a joyful Building Dedication ceremony celebrating the seminary's historic move to Rock Hill, South Carolina.



Together, we dedicated our new home to the Lord and prayed over the grounds, asking for His continued favor and guidance as we serve His Kingdom from this new place.





"Do not go to SES ... unless you want to know why Christianity is true, and unless you want to be able to deal with the philosophical and skeptical ideas that are all over the culture. ... SES does an absolutely terrible job at getting you to agree with the culture. ... Don't go to SES if you want to be an average Christian who doesn't get anything done. Only go to SES if you want to be an ambassador and someone who's going to make a difference in life."

**FRANK TUREK**

*SES Alum, Author, Apologist*

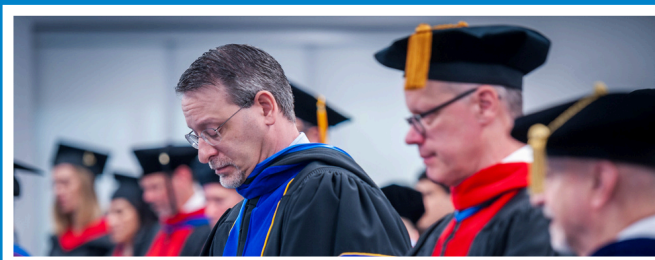


## Graduation

On a radiant day in May, students gathered in joyful assembly, their families beside them, as faculty and staff filled the front row in proud attendance. The ceremony marked more than the conferral of degrees—it celebrated a profound commissioning.



Graduates stood ready to step into their callings with hope for the impact to come, resolution to stand steadfast in truth, and thanksgiving for the community that stood alongside each graduate.



“ It has been exactly what I needed to have a way to explore this new faith and really learn what the Bible has to tell me about Jesus and living as a believer.

MICKI



In 2025, the Center for Innovative Training at Southern Evangelical Seminary launched Virtual Faith Link (VFL), a pioneering disciple-making certification built around small, online micro-groups. Designed as a turnkey process, VFL equips believers to “Know their identity in Christ, Grow in faith, Stand firm in truth, Defend the historic Christian faith, and Multiply by making disciple-makers.”

This new platform responds directly to a pressing concern: only a small fraction of U.S. churches cultivate a culture of multiplying disciples, and only about 6% of self-identifying Christians hold a biblical worldview. By offering affordable, accessible training (starting at \$25/month) through live micro-groups, VFL fills a strategic gap — serving those deeply invested in disciple-making, leaders who want intentional theological connection, as well as individuals disengaged from traditional church settings but still hungering for spiritual growth.

These micro-groups train men and women to do five things:

**KNOW**

— ● —  
your identity  
in **CHRIST**

**GROW**

— ✕ —  
in your  
**FAITH**

**STAND**

— ⚓ —  
firm in the  
**TRUTH**

**DEFEND**

— 🛡️ —  
the historic  
Christian Faith

**MULTIPLY**

— 🌱 —  
by making  
disciple-makers

The inaugural cohort of Virtual Faith Link is poised to make a meaningful impact this year and beyond. From medically trained professionals to new believers, participants consistently praise the program’s balance of community, mentorship, and rigorous biblical engagement. As more groups multiply and each disciple continues the cycle of leadership and learning, VFL’s first cohort promises to reach thousands — not just through that group, but by building up committed disciple-makers who will replicate the model in their churches, networks, and communities.



Register Now

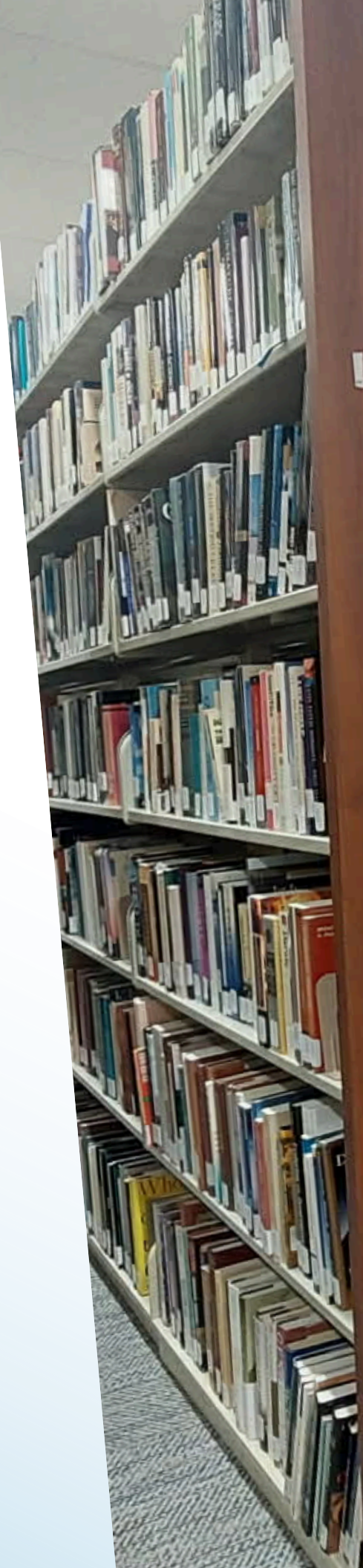
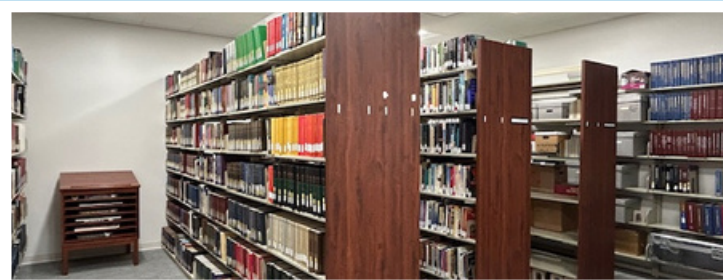
# Jamison Library

The library move is done and Jamison Library is celebrating 2025 in our new library space. Our library staff loves our new campus and we've continued to adapt our library services to our changing SES community.

Top priority is serving the research needs of our students and faculty. Our physical collection is made up of special collections (including the SES Apologetics collection) that have been cataloged and will soon become available to our Seminary community.

Our most important project is our ongoing partnership with the Digital Theological Library (DTL). DEL offers our students and faculty over a million books related to the disciplines we teach, and makes it possible to serve an online student body that studies by distance education. Our library is about service; service to our students and faculty and we look forward to 2026 with that goal in mind.

We've also made great progress cataloging our journals and periodicals and we keep subscriptions to several journals that focus on philosophy and apologetics. We're working toward a research collection that will be available to scholars and researchers in the years to come. We continue to add specialized resources that enhance the academic work of the Seminary and help make SES a premier place for those studying apologetics and philosophy.





# Institutional Development

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and faithful, generous support of SES. This past year, the Lord’s provision was unmistakable as He blessed us with \$815,812 in donations from 247 donors, representing 1,237 gifts across 31 U.S. states and Canada. Our top five states for giving—North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, California, and Georgia—demonstrate the broad and growing reach of this ministry’s impact.

We are especially grateful to celebrate a 26% increase in annual giving (even without the two extraordinary gifts totaling \$1.7 million received in the prior fiscal year) and a remarkable 34% increase in new donors. These numbers reflect not only generosity but also the expanding community that believes in and champions this mission.

Including other revenue sources, our total revenue reached \$2,057,475, a testament to God’s continued faithfulness and the trust our partners place in this work. Every gift is being wisely stewarded for God’s Kingdom, fueling strategic growth and strengthening the foundation needed to advance our God-sized vision. Together, we stand *Steadfast in the Truth*, confident that the Lord will continue to multiply these investments for His glory and the transformation of lives.



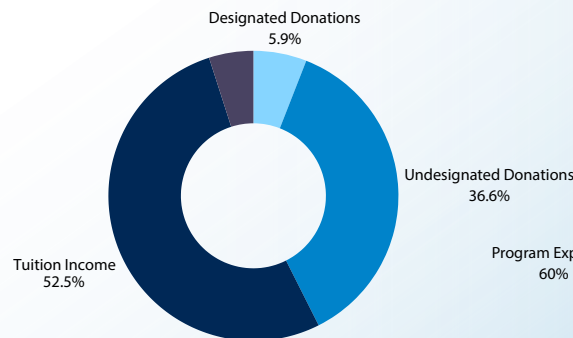
All things here on earth will come to an end except the Word of God and the souls of men and women... we choose to come alongside SES to help them expand their ministry and their impact on the world.

**BRYAN KNUPP**

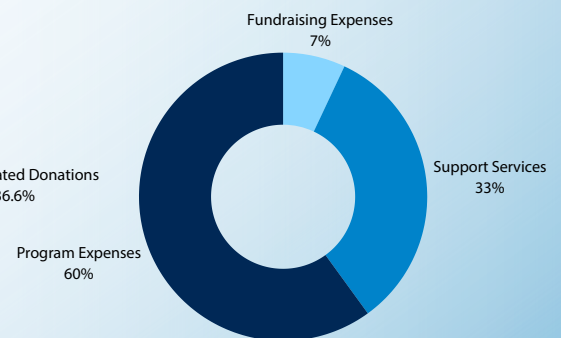


**Partner Now**

## Revenue Sources: Total \$2,057,475



## Functional Expenses: Total \$2,904,039



*\*The expense overage reflects a strategic decision to move our SES home in 2024 to Rock Hill, SC located beside Interstate 77 to a 13,000 sq. foot building. We were also blessed to create to launch our new mission-critical initiative of Virtual Faith Link. This Disciple-making certification program is projected to grow future revenue and impact, as well as grow our student numbers. The expenses and investments made will lead to future success and impact to increase students to 1000, make 20,000 Disciple-makers by 2028 and 3MM SES podcast and You Tube subscribers by 2028. Thank you for standing steadfast in the Truth together.*

“ I thought, let’s give [SES] a try. I enrolled, and I’m so glad I did.

**TIM BARNETT**

*SES Alum, Author, Red Pen Logic Host,  
Stand to Reason Speaker*



SES is honored to be a long-term member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, an organization founded by Billy Graham. In today’s world, demonstrating trustworthiness is more important than ever in effectively reaching the world for Christ. ECFA exists to help enhance that trust

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**PSALM 51:10**

And my God will supply every need of yours  
according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

**PHILIPPIANS 4:19**

