

# RATIO CHRISTI

## BOTT Radio Network Interview



Recently, I was interviewed about Ratio Christi for an episode of “Life and Faith Indiana.” Air Times:

- Tuesday (July 27) - 3:45-4:00pm
- Thursday (July 29) - 3:45-4:00pm
- Friday (July 30) - 3:45-4:00pm
- Full episode Saturday (July 31) - 10:30-11:00am

The episodes will air in Fort Wayne on 93.7AM, 1090AM.

You may hear the live broadcast at:

[bottradionetork.com/station/93.7-fm-fort-wayne-in/](http://bottradionetork.com/station/93.7-fm-fort-wayne-in/). You

may also hear it anytime here:

<https://youtu.be/hJiOvWTOjrc>.



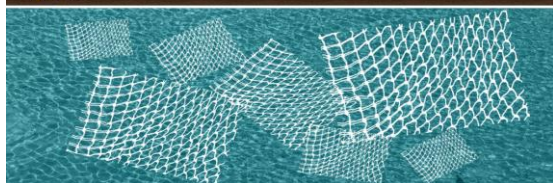
## 2021 SUMMER CAMPAIGN

### Levels of Giving

	9 partners	\$200/month
	18 partners	\$100/month
	36 partners	\$50/month
	72 partners	\$25/month
<b>Total needed for full support =</b>		<b>\$1815/month</b>

We began the campaign with a need to raise an additional \$2500/month for full support. The current need is \$1815/month. I have some potential supporters who have expressed interest but not made official commitments. I am continuing to seek supporters. I'll keep you posted.

*Fishers of Men* "Our mission is soafishin"



My thanks to all of you who have helped by supporting through your prayers, pocketbook, and personal network. As we fish for men and women to join us in this ministry movement, we trust the Lord to guide and provide as He sees fit.

We are gearing up for a very exciting semester! We have been pouring a lot of effort into our outreach which will revolve around the theme of “Doubt.” I’ll give you the details in the next letter.

**Prayer request:** At IUPUI, we tabled today and will be tabling most of next week for student orientation. Today was great! We had several great conversations and shared the gospel multiple times. Please pray for our outreach next Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. Thank you!

As you go out in the world, remember the word of the Lord: “Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.” (Prov. 3:3)

Andy Foland

Donate online: <http://andyfoland.ratiochristi.org>

Donate by mail: Ratio Christi Inc.  
P.O. Box 10907  
Merrillville, IN 46410

\*Make check to “Ratio Christi” and include “Andrew Foland 430097” on memo line.

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## THE APOLOGIST'S CORNER

With so many challenges to our faith, it is sometimes helpful to go back to our apologetic foundations and one such foundation is the reliability of the New Testament. If the N.T. is historically reliable, then we should believe at least the gist of what it is saying.<sup>1</sup> That gist includes Jesus’ Deity, death, and resurrection! Further, if the N.T. is true in what it records, then Christianity is true regardless of whether people like what it says or not. It is true regardless of whether it conflicts with one’s identity, preferences, prior beliefs; it is true regardless of who believes in it, or whether one had a bad church experience. In other words, if the N.T. is true people do well to align their worldview with it rather than reject it due to personal preferences or experiences.

How do we defend the historical reliability of the New Testament? It is time to get **A.R.M.E.D.**! We’ll look at 5 lines of evidence that support the N.T.:

**A** = Archaeology  
**R** = Regional Accuracy  
**M** = Manuscript Evidence  
**E** = Extrabiblical Corroboration  
**D** = Determined by God

In this letter, we’ll consider the **A** = Archaeology.

One way to determine if an ancient writer was a reliable recorder of history is to test what he said with what archaeologists have discovered. When we look at the names, places, customs, and things in the book, are they confirmed by the “science of the spade?” If so, how often? If not, why not? If we discover that the ancient author(s)’ recordings are generally corroborated by archaeology and, further, that archaeological finds don’t controvert the authors, then we have good reason to believe the ancient witness(es) were reliable sources. But how many archaeological discoveries does it take for a book to be considered “generally corroborated,” 50? 500? 5,000? Can you imagine 5,000 discoveries that confirmed a book? That is a lot of confirmation!

Even if “generally corroborated” may have some element of ambiguity, I think it is safe to say that the

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<sup>1</sup> Of course, I believe the NT to be the inspired, inerrant word of God, but I’m not making that argument here. I’m making the more modest claim that it is reliable. While we can argue for inspiration, reliability is all we need for our case.

Bible is clearly corroborated for it has more than 40,000 discoveries that confirm the people, places, customs, and things of the Bible! To give you a sense of that number, consider that there are 31,124 verses in the Bible! Ponder that a minute. There are more archaeological finds supporting the Bible than there are verses in the Bible! Surely that qualifies as “generally corroborated.”

In addition, the words of archaeologist Nelson Glueck still stand: “...no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.” 40,000 wins – 0 losses! What a record! That is better than the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers basketball team!

What are some examples of New Testament archaeological confirmation?

<b>People</b>  “James Son of Joseph brother of Jesus”		The ossuary has been discovered of Jesus’ half-brother who authored the biblical book of James and was a leader in the Jerusalem church. Based on scientific, linguistic, and epigraphic examination, there are good reasons to believe this ossuary is authentic. <sup>2</sup>
<b>Places</b>  Pool of Bethesda (John 5:2)		This discovery not only proves the existence of the pool, it matches the detailed description “5 porticoes” given in John’s gospel. This find, and several others like it, show that the source of John’s gospel was a contemporary of the events because he knew details about the city of Jerusalem and the temple that would’ve likely been lost during their destruction in A.D. 70. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Things</b>  Jacob’s Well (John 4:6)		 In John 4, Jesus used this well as a tool to evangelize the Samaritan woman. He offered her living water. Today, it offers us proof of John’s accuracy.
<b>Customs</b>  1 <sup>st</sup> century crucifixion victim in Jerusalem		Some critics of the Bible used to argue that the Romans used rope, not nails, to attach a crucifixion victim to the cross. With this discovery, the critics got the point nearly as graphically as the victim: the gospel writers accurately depicted Roman execution. In the case of this particular find, the nail was found still in the bone!

Obviously, this is an extremely small sample of the wealth of discoveries at our disposal. When it comes to archaeological finds, we truly have an embarrassment of riches! Given this, isn’t it time for our unbelieving friends to take the New Testament seriously as a historical source?

<sup>2</sup> Craig Evans, *Jesus and the Remains of His Day*, 41.

<sup>3</sup> I’ve no doubt the source of John’s gospel was John the apostle, but all we need prove here is the accuracy of the author, not his identity.