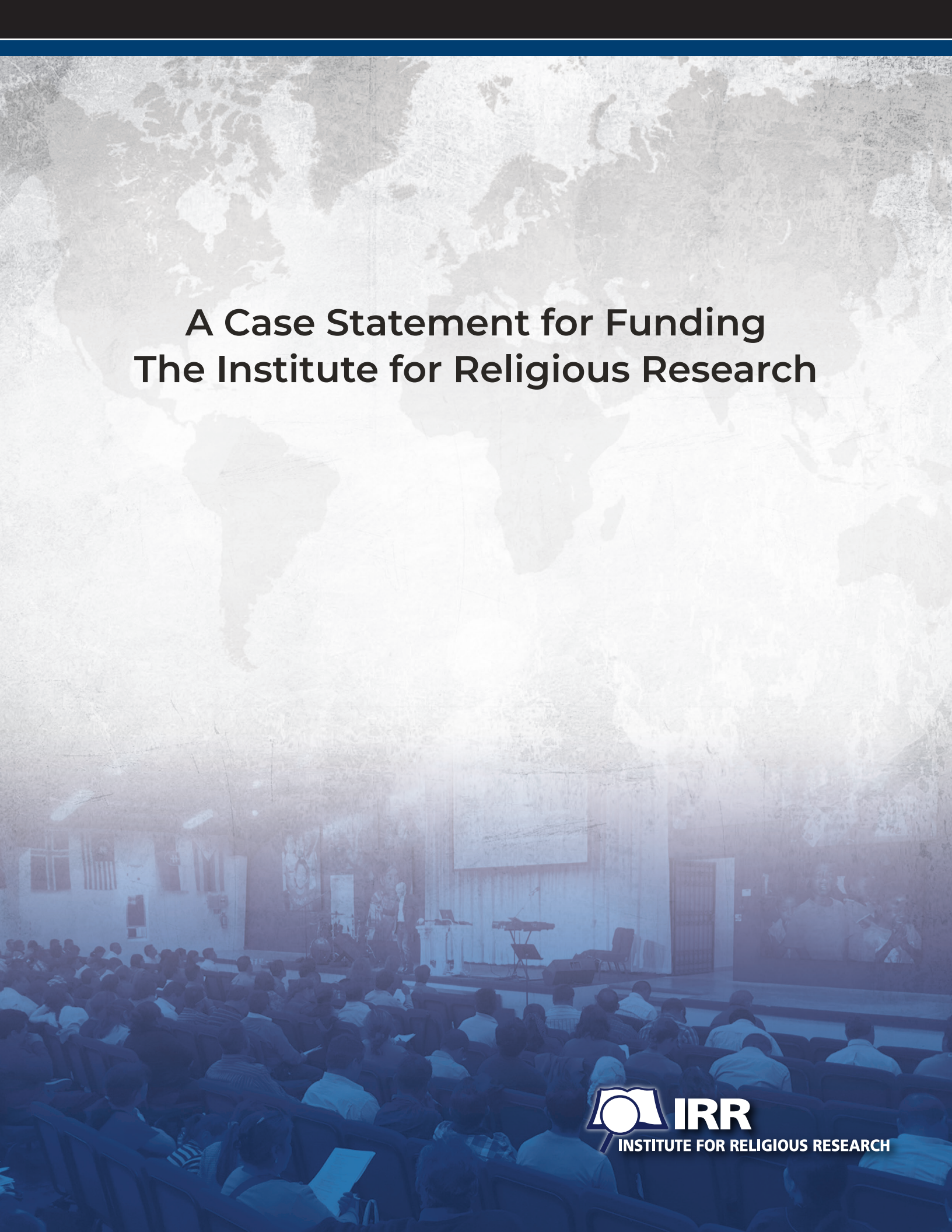




A Case Statement for Funding The Institute for Religious Research



IRR

INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS RESEARCH

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to globally train and equip pastors and leaders to recognize false teaching and respond biblically, so they can protect their flocks and disciple the church to maturity in Christ. We also seek to bring the life-transforming message of salvation by grace alone to people caught in works-based religious groups like Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.

THE NEED

Apologetics ministries like IRR for decades have exposed the deception and false doctrines of counterfeit religions like the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs) and unbiblical teachings of the prosperity gospel in the United States. Now these groups and false teachers are targeting the more vulnerable and less-informed fields of Africa and Latin America. The result has been chilling—these groups have found fertile soil for their false gospels.

JW and Mormon growth in Africa and Latin America in the last 10 years is significantly higher than growth in the USA for the same time period.

- **11% JW and 15% Mormon growth in the U.S.**
- **57% JW and 133% Mormon growth in Africa**
- **167% JW and 93% Mormon growth in Latin America**

A Pew survey found that, *more than four out of five converts to Mormonism (84%) were raised in a Christian denomination.*

False religious groups are all too happy to let our pastors and missionaries labor sacrificially to win people to Christ, and then they seduce the unwary and immature away from the truth with a counterfeit gospel.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

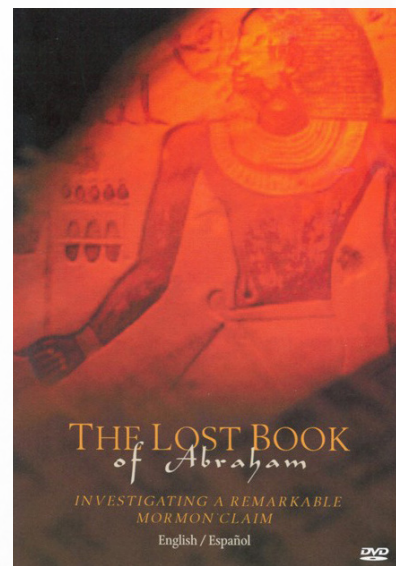
- Train pastors and leaders in Africa and Latin America to understand and respond to the dangers of heretical groups.
- Equip pastors and leaders with specialized resources that will help them protect, guide and disciple their churches.
- Evangelize, guide and disciple the growing number of people who are leaving heretical religious groups like Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses into relationship with Jesus and integration into a Bible-teaching church.
- Maintain and expand our website as a source of information and spiritual guidance for those needing truth.
- Provide a voice of truth, hope and encouragement to struggling and spiritually disoriented people, pointing them to the grace and love of Jesus.



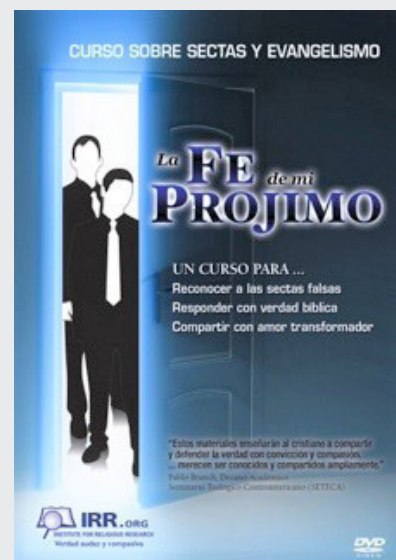
IRR teaching in Ocosingo, Mexico

OUR HISTORY

- For close to four decades, IRR has been an innovator in compassionate, relevant outreach to false religions, and has trained thousands of Christians to recognize and respond biblically to these groups.
- We started in 1982 as Gospel Truths Ministries to reach Mormons in West Michigan with the Gospel and equip Christians to lovingly do the same.
- In 1987 IRR broadened its outreach to include Utah with the free door-to-door distribution of 250,000 copies of the book, *God's Word: Final, Infallible and Forever*.
- In 1989 IRR adopted its current name, Institute for Religious Research.
- In 1990 IRR began translation and distribution of its key tracts into Spanish, Portuguese, and Filipino. We currently have resources in over 30 languages.
- In 1992 IRR published the book *By His Own Hand Upon Papyrus*, exposing Joseph Smith's fraudulent claims to translate Egyptian, from which he produced a new book of scripture called the Book of Abraham. IRR mailed 40,000 free copies of this book to Mormon homes throughout Utah.
- In 1994 IRR started Mormons in Transition (MIT)-Talk, the first of its kind online bulletin board, which later transitioned to an email-based support group.
- In 1996 IRR launched our website IRR.org, which now hosts a library of thousands of pages of carefully researched and documented articles. We also started our one-on-one mentoring for Mormon people questioning their faith.
- In 1998 IRR increased its focus on international ministry in response to double-digit growth of the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses in Latin America and Africa.
- In 2002 we produced an award-winning video documentary called "*The Lost Book of Abraham*." It has been viewed online over 2 million times.
- In 2008 we transitioned our MIT email support groups to online support groups, which have now grown to over 650 members.



- In 2015 we produced a 12-program Spanish DVD video for Christian churches and seminaries called “*La Fe de mi Próximo*” (*My Neighbor’s Faith*). It features 8 hours of training on discernment and evangelism related to false religious groups.
- In 2018 we launched the *Unveiling Grace Podcast*, broadcast weekly online and via radio in Utah.
- In 2019 training conferences in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) will prepare pastors to respond to the rapid growth of false teaching in these countries.



IRR training site at Kisumo-Arina Church in Kenya

¹ Following the release of our book and video exposing Joseph Smith's fraud related to the Mormon Scripture known as the "The Book of Abraham," a survey of 3,086 former Mormons found that 59% attributed learning about this issue as the main contributing factor to their losing faith in Mormonism.

IRR TODAY AND TOMORROW

We are in one of our most fruitful seasons of ministry and are excited about how God is using us to reach people with the message of truth and grace. Mormons are searching for answers in increasing numbers and we are adding new people to our social media support groups on a weekly basis.

We also have exciting opportunities to expand our evangelism, mentoring, teaching and training ministries that reach around the world.

In November of 2018 IRR went to Colombia for 14 days and trained hundreds of pastors, leaders and students on how to recognize and respond to false religious groups, as well as reach them with the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

IRR currently has plans to go to Cuba, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya over the next two years.

The Kenya teaching project involves two trips. The first was a two-week research and strategy trip in January 2019. We used this trip to prepare for three weeks of conferences in August 2019 in the three largest cities of Kenya. The goal is to equip the thousands of pastors and leaders that oversee the six million-member Africa Inland Church. National leaders have identified Mormons, JW's and Prosperity Gospel teachers as their three biggest challenges and asked IRR to equip their churches.

Closer to home, we recently launched a radio outreach called the *Unveiling Grace Podcast*. IRR's cohost is an influential former Mormon and Brigham Young University professor. The program is broadcast weekly to a listening audience of thousands in Utah. It is also available online and via iTunes (UnveilingGracePodcast.com).



MOVING FORWARD

God has called us to equip and protect the church, and we have the opportunity, experience, passion, and tools to do so. We are looking for new ministry partners who share our vision for a strong, mature church, especially in Africa and Latin America where works-based and heretical religious groups are ravaging the Bride of Christ.

The current financial need is due in part to a primary benefactor's inability to continue supporting the ministry at previous levels. This person is still thoroughly committed to the ministry and will continue to provide our office space and utilities, plus a small amount of operational assistance.

This is a providential opportunity for others to join our support team, and together, with God's help, use our 35 plus years of experience and resources to continue making a difference. We are unwavering in our commitment to expose and combat error, rescue those caught in the snare of false religion, equip the saints, and build up Christ's church for the glory of God. Will you consider joining us?



Speaking at a Christian School in Barranquilla, Colombia

YOUR ROLE

We have two requests of you as a potential partner:

1. Please pray for us. We want to walk humbly with our God, looking to Him to direct our work and His Holy Spirit to guide our efforts to reach the lost, equip the church, and make whole-hearted followers of Jesus.
2. Please prayerfully consider partnering with us in a way that is financially significant to you given the critical and unique nature of our ministry work. You can make either a monthly financial commitment or a yearly pledge for the next one to three years to support IRR's global ministry, or a combination of the two.

Regardless of your decision, please know we are deeply grateful for your willingness to consider this partnership request. Our desire is that your life will be marked by ever deepening intimacy with Jesus Christ and be used to spread His glory and love to a world that desperately needs Him.

Thank you,

Joel B Groat

Executive Director – on behalf of the IRR Board and Staff



Teaching at a Pastor-Leader Conference in Chiapas, Mexico

IRR MINISTRY ENDORSEMENTS

Dr. Norman Geisler, Distinguished Senior Professor of Theology and Apologetics, Southern Evangelical Seminary. Chancellor of Veritas International University

“IRR provides a thoughtful and compassionate witness of genuine Christianity to the Mormon community. Its quality multi-language materials are equipping Christians around the world for a more effective defense of the gospel of Jesus Christ in response to growing spiritual counterfeits.”

Paul Carden, Executive Director, Centers for Apologetic Research

“IRR is a unique and cutting-edge ministry, combining theological expertise with compassion and cross-cultural vision. They set an overall standard of excellence that few organizations can match.”

www.thecenters.org

Bill McKeever, Executive Director, Mormonism Research Ministry

“For decades IRR has dedicated itself to producing excellent material that has helped many Christians better understand the sometimes very confusing world of Mormonism. IRR’s dedication to evangelism has also helped others who have been a victim of Mormonism’s teachings. I firmly recommend this ministry as one deserving of your prayers and support.”

www.mrm.org

Scott Sloan, Pastor, Former Missionary and Church Planter in Utah

“IRR has been an encouragement to me personally and has helped me to understand aspects of Mormonism. In a world of gospel outreach, IRR stands out due to its integrity to the truth, and its compassion for the people it reaches.”

Sandra Tanner, Author, Speaker, Former Mormon, Co-founder of Utah Lighthouse Ministry

“I see IRR as one of the premier, important ministries out there dealing with Mormonism, especially in helping the transitioning Mormon see why they should go on with Christianity. One of the real values of IRR is the programs and seminars they’ve done out of the country and things they’ve done in foreign language areas. Their international work is an essential outreach.”

www.utlm.org

FAQ

1. What will the funds cover?

Funds will cover operating costs, travel expenses, production and distribution of literature, videos and other resources, and staff salaries.

2. What does IRR provide to pastors that other existing ministries cannot?

We can provide pastors and church leaders with over three decades of cross-cultural experience dealing with the false religious groups that are threatening the health and maturity of their congregations. IRR has staff fluent in Spanish and uniquely equipped to work with and in other cultures. This gives IRR a unique ability to communicate clearly and relevantly to the people we are serving.

3. Do pastors and leaders in Africa and Latin America really want or feel they need what you are offering?

Yes! Pastors and leaders in both continents approach us regularly. We often receive multiple invitations to return before we have even left the country, as happened during our recent trip to Colombia. During our final days there, leaders began planning a 2020 apologetics training conference in partnership with IRR.

4. After you have presented conferences and training courses, what will you do to facilitate the ongoing implementation of these resources?

Our training model places a big emphasis not only on teaching pastors and leaders, but giving them materials that are easy to use. We provide access to PowerPoints, video clips, audio recordings, tracts and training supplements for all who attend so they can use these resources once they go back to their congregations.

5. Do you provide ongoing support and encouragement to the pastors that are trained? How do you do it?

Yes! We offer a wealth of online support materials on our website that they can freely access, as well as ways to contact us directly with questions and comments via our website or apps like Skype and WhatsApp. We also have regular contact with key leaders we've trained via Facebook.

6. How do you measure your effectiveness?

We have two primary metrics: direct feedback from users on the effectiveness of the materials and reports on the replication or 're-teaching' of the material we've presented. Once again, contact with strategic leaders is key. We've done this in Cuba where we've been doing training for over 10 years and have taught several thousand people. We have reports that the materials in some areas of the country are in their 10th generation of being shared. As often as possible we obtain contact info for leaders that attend the conferences and follow-up periodically with them to see if and how they've used the material and with what results.

7. How do you report to your supporters?

We report to our supporters with regular newsletters, personal reports to churches, and via Facebook and email, as well as face-to-face contacts with those that are locally accessible. We also invite donors to accompany us on our teaching trips so they can experience the needs and results firsthand.



Church Leadership training in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

IRR Board of Directors

Roger Hansen, Board President, Founder of IRR

Victor Hansen, President, Display Pack, Inc.

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Tim Oberle, Senior Vice President, Morgan Stanley

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