

# BLUEPRINT <sup>1543</sup>

Annual Report 2021

# CONTENTS



**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT / 3**



**FEATURED IN-HOUSE PROJECTS / 9**



**WHO WE ARE / 4**



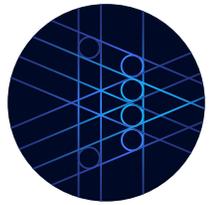
**COACHING & CONSULTATION / 15**



**ONE MISSION, THREE INITIATIVES / 6**



**RESOURCES, OPERATIONS & FINANCES / 18**



# Letter from the President

For Blueprint 1543, the *how?* of our work is as important as the *what?*. Yes, we want to integrate the sciences and the Christian faith to address the big questions, but we want to do that work in a way that's consistent with our goals and commitments. One of those animating beliefs is that people – individual lives – are of immense value. God cares more about people than our clever programs and esteemed institutions. So, I'm grateful the work of Blueprint has been able to reflect an investment in the *people* we work with. Two moments from 2021 illustrate this.

We were providing coaching and consultation for a scholar who wished to develop a grant proposal in an area drawing philosophy, theology, and psychology together in a very creative and unexpected way. We were helping her articulate her animating scholarly passions and what she hopes to accomplish through her research. We tried to listen well, occasionally reframing what we heard her saying, and providing insights concerning how her ideas might matter to others. After one of our sessions (to our surprise) she said, "This was the best 90 minutes of my professional career." It turns out that generous listening and drawing out the ideas usually stuck in her head was enough care to reinvigorate a sense of purpose about her work.

Many months later, Blueprint was facilitating a workshop at a seminary, helping scholars consider how bringing the human sciences together with theology might change their research and teaching. Faculty members from several departments courageously participated in the somewhat unorthodox activities we designed. We wanted to move the participants from general ideas to practical action steps, and from collegial courtesy to relational confidence. At the end of the day, one faculty member shared that it was the first time in her 20+ year career that she felt valued as a colleague by people outside of her department. What a sobering thing to hear after a day's work!

The return on these relational investments is not as easy to quantify as a big audience for a lecture or a lucrative grant. But sometimes, the reward is even greater.

Justin L. Barrett, Ph.D.  
President, Blueprint 1543

“This was the best  
90 minutes of  
my professional  
career.”





# Who We Are

## STAFF



**JUSTIN BARRETT**  
PRESIDENT &  
FOUNDER



**REBECCA DORSEY**  
VICE PRESIDENT &  
CO-FOUNDER



**SAREY MARTIN  
CONCEPCIÓN**  
DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS



**HOLLY CRAIN**  
DIRECTOR OF  
OPERATIONS



## BOARD MEMBERS



**MARI CLEMENTS**



**RICK REKEDAL**



**JONATHAN REITZ**



**REBECCA DORSEY**



**JUSTIN BARRETT**

## PROJECT PARTNERS



**ANA ÁVILA**  
SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT IN LATIN  
AMERICAN EVANGELICALISM



**IAN CHURCH**  
EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY  
OF RELIGION



**KUTTER  
CALLAWAY**  
THEOPSYCH



**OLIVER CRISP**  
THEOPSYCH



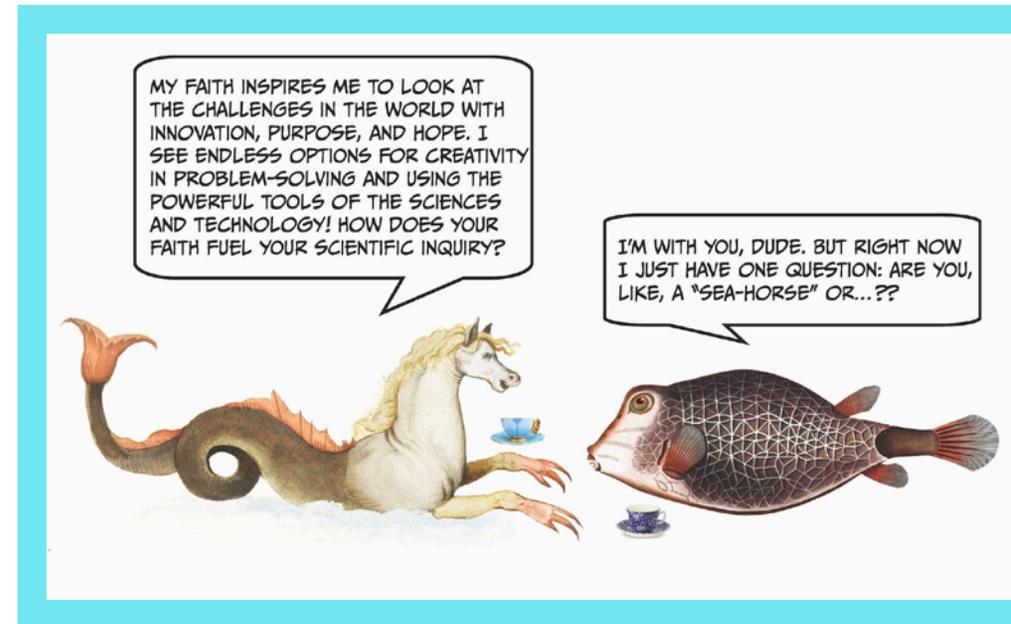
# 1. Science Stewardship

**S**TEM fields greatly impact human flourishing, but people of faith are underrepresented in these fields. We're working on this problem by activating projects that (1) network STEM leaders, (2) normalize the presence of people of faith in STEM fields, (3) equip Christians in STEM with greater theological literacy, and (4) deploy them to serve communities.

## CASE STUDIES

1. In May, we continued a partnership with the Society for Science's incredible International Science and Engineering Fair. Though it was moved online, we did our best to connect with students through a virtual booth as a faith-based organization, and share about the resources curated on our website. We also reached students and mentors with **our full page ad** in *Science News*!

2. In September, we launched *In Search of Theological Scientists*, which gave us the opportunity to attend the annual meetings of SSSR and AAR. On these trips, we were able to have in-depth conversations over coffee and breakfast burritos. We are learning how to nurture meaningful and sustained contributions from human scientists to theological inquiry, and these meetings are proving essential to getting it right. (The burritos didn't hurt either!)



From our full-page ad in *Science News*.



## 2. Sciences-Integrated Theology

**T**heology orients us in a narrative and provides a sense of purpose, which are both critical components of human thriving. But today's problems increasingly complicate the narrative and were unanticipated by previous generations. Contemporary science has empirical insights that can sharpen the wisdom of theological projects in order to face these problems well. This initiative develops activities to give us sciences-informed theologians and theologically informed scientists—and they'll collaborate! These projects will (1) deepen the talent pool of scholars equipped to do sciences-integrated theology, (2) demonstrate the utility of interdisciplinary work, and (3) convene field-building activities.

### CASE STUDIES

1. *Christa McKirland* is a theologian who brought her research into a TheoPsych seminar, exploring fundamental human needs in theological anthropology. She brought her conviction about the relevance of psych science to her new position at Carey Baptist College in Auckland, New Zealand and to her organization Logia International. She was able to lead a group of Logia theologians through a TheoPsych Academy class and her college decided to contract BP1543 with coaching and consulting to help them define what being integrative means for their theology department.

2. Theologian *Erin Kidd* joined TheoPsych with questions around religious experiences and their embodied causes/explanations. She found that through our seminar, she was able to clarify which parts of her research were begging for empirical insight, and which

were not. This work also sharpened her syllabus for a class on science and religion she would be teaching in the following semester. TheoPsych resources complemented her commitment to creative, student-centered pedagogy and made for a highly successful class. Erin's work in that class was so inspiring, we visited her in Brooklyn to produce [a short video](#) about her work so that others could benefit from her methodology!

3. We heard from many people that quality relationships with like-minded scholars through TheoPsych were the most valuable aspect of the program for them. A handful of participants said that the relationship they've formed will be *career-defining*. *Scott Harrower*, *Juan Franck*, and *Ryan Peterson* were a part of one such group, whose collaboration on a project about *personhood* was funded in our TheoPsych awards program. This tri-continental and bilingual group ran two events, bringing psychologists into conversation with philosophers and theologians. The project also produced a special issue of academic journal *Scientia et Fides* on their research area.



Erin Kidd in "Religious Experience & Harriet Tubman: A case study in integrated research."



# 3. Leadership Development

Leadership partners are needed to accomplish the goals of our organization. Oftentimes those with the right expertise lack the skills to lead large programs, which will build new fields and bring scholars together from across disciplines. To be able to address big questions in novel ways we will mobilize scholars, science professionals, and pastors in their unique areas of contribution. Through (1) professional coaching, (2) consultation, (3) team building, and (4) workshops, we can expand the capacity of key leaders with stronger projects and ongoing support.

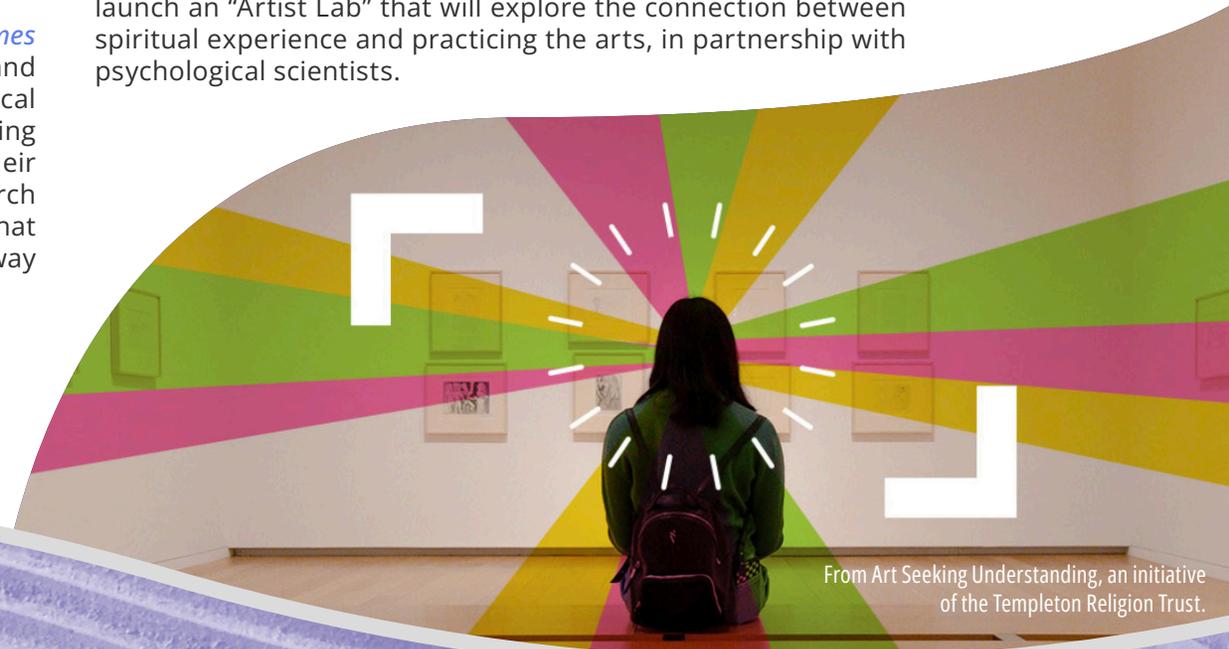
## CASE STUDIES

### 1. TEDS Faculty Workshop

Thanks to our previous relationship with theologian *James Arcadi*, we were invited to organize and facilitate a powerful and effective workshop with his colleagues at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. We hosted an interactive coaching and consulting session for their group to help build their team and clarify their goals. They wanted wisdom on how best to serve the church and how science engagement might be part of that work. What emerged was a lovely blend of clarified ideas (theory) and a way forward (practice).

### 2. The Hermeneutic Role of Art in Spiritual Experience

As a philosopher of religion and poet, *Carlos Miguel Gómez* has an abiding interest in types of knowledge and the arts, so it's unsurprising that the **Art Seeking Understanding** initiative drew his interest. But what was remarkable was the level of freedom he felt when he gave himself permission to authentically answer the question, "What do you really want to do?" In our coaching and consulting sessions, we encouraged Carlos to honestly pursue the research questions that were core to who he is, setting aside fear of whether they're "good enough" for academia or foundations. Once those authentic answers were drawn out, a project could be proposed with intentionality written into every detail. We're now celebrating with him as he prepares to launch an "Artist Lab" that will explore the connection between spiritual experience and practicing the arts, in partnership with psychological scientists.



From Art Seeking Understanding, an initiative of the Templeton Religion Trust.



**Featured  
In-House Projects**



# TheoPsych

As part of our sciences-integrated theology initiative, our TheoPsych project resources theologians with the tools of psychology. It started with 3 cohorts, with a total of 57 scholars pursuing integrative projects, but this network and the resources it's generating continues to grow. Visit [TheoPsych.com](https://theopsych.com) to go deeper.

Theology.  
Psychology.

Bringing theology  
to mind.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021

### TheoPsych All Cohort Rally

We brought all 3 cohorts together online for a series of small group sessions, to share about their projects and workshop ideas with psych scientists.

### TheoPsych Academy Launch

We turned content from 3 seminars into 5 classes on psych science, available on our website, geared towards theologians and ministry leaders. Over 100 students have taken our online classes, such as *On Human Nature* and *Brains & Embodiment*.

### Video & Podcast Collections

We produced a series of videos and podcasts on our own and with other creators to curate a collection of broad examples of psych science-engaged theology. See our [video playlist "Conversations"](#) on our YouTube channel or search "Blueprint 1543" wherever you listen to podcasts.

### Co-Hosting a SET Networking Event

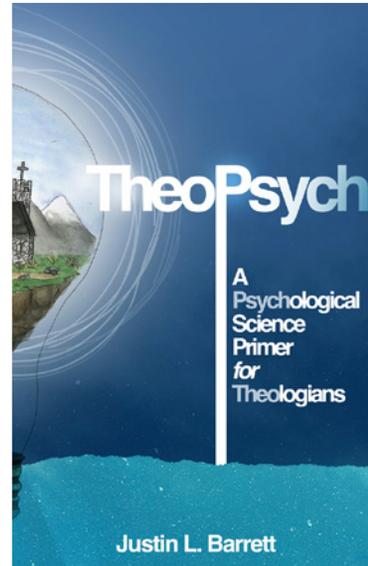
We attended the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, and co-hosted a networking event for scholars interested in science-engaged theology—over 150 theology and religion scholars attended!

### TheoLogica Special Issue

Open access theology journal, *TheoLogica*, partnered with us on a special issue around psych science-engaged theology. Three articles premiered online in 2021, and the full issue will be available in 2022, which is titled, "Restoring Human Nature: Constructive Theological Anthropologies Engaging the Psychological Sciences."

### Justin Barrett's TheoPsych Primer

*TheoPsych: A Psychological Primer for Theologians* was published in February 2022, and is [available on the Blueprint 1543 website](#).





# Science Engagement in Latin-American Evangelicalism

We've been keeping an eye on Ana Ávila, and we've been so impressed by her growth and impact. We were thrilled to have our partnership with her funded (thanks, John Templeton Foundation!) and launched this year, which has laid the foundation for even more growth. Ana is the senior science editor for *The Gospel Coalition's* Spanish language branch (*La Coalición por el Evangelio*), for which she's produced 8 articles and podcasts this year alone (garnering over 50,000 views).

In that time, she's expanded her own platforms as a published book author, podcaster, and YouTuber as well. We've partnered with her to provide master's-equivalent training in psychological science, so she can better serve her audience of Christians in Latin America on how to responsibly engage the sciences. She's also received coaching, and has been preparing to expand media production further in 2022.



COALICIÓN POR  
EL EVANGELIO

## TESTIMONIALS FROM ANA'S AUDIENCE

"Your podcast has helped me to think. I've learned to broaden my horizons and step outside the 'average Christian' zone. May the Lord continue to use you! My husband is also a listener."

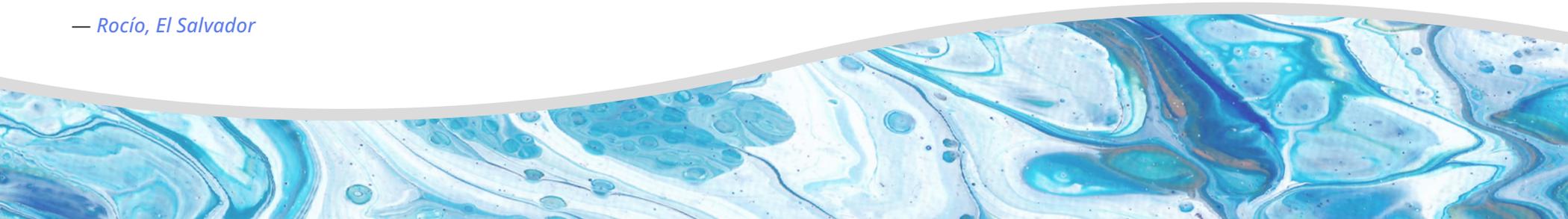
— *Fabiola, Costa Rica*

"Your podcast has helped me embrace my college degree and understand how can I use it for the glory of God. I'm a psychology student and that was hard for my family to accept, because of our theological tradition."

— *Rocío, El Salvador*

"Years ago, I wanted to pursue a scientific career, more specifically, astronomy. But I was a little worried about being a Christian and stepping into that world. That's when I discovered your work, and it encouraged me greatly. I understood there is a need for Christians that are passionate about God and that glorify Him through science. I started my astrophysics degree last year."

— *Alex, Chile*



**“I’m a bacteriologist and I’m finishing my Ph.D. in science. I’d never been able to connect my faith in Christ with my scientific vocation. Then I found your podcast and was able to connect both subjects in my mind and my heart. I now find meaning in what I do and what I believe.”**

Ganiveth, Colombia  
Podcast Listener



Ana Ávila, recording her podcast for  
*La Coalición por el Evangelio.*



# In Search of Theological Scientists



**W**hat can we do to catalyze human scientists toward collaboration with theologians? A growing number of theologians are seeking to use the sciences as a tool for more robust work, but their guides are few. That's why we're excited to have this planning grant funded and launched in 2021. Meaningful and sustained contributions from human scientists to theological inquiry requires asking some key questions.

Our new project, *In Search of Theological Scientists*, seeks answers to these questions. Who are the scientists interested in collaboration, and what motivates them? What obstacles inhibit action? What level of theological literacy is helpful for the scientific collaborator to have? Which areas of theological inquiry are most ready for scientific engagement, and which areas are most interesting to human scientists? What else needs to be learned and enacted for these collaborations to be common and ripe for discovery?

We began exploring answers to these questions in 2021 and will continue this qualitative research in 2022. We also created a feedback form for theologians and human scientists to weigh in on this discovery process at [theologicalscientists.com](https://theologicalscientists.com).

Vice President Rebecca Dorsey leads a session at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

# Coaching & Consultation





# Renting Our Brain Power

**O**ur coaching and consulting services have become truly core to what we do at Blueprint. For those who think for a living it can be a challenge to get out of your own head. It is easy to get stuck, not for lack of intellectual ability, but rather from being the only voice asking questions or inspiring creativity. Sometimes, it's impossible to push back on your own ideas to either strengthen and fortify them, or to change them.

Enter coaching and consultation (C&C). In essence, in C&C clients rent our brain power to draw them out of their own head. We help clients cut through the intellectual clutter to identify and articulate the purpose of their work, and their most strategic path forward toward reaching their goals. C&Cs are especially effective during grant project development, event design, and in gaining missional clarity and focus for larger programs, initiatives, or centers.

## Coaching & Consultation Stats

Blueprint 1543 has already spent over 100 hours doing coaching and consultation.

Over 70% of grant proposal development coaching clients were successful in getting funded!!





# Widening Horizons

**W***idening Horizons in Philosophical Theology* is an initiative, led by Dr. Judith Wolfe, which invests in the future of philosophical theology in the continental tradition. It's centered on a **program of research and events** at the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) and extends to 12 independent research projects conducted by leading and emerging philosophers and theologians in the UK, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, the USA, Canada, and Australia.

We started working with Judith to support her RFP project, develop a community of practice, and support project awardees' development and scientific engagement. We collaborated with Judith regarding the workshop design, resulting in 2 strategically planned events to meet project aims.

In convening an in-person gathering in Scotland, we were successful in fostering community and educating participants. We determined the workshop schedule and participant prep work, facilitated the workshop onsite, and prepared and presented grant-related training for workshop attendees.

**“Justin and Rebecca are terrific coaches, who engage new project ideas with energy, wit, and sympathy. With their open-minded but firmly realistic support, nascent ideas take shape as viable projects.”**

Judith Wolfe

University of St. Andrews





# Launching Experimental Philosophy of Religion

**P**hilosophers of religion often rely on empirical claims that could be either verified or disproven, but without exploring whether they are. Frequently, appeals to intuitions (which may vary wildly according to education level, theological background, etc.) are invoked without concern for whether or not the psychological mechanisms that underwrite those intuitions are broadly shared or reliable.

The aim of this project is to kick-start broad, interdisciplinary engagement in Experimental Philosophy of Religion. To this end, key institutions and scholars were solicited to submit interdisciplinary sub-grant proposals, resulting in 10 research teams being awarded.

## OUR ROLE

Blueprint is supporting the project leader, Dr. Ian Church at Hillsdale College, in a variety of ways. On the project management side, we worked with Ian's team to set up the business logistics of running grant contracts to the awarded teams, and setting up their internal business functions and team workflow.

We have also helped referee proposals and collaborate on research design, analysis, and writing. The collaboration has produced a published journal article as well, "The Context of Suffering: Empirical Insights into the Problem of Evil."



# But Wait! There's More!

RESOURCES, OPERATIONS & FINANCES





# Resourcing Individuals & Communities

**B**lueprint 1543 produced **a variety of podcasts, videos, lectures, and publications** this year. These products are the branches and the leaves of our work; the roots are our relationships with our clients and partners. That said, sometimes the best way to serve communities is through a series of 1-on-1 meetings (coaching), and sometimes, the best way is to speak at a conference or through a collection of video resources. Here are some highlights from our public work this year.



## CLICK BELOW TO BROWSE!



### Podcasts



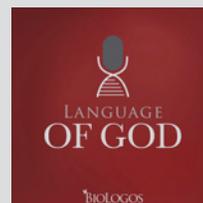
### Videos



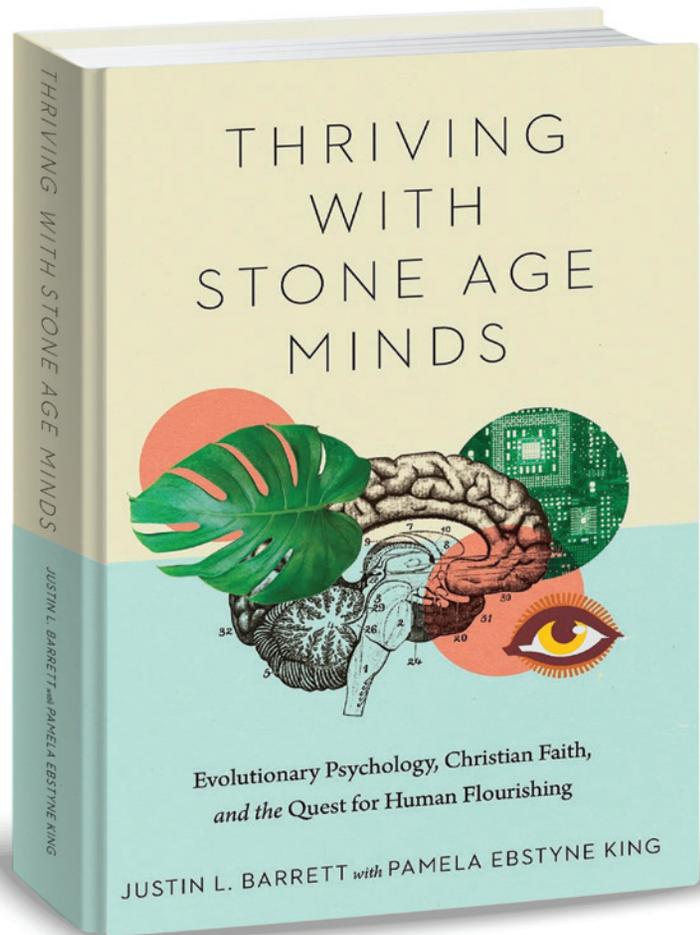
### Courses



### Ebooks



# New from InterVarsity Press



“Intellectually engaging,  
emotionally satisfying, and  
spiritually illuminating.”

Robert Emmons,  
University of California, Davis

*Thriving with Stone Age Minds* provides an introduction to evolutionary psychology, explaining key concepts like hyper-sociality, information gathering, and self-control. Combining insights from evolutionary psychology with resources from the Bible and Christian theology, Barrett and King focus fresh attention on the question, *What is human flourishing?*

By integrating scientific evidence with wisdom from theological anthropology, we can learn to close up nature-niche gaps and thrive, becoming more what God has created us to be.

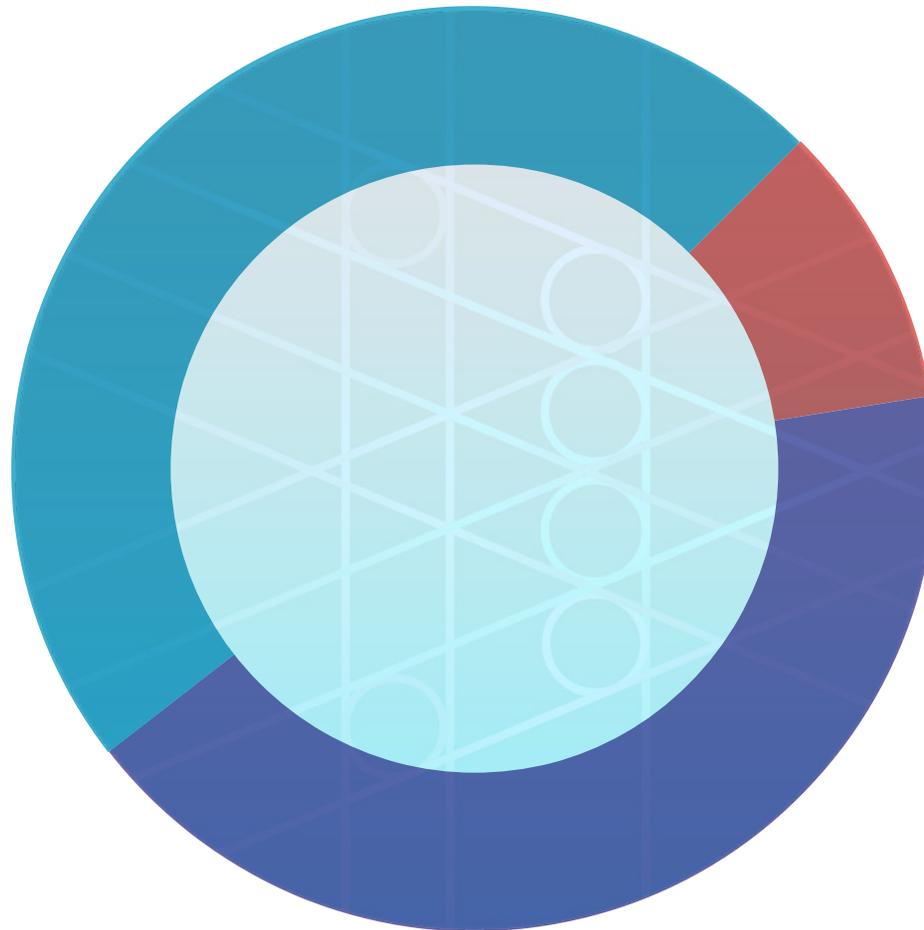


# 2021 Budget

\*FOR ANNUAL REVENUE EARNED

**48%**

START-UP  
GRANT FUNDS



**10%**

COACHING, CONSULTATION,  
& EVENT DESIGN SERVICES

**42%**

PROJECT GRANTS &  
FELLOWSHIPS



# 5-Year Project Outlook



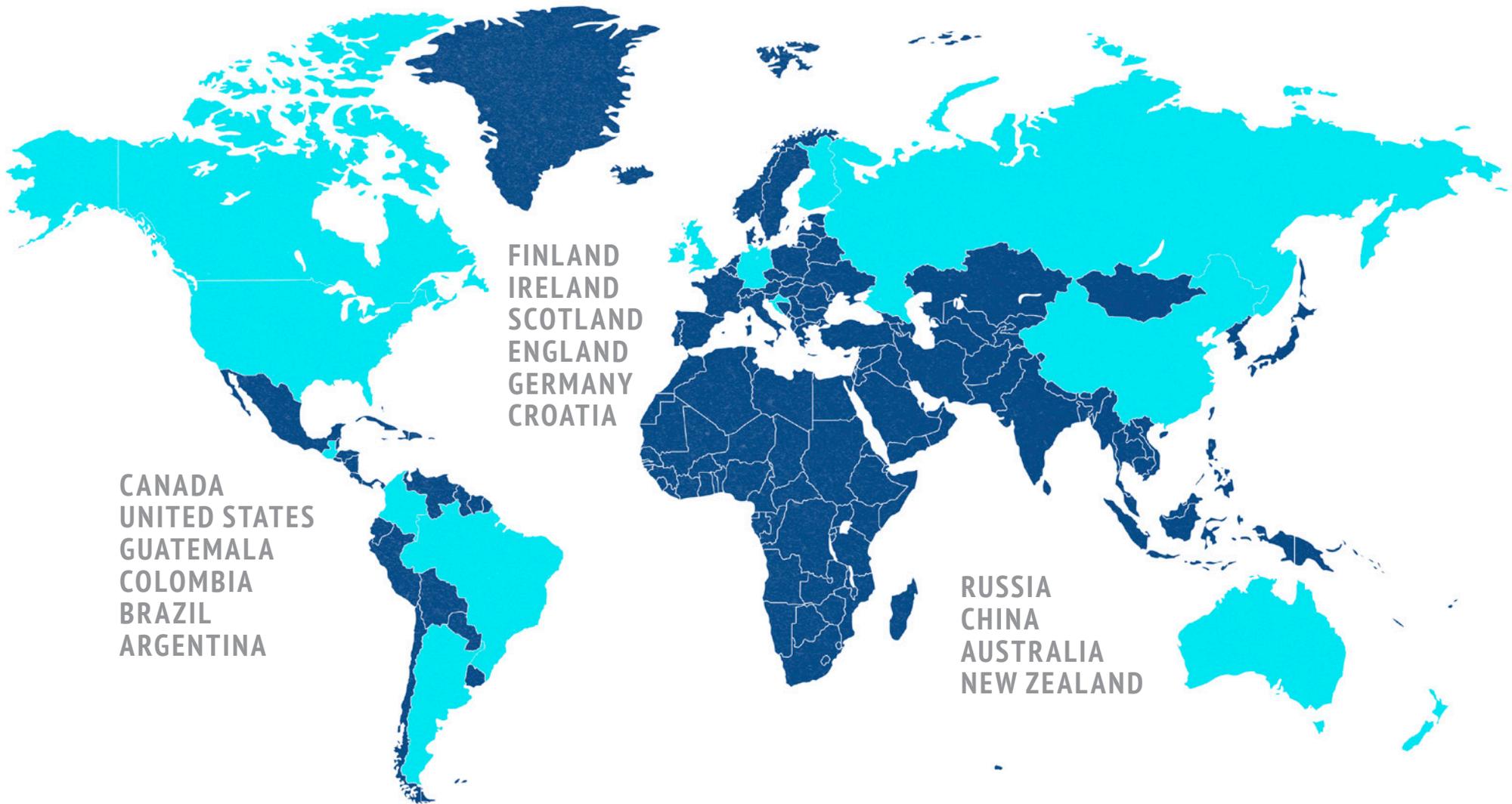
\*THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF A GRANT FROM THE JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION (GRANT IDS # 62029, 62097, AND 62196).



# Global Reach

**W**e made a global impact in 2021, extending our projects, grantmaking, and services across 4 continents and 16 countries, and boy are our arms tired!

 = **WHERE WE'VE WORKED**





# Services

**W**e built our organization because we love helping people realize the full potential of their integrative work. If you're developing a project that aligns with our mission, and need help making it a reality, we might be the right mix of content and strategy consulting that you didn't realize you needed.



## Coaching

We provide advanced professional coaching for individuals (and teams) who have all the relevant skills/expertise for the work at hand, but need to develop out particulars, maximize impact, and take advantage of opportunities.



## Consultation

We provide consultation services for those who have need for expertise in certain areas, such as grant writing and project management skills, developing a new interdisciplinary subfield, or the cognitive sciences.



## Coaching & Consultation

These are unique services to help increase the impact, productivity, and efficiency of your work. We combine coaching and consulting into one service when clients need help to process and analyze (coaching) as well as time to learn more (consultation).



## Speaking

We're available to speak at meetings or events. Contact us if you think we might help you achieve the goals of your event through teaching.



## Partnerships

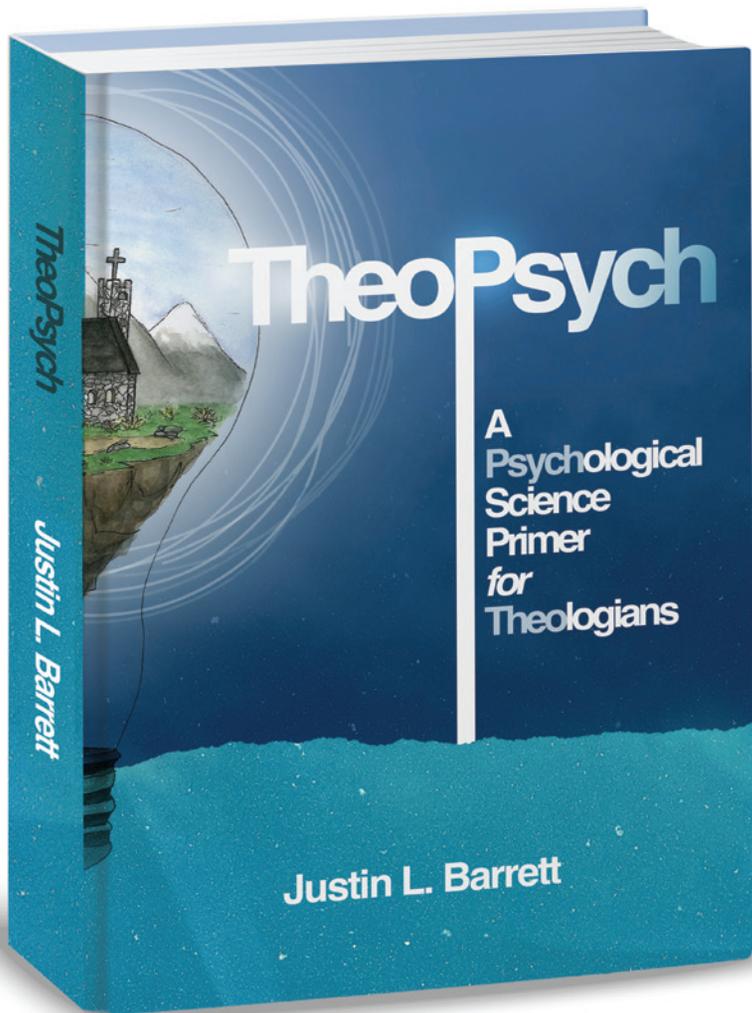
Perhaps your organization would like to partner with us in a way that makes use of our mutual skills, expertise, and resources. Another type of collaboration may allow us to accomplish the most robust project.



## Convening

If you want to bring people together for an intentional purpose but lack event experience, or just want to increase impact or productivity, we can help you bring it together (whether in person or online).

# TheoPsych



“The aim of this book is to help theologians understand enough about psychological science to know when it is that these scientists and their skills might make a helpful contribution to a theological project.”

[Justin Barrett](#)

[\*\*Click here to download for free!\*\*](#)

Integrating  
Christian theology  
and the sciences to  
answer life's biggest  
questions.

VISIT US ONLINE AT

**[BLUEPRINT1543.ORG](http://BLUEPRINT1543.ORG)**

