

From Militant Atheist to Christian Filmmaker with Michael Ray Lewis PLUS Conspiracy Theory Updates

(December 2, 2025)

FRANK:

Ladies and gentlemen, I have a conspiracy update before we get to our main topic for today, which is an amazing brand new apologetics film you're going to want to see. But before I get there, just to deal with some more of the questions regarding Charlie Kirk and the conspiracy theories that are out there, one thing I want to point out that people don't seem to understand is not every false statement is a lie.

People think that if you say something false, you're automatically lying. That's a fallacy in itself. Let me deal with one of them that's out there. Right after the event, when I did the first podcast five or so days after Charlie was murdered, I said that we got drone footage prior to the event on our way in about an hour before we got in. And it showed that right there on Charlie's phone, that there were so many people there at the university an hour before we were even supposed to start.

And it looked like it was coming from above. It looked like drone footage. And so I said, hey, it was drone footage. And it showed how crowded it was an hour out. Well, Brian Harpool, who was on Sean Ryan's podcast, said there were no drones up. So people on the internet have been saying, well, Frank, you said it was drone footage. And Brian, the head of security, who, by the way, was in the car with me, and Rick, and Justin, and Dan bringing Charlie to the hospital. Brian was the head of security that day.

In any event, people are saying, is Brian telling the truth or are you telling the truth? Either way, someone's lying. That's false. Why? Well, it is contradictory, but it doesn't mean one of us was lying. Brian was not aware of any drones being up, and he said it was against, I guess, the university policy to have drones up during the event. It might have been that the advance team, the PR team, put a drone up before the event in order to get some footage.



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

That's a possibility. I don't know if that's the case or not. But what we did not understand at the time, didn't even think of at the time, was that the overhang that was above us, Charlie was down in an amphitheater. And as you came sort of through this opening under a building, the tent was right under there. And right above us, people were literally above us, I don't know, a couple of stories on a building or on some kind of overhang above us.

It could have been that one of the team members was up there on his or her iPhone and took video from above because there were people standing up there. I thought it was drone footage. It may not have been drone footage. It may have just been somebody with their iPhone way above the whole venue, because that's the way the venue was. This is why, by the way, when we got that footage from above and kind of panned around-- This is when I said to Charlie, hey, Charlie, I, don't like this place.

It has too many buildings. I didn't realize one of the buildings-- I don't know if it was a building itself or just kind of a walkway causeway up there, was right above us. So either it was an early drone, or it was just somebody up on that causeway or up on that walkway, whatever it was, above us that was taking video from above. So contradictory statements, they do not mean that someone's lying. It could have just mean that one person was ignorant.

That would have been me. I thought it was a drone angle. It may not have been a drone angle. It may have just been somebody standing way up high. All right? So that update. The other update, we'll put a little video from Mikey McCoy in the show notes about his father saying that Mikey was covered in blood. That was just a misunderstanding. And Mikey will explain in this video that we will put in the show notes. He was on the Charlie Kirk show last week where he basically pointed out that he had said Charlie had been shot.

I don't remember the exact details, but since there was so much blood, and there was. Let me just put it this way without being too graphic. The three of us in the backseat had to change our clothes when we got to the hospital. Okay? We couldn't. We couldn't even stop the bleeding. We had to change our clothes. And Mikey knew that blood was everywhere. And what he said to his father, his father may have just misunderstood. Not that he was covered in blood, but many were.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

And so, every false statement is not necessarily a lie. Just keep that in mind. And also, if people are going to say, like, Candace Owens has come up with all sorts of different, possible culprits. You know, Trump. She said Trump may have killed him, or Israel may have killed him, or Netanyahu ordered it, or it may have been Mikey was involved, or his father, Rob McCoy, was involved, or it was the Egyptians were involved, or the French were involved.

I thought the French, all they did was surrender. But apparently, they have been involved, too. Unless you're going to believe that all of those entities somehow coordinated together, which is ludicrous. Unless you're going to believe that, most of what she's saying, even if one of them did it, most of what she's saying is false. And if none of them were involved, everything she's saying is false in terms of who did it. I mean, the best evidence we have right now is that Tyler Robinson killed him.

That's the best evidence we have now. So, if you're going to say other people did it when really Tyler Robinson did do it, you're implicating a lot of innocent people for murder, and they had nothing to do with it. This is why Mikey McCoy's getting death threats. That's why I have emails that say, oh, you know, or comments on YouTube, you should repent, or you never know what could happen to you. This is reckless, ladies and gentlemen. It's fine to ask questions.

It's not fine to insinuate people are guilty when you don't have evidence that they are. Anything's possible, but a possibility is not evidence. As I said before, if we had surmised that Candace had done it, that's a possibility, but it's not a possibility with any evidence. You need to have evidence for what you're saying, especially if you're going to implicate people in a murder.

So we will see. Unfortunately, the trial is probably not going to be for another year. And the prosecution is checking into all of these conspiracy theories. How do I know? Because I was the subject of one of them. Yeah, the FBI contacted me and said, are you the guy in the white hat that was signaling the shooter? Did you really signal the shooter? He goes, I hate to have to ask you this, but I have to. I have to check down every lead. And I said, oh, yeah, yeah. I was signaling the shooter. I was telling him to steal second base. It's the dumbest thing in the world, okay? Nobody needs to tell a shooter where Charlie Kirk is.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

He's the only guy under the tent with the microphone. It made absolutely no sense. They are checking into conspiracy theories. Why? Because the defense at trial is going to say, did you check into the second shooter? Did you check into this? Did you check into that? And the prosecution's going to have to say, yes, and we found it went nowhere. All right? So the prosecution is not going to tell you what they're doing, because if they tell you what they're doing, they're going to defeat their purpose, which is to convict the real killer.

If they tell you, hey, we're looking for a second shooter, and then somebody comes forward and says, oh, I saw the second shooter. They don't know if that guy really saw the second shooter, or he just heard you were looking for a second shooter. And so he said, I'm the second shooter. I heard the second shooter, or I saw the second shooter. He's just trying to make a name for himself so they can't reveal what they're doing. They also don't want to taint the jury pool. They also don't want to tip off the defense. Their job is to convict the real killer. So we're just going to have to be patient rather than spend all these different conspiracy theories, all these different possibilities without evidence.

Now, when it comes to evidence, we have a lot of evidence that Christianity is indeed true. Not just a possibility. Not just a possibility. Like people always say, well, you know, it's possible that the disciples stole the body. It's possible, but we don't have any evidence for it, and it makes no sense. It's possible aliens took his body. Yeah, that's possible, but we don't have any evidence for it.

We need evidence if we're going to be secure in what we believe. How did a militant atheist who didn't think God existed or Christianity was true, how did this militant atheist become a Christian and put together a brilliant new film that in about 90 minutes, shows you the breadth of the evidence for Christianity, starting with, does truth exist through the evidence for God, particularly the scientific evidence, and then right up to Jesus dying and rising from the dead.

Well, my guest today is filmmaker Michael Ray Lewis, who has just completed, after many years of work, a brand new film called Universe Designed. And it certainly deserves a round of applause, ladies and gentlemen, as does he. Here he is, the great Michael Ray Lewis. [Applause] This is the first. Okay, crowd enough. The first film that you've ever directed. Michael, thanks for coming on the show and thanks for doing this film.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

MICHAEL:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity, Frank. I'm glad to talk to you about it.

FRANK:

Oh, absolutely. Let's start, before we get into the film and show the trailer here, let's start with your history. You were a filmmaker. You were not brought up necessarily in a Christian home. You were brought up in a home where people believed in God, but they never really talked about God. Right?

MICHAEL:

That's right.

FRANK:

You became an atheist in your 20s, a pretty militant atheist. Let's first talk about how you became a Christian out of that sort of new atheist, militant atheist background.

MICHAEL:

Well, I was pretty aggressive towards Christians at first because the only real interactions I had with Christians were the ones that were on the street corners yelling at me that I'm going to Hell. And so, I didn't want anything to do with that belief system on top of the fact that I just didn't think it was true.

I didn't think there was any good evidence for it, mainly because no one ever gave me good reasons to believe it. And so, later on in life, I ended up getting married and my wife, to kind of put it in context, she did grow up in the church, but she was pulled away by friends and just experiences in life.

And then on top of that, I met her, which pulled her even further away from Jesus. And after we were married, she came to me and she said, I feel like Jesus is calling me back. And I was like crushed by those words, because I'm like, I don't want to deal with any of this stuff. But you know what?

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

Fine, I'll go to church with you and I'll see what all this is about. And I remember I walk into the church, and I'm looking around, and I'm like, all right. These aren't necessarily the people on the street corners yelling at me. I get it. It gives them something to hope in. It's just not true. Well, eventually I started to get kind of tired of going.

And so I figured, well, all I need to do is just show her that it's not true. I had watched documentaries by Bill Maher. I had watched a documentary called Zeitgeist, which showed that there was no good reason to believe any of this, that Jesus was just a copy of ancient myths. And so, I figured if I show her all this, I could persuade her that it was all nonsense.

FRANK:

And we know if it's a documentary on the internet, it absolutely has to be true.

MICHAEL:

Exactly.

FRANK:

We know that. Okay.

MICHAEL:

Right. And that's what's crazy too is I think looking back at it now, I can see that I was not even looking as deep as I needed to look. That was the problem. However, I was going to take a second look at it, mainly because during this whole process when she was talking to me and I was going to try to show her that it wasn't real, a YouTube video popped up on my feed, and it was by Hugh Ross.

And it was a video of Hugh Ross going over his perspective of the creation days. And what's funny is my wife had actually purchased a Bible for me. And I remember I opened it, I went through like the first few pages of Genesis, said, this is nonsense, pushed it away. When I saw that video, it piqued my curiosity.

And I was like, you know what? Maybe there is something to this. Maybe I do need to take a second look. And that started a three year journey of me just diving into books from you, books

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

from Hugh Ross, books from William Lane Craig. I remember the first book I read was Timothy Keller's 'Reasons for God.' And I just started diving into it and it was one thing after another. The evidence was just compiling one thing on top of another. And at the end of the three years, I was still pretty convinced.

I mean, I was still resistant towards the idea, and I had questions about Scripture. And so she said, you know what? I don't know how to answer all the questions that you have, but I do have a friend of the family who's a theologian. And so, I wrote down five pages full of questions I'm just ready to hammer this guy with.

And I remember I sat down with him, asked him all the questions. He answered every single question I had, and he did it using Scripture. And then he looks at me and he says, so do you think it's actually true? And keep in mind, this is three years of me looking in.

I had no more objections. And I said, you know, I think I do. But it didn't really sink in until the drive home. On the way home, I thought to myself, I actually think this is true. And then I realized that this entire time, it wasn't the evidence that was holding me back, but it was the fact that I didn't want it to be true.

And when I realized that, I thought to myself, that's not a good reason. And I threw my hands up. I said, all right, Jesus, what's next? Gave my life to Christ, and since then have come to realize there are so many believers out there that don't know how to defend the faith.

I kind of dedicated my life to helping believers equip them, to have conversations and helping people to become aware of apologetics, as most Christians aren't even aware that there's an entire field of study dedicated to the evidence. And so, that's really the driving force behind why I felt the need to make this film.

FRANK:

Now, why did you not want Christianity to be true at the time?

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

MICHAEL:

At the time, the reason I would tell you is because I can't believe in a God who would send me to an eternal punishment just because I have a little bit of trouble believing in Him. That was the reason I would tell you at the time. Looking back at it today, I think it was more so the fact that I didn't want to release that control. I felt like I had control of my life.

And if I admitted that this was true, that meant I had no control of my life. And I think that's really what was holding me back from giving my life to Christ. And on top of that, I didn't have a deep grasp of the Gospel. I mean, I'd heard the language repent and believe, but it didn't really sink in until after I threw my hands up and said, all right, Jesus, what's next?

Then I went into Scripture, and then I really started to understand the Gospel, understand that Jesus wasn't sending me anywhere. I was sending myself there. And he was standing right in front of me with his hand open, and all I had to do was take it.

FRANK:

Yeah, it's kind of a false belief that people have. They think they go to hell because they don't believe in Jesus. No, they go to hell because they've sinned, not because they don't believe that. I mean, that's just another sin, not believing in Jesus. But there's plenty of others that'll get you to hell, right? It's like saying, I died because I didn't go to the doctor. No, you died because you had a disease.

Maybe you could have prevented death by going to the doctor, but the reason that you die is because you have a disease, not because you don't go to the doctor. Now, of course, the great doctor, the great physician is Jesus. He can cure us of all that for eternity. But yeah, people have all these misunderstandings and there's also kind of this moral outrage, like, how dare you send me to hell because I don't believe in you. As if that's immoral. Right.

MICHAEL:

Exactly.

FRANK:

What moral standard are you using to say that would be immoral?

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

MICHAEL:

But that was. That was the mindset that I was in, but it mostly had to do with the fact that I didn't understand it.

FRANK:

Okay.

MICHAEL:

It didn't comprehend to me. But the further I dug into it, the more I became to understand the gravity of the Gospel. And I'm always curious about my conversion too, because that moment in the car, that was the moment where it was almost like a fog left my mind and I could finally see reality for the way that it actually was.

But I didn't fully understand the Gospel until a few days later when I really started to read it and come to understand it. So, the Holy Spirit was doing something in that moment in the car, even prior to me fully grasping the message of the Gospel.

FRANK:

Yes. And it's similar to what happened to C.S. Lewis. Apparently, he was talking to Tolkien one day, if I remember the story right. And you know, when he got in, I think he was on a motorcycle with a sidecar with his brother. And he said, you know, when I got in the sidecar, I wasn't a Christian. And we went on this drive, and when I got to where we were going, I was. [Laughter] Kind of sounds like similar thing, you know? It's just like it sunk in somehow.

MICHAEL:

Yeah.

FRANK:

The Holy Spirit was after me, and I finally yielded.

MICHAEL:

Exactly.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

FRANK:

So, what was some of the evidence that while you were on this journey that caused you to say, you know, this might really be true? What was some of it.

MICHAEL:

I think the fine-tuning played a big part. Because I was always into universe, and space, and astronomy. And so, when I really started, it was the book that I read by Hugh Ross, 'Why the Universe is the Way That It Is.' And I remember thinking like, why, how are we here?

Like, it doesn't, it just doesn't make sense. Given the laws of physics, like we shouldn't be here. And yet, not only here we are, but here we are able to ask the question, why are we here? And so, the fine-tuning argument was a big one. And then J. Warner Wallace with 'Cold-Case Christianity' was a big influence as well because the evidence surrounding the resurrection was huge, especially the impact of Jesus. That was a big factor for me as well. But honestly, I probably couldn't point to one particular thing.

It was a cumulative case. I mean, it was the fact that like everywhere I went, it was all pointing in one direction. No matter what form of evidence I'm looking at, it's all pointing in one direction as Christianity being the best explanation. Because I was trying to look at other worldviews and other belief systems, other religions, and nothing was holding up. Nothing was near as strong of a case as Christianity. And so, I think it was that cumulative case that really started to kind of weigh in on me. And I think that's also why it took me three years.

FRANK:

What year did you become a Christian?

MICHAEL:

It was 2016. My journey started in 2013.

FRANK:

Now you are a filmmaker, and you worked on other films, horror films and others. And what really caused you to say, I want to put together an apologetic documentary with some prominent apologists and make it? I mean, this is cinema quality, what you've done here. At

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

what point did you decide to do that? And why did you use \$150,000 of your own money to do it?

MICHAEL:

Well, I was already making films prior to giving my life to Christ. I hadn't been a director yet. I'd always been like a DP, which is the guy behind the camera, or I'd be the editor for the project. And even after I gave my life to Christ, I continued to make-- And you're right, most of them were horror films. And I just felt that I need to do something more. And actually, prior to giving my life to Christ, I was already preparing a script for my first horror film as a director.

But after I gave my life to Christ, I realized like, I don't need to take that path. And I'm in my head I'm going, how do you make a Christian horror film? And so, like all these things are going through my mind. And then I was like, well, I don't want to make a Christian film because those are terrible. And so, my mindset was, what could I do?

And my wife was the one who brought it up. And she said, why don't you do a documentary based on the evidence that convinced you it was true? And I said, I'm gonna do that. And so, I planned it to where I was just going to find a bunch of people who used to be atheists, give their testimony, maybe share some of the evidence and put together a little documentary.

And she said, no. Why don't you actually email the people of the books that you read. And it was actually, you were the first one that I emailed, Frank, and you responded and said yes. And that's when I really started to get excited because then, right after that, everyone else, one after another, the emails were coming in and everyone was saying yes, yes.

I was buying plane tickets and flying out, honestly not even having a story in mind. I just knew that I was going to ask you guys all the difficult questions I had as an atheist. And so, that's what I did. I laid out everything, went through the questions. At the end of all this, I ended up with 36 hours of content.

FRANK:

Wow.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

MICHAEL:

That I had to condense down to an hour and 20 minute movie, have it make sense, not be too information heavy to lose people, but have enough information to build a compelling case. And so, in the process of editing, I made a dedicated—

I told myself, I said I'm going to try to do what Greg Koukl says. I'm going to try to just plant a seed. I need to cover the evidence and move on so that I can keep people's interest but pique their curiosity enough to challenge them and go, so that they'll know that they need to take a second look at all of this.

And yeah. I did a donation pitch where I tried to raise donations for it. I ended up raising, it was \$120,000 I raised and then \$30,000 I put in of my own money. And then it was a passion project, so it's partly why it took me four years to make the film because I'm over here filming it myself, editing it myself, on top of trying to make money for the family, and support the family. And so, but I'm extremely thankful for the whole process. And just what's come out of it is something amazing, and I'm excited for people to see it.

FRANK:

Well, it's extremely well done. My wife and I watched it last night. Let me give you a rundown of the people in the film other than myself. You have J. Warner Wallace, Stephen Meyer, Hugh Ross, Greg Koukl, Alisa Childers, Sean McDowell, Allen Parr, Mike Licona, Fuzz Rana, Jeff Zweerink, Travis Dickinson, Eric Hernandez, Lance Walde, Mary Jo Sharp, and Larry Evans.

So, you have several prominent apologists in this particular new movie, and it's called Universe Designed, ladies and gentlemen. In fact, why don't we take a look at the trailer right now so you can see the quality of what's going on. Here it is.

TRAILER:

Any person who is truly a thinking person needs to ask themselves the question, why is there something rather than nothing? Scientists believe there's an intelligible answer to that, meaning there is a reason for the way things are. What's that reason? Why do I exist?

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

Why do you exist? Why does the universe exist? Physicists have discovered fundamental constants, and parameters, and characteristics that define the universe have to assume exacting precise values. If you were to change any one of them, there would either be no universe or no universe that could support life.

Our galaxy, our star, our planetary system, the Earth, the moon, whatever size scale you choose to look at, you see an overwhelming experimental and observational case that there is of being out there, fine-tuning, intervening.

Immersing myself in the study of biochemical systems, I became deeply impressed with the ingenuity, and the elegance, and the sophistication of those systems. The living cell is chock full of miniature machines that doesn't just rival, but it vastly exceeds our own high tech digital technology.

There must be a creator that's behind life itself. If some kind of a God existed, he would want to reveal Himself, at least in some way. We would have to look at all of the different ways people have understood him to do that.

I want to know, is there any evidence backing any one of them up as uniquely being true? This guy shows up on the scene and does something remarkable. Whatever it is he did, split history. He's on the pages of the Quran, on the pages of Baha'i sacred writings, on the pages of Buddhism, Hinduism, Krishna, New Age. These Romans were skilled in crucifixion. They knew how to make sure that someone was completely dead. Many of Jesus' disciples had experiences that Jesus had risen from the dead.

What did they gain? Well, they were beaten, tortured, persecuted, beheaded, stone whipped and running for their lives. We really have to put our beliefs to the fire. The reason we believe God is true is because he's the best explanation for the way things are. There are truths that can be known, and I want to know what they are.

FRANK:

'Universe Designed' by my guest Michael Ray Lewis, four years in the making. Michael, it had to be difficult narrowing down 36 hours to about 90 minutes. But I think you did so very well,

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

particularly in the order in which you presented the evidence. It's similar to the order we take in 'I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist.'

You start with truth, you move on to God, talk a little bit about miracles, and then you're in the New Testament and Jesus rising from the dead. So can you just kind of give an overview with our audience of how you arranged this evidence and what are each of the sections that you take people through?

MICHAEL:

So, I wanted to structure it in such a way that if a non-believer was watching it, they wouldn't shut it off instantly. I don't—

FRANK:

They're certainly not going to do that. It's very well done. They're going to be, whoa!

MICHAEL:

Right. And I wanted to do it in such a way that it's kind of like it's a softer approach. It's very similar to your book. And the idea behind it is the fact that like, you have to get someone there. If you start saying the repent and believe language right off the bat, to me, you're no better than the people in the street corners.

And people have heard that language all the time. And so, their minds will instantly shut off and stop listening. And so, I wanted to structure it in a way that kind of gradually gets you there. And so we cover, does truth exist? We shift gears to like big questions about the universe. What can we know about the universe?

Then we shift into more the cosmological arguments of the origins of the universe. Where did the universe come from? I take you through the fine-tuning. We cover the life and the problems with evolution or macro evolution. And then we shift gears to, well, if this is all true, then how do we know it's Christianity? Then we'll shift gears to the reliability of scripture. Then we kind of guide you through the evidence surrounding the resurrection and the impact of Jesus.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

Ultimately dealing with the problem of evil and then delivering the Gospel message. And I was really explicit when I was making the film because I've seen so many Christian films out there that are just not explicit. They're more family friendly films. So, they're not explicit about who Jesus claimed to be. They're not explicit, some of them not even about the Gospel. And so, I wanted to make sure that I provided a film that does take you all the way. And so, even though it's a lot of information to pack in, you're right.

Cutting it down from 36 hours was very difficult because there were so many good arguments, I wanted to include that I just didn't have the time to include it. One, because of budget, because to make a two-hour movie would have been a lot more. But two, because I want to keep their curiosity. I want to keep people's interest. I want to keep people, the story flowing, and be able to hit the topics compelling enough, but not to hit them so hard that people's eyes start to glaze over and then they start to lose interest.

FRANK:

It was not preachy at all. It's not preachy. It's documentary format. You don't even have a narrator. It's narrated by the people who are speaking, and you just put them in a sequential logical order so that people can see where you're going.

The only thing you have in there that kind of directs the audience is every once in a while, you put a screen up and it'll say something like design, or origin, or something like that. Right. So, yeah, it's really well done in that regard. And it's airing now, where? Where does it begin to air and where can people see it?

MICHAEL:

Any major streaming platform where you can rent movies. So Amazon, Fandango, Apple TV, Google TV, any platforms like that, you'll be able to go on and either rent or purchase it. And December 13th is the day that it's set to release.

FRANK:

So, December 13th, 'Universe Designed' friends. Over the Christmas holidays, you'll probably have a lot of family time, and you know, you could watch a lot of football. I get that. You can

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

have family time that way, but why not take your family through this beautifully done documentary that will keep them interested?

It's visually appealing. It's also logically appealing, and it covers some of the big questions in life. Again, it's called 'Universe Designed' by Michael Ray Lewis. Let me ask you this, Michael, as you did this, did you come across arguments you hadn't heard before and said, wow, I need to include that?

MICHAEL:

The argument for desire was new to me.

FRANK:

Ahhh, from C.S. Lewis. You have that in there?

MICHAEL:

Yes. Okay. That one I hadn't heard. But no, really, I mean, I was-- At this point when I started making the film, I was engulfed in all of this. Still am to this day, constantly looking. And it's just, it's amazing too because even in the process of making this film, it has helped me in my confidence in talking to non-believers as well.

And it just, it excites me now to go and have a conversation with someone. And that's what my hope is, is that it'll excite the believer to want to go and talk about Jesus. Not only because there's good reasons to believe it, but because we love Jesus. We should be out there sharing them and talking about Him. This is what we're commanded to do. And so, my hope is that it'll excite people to go and do that. And this is a great evangelistic tool.

This is something that if you only have a short time frame with someone to invite them to watch, maybe a non-believer who's in the family, or a friend, and this is something you can, or even invite someone to watch if you only have five minutes with them on the street, invite them to watch this, and maybe try to have a conversation with them after they watch it. But on top of that, the whole goal really behind the film is to guide people to resources like CrossExamined.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

Because even on my website, once you watch the film, you can go to the tab at the top titled resources, and I have all of the ministries of all of the scholars in the film. So that way you can dive deeper. Since I can't build a full case in an hour and 20 minute movie, I can pique your curiosity and then send you to the resources that are already available.

FRANK:

What is your website so people can go there right now?

MICHAEL:

UniverseDesigned.com

FRANK:

Universedesigned.com, that's the name of the movie as well. You can find it on Amazon or those other platforms that Michael just mentioned. It's a small fee to rent, maybe just a few dollars. Well worth it. And you'll also help Michael recover his investment, which would be nice. You know?

He's doing this as a labor of love to try and show people the truth in a very beautifully done way that the whole family can enjoy. Again, it's called Universe Designed. I have another question for Michael. Don't go anywhere. I've got to mention one other thing, and that is as we come up to the end of the year, ladies and gentlemen, you know that all that we do is funded by you, the donor.

And our security costs on college campuses have tripled since Charlie. Actually, we used to have no security. It used to cost us about an average of \$5,000 to go to a college campus. You know, when you take in the flights, and the hotels, and the videographer's fee, and all that, about \$5,000. Now it costs about \$15,000 to go because we have to have security because many of the folks who say they're fighting for inclusion, tolerance, university will not include or not tolerate you if you have a diverse view. And we are getting invitations from everywhere now.

We might have 15 to 20 colleges in the next semester. It might be that high. I don't have the exact number in front of me, but I'm tired. We went through so many right after Charlie died. Obviously now colleges are basically out of session. So we're not going back until February.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

We're going to get a little bit of rest over here over the holiday season. But in this last month where much of the donations come in, I want to mention we have a \$300,000 matching gift.

We had some donors come together and say we're going to put together 300,000. So anybody that gives, the first 300,000 that is given is going to be matched. So if you want to be part of that, go to crossexamined.org. Click on donate. And your donations go 100% to ministry, 0% to buildings. We are completely virtual. You don't come to us. We come to you. So you're not paying for anyone's desk, you're not paying for anyone's electricity, or rent. You're paying for people to go out there and do ministry where it's needed most.

So thank you for supporting us. Again, \$300,000 matching gift in the month of December or up to the end of the year. And your donations are 100% tax deductible. Thank you for your support. We have a way to give now via check online, or you can send a check, or you can do it via credit card, or PayPal, or anything. Just go to Crossexamined.org, click on donate. Michael, this brand new movie 'Universe Designed' which can be seen almost anywhere online, particularly Amazon. You mentioned Fandango, is that right?

MICHAEL:

It's Fandango. It used to be Vudu. They've switched the name to Fandango.

FRANK:

Fandango and Apple TV as well.

MICHAEL:

Apple TV.

FRANK:

Okay. What was your hope when you put this film together? Was this aimed at Christians primarily? Seekers? You know, skeptics probably won't watch it. But like, what was your hope?

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

MICHAEL:

I think my primary audience originally was seekers. People who are open to the idea, who are open to hearing the evidence. Even when I was editing, that was that was my mindset through the whole process. That's one of the reasons why I take you in such a slow journey as I do because my goal is to reach the non-believer.

But in the process of making the film, I think I just, the awareness of the fact that so many Christians don't even know about apologetics really started to sink in. And I think that's where I now, my hope is that it'll get in front of believers, and churches, and people to help them become aware of the fact that like, there are good reasons for what we believe and you need to be out there sharing it, and there's good resources that people, some people don't aren't even aware of.

And so, while it is a film geared towards the non-believer who's genuinely open to hearing the evidence, it's also a film for the believer. Not only to just excite you and get you excited about the fact that what we believe is actually true, but to hopefully challenge you so that you'll go and do more research, and be able to have conversations with people, and get out there on the street talking to people, whether it's the person standing next to you in line at the convenience store, or whether it's a family member. This is, in my mind, I struggle with conversations with people because I'm not a small talk guy.

I don't know much. I don't know anything about sports. I'm not good with small talk. And so, all I really care to talk about is the deep questions in life. But I've noticed it's the opposite for a lot of people. For a lot of people, it's difficult for them to go there because they're afraid the conversation is going to get awkward.

They're afraid they're going to get asked something they don't know. And so, rather than being out there talking to people, they just kind of take a step back, and just put this barrier between them and non-believers or just talk about topics that are of little importance. And so, my hope is that it'll challenge the believer as well.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

FRANK:

Well, it certainly does. And for people, which is most in the church who don't know anything about apologetics, this is going to be a very nice, attractive introduction to the topic to them. They're going to go, I didn't even know this stuff existed. It's amazing how many times people, they'll come to a session and they'll go, wow. I never knew this existed. Like, where's this been all my life? When in the Bible, it tells us to always have a reason for the hope that you have. Give an answer. You know, we're set in defense of the Gospel.

Come, let us reason together, right? Paul defended the scriptures, and he defended the truth of Christianity wherever he went. I mean, we're commanded to know what we believe and why we believe. And the very thing that we have over other religious worldviews is that our religious worldview can actually be shown to be true through evidence. And yet we're using what everybody else uses, just testimonies.

Muslims can use testimonies. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, anybody can use a testimony. An atheist can say, I feel liberated now. I don't have to worry about God anymore. Right? Testimonies might have their place in some areas, but the very thing that we have that nobody else has is the evidence that shows that Christianity is indeed true, that God exists, Jesus rose from the dead and the Bible's telling the truth.

And you know, in going through this, it struck me again, Michael, your fine film, the bottom line to the whole thing is that every effect has a cause and everything around us is an effect. There has to be an uncaused first cause. And when we're reasoning from effect to cause, we wind up at the Christian God. And that's of course what scientists do. They reason from effect to cause.

So the law of causality is our friend here, which is the foundation of all science. And so, you've done a great job bringing the scientists together, the New Testament scholars together, and other apologists together. Again, friends, it's called 'Universe Designed.' Probably the easiest place to see it is Amazon, but Apple TV has it and other places. Please go and watch the film. Again, go to the website universedesigned.com.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek PODCAST

MICHAEL:

Yep, universesdesigned.com. That's right.

FRANK:

Now, if people want to donate, can they donate to the fact that, I mean, it's already made but you're still trying to recover your investment? Can they do that there?

MICHAEL:

So, I did leave the donation link is still available on the website. And keep in mind too, any funds that this film makes, I'm basically going to take and put towards making another one. My hope is that I can generate enough income to do a bigger project with a higher budget, because \$150,000 to make a movie is nothing. When you—

FRANK:

Well, you didn't have to pay any of the actors because right none of us were actors. We're just, it's what we do. So, you just had to pay your travel, and your own time to do all this.

MICHAEL:

Exactly. And the highest, the most expensive parts would be the visual effects and the music composition. A lot of the postproduction work, that's where really most of the funds went. But it's still even with that, the only way I was able to keep it as such as low of a budget as I could is because I did most of the work myself as far as filming and editing.

But my hope is that it can make enough money that I can go even bigger. Maybe make a narrative movie about apologetics instead of a documentary, a movie with a storyline, maybe a movie about some of the apologists and their testimonies, and their stories. And so, there's so many ideas. But no matter what, I'm going to continue to make apologetic based films because I feel like that's what needs to be out there.

FRANK:

Excellent. Universesdesigned.com, ladies and gentlemen. Also, check it out on Amazon and Apple TV beginning December 13th. December 13th. You're going to want to see this film, trust me. It's very, very well done and you'll enjoy it. You saw the trailer there. You can also see the

**CROSS
EXAMINED
.ORG**



I don't have enough **FAITH**
to be an **ATHEIST**

with Dr. Frank Turek

PODCAST

trailer on YouTube. Also want to mention that on December 8th, we will continue our 'The Bible You Never Knew' series, 7:30 PM it'll be livestreamed, Lord willing. It will also be up at Freedom House Church in Cornelius, North Carolina, just north of Charlotte. So join us for another edition.

We'll be talking about 'King David' there and how his life prefigured, foreshadowed the life of Jesus. Once you see this stuff, friends, you can't unsee it. The Bible was truly inspired by God. It's hard to deny it once you see all this stuff. And Michael's film will help you see that as well. Again, it's called 'Universe Designed.' 'Universe Designed', UniverseDesigned.com Michael, thanks so much.

MICHAEL:

Thank you for having me, Frank.

FRANK:

All right, that's Michael Ray Lewis, ladies and gentlemen. Check him out, Universedesigned.com. And Lord willing, we will see you here again next week. God bless.

**CROSS
EXAMINED
ORG**

