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Editor's Introduction

We at the Evangelical Philosophical Society are not known for publishing hot news items. But on rare occasion something related to our publishing profile that has a “newsy” quality to it falls into our laps. The last time this happened was in 2004 when we published an attention-grabbing interview and discussion with Antony Flew in which Professor Flew unambiguously professed in print his change of mind about the existence of God (“My Pilgrimage from Atheism to Theism: A Discussion between Antony Flew and Gary Habermas,” *Philosophia Christi* 6 (2005): 197–211). Of course, everyone from the Associated Press to Jay Leno to Rush Limbaugh was broadcasting the news before we could get our story off the press. But we were very glad to publish the first fully documented account that became the go-to article for those who wanted the deeper story.

The issue you have in your hand right now also has a story that I think might be newsworthy—although certainly not in the way the Flew piece was. But for leaders of Evangelical churches in America there might be some very deep interest. There has been a good deal of talk about the dramatic loss of young people in traditional Evangelical congregations accompanied by a good deal of speculation as to the root cause(s) of the exodus. Although there have been a few solid informative looks at this question already, Larry Barnett and his social science research team at The Next Generation Project have taken the study several steps further. They have some conclusions that are very important to Evangelical philosophers, apologists, and church leaders of all sorts. And here is a wee hint at their conclusions: There certainly is a crisis of faith among Evangelical young people, and the lack of robust apologetics teaching is clearly a central cause. “Christian teens today tell us few congregations excel at answering their faith-related questions.” And the result has been “devastating.” Members and friends of the EPS don’t need me to explain how this is a special calling for our constituency—a calling to action that can’t wait.

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