



July 20, 2022

Dear friend,

In February I announced that Faith Thinkers was in the process of becoming the Institute for Religious Research (IRR). Since then, the two ministries have been working together to determine how best to proceed, and we've made important progress that I need to share with you.

Through a series of meetings, we decided on a fairly simple plan: I will become the Executive Director of IRR (and later its President); the Faith Thinkers board of directors will join IRR's board; current IRR board members who have expressed an interest in stepping down will do so; and soon thereafter Faith Thinkers will be administratively dissolved. We are about halfway through this process. **All of the Faith Thinkers board members have now joined IRR's board, and on May 19 I was named the new Executive Director of IRR.** We anticipate that the rest of the process should be complete by sometime this fall.

To prepare for operating IRR at a substantially reduced budget in the short term, we've sold or donated well over half of IRR's reference library (which I carefully went through in its entirety, setting aside essential volumes), as well as most of its inventory. I've purged almost 90 percent of its extensive but aging research files. We will still need a fairly large place to house the over 2,000 volumes that remain, plus business equipment for ministry operations, and selected inventory items. **Please pray for us as we work through the logistical and financial issues involved with IRR's potential relocation, and if so, where we will move.**

We've already started **making upgrades to IRR's extensive, multi-language website** (<https://irr.org>). Through maintaining and further developing this well-established site, we'll be able to respond to people reaching out to us for assistance, and we'll also be **adding important new content**.

Meanwhile, we've taken steps to ensure **the continuation of IRR's invaluable program of connecting former and transitioning Mormons to a mentor who has gone through that process and is now a strong Christian.** Such individuals can now find mentors through Faith After Mormonism, a ministry led by Ross Anderson, himself a former Mormon and long-time pastor in Utah (see <https://faithaftermormonism.org/need-a-mentor/>).

Due in part to the time the many hours I've invested in this transition, the manuscript for the second edition of *Putting Jesus in His Place: The Case for the Deity of Christ* is not yet complete. Nevertheless, we've made *quite* good progress, adding about 220 pages since January.

**In all of this we need your prayers!** Before year's end we hope to complete the transition from Faith Thinkers to IRR, finish work on *Putting Jesus in His Place*, establish IRR's physical location, and re-launch the ministry's long-dormant YouTube channel. These are ambitious plans, but we rest in God's sovereign care and seek first and foremost to be faithful.

**Your financial partnership will make a tremendous difference during this season of transition and renewal.** If the Lord so leads, I encourage you to partner with us by donating to IRR:

*Online*

<https://IRR.org/donate>

*By mail*

**IRR**

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On behalf of the IRR team, thank you for standing with us in this exciting time!

In Christ's service,



Rob Bowman



P.S. If you've been donating to Faith Thinkers, your gifts will continue to be used to meet ministry expenses. And if you are making automatic monthly contributions, there's ample time to redirect those to IRR's work if you wish.