



## ***Humble Confidence*** *A Model for Interfaith Apologetics*

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Benno van den Toren and Kang-San Tan provide a global, intercultural model of apologetics as crosscultural dialogue and accountable witness. Filled with scriptural examples and real-world experiences, this is a conversational, patient, holistic, and embodied guide to creating true dialogue in our multicultural, multifaith world.

# Crosscultural Dialogue and Witness

## What led to your interest in and now sharing about interfaith apologetics?

**Benno van den Toren and Kang-San Tan:** We wrote this book for several reasons. We felt that many books on apologetics are mainly focusing on intellectual challenges of educated secular people in the West and not on the questions raised by the much larger audiences of religious believers in the main religions of this world. At the same time we realize that in witnessing to other religionists, apologetic challenges are not often properly addressed. Finally, we realized that if we want to converse about the truth and relevance of members of other religious communities, we need to develop an appropriate style of apologetics that is dialogical, contextual, and holistic.

## What is your main thesis in *Humble Confidence*?

**van den Toren and Tan:** We argue that in interreligious dialogue, Christian witnesses should also find ways to give an apology for the truth and relevance of the Christian faith. This needs to be done dialogically and holistically and takes the particular cultural and social contexts of different conversation partners seriously. We illustrate and argue this main thesis by presenting lots of examples from the way apologetic dialogue with different religious audiences has been done and can be done.

## Who did you have in mind as you were writing this book?

**van den Toren and Tan:**

- Academics working in the fields of apologetics, missiology, and interfaith relations
- Students following upper-level BA and MA courses in these fields
- Student workers and missionaries working with a special interest in apologetic dialogue and witness
- Missionaries working with communities of various faith backgrounds

## What do you hope your book contributes to the study of apologetics?

**van den Toren and Tan:**

- It discusses the question of whether and how apologetic dialogue and witness should be a part of Christian witness to other religions.
- We present a model for interfaith apologetics for a religiously pluralist world that is contextual, dialogical, holistic, and takes the form of accountable witness.
- We both illustrate and argue our thesis by developing a range of examples of what interfaith apologetic witness could look like and in the process we also give a broader introduction to interfaith apologetics.



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