

## Illinois Baptist uses vocation as attorney to share principles

By Meredith Day, associate editor

**SHERMAN, Ill.** | Bruce Kugler's approach to evangelism is based on his vocation as a trial attorney, and also on Jesus' example in the New Testament.

"We can present the Gospel using ordinary things of life," said Kugler, an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice and member of Living Faith Baptist Church in Sherman. "When Christ was talking to His disciples, he'd often use common analogies, like farming or fishing." Kugler uses concepts from the legal world.

Through "God's Courtroom," Kugler introduces listeners to the trial that will take place after a person's death, including the charges brought against him, his lack of legal defenses, the inevitable penalty, and the offer of a pardon. The presentation is set against a backdrop of eternity, as Kugler draws parallels between a judge in a courtroom and the Heavenly Judge before whom everyone will eventually stand.

"I basically explain the Gospel from a legal perspective." At the center of

the presentation, which Kugler shares during church services and evangelistic outreaches, is a simple, three-pronged approach to the Gospel: Admit, Believe and Commit.

Kugler began developing the concept for "God's Courtroom" as an attorney in northern Illinois in the late 1980s. He represented clients charged with various crimes, and noticed many defendants acted arrogantly until they had to stand before the judge.

"As I sat in that courtroom, it occurred to me that one day people are going to stand in another courtroom. They're going to stand in God's courtroom, and this heavenly judge knows everything. He cannot be appealed; his decisions are final."

Initially, Kugler, who is a member of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, presented "God's Courtroom" live in churches in Illinois and Missouri. Recently, with a team of volunteers from Living Faith, he produced a one-hour video that delivers the same content.



Kugler

The video, which features several famous Illinois courtrooms, was designed for a broader audience interested in law, history and architecture. It has aired nationally on Direct TV and is available for free download at [godscourtroom.org](http://godscourtroom.org), where churches also can order it on DVD at no cost.

Kugler's presentation is making an impact outside of the United States as well. Last fall, he traveled with evangelist Ron Herrod to Nicaragua, where

he presented "God's Courtroom" in two churches, translated by IBSA church planter Luis Olmos. A Spanish-language audio version of the presentation also has aired on several radio stations in the country.

As the ministry continues to expand, Kugler doesn't claim to have a special gift for evangelism or even a calling to his specific ministry. Rather, he sees sharing his faith as a job shared by all believers.

"You have one job while you're living on this earth, and that is to impact people for the Gospel," Kugler said.

"Think of it: He paid the penalty for my sin. He has promised me eternal life. He gave His Son to die for me, and upon my death, I'm going to see the Lord Jesus Christ.

"At that time, the question will be: What have I accomplished for the Gospel? Because the one thing that beats on Christ's heart is He desires to reach people for the Gospel."

For more information about "God's Courtroom," or to contact Bruce Kugler, go to [godscourtroom.org](http://godscourtroom.org).