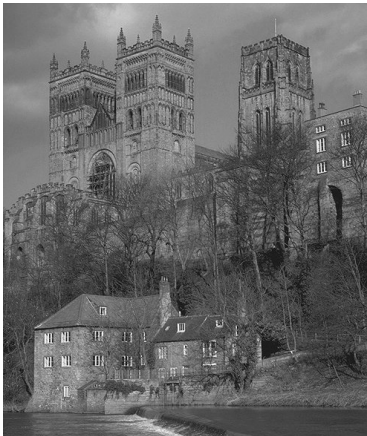


## Hard work in the UK bearing fruit

Travel through England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and you can't help but notice the intricate beauty of the centuries-old churches that dot the landscape. From soaring cathedrals in London to simple country churches in the Welsh countryside, the church seems to be everywhere. Yet many describe the church in the United Kingdom as dead.



In spite of beautiful cathedrals, like this one in Durham, England, the UK church is struggling.

As in this country, UK churches face the challenge of ministering to a post modern culture

that is more interested in serving itself than God. But people are seeking spiritual answers. And from November 26 to December 13, illusionists Toby Travis and Nick Sharpe (a.k.a. Dave Wigen) traveled to the UK to present those answers through illusion.

While there, Toby and Nick traveled 1,400 miles in a Ford station wagon with their guide and co-worker, comedian and illusionist Peter McCahon ([www.mccahon.co.uk](http://www.mccahon.co.uk)). Along the way, they made 13 presentations to 6,100 people. Although audiences were often modest according to American standards (sometimes as few as 50 people), church leaders were overjoyed at the turnout.

The feedback from the events has shown what a tremendous impact the gospel can have when presented using a platform of entertainment. Here's one response

(cont'd on page 3)

## Faith Studies evangelist Hasnah Burdge shares testimony at Urbana 2000

Imagine worshiping with 20,000 people—most of them college students—at a conference dedicated to exploring God's will for world evangelism. Faith Studies evangelist Hasnah Burdge doesn't have to. She was invited to Urbana 2000 December 27-31 to share her testimony with these missions-minded students and experienced it herself.

Urbana 2000—sponsored by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada, and Groupes Bibliques Universitaires et Collégiaux du Canada—was the nineteenth such conference held on the campus of the University of

Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1946. "I was thrilled to participate in a conference with such a rich history of equipping people to serve God," said Hasnah.

Hasnah's testimony presentation is available on the web at [www.urbana.org/u2000.dec29p.cfm](http://www.urbana.org/u2000.dec29p.cfm). Thousands from over 50 countries have already logged on to hear Hasnah's strong gospel message, and it is a great site for your seeking friends to visit. As a result of Hasnah's testimony at Urbana, 187 responded positively to an invitation to accept Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives.

In the week following Urbana 2000, Hasnah was again invited

to speak, this time at the Christian International Students and Scholars Conference, an Urbana 2000 extension conference. Approximately 800 students and scholars from over 130 countries attended the event, with 60 present for Hasnah's presentation of the Faith

(cont'd on page 2)



187 committed their lives to Jesus Christ after Hasnah Burdge's testimony at Urbana 2000.

# FAITH STUDIES INTERNATIONAL

Faith Studies International is an inter-denominational, not-for-profit organization dedicated to presenting evidences for the Christian faith through the Faith Study seminar and its derivatives—including outreach and training seminars, media resources, and discipleship programs. Faith Studies International is not publicly or denominationally supported.

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## Urbana 2000

(cont'd from page 1)

Study on January 2. "I'm excited to hear how God works in these students' lives," says Hasnah. "Each person at the Faith Study received a copy of *Surprised by Faith*, and I have already heard that they are using the book to reach their unbelieving friends."

At the speaker's forums that followed Hasnah's presentations at both conferences, many students asked for advice on reaching out to their Muslim friends. Hasnah's testimony, in which she relates the difficulty of renouncing her Muslim faith while an international student at Kansas State University, is a powerful illustration of God's provision for those who commit their faith to Jesus Christ. It is an encouraging testimony, especially for those who face similar issues. Yulu, an attendee from Indonesia, said, "Thank you for your testimony. It made

me realize that I have to be more persistent in evangelizing...I really thank you for that."

"I was so honored to be a part of Urbana 2000 and the international students conference," said Hasnah. "Worshiping and meeting with so many young people interested in sharing the gospel around the world was an awesome exhibition of God's power."

Faith Studies praises God for providing us with the opportunity to share our burden for bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ with so many at Urbana 2000. The conference recorded 7,000 people as committing their lives to do mission work, and more than 10,000 committed to actively live out their faith in the world. Please pray with us that the participants of Urbana 2000 continue to hear God's call to mission for many years to come.



**You oughta'  
be in  
pictures!**

Faith Studies is making a new film—a new recording of the Faith Study, our flagship seminar. And we want you to be in it—in fact, **we need you to be in it!**

Don, Toby, Hasnah, and Adrian will be filming a live Faith Study presentation on Saturday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and we need 300 volunteers to spend all or part of the day as audience members. We'll be presenting the entire Faith Study, and we encourage you to come, bring several friends—even recruit your unbelieving friends to this one!

We'll provide lunch for everyone who comes. So please call our office (952-401-4501) now to reserve your space. We don't have the location yet, but it will be in the Twin Cities area. Please help us fill the audience to make this exciting project a reality!

## Faith Studies welcomes new intern

What better way to start a new year than welcoming a new addition to the Faith Studies family! Illusionist BJ Harris joined Faith Studies in January as Toby Travis' intern. He comes to us from Dayton, Tenn.

BJ first became interested in illusion when he was 11 years old. Since then, he has proven himself to be a productive performer, often including a gospel presentation as part of his show. Only 17 years old, BJ has performed for more than 50,000 people in almost 30 states and in three countries. As a Faith Studies intern, BJ will supplement his illusion training by assisting Toby and Adrian with their *Illusion & Beyond* and *Searching the Supernatural* events.

Please join us in welcoming BJ to the Faith Studies team!



BJ Harris, an illusionist from Dayton, Tennessee, joined the Faith Studies team in January.

# Sandi brings Faith Studies resources to life!

The graphics department at Faith Studies has been busy updating our printed material in the past year, creating new and colorful additions to our inventory of brochures, publicity posters, and other printed materials. You're holding just one example of this updated look in your hand right now, but there are many others. And all of these looks are the result of the efforts of Sandi Torrini, Faith Studies' graphic designer.

Sandi came to Faith Studies in February 1999 with nearly 20 years of experience in the graphics and printing industry. With her broad knowledge of printing procedures and graphics programs, she has been an essential addition to the Faith Studies team. From bulletin inserts to the covers for our *Friend to Friend* video series, Sandi's creativity has made a significant impact on the quality of what we produce.

Sandi has worked diligently to update the look of Faith Studies materials and her hard work is paying off. "I enjoy going to Faith Studies events. It's fun to see first hand the response to the gospel. Working behind the scenes, I don't always get to see how my work fits in with the gospel presentation. But when I see our materials at events, it makes me proud to be part of a ministry that's changing people's lives."

When she's not working at Faith Studies, Sandi enjoys spending time with friends, developing skills for creative worship, and feeding the raccoons on her patio. Above all, Sandi continually seeks deeper intimacy with God.

Sandi lives in Bloomington, Minn.



Sandi Torrini, has been Faith Studies' graphic designer since 1999.



## FAITHSEARCH

I finally got involved in my commitment to God! —**Youth, Newton, IA**

The talks and teachings were incredible. Thank you for explaining all the terms to the kids and for keeping it simple and easy to understand. I was astounded by the information. Great job—I'm impressed! —**Michelle, St. Bonifacius, MN**

## FRIEND TO FRIEND

Friend to Friend gave me a clear understanding of a way I can honestly and sincerely follow Jesus' command to make disciples. —**Ruth, Belfield, ND**

Friend to Friend helped shake me out of my "bubble" of complacency. —**Rhonda, Dickinson, ND**

## UK bearing fruit (cont'd from page 1)

from a gentleman who attended Toby, Nick, and Peter's first performance in Andover, England:

*What a brilliant, brilliant event! The two friends who came with me were totally won over—and neither of them would have set foot in a church normally...Their comments were, "You couldn't have had a better evening if you had gone up to London and paid a huge amount of money."*

The types of presentations Toby, Nick, and Peter made varied from location to location. Some nights they performed "cabaret-style" for guests who enjoyed a meal as they heard the gospel presentation. In Harpendeen, England, they joined Youth With A Mission at a black-tie event for teens. And in Belfast, No. Ireland, they were part of History Makers, a reconciliation conference sponsored by both Catholic and Protestant churches and ministries. The Belfast event was truly monumental, as it was the largest such event in the history of Northern Ireland.

Other guests appearing at History Makers included Olympic gold medalist Jonathan Edwards, music by Graham Kendrick, and high-energy dance and music performances by the World Wide Mission Tribe.

Upon returning to the States, Toby received an encouraging letter from a 12-year old girl who had assisted him with his table levitation illusion in Newcastle, England. Helen wrote to say:

*Thank you...I was not really looking forward to going to the show...I had been told you were a magician and that's it. By this I thought that you were a magician that would come and perform at my sixth birthday party kind of magician...I do not think I could have been more wrong...I will think about what you said and break my barrier of sin between me and God.*

The responses Toby and Nick have received are evidence of the work that God is doing with his church. Join us as we praise God for his goodness, and pray that he will continue to bless the church in the UK.

# Sharing Joy

The other night I returned home late from teaching an outreach seminar. I “kicked back” and read through the participant evaluations. One caught my attention: “The Faith Study helped me to **rejoice** in my salvation.” It reinforced a conviction I’ve been having lately—how much am I “**sharing joy**?”

Life can wear us down. Burn-out erodes away a positive outlook. Bitterness and anger build up from the memories of injustices and hurt. People in ministry are not immune from this. Certainly it had to be a temptation for the apostle Paul as well. He was beaten severely with rods and imprisoned in Phillipi. But in the letter he wrote to them later, the key word is **joy**. In fact, he opens the letter, “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,” and said that he always offered “prayer with **joy**” for them. It seems that the apostle must have had a very selective memory!



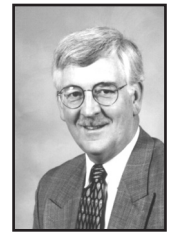
Or—had Paul chosen to focus his life on those realities that resulted in the fruit of **joy**? I think so. What were those realities—his sources of **joy**?

1. Paul rejoiced in the **proclamation of the gospel** (Phil. 1:18)
2. Paul rejoiced in **service to the Lord** (Phil. 2:17)
3. Paul rejoiced in the **Lord Himself** (Phil. 4:4)

These are focused on spiritual and eternal values. That’s why he could say, “But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I **rejoice** and share my **joy** with you all. And you too, I urge you, **rejoice** in the same way and share your **joy** with me” (Phil. 2:17).

It is our desire at Faith Studies to “restore the **joy** of our salvation” (Ps. 51:12), and to experience anew that “the **joy** of the Lord is our strength” (Neh. 8:10).

Beginning with the evangelists’ proclamation of the gospel, permeating the activities of the entire staff and board, and spilling out to you, we want to celebrate our faith. “**Sharing joy**” is our theme for 2001. We want to include you.



**Dr. Don Bierle**  
Executive Director

## CELEBRATION, PRAISE, AND TESTIMONY

Join us on the  
afternoon of  
April 22!

Watch your mail  
for more details.



## For Praise

Praise God with us for the blessing of a new year in which to share our joy! We are so grateful for our many shareholders who help us in numerous ways to carry out the mission of Faith Studies International to call people to new life through faith in Jesus Christ.



## For Prayer

Please refer to our seminar schedule and pray with us before, during, and after each event. Pray that God would draw seekers to each of our proclamational events, and that the Holy Spirit’s anointing be on our evangelists as they share the joy of the gospel message.