

The Faith Study video to have a whole new look

This year, Faith Studies will produce a new video version of the *Faith Study*, our flagship seminar. The current *Faith Study* video, which

features the entire content of the seminar in one six-video set, is filmed in a small-group setting, hosted entirely by Don Bierle. The new video will have an updated look and large-group setting, include the entire Faith Studies evangelist staff, and reflect Faith Studies' core value that the local church is the primary means that God uses to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Mahoney Media of Minneapolis has been retained to produce the new video series. The Mahoney crew has worked with Faith Studies on several

projects, including the original *Faith Study* video, the *Friend to Friend* video series which was released in 2000, and promotional videos for the ministry.

"We're looking forward to working with Mahoney Media again," says Don. "They are fine Christian people, they know a great deal about Faith Studies, and respect our core values. We know that they will help us develop an exceptional product that supports our mission to change lives through the proclamation of the gospel."

The new *Faith Study* video will be available as a five-video cassette,

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The Mahoney Media team has worked on several Faith Studies projects. Here, the team holds the *Friend to Friend* video series they completed last year.

You can make a difference

God has given some people the opportunity to amass great wealth, and the heart to distribute large sums to ministries like Faith Studies. However, many of us wonder if the few dollars we have to give would even make any difference.

Well, take heart! When your gift is given to God, he has the power to multiply it to meet many needs.

"You give them something to eat!" (Mark 6:37)

The disciples were aghast at Jesus' order for them to feed 5,000 families. Likewise, you may feel inadequate to do much about his orders to us: "Go...make disciples of all the nations" (Mt. 28:19-20). How can you do it?

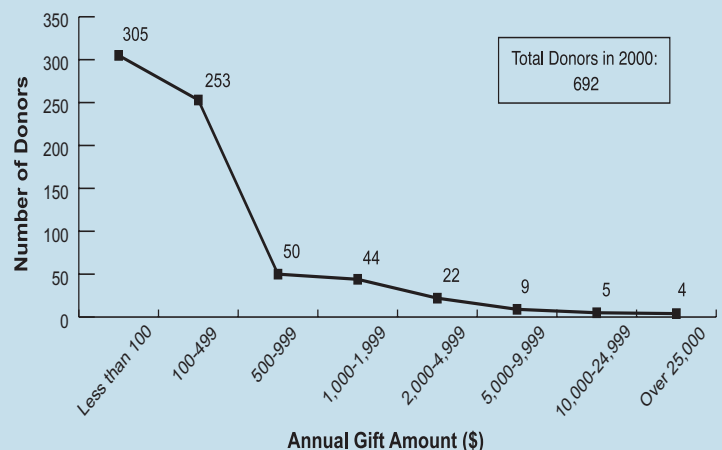
Jesus told his church how: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Mt. 9:37-38). When you give to Faith Studies, you are enabling evangelists to travel the world in order to proclaim that repentance for forgiveness of sins has been secured through Jesus' death and resurrection (Luke 24:46-48).

That's how you "give them something to eat".

"How many loaves do you have? Go look!" (Mark 6:38)

The disciples found only five loaves and two fish. You, too, may find your account nearly empty. What can you do?

Donor Giving Characteristics in 2000



One of our most touching recent gifts came in the form of a \$1 contribution from a young girl who said she wanted to help Faith Studies change people's lives by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

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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.

For information call:

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Immediate Openings!

Faith Studies has two **part-time paid** positions available for **reception/data entry** in our Chanhassen, Minnesota, office.

Candidates should possess the following:

- Excellent communication skills
- Multi-tasking ability
- Computer literacy using Windows operating system
- Detail-oriented

Come bless and be blessed as part of a team that will reach over 100,000 people for Christ this year! Call Laura at 952-401-4501 for more information.

Faith Study video

10-session set, complete with a new student manual and a leader's guide for facilitator training. In addition, for the first time, the video will also be offered for sale as individual sessions for those who want to revisit the content of only one particular session. "Many people have approached me after a *Faith Study* session, asking if we have a tape of the session they just saw," says Don. "Right now, we can't accommodate that. The new video will let people use the sessions they need to help a friend or family member understand the validity of Christian faith...and make a commitment to Jesus Christ based on the facts."

An important component of the new *Faith Study* video is the live audience. Although originally hosted

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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 for this one!

We'll provide lunch for everyone who comes. So please call our office (952-401-4501) now to reserve your space. Please help us fill the audience at Concordia University to make this exciting project a reality!

You can make a difference

(cont'd from page 1)

Once again Jesus gives a principle: We will stand before the Lord and give an account for what we have, not what we don't have. The widow who gave two copper coins could have thought her gift didn't matter, but was commended by Jesus as giving more than those adding large sums (Mark 12:41-44). The biblical reality is that everything you have belongs to the Lord. He asks that you give back only a portion of his gift to you.

The majority of Faith Studies' donors make modest financial contributions—our median gift is \$100 per year. But we have over 8,000 friends on our mailing list who have attended our seminars and know our mission. If you would join with these to give even \$100 each in 2001, it would total \$800,000—nearly our entire budget for the year.

That's "how many loaves" you have!

"Bring them here to me." (Matthew 14:18)

The disciples gave Jesus what they had, He blessed it, and they distributed it. Then the miracle occurred—He multiplied it and "they all ate and were satisfied." That's the miracle we ask God for every year at Faith Studies.

You are part of that miracle when you commit to another of Jesus' principles: "...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt. 6:20-21). We invite you to be a financial contributor and reap eternal spiritual dividends through Faith Studies.

That's how you "bring your loaves" to Jesus.

As a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, Faith Studies adheres to strict principles of biblical stewardship. For more information about how Faith Studies handles gifts, request a copy of "Our Financial Commitment to You."



Developing partnerships with churches takes someone special

Kristi Wanamaker, Director of Church Partner Services



Kristi, second from right, visiting with her parents and in-laws in Arizona.

Each month, Faith Studies works with many churches from across the country to organize outreach events and training seminars. In January, more than 3,600 people attended 26 Faith Studies events. It's a daunting task to make sure that everything gets into place for each event, and Faith Studies has just the person to coordinate it all.

Since November 1997, Kristi Wanamaker has spent hundreds of hours on the phone with churches and other organizations to schedule Faith Studies events and seminars. And she's spent countless additional hours making sure that our hosts have all the information and resources they need to have a successful event.

Kristi works with her Church Partner Services team at Faith Studies to help each host organization tailor an outreach and training strategy that maximizes the

effectiveness of our evangelists. "It would be fairly easy for us to go in and make a presentation and then move on," says Kristi, "but Faith Studies is about more than that. We want to understand the particular needs of our partner churches, develop long-term relationships with them, and establish an on-going disciple-making strategy that works." President of Faith Studies, Don Bierle, says, "It is a gift to the ministry to have someone with Kristi's spiritual maturity, work ethic, loyalty and perseverance. She gives a lot of fresh ideas to our churches."

Kristi's knowledge and engaging personality puts our partner churches at ease, whether they're calling for information for the first time, or if they've hosted a dozen Faith Studies events. Churches have a valuable resource in Kristi, and know that they can depend on her and the rest of her team when planning an event.

Kristi's three years at Faith Studies have been a blessing to the ministry. "I really enjoy working at Faith Studies," says Kristi. "I believe in the work the ministry is doing, and love the staff and their integrity."

When Kristi's not at Faith Studies, she enjoys spending time with her family, enjoying music, hiking and fishing in the Boundary Waters, reading a good book, and caring for her flowers. She lives in Mendota Heights, Minn., with her husband Craig, an ELCA pastor. Kristi and Craig's sons, Nick and Tim, attend Bethel and Gustavus Adolphus colleges respectively.

Faith Study video

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in private homes, the *Faith Study* is now more frequently hosted in larger public venues. To remain true to the core value that represents, Don will join the other Faith Studies evangelists—Toby Travis, Hasnah Burdge, and Adrian Van Vactor—at a taping at Concordia University in St. Paul on Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Since we're taping, it will be a little different than a regular *Faith Study* event," says Don. "We might have to stop and re-start or break and re-film a portion."

The entire content of the *Faith Study* will be presented during the day, including:

- understanding purpose and meaning
- archaeological evidence
- scholarly testimony about the Bible's accuracy
- answers to questions about faith
- personal testimonies and illusion illustrations
- how to know God

Don encourages all to attend, saying, "We really need to have a lot

of people come to the taping and bring their unbelieving friends as well—what a fun way to introduce someone to the evidences for the Christian faith!"

Production of the new *Faith Study* video is scheduled for completion in the summer. Faith Studies expects to have the new series available for purchase this fall.

If you are interested in attending the taping, even if only for a few hours, please call the office at 952-401-4501 for tickets and additional information. In order to keep the auditorium full during the entire taping, Faith Studies asks that only those committed to attending request tickets.

You will surely wear out!

Father-in-laws usually have plenty of advice. Fortunately, they're often right. And I'm glad that Moses' father-in-law's ancient advice got recorded in the Bible (Exodus 18:17-23). Actually, it's quite modern—the principle of delegated authority and shared leadership.

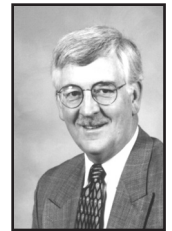
Without it, Jethro is right—"You will surely wear out...you cannot do it alone." After nearly 10 years since I began leading Faith Studies International full-time, with 12-16 hours per day being "normal," Jethro's advice sounded like wisdom to me. I've taken it to heart—and the Faith Studies board has agreed.

At its annual meeting in January, the board approved a proposal to change my title from Executive Director to President, and to appoint two Vice Presidents to have responsibility for some of the day-to-day activities. Fortunately, God had provided some capable and spiritual "in-house" personnel that could step into these leadership positions. It's with enthusiasm and gratefulness that I announce the appointment of Hasnah Burdge as Vice President of Ministry Services and Toby Travis as Vice President of Ministry Development. Both Hasnah and Toby will continue their ministry as evangelists as well.

The accompanying organizational chart identifies a third division under me, and Directors of departments within the three divisions. Sometime in the future we anticipate a Vice President of Ministry Operations, but

for now I will also fulfill that role. I want to congratulate Kristi Wanamaker, Todd Burdge, and Laura Miles for their appointments as Directors. God has truly blessed Faith Studies with professionals who love Him and faithfully serve Him as a ministry call.

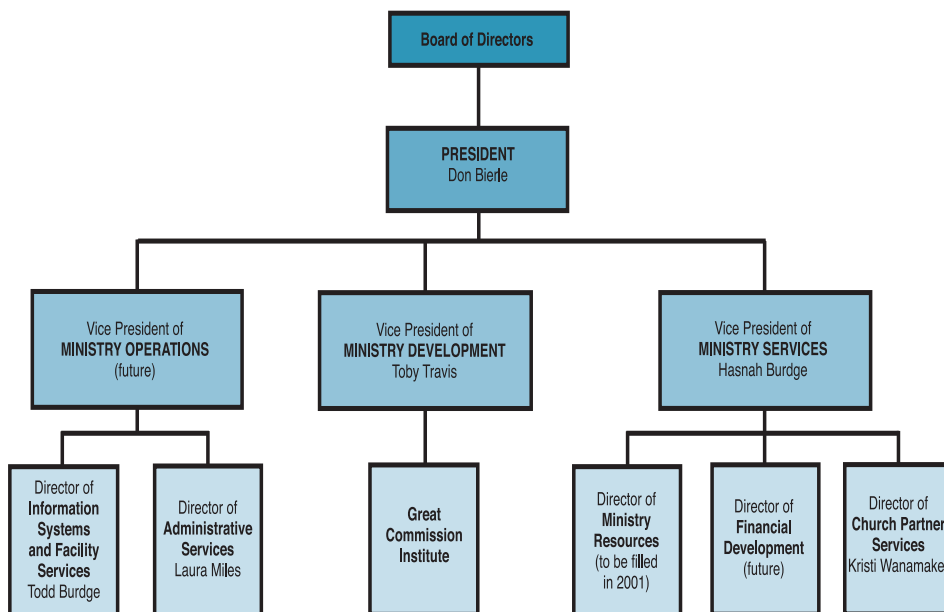
We now have 19 people on staff. The apostle Paul said that, "God is not a God of confusion but of peace," and instructed that all things be done "in an orderly manner" (1 Cor. 14: 33, 40). Even Jesus "appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach" (Mk. 3:14). These are wonderful examples of the need for shared leadership.



Dr. Don Bierle
President

Most of all, I ask for your prayers for these new appointees. When Moses appointed the 70 elders of Israel, God promised to "take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put Him upon them" as well (Numbers 11:17). My inclusion of this is not egotistical. It is a genuine desire for God's anointing on all Faith Studies' leadership that we may continue to experience, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of Hosts.

The new Faith Studies organization for 2001



The new organizational structure distributes ministry responsibilities, ensuring no one wears out.