

Up Close and Personal — Part 1

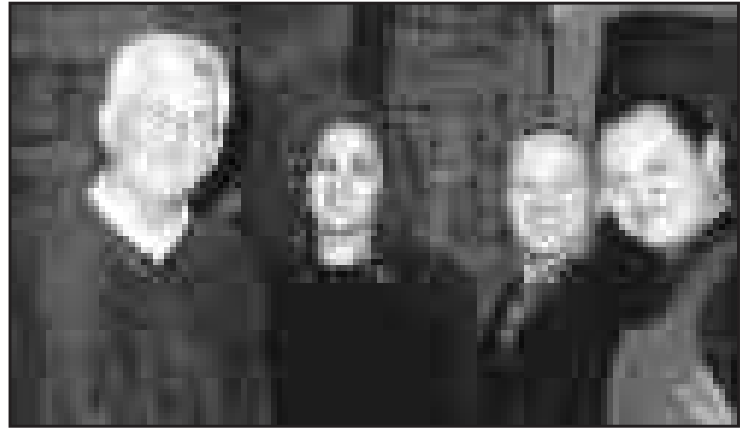
with the Faith Studies Team of Evangelists

Dr. Donald A. Bierle, President

The heart of the ministry of Faith Studies International is proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our team of four teacher-evangelists takes the message of hope to thousands of individuals each year. Each of them has a deep desire to be used of God to advance the kingdom of His Son.

When Dr. Don Bierle, president of Faith Studies International and our first full-time teacher-evangelist, wrote a Bible study he called “The Faith Study,” his hope was to encourage fellow believers. He wanted to share with others the results of his skeptical investigation into the validity of the Bible, seeking to build them up in their faith and give them confidence that their faith is indeed well-founded.

It didn’t take long before Dr. Bierle and others recognized that non-Christians and skeptics—as Don himself had once been—were also touched by this enlighten-



The four Faith Studies teacher-evangelists. Left to right: Don Bierle, Hasnah Burdge, Toby Travis and Adrian Van Vector.

ing presentation. Today that study, now called *FaithSearch* and offered as a live seminar as well as video and audio tapes, and in the book *Surprised by Faith*, continues to be the flagship vehicle for Faith Studies International.

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Up Close and Personal with Faith Studies Evangelists:

Don Bierle
Hasnah Burdge, **page 2**
Next Month — Part 2:
Toby Travis
Adrian Van Vector

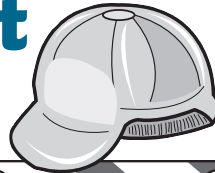
Power Behind the Proclamation: The Faith Studies Prayer Foundation

One of the core values of Faith Studies International is our commitment to the importance of prayer. Because we recognize our dependence on God for wisdom and power in this ministry, we maintain a Prayer Foundation of faithful believers who are committed to support our people and ministry activities in prayer.

This reliance on prayer was evident from the earliest days of our ministry, and continues to this day. There are currently over 2,300 people who have indicated a desire to uphold Faith Studies in prayer, for which we are very thankful. Of these, some 330 have asked to receive monthly updates, and have committed to regular prayer. Letters and emails are sent out

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God at Work



January 2002

Here’s a snapshot of some of what God has been doing in our ministry lately.

- **21 Events**
- **Attendance: 3,151**
- **From 979 response forms, there were 432 reported faith commitments.**

Don't Miss Our Colossal Celebration Banquet

Come help us honor Don and Vernee Bierle for their 20 years of leadership.

April 13, 5:30 pm
Radisson Hotel South
Reservations Required

- Complimentary Dinner
- Music from Mary Beth Carlson
- Radio Personality Chuck Knapp
- Keynote Speaker Dr. Lon Allison
- Ministry Updates
- “Extending the Vision” for the future
- Historic Announcement

Call (952) 401-4501 for tickets

Faith Studies International is an inter-denominational, not-for-profit organization dedicated to presenting evidences for the Christian faith through the *FaithSearch* 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:

(952) 401-4501/toll-free 1-800-964-1447

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 786 (7801 Park Dr. Suite F)
Chanhausen, MN 55317

Visit our Web site at www.faithstudies.org

Email: FSMN@FaithStudies.org

Board Members

Don Bierle, *President*

John Parenteau, *Board Chairman*

Lyle Drangstveit, *Board Secretary*

Larry Balmer Fred Bills

Eric Chico Gary Holland

David Lundstrom

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CLASSIFIEDS

Full-Time Position Available

We are currently seeking a mature Christian with pastoral experience to fill a full-time position for Director of Church Partner Services. Request an application, job descriptions, and other details at (952) 401-4501 (local Twin Cities) or 1-800-964-1447.

Part-time Shipping and Facilities Clerk

Want a hands-on opportunity to help our ministry function? This position involves packing book orders and materials for outreach events; monitoring inventory levels in our warehouse; routine office cleaning; daily run to post office; occasional lifting up to 55 pounds. "Handy with tools" is a plus. Afternoon hours, flexible days, 15 hours per week, \$9.50/hour. Call (952) 401-4501 for more information or to schedule an interview.

NEWSLETTER NOW ONLINE!

www.faithstudies.org/Newsletters/Reasons

Up Close and Personal

Hasnah Burdge, Vice President of Ministry Resources



Hasnah Burdge

Often introduced at evangelistic events and in promotional materials as "a former Muslim originally from Malaysia," Hasnah Burdge brings much more than mere diversity to the staff of evangelists at Faith Studies International. She brings a heart-felt burden for those who are without Jesus. Her painful past and triumphant testimony powerfully demonstrate the redemptive love of Christ in an individual's life. Her story has captured the hearts and attentions of audiences around the country. A popular national speaker, she is often asked to travel to distant speaking engagements.

For the mother of four, the life of the itinerant evangelist also has its challenges, however. "Being on the road can be hard, but I love what I do when I get there!" exclaims the ever-energetic Hasnah. Her husband Todd also serves as a director for Faith Studies, so their life is very focused on ministry. "Our children know

"Experiencing life with Christ is the single most exhilarating thing in my life.... Why would I not share it with others?"

our hearts and they are fully supportive," she said.

Daughter Tammi, the only girl among three male siblings, agrees. "When she's gone, it's just me and the guys, so I

sometimes miss her," she said. "But I'm so proud of her. She could be doing anything else, but she is out speaking to spread the Gospel."

The monumental task of spreading the Gospel provides the greatest motivation for Hasnah. "Experiencing life with Christ is the single most exhilarating thing in my life," she proclaimed. "It's like I have been thirsty all my life and someone offered me a drink of water that will not only quench my thirst, but satisfy me for life. Why would I not share it with others?"

Since 1998, Hasnah has been sharing the love of Christ through the ministries of Faith Studies International. While also overseeing our department of church relations, as well as communications and publications, her constant desire is to help others understand the satisfying love of Christ. Holding a degree in psychology, and with career experience helping battered women and children, Hasnah speaks directly to issues of the heart. Her oldest son Josiah describes his mother's desire to share the good news this way: "She speaks because God gave her a gift to reach the unreachable," he said. "I like to think He cut off a little bit of His heart for the lost and gave it to her."

Hasnah, Todd and their children make their home near Minneapolis, MN.



What People Are Saying

FAITHSEARCH

"This seminar made me realize the significance of recognizing Jesus as God and the importance of putting Him first in my life."
— MS, Dassel, MN

"I now truly believe and trust in the Lord. Thank you." — KB, Bloomington, MN

"For the first time I am going to read the Bible on my own, and get the courage to share with my friends about the wonderful message."
— MS, Bloomington, MN

"It helps that light bulb go on!"
— JR, Farmington, MN

Power Behind the Proclamation

(cont'd from page 1)



to inform them of needs within the ministry, as well as answers to prayer.

Many of those who pray have been involved with Faith Studies for decades. A common theme of their labor of love is summed up by John, who said, "We pray because we believe in this ministry and what it's all about." Some were touched directly by the ministry, as they made faith commitments to Christ at one of our events. Others have seen family members or friends changed for eternity through Faith Studies. What they have in common is a willingness to pray.

"Nothing can be accomplished without the Lord doing the work"

—Sandy, Prayer Foundation Member

Others pray as they are reading our newsletter. Still others carefully pray through the prayer and praise updates they

God is using their diverse, individual habits of prayer to uphold this ministry. Some people pray when they wake in the middle of the night.

receive. And some analyze the schedule of events to know when and how to pray specifically for our evangelists as they are traveling and speaking, for their families and for those hearing the Gospel.

As Sandy said, "Prayer changes things. Nothing can be accomplished without the Lord doing the work, so I uphold those who are proclaiming the Word." And although the work of prayer is not done in the spotlight, these committed co-laborers faithfully continue their all-important ministry.

"Prayer is always a vital ministry," said Helen, who has been involved since before H.I.S. Ministries (the original

name of Faith Studies International) was even formed. "I know that Faith Studies is doing work for the Kingdom of God at the grassroots level," she said, "and I want to help whenever I can. I look back and see God working in my life, and I know He listens."

We know He listens, too. And we thank Jesus for bringing us such a faithful group of praying people.

(If you would like to join the Prayer Foundation, send an email to prayer@faithstudies.org, or call our office.)

"Prayer is always a vital ministry"

—Helen, Prayer Foundation Member

Up Close and Personal

(cont'd from page 1)

Dr. Donald A. Bierle, President

Don's driving passion is to help people find new life in Jesus Christ. He and his wife Vernee have devoted themselves to ministry for over 35 years, providing leadership to Faith Studies for 20 of those years. "We have determined before the Lord that we are not going to retire," he said. "This is the work we are committed to for the length of our days. I don't see how I could ever stop telling people about the love of Jesus."

Don is often quoted for saying, "A satisfied mind should lead to a transformed heart." His patience and willingness to spend time fielding countless skeptical and even hostile questions from his audiences is testimony to his strong conviction that the Bible will stand up to honest scrutiny of the toughest kind. "I don't believe we should shy away from people who question the Bible," he said. "The only thing I ask is that they be honest skeptics. It's difficult to communicate with anyone who says 'Don't confuse me with facts, my mind is already made up!'"

Don is constantly learning and reading, sharpening his knowledge of the evidence supporting the Scriptures, and of cultural trends attacking it. A Ph.D. biologist, Don is also active in the Intelligent Design movement, a scientific perspective that identifies evidence pointing to the existence of an intelligent designer of the universe. His seminar "Making Sense of Creation and Evolution" is very popular, and gives him the opportunity to bridge his scientific and biblical backgrounds.

"I don't see how I could ever stop telling people about the love of Jesus."

In addition to speaking, Don has been very active in proclamation as a writer. Beginning in 1992 with his book *Surprised by Faith* (with over of a quarter million copies in print), Don has now penned *FaithSearch* for youth, *Growing Faith* for discipleship, *Friend to Friend* outreach training video and books, and



Dr. Donald A. Bierle

several leadership guides. Through these tools, millions have been presented the Gospel or trained in its proclamation.

Don and Vernee live in Chanhassen, MN, and have two married sons and four grandchildren.

Faith Comes By Hearing...

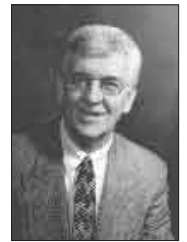
People cannot believe in Jesus if they have never heard of Him. Furthermore, many who misunderstand His message and mission don't trust Him for salvation either. That is the basis for the apostle Paul's teaching in Romans 10:13-17 that many must be sent out to proclaim the message of Jesus so that the world will hear and understand and be saved.

That's why...

1. Jesus' primary passion in His ministry and in His instruction before He ascended to heaven was proclamation to save the world. His concern to proclaim the good news of salvation was so important that all four Gospel writers recorded it (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:46-48; Jn. 20:21-23; Acts 1:8).
2. The early church was occupied with a burning compassion for the lost. The commission Jesus gave to go into all the world seemed foremost in their thinking and planning. A survey of the early chapters of Acts reveals them constantly praying and sending out witnesses. The words for Gospel and its proclamation occur nearly 300 times in the New Testament.

3. The first core value in Faith Studies International's vision statement is to schedule a faculty of God-called and gifted teachers and evangelists to proclaim the Christian Gospel. Through *FaithSearch* and our other unique events, the evangelists highlighted in this newsletter call thousands of people each year to new life in Jesus Christ. **Proclamation is why we exist!**
4. You support Faith Studies International with your prayers and financial contributions. As you give, we share a rich heritage—to be salt and light to the world. Our message is positive and attracts people to Jesus. It is an invitation to be set free to follow Him, to experience victory and His touch, and to have assurance of eternal life.

The focus of proclamation is Jesus—and He is good news!




Dr. Don Bierle
President



Praise

Rejoice with us!

1. God continues to use this ministry, its teachers and tools to reach thousands for the cause of Christ! He continues to provide opportunities for us to share the joy!
2. Our time-proven methods and tools are being refined or translated into other languages or new mediums of communication to reach even more with the Gospel. Praise the Lord!
3. New Partnerships are being formed with media groups, distribution groups, denominations and other Christian organizations! Praise the Lord for the united vision within the body to reach the lost for eternity!



Prayer

Things to pray about:

1. **Celebration Banquet.** That people would come. Pray that people would be led to give in support of the ministry. Pray about those you know who are ministry-minded that you could introduce to Faith Studies through this event.
2. Please continue to pray for **positive financial responses** from our supporters. Please pray that people's hearts would be moved to underwrite the cause closest to Christ's heart. That people would grasp the urgency of the work that none should die without knowing Him.

3. Keep praying for our search for a Director of Church Partner Services.
4. Pray that we could do on a national level with denominations what we are doing with Christian Women's Clubs using the **Friend to Friend** training.
5. Pray about **BLI** and incorporation into the South Asia Tour. Pray about Don, Toby and Adrian training pastors there.
6. For the upcoming events that are scheduled. For the host church and for the lost they are inviting, for the coordinating teams, for the anointing of the Lord on the presenters, for the conviction of the Holy Spirit, for the nurturing of new believers.
7. Protection of our staff and their families as they work serving the Lord.
8. For the closeness of our staff to the Lord, for the joy of our salvation.

Budget -vs- Income 2002

