

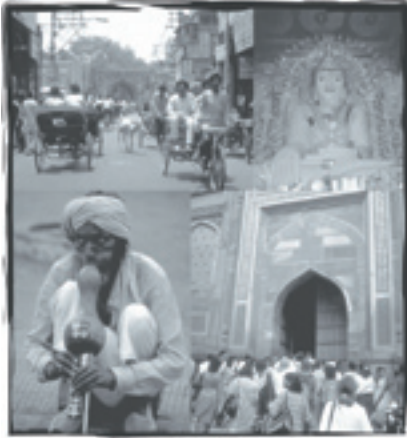
FaithSearch Goes to India

Faith Studies International will once again travel to South Asia for a summer of ministry. This year, beyond proclaiming the Gospel to thousands, we will also be equipping Indian pastors and lay leaders to use Faith Studies resources in reaching their communities for Christ. To coin a phrase, in addition to "feeding" them with the Gospel, we will be helping them to be better fishers of men.

Since 1997, Toby Travis and teams of illusionists and other performers have proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to literally **hundreds of thousands of people** in South Asia.

Again this year, a team of seven entertainers will embark on an intense two-week evangelistic excursion through the Indian

subcontinent. Toby Travis and Adrian Van Vactor from Faith Studies will be joined by Brad Brown, Dave and Jennifer Wigen, and Bob and Suzie Zoerman. Each of these seasoned performers is also adept at clearly presenting the Good News.



New to the international team this year is Dr. Don Bierle, President of Faith Studies, making his first foray into India. Dr. Bierle and Toby Travis will conduct a series of pastors' conferences under a grant from BLI (see sidebar). BLI is underwriting the local printing of *Surprised by Faith* and *The FaithSearch Guide*, and

the duplication of the *FaithSearch* video series, specifically for use in India.* This distribution includes the following:

- 45,000 *Surprised by Faith*
- 27,500 *The FaithSearch Guide*
- 5,500 *FaithSearch* video sets

Using a three-pronged strategy, Faith Studies will partner with Campus Crusade for Christ in South Asia through the year 2004. The **first** element of this strategy will involve **training 1,000 pastors each year in using Faith Studies resources** to equip the church, and to reach the unchurched with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This training will be offered at a series of conferences. Each pastor will receive copies of the videos and books for use in their own ministry.

"Toby and the others have presented the Gospel to over a quarter million people in South Asia," said Dr. Bierle. "Now, to have the additional opportunity to train national pastors in using

(cont'd on page 3)


* The BLI grant does NOT cover all of the expenses for the project. A matching fund has been established by one of our donors. Please see page 2 for more information.

BLI Grant Approved!

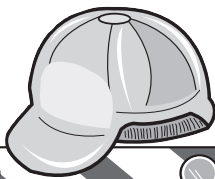
Over the past few months we have asked you to pray for our BLI proposal for South Asia. We received word in May that the **grant had been approved**. Join us in praising God for His provision.

BLI (formerly Bible Literature International) is a non-profit organization whose goal is to help individuals everywhere find new life in Christ through God's Word. BLI provides Christian materials in culturally relevant form, free of charge through its network of missionaries, mission agencies and national Christians. An article in this newsletter on our work in India caught the attention of Barry Haglund, a long-time friend of Faith Studies, and one of four field representatives for BLI. When he read about our expansion into India with *FaithSearch*, he invited us to prepare a proposal for funding the South Asia project. Under the grant, Faith Studies resources will be reproduced in India for training and distribution, for use in local ministries.

This three-year grant will enable Faith Studies to partner with Campus Crusade for Christ in South Asia through the year 2004. The *FaithSearch* video series, along with *The FaithSearch Guide* and *Surprised by Faith*, will be used to train pastors and Campus Crusade staff, and will be given to them so they can immediately implement what they have learned.

 **Prayer Item:** Pray for BLI as they develop funding for the project, and for Campus Crusade as they coordinate printing of the books and duplication of the videos.

God at Work



May/June 2002

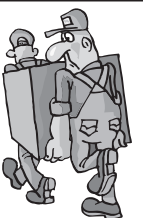
Here's a snapshot of some of what God has been doing in our ministry lately.

FaithSearch	YTD	
Events:	3	19
Attendance:	274	1,935
Response Forms:	114	873
Faith Commitments:	52	459

Supplementary Events:		
Events	19	106
Attendance:	2,025	16,191
Response Forms:	563	2,948
Faith Commitments:	279	1,147

We're Moving!

We will be moving to Chaska at the end of August. Want to help? Give us a call!



FAITH STUDIES INTERNATIONAL

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)
Chanhassen, 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

Employment Opportunity:

Project Coordinator

This is a new position to coordinate the implementation of our marketing plan for promoting and expanding the ministry of Faith Studies International. Qualified candidates should have an understanding of church functions (both local and denominational) and a passion for evangelism. This person should have good organizational skills, be able to monitor and manage several projects simultaneously, and have an understanding of process management. Marketing experience and good writing skills will be very helpful to being considered for this position. Send your resume to the mailing address above or call for more information.

The Board of Directors and President, Don Bierle are pleased to announce the promotion of Hasnah Burdge to Executive Director effective July 1. Hasnah will continue her evangelism schedule as well. More details next issue.

2002 FISCAL REPORT

How Blessed We Are! — Fiscal Year Ends Up

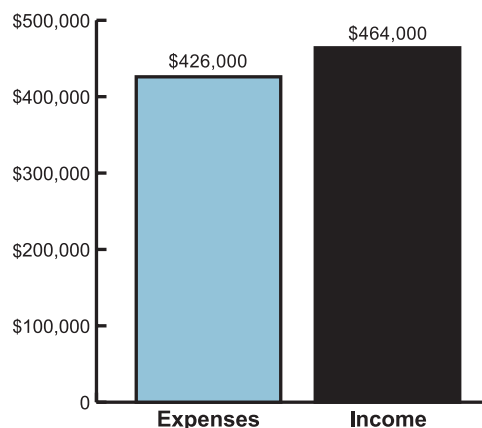
The Psalmist David, after extolling the Lord's virtues and provision, concluded his prayer with the wonderful truth, "How blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!" (Psalm 144:15). After a disappointing (in our eyes) first quarter, God answered our prayers through your generous giving in the recent three months. We recovered nearly all of our budget deficit (see bar chart on page 4) and income exceeded expenses by some \$38,000 (bar chart at right). We are truly blessed—and extremely grateful.

The main reason for our joy, however, is not merely fiscal health. A good balance sheet translates into further proclamation of the saving Gospel to lost people. There were over 1,600 recorded commitments to Christ in this six-month fiscal year, and over 18,000 who attended our events. Thousands of our books and videos were also purchased, resulting in an unrecorded

multiplication of our spiritual impact.

We are diligently planning "Extending the Vision" 12-48 months into the future, and are standing on tip-toes to see what God is going to do. What an exciting and fulfilling journey we expect it to be!

Fiscal Year 2002 Income -vs- Expenses



Matching Fund for South Asia Project

The BLI grant for the South Asia project will completely underwrite the printing of the 72,500 books and duplication of the 5,500 video sets. We are excited to be able to serve the Lord through this dynamic opportunity. Yet in addition to the cost of reproducing our resources, we anticipate that approximately **\$84,560 in additional expenses** will be necessary to implement the three-year strategic plan. This includes expenses such as travel to India to conduct the pastors' training conferences and outreach events, transferring the videos to India's TV format and editing the videos for cultural relevance.

To cover these additional expenses, we are thrilled to report that a Faith Studies donor has established a South Asia Matching Fund. This means that all donations to the project will be **matched dollar for dollar**, up to \$42,280. This amount will complete the budget for the full, three-year life of the project.

Please call our office for further information on how you can participate in this exciting, world-changing project. Donations to the matching fund should include the word "India."



What People Are Saying

FAITHSEARCH

It has given answers to my doubt. Finally, I get hard core facts on Jesus and his life and the Bible. I loved it! —**HV, Brooklyn Park, MN**

You have made me realize so many things in life about the evidence of Christianity. I've so long wanted to know all these things, and you answered my prayers. You definitely made my faith and relationship with Him stronger.

—**ML, St. Paul, MN**

MAKING SENSE OF CREATION & EVOLUTION

Answered questions, helped me think in new ways. Really enjoyed this! —**BF, Duluth, MN**

Much useful information to help my grandchildren understand why creation is good science. —**RC, Hermantown, MN**

ILLUSION & BEYOND

Great event to bring my friends to. Thanks for helping me reach others for Christ.

—**JR, Carol Stream, IL**

You helped me know that God is not just an illusion. He's real. Thank you for everything.

—**CF, Addison, IL**



Reports from the Field

Our evangelists share their impressions from recent events.

Dr. Don Bierle



The months of June and July are packed full with budget development, long-range planning, leadership training, fund raising and engineering our move. At times like this, when the excitement of evangelism events is more subdued, **the Lord is gracious to give encouragement through the fruit of past ministry.** I have recently been reminded of several former students at Crown College who are now pastors of churches or heading up parachurch organizations who work in partnership with us at Faith Studies. Many who have come to faith in Jesus through my ministry at Faith Studies are not only good friends, but also faithful prayer and financial supporters.

It seems that wherever I go now, I meet someone who surprises me with a statement like, "Your book (or seminar) has changed my life!" After several intense months, experiencing the wear and tear of giving through the ministry of evangelism, it is refreshing and strengthening to receive the blessings of appreciation and deep gratitude from those whose lives I have had the privilege to touch.

Hasnah Burdge



As a platform speaker, I don't often have an opportunity to observe the actual faith commitments people make as their lives are being transformed. I received a video from a recent event, which reminded me afresh of the impact of the Gospel in individual lives. Watching the video, I witnessed the power of the Gospel drawing people to Christ.

An eleven year old girl asked, "How come nobody told me about this before?" as she sobbed uncontrollably while praying to accept Christ. A young man stood with his head bowed as he said "Yes" to the Savior. A deaf woman signed her way into eternal life with a prayer of confession. **This is why I will endure almost anything that the Gospel can be preached!**

I am thankful for the reminder that, though masses may come to Christ, the individual person kneeling in gratefulness before Christ—a single life transformed—is what it is all about.

Toby Travis



I have been "gearing up" for a busy summer ministry schedule. In addition to speaking and performing engagements, I will participate in the annual International Fellowship of Christian Magician's conference in Marion, Indiana (www.gospelcom.net/fcm). Then I will speak at the National Hmong Student Conference at Wheaton College (hclub.hmongdistrict.org). Then it's off to our old "stomping grounds" for a week of events in Pennsylvania and New York. Finally, the summer will conclude with another ministry adventure in South Asia – leading a team of seven performers along with Dr. Bierle!

For the past few years **I have been equipping and encouraging a young man named Justin Raj of Chennai, India,** for the work of evangelism using the art of illusion. Recently Justin sent me an e-mail report, and I'm thrilled to share it with you: "Last month I shared Gospel through magic in seven places and reach more than 1,050 people. I thank God for use me wisely in these places. And from you only I can do this great job in India."

Adrian Van Vactor



I have been bouncing around Thailand, and soon will be heading to South Africa. Last year, my experience here was difficult: I had never seen such a spiritually dark place as southern Thailand. We really prayed and asked the Lord to do something. At the first program, we had 135 in attendance. I was really nervous about how I was going to present the Gospel in a relevant way. Thai people are so different, and Buddhism is so much a part of their culture. Well, **God was gracious and 35 people made faith commitments!** The local staff was rather shocked.

Every place I go, I try somehow to hit the hot "heart buttons" of that culture. I need to "be all things to all people." That is very difficult, so I ask a lot of questions to find out where people are at and what common ground we may share. I feel so inadequate, unprepared and unconfident, so I pray, "not by might, nor by power, but by YOUR Spirit." After all, it is His work that He is so graciously using me to do.

FaithSearch to India

(cont'd from page 1)

FaithSearch and other resources is simply amazing. It's truly exciting to see how God has worked to make this opportunity possible."


In addition, Don and Toby have been invited to present a series on evidences for the Christian faith to the staff of a large medical facility over the course of three days.

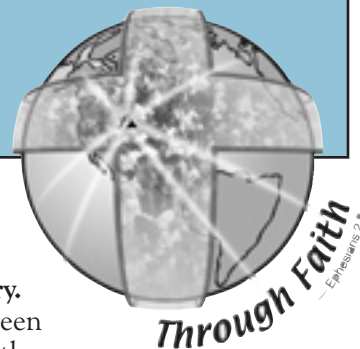
The **second** element of this three-year strategy in India is to **train and equip 500 Campus Crusade staff members** from around the country to conduct small group Bible studies, again using the *FaithSearch* videos and supporting resources. These studies are particularly focused on college campuses and will provide an opportunity for those who do not know Jesus Christ to make a faith commitment.

***Surprised by Faith* will be offered to every adult who attends an evangelistic presentation**

The **third** element is the highly successful **tour of illusionists and performers.** The element of entertainment provides entrée to public venues and institutions, including schools and universities. Year after year this evangelistic tour has effectively proclaimed the Gospel to many thousands of individuals. This year, with the help of the BLI grant, the book *Surprised by Faith* will also be offered to every adult who attends an evangelistic presentation in South Asia.

There will be a public commissioning service for the team on August 24, at Minnetonka Community Church, in Minnetonka, MN, beginning at 7:00 PM. As the team prepares to depart, we invite you to join us for a preview of their program, and to send them off with God's blessings.

 **Prayer Items:** Pray for travel safety, for additional matching funds, and for the effectiveness of the training and outreach programs.



Through Faith
— Ephesians 2:8

Before You Even Ask...

One of the recurring thoughts I've had over the last six months is that I don't want to get ahead of the Lord in our planning for the future. The Faith Studies leadership have been meeting, praying and laying some tracks for the next four years—what we are calling "Extending the Vision."

After experiencing these last two months, **I realize how incredibly humorous my fears must have been to our God.** We—get ahead of the Lord?! It is the Lord who puts His vision in our minds and hearts, and it is the Lord who provides to make that vision become a reality in our ministry.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was teaching His disciples about a proper understanding of prayer. One of His key principles was that "your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8). So much for "getting ahead of the Lord!" Here are some specific examples of how God has anticipated and honored "Extending the Vision," showing how He began to provide for it before we even understood the need.

1. FaithSearch is going to India! God willing, I'll join our illusion evangelism tour from August 25-September 7 to train hundreds of Christian pastors in

India to use *Surprised by Faith*, *FaithSearch* and its *Guide* for spiritual growth and for outreach. Through a grant from BLI and a private source, 5,500 sets of the videos and nearly 75,000 books are being produced for distribution there. God was providing for the extension of our vision before we even asked!

2. Faith Studies is moving! A generous friend of our ministry has invited us to occupy new office and warehouse space in north Chaska. We will be blessed with numerous enclosed offices (we now have only one), double the floor space, conference capabilities and room to grow—all for far less cost. God was anticipating the facilities we would need to extend our vision before we even asked!

3. Financial resources are growing! At the Celebration Banquet in April and in the last newsletter I shared the news that in December (2001) we received the largest single gift ever given to Faith Studies—\$500,000. This gift is now a foundation for funding our aggressive Gospel advance over the next four years. God has just blessed us again with an unprecedented quarter of giving by our faithful supporters that is **more than double any previous second quarter in**

our history.

God has been providing the financial capability for extending our vision before the ink on our plans was even dry!

4. Leadership is developing! Some of you have asked, and probably more have wondered, about the future leadership of Faith Studies. We have younger leadership that is emerging—men and women that are Spirit-filled and passionate about evangelism. For example, the Board of Directors, at my recommendation, has approved the **appointment of Hasnah Burdge as Executive Director** beginning July 1. This will free me from some day-to-day responsibilities and expand my roles in other vital areas needed to extend our vision. God was preparing leadership for this time even before we asked!

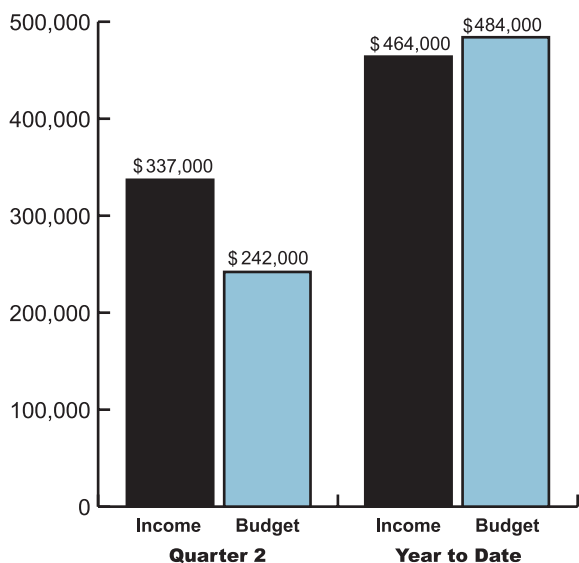
Rejoice with us, pray for us, and continue to give generously. Your partnership with us is God's hand of provision.



Dr. Don Bierle
President

Grateful for you, *Alan*

**Fiscal Year 2002
Income -vs- Budget**



Praise

Rejoice with us!

1. The cost for the **new software** system to be implemented at Faith Studies this summer was one-half underwritten by a donor! Thank the Lord! Praise that it is installed, and is up and running!
2. A donor has offered to **match funds** raised to help pay the expenses for India not covered by the BLI proposal. Praise God!
3. Praise God for the amazing **fiscal year-end financial results!**
4. Praise God for His provision through a ministry friend for an amazing **new location** for the ministry.



Prayer

Please lift the following requests in prayer:

1. **Safe travel** for the India team. **Effective ministry** there. **Matching funds** for expenses.
2. Pray for the team working on getting our **new software** (Shelby) fully configured and operational. Pray for this **transition** for our administrative team. Thank you!
3. Pray for the staff as we **prepare** to move, then actually **move** and finally **settle** into our new location.
4. Pray for staff as we seek God to help **establish our goals** for the Extending the Vision campaign reaching into 2006.