

Faith Studies Relocates to Chaska

Faith Studies is moving to a larger office facility. Our new address will be 105 Peavey Road, Chaska, MN, 55318 as of September 1. We will retain our post office box for the near future, and our phone numbers will also remain the same.

A business friend of Faith Studies purchased the property where this building is located. As a committed Christian, he desired to help us in a tangible way to grow into the future. So he offered the space for us to occupy with very generous terms. Since we were already running out of space in our previous office, this was an answer to prayer which we see as a gift from God.

Here are some of the reasons we are very excited about this move, and how it will help us grow:

- Nearly double the office space (5,400 sq. ft. compared to 2,900 previously). Warehouse space is about the same.



- Parking is a big plus—more than 100 available spaces plus overflow parking, compared to the challenge of even finding a spot among 5-8 spaces previously.

(cont'd on page 3)

You're Invited!



Faith Studies Appoints Executive Director

Sometimes life does get simpler. At least that's what president Don Bierle is hoping will happen as a result of recent **Board-approved changes to the Faith Studies administration.** Beginning with the new fiscal year, July 1, only one person in the ministry reports directly to him—the **new executive director, Hasnah Burdge.**

The appointment follows her nearly four years of faithful and fruitful ministry with Faith Studies, initially as financial director and evangelist, and more recently as evangelist and vice-president. She came to Faith Studies from the staff of another non-profit ministry in the Twin Cities in September of 1998.

Born Malaysian into a Muslim family with 11 siblings, Hasnah came to the United States 20-years ago on academic scholarship. In her first year she found new life in Jesus Christ and later made a commitment to serve Him in full-time service.

Hasnah is a graduate of Northwestern College in St. Paul, MN, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. In 2000 she was selected by Arrow Leadership to participate in a two-year leadership

development program as one of the "most promising future young evangelists in America." She graduated in 2002, and now serves on the Arrow board of directors. Dr. Bierle expressed that "this training, together with her great enthusiasm for evangelism and undivided loyalty to Faith Studies contributed to my choosing her to be Executive Director. I enjoy serving the Lord with her and am certain that her insight and energy will make a positive impact on Faith Studies."

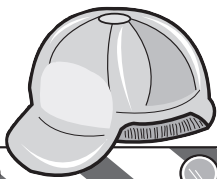


Hasnah Burdge, appointed executive director of Faith Studies International

Her future plans include getting more education in biblical and theological studies leading to a master's degree from Bethel Seminary. Hasnah and her husband Todd (who also works full-time at Faith Studies) live in the Minneapolis area, and have four children.

 **Prayer Item:** Pray for Hasnah as she undertakes new leadership responsibilities, and for God's wisdom and guidance.

God at Work



July 2002

Although summers can be slower, God is still at work in our ministry. Here's a snapshot of some of that activity.

Events:	22
Attendance:	8,578
Response Forms:*	126
Faith Commitments:	51

*Most of these summer events did not use response cards, so we are unable to measure the impact of the proclamation. But we do know God's Word was proclaimed.

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 Chanhassen, MN 55317
(105 Peavey Rd., Chaska, MN 55318)

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

HELP WANTED: MOVING NEEDS

We have asked volunteers to help us pack up and move. (No experience necessary!) And there will be plenty to do *after* the move. Could you help in one of the following ways?

- Pray for safety, enough helping hands, etc.
- Donate furniture, art or other gift-in-kind.
- Help with installing cabinets, assembling furniture, etc.
- Give financially toward the build-out and moving expenses.

Please call our office to let us know how you can help: (952) 401-4501.

HELP WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

We have ongoing opportunities for volunteers to help us with **data entry, preparing mailings**, and general office work. If you have a few hours you'd be willing to contribute, please let us know. Call our office at (952) 401-4501. Thanks!

FALL SCHEDULE

Each month we publish our schedule of coming events. We encourage you to use this schedule in your ministry. It is perforated making it easy to tear off and pass along. There are many opportunities this Fall to invite friends to one of our life-changing events. There are **16 FaithSearch events** in this month's schedule alone, and many supplementary events as well. Finally, we especially encourage you to pray through the schedule: for the details of each event; for our evangelists proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and for those who will hear the message and make faith commitments.

Lasting Impact of FaithSearch

From its first, partial presentation in Don Bierle's home in South Dakota in the 1960s, *FaithSearch* has proved to be a powerful tool for communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ. **This year FaithSearch is being introduced throughout India**, illustrating again how God has chosen to use this dynamic, logical presentation of Christian truth. And in the intervening years, the fruit born of this ministry has had lasting impact.

On a recent trip to Pennsylvania, Toby Travis was reminded of this when a man who had attended the presentation in the late 1990s approached him to thank him for all those *FaithSearch* sessions that "launched his spiritual journey."

"If it hadn't been for FaithSearch and the change in my life, it could have been totally different," said Jim Holbert. He is now serving in his church, and recently bought six copies of the *FaithSearch* video series, which are now being circulated throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

The lasting impact of *FaithSearch* is also expressed in the lives of its presenters. In 1990, Faith Studies adopted a teacher certification policy, whereby individuals not otherwise involved with our ministry, could be trained to conduct *FaithSearch*. Nearly 80 people completed the training, and several continue to use *FaithSearch* in their ministries.



Don Bierle presents the first teacher certification to Pastor Joel Allen

Joel Allen, associate pastor with First Methodist Church in Somerset, KY, was the first to complete the training. "Don was a personal encouragement to me in my faith," he said. "And the training helped me realize this was just the kind of ministry I was interested in. It still is today."

Pastor Tim Pofert of Alliance Bible Church in Bartlett, IL, also completed the training. **"We use FaithSearch as part of an ongoing rotation in a variety of settings: small groups, home studies, adult Sunday school, even one-on-one, whatever the need is,"** he said. "I like that it is very practical and easy to follow for participants."

Church Impact Ministries also uses *FaithSearch* as part of their program helping churches and pastors become

more effective. Bill Cariss finds that it really encourages believers in their faith. "How come no one ever told me this before" is a comment he often hears, he said.

Pastor John Wirkes of Bloomingdale Church in Bloomingdale, IL, says the *FaithSearch* teacher training also gives him confidence in his ministry. "As a pastor, there are always times when people have those questions," he said. "Being able to have those answers is something you can't put a price on. And *FaithSearch* presents answers in a way the average person can understand. Then they're left to wrestle with the decision of what to do with it."

While looking ahead to training pastors in India to use *FaithSearch*, Don Bierle reflected back on the teacher certification program. "I am really proud of the many we have trained who are sharing *FaithSearch* all over the country," he said.

Faith Studies anticipates the continuing impact of *FaithSearch* as we "Extend the Vision" around the globe in the coming years.



What People Are Saying

We received this special note and poem from the woman who cleans our offices. As it encouraged us, we pass it along to you. —Editor

"...Without your book [*Surprised by Faith*], I don't know when I would've been saved. The logical evidence was all I was missing... Now my sister has the book, and I think it will be powerful for her, too... Your little sister in Christ, JM"

I never knew what love was,
until your love blessed me.
Now I can share it with the world,
when you love through me.

Your presence is the sweetest scent,
the brightest, clearest day.
Your holy aroma surrounds me,
it's here I long to stay.

I can't imagine living
without you in my life.
I couldn't ever go back
to that loneliness and strife.

So please, my Lord, stay with me,
in everything I do.
I promise I'll love you forever,
for my life depends on you.



Reports from the Field

Our evangelists share their impressions from recent events.

Dr. Don Bierle

Three words come to mind that describe my activities this past month: **planning, developing and wondering.**

Planning our ministry's office relocation has required many hours of time with staff, legal counsel, architect and builder. Also, what a challenge it has been to identify ministry priorities and set goals for the next four years of "Extending the Vision"!

Developing? For starters there are all the decisions required to implement our new Shelby software system, a million dollar budget to organize and oversee, and enlisting churches and parachurches as new ministry partners with us.

But lately I've been **wondering a lot.** I wonder about our future ministry expansion, the finances needed and the welfare of our staff and their families. Especially, I wonder about our ministry in India which began on August 25. How will the 1,000 pastors respond to our training and materials? How well will *FaithSearch* work to reach people for Christ there? Will we be able to understand each other's English?! Can I adequately communicate their sinfulness and eternal lostness? Will our ministry team of eight be safe?

I am reminded of God's promise to those who carry the Good News: "And surely I am with you always..." (Matthew 28:20). **With this promise and your prayers, I have a sense of peace and confidence** that He will do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).



Toby Travis

I have had a great week touring my old stomping grounds of Pennsylvania and New York! I've given about 14 presentations in the span of seven days. I continue to marvel at God's faithfulness even in the midst of a challenging schedule. We had great attendance and response for the *Illusion & Beyond* presentations—there were 465 people in one auditorium built for 350. Fortunately it was air conditioned! More importantly, 45 people made faith commitments. We averaged almost 250 people at the *FaithSearch* event over three nights, and there were 66 faith commitments there as well.

I've also again been blessed to witness the fruit of multiplication. During this trip I've met at least a half-dozen people who came to Christ at past events. Now they in turn were bringing their friends to these events. Seeing their growth and faithfulness is very exciting and encouraging.

This time has also been a blessing for our family, as we have been traveling together. We've been able to visit relatives and enjoy great family times together. And as I look toward the future, almost as soon as we return to Minnesota, I'll be getting ready to embark again for our South Asia tour.



Adrian Van Vactor

Having just returned from Africa, I'm taking a quick breather before heading to India. My time in South Africa was a good experience, primarily testing whether the illusion-based presentation would work in that environment, and whether doors would be open for future work. The answer to both questions seems to be "Yes."

The national director for Campus Crusade for Christ attended one show in Johannesburg. He was so excited, he wants to have me come back next year to visit every college campus in the country! Praise God.

While I was there, I was struck by how superstitious the culture is. Even Christians will attend church on Sunday, and then visit witch doctors during the week to help them feel better. As an illusionist, I understand the deception behind these practices. In my illusion shows, I took time to tell them what I was doing and how the witch doctors use tricks to deceive them. It was a real eye-opener for them, and the response to the Gospel was really good. At the University of Pretoria, I did a couple of shows. These were not scheduled shows—I just got up and started performing in an area where the students were eating. I was totally amazed as we gathered about 300-400 people for each program, and there were a lot of faith commitments.



Hasnah Burdge

As an evangelist I have often been asked about the relevancy of presenting the Gospel with evidences to our generation. The predominant strategy seems to say, "We must give up logical, rational thought or at least give up presenting anything concerning our faith in such a way."

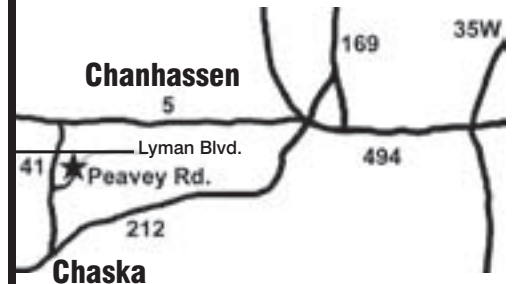
I spent the first week of August with over 90 senior high students at a retreat center in Seattle. I presented the Christian faith with evidences using a logical and rational, process-oriented strategy. **Approximately 40 students affirmed faith in Jesus Christ!** Most of the students commented how helpful it was hearing that there are actual evidences that can back up their faith, the Bible and the person of Jesus Christ! One student said, "**There have been times that I have thought, 'What if Christianity isn't right?' Now, I will never waver!**" I will never forget an intelligent young student who openly declared herself to be an atheist. I gave her the *Surprised by Faith* book, which she read in one night. She approached a counselor afterwards and asked him why he is a Christian and to tell her about Jesus! She will never be the same!

Give up logical, rational thought in presenting the Gospel? Never! I was transformed because my mind was satisfied and my heart followed. I have seen thousands respond to faith in Jesus Christ because their mind and heart were transformed by the Gospel. Praise God!



Relocation to Chaska


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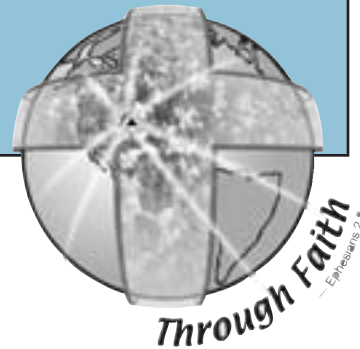


Directions: From the Twin Cities, go west on Highway 5, through Chanhassen—past our former office— to Highway 41 (about 8 miles west of I-494). Turn left (south) onto 41 to the second stop light at Lyman Blvd. Turn left on Lyman, and take the first right onto Peavey Road. After the second stop sign, we're the first driveway on the right — 105 Peavey Rd.

- All the offices have outside windows, and the administrative and common areas are flooded with natural light.
- Adjacent space in the building will enable us to have classes and conferences for community Bible studies, and for the training of pastors and lay leaders.
- The space will allow Faith Studies to expand staff and ministry opportunities during the next four years of "Extending the Vision."
- The building is only 3-4 miles from our current location to the southwest, just off highway 41. (It was once occupied by NordicTrack.)

We will spend approximately \$75,000 up-front for build-out and moving costs, but our annual lease cost after that is about **half of our current lease for almost twice as much space!** Combining the initial and annual costs over the life of the six-year renewable lease, we anticipate a **net savings of \$40,000** (again, for nearly twice as much space, with all the advantages described above).

 **Prayer Item:** Pray for the adjustments related to the move as we adapt the new space to meet our needs, both current and future. Pray also for response to our call for donations of office furniture and help with moving related expenses.



Why all this hype about “extending”?

It’s a good question: Why do we work so hard to expand Faith Studies International? A case could be made that life would be simpler and more relaxing if we chose instead to be an effective but small local ministry. I think I know the answer to the question—and I pray it is what motivates each of us.

All people are separated from God because of their sin and are without hope in the world!

God is passionate about His concern for these sinful, hopeless people throughout the entire world. In fact, He gave the ultimate sacrifice to change their destiny: “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through Him” (John 3:17). The apostle Paul also stated very

clearly, that God “desires all men to be saved...” (1 Timothy 2:4).

Paul himself was passionate about extending salvation to all, to both the Jews and the Gentiles. He said concerning his brethren in the flesh, “My heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation” (Romans 10:1). He felt so strongly about it that if it meant they could all be saved, he would be willing to be accursed and separated from Christ himself! (See Romans 9:1-3.)

Concerning his own ministry, Paul was also angry with those who hindered his work among the Gentiles, because he was speaking to them “that they might be saved” (1 Thessalonians 2:16). When the Philippian jailer asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Paul enthusiastically responded, “Believe

in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved...” (Acts 16:30-31).

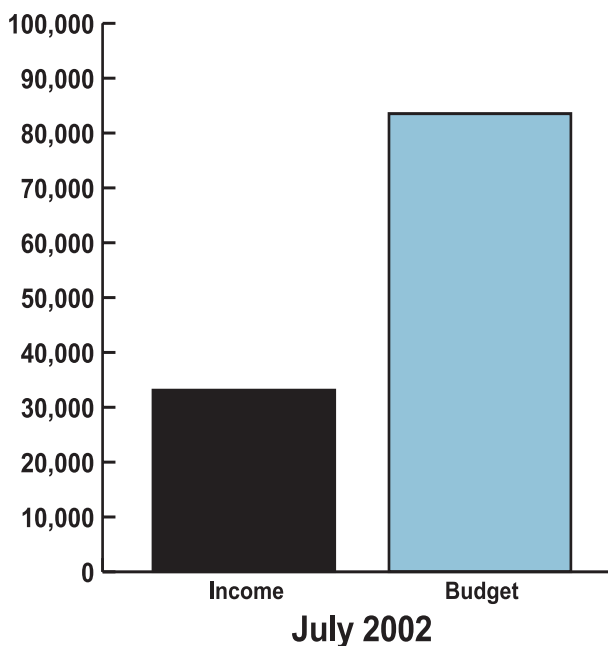
Yes, “there is salvation in no one else” (Acts 4:12). And His parting words before He ascended to heaven was to “Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**” (Matthew 28:19). There is a fatal disease called sin that every man, woman and child on the earth has—and Jesus is the known cure.

What do you think we should be doing?




Dr. Don Bierle
President

Fiscal Year 2003 Income -vs- Budget



Praise *Rejoice with us!*

1. Praise for Adrian’s safe return from South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland, and for the awesome response to the Gospel there.
2. Praise for the safe return of Toby and his family after 12 events in 8 days in New York. All events went very well! Thank you for your prayers!
3. Praise for Hasnah’s great week at youth camp in Ravendale, WA.
4. Praise for the **recovery of Toby’s computer and palm pilot** which was recently stolen.



Prayer *Please lift the following requests in prayer:*

1. Pray for the **churches that have scheduled seminars** for the Fall—that all the details leading up to the events would be executed smoothly and that many would make faith commitments to Christ at the events.
2. Pray for the **safety of the South Asia team members** while traveling and while in India, and for successful events and pastors’ training.
3. 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!
4. Prayers for **Hasnah** as she transitions into her new job responsibilities as Executive Director.
5. Pray for the staff as we **move** and finally **settle** into our new office location.