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www.faithsearch.org



GOD AT WORK

FaithSearch Discovery Teachers in the USA

- 104 USA *FaithSearch* Discovery teachers trained in the last 15 months:
 - 50 Pastors and ministry leaders
 - 54 Lay leaders and teachers
- 9 States represented (MN, WI, AZ, IL, TX, MI, NE, OH, CA)
- 1 Other country (Canada)

With only 12 of these teachers reporting for the first six months of 2006:

- 27 Outreach events
- 1,335 Outreach attendance
- 64 Faith commitments to follow Christ
- 4 Training events (*Growing Faith*)
- 26 Training attendance

Russian Ministry Realized

After praying and planning and preparing for years, the *FaithSearch* Russian ministry is now a reality. The Russian translation of Dr. Bierle's book *Surprised by Faith* was published in August. Oleg Voskresensky, a native of Russia who translated the book, has joined *FaithSearch* as a staff evangelist. From August 16-29, Oleg and Denny McKeever, director of international ministries (who also served as a missionary to Russia), traveled to Moscow and St. Petersburg to meet ministry leaders and introduce them to *FaithSearch*.



Initial responses to *FaithSearch* and the book were universally and overwhelmingly positive. Oleg said, “I was praying, not sure which doors God would open; which groups we were planning to meet—academics, the Orthodox Church, professionals, evangelicals—would respond positively. I felt that if half of the meetings we planned

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Opportunity:

Russia Matching Grant

With the launch of our Russian ministry, we have a wonderful opportunity. Christian friends have pledged \$52,000 toward our Russia budget. Receipt of the money is contingent on our raising a matching amount. This is not a gimmick to coerce others to give: We will not receive anything if we do not match it dollar for dollar.

Our challenge is to trust God to lead us to the matching \$52,000. Our prayer is that it come from new sources: **matching this grant must not divert giving from the general budget.**

Will you to step up to this challenge by giving an *extra* gift toward this match, beyond what you have determined to give this year? Perhaps you could tell others of this opportunity. **Every extra gift designated for this purpose will help us toward funding the Russian ministry.**



Mainstream Ministry, USA

Extending the impact of *FaithSearch* internationally does not curtail ministry within our borders. *FaithSearch* activity in the USA continues strong, comprised of two broad areas: *outreach* and *equipping*. “Outreach” is proclaiming the Gospel with evidence; “equipping” is training others to do so.

Each of our evangelists offers nearly the same events throughout the USA. We do this to fulfill our mission to proclaim the Gospel with evidence. Thousands attend our *FaithSearch* Origins, Discovery and Destiny events each year, resulting in hundreds of professions of faith in Jesus Christ. (See the report on page 2.)

Equipping events are offered as the major focus of our *FaithSearch* Center. The goal of teacher training is multiplication of Gospel messengers in churches and communities across the USA. That training has accelerated in the last 15 months, as indicated to the right in “God at Work.” In addition to teacher training, we also

equip people to disciple new (and “used”!) Christians using our *Growing Faith* discipleship manual. This faith-strengthening Bible study is helping Christians to experience the abundant life Jesus promised (John 10:10). Consistent with our goal of creating a metro-wide network of *Growing Faith* disciples, we have trained sixty-eight men and women so far this calendar year.

Another facet of our *FaithSearch* Center ministry was initiated in June—the “Bible for Life” classes. A faithful group came to our office in Chaska Thursday nights this summer for stimulating and faith-building Bible study. **The study will continue on Thursday, September 14, with a new series—studying through the Gospels and ministry of Jesus in historical, chronological order.** Based on Volume One of Dr. Bierle's book, *New Testament History and Survey*, this approach will deepen anyone's understanding of Jesus and His ministry. Call the office for details and plan to join us.

FAITHSEARCH

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Fiscal Year Update: Up, UP, UP

FaithSearch completed the 2006 fiscal year on June 30. **It was a great year of ministry and our financial situation improved as well.** The briefest way to show this is with a few comparisons with the previous year (see chart).

submitted by event participants. Since we usually have written responses from only about 12% of those attending, there is certainly much more spiritual fruit than this.

	Fiscal 2005	Fiscal 2006	Percent Change
Outreach events	112	206	+84%
Faith commitments to Christ	1,116	1,580	+42%
Training events	38	68	+79%
New Discovery teachers: USA	18	83	+361%
New Discovery teachers: Int'l	15	183	+1,120%
Web site page views	133,000	179,000	+35%
Number of donors	534	594	+11%
Income	\$591,000	\$675,000	+14%
Expenses	\$644,000	\$693,000	+8%

Faith Studies International grew—in terms of multiplication—**more than any other year in our history.** Please join us in praising the Lord!

In fiscal 2006, we added 183 trained *FaithSearch* Discovery teachers in India, and 83 in the United States. These *non-staff* teachers conducted 42 outreach events before 2,200 people, resulting in **269 faith commitments to follow Christ**—people we never saw, but who are following Christ as a result of our extended ministry. Also, thousands of India pastors and India Campus Crusade Staff attended *FaithSearch* Discovery conferences and learned to use this Gospel tool in their ministries. Spanish ministry was initiated this year with enthusiastic reception. Finally, more than 150 new disciples were equipped to use *Growing Faith* in their churches, communities and work places.

The Russian translation of *Surprised by Faith* was completed and announced at the 2006 Celebration Banquet in April. It is an excellent translation by Oleg Voskresensky, a native of Moscow, living in the United States for the last fifteen years. Oleg also agreed to become a full time Russian evangelist with *FaithSearch* beginning July of 2006. (See the article on page 1.)

The *FaithSearch* message was **claimed by our staff evangelists to 22,555 people through 206 outreach events resulting in nearly 1,600 faith commitments to the Lord.** These number are based only on actual written responses

Furthermore, as a result of the “Extending the Vision” strategy, thousands of additional people heard the *FaithSearch* message through trained associates and India pastors. Add to that those who heard through our print and media publications being used for church education classes and outreach events, office discussion groups, and neighborhood small groups—and you can see why we’re praising God for His faithfulness.



What People Are Saying

“I have been asking a lot of questions about faith. Thank you for some answers.” —**MB, Eagan, MN**

“This presentation has touched my heart and soul. Thank you!” —**SF, Racine, WI**

“It helped to grow my faith even deeper, that the Bible is absolute truth and enriches my life in Jesus! Thank you.” —**RR, Hastings, MN**

“This is the material we want. These are the questions we need to answer.” —**Pastor, St. Petersburg, Russia**

“Your book answered many questions I had that my church and family were not able to answer. Thank you!” —**MP, Robbinsdale, MN**

“This seminar has equipped me to better defend and present the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was very encouraging and I believe needed in our church.” —**MC, Lakewood, CO**

“Really opened my eyes to some new perspectives.” —**ML, Oceanside, CA**

TESTIMONY

We received the following encouraging note via E-mail:

“I grew up in a Christian home. When I was a teen, I started having questions about what I’d been taught growing up. I was told by everyone that I just needed to believe. It was a matter of blind faith, so it seemed. I turned away from Christianity for a while, because what I heard from the world made much more sense, to me, at the time.

“I came back to Christ because I saw what He had to offer me through His death on the cross. He’s helped me overcome my addictions to drugs and offered me a new way of life. After coming back to Christ over ten years ago, reading your books is like having a light bulb going off in my head. I finally am beginning to understand more than I ever imagined possible.... I feel like I hold the key to sharing the Gospel in my hands. I am so excited!

“I plan on sending a copy of *Surprised by Faith* to an unsaved uncle... I also am thinking about using these books to teach a class to help [students] avoid the same trap I fell into.... I just wanted to let you know what an impact this reading has had. Thank you!” —**SM**

Outreach Events Escalate

You may have read about a trial “no honorarium” policy initiated for our three primary **FaithSearch** outreach events. The goal was to fill our evangelists’ schedules so we can proclaim the Gospel with evidence to as many as possible. This trial has been greatly successful, with a **large increase in the number of events in the last half of fiscal 2006, and a record number of events being scheduled for the next year.** This change has energized the ministry during recent months.

During just the last quarter, our events team has scheduled **100 additional events** to be completed in the next year. At a time of increasing attacks on the foundational truths of the Christian faith (*The Da Vinci Code*; Judas Gospel, etc.), the **FaithSearch** message—the Gospel with evidence—is valuable and essential to help strengthen the faith of believers and reveal the historical truth of the Bible and Jesus to unbelievers.

The window for scheduling our three primary outreach events with no hono-

rarium is still open. If your church is not currently scheduled to host one of these events, you could be a catalyst to encourage your pastor, outreach committee, etc. to call us for information. (Call 952.401.4501 and ask for Kristi.)

The primary motivation for increasing the number of outreach events is the resulting spiritual impact on people’s lives. Just in the quarter from April-June, we presented **seventy-nine outreach events with 668 people recording a commitment of faith in Jesus Christ.** Praise God with us!

It is our prayer that everyone in the **FaithSearch** family—staff, Board, financial donors, prayer warriors, event hosts, and volunteers—will sense the hand of God that sustains us. He has been faithful indeed! As the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi: “*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now*” (Philippians 1:3-5).

Estate Planning Seminar Offered

Tuesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.

FaithSearch is providing a valuable—but free—estate planning seminar from a biblical and spiritual perspective.

Our Board chairman, John Parienteau, has attended the seminar and said, “You will learn a lot. It will help you, regardless of how much money you have, how old you are, or how large your estate.” Presenter JoAnne Daudt, a partner in the law firm of Dunkley & Bennett, P.A., has been practicing law in the area of estate planning for nearly twenty-five years, and is an excellent communicator.

This is not a fund-raiser. No appeal will be made. Rather, the seminar will show you how to avoid costly mistakes; how to find God’s plan of stewardship for your estate; how to ensure your plan will be carried out; how to provide for management of property in case of incompetency prior to death; and how to distribute property at the time of death with the least possible delays and costs due to the probate process.

Do this for yourself, and for the kingdom of God. Each follower of Jesus Christ is called to be a steward of the resources He has entrusted to us. This seminar, “Releasing Resources,” will provide information and materials to assist you and your attorney to design your

estate to accomplish the best results for your family and also release resources into ministry for Kingdom purposes.

The seminar will be in Room 2 of the Chanhassen Recreation Center, and will be approximately two hours in length. **FaithSearch** is offering this seminar without cost or obligation as an important ministry to you. Please register by calling our office at 952.401.4501, or by E-mail to info@faithsearch.org.

Russian Ministry (Cont. from page 1)

even happened, I would be happy.” God, who is able to do “exceeding, abundantly beyond all we can ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20), did just that.

All of the planned meetings took place except one! (Oleg and Denny left behind materials for him, and have already received a positive response via E-mail.) “All of the meetings were very positive,” continued Oleg. In fact, based on the number of invitations to return even as soon as October, Oleg could be busy presenting **FaithSearch** for the whole month and into November. In every one of more than sixty conversations—with pastors, lay leaders, presidents and deans of colleges, ministry workers and denominational leaders—people were eager to implement **FaithSearch** into their ministries.

New Name and Restated Mission

The branding of the name **FaithSearch** and the **FaithSearch** logo over the past three years has been so successful that it has essentially replaced the old name, Faith Studies International. Virtually no one uses it, especially people we have worked with in the last two years. Overseas we are *only* known as **FaithSearch**. The term “Faith Studies” was a carryover from “Home Inspirational Studies” (HIS) of the 1970s and ’80s. “**FaithSearch**” is identified with the more dynamic concept of “discovery” at our outreach events (the “*Ah-ha!*” experience). **Therefore, the time has come to make official a name change that has in practice already occurred.** As a result, we are now officially “**FaithSearch** International.”

According to management guru Peter Drucker, an organization’s mission statement should be short and sharply focused; clear and easily understood; define why the organization exists; be sufficiently broad; and say what, in the end, we want to be remembered for. Our previous mission statement wasn’t like that. Few could quote it.

To refine our mission statement, it must remain clear that we are an evangelism ministry and that we are distinguished from most others by including evidence (the “why”) along with our proclamation of the “what.” So without changing any ministry emphasis, we have restated our mission as “Proclaiming the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere.”

So today we are: **FaithSearch International: Proclaiming the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere.**



Oleg Voskresensky

“You are a perfect fit for our Catechism course, especially for the younger audience!” said the Orthodox Priest in Moscow. “Please, will you come to our National Evangelicals’ Conference in Oryol this October, to present this material to our pastors?” asked the Baptist Pastor. “Can you possibly start your **FaithSearch** Discovery classes this November?” wondered the President of the St. Petersburg Christian University.

Praise God, and pray with us that He will provide wisdom and resources strategically to meet these many opportunities to proclaim the Gospel with evidence to the people of Russia.

FaithSearch Field Reports

Our Team of Evangelists



Dr. Don Bierle



Denny McKeever



Carlos Fernández



Oleg Voskresensky

Dr. Don Bierle

Expanding Evangelists Team

Three years ago the *FaithSearch* staff and board made a strategic decision: **We will build the ministry's future on an extension of our nearly 25-year-old vision.** That vision is to proclaim the Gospel with evidence: articulating through *FaithSearch* Discovery the “why” of the Good News of Jesus, so the lost will more readily embrace Him and the saved will have their faith and witness strengthened. We have described this endeavor as “Extending the Vision,” and by God’s blessing it is living up to our every expectation.

India—and now Russian- and Spanish-speaking countries—are already in our scope. *Surprised by Faith* has been published in six languages, with other translations in process. Reports of spiritual fruit through these new ministries are encouraging us.

Even more exciting to me is seeing how God is also providing for *FaithSearch* leadership in these extended areas of ministry. He is assembling an exceptional team of evangelists and teachers at *FaithSearch*, each capable of training others so the Gospel with evidence can be multiplied. The four members of our team can present the same dynamic and effective outreach events, whether in English (all), Spanish (Carlos) or Russian (Oleg).

For this issue, I’ve asked Carlos to share about his excellent initial Spanish ministry in the Dallas area. In the next issue, Oleg will tell about his recent ministry trip to Russia. In the meantime, Denny and I do much of the USA—and all of the India—outreach and training. We are on our way to India even as I write this. When we return, we **will have over fifty outreach events, scheduled in September and October**, in the USA. Please pray for us—safety, strength, and spiritual fruit.

Carlos Fernández

Launching Latino Ministry

My May 17-25 trip to Dallas was a glimpse of promising ministry ahead for *FaithSearch* in the Spanish-speaking world. *Sorprendido por la Fe* (*Surprised by Faith*) and the *Descubriendo Juntos* (*FaithSearch* Discovery) PowerPoint® presentation in Spanish proved to be powerful tools to convey the Gospel with evidence to a people who yearn for God, but who—until only a couple generations ago—were limited to worshipping in incomprehensible Latin. This trip was made possible by the Dallas Baptist Association and the Nueva Vida First Baptist Church of Garland, and five other Texas-Oklahoma churches. **Through thirteen events in an intense nine days, I proclaimed the Gospel with evidence to over 1,200 people.** These events were as varied as a pastors’ fellowship meeting, *The Da Vinci Code* book forums, church presentations, a high-school graduation, and two home group studies.

The audiences expressed high enthusiasm and interest, with responses as varied as the crowd. A junior high student reaffirmed his faith in Christ, and wrote simply, “I have learned a lot. I am so thankful I made it to this meeting!” Some comments were more precise: “It enables me to defend my faith and the truth about the historical life of Jesus.” Others were moving and deep: “I don’t feel ignorant anymore, and now I know how to explain the truth. Knowledge and truth are priceless.”

Friendships in Christ are another blessing for me which result from the ministry. A couple weeks ago, at a very crucial moment after the premature birth of our daughter Carlotta, I received a call from a man in Dallas, who was led by God’s Spirit to pray for my family in a moment of our deepest need.

As I work to make more trips like this a reality, in Latin America and to Hispanic populations in the US, may I invite you to pray with us? Thank you.



Praise

Rejoice with us!

1. Praise the Lord for the **safe return from successful international ministry trips** by our evangelists. Oleg and Denny were in Russia, then Denny and Don ministered in India. Both trips were outstanding.
2. Many people are **coming to faith and committing their lives to the Lord.** Let’s THANK HIM for answers to our prayers concerning these events!
3. Dr. Bierle continues to be a “regular” on **KKMS radio (980 AM)** during the afternoon drive time. Praise God for this opportunity. See our Web site for details.
4. Praise God for a **busy schedule of outreach and teaching** opportunities for our evangelists! From Oregon to Maryland—and still booking! (Pray and invite someone to an event near you!)



Prayer

Please lift in prayer:

1. Please continue to pray for Dr. Bierle and his **writing projects.** He has many things on his plate, and a very busy fall schedule.
2. Please continue to pray for the **evangelists and the people who will be attending our upcoming events.** Pray for many who don’t know Him to come with receptive hearts and for diligent follow-up. Use our event schedule as your guide (<http://www.faithsearch.org/schedule>).
3. Praise the Lord for the promise of a gift of \$52,000 from a donor. Pray the God will provide **sources for the matching \$52,000.**
4. Pray for **each of us in ministry** as we move into a very busy schedule of fall events, facilitation and follow-up.