

Inside This Issue:

Jesus: Divine or Da Vinci?

A new DVD from FaithSearch and Mahoney Media addresses false allegations in *The Da Vinci Code*.

Foundation for the Future

It was no April Fool's joke: our 2006 Celebration Banquet was a great success.

Movie Ministry

Use *The Da Vinci Code* for meaningful ministry.

International Update

Exciting new developments in our Latino and Russian ministries.

New Open Doors for FaithSearch in India

An incredible opportunity to reach 7,500,000 people in India with the FaithSearch message.

"No Honorarium" Promotion

In a bold move, FaithSearch is waiving honorariums on our main events.

Classifieds

Help Wanted: We're looking for a few good volunteers.

New Weekly Bible Study: By popular demand, "Summer Sampler Series."

What People Are Saying

Selected comments from individuals touched by the ministry of FaithSearch

FaithSearch Field Reports

Personal reflections from our evangelists.

Praise and Prayer Items



GOD AT WORK

FaithSearch Message and Messengers

January – March, 2006

(On 2 continents, in 2 countries, in 10 US states)

FaithSearch MESSAGE

Outreach Events.....	52
Attendance.....	3,887
Confessions of Faith	267
Training Events	23
Training Attendance	1,705

FaithSearch MESSENGERS

New Teachers Trained.....	159
New Disciplers Trained.....	53
Prayer Foundation	923
Volunteer Hours.....	409

New on DVD:

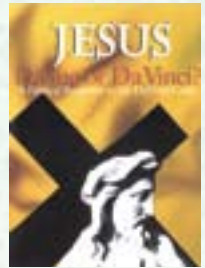
Jesus: Divine or Da Vinci?

Is Jesus the Divine Son of God as recorded in the New Testament? Or is Jesus a mere mortal man as identified in the best-selling book *The Da Vinci Code*?

This new DVD, featuring Dr. Don Bierle, addresses false allegations in *The Da Vinci Code*, and points positively to the evidence for believing in the historical person of Jesus. Just in time for the release of *The Da Vinci Code* movie, this DVD, produced by ministry partner Mahoney Media, clearly and logically shows that the New Testament Gospels are eyewitness accounts of Jesus' ministry and miracles. The DVD is available on our Web site (www.faithsearch.org), at our ministry events, in our office, and in

Christian bookstores.

"As I travel around the country, I teach about the integrity of the New Testament documents, and the historical reliability of those documents," said Dr. Bierle. "Recently, people come up to me and say, 'But what about *The Da Vinci Code*?' So I was compelled to look into it



New FaithSearch DVD

(Cont. on page 2)

2006 Celebration:

Foundation for the Future

About 220 people enjoyed a great evening together at the 2006 *FaithSearch* Celebration Banquet on April 1 (no foolin'!). The Blue Room at Northwestern College provided an elegant backdrop; the fellowship and food were fine; and the program informative and challenging.

The theme "Foundation for the Future" was expressed throughout the evening, including centerpieces of bricks and blueprints. Former tennis pro, author and radio host David Wheaton kept everyone smiling with his comments and costume changes; personal testimonies of life change, and reports from our ministry in India were presented via video; Wooddale Church received the "FaithSearch Distinguished Service Award" for exemplary dedication to outreach in partnership with FaithSearch; Dr. Bierle gave an update on the great progress in the last year to extend the FaithSearch vision; and Leith Anderson, senior pastor at cos-

(Cont. on page 3)

The Da Vinci Code:

Movie Ministry

With the release of *The Da Vinci Code* movie, "everybody" is talking about it. Rather than argue or boycott, prepare to use this interest as a witnessing opportunity. Consider the following:

Prayer: Rely on God, for this is spiritual work. Ask Him for wisdom and for meaningful conversations with people influenced by the book or movie.

Preparation: Research the truth, know the issues, assemble tools (such as Don's paperback *Surprised by Faith* and the DVD *Jesus: Divine or Da Vinci?*), and plan what you will say.

Passion: Remember Jesus' heart toward those who mocked and ridiculed Him, even as He was dying for them. Pray for a loving attitude toward those who are deceived by fiction, and who ridicule those who follow truth.

Personal Testimony: Don't forget your firsthand experience of the truth: share what God has done in your life.

Practical Steps: Buy, view, share with others, and discuss *Jesus: Divine or Da Vinci?* and use *Surprised by Faith* to continue the dialogue and complete the picture with the truth about Jesus: His life, death and resurrection, His deity and offer of eternal life, the problem of sin and need for a solution.

FAITHSEARCH

FaithSearch is published by Faith Studies International, an interdenominational, donor-supported, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to presenting evidences for the Christian faith through *FaithSearch* and its derivatives—including outreach and training seminars, media resources, and discipleship programs. Faith Studies International is not denominationally affiliated.



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David Lundstrom • Jim Rasmussen • Elmer Wedel

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CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED:

- Volunteer(s) to help with data entry and database maintenance in our Chaska office. Need to be familiar with a Microsoft Windows® XP operating system and comfortable learning new things on the computer. Ideal candidate would be available on an on-going basis (i.e. one day weekly).
- Volunteer(s) with accounting experience, and comfortable with computers and accounts payable or accounts receivable clerk responsibilities.

ALWAYS WANTED:

- Volunteer help for general mailings, maintenance and other projects. Please call Laura (952.401.4501) and let her know what your skills are, your availability and what you'd be willing to do!

By Request:

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

In response to repeated requests, the *FaithSearch* Center is offering a **weekly Bible study series with Don Bierle and Denny McKeever**. The series, part of the Bible for Life Curriculum, begins **Thursday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.**, at the *FaithSearch* offices in Chaska, MN.

Titled the "Summer Sampler Series," each study will include a 15 minute "Question and Answer" period, with the stimulating content you expect from *FaithSearch*. Call (952) 401-4501 for more information and to register.

Jesus: Divine or Da Vinci? (Cont. from page 1)

for myself." His research provided the basis for his presentation "Distinguishing Fact from Dangerous Fiction: Answering the Allegations of *The Da Vinci Code*," and ultimately, for the DVD.

Since Christianity is a historical faith, the attacks by *The Da Vinci Code* on the historical foundations of the faith have the potential of deceiving many, drawing them away from the truth to follow a lie. *Jesus: Divine or Da Vinci?* provides a valuable resource and a powerful defense of biblical Christianity.

Dr. Paul L. Maier, Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University, said he thoroughly enjoyed both the content and the high technical quality of the DVD, and commended us for producing it "for such a time as this." The co-author of *The Da Vinci Code: Fact or Fiction?* and a regarded authority on early Christianity, Dr. Maier said, "Because so many books, TV programs, and motion pictures are currently attacking Christ and the Church He founded, *Jesus: Divine or Da Vinci?* is an excellent

arsenal for the truth." He continued, "This DVD lays bare the deceptions, distortions, and outright falsehoods in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* on the basis of hard, historical fact. It also shows how the New Testament provides the most reliable information in both text and content of any document from the ancient world."

Rev. Jim Rasmussen, director of evangelism for the AFLC denomination, and a *FaithSearch* board member, said, "I believe that *The Da Vinci Code* movie could be the evangelism opportunity of the decade. Don't pass it up! Teach your people the truth and help them be proclaimers of the truth."

Pastor Jeff Krogstad of Elk River, MN, seemed to be in tune with Rev. Rasmussen. He said, "I found the DVD to be excellent. I'm looking forward to using *Jesus: Divine or Da Vinci?* with adult Bible classes and small groups." Our prayer is that many will do likewise, in homes and churches throughout the country, "for such a time as this."

International Update

Our international ministry continued to thrive this year, with exciting developments in India, and with ground-breaking work for Spanish and Russian ministry. (Details from India are on page 3.)

Carlos Fernández has now joined our staff full time as evangelist/teacher for our Latino ministry. He has begun presenting *FaithSearch* already, with a number of Spanish and English events on two trips to Dallas, TX. He is also working on completing his master's degree thesis. It is truly a blessing to have Carlos here at last.

Oleg Voskresensky, who recently completed the Russian translation of *Surprised by Faith*, spoke at our celebration banquet this year, and presented the first copy of the new book to Dr. Bierle. In a surprise announcement, Dr. Bierle revealed that **Oleg has accepted our invitation to become a *FaithSearch* evangelist to Russian-speaking people, beginning July 1, 2006!** We are praising the Lord for this wonderful provision of a Moscow native and current resident of the Twin Cities, who is highly qualified to champion our ministry to Russian-speaking people in the USA and in Russia.

The timing couldn't be better, either, as we recently received E-mail from a missionary in Russia, who wrote, "I would like



Oleg Voskresensky and the Russian translation.

to begin an evangelistic study in Moscow, and would love to use that book as the basis. Please do let us know when they are ready to be delivered." Praise God!



What People Are Saying

"[*FaithSearch*] created in me a new interest in studying God's Word, the Bible." —DE, Lakewood, CO

"*The Da Vinci Code* has provided more witnessing opportunities for me than anything else, so this presentation is helpful."

—CF, Eden Prairie, MN

"*FaithSearch* really opened my eyes to some new perspectives." —ML, Oceanside, CA

New Open Doors For *FaithSearch* in India

In a land that boasts millions of gods, it is relatively easy to add “Jesus” to the list. But Jesus did not claim to be one of many. Rather, He said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6). His closest apostles, Peter and John, taught that “there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). That is the Gospel with evidence which *FaithSearch* proclaims in India.

It is this Gospel with evidence which God is prospering in India. Denny McKeever and Dr. Don Bierle returned on March 23, from their seventh ministry trip there. It was an effective time as they used *FaithSearch* Discovery to train **1,253 pastors** in several conferences; **105 more *FaithSearch* trainers**; **42 new Campus Crusade staff** at the Great Commission Training Center; and **1,350 people** at Sunday worship services.

They traveled through four states and included the cities of Mumbai, Indore, Goa, Chennai and Bangalore. **Everywhere the teaching is received with great enthusiasm**—often with the expression, “We have never had teaching like this before!”



Something else of great significance also resulted—**incredible open doors** for a greater multiplication of *FaithSearch* than we have had in our four years there. God willing, Denny and Dr. Bierle will return to India in late August with the following opportunities:

1. Equip the My Hope India coordinators to be *FaithSearch* Discovery trainers

The Billy Graham Association is just completing the nationwide “My Hope India” evangelism campaign with great success. **We have been invited to train the same network to take *FaithSearch* Discovery to the entire country!** It will start in late August with about 400 coordinators.

They, in turn, will equip two levels of trainers (40,000) who will in turn equip 750,000 home leaders to share *FaithSearch* Discovery with about **7,500,000 people in their small groups.**



2. Equip Bible College and Seminary faculty to use *FaithSearch* Discovery

Three faculty conferences in three cities will be scheduled on our next trip so Dr. Bierle can equip the top Christian colleges in India to use *FaithSearch* Discovery in their curriculum. Their graduates—who will become the future pastors in the country—will all be equipped with *FaithSearch* Discovery.

3. Advanced training for selected Campus Crusade staff

It is not final yet, but India CCC is considering designating selected national staff to become full time *FaithSearch* Discovery teacher and trainers. With advanced training and experience, these staff would become the future indigenous leaders to sustain and expand the *FaithSearch* Discovery ministry throughout India.

Of course, we will continue pastors’ training conferences and ICCC staff training. We will also begin networking with other mission agencies in India and placing *FaithSearch* Discovery materials in Christian bookstores throughout India.

Please pray that we can complete all the written materials in time for translation and use in the My Hope and Bible College training. Pray also that God will protect and prosper these opportunities so that millions of lost men and women in India will find forgiveness and hope in the only Savior of the world—Jesus Christ!

“No Honorarium” Promotion

In February, *FaithSearch* embarked on a unique journey of faith. After prayer and discussion, we announced that we would **waive honorariums** on any of our three, time-tested, and highly-effective outreach/discipleship events: *FaithSearch* Origins, *FaithSearch* Discovery, and *FaithSearch* Destiny.

Why? Our three evangelists/teachers are passionate about proclaiming the *FaithSearch* message, **and they want to proclaim it every available day.** There are so many who are lost without Christ! There are too many Christians confused by challenges to biblical faith, such as *The Da Vinci Code*. So, until their schedules are full, we have created this unprecedented opportunity for churches to schedule events **and Pay NO Honorarium!***

The response has been phenomenal. In fact, Kristi Wanamaker and Sue Tomasko, who schedule and facilitate our events, have been stretched to keep up with the demand. In just the first three months of the year, they added **ninety-six new events** to the schedule! We are trusting God’s provision: that this offer will not create a financial burden for the ministry; and that new opportunities to proclaim the life-giving Gospel will open up where the honorarium may have been prohibitive in the past.

Pass this information along to your pastor: some dates are still available. For complete details and to schedule an event, call 952-401-4501 (800-964-1447 outside the metro) and ask for Kristi.

* Certain restrictions apply. Call for details.

Foundation for the Future

(Cont. from page 1)

Wooddale Church, capped the evening with a superb keynote message.

As anticipated, the completed Russian translation of *Surprised by Faith* was presented by its translator, Oleg Voskresensky, to Dr. Bierle. We are again thankful for all who attended and celebrated with us. And we’re already planning for next year: put **April 14, 2007**, on your calendars, and we’ll hope to see you there!



FaithSearch Field Reports

Dr. Don Bierle

More Than a 'Helper'

God got it right in the beginning when He said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him" (Genesis 2:18). The rest is history, as they say—and my history is especially blessed. In every aspect of my experience I agree with Proverb 18:22: "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord."

Like the Proverb 31 woman, **my wife of forty-four years, Vernee**, has done me "good and not evil all the days of her life" (v. 12). Together we have been blessed in our family life with two fine sons and daughters-in-law, and five (soon to be six) grandchildren. (Honestly, I think the Proverbs 31 description left one thing out: The grandchildren love her. At least ours do!)

Socially, Vernee is an indispensable complement to my abilities. I take her with me everywhere: long ago I discovered that people accept me because they like her! I do "obtain favor from the Lord" when we are together.

I can't even imagine thirty-eight years of Christian ministry without her at my side. Her sensitivity, words of caution and advice, acceptance of my long hours in my study (read: workaholic), plus her servant-heart to help at events, spiritual devotion, uncompromising values and many other qualities have helped keep me—and the ministry "ship"—from crashing on the rocks during the rough times.

My wife is more than a 'helper.' Deservedly, she is the **first lady of FaithSearch—and the "crown of her husband"** (Proverbs 12:4). Thanks, Vernee!



Denny McKeever

FaithSearch: A Message of Relevance

I remember vividly our training trip to India in February, 2004. We began the training of the first group of Campus Crusade leaders as **FaithSearch** associates. We asked them, "Is the **FaithSearch** Discovery message



relevant to Indian society and culture?" All fifteen responded with passion and emotional conviction that **FaithSearch** Discovery was not only relevant but critically needed to reach the people of India. These associates continue to use their training to lead hundreds of Hindus to Christ annually.

Why would this surprise us? **The FaithSearch message is the message of Jesus Christ**, the most relevant, meaningful and important message the world could ever hear. The fact that **FaithSearch** Discovery is the Gospel of Jesus Christ **with evidence** increases its relevance to listeners today. For this reason, ICCC is committed to bringing **FaithSearch** into every corner of India.

This response is not unique to India. Each language group targeted for ministry and translation has given **FaithSearch** a similar reception. Where we have begun to touch the Spanish-speaking world, the **FaithSearch** message has been met with enthusiastic response for its relevance. A missionary to Russia heard that our Russian translation has been completed and wrote, "I am so excited to use this in my ministry. I think this will really be helpful to seekers—especially the younger generation." When we met with our Middle East contacts last November, they made a strong appeal for simultaneous Arabic and French translations to reach the millions of Muslims in the Middle East and North Africa, again, **because of the relevance of the FaithSearch message.**

We are not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus and Christ and we boldly proclaim the Gospel with evidence. The **FaithSearch** Discovery message is relevant for every people group, language and culture of the world.

Carlos Fernández

Coming Soon...

Note: Watch for reports from Carlos Fernández in future issues, as he begins to conduct **FaithSearch** events and develops our Latino ministry in the USA, as well as in Central and South America.



Praise

Rejoice with us!

1. Praise with us! The both pieces of **property given to us as a gift** in December, 2005, have been sold.
2. Ministry at diverse events continues to be anointed and used by God! **Many are making faith commitments.** Dr. Bierle says that at all his speaking events the message is received enthusiastically.
3. Praise God for recent **FaithSearch** Discovery Teachers training and Growing Faith Leadership training events, and **for His multiplication of teachers** to carry the **FaithSearch** message throughout the world!
4. Praise God for the opportunities our evangelists have had **on the radio** recently! Dr. Bierle is going to be a "regular" on **KKMS** (980 AM) about every-other Tuesday between 3-5 p.m.
5. Praise the Lord for the response we are getting from churches to the **"no honorarium event promotion."** Please pray for **our staff** (especially Sue, Kristi and Jason) as face this wonderful administrative "challenge"!



Prayer

Please lift in prayer:

1. Please continue to pray for the **evangelists and the people who will be attending our upcoming events!** Pray for many that don't know Him to come with receptive hearts and for diligent follow up. Use our event schedule (<http://www.faithsearch.org/schedule>) as your guide.
2. **Please pray for our ministry in India:** for the partnership with Campus Crusade to grow; for those trained with **FaithSearch** Discovery materials, to use them in their own ministries and to see many others trained. Also, please pray for continuing financial support for this ministry.
3. **Bonnie Shoutz**, our dear friend and former accounts payable person, went home to be with the Lord on May 3. Pray for her family and others who miss her. Rejoice that the Lord is good and that she is safe with Him forever.