

Our Team of Evangelists



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Denny McKeever The Harvest Is Ripe

Wherever the *FaithSearch* message is proclaimed, a bountiful harvest is being reaped. The prophet Joel said, "Swing the sickle for the harvest is ripe" (Joel 3:13). When seeing townspeople coming to Him, Jesus told His disciples, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35).

We should not be surprised to see opposition: Jesus warned us to expect attacks. But God has promised that His Word *will* produce a harvest. Therefore, we must keep "swinging the sickle"—for the harvest is ripe. Our "sickle" is the Gospel of Jesus Christ with evidence—the *FaithSearch* message.

People want to know how to have a relationship with Jesus and to have certainty of eternal life. **Wherever we go, many are making commitments to follow Jesus Christ as the *FaithSearch* message is proclaimed.** Though we face opposition, the joy of seeing the harvest keeps us swinging the *FaithSearch* "sickle."

A recent conversation following the *FaithSearch* presentation illustrates a frequent response. Sarah said she had thought she was a Christian. She was involved in church and even taught Sunday school. Yet deep inside she felt something was missing—she just hoped she was okay. Then she heard the clear Gospel presentation through *FaithSearch* and immediately knew what was missing. **She opened her heart to Christ and the joy and peace of knowing Him flooded her soul.**

Sarah's story is repeated often as we proclaim the Gospel with evidence. Indians, Russians, Latinos and North Americans are coming to Christ as we "swing our sickle." And we must work the fields in the new territory God is opening to us. **Please be a part of God's work through *FaithSearch* and enable us—through your prayers and sacrificial giving—to keep on "swinging the sickle," for the harvest is ripe.**

Oleg Voskresensky Russia without Borders

It is said that "no prophet is accepted in his hometown" (Luke 4:25). That verse was constantly on my mind as I went back to Russia, this time in a new capacity as *FaithSearch* missionary. Would they listen to me or even come to my Discovery seminars? Who am I to tell these people about God?

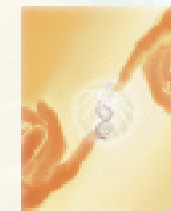
As it turned out, my fears were completely groundless: **Apparently it does not really matter who I am considering the fact of Who God is!** It was amazing to see how quickly people forgot about me once I started talking to them about Him. They did listen and they did come, as **I traveled to six cities spread over three time zones of Russia** in late October. Unfortunately, I had to reschedule a visit to Petrozavodsk (just inside the Arctic Circle)—there were no flights to get me to the next event in time. This reminded me that Russia covers a lot of space. I will definitely need to share my responsibilities with others. Gladly, almost forty of the St. Petersburg participants signed up to be trained as *FaithSearch* Discovery presenters—twelve of them university students from all over Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

***FaithSearch* ministry has officially begun in Russia.** It met no denominational boundaries, and will only be limited by how much I can travel—and how many suitcases of *Surprised by Faith* (Russian edition) I can carry. These are, however, good problems to have, and we are addressing them: On my next trip I will start training local missionaries to present *FaithSearch* Discovery, and will look for a way to print the book in Russia. This should not be difficult, considering that Petrozavodsk (on the itinerary, see above) is the capital of the Russian paper and printing industry. The Lord has already prearranged it for us. **All we need to do is to show up.**



The Fingerprints of God...

The Bible is very candid and direct concerning the existence of God, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1). The apostle Paul at Lystra in Asia told the crowd that the "living God" whom he preached "did not leave Himself without witness" (Acts 14:15, 17). The witness or evidence for God can be identified yet today through His fingerprints.



of the Old Testament prophecy: "Behold the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:23).

The apostle Paul captured the majestic excitement of this prophecy in a powerful summary, "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son..." (Gal. 4:4). The apostle John, with tones of Genesis and eternal significance, declared: "In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory..." (John 1:1, 14).

...On History
The greatest witness of all is the historical evidence of God's incarnation. We joyously celebrate this at Christmas. The New Testament—records of the highest integrity and historical reliability—embody this truth in eyewitness testimony. Matthew announced that Jesus was the fulfillment

Through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, God placed His unmistakable fingerprints on history. The reality of "God with us" was affirmed by the apostle Peter who testified that he "did not

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A Christmas investigation revealing evidence for God: recognizing that His fingerprints were left in His creation.

New FaithSearch Resources
Introducing three new ministry resources from FaithSearch

Calendar Year Highlights
While we were focused on laying a foundation for the future, God blessed us with a banner year of ministry.

Update: Russia Matching Grant
Good progress, but we have a ways to go to meet our December 31 deadline.

Classifieds
Don't miss this important information.

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FaithSearch Field Reports
Personal reflections from our evangelists.

Prayer and Praise Items

www.faithsearch.org



FaithSearch Events:
9/1 - 11/14/2006

- 62 Outreach Events
- 6,052 Attendance
- 854 Faith Commitments
- 14 Training or Promotional Events

FaithSearch Event Distribution



- FaithSearch Discovery:19
- FaithSearch Destiny:5
- FaithSearch Origins:10
- Revealing the Fingerprints of God: ..10
- Other FaithSearch Answers Series: 16
- FaithSearch Bible Series:2
- Radio Interviews:5
- Training or Promotional:14

New FaithSearch Resources Introducing...

FaithSearch is pleased to introduce the following new ministry resources.

Revealing the Fingerprints of God: DVD and Audio CD

This presentation focuses on evidence for the existence of God, as revealed in His "fingerprints" in history, in the natural world, and in our personal lives.

Fingerprints are unique to the individual. When left on surfaces, they provide evidence that a person was there. God has left His fingerprints for us to know of His existence, too. As Paul wrote in Romans 1:19-20, each person is "without excuse" when it comes to knowing God exists. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made."

One of Dr. Bierle's most popular recent presentations has been captured and made available on both DVD and audio CD. These resources will encourage your own faith, and provide an excellent way to share

evidence for the existence of God with others. Use them for a **group discussion** in your home or place of work; buy several as **gifts this Christmas**; pass them out to neighbors; **give them to students** you know to strengthen their faith as they head off to school.

FaithSearch Participant Guide

This is the perfect companion for your attendance at a live *FaithSearch* Discovery event, for participation in a *Surprised by Faith* discussion group, or for personal study. The *FaithSearch* Participant Guide is thorough and multi-faceted, with thought-provoking questions, to guide you to **ten important discoveries about life and faith**. Plus, it includes a collection of answers to the most-common inquiries at *FaithSearch* events.

This resource will help many people discover the path to a reasonable foundation for faith. Those who already believe in Jesus Christ will find a greater confidence in their faith, and the ability to communicate reasons for it in terms that make sense to others.

(Available soon.)



Praise Rejoice with us!

Praise God for our **volunteers**. Praise God for a volunteer who will be helping us organize communications with our US *FaithSearch* Discovery teachers. Also for a volunteer team serving as a steering committee as we develop the *FaithSearch* curriculum for youth and grade-school students.

Praise for God's continued **guidance** and **wisdom** about our future and for His **provision** in every way.

Prayer Please lift in prayer:

Pray that we would have a **strong year-end financially**, which would propel us into 2007 and the projects to which God is calling us.

Pray for **Carlos Fernández** as he mobilizes contacts and plans for *FaithSearch* ministry in Honduras, Mexico and Guatemala, on trips in early December, and again in February through March, 2007.

Pray for the **expansion of our Russian ministry**. Pray for resources: financial; for getting necessary publications written/translated into Russian; and human—for people to be trained as Discovery teachers to help carry the *FaithSearch* message to the Russian-speaking world.

Pray for **more events** to be scheduled in 2007 and pray for our currently scheduled events. Use the attached calendar as your guide.

Pray for **protection and health** of our staff and their families, especially as we travel over the holidays.

Pray that Denny and Don's February, 2007, **India trip** would be scheduled well, and would allow for meetings with key ministry contacts.

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CLASSIFIEDS

It's not too late to order...

Christmas PocketGuide

Take advantage of Special Christmas Pricing on "Unwrapping the Truth about Christmas," the original *FaithSearch* PocketGuide. An evidence-based approach to the Christmas story, you'll want to include one with every Christmas gift and card, and have plenty on hand for neighborhood gatherings. The 75-pack is only \$21. (Over 20% off... You save \$6.) Order online at www.faithsearch.org/Christmas.



FaithSearch Discovery Training

On Saturday, December 9, *FaithSearch* will offer the final training session of 2006. Learn to present *FaithSearch* Discovery—the powerful, logical, Gospel with evidence. You'll receive the professionally animated PowerPoint® slides that have touched literally tens of thousands of people around the world with the Gospel. Call 952.401.4501 for details and to register.

2007 Celebration Banquet

Put Saturday, April 14, 2007, on your calendar **NOW** so you can plan to join us for our annual celebration banquet. We'll be returning to the beautiful Blue Room at Northwestern College in Roseville, MN. **Don't miss it!**

Calendar Year Highlights

The annual theme for 2006 was "...a good foundation for the future..." (1 Timothy 6:19). We are praising the Lord that He turned it instead into a **banner year of present ministry!** Please rejoice and pray with us for the following:

● *FaithSearch* evangelists proclaimed the Gospel with evidence in the USA to a **record number of people** (23,000) through a **record number of events** (210), resulting in a **record number of faith professions** (2,000) – huge increases over last year.

● The *FaithSearch* Center continued to be an effective equipping and multiplication arm of the ministry. Training of others was the largest in our history: **430 Discovery teachers**; **1,851 pastors and professionals**; and **104 Growing Faith disciplers**. The Bible for Life curriculum was initiated with a twelve week summer sampler series, and continued this fall with New Testament History and Survey.

● Our ministry in India has grown to include the training of all new India Campus Crusade staff, equipping hundreds of Bible College faculty to use Discovery in the training of most future India pastors, enabling over **7,000 pastors** to use Discovery in their churches, and now having our own Indian "staff" who will take Discovery throughout the country.

● Spanish evangelist, Carlos Fernandez, began the US Spanish *FaithSearch* Discovery ministry in Dallas with a **great response**. Ministry was also initiated in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru.

● The Russian translation of *Surprised by Faith* was completed by our evangelist, Oleg Voskresensky, and his initial ministry in Russia has **exceeded every expectation**.

● Several new publications were released including **three DVDs**: *Is the Bible True?*, *Jesus: Divine or DaVinci?* and *Revealing the Fingerprints of God*; plus a participant manual for *FaithSearch* Discovery, international translations of *Surprised by Faith*, and numerous support documents.

● Two web sites, www.FaithSearch.org and www.FaithSearchCenter.org, serve the ministry. The first is our primary site, with about **220,000 page requests** this year, nearly double the number last year.

● Total income for the ministry increased 2% but fell short of expenses by almost \$200,000 (at this writing).



What People Are Saying

"You answered many of my questions & concerns." –MB, Scotland, SD

"It has encouraged me to take my faith more seriously and to take advantage of God's promise to give me abundant life, not just a bare minimum. Thank you very much!!" –DJ, Lakeville, MN

"People were amazed about this new method of presenting the truth and are eager to conduct such training in their churches." –PTG, Trivandrum, India

"This presentation meant a ton to me! Where have you been? ...Thank you so much for coming!" –DK, Minneapolis, MN

"I really was 'hungry' for supportive information as this. Thank you." –JR, Rogers, MN

"I got new boost to my spiritual life. [*FaithSearch*] helps me to shine for Jesus." –Mr. S, Madurai, India

"I have been asking a lot of questions about faith. Thank you for some answers." –MB, Eagan, MN

"There are twenty churches between my home town in Yakutia (Siberia) and the regional capital. Will you come and present [*FaithSearch*] in all of them?" –Student, St. Petersburg, Russia

"This was an incredible display of the intelligence and mightiness of our God." –PA, St. Croix Falls, WI

"[*FaithSearch*] seems like a most excellent opportunity to train our students in the biblical defense of their faith." –Dr. JA, Guatemala City, Guatemala

The Fingerprints of God... (Cont. from page 1)

follow cleverly devised tales" when he made known "the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ," but he was an "eyewitness of His majesty" (2 Peter 1:16). Again, John, enthused, "What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life..." (1 John 1:1).

History is a witness to the reality of God.

...In Creation

God has also revealed Himself through His creation. The Psalmist declares, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands" (Psalm 19:1). He also refers to nature as "the work of Thy fingers" (Psalm 8:3). No wonder His fingerprints can be found there!

Clearly, through the creation of the heavens and the earth, God placed His unmistakable fingerprints in nature. Highly specified information systems like the DNA code require that they be sourced in the activity of a superior Intelligence. This is the point that the apostle Paul made when he wrote: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" (Romans 1:20, NIV).

The created world is a witness to the reality of God.

...By Transformed Lives

Finally, God has left Himself a witness by yet another creation. The Bible says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV). The apostle Paul highlights this in a letter to those who had experienced firsthand that new life from above: "You yourselves are our testimonial, written in our hearts and yet open for anyone to inspect and read. You are an open letter about Christ delivered by and written, not with pen and ink but with the Spirit of the living God, engraved not on stone, but on human hearts" (2 Corinthians

3:2-3, Phillips Modern English).

By the miracle of new spiritual birth within those who confess faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, God manifests His unmistakable fingerprints in and through us. The Bible says that "...He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross...for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24, NASB). The songwriter expressed this so simply and yet eloquently:

...[T]he hand of Jesus touched me...
And O, the joy that floods my soul;
Something happened, and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.*

What a privilege to be chosen and touched by God! And our transformed lives are to be witnesses to His reality. Jesus Himself made this point with a simple illustration: "And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellows, so that, when they see the good you do, they may give praise to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, NEB).

As Jesus invited 'doubting' Thomas to confirm His resurrection for himself with the words, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands," we ask

this Christmas season that you look at the evidence of these three fingerprints for the reality of God. Again, with Jesus, we exhort you to "be not unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:25, 27).

*"He Touched Me," by William J Gaither, ©1963, Gaither Music Co/ASCAP.



Update Russia Matching Grant

URGENT: We are nearing the deadline of the matching grant opportunity for our Russia ministry. As of November 15, we have raised \$15,470 toward our goal of \$52,000. **This matching opportunity expires on December 31.** We must raise the full \$52,000 in order

to receive the match. If not, we receive nothing under this grant. Please pray that God would provide. Please ask God if He would have you participate. Every donation has twice the ministry impact, but only if we meet the goal.

