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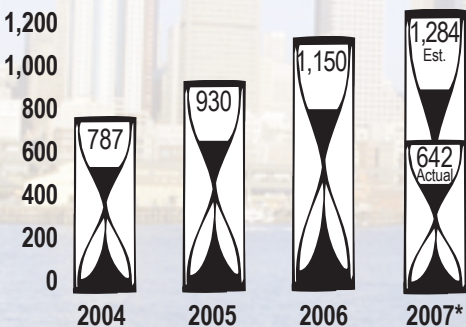
www.faithsearch.org



Volunteer Support

Faithful *FaithSearch* volunteers have supported the ministry in phenomenal ways over the years. Here's just a glimpse of the impact they have had, saving the ministry literally tens of thousands of dollars.

Volunteer Hours by Calendar Year



*2007 estimate based on first half of year

FaithSearch Ministry Report: Ukraine and Belarus

FaithSearch Russian evangelist Oleg Voskresensky returned to eastern Europe in July to continue presenting the Gospel with evidence. For part of the trip, he partnered in ministry to the country of Ukraine with the Minnesota Baptist Conference. He also visited for the first time another former Soviet republic, Belarus, situated between Poland and Russia. It is described by the US government as a country where "government restrictions on freedom of speech and the press, peaceful assembly, and religion continue" (CIA World Factbook, 2007). It is also known as "the last dictatorship in Europe."

"Visiting to Belarus was like traveling in a time machine," said Oleg on his return. "It brought me back twenty years into the times of the Soviet Union. Aside from this questionable nostalgic value, it was surely the most fulfilling part of this trip, as I was sharing the Gospel where it is most restricted and nearly forbidden outside the church walls. What a joy it was to see these people's hunger for truth and their thirst for God's wisdom being satisfied!"



Some of nearly 1,000 who gathered in anticipation of *FaithSearch* Discovery in Minsk, Belarus.

Nearly a thousand people were in the Blagodat' Evangelical Church in the capital city of Minsk, to see *FaithSearch* Discovery. They didn't even want to go home when Oleg had to stop at the end of his allotted time. "It was funny," he mused, "but their Pastor almost had to kick people out of the church building." Another 300 people in Krasnoye Evangelical Church stayed to listen for two-and-a-half hours without a break, only leaving in time to catch the last train back to their home towns. In addition,

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Vision for America

This country's future leaders and influencers—our lawyers, nurses, pastors, teachers, politicians, CEOs, doctors, broadcasters, etc.—are enrolled in our colleges and universities today. Perhaps the most effective way to impact positively the next fifty years of America is to **spiritually captivate, transform and equip these students' hearts for Christ.**



Colleges and universities—both secular and Christian—are the focus of the *FaithSearch* ministry thrust "Vision for America."

Convicted by this observation, Dr. Don Bierle is initiating a ministry to target educational institutions (both secular and Christian) and the churches in their communities who together evangelize, equip and nurture the next generation of our national leadership.

These future leaders are being educated primarily in a context of secular humanism where God does not exist, the Bible is at best a collection of myths, and Jesus Christ was a failed revolutionary who did not rise from the dead. The faith they professed when they went to the university is all-too-often replaced with, "Mom, Dad, I don't believe the way you do any more!"

"Many Christians would like to do something about the secular indoctrination occurring on campuses in America, but feel helpless or unsure how to do it," said Dr. Bierle. "As a former college professor and academic dean for over twenty-five years, I

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FAITHSEARCH

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For information call:

(952) 401-4501 / toll-free 1-800-964-1447

Address:

105 Peavey Rd., STE 200, Chaska, MN 55318
Visit our Web site at www.FaithSearch.org
E-mail: info@FaithSearch.org

Board Members:

John Parenteau, *Board Chairman*
Lyle Drangstveit, *Board Secretary*
Larry Balmer • Don Bierle
Fred Bills • David Lundstrom
Jim Rasmussen • Jeff Verdoorn • Elmer Wedel

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Vice President's View

By Roy Kruse

I recently returned from India where Denny McKeever and I conducted **thirteen FaithSearch Discovery events in eleven days!** It was a challenging trip, as we had a full schedule and it involved several long connecting trips by land. (You haven't lived until you've traveled India's congested, narrow, and extremely rough roads.) But God kept us safe and healthy, and we were blessed to continue bringing the Gospel with evidence to India, **training over 2,000 people in so short a time.** This included the entire student body and faculty of one Bible college, which was a highlight for me. These are the future spiritual leaders of India, and they have now been equipped to use *FaithSearch* to proclaim the Gospel with confidence in whatever ministry the Lord leads them to undertake.

I also gained a new perspective this time as a presenter, as Denny and I shared leading the events. It was of particular joy for me to see the audience respond as we explained the ten "Ah-ha!" discoveries of *FaithSearch*. In every event, **their faces brightened and their smiles broadened each time a new discovery was revealed.** They are very vocal and participatory at this point, and unashamedly shout "Ah-ha!" almost in unison.

At the lunch break, one pastor in Tuticorin enlightened and profoundly encouraged me when he said, "We are not just saying the word 'Ah-ha!' We're actually excited to be learning new things."

Bringing this excitement and new understanding is what we at *FaithSearch* are all about. As you can see by this newsletter, we're doing it all over the world. After all, as our mission statement makes clear, we exist to "proclaim the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere." We do this through direct evangelism and through training others to use *FaithSearch* Discovery in their own ministries. Whether here in America—as we've been doing for some thirty years, and will continue to do—or in India, Mexico, Ukraine, Belarus, or the Philippines; and whether with complete freedom, or under strict governmental restrictions, this mission statement unifies our ministry and keeps us focused.

In all of my (literally) millions of miles of global travel, I have observed that there is very little of this kind of ministry—proclamation and training with evidence—being done. *FaithSearch* Discovery fills a **unique niche and meets a critical need**, especially in these times. God is giving us many opportunities to fulfill this mission—it's almost overwhelming—and we are met with great response wherever we go.

We are thrilled to be partnering with God in the proclamation of His Good News in this way. We are also thankful to be able to partner with you in making this happen. I hope you will find something of interest in this newsletter, something to encourage and excite you to continue your involvement with *FaithSearch*.

CLASSIFIEDS



Special Pre-Christmas Pricing

Order in time for Christmas mailings...
FaithSearch Christmas PocketGuide

Order now to have plenty of "Unwrapping the Truth about Christmas" on hand this year. This is an evidence-based account of the birth of Jesus, and is very useful for sharing your faith during the Christmas season. Put one in your Christmas cards and letters, attach them to gifts, or hand them out to holiday visitors in your home. Be creative! What better gift to offer than the eternal life made possible by the life, death and resurrection of the Christ child. The 75-pack is specially priced at \$21. (Over 20% off... You save \$6.) Order online TODAY at www.faithsearch.org/Christmas. Supplies are limited.



What People Are Saying

"Some listened and learned to reinforce their faith and help them to stand firm. For others it made the case to believe and accept Jesus with faith and evidence."
—LK, Osceola, WI

"The presentation was wonderful to strengthen my faith and the basis I have to support it."
—DM, Smithsburg, MD

"Very interesting! As a PhD physicist, I found [Making Sense of Creation & Evolution] to be even handed and thorough."
—CM, Burnsville, MN

"A message so vital and important to all today when we are bombarded with the media and secular thinking."
—CS, Fremont, NE

"[*FaithSearch*] made me excited about Jesus."
—CR, Dickinson, ND

"It truly was an Ah ha! experience. The presentation was clear, and easy to understand."
—JC, Underwood, MN

"*FaithSearch* Discovery is excellent! Without it our students would have been left with so many questions unanswered."
—Stas, Petrozavodsk, Russia

"I've never understood the validity of the Christian faith through historical and scientific findings before. My faith is strengthened because of this seminar."
—CH, Eden Prairie, MN

"[*FaithSearch*] means everything to me because it gives me reason to believe in Jesus as my Savior and Lord."
—CD, Prior Lake, MN

"I taught 'Why am I here?' [from *FaithSearch* Discovery] to eighty-eight students; forty-three prayed and received Christ. For this age group (16 to 18 years) this topic is very helpful, because many are living with this question."
—NA, Madurai, India

Ukraine and Belarus (Cont. from page 1)

an Orthodox Church evangelism group has scheduled their regional Missions Conference around Oleg's travel plans this fall, to make sure the *FaithSearch* materials can be featured there. Is that a "warm reception" or what?

"It is indeed nearly impossible for foreign missionaries to obtain permission for conducting this kind of presentations from Belarus authorities," said Artyom, a youth leader from Minsk. "Luckily, being a Russian national, you don't even need any [permission]. Just come and do it."

"I suddenly realized that I need to take my faith matters very seriously and make my decision, just as you said, 'personally, rationally and responsibly.'" —English Language Teacher at the Interpreters Camp in Ukraine

Whether or not it truly is the "last dictatorship of Europe," **Belarus needs our ministry, and especially the youth!** Pray that the bureaucracy and other obstacles and restrictions are removed soon. (Either that, or we'll just have to overcome them.)

In Ukraine, for Oleg's second visit there, the name *FaithSearch* is now easily

recognized and welcomed. The *Surprised by Faith* books have been printed locally by our Ukrainian partners and are now available and delivered in needed quantities right to each event location. "What a relief to my aching back," said Oleg, "that I no longer have to carry those suitcases all the way from Minnesota, marked 'Caution! Heavy!' by Northwest Airlines!" He presented *FaithSearch* Discovery at two English language Interpreters Camps—in Cherkasy and in Rivne—and at a Youth Camp near Uman. The extended times with his audience provided a very special learning environment, with continued conversation and an in-depth search for truth.

Maksim, a student from Cherkasy, Ukraine, attending the camp, said, "After coming back from the Interpreters Camp I told to my pastor about your Seminar. His question now is: 'What does it take to have you come and present it in our churches?'"

In all, *FaithSearch* Discovery was presented to nearly **2,000 students, teachers and the general public, through twelve presentations over sixteen days.** On his return, Oleg brought with him many more invitations to visit churches, camps and

schools than he will ever be able to cover by himself. And according to the *FaithSearch* Extending the Vision strategy, he is not supposed to: He will train and equip others to do so.



Oleg presented the Gospel with evidence to young people in July at a youth camp near Uman.

In the fall of this year we are intending to introduce the *FaithSearch* Discovery presentation to the Eastern European Association of Christian Educators. It is our prayer that they will let us train their students to conduct the events on their own. We will also pursue additional opportunities the Lord has opened for our ministry in Belarus, and develop the partnership for expanding our ministry in this Gospel-unfriendly environment.

Vision for America (Cont. from page 1)

am familiar with the academic environment and have created presentations which are 21st Century relevant while being faithful to Christian truth."

Over the last decade, *FaithSearch* has been making a successful entrée onto America's college campuses. For example, the testimonies below are from students who heard the *FaithSearch* Discovery or "Making Sense of Creation and Evolution" presentations at their college or university:

"Thanks for speaking the Truth. It was so encouraging to me as a fellow Christian to hear after four years at a liberal university." —C.S., MI

"For the past four years I had slowly become a skeptic. This seminar helped me believe in a way I haven't before." —J.R., AZ

"This presentation gave me more understanding of the word of God. Why he died for us. I was a big skeptic until tonight! Thank you for opening my eyes." —L.V., IL

"Most of us would want students to hear an evidence-based alternative to the secularism which bombards them daily,"

said Dr. Bierle. "That's what I am going to do intensively, God willing, through a new *FaithSearch* ministry thrust called 'Vision for America.'"

Partnering with Christian campus groups like Campus Crusade for Christ and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Dr. Bierle will aggressively schedule events to present the evidence for the Bible, Jesus, and faith—AND to equip pastors and campus leaders to continue that teaching in their churches and on the campus.

In addition to secular campus ministry, *FaithSearch* also desires to equip faculty at Christian educational institutions to use *FaithSearch* Discovery in the curriculum so graduating students will have it for use in their personal and church ministries. *FaithSearch* will also train students directly each year. **The first seventeen seminary students were so trained in the Twin Cities this past spring.**

An Oxford University professor has recently been touring campuses in the United States to promote his book, *The God Delusion*. His message is this: "...[F]aith is a plunge into an abyss of nonsense. All religion is superstition...and faith

breeds ignorance, oppression and strife."

God willing, *FaithSearch* will soon have Dr. Bierle touring the educational communities of the United States to proclaim and demonstrate the evidence for God and the life-transforming power of Christian faith!

20:20 Vision

TO SHARE OUR "VISION FOR AMERICA" YOU'RE INVITED TO BE A MINISTRY PARTNER, TO HELP US TAKE THE GOSPEL WITH EVIDENCE TO MANY COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY COMMUNITIES.



How to Help

- W** Pray for God to provide resources and opportunities.
- E** If your church has a ministry to college students, or is near a college or university, contact your pastor with information about Vision for America. We'd love to discuss this and join your church in reaching and equipping students.
- M** Give to the Vision for America ministry fund at *FaithSearch*.
- E** Ask your college student to introduce *FaithSearch* to their campus church or Christian group.

FaithSearch Field Reports

Our Team of Evangelists



Dr. Don Bierle



Denny McKeever



Carlos Fernández



Oleg Voskresensky



Roy Kruse

Carlos Fernández

Mexico Ministry

First, I want to let you know that since my last Field Report, I have successfully completed my graduate program! **My thesis was accepted and I have graduated.** Thank you for your prayers.

I am currently on a *FaithSearch* ministry trip to Mexico, and **the Lord's blessing is quite evident.** It has been an interesting trip, too, not without humor. During the flight, and after learning I was from Peru (where an earthquake struck) and was coming from Minneapolis (where a bridge collapsed) the quick-witted flight attendant begged me "Oh, please sir, get out of my plane!"

When I cleared customs in Mexico (at about 10 p.m.) I learned from my host we would be leaving for Southern Mexico at 4 a.m. After catching two or three hours of sleep, we began a ten-hour drive to the state of Tabasco. To top it off, a hurricane struck the Yucatan Peninsula as soon as I left there! You might need to take cover when you see me next!

We had four presentations down there: two at the Southeastern Presbyterian Seminary, whose students were extremely grateful and enthusiastic, and two more at a town where a river meets the Caribbean, called El Paraíso, which means Paradise. I preached there twice on Sunday, to **extremely welcoming audiences.** We also had two presentations with the Baptist Seminary Students. They were truly mesmerized!

Back in Mexico City, we have done **sixteen FaithSearch presentations.** We had an all-day teaching event with the regional Baptist convention, and next I will be training college workers with the National Autonomous Mexican University, the largest campus in North America. **Pastors and teachers alike are truly impressed and very thankful.**

Still to come are two teaching events and one outreach with the college students. Then I have another weekend of preaching and teaching in Southern Mexico before returning home to Minnesota. **Praise God for these fruitful opportunities to proclaim the Gospel with evidence.**

Don Bierle

Bible Teacher at Heart—Called to Evangelism

A deep conviction was placed in my heart at my adult conversion that there was **nothing more important than teaching others the Word of God.** And there was nothing that motivated and fulfilled me more than that. It became my passion, even though I was a scientist.

Shortly after my confession of personal faith in Jesus, I spent massive amounts of time in study of God's Word, and the Holy Spirit was powerfully present. Then, forty-two years ago, I began teaching my first Bible studies—in homes, in churches, wherever there was an opportunity.

My wife, Vernee, will attest to this: **During all the early years of Bible teaching I vowed I could never be involved in evangelism**—an activity that was a real "turn-off" to me. (God *must* have a sense of humor!) Eleven years later (1976) I wrote the first draft of the "Faith Study"—intended for Christians, of course. After all, I was an academic dean and college professor, not an evangelist!

During the next five years God did a new work in my heart. He eventually led me to a deeper understanding: **Teaching the Bible and doing evangelism are not separate ministries**—the second flows out of the first. Both are centered on The Word: one Written, the other Living.

So God gave me the desires of my heart (which He placed there): to teach His Word. He also harnessed that passion to His heart: "who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4). **I teach the Word and the Holy Spirit saves.** God is truly a genius!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several opportunities to experience the teaching of *FaithSearch* "teacher-evangelists" are coming up: two *Growing Faith* classes on Mondays and Thursdays; New Testament History and Survey, also on Thursday evenings; plus our *FaithSearch* outreach events. See the schedule for details.



Praise

Rejoice with us!

1. Praise God that **Oleg's trip to Ukraine and Belarus** went well! He was kept safe; audiences were enraptured with the message of *FaithSearch* Discovery; and there was wonderful cooperation and enthusiasm from church hosts.
2. Praise God for another successful ministry tour in **India.** Denny and Roy conducted thirteen conferences in eleven days!
3. Praise God for **incredible networking** cooperation within the body of Christ throughout the world. Our opportunities to share *FaithSearch* are seemingly endless, bound only by resources and the wisdom of God to choose the "best" things first.
4. Two new part-time people have joined the *FaithSearch* team. Please pray for **Kerry and Janet** in their new roles, and for **Jason** (moving to part-time).



Prayer

Please lift in prayer:

1. Praise God for an opportunity to **train pastors in the Philippines!** Roy and Dr. Bierle are planning to spend a week in Manila this fall, training leaders from among Metro Manila's 3,000 churches.
2. Please continue to pray for the **evangelists and the people who will be attending** our upcoming events. Pray that the event hosts would pray/prepare/promote. Pray for many who don't know Him to come with receptive hearts to follow Him, and for diligent follow-up.
3. Pray for many more **opportunities to share the FaithSearch message.** Pray for churches we have contacted to schedule events, and that the evangelists' calendars would be full.
4. Please pray for upcoming ventures which will require special funding and new resources. Pray for **Roy's transition** and support funding, and the planned **Arabic** (underway), **French** and **Chinese** translations of *Surprised by Faith*.