

Our Team of Evangelists



Dr. Don Bierle



Denny McKeever



Carlos Fernández



Oleg Voskresensky

Don Bierle On "Expecting"

As a man, I can't know all that goes through a woman's mind when she is pregnant. It must be so life-changing! There is likely a host of competing emotions: joy, excitement, weariness, wonder, anticipation, uncertainty, humility, thankfulness, even trepidation.

Many reading this may find it difficult to transition from pregnancy to the ministry of *FaithSearch*. But as President and lead evangelist, I daily experience those same emotions—without being actually pregnant, of course!

Every day I am *thankful* to represent the Lord Jesus Christ through proclamation of the Gospel with evidence. With great *anticipation* I look forward to experiencing the *joy* of seeing many individuals make a profession of faith for new and eternal life. In *humility* I wonder why I should be so privileged to play a part. It is also *exciting* to be carried along by the Holy Spirit as God reveals His plan and blessing for the USA, India, Russia, Hispanic peoples and more.

On the other hand, I occasionally wake up during the night with thoughts of *uncertainty*: about the health and happiness of our staff and their families; or about some endeavor which may not be progressing as we had anticipated; or about inadequate finances; even about my own aging and the future. I would be in denial if I didn't admit to occasional *weariness* and *trepidation*.

As a result of my nearly thirty-nine years of full time ministry experience (twenty-seven with *FaithSearch*), with a devoted and competent staff around me, and with the assuring guidance and power of God, this "pregnancy" of "proclaiming the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere" is progressing nicely! I look forward to that day when the Great Physician comes from His throne to the waiting room and announces, "*FaithSearch*, you've become the parent of a spiritual family representing every race, language, age, gender, continent, and culture." All the long stages of preparation will have been worth it, and I will proudly and with joy wear that new parent button!

Carlos Fernández Mexico and More

Recently I have been juggling development of our Latino ministry in the USA and internationally, while also completing my Master's thesis paper (which has finally been delivered). As this newsletter goes to press, I will be conducting a ministry trip to my native Peru, and to Guatemala. I am thrilled to report that, after a preliminary visit to Mexico City at the end of last year, the *FaithSearch* "Gospel with Evidence" is being eagerly welcomed in Latin America.

On Sunday, December 10, nearly 450 of the estimated 840 attendees of my *FaithSearch* presentations at Primera Iglesia Bautista of Mexico City indicated they had taken a step of faith to recommit their lives to the Lord. They were very thankful for having received solid evidence for the Christian Gospel! In addition, **sixteen people made a faith commitment to follow Christ for the first time.** I was even blessed to introduce four other people to faith in Jesus through individual conversations during this trip.

Also on this trip, I served as facilitator and translator for a group from Westwood Community Church in Chanhassen, MN. They ministered in the small, rural village of Santa Cruz, Honduras, three hours west of the capital city of Tegucigalpa. **It was a joy to partner with them in building God's Kingdom.**

In Mexico, the Spanish translation of Dr. Bierle's book *Surprised by Faith* (*Sorprendido por la Fe*) and the *FaithSearch* Discovery presentation both inspired enthusiasm with key denominations and church groups. **Already we have received three invitations to return to Mexico this year to present *FaithSearch* Discovery, and to train leaders there.** I was also able to build relationships and to network with campus ministry groups and leading seminaries. These face-to-face contacts are essential to developing our ministry in Mexico. Praise God for all the opportunities ahead—and continue to pray for His wisdom, guidance and provision as we pursue them.



2007 Celebration Banquet Pressing on Toward the Goal

The 2007 Celebration Banquet will culminate a banner year of ministry for *FaithSearch* International. Join us **Saturday evening, April 14**, in the Blue Room at Northwestern College in Roseville, MN.

The theme of the celebration, which marks the penultimate year of our Extending the Vision (ETV) strategy, will be "Pressing on Toward the Goal." We will be rejoicing at the wonderful progress we have made toward fulfilling the ETV goals, as well as looking ahead to what remains to be accomplished by the end of 2008. ETV seeks to extend the proclamation of the Gospel with evidence into new geographical, cultural and language areas, through translation of

our resources and training of indigenous ministry leaders.

In addition to recounting the record-setting spiritual harvest this year, we will hear ministry reports from each *FaithSearch* evangelist, with updates on ETV projects and ministry areas. Dr. Bierle will share from his heart about God's many blessings on *FaithSearch*, and the exciting challenges and opportunities before the ministry. This will include an opportunity to invest financially in this exciting work of God.

Finally, we will also introduce our new *FaithSearch* vice president, Mr. Roy Kruse. (See page 3.) Roy will be a vital addition to our ministry, and we look forward to seeing



Don and Vernee Bierle will greet Celebration Banquet guests.

(Cont. on page 2)

Inside This Issue:

Pressing on Toward the Goal

Celebrate with us what God has done through *FaithSearch* this year... and help us prepare for what's left to be done.

New From *FaithSearch*

New ministry tools from *FaithSearch* help anyone make ten "Ah-ha!" discoveries about life and faith.

Sweet Home, Alabama

A trained *FaithSearch* Discovery teacher brings the Gospel with evidence to a rural church.

Just in (International) Time

Introducing Roy Kruse, our new vice president.

New Board Member Jeff Verdoorn

FaithSearch welcomes our newest board member.

Classifieds

Order *FaithSearch* Easter PocketGuides today.

What People Are Saying

Selected comments from individuals touched by the ministry of *FaithSearch*

FaithSearch Field Reports

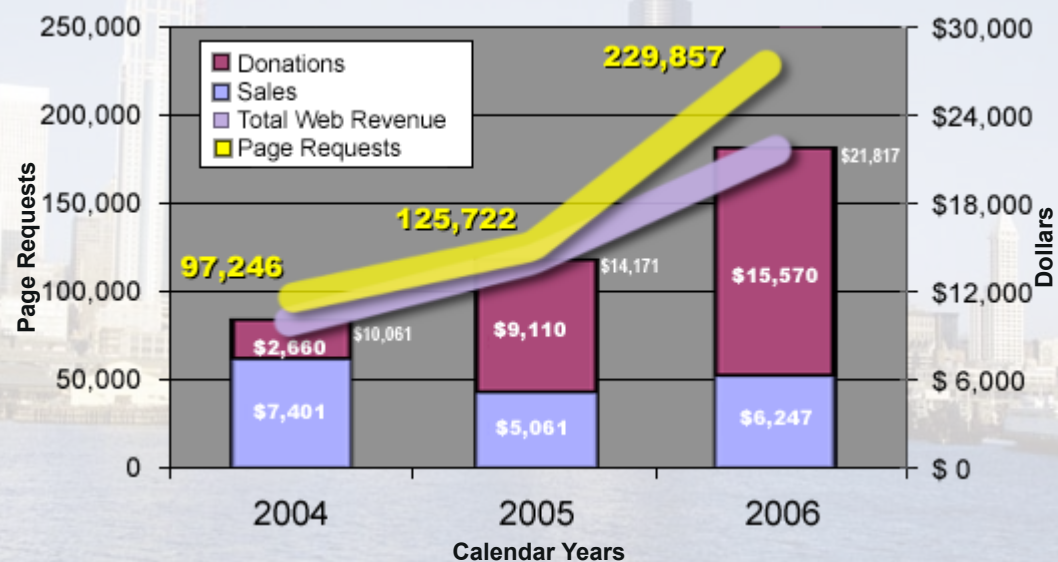
Personal reflections from our evangelists.

Prayer and Praise Items

www.faithsearch.org

GOD AT WORK Annual Web Site Growth

www.FaithSearch.org
2004-2006

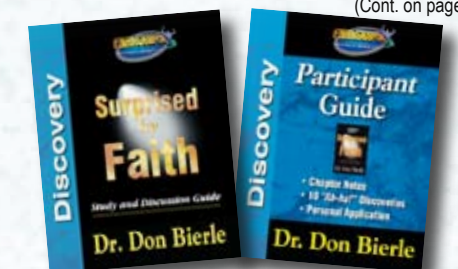


New From *FaithSearch*

FaithSearch has added two new resources to our proclamation of the Gospel with evidence. For the first time, we now have tools to help people make the same ten "Ah-ha!" discoveries in their personal study, just as if they were at a live *FaithSearch* Discovery presentation.

These resources will also allow lay leaders to have tools which enables them to multiply the *FaithSearch* message all over the country. People will be pleasantly surprised how extensive these resources

(Cont. on page 2)



Surprised by Faith Study and Discussion Guide (left) and the *FaithSearch* Discovery Participant Guide.

Praise Rejoice with us!

We are praising God for His clear direction in bring **Roy Kruse** to *FaithSearch*.
Praise God for someone wants to help get **Surprised by Faith** published in **Russia!**
Praise God with us for the **successful funding** of the \$52,000 Russia matching grant.
Oleg's third **missionary trip to Russia** was safe and successful!
Ministry at diverse events continues to be anointed and used by God! **Many people are coming to faith** and recommitting their lives to the Lord.

Prayer Please lift in prayer:

Pray for our new Vice President, **Roy Kruse**, as he transitions to his new ministry with *FaithSearch*.
Please pray for **Carlos** on a ministry trip to Guatemala and Peru until March 28, for health for all (his family is traveling with him); for successful ministry opportunities; and for key contacts while he is there.
Pray for good attendance at our 2007 **Celebration Banquet on April 14**. Pray about attending yourself, and whom to invite to attend with you.
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 and receive Him, and for diligent follow-up.
God appears to be opening **new doors for expansion** of evangelism and training in the U.S.A. Please pray for wisdom regarding decisions and funding for these opportunities.
Please pray for the planned **Arabic and French translations** of *Surprised by Faith*.

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*
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FaithSearch Discovery Teacher Report Sweet Home, Alabama

The biblical principle of multiplication (2 Timothy 2:2) is central to our Extending the Vision strategy, both in the USA and around the world. We are training others to include the *FaithSearch* message—the Gospel with evidence—in their own ministries. This enables the Gospel with evidence to go places we do not go; to reach people we never see; to “speak” languages we ourselves don’t speak.



FaithSearch Discovery Teacher Training, July 2005

One story illustrating the brilliance of God’s strategy for multiplication came to us recently from Brian Heinen. He took the *FaithSearch* Discovery Teacher Training in July of 2005. He has since moved to eastern Alabama, where he presented *FaithSearch* Discovery in a small, rural church, in a series of six Sunday mornings.

Brian reported, “A few months before the event, the church was averaging 27 for their services. *FaithSearch* had an average of 76 per service, with one Sunday drawing 106.” Apparently there is some interest in understanding the reasons for faith and the evidence supporting the New Testament as a reliable, eyewitness record of the life of Jesus.

There is also an ongoing impact as a result of the *FaithSearch* presentation, mobilizing God’s people to share the Gospel with evidence with others. “I will have to order more *Surprised by Faith* books, because people are still requesting copies for friends,” said Brian. “God has begun a great work here, using *FaithSearch* as the kindling for the fire of the Holy Spirit to burn.”

Brian also reported that he has planned a class using the *Growing Faith* discipleship materials. Praise the Lord! Please pray for Brian and for his “sweet” ministry in his new home of Lillian, AL.



Brian Heinen

Pressing on Toward the Goal (Cont. from page 1)

God use Roy’s gifts and experience to help us proclaim the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere.

The Celebration Banquet will begin

New From FaithSearch

(Cont. from page 1)

are. Using these tools, with a Bible and the *Surprised by Faith* book, anyone can do *FaithSearch* Discovery.

The *FaithSearch* Discovery Participant Guide is helpful to take home after attending a live *FaithSearch* event. It offers a brief summary of all ten discoveries, with review and application questions. The *Surprised by Faith* Study and Discussion Guide is a thorough examination of the material in *Surprised by Faith*, and is ideal for in-depth study for individuals, as well as for one-on-one discipleship or in a classroom setting.

We’re confident that once you experience these new resources, you will want additional copies for regular use in your personal ministry.

with a social gathering at 5:30 p.m. A complimentary dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., and the program will follow at 7:15 p.m. **Please plan now to attend.** Call our office today (952.401.4501) to reserve your spot, as **seating is limited.** **We’re asking each person to invite at least one other person or couple to attend with them.** We look forward to seeing you there and sharing the evening with you.



What People Are Saying

“This has helped me a lot to know that Jesus is real.” —TS, Inver Grove Heights, MN

“It gave me a REAL definite answer as to why Jesus is my Lord.” —LL, Enderlin, ND

“I learned how to tell people why I believe in Jesus.” —RS, Apache Junction, AZ

Just in (International) Time

FaithSearch International didn’t go searching for a ministry in India, in Russia nor among Hispanic peoples. Both the ministries and the ministers were placed in our lap. Once here, however, a bold strategy was established for the international evangelists (Carlos Fernández and Oleg Voskresensky) by Director of International Ministry, Denny McKeever, and by President Don Bierle. **Growth has been rapid and spiritually fruitful.** Expansion of the *Surprised by Faith* translation is now planned for Arabic, French and Chinese in the next two years.

But with each new international advance, Dr. Bierle had a growing sense that something more was needed. To make a major impact on several continents, he knew that *FaithSearch* would need to establish many ministry partners, and build relationships with a vast network of international missionaries. This would require someone with experience in many countries; a leader with friendships around the world. “I knew I was not that person,” Don reflected candidly, “and I wondered if a small ministry like *FaithSearch* could secure such a person.” We turned to God in prayer, and God answered.

For the past eighteen years, Roy Kruse has traveled two-and-a-half million miles on various ministry projects for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. In Roy’s own words: “Over the years I have developed a considerable network of

Christian leaders around the world who have become my friends.”

A long-time *FaithSearch* supporter introduced Don and Roy, and it soon became apparent to both of them that their meeting was of God. Roy recounted, “I do not recall any other time in my life where the Lord’s direction and enabling has been so apparent to me.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Bierle had a growing conviction to move away from international ministry development and the day-to-day leadership of the *FaithSearch* office, so he could move toward developing an expanded outreach and training ministry within the USA. Roy summed up God’s wonderful leading: “It has been very exciting to see how the Lord has brought us together and provided a mutually beneficial fit of my experience and skills, with the current needs and opportunities of Don and of *FaithSearch*.”

On March 1, Roy will join the staff of *FaithSearch* as Vice President. He will give executive leadership to the staff and to the office, and will provide leadership to the international development of the ministry. “I marvel at God’s faithfulness and perfect timing,” said Don. For Roy’s part, he accepted the position “with great anticipation but not without some trepidation also! My prayer is that I will be faithful to God’s calling on my life and will be an enabler and encourager to all with whom I minister at the home office or the furthest corner of the world.”

“I do not recall any other time in my life where the Lord’s direction and enabling has been so apparent to me.”

—Roy Kruse

FaithSearch Welcomes

New Board Member Jeff Verdoorn

FaithSearch welcomes Jeff Verdoorn to our Board of Directors. He comes to us from the business world, where he uses his analytical skills as a business systems consultant and in running a venture capital firm.

His analytical approach to life also applies in his study of—and love for—God’s Word. Jeff is no stranger to *FaithSearch*. He has read *Surprised by Faith* a couple of times, lead *Growing Faith* discipleship studies with Denny McKeever, and attend *FaithSearch* seminars.

Dr. Bierle said, “After an hour with Jeff, I knew he loved the Lord and His Word, and was highly motivated by the *FaithSearch* Gospel with evidence mission. What a great fit for our Board!” Welcome, Jeff.



Jeff Verdoorn



Roy Kruse, *FaithSearch* Vice President

VP Roy Kruse At A Glance

- Home: Apple Valley, MN
- Family: wife Roberta; son Ken (25); daughter Karen (20)
- Made a faith commitment to follow Christ as a youngster
- Spiritual gift of teaching
- Born in Zambia, Africa, to missionary parents
- Graduate of Carleton College (Northfield, MN)
- Biblical education from Emmaus Bible College (Dubuque, IA)
- Taught an adult class at Wooddale Church (Eden Prairie, MN) for twenty-four years
- Project management in seventy countries on every continent
- Project Director – My Hope India
- BGEA Festival Director, Manila, Philippines
- BGEA Festival Director, Melbourne, Australia
- Managing Director of fifty International Training Conferences in countries on every continent
- Manager, International Schools of Evangelism

CLASSIFIEDS



Easter 2007: April 8 Order PocketGuides In Time for Easter

Take advantage of Special Pricing on “Looking for the Truth about Easter,” the popular *FaithSearch* Pocket Guide focused on evidence surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus. You’ll want to have plenty on hand at this special time of year.

Easter is a time when people are talking—and open to talking—about Christianity. Especially this year, with the release of a film claiming the discovery of the tomb of Jesus’ family—there’s no better time to be prepared with the evidence for the true story of Easter. And our handy *FaithSearch* Pocket Guide “Looking for the Truth about Easter” helps you take that evidence with you.

The 75-pack is only \$21. (Over 20% off...You save \$6.) Order yours today—available online at www.faithsearch.org/Easter.