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What People Are Saying

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

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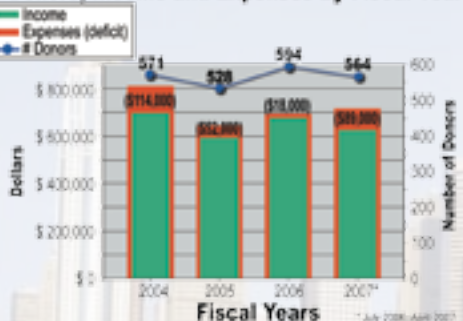
Personal reflections from our evangelists.

Prayer and Praise Items

www.faithsearch.org

GOD AT WORK

Donors, Income and Expenses By Fiscal Year



We're making good progress, but:

- We need over 750 donors to balance the budget
- Pray for abundant income in June to meet expenses and eliminate the deficit!

Foundations and Matching Gifts Received

- \$9,600 paid for Peruvian Spanish *Surprised by Faith*
- \$52,000 matching gift for Russian ministry
- \$17,000 challenge gift for India ministry

Latin America Report

Priceless News

By Carlos Fernández

In early April my family and I returned from a really blessed six-week-trip to Peru and Guatemala. The trip provided great opportunities for ministry. It also gave my wife Mali and home-schooled boys, Tommy (9) and Joseph (8), an immersion experience into the Latin-American culture. Our two youngest, Christopher (20 months) and Carlotta (9 months) came along to the delight of family and friends.

We had forty-one *FaithSearch* ministry events, including evangelistic campaigns in churches and schools. The total face-to-face audience was 3,800 people, from grade school kids to doctors and lawyers. Some 850 people made faith commitments to follow Christ, whether to begin following Him, to get right with Him, or to begin serving Him actively. We also taught *FaithSearch* Discovery at four seminaries, equipping future Christian leaders with the *FaithSearch* message. One of



Carlos presented *FaithSearch* Discovery to high school students in Chimaltenango, in the heart of the Maya country in Guatemala.

these, SETECA in Guatemala, is the largest evangelical seminary in the Spanish-speaking world, with over 1,000 students from eighteen countries.

The Lord also provided incredible media opportunities (three TV shows and four radio interviews). The estimated reach of these programs was 2.5 million people. We had up to an hour to present the evidence for the early dating of the Gospels, the full-deity of Christ and to invite people to follow Jesus. These interviews were also instrumental in attracting people to our outreach events. I met an older gentleman at a church event in Lima, who told me he had listened to the interview on the city’s classical music station and decided to come. **Elated, he told**

(Cont. on page 3)



The 2008 “finish line” for Extending the Vision was constructed at the end of the hall, with target-language populations throughout the world shown in orange.

2007 Celebration:

Racing to the Finish

The 2007 *FaithSearch* Celebration Banquet was held amid praise and excitement on April 14, in the Blue Room at Northwestern College. Several of the 214 guests in attendance commented that this was “the best celebration you’ve ever done.”

The program centered on the theme “Pressing on Toward the Goal,” taken from Philippians 3:14. Program elements and decorations depicted a race setting, with guests and platform speakers positioned as “runners,” pressing on to the conclusion of the “race.” Presenters and attendees alike wore race numbers; each table was decorated as a roadside refreshment station for racers; and the host served as a broadcast announcer and commentator on the “press stand” beside the “race course.” The “finish line” was represented at the end of the room, in view, but still down the road. Guests were invited to participate in the race to bring the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere.

“Front runners” in the race—*FaithSearch* evangelists—were interviewed on the stand about progress toward Extending the Vision (ETV) goals in their ministry area. This included Charlie Abro, of India Campus Crusade for Christ, who recounted the history and impact of *FaithSearch* in his country, and his hope for continued progress. In a “multi-national Macedonian call” (see Acts 16:9) an

(Cont. on page 3)

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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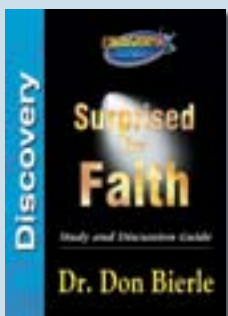
Help Wanted

All positions are in our office in Chaska. Call Laura at 952.401.4501 for details.

- Volunteer or part-time office cleaning. After 5 p.m., weekly preferred. Vacuum, dusting, in office space and kitchen area. No bathrooms.
- Volunteer or part-time accounting help.
- Administrative volunteer or part-time help. Data Entry; reception/phone help; computer support; purchasing; mail processing.

Special "Combo" Price

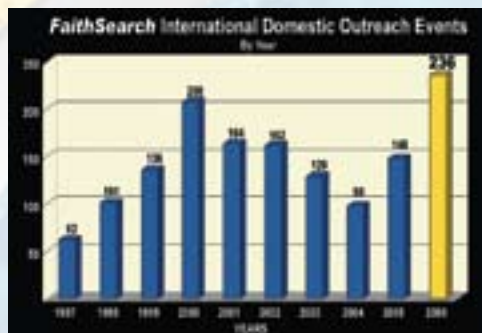
The new *Surprised by Faith* Study and Discussion Guide and the bestselling *Surprised by Faith* are being offered together at a special price: one copy of each book for only \$15 (over \$25 value). Order online at www.faithsearch.org/combo, or call 952.401.4501.



America: Our Largest Mission Field

The primary focus of thirty-one years of *FaithSearch* ministry has been the **United States of America**. This focus has resulted in some 2,124 outreach events, with 290,000 people in attendance; an estimated readership of our books of more than one million; and a reported 28,000 faith commitments to Jesus Christ.

Our pace of ministry in the USA is not slacking. In fact, it is picking up. *FaithSearch* set an **annual ministry record in calendar year 2006**, by presenting 236 outreach events—up by 88 events from last year, and nearly 14% greater than our previous yearly record of 208 events in 2000. About 2,238 people from all ages and a variety of social, ethnic and vocational backgrounds indicated a faith commitment to follow Jesus Christ at these events last year—and those are only the ones we know about!



This chart illustrates the record number of *FaithSearch* outreach events in 2006.

Over the years our events have been presented in at least thirty-two states and hosted by churches of about seventeen denominations, diverse university campus groups, camps, associations and private homes. The response is typically enthusiastic, even ecstatic:

- "Thanks for speaking the Truth. It was so encouraging to me as a fellow Christian to hear, after four years at a liberal university." —University student
- "It was an amazing presentation! Thank you SO much! It was FABULOUS, INSPIRING, and just AWESOME!!!!" —University student
- "These are the answers to the questions I was asking inside." —Youth
- "This was the best [presentation] I have seen, bar none! I heartily recommend *FaithSearch* to any church seeking to strengthen the faith and witness of its own members." —Pastor

"From the first day of my commitment to evangelism through *FaithSearch* (many years ago!) my heart and passion have been toward America," said ministry president Don Bierle. "And we have continued to follow through on that calling. In God's providence and wisdom, He has chosen to direct us to proclaim the Gospel with evidence to the whole world as

well, yet my heart still yearns for the lost of my own country."

As such, while being obedient to make the *FaithSearch* message available worldwide, we also retain our USA emphasis. More than 120 U.S. pastors and lay leaders have been trained as teachers to multiply the spiritual impact of *FaithSearch* Discovery in churches and com-



Dr. Bierle was "doused" with the names of 2,238 people who made faith commitments at *FaithSearch* outreach events in 2006.

munities across America. We have added the goal of equipping graduating Bible college and seminary students (the next generation of Christian leaders) to include the Gospel with evidence in their future ministries. The first such seminary class of twenty was trained in April.

Finally, we are endeavoring to partner with Christian groups on hundreds of U.S. college and university campuses so that together we may bring salvation to lost students in the prime—and often most challenging years—of their lives. The leaders of these campus groups will be equipped to use our presentations and publications so that through them the Gospel with evidence will be proclaimed to the next generation in America as well.

Jesus said that His disciples should be "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). If our "Jerusalem" is America, then we have been doing that from the beginning, right into the present. And we will continue as He provides.



What People Are Saying

"Pastors [in India] are grateful for such teaching and resources for their ministries, having never before encountered materials and information of this kind."
—CA, Bangalore, India

"Your organization is largely responsible for my belief in Jesus Christ." —GC

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

Priceless News (Cont. from page 1)

me that he had finally found the evidence for Christ he had for so long been looking for!



Carlos was interviewed on Alliance News for a leading Christian TV station in Guatemala City.

After overcoming some initial technical hurdles, and thanks to a generous contribution, we got *Sorprendido por la Fe* (the Spanish language edition of *Surprised by Faith*) printed in Lima, Peru, as the first step of a strategy of making the Gospel with evidence available throughout Latin America. **Local printing in key countries is necessary in order to ensure low prices;** we want *Sorprendido* not to be sitting on the shelves, but in the hands of the people, being actively read and shared. **Of the 2,000 copies printed, 300 were sold during the trip, and 1,200 have been placed with Christian distributors.**

Racing to the Finish (Cont. from page 1)

appeal was delivered from the Middle East, asking for the Gospel with evidence to be made available to Arabic-speaking people. This prompted individuals in the audience to add their pleas, on behalf of French-speaking and Chinese-speaking peoples, for *FaithSearch* materials in their languages.

To address these appeals, “player-coach” and ministry president Don Bierle—also a runner in the race—presented the “game plan” for completing the ETV goals, including ministry developments in those languages, and for the future beyond the 2008 ETV finish line. ETV seeks to extend the proclamation of the Gospel with evidence—the *FaithSearch* message—into new geographical, cultural and language areas, through translation of our ministry resources and the training of indigenous ministry leaders.

In this, the penultimate year of the ETV plan, Dr. Bierle said, “**The ministry is on track and looking forward to the completion of goals established for 2008. But it doesn’t stop there.**” He explained, “We have in view the maturing of this vision—making the min-

I am thrilled to share that our editorial feat has already borne fruit for God’s Kingdom. On May 6, Dr. Jorge Luis Cruz B., a 54-year-old surgeon from Lima, sent us a moving E-mail. He wrote in Spanish to Dr. Bierle, author of the book, “I am really surprised by the reading God has placed in front of me that bears your name, Dr. Bierle. It has enabled me to start a good relationship with God. **I am overwhelmed by the evidence for our Savior and I feel shaken for having been skeptical and lacking interest in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.** You have managed to put my doubts into words, and I feel like an infant starting to walk in the difficult path of faith.”

As the MasterCard® commercial would say, “Airfare and hotels, so much; the cost of printing a book, another amount; but news like this... Priceless!”

Please pray for the Lord to provide the resources for more of these “preaching plus teaching” trips scheduled for the upcoming months (three to Mexico, two to Peru, and one to Texas) and the time to translate much-needed training materials. Please also pray for the June international printing of *Sorprendido por la Fe*, this time in Mexico.



The Peruvian printing of *Sorprendido por la Fe* is already at work in people’s lives in Latin America.



Charlie Abro, from Bangalore, India, and his wife Saly, were on hand to celebrate with us.

istry of proclaiming the Gospel with evidence in each of our eighteen target languages and geographical regions around the world *transferable, reproducible, and sustainable.*”

Dr. Bierle introduced Roy Kruse as *FaithSearch* vice president, who will largely guide this future international thrust of the ministry. Roy spoke of his appreciation and vision for *FaithSearch*, and how his experience with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association—networking with Christian leaders around the world—will facilitate that effort.

Also at the event, the *FaithSearch* Dis-

New Creation & Evolution DVD

FaithSearch Origins: “Making Sense of Creation and Evolution”

In response to many, repeated requests, *FaithSearch* is releasing a two-hour DVD of Dr. Don Bierle’s popular presentation on creation and evolution. Don has chosen five major topics to include in this DVD:

1. Understanding Origins
2. Understanding Intelligent Design
3. Understanding Macroevolution
4. Understanding Biblical Creation
5. How to Know the Creator

As a Ph.D. biologist, Dr. Bierle uses current scientific evidence to unravel creation, evolution and the meaning of life. This lively and enlightening presentation strips off the hype and takes a scientific approach to the evidence. Stimulating and challenging, *FaithSearch* Origins is ideal for students, teachers, pastors and parents.

To get the most out of the DVD, the viewer may want to purchase the “Making Sense of Creation and Evolution” seminar manual, also from *FaithSearch*. Pages numbers of the material covered are indicated on the screen. The manual goes into greater depth on the five topics, and also includes additional important material not addressed in the DVD, e.g., radiometric dating and the age of the earth, five certain biblical conclusions about creation, scientific evidence that supports a global flood, and others.

Tens of thousands of people have attended Dr. Bierle’s seminar, and many have testified of its significant impact on their life and understanding. The DVD will be available in June at a cost of \$10, plus shipping and handling. Call our office (952.401.4501 in the Twin Cities, or 800.964.1447 toll free) or visit our Web site (www.faithsearch.org/MSCE-DVD) to order.

tinguished Service Award was presented to Bob and Pauline Benedict, recognizing their years of “exemplary service to *FaithSearch* International and in deep appreciation for their ministry vision and stewardship for the cause of Jesus Christ.”

Next year’s banquet—the highly-anticipated celebration of the culmination of the ETV goals—has already been scheduled. **Plan now to join us at Northwestern College in the Blue Room again on April 26, 2008. Don’t miss it.**



FaithSearch Field Reports

Our Team of Evangelists



Dr. Don Bierle



Denny McKeever



Carlos Fernández



Oleg Voskresensky



Roy Kruse

Oleg Voskresensky

Will it Work?

When I started taking the *FaithSearch* Discovery presentation to Russia less than a year ago, I had questions about how it would be received. **Perhaps I had lost touch with the people and culture of my birth.** At first I presented it very cautiously, to audiences I knew would be receptive to a more rational approach to faith: students, youth, big-city residents. Then I sought advice from those in the vast missions fields of Russia who are working with the toughest populations of intelligentsia, academia and artists. Their input was invaluable in adapting *FaithSearch* Discovery to the more visual, experiential and aesthetic mindset of Russian audiences.

This past year involved research, experimentation and constant change. We want to be absolutely certain that our materials are *not* just another American experience merely translated into the Russian language, while ignoring the realities of Russian life, culture and history. **At this point we can say with confidence that our Russian presentation is culturally sensitive and reaches to the very depth of the Russian soul.** And we are not merely proclaiming it, but we are proclaiming it with evidence (as we always do). Here's a note from a recent E-mail I received: "Dear Oleg, Thank you very much again for your presentations in our church during the last two weeks. This seminar is very useful and provides solid scientific support and arguments in favor of Good News."

Now we are moving with confidence and boldness—and in joy:

- The second printing of *Surprised by Faith* in Russian is coming out in Kremenchug, Ukraine
- I have planned three trips to Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, to teach *FaithSearch* in many settings: Interpreters Camps; Pastors Conferences; Bible Colleges; and Secular Schools and Universities
- We are offering Discovery to the Euro-Asian Accrediting Association as a part of the curriculum of their fifty-three Bible colleges
- We are expanding our geographic reach to Ukraine, Belarus and Slovakia, in response to the increasing demand for our materials and presentation as the word gets out about *FaithSearch*

Denny McKeever

Extending the Vision in India

Like no other place in the world, **India presents a clear and vivid picture of the desperate battle being waged for the souls of men and women.** Every time I'm there, I'm made aware that the kingdom of darkness permeates literally every aspect of life and culture in India: the government and caste system; the religion of Hinduism with its superstitious and fearful beliefs; the cities, towns and villages; the local strongholds of power left over from the Brahmins and Rajas; and people's individual lives. Each trip into this part of the world is a sober reminder of our mission in India: to proclaim the powerful Gospel of Jesus Christ with evidence. Our purpose is equally clear: to rescue people from hell and drive back the kingdom of the evil one.

Our training trip this past February was again in obedience to God's will for our ministry, and played a key role in helping to extend the Kingdom of God. **In about two weeks, we trained 1,185 people to use *FaithSearch* Discovery:** 215 for Teacher Training; 810 pastors; and 160 Bible College/Seminary students and faculty. This brings our **total of those trained in India to 16,558.** These dear co-workers in the Gospel are using their *FaithSearch* training as a powerful tool in their own ministries, leading many to salvation in Jesus Christ. After the pastor's training in Kolkata, a Catholic priest who had attended was so enthused that he came to us and said, **"This training must be given to every pastor in India."**

Thanks for your prayers and financial support of *FaithSearch* International. It truly blesses me—and us. You are indeed on the front lines with us as we continue to play a significant role in reaching India for Jesus Christ.



Praise

Rejoice with us!

1. Praise God for safe and productive ministry in February for **Dr. Don and Pastor Denny in India!**
2. Praise God for **Carlos-and-family's safe and productive ministry** in Guatemala and Lima. Praise God for a donor who gave \$9,600 to have *Sorprendido por la Fe* printed in Peru.
3. Praise God that our Annual **Celebration Banquet** went incredibly well on April 14.
4. 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:

1. Pray for our **new Vice President, Roy Kruse**, as he settles in to his new role heading up our international ministry and day-to-day ministry management.
2. Pray for ***FaithSearch* ministry in Russia and Ukraine** in May and June. A full schedule of events is planned.
3. 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 receive Him, and for diligent follow-up.
4. Pray for many more opportunities to share the ***FaithSearch* message**.
5. Pray for **God's provision** and that we would end our fiscal year (June 30) financially strong.
6. Please pray for funding for: **Roy's transition and support; complete funding for India in 2007; and for the planned Arabic, French and Chinese translations of *Surprised by Faith*.**