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Good News for All the People

When the angels announced the arrival of God's Messiah to the shepherds near Bethlehem that first Christmas, they also established the future motivation for the **FaithSearch** International mission statement:

[T]he angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

If this looks familiar to you, it should because our mission statement parallels it closely: "Proclaiming the Gospel with Evidence to All People Everywhere." The shepherds investigated for themselves the evidence of Christ's presence by visiting the stable where He was born. **The news of these events was of great import and must be spread to everyone everywhere, which we continue even to this day.**

This Christmas, we are rejoicing over our progress toward fulfilling our mission, and eagerly anticipate God's hand enabling

us to complete it. **FaithSearch** Discovery is now available to more than one in four people of the world (approximately 26%). By the end of 2008, God willing, this percentage will more than double to 59%, making the Gospel with evidence available to some 4 billion people! (See the God at Work graph.)

This is the result of an intentional five-year strategy called "Extending the Vision" which we initiated in 2003, "to accelerate the fulfillment of God's mission for **FaithSearch** International by proclaiming the Gospel with evidence to a greater diversity of people in the United States and to people in new geographic regions, languages and cultures around the world." Through our evangelists, **we now have active ministries on four continents**, especially the countries of India, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Philippines and, of course, the United States. Exciting ministry doors are also opening in the Middle East and Africa.

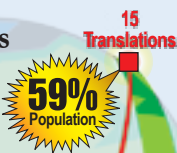
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www.faithsearch.org

GOD AT WORK

Bringing the Gospel with Evidence to All Peoples Everywhere

With 15 translations of **FaithSearch** resources, in 2008 we will be able to reach 59% of the world's population!



Years

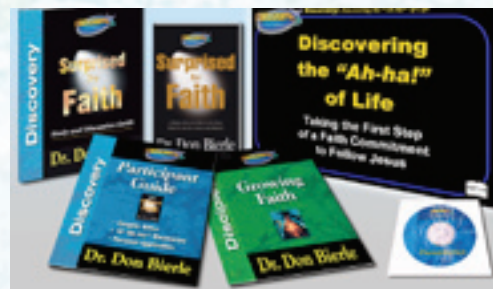
*2008 languages projected, dependent on available resources

Now Available!

FaithSearch Discovery Curriculum

The long-awaited **FaithSearch** Discovery Curriculum is now available, adding a powerful new dimension to local ministry. Based on over thirty years of experience, these proven tools have been used to introduce many thousands to faith in Christ around the world. They also equip believers with confidence in their life of faith and witness. Releasing the curriculum accelerates our ability to multiply the impact of the **FaithSearch** message into the lives of as many people as possible.

When Dr. Bierle, author of the curriculum, became convicted several years ago that the ministry should "give it away" (that is, make the presentation available to any who wish to use it) the process began. Images were licensed; slides were refined for the inexperienced presenter; multiple reviews for varying audiences were undertaken; and teaching notes were written to detail the logical flow of the presentation. Now, as a result of three years of research and work, **virtually anyone can present FaithSearch**



FaithSearch Discovery Curriculum

Discovery, the inspiring, breathtakingly logical case for believing in the historical person of Jesus Christ.

The presentation of more than 150 professionally animated PowerPoint® slides will be sold as part of a curriculum package, available in three configurations: the Study Class package; the Presentation package; and the Teacher Training package. The curriculum will be sold online, at the **FaithSearch** office, and at our events. Call our office for details, or visit www.faithsearch.org/curriculum.

FAITHSEARCH

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Vice President's View

By Roy Kruse

I marvel at how God very often uses the ordinary and simple—rather than the prominent and influential—to accomplish His purposes. On that first Christmas, God's messenger communicated His plan of redemption first to a humble peasant girl; then a whole host of messengers made their first announcement of the Good News of the Savior's birth to a group of shepherds, one of the more neglected groups of that society. These all responded with amazement.

God continues to work today through the ordinary and we stand amazed. **As I write this, I am amazed at what God is doing through *FaithSearch* International and its small staff of ordinary but committed people.** For the past several months the *FaithSearch* staff has been developing an effective Microsoft® PowerPoint® presentation which can be licensed and distributed to trained teachers here in the United States and in every country in which we minister. Now for the first time we offer a complete curriculum for teachers as part of "Extending the Vision"—multiplying the ministry of *FaithSearch*. Read more about this elsewhere in the newsletter.

By the time you read this, Dr. Bierle and I will have been to **Manila, Philippines**, where we were invited to launch *FaithSearch* Discovery in that country of eighty million people. When we return, we will finalize plans for our trip to India in February, anticipating also a visit to neighboring

Nepal, where church leaders who have heard of our work in India are keen to receive *FaithSearch* Discovery as a tool in their ministries. Our Russian evangelist, **Oleg Voskresensky**, is completing an extended trip to Ukraine. For the first time in his ministry there, he is training and equipping leaders in the ministry use of—and *at last* providing them with CDs containing—the *FaithSearch* Discovery presentation. Our Spanish evangelist, **Carlos Fernández**, is translating the *FaithSearch* Discovery *Participant Guide* and the *Surprised by Faith Study and Discussion Guide* into Spanish and will be training and equipping teachers in the new year in Mexico and other parts of Central America.

In recent weeks our ministry has welcomed **Janet McFarlin** to the staff as part-time assistant in accounts receivable. She undertakes responsibilities formerly carried out by **Jason Gudim**. Jason is now attending seminary, but continues to assist us part-time in a variety of capacities. We also recently said good-bye to evangelist **Denny McKeever** after more than four years of ministry with *FaithSearch*. We are grateful for his ministry with us and wish him and his wife, **Joanie**, God's blessings in the years ahead.

As you take time to reflect this Christmas I hope you will be amazed to see how God is at work through the ordinary events and people of our lives.

CLASSIFIEDS



NEW DVD!

Jesus' Resurrection: Hoax or History?

Our new, inspiring DVD will encourage your faith throughout the year, and especially at Easter. It details the importance of—and evidence for—the resurrection of Jesus. Be prepared this Easter to refute those who deny the resurrection. This DVD also includes a **bonus presentation** of Dr. Bierle's popular message "Choosing to be a Bondservant." Order online TODAY (www.faithsearch.org/Resurrection) or by calling our office (952.401.4501).

FaithSearch Christmas PocketGuide

There's still time to order "Unwrapping the Truth about Christmas." This is an evidence-based account of the birth of Jesus, and is a powerful way to share your faith during the Christmas season. Include one in your cards and letters, attach them to gifts, or hand them out to holiday visitors in your home. What better gift to offer than the eternal life made possible by 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.



Special Pricing



What People Are Saying

"*FaithSearch* helped me to reaffirm my relationship with the Lord that has been failing lately." —ME, Richey, MT

"Now I know why I believe. Because it is true!!" —RK, Wheaton, IL

"People are still talking about *FaithSearch* in our church. Some young men and women are now reading *Surprised by Faith* [Russian edition] with their parents." —Sergey, Dneprodzerzhinsk, Ukraine

"*FaithSearch* has given me all the answers to the questions I have avoided." —EZ, Naperville, IL

"It was fascinating and I learned stuff I never knew." —MK, Warrenton, OR

"The ideas you shared continue to resonate with our folks, and really helps Christians to feel more empowered to share their faith because they understand the 'why' of belief, not just their personal experience." —Pastor GD, Rochester, MN

"This is good information about Jesus so I could know about the reality of Christianity." —BB, Coimbatore, India

"It helped me just confirm to myself that Jesus is Lord and that I need to give my whole life to him." —AA, Backus, MN

"I have been searching, but could not quite get there. Kind of hovering on the side. This has helped to solidify my belief in the truth that is Jesus." —LK, Sidney, MT

"*FaithSearch* bolstered my faith in Jesus. Far from being hollow, our Christian Faith is very solid, live and active. The information will help me reach doubters and non-believers. My spiritual life goes on forward and secure in Jesus." —JHGS, Mexico City, Mexico

No Prayer of Success without a Foundation of Prayer

By Dr. Don Bierle

FaithSearch International has emphasized the importance of prayer from its beginning nearly thirty years ago, recognizing that a work of God must be built on a foundation of prayer. Hundreds of our friends tell us they are praying. The staff commits special time every Tuesday and Thursday morning for prayer.

Sometimes, though, as can easily happen in a life-long marriage relationship, we find ourselves taking the Lord—and our prayers—for granted. The 19th century Scottish writer, George Macdonald, expressed this in his rhyme “To My God”:

*Oh how oft I wake and find
I have been forgetting thee!
I am never far from thy mind:
Thou it is that wakest me.*

Likewise, the Lord has gently “awakened” us through His Word, saying that “You do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2). We are further reminded by His parable of the persistent widow that we are to “pray without ceasing” (Luke 18:1ff. and 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

In keeping with these reminders, we are revitalizing the *FaithSearch* Prayer Foundation. We have added a dedicated prayer room at our office for staff and locals to use daily, and we are seeking an increase in the number of prayer partners from among our friends and supporters.

As the Lord has convicted me of the need to revive our ministry’s focus

on prayer, I also invite you to join us in prayer which is motivated out of our love for the Lord. **Evangelism is spiritual warfare and prayer is our primary evangelism tool.** How natural then, for those who are called to proclaim the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere, to be a people of prayer. The Christmas witness of Anna the prophetess is an example of one who awaits the working of the Lord. “She never

left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers” (Luke 2:36-38). This Christmas, let us be found likewise occupied, with our eyes lovingly fixed upon Him, the “author and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).



A staff member uses the newly dedicated prayer room at the *FaithSearch* offices in Haska, MN.

Good News for All the People (Cont. from page 1)

The coming of our Lord Jesus more than 2,000 years ago was announced with excitement by the angels. God loves all people, and Jesus went to the cross to redeem them all. We take this seriously and with excitement we want to make our very relevant Gospel with evidence available to as many as possible.

The attacks on the foundational truths of the Christian faith are occurring around the world with increasing frequency and with greater deceitful venom. *FaithSearch* Discovery is a useful and highly effective antidote to unbelief and skepticism. By putting it into the languages of the world, we create a bastion of this truth in every place by training indigenous Christian leaders who will equip their own people. Our goal is to establish a sustainable

FaithSearch Discovery ministry of outreach in every major language group.

Extending the Vision is a humanly-overwhelming endeavor. But God! When God convicted us to “give it away,” the fourteen *FaithSearch* staff anticipated His provision for it as well. The team, as organized around this mission in the accompanying diagram, have pulled together to close in on the vision’s goals. It is within reach—because the invisible hands beneath the diagram are the *FaithSearch* financial and prayer partners. God guides, empowers and—through your hands—enables us.

Oh friends, strengthen your hands right now so together we may share in making the angels’ announcement of Jesus “for all the people” a reality in our day.

Proclaiming the Gospel with Evidence...



You Search, Yahoo Gives

Now *FaithSearch* can earn a penny every time you search the Internet!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine which donates half its advertising revenue—about a penny per search—to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

Go to www.goodsearch.com and enter *FaithSearch* International as the charity you want to support. (And, spread the word!)



FaithSearch Field Reports

Our Team of Evangelists



Dr. Don Bierle



Carlos Fernández



Roy Kruse



Oleg Voskresensky

Roy Kruse

Experiencing the “Ah-ha!”

While my main focus at *FaithSearch* has been to encourage and develop the international ministry, I have enjoyed several opportunities to teach events in Minnesota, and to experience firsthand the “Ah-ha!” effect of *FaithSearch* Discovery on people of all ages and backgrounds. At a men’s retreat, I had a long chat with a man who is a computer whiz and a parachute jumper. He said that, while he has no trouble placing his life in the hands of parachute packers and airplane pilots, his analytical mind keeps asking questions about God, Jesus, and faith! He said the **Discovery event helped him along his road to a personal discovery of who Jesus is.**

On another occasion, I presented Discovery in a small town coffee shop run by a lady who uses her business to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The group ranged in age from high school to retirees, and from those already convinced of the truth of Jesus to others still searching. One searcher took copious notes and even came to me afterwards to fill in some of the blanks she had on her paper.

Another exciting event this Fall has been Dr. Bierle’s ten-week New Testament History course, offered at a church near the *FaithSearch* office. At least fifty people came every week to gain a new perspective on the Scriptures which guide our lives. Don, who wrote the text for the study, presented the book of Acts and the Epistles in their historical context and chronology. I enjoyed filling in for Don for the session on the Pastoral Epistles, and found myself personally blessed by studying Paul’s final words to the next generation of church leaders.

Please continue to pray for *FaithSearch* as we provide teaching and tools to help people experience the “Ah-ha!” of Discovery along their spiritual journeys. Together with your necessary and much-appreciated prayer and financial support, we will faithfully proclaim the Gospel with evidence, whether in Minneapolis or Manila... in Jordan, Minnesota, or Amman, Jordan.

Oleg Voskresensky

Hello from Cherkassy, Ukraine

I’m back in Ukraine for three very full weeks of *FaithSearch* ministry. And this time, I am able to bring copies of the *FaithSearch* Discovery PowerPoint® presentation for pastors and teachers to use here. (On my previous trips, for licensing reasons I was not able to leave copies. They were so eager to be able to use it that some had jokingly threatened to hijack my computer and make their own copies! Now they no longer need to resort to such extremes.)

My trip includes scheduled stops in Kiev, Irpen, Nikopol, Dneprodzerzhinsk, Zolotonosha, Kremenchug and Cherkassy in Ukraine. I will also travel to Belarus for several presentations in Minsk, including two days scheduled for prison ministry. I just finished Day Three of *FaithSearch* Discovery training at the Pastors Conference in Cherkassy. My class is very full and overflowing. **About 20% to 30% more people come to my seminar every day.** (The same thing happened at the conference in Kremenchug.) The word is out in the community and it spreads fast. Pastors invite me to teach at their churches, camps and conferences. Many are taking the materials in their own hands and already have concrete plans to implement it in ministry to their towns and villages. **This is why we come, and it is very gratifying to be so well received.**

Speaking of well received, the Academic Dean of Kremenchug Bible College said, “**Wow! This is a bomb!** And I won’t hesitate to use it! [*FaithSearch* Discovery is] a sharp and precise tool that is ready to be used. [It will be a] vital addition to our Apologetics curriculum.” I had two full classes for four days to train in *FaithSearch* Discovery at his college, plus a pastors conference. The participants showed huge interest in our material and ministry. Praise the Lord!

Some of the students asked me to show them photos and tell them about our team at *FaithSearch*. It made me a little homesick and miss you all so much! **Thank you for your prayers for my travel and connections.** The roads are sometimes very rough but the Spirit carries me over most of the bumps.



Praise

Rejoice with us!

1. **Dr. Bierle and Roy Kruse** had a blessed ministry time in the **Philippines**, training leaders from among Metro Manila’s 3,000 churches.
2. Praise God for the release of the new ***FaithSearch* Discovery Curriculum**. Pray that many will use this tool by in their networks to bring many to faith in Jesus.
3. Praise God for continued favor from **volunteers, vendors and donors** as we continue our mission.
5. 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. Please pray for Carlos Fernández, who is **translating** additional key *FaithSearch* resources into Spanish, and preparing for his next trip to Mexico.
2. Please continue to pray for our **evangelists and the people who will attend** upcoming events.
3. Pray for a strong response from God’s people to our meet our **year-end financial needs**.
4. Pray for many more **opportunities to share the *FaithSearch* message**. Pray that churches we have contacted will schedule events, and that the evangelists’ calendars would be full.