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www.faithsearch.org

Friends of FaithSearch Benefit Dinner

You Make the Difference

You can greatly encourage the entire staff of FaithSearch by attending the 2008 Friends of FaithSearch Benefit Dinner! The annual event, scheduled for April 26 at 5:30 pm, will feature significant elements again this year. The newly titled "Benefit Dinner"—billed in other years as our "Celebration Banquet"—reflects the important role the event plays in enabling the work of the ministry to continue. It is our prayer that each friend of FaithSearch in attendance will come prepared to make an immediate contribution and an indication of their annual support to the overall ministry budget of FaithSearch. As always, we will truly be celebrating all that God has used the FaithSearch team to accomplish for His Kingdom in the past year.

Also of significance will be our accounting to you regarding the fulfillment of the previous five years' "Extending the Vision" strategy. Even as we recognize these accomplishments, we will turn our eyes to the future and embark on the next phase of our mission to proclaim



Dr. Don Bierle (inset) addressed friends of FaithSearch enjoying the 2007 event at the Northwestern College Blue Room.

the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere. Identified by Dr. Don Bierle as "Maturing the Vision," we earnestly encourage and need your participation in this exciting strategy to establish sustainable indigenous ministries everywhere the Gospel with evidence is proclaimed: across the USA and around the world. **Plan now to attend—and bring some new friends with you who can help us make a difference for eternity.** Invitations with complete details will be mailed in March; call our office (952.401.4501) anytime to reserve your spot.

Now Available for FaithSearch Donors

Financial Planning Services

By Dr. Don Bierle

Evangelist and writer Andrew Murray (1828-1917) once said, "The world asks, 'What does a man own?' Christ asks, 'How does he use it?'" **Each Christian is the steward of what God has entrusted to him or her, for it is all His.** We are pleased to announce that FaithSearch is now partnering with a local Christian foundation so, for the first time, we can offer our friends and donors the advantage of professional planned giving services.

Recently Roy Kruse and I met with representatives from the local Kingdom Oil Christian Foundation (KOCF, associated with the National Christian Foundation in Atlanta). As a ministry themselves, their mission is to proclaim and network God's Kingdom through equipping and releasing Kingdom-minded investors and

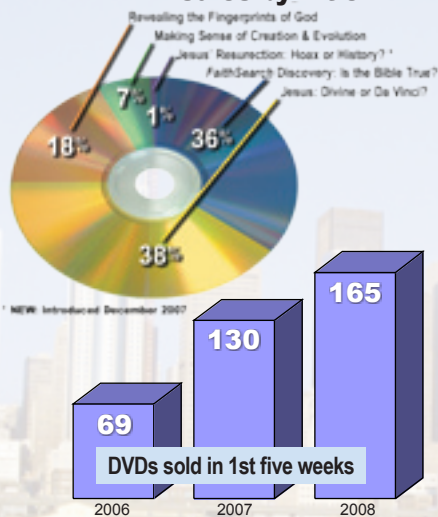
empowering ministries. They are exactly the kind of partner FaithSearch has needed in order to pursue financial services for our donors who are considering estate planning and new options for giving.

The funding for the future ministry of FaithSearch International is first dependent on prayer and God's power to answer. Second, our financial future is dependent on whether our friends are considering us for more than their cash gifts only. **In order for us to continue ministering to America and the world, we must pursue new giving options.** It is interesting that, on average, 94% of charitable giving is in the form of cash, while 91% of an individual's net worth is not cash—in the form of non-liquid assets. These non-liquid assets represent a potential spiritual legacy if released for

(Cont. on page 3)

GOD AT WORK

DVD Sales by Title



DVD Ministry Tools

Our first ministry DVD was introduced in 2006. Five titles are now available, an important ministry resource, with nearly 3,000 DVDs sold. Compare the first five weeks to see how this tool has taken off year by year.

This *FaithSearch* newsletter is published by *FaithSearch* International, an interdenominational, donor-supported, 501(c)(3) organization, committed to proclaiming the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere. This is done through outreach and training events, media resources, and discipleship programs. *FaithSearch* International is not denominationally affiliated.



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Vice President's View

By Roy Kruse



As you read this, Dr. Bierle and I will be visiting **India and Nepal**, launching *FaithSearch* Discovery in two new languages. In Mumbai, India's largest city (population 13 million) and in Nagpur (2 million) we will be teaching pastors and training teachers with the new Marathi language materials. Marathi, spoken by 70 million people, is India's fourth most widely spoken language. Following those events we will travel to Nepal, the home of Mount Everest, to introduce *FaithSearch* Discovery to a new country eagerly awaiting this effective evangelistic tool. The book *Surprised by Faith* has been translated into Nepali (17 million native speakers in three countries). We will prepare teachers to begin implementing a locally sustainable ministry.

In 1950, there were no Christian believers in Nepal, officially a Hindu kingdom. I first visited Nepal in 1990, when the number of believers had grown to about 20,000 and they were being recognized by the government, although there was still considerable opposition and persecution. Today there are over half a million followers of Christ across that nation and there is a great need for the kind of training *FaithSearch* provides.

Carlos just returned from another fruitful visit to Mexico where the leader of the Evangelical Fellowship has asked that *FaithSearch* be presented to a conference of leaders later in the year. He also taught Discovery at a seminary

in Mexico City, and spoke on several occasions at churches and other venues.

Oleg is introducing *FaithSearch* to **Moldova**, a former Soviet state tucked between Ukraine and Romania. He was detained at the border (he was traveling by bus from Odessa, Ukraine) for two hours under threat of fine and the confiscation of the books he had with him. He managed eventually to get through unscathed, and reported in an E-mail, "[The border guards] almost made me late to my first Discovery event in Chisinau [capital of Moldova] but it completely paid off when I had a full house of college age youth come from about ten different churches in Chisinau."

As we praise God for all these opportunities our gratitude goes out to all who continue to support this ministry with their prayers, their time, and their finances. Please do pray with us for God's wisdom as we consider invitations from Southeast Asia, Africa, and other parts of the world.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *FaithSearch* is only able to meet these exciting ministry opportunities as God provides the necessary resources for our international projects. Could you help support our exciting work in Russia (project budget of \$75,000) Latin America (\$75,000) Southeast Asia (\$20,000) or other parts of the world (\$25,000)? Use the reply form on the enclosed letter to designate your gift. Thank you.

CLASSIFIEDS



Special:
20% Off
 (purchase of 3 or more
 ends March 31st)

Five FaithSearch DVDs

FaithSearch offers five DVD titles, each capturing one of our presentations of the Gospel with evidence. Use them to grow in your own faith, to share the impact with others, as gifts, or as discussion starters.

- **FaithSearch Discovery: Is the Bible True?** — Evidence for the integrity and historical reliability of the New Testament
- **FaithSearch Origins: Making Sense of Creation & Evolution** — A scientific approach to the evidence; ideal for students, teachers, pastors and parents
- **FaithSearch Answers: Jesus' Resurrection: Hoax or History?** — Our newest DVD details the importance of—and evidence for—the resurrection of Jesus. BONUS presentation: "Choosing to be a Bond Servant."
- **FaithSearch Answers: Revealing the Fingerprints of God** — Evidence of God's "Fingerprints" in Nature, in History, and in Personal Experience
- **Jesus: Divine or Da Vinci** — Is Jesus the Divine Son of God as recorded in the New Testament? Or is Jesus a mortal man as identified in the popular book *The Da Vinci Code*?



What People are Saying

"I have felt ill-equipped to defend my faith as more than just 'I believe because I do.' I now have some tools to maybe help somebody else come to accept Christ."
 —**JD, Surprise, AZ**

"This presentation gave me the historical information I needed to answer those difficult questions. Thank you so much."
 —**TV, Las Vegas, NV**

"I am more prepared now to give an answer on why I believe in Jesus and the Bible."
 —**ML, Rockford, MN**

"Many who attended were already believers who came away with a renewed passion to proclaim

the Gospel on account of it being so trustworthy."
 —**Pastor PT, Sidney, MT**

"I couldn't explain my faith to others before. Now I have information for people who question my faith."
 —**SD, Illinois**

"I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and plan to share it with my pastor back home in Maryland as well as friends, with the DVDs I purchased."
 —**SL, North Las Vegas, NV**

"Excellent presentation! I will be using the information with others, especially with my son who sometimes questions the truth of the Bible."
 —**DH, Surprise, AZ**

Proclaiming The Gospel with Evidence

By Dr. Don Bierle

My early religious experience certainly is a factor contributing to what *FaithSearch* International does today. As an adolescent, I had many questions about God and faith, but clearly understood that I shouldn't ask them. Asking questions about God and faith was a sign of "doubt"—and doubt was bad! So I "stuffed it" until I entered my college and university years, when I became a skeptic. Actually,



Don Bierle's 1963 college graduation photo. He remained skeptical about faith until challenged to investigate the evidence by graduate school colleagues. Don began following Christ in 1966.

I had received an unusually large amount of religious instruction, but it was all about "what" to believe. I don't recall anyone talking about "why" we can know it is true. After all, some say, pure faith doesn't need reasons; in fact, they contend, if we had reasons we wouldn't need faith!

God was good to bring some people into my early adult life who accepted and even encouraged the "why" questions. Fortunately, they were also able to provide satisfying answers. After eighteen months of intense searching and dialogue, the things of God made sense to me and I was on my knees with tears of relief on my face as I confessed Him as Savior and Lord.

Fast forward forty years to the *FaithSearch* mission: "To proclaim the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere." The phrase "Gospel with evidence" means that the message we proclaim contains both the "what" and the "why" of the Christian faith. Skepticism in the world has increased since my early years, and it has become more sophisticated. Virtually every adult audience I address today includes parents who with tears share with me, "Our son/daughter doesn't believe in Jesus or the Bible anymore." The publication of *The Da Vinci Code*; the reported finding of the alleged bones of Jesus and His family in a tomb in Jerusalem; the publicity surrounding the Judas gospel; even the New Age initiative of Oprah and friends—all are "in your face" challenges to the historic Christian faith.

Fight Hard for the Faith

God has called me to lead the team at *FaithSearch* so that individual Christians and the Church around the world can

be more obedient to God's admonition through the apostle Peter (1 Peter 3:15): "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." It's a command of Scripture to know and be prepared to share the "why" of our faith! Furthermore, the Lord's brother Jude urges us to "fight hard for the faith which has been once and for all entrusted to the saints" (Jude 3 JB). Someone has said that not everything needs defending. I maintain that what no one demonstrates can be defended will soon be abandoned. The history of Christianity in post-Christian Europe demonstrates that all-too well!

Therefore, the mission of *FaithSearch*—to proclaim the Gospel with evidence—is important for at least two reasons:

1. To establish credibility for the Bible and Jesus Christ (the faith entrusted to the saints) so unbelievers may embrace Him for salvation; and
2. To prevent the attrition of faith, especially assisting the sons and daughters of our Christian families to refute—or to overcome—academically-induced skepticism.

What a rich heritage, awesome responsibility, and blessed privilege! (More on this to come in our next issue.)

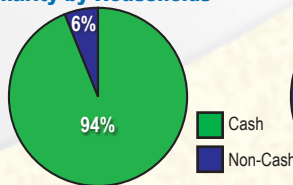
Financial Planning Services (Cont. from page 1)

building God's Kingdom—such as through *FaithSearch*.

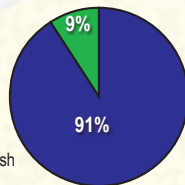
It is estimated that there will be a 41 trillion dollar generational wealth transfer over the next twenty years. Many of these funds are in the estates of Christians who would like spiritual help and professional counsel to structure an estate plan (e.g. remainder trust, lead trust, gift annuity, etc.) which benefits both their family and Christian ministry.

JoAnne Daudt, Director of Gift Planning at KOCF, has been practicing law in the area of estate planning for nearly twenty-five years. She now uses this experience to help Christians become faithful stewards of God's resources in their possession. As a result of our visit with her, she has offered her services to *FaithSearch* friends and donors. Her initial consultation and evaluation is without financial cost.

Type of Assets Given to Charity by Households



Type of Assets Owned by Households



Call Roy or me for more information or just to talk about this. We will be happy to provide JoAnne's contact information for you. The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7, NIV). That is our prayer for all of us.



Simple Stewardship Strategy

Don is looking for men and women who are willing to work with him as volunteers to represent *FaithSearch* International for financial stewardship, into their individual networks of influence. E-mail Don directly (dbierle@faithsearch.org) or call 952.401.4501. You can make a big difference!

FaithSearch Field Reports

Our Team of Evangelists



Dr. Don Bierle



Carlos Fernández



Roy Kruse



Oleg Voskresensky

Don Bierle

Loving In Deed and Truth

With Valentine's Day in February, it is appropriate that my thoughts for this newsletter should focus on love. Over the years, I have often wondered if my love for people is "intense enough." The Holy Spirit revealed to the apostle Paul that even if I "have the gift of inspired preaching" and "have all knowledge and understand all secrets" and "have all the faith needed to move mountains," but "if I have not love, I am nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2 TEV). Sobering!

Two thoughts have helped me. One comes from C.S. Lewis, my mentor (through his writings). His advice was to "not waste time bothering *whether* you 'love' your neighbor; *act* as if you did" (emphasis added). **For more than thirty years I have been proclaiming the Gospel with evidence.** I do not always have the emotional intensity of love feelings toward people I minister to. But I eagerly take every invitation I can to go and tell them about Jesus, because I know that is what I *would* do if I truly love them.

The second helpful insight comes from Scripture. The apostle John described the recipients of both his second and third letters as those "whom I love in the truth" (2 John 1; 3 John 1). Our loving Lord Jesus repeatedly prefaced his teaching with, "Truly, truly, I say to you" (thirty times each in Matthew and John). Jesus Christ is "the truth" (John 14:6) and God's Word is "truth" (John 17:17). God has given us "the Spirit of Truth" to teach us and to enable us to know truth (John 14:16-17; 16:13).

Fellowship in the truth produces a breadth of love as wide as the communion of faith. Christian love is not mere sentimentalism or humanistic compassion. It arose from the truth which has been revealed in Christ. This truth is the only sure basis of Christian love, the love which is "poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5).

Therefore, to the people to whom I minister, I say sincerely, "I love you" in both "deed and truth" (1 John 3:18).

Carlos Fernández

Ministry Dollars Making Sense

Preaching and teaching in Mexico reminds me of the credit card commercial. You know the one. Getting to Mexico City cost \$358.88. Housing was free from a ministry partner. If the only thing I did was to train others in presenting the Gospel with evidence, it would be a bargain. In fact I trained forty presenters in Mexico City, and seventeen in Mérida, in southern Mexico, so our cost comes to \$6.29 per person. Being able to strengthen their faith and equip them with arguments for defending the historicity of the New Testament and the deity of Christ—well, that's **absolutely priceless!**

These fifty-seven pastors and seminary students have committed together to **reach at least 5,000 people** this year with the *FaithSearch* message. This extended ministry comes from fifty-seven CDs which cost the ministry a total of \$33.63. The harvest for eternity, again, is **absolutely priceless!**

When I traveled to meet with Campus Crusade workers at the Universidad Autónoma de México—the largest in Latin America with 290,000 students—it cost another 30 pesos (\$2.76). The possibilities of our partnership in Christ are **absolutely endless!**

Riding the Mexico City metro required 2 pesos (\$0.18 U.S.) but seeing the smiles of my two new friends who gave their lives to Jesus on the ride—yes, you guessed it: **priceless!**

Buying a turnover at the coal grill tended by María de los Ángeles, a 12-year old orphan street vendor is 10 pesos. Hearing her tell you that she has just received the Lord and her inviting you to ask the Lord to send her a Dad... Well, how many pesos per tear of Joy?

The cost of preaching to several hundreds in Mexico City, Xonacatlan, and Cancún can be calculated. Seeing the hands raised so firmly and so high in the balcony, however, by those who have finally arrived at the conviction that Jesus is Lord, and I must abandon my arithmetic and simply bow before Him.



Praise

Rejoice with us!

1. Praise God for **successful ministry in the Philippines!** Roy Kruse and Dr. Bierle spent a week in Manila, training pastors and leaders, who are planning how to extend the Gospel with evidence strategically through their ministries.
2. Carlos had a **fruitful ministry trip in Mexico.** He met with key ministry leaders all over the country, and taught *FaithSearch* Discovery to seminary students and in churches.
3. Praise God that our opportunities to share *FaithSearch* are seemingly endless, bound only by resources and the wisdom of God to choose the "best" things first.
4. Ministry at diverse **events** continues to be anointed and used by God! **Many people are coming to faith.**



Prayer

Please lift in prayer:

1. Please ask God for **financial provision** for our many ministry opportunities: ongoing work in Russia and Latin America; India, Nepal, Thailand and the Philippines; for future languages (Arabic, French, Chinese); and for our USA ministry expansion through "Vision for America."
2. Pray for people to include *FaithSearch* in their estate planning, and for volunteers to represent *FaithSearch* within their networks of influence for financial stewardship.
3. Pray for good attendance and response to our **Friends of FaithSearch Benefit Dinner.**