



On Ownership and Funding God's Will

February 22, 2008

Dear Friend,

All of us at FaithSearch greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus, and pray for God's presence and abundance in your life. I also pray that my message in this letter will make a positive contribution to your spiritual walk in Christ.

Ownership

God revealed His perspective about possessions through the Psalmist in a powerful, but sobering, way (Psalm 50:7-12). He approved of Israel's worship through the giving of some of their animals for sacrifice. But they had forgotten something. He began, "I am God, your God!" and then stated that the bulls and goats they sacrificed were not really from "your house" and "your folds." Why?

"For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness" (vv. 10-12).

It's all His. Each of us has some of His "cattle!" As His stewards, the important question is, "What is the Master's will for His 'cattle'?" Every investment decision we make is on His behalf.

Funding God's Will

Some may see this subtitle as a contradiction—thinking that if it's God's will, it will be done! But not so with God's "desirous" will. For example, it is God's will (desire) that all be saved (2 Timothy 2:4)—but not all are. It is God's will (desire) that in everything we should give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18)—but we don't always.

Likewise, it is God's will that we "make disciples of all the nations... teaching them..." (Matthew 28:19) and "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations..." (Luke 24:47). However, it is obvious that not all peoples are His disciples and many have not yet heard. You see, it is not difficult to know and understand God's revealed will. Jesus said, "You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8) and "you are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48). The challenge is that together we have been called to the privilege to be His partners in fulfilling His will. One facet of that calling and privilege is funding His will using the treasure He has entrusted to our care.

The FaithSearch Mission

If God owns everything, then even FaithSearch International is His—not mine. The Board and staff, too, are stewards of His will. Together we have understood God's mission through us to be: "To proclaim the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere." Jude, the brother of our Lord, said that we are to



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“contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3 NKJV). The apostle Peter said we should “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15 NIV). These commands, together with those above regarding reaching all nations, is the basis for the **FaithSearch** mission, and our boldness to see ourselves as stewards of God’s will. Vice president and director of international ministry, Roy Kruse, has summarized some of our outreach and equipping ministry in several countries in his article (see the enclosed newsletter).

To date, the Gospel with evidence message embodied in *Surprised by Faith* has been translated into twelve languages, and thousands of Christian pastors, seminarians and lay leaders have received training in Discovery so they can overcome unbelief and more effectively share the only Savior with their own people—whether Indian, Russian, Latino, Filipino, or American.

### Fulfilling God’s Will

**FaithSearch** International has four evangelists who proclaim the Gospel with evidence in fields around the world. Salary and benefits for **four fulltime evangelists totals about \$200,000**. Without the evangelists, the ministry has little reason to exist. Your support here is greatly needed. There are also direct ministry costs of travel, meals, lodging, translation, printing, etc. The total of **direct costs is about \$150,000** for our several overseas fields and the U.S ministry—a very frugal amount to support the activities of four evangelists working in many countries on four continents!

Seven essential, additional support-staff equip our evangelists in their ministry. They provide operational oversight, publication and communication expertise, host and event services—and a myriad of other functions and details. They are excellent! Because of the fine leadership and dependability of our staff, **FaithSearch** has for several years been a ministry in good standing with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). It takes an additional **\$500,000 to maintain our headquarters** (computers, offices, work room, warehouse, etc.) including this support staff—and their work to prepare and publish all the ministry resources, to schedule and follow up the events, prepare an audit, do financial receipting, prepare annual reports, etc.

In sharing the above information with you, I wanted to be honest and transparent. **Everything that goes into fulfilling God’s will has a cost**. However, the young college man who says his life was restored back to faith in Jesus by our presentation; the hundreds of Indian pastors looking back at us with eager faces as we equip them for a more fulfilling ministry in their churches; a couple with a restored marriage through tears of repentance and forgiveness because they met Jesus for the first time; the teen drawn by the Holy Spirit to exclaim, “I want to be an evangelist like you when I finish school!”—these things are truly priceless. Each of these makes it seem a small price to pay for the eternal benefits it produces.

### Thanks for Your Partnership in God’s Will

The continuing financial support from friends of the ministry of **FaithSearch** is an encouragement to all of us. There is a period of reduced giving at this time of the year, during the aftermath of the year-end emphasis. **If you would respond with a gift within the next month, you may select any one of our five ministry DVDs as a token of my appreciation**. Details are on the attached response form. After you view it, pass the DVD on—your sharing the message with others can strengthen the faith of another believer or reach the heart of a skeptic. Please pray for us, and share your needs with us as well.

Partnering together as stewards of God’s will,



Dr. Don Bierle  
President

P.S. To sustain the ministry of **FaithSearch** into the future, we must have friends who exercise options of giving in ways in addition cash. See my article in the enclosed newsletter concerning **new planned giving services** now available to our donors.

### Please send me a FREE copy of the following **FaithSearch** DVD:



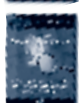
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