



From the President's Desk...

Proclaiming the Gospel with Evidence to All Peoples Everywhere

March 2009

Dear Friend,

One thousand rambunctious junior and senior high youth gathered in an auditorium. After a time of spirited music, a scientist and Bible teacher was introduced. The youth listened respectfully and intently. At the end of the evening, **75 of them committed their lives for the first time to follow Jesus Christ through faith, and another 124 responded by rededicating their lives to follow Christ—a total of about 200 or 20%! Here's what some of them wrote on the response form:**

- "I have always believed blindly in Jesus, but now my beliefs can be backed up with facts."
- "God definitely put this presentation in my life at the most unexpected and needed time. I'm convinced!"
- "I really needed this evidence... I have been having doubts lately about God. I am now motivated to dig deeper."
- "I liked how the presentation actually showed real evidence that Jesus and God are real."
- "Finally, a religious speech in the church that explains the existence of God, and explains it all [with] science, which makes it so much easier to believe. Great talk!"
- "I've never found such unquestionably true information on this subject. Thank you!"

Many might reply, "That must have been some powerful message, given by a respected youth celebrity. If it can have that kind of positive spiritual impact, it ought to be proclaimed everywhere!"

It may surprise you to discover that the event described was a **FaithSearch** presentation in the Twin Cities; that I was the speaker; and that the message was our "Gospel with evidence"—which is what **FaithSearch** proclaims 365 days a year.

Contrast the above statements with a recent national survey (American Religious Identification Survey 2008):

- The "irreligious" (atheist, agnostic, secular) now represent **15% of adult Americans (up from 8.2% in 1990)**. This increase occurred in every state. The number of adherents grew 138%, from 14 million to 34 million.
- The "Christian" faith now represents **76% of adult Americans (down from 86.2% in 1990)**. The number of adherents grew only 14.6%, from 151 million to 173 million.
- Christian groups have an age distribution older than adherents of Eastern religions, Muslims and the irreligious. Of American Muslims, 42% are below the age of 30. In contrast, Christian groups range from 11-25% under 30.

The "bottom line": We are currently losing ground against the non-Christian forces in America. Besides, these forces are growing especially at the expense of youth—our own sons and daughters.

We must win this battle for Christ in America, but HOW?

This problem is not irreversible! But we can't fulfill Jesus' command to make disciples of all peoples (including our own children) by appealing to tradition and loyalty to the Church. Today's religious climate in America requires proclaiming the truth with "why" answers to questions about the Christian faith. When we do that, we get the results among young people, like what I reported above!

I hope this is important to you because I need your prayer and financial support. We are fighting for our ministry lives right now, and **unless hundreds of Christians like you join with us in this battle for Christ in America, our voice is in jeopardy.** To help you understand what we're doing in this battle, let me outline the message I gave to the youth that night.

How can I know THAT a personal creator God exists?

We read in Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." In the same way by which we conclude that a book, a building or Mt. Rushmore is caused by intelligent beings, we see complexity and specificity in the natural world as evidence for Intelligent Design. There are 800 times more chemical "letters" in the human DNA blueprint (3.1 Billion "letters" to make a baby!) than letters in the entire Bible (3.75 Million). What are the odds that either of these could have arisen by chance? Astronomically impossible. It would be easier to imagine Mt. Rushmore arising as a result of wind and water erosion!



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We must win this battle for Christ in America NOW

YES, Don, I want to help you battle for Christ in America and share the Gospel with Evidence.

Enclosed is my donation: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

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God intended that the evidence of His fingerprints would be seen in the natural world: “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse” Romans 1:18-20 (NIV).

How can I know WHO the personal creator God is?

The evidence of nature cannot tell us *who* the Designer is. That’s why God gave us the additional evidence of His incarnation into history. By exploring the clear historical evidence of Jesus Christ, His life, miracles and resurrection, we discover the identity of the God who created the universe. And we can have confidence that the stories about Jesus are true because the over 24,000 manuscripts of the New Testament support its textual integrity, and because the evidence of archaeology supports its truth as history.

Furthermore, the stories about Jesus were recorded by eyewitnesses, as Peter recounted, “For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty” (2 Peter 1:16).

Evidence of Intelligent Design in nature and the historical truth of the New Testament are questioned and attacked continuously by unbelievers and followers of other religions, because these revelations shine forth the penetrating light of God’s existence and his identity as Jesus Christ, the only Savior!

That’s why *FaithSearch* insists on—and persists in—proclaiming these truths in our Origins (evidence of design in nature) and Discovery (evidence of Christ in history) events. It is God’s own revealed evidence and, when proclaimed, the Holy Spirit uses it powerfully to change lives for eternity—among both youth and adults.

I pray right now that this is making a lot of sense to you. I pray that you can see that *FaithSearch* has the right ministry tools to lead in this battle for Christ in America. And I pray that you will begin today to invest with us so that we might reach some of the 34 million agnostics, atheists, and secularists in America today—starting with our own spiritually wandering youth.



Proclaiming the Gospel with evidence is what we do at *FaithSearch*.

How can I know that God is PRESENT and ACTIVE in the world today?

The final point in my message to the youth was to ask them, “Once unbelievers hear the evidence from nature and history, what is the final persuasion that convinces them God must be real?” The answer: “The transformed life of believers!” Believers from every race, age, gender, class, and nation are to be a testimony to the truth that they bear the fingerprints of God as His new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). Because of that, Jesus said, “You are the light of the world... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

I told the youth to ask themselves this question, “**What if the fingerprints of God are not evident in my life?**” I suggested two explanations for their absence. Either they are not abiding in God’s Word and in Christ’s love (John 15:1-11) or they do not have Christ in their life at all (i.e. they are not saved, see 1 John 5:11-12). The junior and senior high youth did what was needed: 200 of them rededicated their lives or said yes to Jesus for the first time.

You are NEEDED to make this transformation of lives continue to happen across America

I pray that the Spirit of God will draw you into this battle for Christ in America. I want and need you on the team. With your first gift we can reach youth and adults with the Gospel with evidence so they will embrace the principles and values of the Christian faith on which this nation was established.

That’s what *FaithSearch* is committed to do, but we are in desperate need of your financial help. If I offer to send you a DVD of the message I outlined in this letter, “Revealing the Fingerprints of God,” would you send a gift of \$25 or more? It’s a “win-win” proposition: you will have the Gospel with evidence to share (with your children or grandchildren and in your extended networks of influence); *FaithSearch* can also continue to share it with countless others because of your gift.

Thank you in advance for being sensitive to God’s Spirit.

Battling for Christ in America,

Dr. Don Bierle
President, *FaithSearch* International