



September 2009

Dear FaithSearch Friend,

I am excited about the next three-and-one-half months of FaithSearch ministry! God must have something really good in store because He has opened an unusual array of ministry doors for us, all the way through December. With great anticipation and gratefulness, I can't wait to see what God is going to do as we go through each door. I also pray that these opportunities will motivate and convict you to begin a new partnership with us through prayer and a financial gift.

Open Door 1: Forty-three outreach events in the United States

- In Minnesota: Chokio, Morris, Grand Marais, Tofte, Finland, Duluth, Litchfield, New Hope, Chaska, Eagle Bend, Buffalo Lake, Golden Valley, Verndale, Waseca
• In South Dakota: Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Yankton
• In Wisconsin: Fall Creek, Menomonie, Superior
• In Connecticut: Manchester
• In Montana: Sidney (Oleg will be doing this)

These forty-three events, plus those scheduled for next year, already exceed the number of events we offered all of last year. We are excited by this increase in outreach opportunities because we know that through them God will change even more lives—like these: An adult in Brooklyn Park, MN, wrote, "For a long time I was confused about my faith and God's existence. Today's experience has given me new life in believing in Jesus Christ." A Lakeville, MN, junior high student exclaimed, "It helped me understand that God and everything about Him is true. It was very helpful!"

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He said that "repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations..." and followed that with, "You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:47-48). As we at FaithSearch faithfully do what He said, here's what we anticipate God will do through this open door:

- 8,000 in total attendance at our outreach events
• 800 individuals who renew and deepen their commitment to Christ
• 200 new believers who make a first-time faith commitment to follow Christ

Open Door 2: FaithSearch Discovery teacher training

The apostle Paul taught that ministry should be multiplied by equipping others to do it (2 Timothy 2:2). Hundreds have already been trained, and trainees around the world testify how it has enriched their ministries—like this one from missionaries in Spain: "We have been blessed by using FaithSearch in Zaragoza, Spain... We held an evangelistic event at a Chinese Restaurant... Afterward every guest received a free copy of Sorprendido por la Fe... At least five that we know of have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ." A pastor in Newberg, OR, wrote, "I use FaithSearch as the introduction to first year Confirmation." Finally, a Maplewood, MN, lay teacher reported, "I am going to use a portion of the series this fall. I am teaching an adult class on the reliability of the Scriptures." Our ministry resources have proven useful for others—and are bearing fruit!

God has opened four more opportunities this fall for me to equip pastors and lay leaders to use our FaithSearch Discovery materials in their own ministries. Here's what we anticipate God will do through this open door:

- 25 additional pastors and lay leaders will be trained to use our ministry resources in their communities
• Hundreds, perhaps thousands, in their circles of influence will hear the Gospel with evidence as a result

Open Door 3: Ministry to Russian-speaking people

Our mission statement, based on Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19-20, is to "Proclaim the Gospel with Evidence to All Peoples Everywhere." Consistent with that, God has opened several doors of ministry opportunity around the world.

The door which has opened in Russia is incredible. This fall Oleg, our Russian-speaking evangelist, will take two more three-week trips to Russia to train public high school teachers how to use FaithSearch Discovery as a course about



FaithSearch International, 105 Peavey Rd. STE 200, Chaska, MN 55318 U.S.A.
Phone: +1.952.401.4501 • U.S. Toll Free: 1.800.964.1447 • FAX: +1.952.401.4504
E-mail: info@faithsearch.org • www.faithsearch.org

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Christianity in their humanities classrooms. Just this month a couple of teachers in Cherkassy, Ukraine, received training. One said, “*This material has to be a standard part of the History Teacher’s professional portfolio. We simply cannot teach History without it.*” Another said, “*Excellent presentation and wonderful resource! I can’t wait to teach it to my students! This is exactly the material and the form they would like and they will be able to take in!*”

As Oleg presents Discovery throughout Russia, here’s what we anticipate God will do through this open door:

- **500** more trained high school teachers with 30 students per class = 15,000 students who hear the Gospel
- **Hundreds** of Christian pastors and church members will be equipped in the Gospel with evidence

Open Door 4: Ministry to Spanish-speaking people

Carlos, our Spanish-speaking evangelist, has just been invited to be the interim pastor for a Latino congregation in the Twin Cities. In addition, he is building a relationship to partner with the largest Protestant ministry to Latinos in the United States. He also has continuing ministries in Mexico and other parts of Central America, and in South America, resulting in many testimonies like this: “*I learned that our faith has evidence. I have decided to follow Jesus and to search for more of His Spirit every day*” (Merida, Mexico). Here’s what we anticipate God will do through this open door this fall:

- **100** Latinos will be discipled on a weekly basis
- **Hundreds** of pastors, lay leaders and seminary students whom Carlos has trained will continue to present the Gospel with evidence to **thousands** in Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru

Open Door 5: Ministry in the Philippines

As a result of Discovery training I did in Manila two years ago, the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel with evidence has multiplied greatly. They now have their own trainers, hundreds of Discovery teachers, and have undertaken the translation of *Surprised by Faith* into an indigenous language, Tagalog. We continue to advise, encourage, and give financial support. Here’s what we anticipate God will do through this open door this fall:

- **200** additional Discovery teachers will be trained
- The **Tagalog translation** of *Surprised by Faith* will be completed and published
- **Thousands** of Filipinos will hear the Gospel with evidence as a result of outreach by Discovery teachers

Open Door 6: *Surprised by Faith* translations and publication

We already have my book in Spanish, Russian, Arabic (awaiting publication in Lebanon) and eight languages in India. Requests have come in for French, Czech and Tagalog (see Philippines above). When these are completed they will enable our staff, indigenous leaders, and missionaries to do evangelism and equipping among these people groups. Here’s what we anticipate God will do through this open door this fall:

- **French, Czech and Tagalog translations** will be completed
- The **Arabic translation** will be printed

YOUR Open Door: Partner with FaithSearch to be God’s hands to help make all this happen

Can you understand why we are delighted by the doors God has opened for us? Going through some of these doors is possible, in part, because we have assembled a mature and effective ministry staff. Yet our quality ministers of the Gospel need financial support so they can give all their energy for proclaiming the Gospel. **These open doors of life-changing ministry will require funding in order for us to go through them.**

Therefore, when you send a financial gift, you become a “partner in the Gospel,” literally part of our ministry team. You share in the joy of seeing lives changed for eternity, and in God’s blessing for your sacrifice and generosity. Through *FaithSearch*, you can stand before God some day and know that your stewardship of the funds He entrusted to you have indeed reached the lost and strengthened His Church around the world.

Spiritually speaking, doors of ministry are not always open. But they are for *FaithSearch* this fall. Take the first step right now to walk through them with us. To hear from you would encourage us greatly!

Depending on your partnership for reaching the lost this fall,



Dr. Don Bierle
President