

November 2009

Dear *FaithSearch* Friend,

The reason for the celebration of Christmas is manifested in the names chosen from eternity for the Christ child—God’s gift to the world: He is **God** and He is **Savior**.

Immanuel: God with Us

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” –Matthew 1:23

Jesus: Savior

“And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.” –Matthew 1:21

An Immanent Gift: God with Us

Over the years, the late Paul Harvey, well known radio commentator, made famous a story entitled “The Man and the Birds.” A decent but unchurched and unbelieving man refused to attend the local Christmas eve service. As he stared out the window at the falling snow, some birds began to fly against the glass to get in and escape the cold. He tried everything to get them to a nearby barn where they would be safe, but to no avail.

Frustrated, he thought “If only I could be a bird. I could speak their language, tell them not to be afraid, and guide them to the safety of the barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see and hear and understand.”

At that moment the church bells began to ring. As they pealed the glad tidings of Christmas—God with us—he sank to his knees in the snow. He understood!

The apostle John had made that same discovery and exclaimed in his first letter, “That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have **touched**—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life” (1 John 1:1).

An Eternal Gift: Jesus-Savior

In his Gospel, the physician Luke recorded Jesus’ own words about the reason He came to earth: “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Fast forward to Easter morning where the resurrected Jesus made life after death available to all, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies...” (John 11:25).

His disciples understood and proclaimed this clearly: “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

FaithSearch, too, has faithfully proclaimed, year-round, these same two Christmas truths for thirty years, to over two million people. We have a ministry and multiple messengers in many U.S. states and in about fourteen countries. We want to continue, and will, if we can sustain our financial support.

Proclaiming the Gift: the FaithSearch Gospel with Evidence

America’s Research Group just polled one thousand young men and women in their twenties who used to attend Bible-believing churches, but no longer do. They wanted to find out when they started having doubts about the Bible and why. The results are startling: 40% began doubting in middle school and another 44% in high school. Only 11% said their doubting began in college. In other words, by that time they were “already gone!”

Why did they doubt? The repeating theme was that **they had never heard anyone explain why the Christian faith was true in the face of skeptical challenges**. This led to doubting the relevance and trustworthiness of the Bible.

The study concluded: “The next generation in the church needs to be taught not just **what** to believe as Christians, but also **why we believe** what we do...” (emphasis added).

That’s the Gospel with evidence which *FaithSearch* has been proclaiming for thirty years! In one evening this past spring, 125 junior and senior high students made a confession of faith in Jesus after I explained why the Bible is true and shared with them the evidence that Jesus is God and Savior.



Carlos Fernández proclaimed the Gospel with evidence in Merida, Mexico.

We are getting these same results everywhere, wherever I go in the U.S., wherever Oleg goes to Russian-speaking people, and wherever Carlos goes to Hispanics.

***FaithSearch* needs your prayer and financial support now to sustain this ministry, which is becoming more important and more desperately needed by the year.**



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Let’s Share the Gift of “God with Us” Everywhere

YES, Don, I want to help you keep bringing the life-changing gift of the Gospel with evidence.

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

My gift of \$50 or more is enclosed. Please send 25 copies of “Unwrapping the Truth about Christmas.”

Please process this gift through my credit card:

Visa

MasterCard

Discover

3-digit code from back

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____



A Gift Just For You

Why do we celebrate Christmas with gift giving? **Because the truth about Christmas is about life—a precious gift indeed!** To fully appreciate and enjoy any gift, however, we must take off its pretty wrapping paper. As we “unwrap” Christmas, we discover its truth—**God with us—the gift of Jesus.**

Jesus is more like the gift of a great fitting pair of gloves than an ornament to admire. You have to “wear Him” to best appreciate His value. That’s why Jesus Himself said, “*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly*” (John 10:10). **The truth about Christmas is about living life to the fullest.**

The problem with most Christmas gifts is that they don’t last. Come to think of it, we don’t either! The gift of Jesus, on the other hand, carries a guarantee: **the truth about Christmas—God with us—is that recipients are promised life, forever, with God.** The gift of Jesus is about love and hope: “*God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16).

The day comes when the gift under the tree marked with your name becomes truly yours. When the gift is distributed, you receive and unwrap it, and discover its contents are just your size. Likewise, when we unwrap the truth about Christmas—God with us—we discover the peace and joy the gift of Jesus brings to our heart. He’s just the right size!

A Gift to be Shared

Everyone needs this gift of salvation, and *FaithSearch* delivers it 24/7, all year—because the sun never sets on the Gospel with evidence message being proclaimed by our staff and those we have trained around the world.

I need your prayer and financial support to continue this life-giving ministry. Each financial gift we receive is like a Christmas package to the *FaithSearch* staff which, when opened, reveals an encouraging “God with us.”

In a very real way, however, your gift to *FaithSearch* is really *not for us*. It is for “them”—for sharing “God with us” with the lost and “homeless” in our neighborhoods and around the world—those who have not yet discovered their eternal home through the gift of Jesus.

Furthermore, your gift helps us provide the “*why*” of the Christian faith, so young people and adults alike can be strong in the Lord, can revitalize the Church, and can be bolder and more confident in sharing the gift of Jesus with others.

Your gift this Christmas is urgently needed. Thank you for your compassionate and generous response. I pray that you will have a Merry Christmas.

Rejoicing in the Christ—“God with us,”



Don

P.S. I want to thank you for your gift with a gift of my own. Some of the message in this letter came from one of our publications, “**Unwrapping the Truth about Christmas,**” a beautiful pocket pamphlet. **For a gift of \$50 or more, I will send you a package of 25,** which you can share with others this Christmas—whether in person, or affixed to Christmas cards, presents, thank you notes, etc. If you want more, they are available on our Web site, at <http://www.faithsearch.org/Christmas>

