



## From the President's Desk...

FAITHSEARCH IS A MINISTRY OF FAITH STUDIES INTERNATIONAL  
A Donor Supported Ministry

August 20, 2004

Dear Friend,

I want to introduce you to a wonderfully effective way to have your unsaved friends consider Jesus in their life. It's practical and intentional—**FaithSearch Challenge 500**—an individual and team challenge for everyone who longs to make a difference. Here's how it works.

### 1. EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE.

Every Christian has relatives, friends and work associates whose lives and eternity are at risk. They are without Jesus Christ. Often this is because of confusion, spiritual ignorance, or skepticism. Your participation in **FaithSearch Challenge 500** demonstrates your concern for them and your willingness to help when given the opportunity to make a powerful difference. **FaithSearch Challenge 500** provides a proven way to do just that!

### 2. THE PRIMARY GOAL IS TO HELP YOU HAVE AN ETERNAL SPIRITUAL IMPACT IN ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE.

We have constructed a large wooden cross at our office and an electronic replica on our Web site. You will be shown how to place the first name of the person(s) you care about—those who need Christ—on that cross so you and we can remember to pray regularly for their salvation. Then take the following actions to assist them in finding new life in Jesus Christ.

- **Pray for them daily by name.** Also pray for the many other names placed on the cross by the other "500" participants, even as they pray for you and your friend. Not surprisingly, a research study found that when unbelievers are prayed for by name, they are 30% more likely to affirm faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- **Look for—and anticipate—opportunities to express God's love toward them.** Many times this will take the form of real-life needs, not just spiritual needs. By building or expanding a bridge of friendship, you are establishing a powerful context for spiritual influence.
- **Invite them to join you at a FaithSearch LIVE event** so they can discover the "Ah-Ha! of life!" for themselves. (Our event schedule is in our newsletter and on our Web site.)

Here's what often happens when you bring a friend to a **FaithSearch LIVE** event:

*"FaithSearch spoke to me in a way I had not heard before. By the final session I came to believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins... So that evening I prayed and asked Jesus into my life." Joy!*



When your friend discovers new life in Jesus, just let us know (E-mail, telephone, regular mail). At our office and on our Web site we'll turn their name card over—on the other side is a golden color representing their salvation. It will serve as a visual reminder that you helped change your friend's life forever! Then we'll send you further information about how you can help your friend grow in his/her faith—to fully experience the abundant life Jesus promised His followers. **This is an important part of FaithSearch Challenge 500.**



Then **FaithSearch Challenge 500** starts all over: send us another name or names, and repeat the process. As Christians, we should recognize God's desire (and command) that this become our life-long pattern (Matthew 28:18-20). *I pray that **you** will take up the challenge to make it so in your life!*

### **3. THE SECONDARY GOAL OF FAITHSEARCH CHALLENGE 500 IS TO ENCOURAGE 500 PEOPLE TO COME ALONGSIDE OUR MINISTRY WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**

When you register, you will have the option of making a tax-deductible gift to the ministry of **FaithSearch**. **With your gift of any size, we will send you a free copy of the new, expanded and illustrated edition of *Surprised by Faith* to give to your friend.** It's a great way to answer their faith-related questions, and to have an immediate spiritual impact.

Hundreds of people have experienced what this person did, by sharing *Surprised by Faith* with their friends:

*"I want to encourage your efforts because I have the book *Surprised by Faith* and lent it to a friend from work. After he read it he wanted to pray to invite Jesus Christ into his life as his personal Lord and Savior." Praise the Lord!*

When you send a tax-deductible gift to **FaithSearch**, you activate **two proven ways** to make a spiritual and eternal difference in another person's life.

- **In your friend's life**—as a result of your involvement in their life and because together we are asking God to touch them spiritually.
- **In the lives of hundreds who attend our outreach events**—as a result of your tax-deductible gift, which enables me to present Jesus Christ in the Twin Cities and around the country, to make a spiritual and eternal difference for everyone who attends.

### **4. FINALLY, PARTICIPATING ALSO MAKES YOU ELIGIBLE FOR FREE DRAWINGS TO WIN VALUABLE MINISTRY RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL USE.**

As our way of saying "thanks" and making the **FaithSearch Challenge 500** more fun, ten times—once for every fifty participants—each participant will have an opportunity to win, for example, a **FaithSearch** Youth book, a *Making Sense of Creation and Evolution* book, a **FaithSearch** audio series (cassette or CD), or a **FaithSearch** video tape. When we reach our goal of 500 participants, we will have a final drawing bonanza for several ministry resources. *Every registered FaithSearch Challenge 500* participant will have their name included in *every* free drawing. (Each participant may win only one drawing.)

## WHY THE FAITHSEARCH CHALLENGE 500?

- To make our obedience to share Jesus with others intentional—and more fun!
- To show hundreds of our friends the way to forgiveness of sin and eternal life in heaven.
- To expand the spiritual impact of **FaithSearch** by bringing your friends to the events.
- To provide you with effective ministry tools to strengthen your faith and enhance your personal witness.
- To expand the spiritual impact of **FaithSearch** by increasing by 500 the number of our partners in the Gospel!

The apostle Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, actually provided a biblical foundation for **FaithSearch Challenge 500**:

*“But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and make him your Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you. But do it with gentleness and respect.”* 1 Peter 3:15, TEV

**Are you ready?** Imagine how fulfilling and joyful it will be for one of **your** unsaved friends to come to the Lord! Join us in **FaithSearch Challenge 500** and we'll help—by **encouraging** you, knowing that the whole “500” team is **praying** with you and for you. And further when you send a gift to **FaithSearch**, by **equipping** you with a book that **shares** the Gospel message with convicting evidence.

**FaithSearch Challenge 500** is simple. Just return the enclosed response card (or register on the Web site). We will place your friend's first name on the cross, and begin praying regularly for him/her (and for you). When you also send a gift to the ministry, your new *Surprised by Faith* book will be sent by return mail so you can share it with your friend.

It is meaningful, exhilarating and rewarding to be used by God to make an eternal difference. What greater joy is there than seeing family and friends come to faith in Jesus Christ? What better way could there be than **FaithSearch Challenge 500** to fulfill your desire to be used spiritually by God in their lives? **Don't put it off—in these days of fear and uncertainty there is an urgency to tell others that Jesus can give them love and spiritual assurance.**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Proclaiming for 25 years that Jesus is the answer,



**Dr. Don Bierle**  
*President*

**PS Start now:** Ask God for the names of people you know who are at risk for eternity. **Write down their name(s) on the enclosed response card, send it to us in the envelope provided, and begin praying today.** We'll start praying as well. When you also include a gift for the ministry of **FaithSearch**, I'll send a copy of my newly revised book *Surprised by Faith* to share with your friend. We'll look for God to work, using all of us together to make an eternal spiritual difference in your friend's life, and in many that God allows me to share with.