



From the President's Desk...

FAITHSEARCH IS A MINISTRY OF FAITH STUDIES INTERNATIONAL

A Donor Supported Ministry

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL WITH EVIDENCE SINCE 1979.

Dear Friend,

Why do you suppose Jesus invested much of His personal time in only twelve people?

THE APOSTLE PAUL BOTH LIVED AND TAUGHT AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE

Writing to Timothy, one of the young men he was training in the ministry, Paul advised: "You have heard everything I teach in public; hand it on to reliable people so that they in turn will be able to teach others" (2 Tim. 2:2). This instruction identifies an important goal of biblical ministry: **MULTIPLICATION!** Four generations are specifically identified in this passage:

Paul ► Timothy ► Reliable People ► Others

Timothy, Titus, Luke, Silas, Priscilla and Aquila – these are examples of the many that Paul nurtured to join him in the ministry. The apostle retraced his steps near the end of the first missionary journey in order to establish churches in every city where he had made converts. He knew that time would not allow him to remain in every city for very long. **Thus he multiplied his ministry by establishing local elders who would strengthen the converts' faith**, resulting in each being an active witness to reach their community for Christ.

The principle of multiplication is why Jesus could leave this earth after a personal ministry of only about three-and-one-half years. It's also why Paul could so quickly go on to new cities and new countries to proclaim Jesus Christ. **Multiplication is the key principle** that makes an expanded and extended ministry possible.

FAITHSEARCH IS NOW INCORPORATING THE PATTERN OF MINISTRY ESTABLISHED BY JESUS AND THE APOSTLE PAUL

In our first twenty-five years of ministry, we estimate that about 1,500,000 people read or heard the **FaithSearch** message, with 38,000 known commitments to Christ. At present, outreach events and print/digital media together result in over 200,000 people who hear or read the **FaithSearch** message each year—that's 575 per day with 4,000 recording a commitment of faith to follow Jesus Christ (that's 11 every day on average).



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That's awesome! But using the principle of multiplication we can do more—a lot more. Due to our diligence over the last ten years of writing, publishing and refining the **FaithSearch** message in written and media forms, for the first time in our history, **the life-changing FaithSearch message is now fully transferable to others**. Transferability makes multiplication possible.

With translation, **FaithSearch** can expand to any language group, geographic region, race or culture. We can also equip indigenous peoples to proclaim the **FaithSearch** message in their own context of culture and language, and at times of their own choosing and opportunity.

For example, within twelve to fifteen months, we will have trained fifty-six India Campus Crusade staff as **FaithSearch** teaching associates. Their assignment is to teach two **FaithSearch** events each, per month. At 100 people per event (a low estimate), **they will share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ through FaithSearch to nearly 135,000 people—in one year!**

This is just one of many examples which have led us to an aggressive incorporation of multiplication into the future of **FaithSearch**. It's called "Extending the Vision."

“EXTENDING THE VISION” IS BUILDING ON THE MULTIPLICATION PRINCIPLE

The central feature of "Extending the Vision" is multiplication. In America, it consists of releasing our **FaithSearch** presentation so that thousands of pastors and lay persons can use it to effectively proclaim the **FaithSearch** message to home groups, to Sunday School classes, in the work place—in every niche of society.

What impact could **FaithSearch** have if even 20,000 (2%) of the million Christian pastors in America used it to teach their congregations? **That's 2,000,000 people (100 average each church)** who would be better able to "give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Pet. 3:15).

I recently received the following E-mail from one of our teaching associates in India:

Dear Don and Denny,

God gave me an opportunity to have a youth gathering—
I spent the whole day with them. Fifty-three youths participated and I explained [**FaithSearch**] to them. Then I challenged them to receive Christ in their life—twelve youth prayed. I praise God for it. A local pastor is doing the follow-up.

—Alwin (Madurai, India)

Denny and I invested two days of equipping Alwin and fourteen other associates in February of this year. Now they're multiplying the ministry there. Within six months, the **FaithSearch** materials will be in eight languages of India so that these associates can give people the **FaithSearch** message in their native language throughout India.

To date we have equipped 4,000 Christian pastors in India to share **FaithSearch** with their churches. Within six months we will equip another 2,000 pastors there. **Imagine the impact this will have on the 750,000 Indian people** who will hear and read the **FaithSearch** message as a result this year (125 average per church). That's the multiplication principle at work!

MULTIPLICATION MULTIPLIED: THE PROVERBIAL “TIP OF THE ICEBERG”

Carlos Fernandez, our Peruvian intern and future Spanish evangelist, has now been trained to present *FaithSearch*. He used his recently translated *FaithSearch* PowerPoint presentation to share the Gospel in Spanish at a trailer park in Chaska, MN. **Twenty Latinos gave their hearts to the Lord in one day.** When Carlos joins us full time next year, he will begin training pastors and teaching associates in Central and South America just like we have been doing in India.

Oleg Voskresensky, a leading Russian Christian in the Twin Cities and native of Moscow, will complete the translation of *Surprised by Faith* into the Russian language by the end of the year. Upon publication in 2005, **the same multiplication process of equipping pastors and teaching associates in Russia will begin.**

Thousands of men and women are attending Bible Colleges and Seminaries in India to prepare for vocational ministry. We have been invited to go to three of these schools on our current trip in order to equip them to **incorporate *FaithSearch* into their curriculum for preparing future pastors.** This is generational multiplication at work—preparing young men and women to tell “others” the Gospel with evidence.

We are also beginning to establish ministry partnerships with local and regional churches to use *FaithSearch* to reach ethnic groups in the Twin Cities and beyond, to include Spanish, Russian, African Americans, Hmong, Somalis, Vietnamese and Chinese. The mission field has come to our own door step. Imagine—there are twenty Russian-speaking churches just in the Twin Cities!

CATCHING THE VISION: “WHAT MORE CAN WE DO TO HELP?”

Multiplication has yet another dimension—the transforming impact the *FaithSearch* message has when the Holy Spirit applies it personally in each life. Let me illustrate from a letter I received recently from one man whose life (and that of his wife) was changed dramatically.

He grew up in an “East coast Irish family” and abandoned the family’s church in his late teens. Upon reaching middle age, God was absent from his life. As a result of a minor family crisis he decided to seek God and the truth. He used his engineering skills to search the Internet and also began to “church shop.” He and his wife saw a notice of a *FaithSearch* LIVE event and attended. **Their lives will never be the same again.** He wrote:

“...there is no question in my mind that [*FaithSearch*] changed my life. Your evidence-based approach struck a chord with me...compelling... refreshing...”

After their faith commitment, they immediately attended our *Growing Faith* small group, led by Denny McKeever. The husband described his experience as “a process of deeper understanding and commitment that grew within me... I became convinced and humbled through that process that the Bible is the true Word of God and Jesus is Lord. I also learned what it means to be truly Christian and to live as God commands. It amazes me to this day just how much in the dark I was.”

As often happens, this couple can't contain the joy and meaning they have found in their life. He wrote: "I believe what you do through **FaithSearch** is critically important. There are a lot of people like me out there who want to come to Christ but don't know how or where to start. People need to hear and to recognize that there is a path forward and that there is absolute truth!"

I talked with his wife recently when she was volunteering at our office. She was happy and quick to testify of what Christ had done in her life. Then she said it:

"What more can we do to help? We'd do anything for this ministry!"

I NEED YOUR HELP SO MORE PEOPLE LIKE THIS CAN HEAR

You can help make more real-life stories like this happen—you can be involved in spiritual multiplication. **"Extending the Vision" is limited only by a lack of prayer and financial support.** As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Mt. 9:37).

It has been a difficult summer financially for our ministry. I have had to cut three people from our staff. It is so ironic that at a time when the spiritual need around the world is so great; when our potential to meet that need through the **FaithSearch** message has never been greater; and when God is bringing more spiritual fruit through our ministry than ever before, that we lack the financial means to fully grasp the opportunity.

Please pray: **"Ask the Lord** of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Mt. 9:38). And please consider a financial gift at this time: God will use your gift to enable us to continue to work in His harvest field, to see lives changed for eternity. I would be so grateful, and—as you have read—so will those to whom we proclaim the Gospel!

Committed to spiritual multiplication,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Don Bierle
President

PS: I thought you might be interested in the running total impact of the multiplication efforts I illustrated in this letter. In just one year, these three examples alone (India pastors, India associates and U.S. pastors, all using **FaithSearch**) represent a potential of over 2.8 million people hearing the Gospel through **FaithSearch**—**almost double the impact of our first twenty-five years**. Imagine the *further impact* of associates training others to use **FaithSearch**, and the addition of Spanish and Russian speaking pastors and associates, all being trained to use **FaithSearch**, and then training others.... **Please pray with us; and please send a generous financial gift to help us take advantage of these truly amazing opportunities.**