



From the President's Desk...

Proclaiming the Gospel with Evidence to All Peoples Everywhere

Dear Friend,

Our God: Holding Nothing Back

Christmas is all about a God who “spared not”—who held nothing back, who pulled out all the stops:

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” Galatians 4:4-5 (NASB).

The prophet Isaiah foretold (9:6), *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...”* and *“...they shall call His name Immanuel,”* which translated means, *“God with us”* (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). The Holy Spirit inspired Matthew to record that *“you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21).

Years later in His ministry, Jesus claimed that redeemer role for Himself: *“I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep... whoever enters through me will be saved”* (John 10:7, 9). But He foretold that many would take a different path: *“For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it”* (Matthew 7:13-14).

A Fallen World: Holding Nothing Back

Oxford University professor and scientist, Richard Dawkins, wrote in his recently published book, *The God Delusion*, that all religion is superstition and nonsense. He says that faith breeds ignorance, oppression and strife, and that Christians who believe in a personal God who created the world are “ignoramuses.” It seems that he unloaded the fury of his own unbelief on the world—he held nothing back.

Dan Brown, author of *The DaVinci Code*, has one of the book’s characters say that “everything our fathers taught us about Christ is false,” that “the New Testament is false testimony” and that “every faith in the world is based on fabrication.” He is venting and foisting his antichristian bias onto anyone who will read it—again, he held nothing back.

Why do these people express such extreme positions? They are rejecting the extreme offer of our God who was the first to “hold nothing back”: *“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all...”* (Romans 8:31-32, NIV).

At the end of His public ministry, Jesus carried His own cross to a place on the main road that all travelers in the region of Jerusalem and Judea would pass by. In like manner, today **FaithSearch** is positioning the cross of Jesus Christ right in the middle of the broad road to destruction which passes through the USA and through the uttermost parts of the earth—India, Russia and Spanish-speaking countries.

FaithSearch: Holding Nothing Back

At one point in the not-too-distant history of **FaithSearch** International, we thought that we were to be a North American, English-speaking ministry. Little attention was given to the possibility of carrying the **FaithSearch** message—the Gospel with evidence—beyond our immediate geographic and linguistic borders. Indeed, in the last twelve months, Denny McKeever and I presented **299 events to 29,500 attendees, resulting in 1,966 faith commitments to follow Jesus**—all in the USA.

But God—prompted by an amazing love for the lost, an incredible strategy and perfect timing—began moving in specific ways to encourage us—just as He spoke of the future glory of Israel—to **“enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, DO NOT HOLD BACK”** [emphasis added; also translated “spare not” in the NASB] (Isaiah 54:2, NIV). **He has opened to FaithSearch unanticipated doors for international ministry, beyond what we could have asked or imagined.**

We are already realizing the benefits and blessings of being obedient to God’s call that we “not hold back.” We have a strong partnership with India Campus Crusade for Christ (ICCC). We are identifying for training sixty ICCC workers who will work as **FaithSearch** trainers. They will take **FaithSearch** to every corner of India. **The leadership**

A Donor Supported Ministry



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of ICCC has said that as a result of their partnership with *FaithSearch*, they are experiencing open doors into areas of ministry they had never before enjoyed.

Our movement into both Spanish and Russian ministries is joyful and exciting. In our Spanish ministry, Carlos is developing contacts for expansion into Honduras, Mexico City, Guatemala and Lima, Peru. After our initial promotional trip to Russia in August, Oleg has already returned and made twelve *FaithSearch* presentations to key churches, leaders and schools. Here is a sample of their responses:

"Nothing like this has ever been introduced to these audiences, especially with this clarity of logic and visual presentation."

—Pastor Anatoly, Suzdal, Russia.

"I am very happy for your plans to participate in the education and evangelism in Russia... Move ahead boldly and freely."

—Fr. Georgiy, Orthodox Priest, St. Philaret Christian Institute, Moscow.

"A known atheist in our town came to your seminar to publicly make his point. He stayed through the whole presentation not daring to comment, and later confessed: I need to go back to and review my resources." —Participant in Vladimir, Russia.

*"There are twenty churches between my home town in Yakutia (far northeast of Siberia) and the regional capital. Will you come and present Discovery in all of them. [After a pause:] What is required to become a *FaithSearch* missionary in Russia?"*

—Bible student in St. Petersburg Christian University.

Requests for *FaithSearch* Discovery in Russia already exceed our capacity to fulfill them. A multiplication of trainers will also be needed there in order to meet the exploding demand.

Future "enlarging" and "stretching" of our *FaithSearch* "tent" includes the Arabic world and China. Again, **we dare not hold back.** During His forty days on earth after His resurrection, Jesus said that "*repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations*" (Luke 24:47). That's why our mission is to proclaim the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere—God has said, "*spare not!*"

I Need Your Response Also to Be: Holding Nothing Back!

Recently I was presenting *FaithSearch* Discovery at the University of Northern Michigan at Marquette. An attendee wrote, "I need Jesus! Praise our good Lord for tonight—I almost didn't come. Thank you." This person became new in Christ that night! What if she had held back—if she hadn't come?

There's another question that burdens my heart: **What if others like her never hear because *FaithSearch* must hold back on proclaiming the Gospel because we lack the funds to go?**

I am not a pessimist, nor do I lack faith in a faithful God. He has distributed many of His resources, and they are in the hands of His people! Vernee and I, and the *FaithSearch* staff, give back to the ministry sacrificially because we see how critical it is for the salvation of many. Nevertheless, **ministry income is about \$200,000 below expenses for the 2006 calendar year** which, if not corrected, will force us to downsize. We are "pulling out all the stops"—praying that year-end giving will erase the deficit and allow us to "spare not" in proclaiming the Gospel with evidence in 2007.

Said simply, I need your help. Please pray and "do not hold back" in whatever way God calls you to help. Here are some ideas:

- General budget—Use where most needed.
- Russia matching fund—\$52,000 is needed by year end in order to receive a promise of an equal amount. We raise it all or we get nothing.
- *FaithSearch* Center—Use it for the training of pastors and lay people to multiply the USA ministry.
- India challenge fund—\$17,500 is needed to match a grant given for half the India budget.
- Latino ministry budget—\$85,000 is needed to fund this growing USA and Latin America ministry.

Vernee and I, on behalf of the entire *FaithSearch* staff, thank you for your generosity. We wish for you a Christmas season filled with great joy as you celebrate the birth of our "Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Following God's example: holding nothing back,



Dr. Don Bierle
President

P.S. As a token of my appreciation for **your gift by year end**, and to encourage you to share the Good News of Jesus, I want to send you a **FREE** copy of my new **DVD or audio CD** entitled, "**Revealing the Fingerprints of God.**" Many have professed faith in Jesus as a result of this message of the evidence for God from nature, from history and from our personal lives. It will encourage your faith as well. Just request it on the response form when you send your financial gift. Thank you.