

November 2012

Dear Friend,

The headline to the right might well have appeared in *The Jerusalem Press* on Christmas morning two thousand years ago. Now in 2012, you can read the entire scoop in the new Third Edition of *Surprised by Faith*—just days off the presses. I will send you a **FREE** copy with your year-end donation. (Please request your copy on the attached response form when you send your gift.)



The Before-Christmas Problem

In the U.S. we spend time each year making preparations for Christmas—travel plans, food, invitations, and gifts to buy or make. It’s sometimes hectic and stressful, but is mostly enjoyable and manageable. From a historical and theological point of view however, “before Christmas” was much more problematic.

The Bible says that *everyone*, regardless of geography, gender, race, and status in life, is able to observe the evidence for God in the created world. This evidence from nature, however, is not sufficient for *anyone* to know **who** He is (see Romans 1:18-20). Who is He? What’s His name?

Before Christmas, people weren’t able to see, hear, or touch God. Eager to identify their Creator, people around the world made up names and images to represent Him—330 million names for the gods of India alone. The Bible says that people “*exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles*”... and instead worshipped and served “*created things rather than the Creator*” (Romans 1:23, 25).

What else were people to do? God was invisible, intangible, and eternally elusive.

The Christmas Solution

Suddenly there was a bright light, a chorus of angels and a voice announcing the most significant event ever to occur on planet earth (Luke 2:9-14). The prophets had foretold it:

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).

The Apostle John wrote it this way: “...the Word [God] became flesh...” (John 1:14). Some years later John was still excited about what had happened: “*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).

Because of that first Christmas **everyone in the world can know who God is**. He was no longer invisible, intangible and eternally elusive!

The After-Christmas “Telling” Spree

The commercial side of Christmas emphasizes the “after-Christmas shopping spree.” But during the forty days after His resurrection the emphasis of Jesus’ teaching was for us to “**tell everyone about Me everywhere**” (Acts 1:8). That’s because He is the “Good News of great joy” (Luke 2:10)—God with us and He will save us from our sin.



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Help us MEET THE MATCH this Christmas

YES, Don and Joe, I am excited about doubling my gift so you can continue telling the Greatest News EVER.

1) My/our Year-End donation: \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

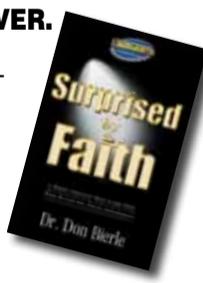
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The FaithSearch International Response

We are in our thirty-third year of doing what Jesus said—being His witnesses. The fact that God the Holy Spirit is with us is evident in the spiritual fruit which has resulted:

- The Gospel with evidence has been proclaimed in 35 states and 18 countries on four continents since 1979
- 29,000 people heard the Good News *this year* (Est. over 2,000,000 since 1979)
- 473 made commitments to follow Christ *this year* (Est. over 70,000 since 1979)
- Multiplied the message by training 16,138 Discovery teachers since 1979
- **FaithSearch** has trained twelve staff evangelists to proclaim the Gospel since 1979

We are committed to His mission, which is our mission: To proclaim the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere!



Oleg Voskresensky training Russian nationals to use **FaithSearch** ministry tools

Your Response

When you pray for us and give a financial gift to **FaithSearch**, we become your hands and feet to a spiritually lost world. Your partnership with us is recognized by the Lord Jesus the same as the evangelist who proclaims the message:

“Whoever welcomes God’s messenger...will share in his reward; ... And remember this! Whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers, because he is my follower, will certainly receive his reward” (Matthew 10:40-42 TEV).

Look at the brief testimonies in the “What People Are Saying” section of the enclosed newsletter, and in my field report on the back. **You can claim those testimonies before the Lord as if you had touched them yourself when you are a financial contributor to FaithSearch.**

Double Your Reward – and I’ll Also Include a New Third Edition of *Surprised by Faith*

A friend of **FaithSearch** has made a faith promise to us: “I will match every gift in response to this Christmas letter, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000.” We are praising the Lord for this! But we only get the money if we can match it. You know our financial need is urgent—and I know you don’t want us to miss this gift. **Give generously and your gift will be doubled!**

As an extra incentive to help us reach this \$25,000 goal before the end of the calendar year, I will send a FREE copy of my just-printed Third Edition of *Surprised by Faith*. It includes significant updates to the manuscript evidence, and an entirely new section on faith. Read it to encourage your own faith, then pass it on to someone who is struggling in his or her faith—or who has no faith at all. That way you also are helping to tell everyone about Jesus—just as He commanded—the One who is God and will save them from their sin.

The **FaithSearch** staff is praying for you that your relationship with Jesus, the “Good News of great joy” will sustain and encourage you this holiday season and throughout the New Year.



Celebrating Christ in this Christmas season,

Dr. Don Bierle
President

