

December 2009

WONDERS OF SCIENCE



“... bringing life to science”

WONDERS OF SCIENCE IS A MINISTRY OF WHITTIER CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ORTNER FAMILY!

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

He is the one we proclaim through Wonders of Science. Thank you, friends, for continuing to make that proclamation possible. Have a wonderful celebration this Christmas with your family and friends and we know you will take every opportunity to share the good news with those around you.

*A very Merry Christmas,
Dean, Terry and family*



Dean, Terry, Steven, Amber & Matthew Dean Ortner,
Timothy & Stacy Valencia, Robert & Stephanie Melotti.

Winona Lake Prophecy Conference

For two days in between programs we attended a local prophecy conference. One guest speaker addressing the group was a former advisor to President Bush. This speaker was a Jewish scholar helping that administration understand the Jewish people's challenges. It was his first time ever to speak before a group of hundreds of conservative Christians, all waving miniature Israeli flags and strong supporters of Israel. He was moved emotionally and invited the director of the Friends of Israel organization to speak to his Jewish contacts in Washington, D.C. Finally many Jewish leaders are coming to realize the only real friends they have in this world are conservative evangelical Christians.



Dean with Israeli Christian Pastor
Meno Kalisher.

Douglas Machine, Inc. Alexandria, MN

On many occasions over the years we have had the distinct privilege of speaking at various corporate offices and manufacturing plants. This past summer as we returned to California from Michigan, our next program was scheduled at a high tech design and manufacturing plant in Minnesota.

The founders were wise in their realization that man is more than just an "educated beefsteak" and that the spiritual aspect of life needs to be addressed along with the physical. The company has voluntary devotions each week and Wonders of Science was approached to provide that ministry as we passed through in late August.



Dean with Mr. Vern Peterson, Co-founder of Douglas Machine, Inc.



Engineers who gathered for devotions.

This warm reception of us was not unexpected considering upper mid-west hospitality. After my presentation one of the founders took the time to give me a detailed personal tour of his expanding company. This company is now developing fast, automated digital DNA scanning/sampling equipment that will increase analysis throughput by several orders of magnitude. This tour brought back memories of long ago when I was present in high security labs at Monsanto where the first genetically cloned plants were developed. It took literally days to get the results needed to proceed. Now we could know in minutes!

As evidenced by the numerous international flags present in the main fabrication building, Douglas Machine equipment is highly regarded around the world (see photo above).

MARANATHA BIBLE CONFERENCE, MICHIGAN

One of the high points last summer was re-uniting with Tim and Eileen Ostrander. Tim was my former department supervisor as a Vice President of Moody Bible Institute at the time. He now directs the highly respected Maranatha Bible Conference in northern Michigan. At the same time it was also an opportunity to re-unite with Don and Nancy Leach. Don was Vice President and Treasure at Moody and also Division Manager of Moody Institute of Science. The "offspring" of Moody's Sermons From Science is now the current Wonders of Science.

We experienced wonderfully responsive overflow crowds and had tremendous opportunities to introduce visitors to the high quality media materials we carry from Illustra Media, Answers in Genesis and many others.

A side blessing was the opportunity to preach in a local church. Pastor Steve Rumley, Sheridan Drive Baptist Church, Muskegon, MI continues to stand resolutely on the Word of God and has a powerful teaching ministry.



BE INVOLVED!

Praise:

- Thank you Lord for a safe summer tour.
- Thank you for the decisions made for the Lord and the seeds that were planted..
- Thank you for such wonderful support from so many.

Prayer:

- Continued invitations from churches and schools.
- Continued year-round support for our ministry.

**Wonders of Science
Counts on You!**

LOG CABIN FELLOWSHIP - While presenting the programs in Ottawa, IL, we received a call from the home office in California. A family was trying to get in touch with us before we left the Ottawa, IL area. I called the party and was not expecting to experience a “call from Macedonia” as it turned out to be.

No visions or dreams, but an earnest request to come and present a program series on their log cabin porch! They lived about 2 ½ hours away and wouldn't be able to drive down to see the current presentation. Would we possibly have an opening to come up there over a weekend? It so happened that we did have two open days, the only open time available that summer!



As it turned out, the family of 8 children were home schooled and the father, a Chicago corporate lawyer, mainly worked out of his home. He and his wife purposely designed a remote log cabin in which to raise their family and at the same time provide an outreach to their rural area. The family regularly sings and performs at churches and conventions. Their huge second level porch would accommodate 60 to 80 people for their Sunday fellowship.

As we drove further and further through the remote northern Illinois woods, over rolling hills, past corn and bean fields, I began to wonder what we'd gotten ourselves into. Finally the last country path (“road”) appeared as we came around a curve near an old farmstead. Taking that road to the back of the property, there it was, a beautiful two-story log cabin with the whole charming family welcoming our arrival.

Our hosts so graciously opened their home to us for our program.

The screened porch was covered with black plastic and chairs and benches were brought in as I set up the equipment for the Sunday morning and afternoon programs.



The chairs and benches are set up in the Log Cabin for the program and then Dean presents WOS to those in a standing-room only crowd.



We had a wonderful reception! One visitor brought a group of a dozen Chinese exchange students from Mainland China; some having never been under the influence of the gospel before. Just imagine what the Lord could do through their changed hearts. We sent their leader a Chinese version of the Illustra Media DVD “Unlocking the Mystery of Life.” As new translations become available, this will be another open door for the gospel.

Dean and Terry with a visiting group of Internationals from China (above).

OTTAWA, ILLINOIS



For several years we have been hoping for an opening in our schedule to answer a long-standing request. It finally happened! The Association of Free Lutheran Churches in a north central Illinois rural area had never tried a unified area outreach for their many small communities.

Freedom Lutheran Church in Ottawa, IL., had just built a fantastic multi-purpose auditorium behind the original church building and offered to host the Wonders of Science presentations. In addition, they planned dinners and fun things for the children and teens to do each evening prior to the programs to make it more convenient for those who had to drive a distance to attend. One of Freedom's elders,

Steve Jameson, had attended the Wonders of Science programs when he was a younger man. He shared that what he had heard and seen at those presentations had marked a turning point in his walk with God. His desire was that the people of his community would have the same opportunity to hear God's amazing truth through the vehicle of Wonders of Science.

I made the rounds visiting five different parishes on Sunday morning to promote the series and was enthusiastically received at each one. One minister who had never been involved in a group outreach before called the chairman of the association and expressed his desire to be a part of the experience. That call was such a blessing to the chairman.

A video taping crew drove in from Chicago to tape the series for later programming. The church's volunteer staff went way above the call of duty as they ministered to so many guests and parish members. The commitment to invite non-churched friends and co-workers was so evident. Many visitors one might never have expected to attend were present and returned nightly.

One program attendee offered her thanks to Terry at the media table for our coming to their community saying, "We parents are so overwhelmed! Thank you more than I can say! This is so needed!"

One personal thrill for us was to be invited to the association's summer retreat a few weeks later. Terry and I had a few days open before another program series and invested that time at their retreat. We were so impressed with the clear Bible teaching and their strong admonition to stand firmly on the Word of God and to make no distracting compromises in order to be socially acceptable while performing ministry.



Dean presents to a crowded house (top left picture).

Above a young man struggles to lay the suitcase down.

Many families enjoy fellowship together at the dinners.

ACSI Teacher's Convention

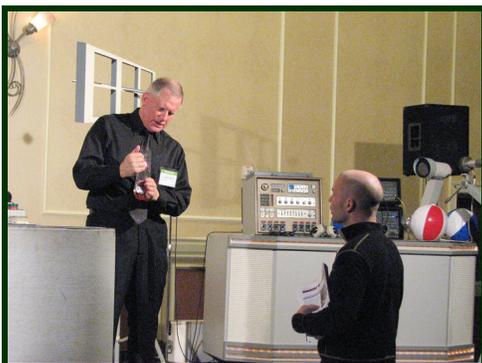
The southwest regional director of the Association of Christian Schools International made a specific request to Wonders of Science for two special presentations at this year's ACSI Teachers Convention. The request was for the Million Volts! Apparently last year's comment cards turned in after our workshop showed that the teachers were interested in hearing again from WOS.

Since it took all of Sunday afternoon and evening and much of Monday just to set up all the equipment, the seminars were held on Tuesday late morning and early afternoon. Many teachers had completed all their requirements and had left to get home for the holidays. So, the audience was larger for the first of the two programs.

Never the less, it seems more interest was generated with resulting discussions and requests for visits to various communities after the second presentation in which the crowds were lower in number.

A Youth Pastor who had driven seven hours to come to the convention, asked Dean if he could come to his church to help reach his youth.

It has always been such a blessing to attend the convention, and an even greater one to be able to contribute to others with ideas and assistance in understanding complex information.





Dean and accompanying officer.

Finally Free Behind Bars

For many decades, Wonders of Science has had an ongoing prison ministry providing visiting, discipleship and encouragement to our nation's incarcerated. There is a saying that everyone in prison is innocent. If you ask many inmates, that is what they will tell you. So, as with any of us, the Lord needs to convict of sin first, through His Spirit, Then if we are honest, we will deal with it, accept His salvation and His subsequent cleansing.

My early trips to Folsom, Leavenworth, Terminal Island and others less well known continue as the Lord provides opportunity and support; chaplains have little funding for outside programming. Of late, it has been effective to send study materials, lectures/sermons I've given and encouraging notes.

In one particular maximum security prison, one of the inmates accepted Jesus as his Savior and was so dramatically changed that the guards and the warden thought he was on some kind of drugs. So, they kept making unscheduled "raids" at his cell and tested him at all hours of the day or night. Finally, as he kept assuring them, the guards and officials realized that this Jesus to whom the inmate was attributing his change had really made a difference. They now treat him with more deference and he's actually had guards come to him for counsel on any number of life's challenges.

This inmate began a Bible study, now attended by an amazing cross section of offenders from gang hit men to white-collar crime. Some even coming out of a religion that kills converts who leave (special prayer has been requested by these men).

What is exciting is that as some of these men become established in the Word, they, in the course of prison life, get transferred to other units. There, another Bible study is established and so it goes. WOS sends out about two-dozen packets every other month to just one complex alone in which there are several Bible studies in progress!

We have received letters expressing thanks for our support, instructions and encouragement. We particularly hear of their gratitude for an un-compromising, no excuse position on the Word of God. These inmates have compromised their way into unlawful acts and are tired of that path as their letters indicate. A number have realized that God had to hit them with a baseball bat to get their attention, and they wouldn't trade their salvation experience for their current circumstances.

As some are released into society again, we pray that they will find a solid church and family of supportive believers to assist them in their new walk with the Lord.

COMMENT CORNER...

A comment during his public address from a minister who had seen the first three nights but missed the last night reported this statement by his teenaged son as to how the last program went. The son said, "It was 'totally epic,' the best day of my life!" Thanks for being willing and able to do this.

-- President, local ministerial association --

"The NCAP board meeting was interesting. There was lots of excitement and talk about your presentations. [A member] mentioned how it has really energized their church and wants to try to do some sort of district event like this every year. All the pastors were in hearty agreement, and are excited to hear that you're coming to camp. I think you and Terry will be popular people."

-- Board Member --

"After Dr. Ortner spoke at one of our parish congregations I received a call from the senior minister. He had not ever called before to be included in any of our previous united community events, but he was so excited about the coming Wonders of Science presentations after hearing Dr. Ortner and asked what he could do to help promote it and be a part of the experience. I look forward to a closer relationship in the future."

-- Chairman of Parish Council --

"I'm sorry, I've wandered off the true path of Jesus. I want to come back into your Bible study. Would it be okay to start receiving the materials again from Wonders of Science? I shouldn't have told you to have them stop sending them to me!"

-- Inmate, maximum security (40 years) --

"Pray for my safety! I have told my leader that I no longer believe his way, but that I have accepted Jesus' way, the only way to true peace from sin and for society."

-- Inmate --

"I feel so bad about all those people I killed. They will never have a chance to hear about the love of Jesus and become believers."

-- Inmate (former gang hit man) --

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ECFA Member
Organization



ACSI Accredited



WASC Accredited

**Check Out Our Website at:
WWW.WhittierChristian.org**

Address Correction Requested

“You Mean That Christians Believe In Science?”

While driving through Millersville, PA, on a Sunday outing, a young couple with two small children noticed the signs for Millersville Bible Church and the science themed VBS program. It was late in the day when they pulled up to the locked glass door entrance. Seeing Terry and our hosts, Mr. & Mrs. Almond, inside vacuuming the rugs, they signaled that they had a need. “We are two hours from home and every business is closed, do you possibly have a restroom that our two little girls could use.”

Once inside they and their children were fascinated with the tables set up with experiments, interactive models in motion: Ferris wheels, inertia powered racing roller coaster cars, flowers with multiple colors from split stems pushed into separate test tubes filled with colored water, etc. and Dean finalizing the science equipment setup on stage.

They questioned what this place was and were informed it was a Christian church facility and the church was getting ready for a week of Vacation Bible School. The father exclaimed that this was better than any science museum he'd ever been to! Then he made an interesting remark, “You mean that Christians believe in Science?” Terry had a lengthy and wonderful time explaining to him that science was just how we learn more about how our Creator God operates His universe. He excitedly agreed. He then indicated that he and his wife were Jewish with technical backgrounds. He said that if they lived closer they would send their children to the VBS. He asked what else the church believed and the Almonds shared more of Jesus, the Messiah. In the meantime Terry retrieved from our trailer some printed and media materials, which they gladly accepted. Please pray for this young couple that our Lord would touch their hearts through the message in the materials and the warm acceptance shown them on their visit.

Merry Christmas from Wonders of Science!