

# WONDERS OF SCIENCE

“... bringing life to science”

WONDERS OF SCIENCE IS A MINISTRY OF WHITTIER CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



## Malstrom Air Force Base Space Command, Great Falls, Montana

We couldn't have asked for better traveling conditions on our initial trip to Montana! Every car accident, every traffic back-up and every road construction was on the other side of the Interstate! We sailed all the way from Los Angeles to Malmstrom AFB Space Command with no hindrances whatsoever.

The temperatures that week were horrendous, but I'd added some special compound to the radiator fluid that advertised it would help the

engine run cooler and it actually worked. By 20 degrees as advertised! We also drove about 15 mph under the 75 mph speed limit and gained an extra 45 miles of travel per tank of gas. At \$3.20 a gallon, that saved us a lot.

Upon arriving, we jumped right into the fire of ministry. Unloading, speaking to several commands and meeting

commanders and staff. We closed the evening by accepting an invitation to a Hawaiian luau which was attended by the new Base Commander (who introduced us one of the evenings) and most of the other commanders and officers with their families. What a great opportunity to meet and invite them to the upcoming programs. The military family is very close and very supportive of each other. They have



*Dean had a great time with the Military Police Officers at the Security Center.*

strong, patriotic convictions and really represent the finest of Americans. What an honor to be here presenting the gospel to such committed citizens.

Our initial interaction with the troops was at the Security Center and they thoroughly enjoyed watching their fellow military police officers attempting to catch the “criminal beach balls.” What a riot! They all expressed eager anticipation to attend the week's science demos at the base theater.



*"Even 'The Long Arm Of The Law' of a Military Police Officer at 6' 9" is unable to capture Dean's beach balls while wearing*

### Wow, Is This a Rough Road or What?

Some 25 minutes after leaving Conrad, MT, I commented to Terry that the heavy grain hauling trucks must have broken up the Interstate road. The trailer and truck were really being bounced around in the right lane so I moved to the left since there was no traffic. Moments later I felt a chattering vibration in the steering wheel and wondered aloud whether or not we'd lost a front wheel balance weight.

The last town for many miles through desert country was coming up so we pulled off for fuel. Terry did a walk-around while I headed to a group of people to ask the whereabouts of a tire store. She called me back to point out that one of the trailer tires was losing tread and parts of the tire were running on the cord. The trailer tongue had coupled the vibrations up to the truck chassis so effectively that it felt as if the truck tires were the problem.

With that taken care of we had no more incidents until we returned home and replaced a loose brake spring and adjusting caliper. We thank the Lord for His watch care on this tour.



# “...three...two...one...initiate! Missiles away!”

Those are words no Air Force “missileer” ever wants to hear. No single individual can launch the missiles from their hidden underground silos. Each missile site has a hardened cement capsule that looks like a pill. There are two “missileers” in each capsule. They must receive a coded message, verify it against the codes locked in their double locked box (each person has a separate key that only opens one lock), verify it against the command center code, then if the command center has its keys turned, then the two persons in the capsule must both turn their keys within a fraction of a second of each other to activate the launch sequence.

The duty cycle of the personnel is five days and since the area covered by Malmstrom’s hundreds of Minuteman missiles covers an area the size of the state of Virginia, many of the airmen and officers would not be able to see the Wonders of Science programs presented that week in the base theater. One of the chaplains arranged a visit to the staging area where the security forces were getting ready to deploy for their weeklong mission. It was a singular privilege to be able to speak with such dedicated men and women who protect our nation’s arsenal with their lives.



Dean looks very small standing in front of this Minuteman missile display.



His buddies enjoy watching him grab for the ball that has already passed him on the left.

They expressed some frustration in not being able to attend the week’s science demos at the base theater, but were excited to hear that the programs would be video taped for replay at the Airmen’s Center once they were off duty. One concern we had heard from the chaplains was that after these airmen spend a week locked in a cement capsule underground, they really need to unwind and the attendance for Wonders of Science could be affected at the base theater. The Lord saw to it that the theater was nearly filled from the first night on!

Another unique opportunity came when we were asked to present an hour’s program to the installation’s summer youth day care program. Here were youngsters ranging in age from five to about 14 and they thoroughly enjoyed the special program. Since it was located right next to the base theater

it was easy to point out where the evening’s programs were being held so they could bring their parents to hear “the rest of the story.”

Of even greater importance to the programs was the opportunity to provide DVD’s and books to the many interested personnel. Terry was inundated with questions and requests for follow-up materials that those attending could take with them. These will extend and augment the outreach of WOS for many months and years to come. In just the few years that we’ve handled media materials, we’ve seen thousands of DVD’s and books “left behind” for continued ministry!

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Looks like he finally was able to follow the path of the ball!

In addition to the awesome support from the chaplains, I received one of the greatest honors afforded a civilian. I was asked to speak at the Commander's Call for the 341<sup>st</sup> Logistics Support Squadron. At that particular event awards were to be given out to select personnel for their outstanding contributions to the Air Force Space Command. We all stood at attention for perhaps 20

minutes while the various accomplishments were read for each recipient and then after the Commander's comments I was given the platform for the next hour and a half.



Dean was honored to receive the Distinguished Service Medallion.



The stutter machine always brings big laughs during the programs..

Once I had concluded my talk I was asked to remain at the lectern and was then honored with the Air Force Distinguished Service Medallion presented by the 341<sup>st</sup> Logistics Squadron Commander. I was humbled beyond words. Those in the audience were the ones who really qualified for such an honor, but I was so appreciative to have been recognized for the 35 years of ministry service to our country's armed forces.

## Big Sky Country

What a joyous reunion with a dear pastor and his family in Conrad, MT. Terry was able to meet them this time since my last visit alone six years ago. It was a phone call from this pastor, Pete Wetendorf at Conrad Mission Church that initiated our unscheduled trip up north after the hurricanes postponed our scheduled tour to Florida into 2008.

The scheduled programs had to be confirmed right in the middle of the harvest season, but the Lord brought a good number (His select group) to each evening. The pastor was pleased to see so many new faces visiting the auditorium. Some in attendance had been prayed for by friends for years that they might come under the influence of a gospel presentation. Seeing those prayers finally answered brought excited comments.

One amazing site the pastor told me to watch for was a very committed church member who operated a harvesting business. Every Sunday he would release his entire combine operating crew and they would all take up two rows in the church auditorium, faithfully attending services. Since I was privileged to give the Sunday sermon that weekend, they heard two different messages, one from the Scriptures in the morning and one from science that evening. It happened to be the Million Volt demo for which they were thrilled.

We were also privileged to visit a thriving Hutterite colony and meet the pastor/leader, an acquaintance of Pastor Wetendorf. He was very excited to meet "the scientist who is also a man of faith." The self-sufficient colony structure is similar to that of the Amish, though a bit more reclusive.

### COMMENT CORNER...

*"Thank you for providing such fantastic materials that we can take with us after your programs. I have so many friends who couldn't attend and children that are out of state. These are just what I need to have a ministry in their lives." -- Program Attendee*

*"One of our members told me they were so pleased to see a particular family at the science programs. They had prayed over the years and no one had ever seen them in a church. They really didn't expect them to come, yet there they were!" -- Local pastor*

*"I wondered if it was for this particular family that we'd been prompted to bring the programs way up to Montana this summer and subsequent incidents like this one occurred over and over during the entire tour!"*

*"It is only because of the faithful support of sacrificial friends that these programs can continue to meet the Lord's directed steps. Thank you for making this summer's ministry possible!" -- Dean Ortner*

## MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA



Day camp children were invited to a special program.

Grace Community Church of Mariposa, CA has been such a consistently faithful supporting church over the decades. We've been privileged to be a part of their local outreach several times over the years. One memorable event scheduled at the local fair grounds drew such huge crowds that the mayor introducing me wondered where all these people had come from. This church is very committed to solid Biblical instruction and community outreach. It was evident when, again, half the crowds were new to the congregation. Over and over again we heard comments expressing joy that this or that person or family had chosen to attend the science programs.

Wonders of Science is designed to be low key initially to counter any wariness on the part of the skeptical visitor. As they return each evening, perhaps out of curiosity, the gospel is presented in a more involved way and the Scripture instilled in the listener's mind gives the Spirit something from which to draw and convict.

An added opportunity was provided when our hostess/organizer invited the County Parks and Recreation Offices to bring the young people involved in their summer day camp to a special daytime science program. Since this was a secular group, we gave them the science, but invited them to the evening programs to see the whole presentation. Perhaps many of these youth had never been under the influence of a "Creator oriented" science program and many were challenged to hear that complex "accidents" do not just happen by chance.



Gerry, Melissa and Daryel Lee of the Mariposa Coffee Company.

Our delightful host family lived on the grounds of an old stagecoach station. The livery stable was their garage, and the passenger eating area was now The Mariposa Coffee Company which ships worldwide! We learned more in our week's stay about buying, roasting, blending and shipping coffee than we had in our entire lives. Our interactions with the very bright and capable owners were stimulating and challenging. What impressed me most was the careful time they took with each of their customers, analyzing their real needs and carefully bringing the conversation around to options only the Lord could provide.

## WCS WONDERS OF SCIENCE

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