

WONDERS OF SCIENCE

“... bringing life to science”

WONDERS OF SCIENCE IS A MINISTRY OF WHITTIER CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



Our “Call to Macedonia”

We have had to live our ministry lives by faith day by day at times. I realize one is supposed to do that everyday, but most of us really experience relatively smooth sailing here in the USA. Those of us in various types of “full time ministry” have to deal with so many variables because of the unknowns coming at us almost constantly.

Many of you might remember our last tour to Florida and the southern US. We had just left an area of ministry the afternoon before, then the first hurricane devastated Punta Gorda, FL. We then made it out of Pensacola, FL days before they were hit by another hurricane!

The result was that our scheduled tour for that area this summer had to be postponed until 2008. This is the first time, to my knowledge, in 75 years that an entire summer ministry has opened up so dramatically. We prayed and asked God to keep us in the center of His will, whatever that may be.

Then, from a totally unexpected area, we received a call, “I realize it’s been six years since we’ve had you up here, but my congregation and the town’s people have been asking when we’d have that ‘science guy’ back again. So, I just went ahead and took a chance and called you.”

That call was from a community in Montana, not Macedonia, but they do begin with the same letter. Anyway, there is another slant to the story. Near that Canadian border community is an Air Force Space Command site at Malmstrom AFB (hmmm, another “M”). I called the current chaplain to let him know that we could be in the area and he was astounded at the coincidence. His father, now retired, had been a chaplain and had invited me to his installation decades ago. “I was just a boy when I saw you and I’ve never forgotten the programs! Yes, by all means, we’d love to have Wonders of Science at our installation!”

The concluding program of the summer series will be held in Mariposa, CA (yikes, another “M”). Grace Community Church has been such a faithful supporter and they have hosted several area-wide outreaches with Wonders of Science in the past.



US Air Force Minuteman missile.



Dean receives welcome assistance from Dennis Mohler, a colleague who has helped build and repair the Wonders of Science equipment over the past few decades.

Pray for this unusual series of events that have come about and for whatever the Lord has planned. Just when you cannot imagine how things can possibly work out, the Lord comes through as usual and provides in ways we never even considered. That is one of the reasons the Christian life is so exciting. There are so many variables in life no one could possibly control every aspect of their destiny. How comforting it can be to rest in His grace and trust Him in all things.



July 30 - August 2	Malmstrom Air Force Base, MT
Aug. 3-6	Conrad Mission Church, Conrad, MT
Aug. 10-13	Grace Comm. Church, Mariposa, CA

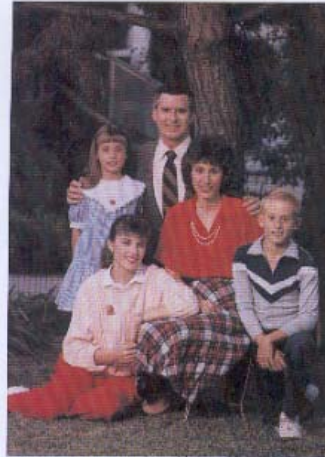
I Was Actually Speechless...!

The principal met each teacher early that day and asked us to bring our classes down to the chapel for an announcement at break. It's not often that happens so we knew it was important, but had no idea what was up. Once the auditorium was filled the students grew quiet because this was not a normal assembly time.

I was paying attention to certain students that need a little extra notice now and then while our principal, Mr. Sowell, began to address the school by reading some information from a book that he was holding. Things got really quiet and I began to hear some words that I recognized; personal words about my family and me! My ears perked up, I looked over at him and the whole school was looking at me. As a relatively shy person, uncomfortable with being in front of people, I got a little embarrassed. Then I realized what was happening and I was dumbfounded! Mr. Sowell was reading the school's annual dedication and it was dedicated to me! I was numb. I heard none of the applause and cheering from our supportive students. This cannot be happening to me, I thought. The people to whom the annual has been dedicated in the past have been stalwart pillars in our school. I have admired them unreservedly for years.

Woodenly, as if a robot, I "stumble-walked" to the front, humbled completely even to be named among such an august company of former honorees. Mr. Sowell asked if I wanted to say anything. All I could get out was a whisper, "You know me, I'm a man of few words."

As I returned to my seat, he chuckled because he had known what my sister-in-law once jokingly said about me, "If you ever ask Dean Ortner a question, be prepared for an answer!"



Dedication

Dean Ortner runs our WCS ministry, "Wonders of Science" and teaches our junior high Science classes. "Wonders of Science" was started at Moody Institute by Irwin Moody who started using science experiments to bring the message of the marvel of our universe to his congregation. Mr. Ortner took over the platform in 1976.

When Moody canceled the program WCS decided to take on this important ministry to keep the message going. Dean joined the staff of WCS in 2000 as the Science Chair and Science Teacher at Whittier Christian Jr. High, as well as continuing "Wonders of Science."

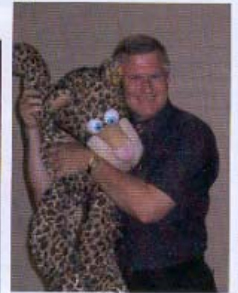
Mr. Ortner teaches during the year and does local presentations on weekends and holidays. During the summer he and his wife, Terry, travel around the US sharing the ministry that God has given to them. As a result of this ministry each year many people come to faith in Christ and many others are strengthened in their faith.

Last year, Mr. Ortner designed and launched what has become our annual "Science Camp" for 7th grade students at WCJH. This is a week-long camp in which the students share in hands-on experiments as they learn of the wonder of God.

One of the highlights of Mr. Ortner's program is his "Million Volt Man" demonstration. It is part of his traveling program and has been included in the Science Camp. During this presentation a million volts of electricity are passed through his body to light a wooden board on fire while he is holding it in his hands. It is a spectacular demonstration of the power of God's design.

Mr. Ortner and his wife have 3 children: Stephanie, Steven, and Stacey.

We are so blessed that Mr. Ortner is part of our school staff, and thank God for the ongoing impact he has with our students and families.



Wonders of Science pictures were a big part of the dedication page for the annual.

WCS WONDERS OF SCIENCE

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