

# WONDERS OF SCIENCE



“... bringing life to science”

WONDERS OF SCIENCE IS A MINISTRY OF WHITTIER CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

## The Ortners Meet The Author

Over the past several years there has been a recurring question posed to us by our audiences. What on earth is going on in our churches? So many have asked this that we began to take notice of some common trends and philosophical shifts on our cross-country science tours.

What we came to realize was a very gradual shift toward an “ultra tolerant” viewpoint that accepted more and more of the world’s philosophy by leaving more and more Biblical content out of the churches. Whenever a particular viewpoint was challenged, the questioning church member was shown scripture that seemed to support that position, yet, back at home, *their* Bible seemed to say something different.



It was a pleasure to meet Dr. Kerby Fannin and his wife Annette.

Dr. Kerby Fannin, former director of a biological research station, had these same questions raised in his own mind and has gone a further step in attempting to answer them. After some five years of extensive research, interviews and thousands of miles of travels, he and his wife Annette have published “While Men Slept” to help us all answer part of the question as to how we got to where we are in the church.

After reading the book, we were so excited about making it available to those attending a Wonders of Science presentation that we ordered a case and it was gone the first night we made mention of the title. I called Dr. Fannin for another case, but since our summer tour was over, we decided to pick it up on our way back to California and save the postage. He and Annette were most gracious and invited us to dinner after we toured their new facility. Our evening was invested in fascinating conversation as they told us of their initial questions prompting the further research that ultimately resulted in the 600 page, fully documented book.

It is a revealing read and moves quickly through intrigue after intrigue quoting memos, letters discovered between translators as well as those of the philosophical mentors to their disciples.

In addition to the list of videos we offer on the enclosed flyer, please seriously consider adding “While Men Slept” to your gift list, first to yourself, then to your pastor and any Bible teacher who desires to be a careful student of God’s word.

### COMMENT CORNER...

*“It was a blessing to have met you on the men's retreat last year. You sent me info about the Bethlehem Star, Noah's genealogy and the Gospel In The Stars. I wanted to write you and thank you for being in God's service. You have affected young and old minds alike. May God continue to bless you. May His face shine upon you.”*

**-- State’s Attorney --**

*“It has been an absolute THRILL to meet you/work with you (a career highlight)! Thank you for challenging me scientifically and spiritually. I am changed and I thank you. Best wishes!”*

**-- Science Professor, Univ. of Ohio --**

*“I wish Mr. Ortner would come back to our church and do a full weekend series.”*

**-- Previous Program Attendee --**

## Out of Darkness...Back Into Light!

It had been a long day for us traveling through Oklahoma to Missouri where we finally found a place to stay for the night. We pulled into a truck stop/motel and I parked in an open area near the front door to check for vacancy. Just as I reached for the door handle a bearded man came out of the dark, carrying a suitcase and said, "You can't park there!"

I assured him that the engine was idling, that I was only checking on vacancy and would move it right away. He walked to the other end of the counter while I checked with the clerk who promptly gave us a room. I glanced over at him on my way out and he was watching me through those haunting black eyes that had startled me earlier. Deep down inside, I was hoping he wasn't a homeless person looking for money. I was so tired and my policy of never giving out money, but instead, purchasing a dinner or clothing for those in need would take quite some time for interaction and witnessing. I needed sleep.

As I headed for the exit to return to the truck, I noticed him heading toward me in an unusual walk I'd noticed before. He moved along by rolling his shoulders slightly as though swimming, but the lower part of his body moved in small shuffling steps, as though belonging to a completely different person. He came right up in my face, made a strange twisting motion with his fist and index finger as he pointed (drilled) right between my eyes and said, "Are you ready?"

That I had not expected. He could have meant most anything, but because of the unusual circumstances, I returned an answer as bold as the question he'd posed. "Yes, I said, with all the conviction I could muster at the time, "My wife and I are ready to meet the Lord and are awaiting His soon return!"

Immediately, he threw both of his arms in the air and I stepped back a foot or so. He danced a little jig then said, "You are one of the few people I've met who answered that correctly! If anyone doesn't understand the question, I ask them if they would be willing to look at a book to learn what Nicodemus should have known, but didn't. If they come back to me with the right answer I give them some gas money for their trip."

I thanked him for having such an unusual ministry and returned to the truck, feeling his eyes following me out the exit. I closed the truck door, looked at Terry and said, "You're not going to believe this, but I think we just might have encountered an angel!"

After the truck was parked behind the motel, I was again startled to see the same man coming out of the dark toward us. All kinds of internal alarms went off! I moved in front of Terry, raised my bag to hold it over my chest making it ready for a block or for something to throw as a diversion. I needn't have worried though because he only wanted amplification on some scripture verse I'd shared. Earlier, while we stood in line for rooms, he had asked what a Californian was doing in the middle of Missouri and I told him about Wonders of Science.

The longer we chatted, the more excited he became. Terry was patient because this kind of thing happens often to public speakers after programs or sermons. Ultimately, with some of his questions answered, he walked back into the darkness of the parking lot, shaking his head and muttering, "I never met anyone who ever knew the answer to that before."

As I reflected on that comment, I was not flattered because the type of people one normally encounters at truck stops would not be expected to know much about Jewish history, archaeology and customs. I was, however, impressed with his understanding and contribution to our conversation. I think it was as much of a surprise to me as it was to him as I reflected on the paths our discussion followed. We covered subjects from Plato to Jungian philosophy, Old Testament and Egyptian archaeology to the writings of the early Church Fathers as well as Shakespeare, Newton and Longfellow.

At times, he would raise up his hand and point his index finger right at my eyes and make that twisting motion as though drilling. It was his way of getting excited about a point upon which we both agreed. It seemed threatening at first until I understood his mannerisms. His dark eyes bored in as he emphasized point after point. The discussions were pleasant because we agreed on nearly everything we discussed. He kept shaking his head and staring off into space, repeating the phrase, "I can't believe it, this must be of God!" Personally, I was thinking the same thing. Encounters like this are rare and probably for the purpose of mutual edification, a confirmation that there are others out there who are as excited and committed to the scriptures as is one's self.

The next morning, while we were getting ready to leave, I went to the lobby to get some milk for our cereal. There he was again and asked if he could buy me a glass of juice and then show me something from his truck. I had a little time so I agreed. We got a table and he said, "Don't leave just yet, I need to show you something and ask some final questions."

Continued on next page.

### Out of Darkness...Back Into Light (continued)

By this time I was really curious, wondering if we were “entertaining angels” because of the unusual circumstances of our initial and on-going encounter. He returned five minutes later with a handful of books, one of which was “The DaVinci Code.”

“Oh, oh!” I thought, “how could he be so grounded on things in so many areas and yet be reading this nonsense?” He brought up point after point and I gradually realized, it was I who was being “tested” and not him searching for understanding. He was totally familiar with the errors and mis-leading statements the author of “The DaVinci Code” was proposing in an attempt to discredit the Bible and the Lord’s divinity.

At the end of that morning’s conversation, he just shook his head saying, “I just can’t believe it, I just can’t believe it! I finally found someone to talk with. You and your wife have been such a blessing to me. The life of cross-country trucking is so lonely. Thank you for such an edifying conversation.”

We shook hands in parting and he placed a \$50 bill in my palm saying, “Here is a half tank of gas for your truck so you and your wife can continue spreading the gospel of our Lord Jesus. Money means nothing to me.”

He still would not give his name, saying that it wasn’t important. I then asked where he was from. He said, “Everywhere and nowhere. It doesn’t matter”.

“John Doe” then shuffled off, swimming toward the morning light, a light that seemed so much brighter than the darkness from which he’d come the night before.

### East Meets West...Again!

Some years ago an engineer named Ed attended a program I’d presented in Philadelphia, PA. With so many common interests we became friends immediately. Some years later Ed was contacted by a Russian engineer to see if he knew of any scientists with whom he might consult regarding his desire to publish some current research. Ed knew of the books I’d had published and thought I could at least be of some help to the man.

Since neither Ed nor I spoke Russian, all of our correspondence with the man had to go through an interpreter. The young lady with whom we were put in contact was a Moscow travel agent and spoke English fluently. Ed was the American contact for me and Lena was the Russian contact for the engineer.

Over the course of several years, Ed grew to admire the gracious way Lena handled the correspondence. So much so that he began his own correspondence and they fell in love. Ed flew to Moscow several times, married her there and they have lived in Philadelphia for the past few years.

Last summer as Terry and I were ministering in Montrose, PA we were blessed with a visit and it was especially unique because Lena’s mother, Tamila Karpacheva, was able to travel to America for the first time and visit Lena in her new home. (See picture to the right). We had such a nice time sharing Christ’s love through the bond we all have in Him.



Tamila, Lena, Ed, Terry and Dean last summer.

Whenever one meets a foreign visitor a typical question is, “So, how do you like America? What do you notice most about our country?” We were so pleased to hear the answer. Lena’s mother said, “You Americans are so nice to each other.” She was probably impressed with the basic civility that even non-Christians have for each other. That could be a reflection of the open society we have where most people basically try to do what’s right and live by the Golden Rule.

### BE INVOLVED!

- Continued contacts and opportunities to share the Gospel through Wonders of Science.
- For the Lord’s preparation of hearts and souls of those who will attend the upcoming programs this Winter.
- That God will continue to work in the hearts of those reached for Him this summer.



Wonders of Science  
Counts on You!

### **Pen Yan, New York**

We often try to stay with friends that we have made over the decades and our trip from OH to NH allowed us to visit Bob and Martha Wampler, with whom our respective children grew up together during recurring Bible conference encounters.

Danny, their youngest son, is a youth pastor in a neighboring town and he has always talked about his desire to someday bring Wonders of Science to his new church. As the Lord would have it, he and his pastor were discussing that very possibility the week before we were to pass through their community. It so happened that we were staying with his parents Saturday night and during the evening meal, at which both Danny and the pastor's family were invited, the pastor enthusiastically offered to give up his Sunday morning sermon time if I would be willing to present an hour of Wonders of Science.



We enjoyed spending time with Bob and Martha.

The response from the congregation was heartwarming. I am particularly grateful to the pastor for trusting his new, young youth pastor's judgment as to the effectiveness of WOS and its appropriateness for their community. Everyone we talked with hoped we could return soon for a full series.

*Do some early Christmas shopping...Look for order forms enclosed!*

## **WCS WONDERS OF SCIENCE**

Dean Ortner  
6548 S. Newlin Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90601  
  
Phone: 562-699-5610  
Email: WCSWonders@aol.com

**Check Out Our Website at:  
[WWW.WhittierChristian.org](http://WWW.WhittierChristian.org)**

*Address Correction Requested*



ECFA Member Organization



ACSI Accredited



WASC Accredited