

PARACLETE

ADVOCATING FOR THE TRUTH OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



FaithSearch International exists to extend the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere. *FaithSearch* International is not denominationally affiliated.

Becoming All Things, Part 1

By Adrian VanVactor,
FaithSearch Evangelist

Saying that 2020 has been an interesting year for ministries and churches worldwide would be a gross understatement. Doing church during the pandemic has changed radically. Technology now plays an essential role in feeding the body of Christ.

Not many years ago, **churches began streaming their services** to expose more and more people to their teaching and a fellowship experience with other believers. Likewise, in parts of the world where gathering as believers is



more difficult or even illegal, technology has made it possible for these fellow members of Christ's body to attain better Bible study tools, better preaching, and at times even some fellowship, albeit limited. The growth of the body of Christ in these parts of the world has been enhanced by modern technology.

When it became evident the Lord was calling me into ministry, specifically into evangelism, I did what I knew best. **I went out into the streets of my hometown and dialogued with strangers.** As I grew in my walk and developed an expanded ministry strategy, I realized that some outreach approaches are more effective than others.

I started touring overseas with a focus on the more unreached parts of the world: **South Asia, East Asia, and the Arabian Peninsula.** I discovered that the use of live performing arts was more effective in

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Biblical Law Enforcement Reform

By Dr. Don Bierle, *FaithSearch* President

The righteous nature of God is the model for human behavior. When individuals and society fall short of or depart from that standard, various degrees of dysfunction and lawlessness result. As **Stephen Parker**, a police officer in Charlotte, North Carolina, says: "We work where the devil plays...where the devil is, there is chaos...there is anger and bitterness and resentment. Where God is, there is order; there is love, joy, and peace."

What is true in the transformation of individuals and society in general, applies equally to law enforcement: **the need for new life through faith in Jesus Christ.** The apostle Paul ends his discourse on subjection to law enforcement (Romans 13) with the exhortation, "*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts*" (v. 14). The foundational solution for biblical law enforcement reform (and society's response) is evangelism. A heart filled with God the Holy Spirit is needed (see 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 5:18-25). Jesus commanded us just before He left earth: "...*repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations...*" (Luke 24:47). This is the mission of *FaithSearch*, and a good reason for your prayer and financial support.

This is not a "pipe dream." It is illustrated in the practice of many law enforcement officers. Officer Parker, a

twenty-five-year veteran, says further: "Christ plays a major role in the way I do things... I've been able to help people, to sit and listen when people want to get something off their chest." He has shared the Gospel with people he has arrested, and he will often give an arrestee time to hug his children before being taken to jail.




Eric Hubbard, a detective from Long Beach, California (also an assistant pastor and chaplain for his department) says every day is "another opportunity to serve the Lord and to represent Him."

He adds, "I speak to you as a police officer of almost nineteen years. I speak to you as an African American... I've seen people who serve because they want to help people... The media doesn't show the millions of positive contacts that officers have with

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IN MEMORIAM

Ravi Zacharias:
I n d i a - b o r n
Christian evangelist and apologist whose intellect, winsomeness, and grasp of diverse cultures helped him to gain a global hearing for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Zacharias died May 19, 2020, at the age of seventy-four.



Ravi Zacharias
(1946 – 2020)

Law Enforcement Reform

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the communities they serve. The public only hears about the encounters that end in tragedy, and they feel like that's the norm... But that's far from the norm."

A Virginia State Police trooper, **Michael Seller** seeks to bring God's grace and truth into his interactions with the public. His experience has been that "99% of us are trying to serve the community and are honorable individuals." He says that being a black police officer today is difficult "because it's almost like, 'which side are you on?' I'm not on a side... I'm on Christ's side."



The apostle Paul instructed Timothy, "*First of all, then, I urge that... prayers... and thanksgivings be made on behalf of... all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior...*" (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

1. **Pray for their minds** – they are overwhelmed with everything they endure
2. **Pray for their spirits** – they are getting beat down emotionally and spiritually
3. **Pray for their support system at home** – nurturing their marriages and children

The **Billy Graham Rapid Response Team** (RRT) holds national retreats to address the spiritual needs of sheriffs, police chiefs, and officers, including their spouses. A forty-hour course equips police officers to serve as chaplains in their department. Another course is designed to strengthen marriages of police officers. These kinds of initiatives are proactive and consistent with biblical law enforcement reform. Christian churches and individuals can help by supporting these initiatives and sponsoring local officers to attend. For more information, go to RRT.BillyGraham.org/NLEM.

Source: Some content taken from "Cops Serving Christ," Bob Paulson. *Decision Magazine*, Sept. 2020, pp. 22-23.

Becoming All Things

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some situations than technology or street preaching. Before I became a believer, I was an active competitor in the performing art of illusion.

At nineteen years of age, I even won the international event in Las Vegas. **The Lord used that skill to help me reach hundreds of thousands of young people in regions mostly closed to the Gospel.**



I am often asked whether God really uses less traditional methods—like the performing arts or technology—to change lives? I wasn't sure at first. We know that **faith comes by hearing the message concerning Christ** (Romans 10:17). Jesus said that God could make even the rocks cry out the truth if necessary (Luke 19:40).

IN THE NEWS

Parts for the Heart?

There are service departments with parts to fix everything from watches to cars. What about parts for human hearts? Japanese medical researchers have performed the **first transplant of lab-grown human heart cells.**

Adult stem cells were induced to become heart cells growing on biodegradable sheets. The sheets are attached to an ailing heart with the goal that healthy cells will replace the defective ones. If the technique works, it would be a major breakthrough to reduce reliance on whole-organ transplants. Unlike embryonic stem cells, **the use of adult stem cells does not require the destruction of a human life** and is consistent with God's intent that we exercise dominion over His creation (Genesis 1:28).



Source: *Answers Magazine*, July-Aug 2020, Vol. 15, No. 3, p. 20

The spiritual fruit I experienced gave me the answer. Like the apostle Paul, I resolved to "become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). In whatever way His truth is communicated, God is at work.

I've been on **fifty international tours**, primarily among the most-unreached people groups on earth. I have openly proclaimed the Gospel in situations and in venues where others have not, simply because I used a differ-

ent platform, a tool, to gain permission to share God's truth.

Forty years ago, **Dr. Don was in living rooms using a white board.** Now he uses PowerPoint® graphics, videos, microphones, and projectors to share the Gospel with evidence. From Gospel tracts to the Jesus Film®; from living room sharing to large multimedia-amplified auditoriums; church and ministry methods have indeed evolved over time, often with the flow of the world's technological development. However, the purpose remains the same: the body of Christ using whatever means and platforms are available to share the message concerning Christ.

The same is true for me in performing arts. I create an effect on stage in order to communicate a message of truth. I explain very clearly what I am doing and how I am doing it. No one is being misled. In fact, eyes and minds are opened.

It has not been easy; I've had plenty of pushback. Misunderstanding the art of illusion, some fellow believers and Christian leaders think it is unbiblical, a tool for the enemy. In the next issue, I will distinguish "the art of illusion" from "magic," and delve into the biblical case for using it to reach the lost.

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