

# Fellowship Network News

*Building An Enduring Work of Truth*

*Published by Spirit & Truth Fellowship International*

*Volume 1, Issue 3*

*August 2009*

Dear Saints,

I (Dan) once heard that many people who accept Christ do so by age 18, and that this is mostly due to their family system. After that, most people who come to Christ only do so because of a life situational problem, such as the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, sickness, or some other catastrophe. There is no doubt that these are challenging times for many people, but it also means we have prime opportunities to present Christ. After all, he is the only true solution to the lost.

It is amazing that summer is almost gone. Summer is traditionally the busiest time of the year for our ministry staff because of the increased demands of our events, added to their already loaded duties. Multi-tasking is something that every staffer must master, and this year has been no exception, especially since we added the pressure of our much-anticipated Home-Office move.

We are blessed to report that we have just concluded our first full week of being fully operational from the new office. The new office has brought our entire staff together under one roof and we have already seen the benefits in increased communication and improved efficiency. Despite the office move placing some additional pressure on a few of our staff because of the need to now commute (we are working with them to help defray their commuting costs), the blessings of having John Schoenheit, me (Dan), and the staff working from one location for the first time in our history is wonderfully apparent, even in one week.

It is very exciting to see how the Fellowship Network continues to take shape and how the momentum builds as people respond to the call of the Lord. Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do to serve you.

God's blessings to all,

Dan & Mike

## **Home-Office News**

### **Office Moves**

Recognition and many thanks have to be extended to our entire staff for the many hours of hard work they performed to make our move possible. We all know how difficult it is to personally move, but when you move an office, you have to do it while staying operationally functional. Our move was complicated by the need to transition computer

networks, Internet and website support, publication productions, etc. The actual move occurred the weekend of August 22-23.

### **Building Expansion**

In the past few issues we have talked about the Martinsville office expansion. Praise to God that the project is now complete, but that does not mean we need to sit back. We can already tell that the time will quickly be upon us when we will need more office space. The good news is that the property has plenty of room in which we can expand. We have already set our sights on Phase Two, which will include the addition of approximately 2,000 square feet to the building. This area will serve as additional office space, recording space for video productions, and storage of our inventory.

### **Outreach**

- **YouTube Videos**

Our YouTube video outreach has taken off like a rocket! We launched the first videos in March and as of today we have 56 videos posted, which have been viewed over 30,000 times. You can visit our YouTube channel at [TruthOrTradition.com/youtube](http://TruthOrTradition.com/youtube)

- **TruthOrTradition.com & BiblicalUnitarian.com**

We are amazed and thankful for the impact our websites are having. We now feature thousands of articles, which have been viewed over 7,600,000 times since November 2003. We are now averaging close to 5,000 page views per day. What this means is that thousands of people from all over the world are online reading the truth. The beauty is that the majority of those who find us stay and read our materials for quite some time. Early this morning there were 68 people online and 46 of them had been there for over 20 minutes. That means they are really checking it out. As a result we are now connecting with many other truth seekers. Praise God!

### **Events**

- **Teens & Twenties Camp**

On July 18<sup>th</sup> we concluded the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our very first Teens & Twenties Camp, which was attended by 132 campers (including staff). The camp was a great success during which the participants spent time each morning in class followed by lots of outdoor activities, small groups, praise and worship, teachings from the main stage and awesome campfires. Teens & Twenties Camp has proven to be a wonderful time for our youth community to connect with others from all over the United States, and even a few from Canada!

- **Service Group**

For the first time ever this year's Teens & Twenties Camp offered the Service Group to those participants who had already graduated from an intermediate level study group. The purpose of the Service Group was to make a place available for those who feel called to serve by contributing to improvements at Camp Vision. This year 15 campers participated in the group and completed the astounding task of building five 60-inch square picnic tables and twenty-two benches. This was all done in four days with only three hours in which to work each day. The rest of the campers enjoyed the benefits of the tables as they saw them multiply every day around the grounds.

▪ **Upcoming Events**

Be sure to check out the upcoming events at [www.STFonline.org/events](http://www.STFonline.org/events)

- Women’s Conference            Oct. 1-4
- Men’s Camp                        Oct. 22-25
- Silent Retreat                    Oct. 28-Nov 1
- One Flesh Couples            Nov. 5-8
- Live Out Loud                    Dec. 30–Jan 2
- Asheville, NC                      Apr. 30-May 2

**Camp Vision News**

We continue to make improvements to the Camp. Prior to this year’s Teens & Twenties Camp, we built a new girls’ dorm area at the rear of the Gym, and made repairs to the lower level of the Recreation Hall. Between these two areas we housed close to 60 campers. Please keep the Camp covered in prayer so that we can have the finances to make the many improvements we know would help us serve God’s people more effectively.

**Fellowship Network**

In the past month a number of new fellowships and area contacts have been added to the Network.

**New Fellowships**

Gary & Claire Mescher            Lawrenceville, GA

**New Area Contacts**

Peggy Cage                            Baton Rouge, LA  
Douglas & Sue Reinis            Greensboro, NC  
Rosalie Shelton                      Clear Lake, CA

**Fellowship announcements**

**Saint releases a single music video**

Matt and Denise DeMars recently wrote and informed us of the release of Matt’s music video, "An American Standing Proud," on iTunes. It is performed and written by one of our own, Matthew DeMars. Matt and Denise DeMars would be blessed to receive your support in their endeavor to get this song out to the general public. You can view it by going to iTunes.com and searching for "Matt DeMars" or "An American Standing Proud."

**Trips and Itineraries**

## **June Trips**

### **Pleasanton, California**

In early June, Dave and Carol DeMars hosted Dan Gallagher and about 15 saints, during which they explored a number of subjects as well as shared many great meals and laughs together.

## **Future Trips**

John S., Dan, and Mike are trying to work out some new itineraries for the fall. We would love to hear from anyone who would be blessed to have us come to your area. Please keep in your prayers the finances necessary for a trip to Argentina to see the saints there with Alex and Lilian Campbell.

## **International News**

### **Livelihood Projects**

Livelihood Projects are indigenous third-world business ventures that *Spirit & Truth Fellowship International* funds through one-time grants, typically in the range of \$3,000 or less. As a leadership team becomes established in a third-world country, Livelihood Projects will be identified and funded to provide an income stream so the saints can support themselves and fund the movement of the Gospel in their country. As the venture makes profits, the grant will be repaid to that country's organization, with those funds used to start new ventures.

So far, we have been able to fund the following Livelihood projects in the Philippines:

Willie Matub, Abaca Farm	\$3,500
James Batao, Abaca Farm	\$3,000
Benjie Casido, Import business	\$1,000

Please contact Dan Gallagher if you have any questions on how to contribute to this program.

## **Let us Know**

Let us know if you would like to announce anything to the rest of the fellowships, such as area events, seminars, or special meetings. You may e-mail Dan Gallagher at [dan@stfonline.org](mailto:dan@stfonline.org) or Mike Patten at [mike@stfonline.org](mailto:mike@stfonline.org). We will do our best to get the word out for you.

*Truth Matters! Spread the Word.*