

# Fellowship Network News

*Building an Enduring Work of Truth*

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Dear Friends,

We wish you God's blessings of grace and peace from all of us here in Indiana. Although it has now been more than 2000 years since our Lord's first coming, the vast majority of the world is still very much in need of finding him. In this coming year, with your help, we aim to do all we can to present him more clearly for men and women all over the world to see.

The air is filled with excitement in the STF Home office as the staff turns its attention to this year's theme, which is "*Let Your Light Shine.*" Each year we try to pick a theme that we believe best represents the heart of Christ and our ministry for the coming year. It is not hard to see that as the world grows darker, we need to let our light shine more brightly now than ever before.

In the STF Home Office, this year began with a week-long Annual Board of Directors meeting. These meetings are intended to be a time when we review our vision, mission, and plan future strategies. We also look closely at the stewardship of the resources the Lord has provided, as well as meeting with the staff for their input and taking care of some necessary administrative and governmental tasks. This year it was very inspiring to see the progress we have made in many areas, the hurdles we have overcome, and our future plans as we continue on our course of *Building an Enduring Work of Truth*. The minutes to this year's meeting can be seen at [http://www.stfonline.org/pdf/annual\\_board\\_meeting\\_2011.pdf](http://www.stfonline.org/pdf/annual_board_meeting_2011.pdf)

One move we made in 2010 that had a major impact was allowing people to download our various teachings and seminars from the Internet free of charge. In addition to that we also saw a tremendous response to the many YouTube teachings we have produced. In light of this, we are moving forward with creating space in our office for a temporary video recording studio. This year we intend to begin aggressive production video classes and seminars and we hope to ultimately add space onto our Home Office and thus make room for a much more professional studio. As we produce more materials we intend to continue to make them available for free.

In this first issue of the 2011 Network News you will find many more details, such as our 2011 Event schedule, a description of the Educational Curriculum, and a number of other items. Thank you for all your help and support, without which what we are doing would not be possible.

In His service,  
The Board of Directors and Staff

**~~ This newsletter is available online at [STFonline.org/news](http://STFonline.org/news) ~~**

## **Home-Office and Staff News**

The past few years have been a time of economic difficulty for many, and our ministry has been no exception. In 2010 we wrote to our supporters and explained a number of the changes we were having to employ in order to operate within our decreased funds. We are very blessed to report that we are now doing well, with our expenses nicely below our support. Each month our Partner numbers have been steadily increasing and we are even seeing an increase in contributors. Thank you to every one of you for your great generosity. We pray for each of you daily.

In late December Jeff and Michele Blackburn completed the sale of their home and made their official relocation to Rhode Island. Jeff has reported that they are settled in and enjoying the fact that they are now living near their family. Jeff is continuing to provide much help behind the scenes by assisting with website management and some of the administrative load. We all wish him and Michele the best as he transitions from the role of full time employee to fantastic volunteer.

We are also pleased to report that Caleb Power is now a full time staff member. Previously Caleb had provided work for STF on a “contract labor basis.” Over the course of the past few years he has trained under the watchful eye of Ryan Maher in the area of website design and management, video production and editing, and a variety of other arts related activities. As a full time staff member, Caleb has taken on some additional responsibilities and we are all very excited to have him as a full time member of the staff team.

In December Gene and Dustin Speakes performed the monumental task of relocating all of our stock and inventory from the front office. They made innumerable trips to a nearby storage facility where we are now housing all of our materials. The result is that we now have a 500 square foot area that we are in the process of turning into a video recording area. Much thanks and appreciation goes to them for all their hard work.

In January Dustin Williams also came in to help us produce the year-end donation statements. This is a pretty big task, as it involves the merging of our financial records and database accounts so we can automatically generate matching statements and mailing labels. Once again, Dustin came through amazingly for us.

Renee Speakes has also come back on a part-time basis to help us with some front desk responsibilities, shipping, and monitoring our Myspace, Facebook, and YouTube accounts. Presently our office staff consists of Debbie Owens, (Front Desk), Renee Speakes (Front Desk and Shipping), Rachel Darr, (Back Office), and Janet Speakes (Finance). Each of these talented ladies handles many tasks and one of them will be the one to answer the phone when you call us.

In November of last year Mike Patten resigned from the staff for personal reasons. We wish Mike the best in his future endeavors.

## **Staff Positions**

In case you ever need to reach us, here is the present list of our office staff and their major responsibilities.

John Schoenheit	President (Doctrinal oversight, teaching, writing)
Dan Gallagher	CEO (Administration oversight, teaching and writing)

Rachel Darr	Back Office (Production, editing, databases)
Janet Speakes	Finance (Accounting, events and office support)
Debbie Owens	Front Desk (Reception, order processing, mail and email)
Ryan Maher	Webmaster (Websites, product design, and new technologies)
Caleb Power	Assistant Webmaster (web support and video production)
Renee Speakes	Office Assistant (Front Desk back-up, shipping, web support)

### **Dan & Lori Gallagher**

On January 7, 2011 Dan and Lori Gallagher’s daughter Sheila died after finally succumbing to her battle with cancer. One of the things that we (Dan & Lori) have learned to do during times of suffering is to ask, “God, what is it that You can teach me in this?” One of the lessons we learned is the power of kindness and compassion, especially when expressed in words. The kind words of many gave us strength and helped us stay focused on the goodness of God and His faithfulness to His promises. We thank the many people who have reached out to our family during our time of much grief.

### **2011 Calendar of Events**

<b><u>Event</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
STF Missions Event	April 15-20	Camp Vision
Resurrection Sunday	April 24	Camp Vision
Bible Study Research Workshop	April 27-May 1	Camp Vision
STF Family Event	June 16–19	Camp Vision
Teen Camp Counselor Training	July 9	Camp Vision
Teen Camp	July 10–16	Camp Vision
Women’s Conference	Sept. 8–11	Camp Vision
Men’s Camp	Oct. 20-23	Camp Vision
Silent Retreat	Oct. 26–30	Camp Vision
Live Out Loud	Dec. 29–Jan. 1	Location pending

### **Trips and Itineraries**

#### **Scranton, PA**

In mid February, we (John Schoenheit and Dan Gallagher) traveled to Scranton, PA to facilitate a Transformed Life Seminar. Frank and Joan Rutowski and their Scranton church hosted the event. Our time there included Friday evening through Sunday, and we enjoyed a great time in the Word of God and some fantastic fellowship with many saints. In the meeting people came from as far away as upstate New York, Maryland, New Jersey, and throughout Pennsylvania. We continue to receive very positive feedback about our time together and look forward to doing it again.

If you would like for us to visit your area, please just let us know and we will work with you to plan something. We want to do anything we can to help you build your area. Sometimes it helps by planning a “Weekend Workshop.” Below is a list of some of the Workshops we make available, but let us know if there is something else you would like us to teach on. We will be happy to come and support you in any way we can.

#### **Some of the Workshops we offer:**

The Bible: You Can Believe It

How to Study the Bible: Interactive “How To” Study Seminar

Truth Matters  
Don't Blame God  
The Gift of Holy Spirit  
Romans  
A Journey of the Old Testament  
One God & One Lord: Understanding God and Jesus  
Death and Resurrection to Life  
The Christian's Hope: The Anchor of the Soul  
One Body, Members in Particular  
Love: The More Excellent Way  
The Transformed Life  
Mature in Christ  
Let's Get Together  
Christian Leadership  
Conflict Resolution  
David: A Man after God's Own Heart  
Elijah: A Man of Like-passion  
Delivered From Evil  
Deliverance  
Growing in the Prophetic

For a complete description of each workshop go to our website at [STFonline.org/workshops](http://STFonline.org/workshops)

### **Educational Curriculum**

In 2011 we are going to attempt to produce a number of teachings and seminars in video format. To date we have posted over 1,400 articles and a number of audio seminars on our websites. Now we want to combine many of these topics as part of a comprehensive curriculum that presents a cohesive theological and practical base. The curriculum will be designed to serve the "new believer" who has just come to Christ, as well as those who seek deeper understandings of the faith.

Eventually we intend to provide online classes which can be taken at the convenience of the students in the comfort of their own homes. The courses will follow both a "fast-track" for those who merely want to know the fundamentals of the faith, and higher-level courses for those who seek further and more comprehensive study. It will be a great blessing when the day comes that people anywhere in the world can have video classes streamed right into their living rooms and their fellowships.

At this time we are designing classes as follows:

- Series 100 courses: Conversion  
(The ABC's of Christianity)
  
- Series 200 courses: Growing Up in the Faith  
(Maturing, equipping, and serving)
  
- Series 300 courses: Rooted and Grounded  
(Deeper understanding)
  
- Series 400 courses: Ministers of the Good News  
(Ministerial level)

Series 500 courses: Enhanced Studies  
(Special topical studies)

Series 600 courses: Biblical Research  
(Advanced Research)

## **Websites**

Plans are underway for Ryan Maher and Caleb Power to revamp our websites. The websites will be converted to a new “platform,” including new software language and updates to the way the website works. One of the advantages of the conversion will be that it will include much better search capabilities, enabling people to more accurately find the answers to their questions. The websites will also be improved in presentation and organization. The first project will be the conversion of [www.BiblicalUnitarian.com](http://www.BiblicalUnitarian.com) because it is smaller and therefore easier to do. Then we will follow up with the transformation of [www.TruthOrTradition.com](http://www.TruthOrTradition.com). We are ambitiously planning on having the work on both sites completed in 2011.

## **Books for Free**

One of the results of us converting our books into an e-format (the electronic version of our books) is that we are able to sell the books at a reduced price. However, we are finding that we are not selling the hard copy books as rapidly as we have in the past, resulting in our having an excess amount of inventory. In 2011, subject to availability, we will be periodically offering various books for a donation of any amount. The only other thing we ask you to do is cover the cost of shipping. Stay tuned, as we will be announcing throughout the year what books are available. These will be a great opportunity for use as witnessing gifts for friends and family.

## **International Outreach**

### **Translations**

We are aggressively pursuing the translation of our various books and materials into foreign languages. We are currently investigating the costs required to hire professional translators so that this can happen, something we have never done before. We will start with Spanish and then expand to other languages as we see the demand rise and as funds are available. Other languages that are needed right now are Cebuano (Philippines), German, French, and Polish. Please keep this in your prayers as it is a large task and one that will open many doors for the Gospel around the world.

## **Home Office Studio**

We are in much need of a professional recording studio so we can begin to make the classes and seminars that will be the basis of the educational curriculum program. We recently ordered a new high definition camera and have need for two more cameras, lighting, editing equipment, recording equipment, etc. We also would love to be in the position to have a full time videographer who could produce and edit the materials.

In order for us to move to the next level of production we will need to expand the current Home Office, adding studio space and an editing room. We have no desire to build for building's sake. We really believe this is the next thing that we are called to have faith for in our steps toward *Building an Enduring Work of Truth*.

## **Camp Vision**

Thanks to a recent designated donation for the Camp, we are able to put a new roof on Cabin 8. We were unable to use Cabin 8 last year due to roof leaks, and now with this repair it will once again be available to our faith community. We are still in great need of replacing the roof over our Round Top barn, which will cost \$11,000. This building serves as our workshop and houses all the tools, equipment, tractors, etc. Please keep this in your prayers too as the roof is actually falling through in a number of areas.

## **New Fellowship Listings and Contacts**

New fellowships and area contacts that have been added to the Network are:

### **New Area Contacts**

Robert and Christin Matthews      Tyler, Texas

## **Fellowship Network**

Are you trying to build your local church (fellowship)? One of the ideas we had to support people is running Webinars for those who host fellowships. We could possibly do a teaching or conduct a question and answer session as needed. A live video feed would enable us to handle questions as people submit them. Please let us know if this is something you would like us to do or if there is anything else we can do to support you in your efforts to serve the saints in your local areas.

## **Looking for Volunteers**

Would you like to help us out with the workload? We have great need for assistance in the following areas:

- Proofreaders and editing
- Computer Skills (Hardware, software, networking, and information systems)
- Physical help at Camp Vision
- Video Productions

A number of these areas require a person to be able to help us on site in the Home Office.

## **Do You Have News to Share?**

We would love to know how the Lord is working in your fellowship, so feel free to let us know of anything the Lord is doing that would be a blessing for others to hear. Email us at [STF@STFonline.org](mailto:STF@STFonline.org)

**Truth Matters! Spread the Word**