



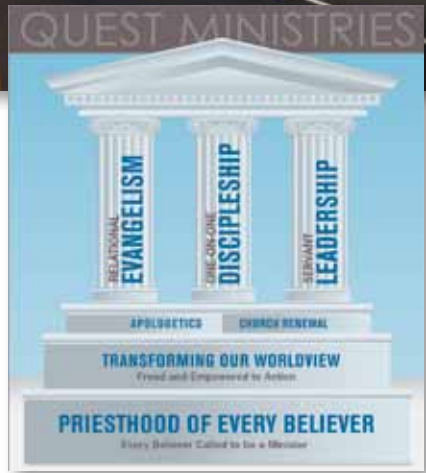
Reflecting On Our Purpose?

It seemed like a simple question. Why does Quest Ministries exist? This easily could have been the lead question at our board meeting or a discussion point of a presentation. Actually though, it was the gnawing question on my mind as I drove home from a men's conference where I had just spoken.

So why does Quest exist? There are many good churches here in the Antelope Valley that inspire Christians to live moral lives, to study God's Word and even to share the gospel. There are great online resources that deal with apologetics, discipleship and ways to share our faith. As I reflected, I asked myself, "What makes our ministry so important to the men and women we reach out to? Why am I so driven to do what I'm doing?"

All my life I have attempted to live a "Radical" [back to the root] Christian life and I've attempted to lead others to do the same. That's been the joy of my life, that's what drives me forward, that's what gets me out of bed each morning, and that is what Quest is really all about. It's so easy to fall into the mindset of "doing the comfortable thing." Historically, the results have been very much the same: most Christians choose to go with the crowd and do what is comfortable. Unfortunately, many churches have actually encouraged this.

The amazing thing is that God has always had followers like Waldesius, who decided one day to actually do what Jesus



instructed. He focused his life on loving people, making disciples, and sharing the gospel with the lost, even though the religious culture of his day was saying, "Let the church do it...you're not qualified... just do what your fellow Christians are doing." Waldesius, a common merchant, and those who eventually chose to follow him, turned their city upside down and impacted the entire continent of Europe for many of years. This all happened because a simple man decided to exercise the fundamental Biblical concept of the "Priesthood of Every Believer." He simply chose to follow Jesus's example of making disciples and sharing the gospel in opposition to the pressure of the religious culture of his day.

As I pulled into my driveway, I realized that the challenges for Christians today are great but that the opportunities are even greater. Because of this, Quest Ministries has a unique opportunity to serve, equip and inspire other Believers to make an impact on those that God has put around them.

At Quest Ministries we provide one-on-one training and group seminars for individual Believers, Bible Study Groups, Churches and Christian Organizations



Quest Ministries Antelope Valley

Dave has been in full time vocational ministry for 30 years. For 12 of those years he was the Adult Education Director at a local church focusing his attention on church renewal, leadership training and discipleship. Since then he has presided over multiple church plants, and as Founder and Director of Quest Ministries David has emphasized equipping believers in relational evangelism, one-on-one discipleship and apologetics. He conducts regular outreach discussion groups called Open Forums. Since the beginning of Quest, literally thousands of believers have been challenged to give their attention to reaching their friends and family with the gospel of Jesus Christ, through nurturing redemptive relationships.

Lifestyle Evangelism | One-on-one Discipleship | Apologetic Training | Servant Leadership

Ministry Update

Praise & Prayer Requests

Thank you, Lord, for my awesome kids and their heart to keep me encouraged. Thank you, Lord, for our successful "Water Bottle Outreach" last week at 4 parks. Thanks you, Lord, for surrounding Chris and me with men who give good council. Pray for Chris and me...for a deeper walk with God and greater boldness. Pray for our neighborhood outreach series focusing on heaven. Pray that our gracious Heavenly Father would provide financially for the ministry.

Financial Update

Thank you for your prayers and support of the ministry - we are truly blessed. Last Sunday the Quest board met and one of the things we discussed was the challenges the ministry was facing in light of our financial shortfall. Contributions have been significantly down since the beginning of the year and due to the shortfall we have made some considerable reductions to our budget. Dave has not received his salary for five months and *we have been operating around \$3,000 per month short so far in 2011. In the meantime, we face some even tougher decisions if we continue to move in this direction.*

Giving during the month of July was \$3,827. Please join us in fervently praying for this situation to be turned around. God is sovereign and we are determined to be good stewards of only what He provides, not what we hope He will provide. **We are so grateful for your partnership in this ministry.**

Car Donations As long as your car, van or truck is presently registered and running, we'll pick it up for free, fix it up and then give you a tax deductible receipt for the selling price.



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Equipping believers for a lifestyle of ministry

Making Friends

I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. *Luke 16:9*

Quest Ministries
Antelope Valley



September 2011

Greetings from Quest Ministries!

Our quarterly newsletter is designed to let you know what God is doing in and through us.

questministries.com

Light in the Dark Ages

A small group of disciples turn a city upside down

We often think of the Dark Ages as a time in Church history when true belief in Jesus was overtaken by religious and political hypocrisy. However, even during this dark time, God's people operated in the light of His Word. For example, the Waldensians were true believers, committed to taking God's Word at face value and operating based on their own convictions. They were ministering this way almost four hundred years before the Protestant Reformation took place.

The Waldensian movement, perhaps the most successful kingdom movement of the Middle Ages, began around 1170 in the bustling medieval city of Lyon, France where a wealthy merchant named Waldesius lived. He enjoyed his wealth and loved to be able to move within the power circles of his city. He was a good Catholic, attending Mass each week. But one day after Mass, Waldesius came upon a minstrel singing a ballad about a fourth-century Christian named Alexis. This ballad about a wealthy Roman senator who sold all to serve others and share the love of Jesus impacted him greatly.

Waldesius was so moved by this story that it triggered a spiritual crisis within him. Troubled in conscience, He went to a local priest for counsel. After several hours of earnest discussion, the priest took out a Bible and read to him Matthew 19 about the rich young ruler. ► **continued on next page**



the Quest - Making sense of our journey here on earth is often filled with uncertainty and confusion. We have just completed an outreach booklet entitled "the Quest." It contains a portion of a speech given by a well known leader and philosopher almost three thousand years ago. The speech has resounding relevance to any non-believer seeking to understand meaning and purpose today. ► **continued**

Light in the Dark Ages

continued from front page

The words of this chapter resounded in Waldesius's ears as he went home. His wealth was no longer a source of happiness to him. In fact, it seemed like a heavy chain around his neck. In a moment of joy and spiritual delight, he suddenly decided to throw the heavy chain off. He would be a disciple of Christ!

Waldesius went about the city of Lyon, preaching the simple gospel of the kingdom to everyone. His earnestness and example of faith touched many lives. Soon a small group of like-minded believers gathered with him. They called themselves the "Poor in Spirit." They wanted to take every aspect of Jesus' teaching literally and seriously. They decided to taste the joy of true, uncompromising discipleship for themselves. The kingdom of God had reached Lyon—and it was turning the city upside down!

Waldesius and his disciples had no desire or vision to form a new church. In fact, far from having a desire to challenge or attack the Catholic Church, they wanted to live out authentic Christianity within the folds of the Church and to share their joy with others. They simply preached the same message that Jesus had preached.

One of Waldesius' early disciples wrote, "We have decided to preach freely, accord-

ing to the grace given to us by God. This we will not cease to do for any cause." Belittling the doctrines of the Church or challenging its authority was not on their mind. In fact, they were encouraging their hearers to attend church more faithfully. How could the Church possibly object to what they were doing?

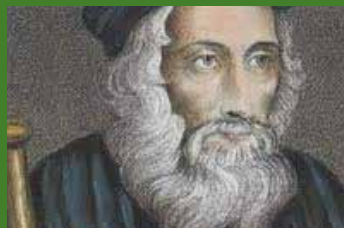
However, before long, they were awakened from their spiritual naivete. The Catholic Church had no objections to their lifestyle. However, the archbishop was not comfortable with the fact that the Waldesians—untrained at any university and not ordained by the Church—were out preaching on the streets. They held to the belief that only those licensed by the institutional Church could safely communicate the Gospel. The archbishop demanded that the Waldesians quit preaching because he believed that preaching belonged only to the clergy.

The spiritual lives of thousands now hung in the balance. Waldesius could have said, "Yes, your holiness, whatever you direct." But Waldo would not agree to quit preaching. Instead, to the utter shock of the archbishop, Waldesius looked him squarely in the eye and fearlessly replied, **"On the contrary, preaching belongs to everyone who chooses to truly live like the apostles of Jesus."**

The Waldesians continued to preach the Gospel and minister in Lyon for years to come. Eventually persecution drove them to settle in the Alps.

Source: Scroll Publishing

Learn more about Waldesius at www.scrollpublishing.com



Waldesius - also known as Waldo

"The Waldesians however didn't seek the permission of the Church for what they were doing nor did they have any intention of hibernating in monastic seclusion. They wished to remain citizens of Lyon, taking their message to the churches, public squares, and market places."

Ministry Highlights

At Quest our heart for discipleship and evangelism stems from our core belief that Jesus empowered each individual Believer to action. It is our hope to equip and inspire the Body of Christ to build into their everyday lives a willingness to invest and impact people for the glory of God.

Looking Back

This past Sunday, my son Justin married Jessica (Larsen), and they are currently on their honeymoon in Jamaica. It was a special time for our family. What a blessing from God! We'll bring you more details and pictures in our next newsletter. The Saturday before, I conducted a wedding ceremony for our friends Mario and Kim and sent them off to experience hurricane Irene in the Bahamas. One thing I've learned about ministry...you never really know what is around the corner. We continue to meet with men one-on-one. God has blessed us with an opportunities to speak at a men's conference in Leona Valley, to complete the outreach booklet "The Quest", to complete the Veritas teaching series on "Becoming an Overcomer", to share bottled water in local parks, and also to impact people through our website.

Looking Forward

There are so many amazing opportunities... In September we are planning on doing a least one neighborhood "Heaven" outreach series (perhaps up to three). I'll be speaking at a number of locations, including a Lancaster church and FCC Men's Breakfast. It is my desire and prayer to see the ministry become more stable financially especially for the sake of the effectiveness that comes by being able to work as a team with Christopher Perry. In order to make this possible we are cutting back in a number of areas, going with Samaritan International for health insurance, reducing salaries, and making other cuts. Our goal continues to be to encourage men to seek to follow Jesus through His word and to build into their everyday lives a willingness to invest and impact people for the glory of God.

Veritas college/career bible study

One of the unique traditions of this group has been our once-a-month Open Forums. Two weeks ago we discussed the question, "Is Christianity Relevant to our Culture Today?" Our discussion led us to identify what aspects of our weekly experiences with Christianity are actually found in Scripture and which are simply cultural. We all were amazed by the incredible flexibility that the Lord has built into His approaches to mankind down through the ages. Thanks for praying for this very vital ministry. In a few weeks we'll be starting a new series with the College Veritas ministry entitled, "The Real Meaning of the Old Stories".

bible study | focused forum | open forum | outreach



Outreach Resources



Young man it's wonderful to be of it! Do all you want to be you must account to God for grief and pain, but remember before it can make sense...

Don't let the excitement about your Creator. In evil years come, when be too late then to and light and moon there is no silver in will come a time of your strong legs too slow to do it. Then let your feet both are good and with quarters.

You will be withered of them, the home as



the Quest

We live in a world that worships wealth, fame, and pleasure. Even as Christians we are impacted by a culture that relentlessly puts pressure on us to act according to its value system. As believers we know we have a way of returning to reality through God's Word, good spiritual teaching and true fellowship in the family of God. But what do our unsaved friends and family have to call them back to the reality that even they, deep down, hope for? We have put together this booklet as an outreach tool to reach men and women as they seek an answer to this important question.

"The Quest" presents the unique perspective of a well-known leader and philosopher of ancient times. In this speech given over 2,900 years ago, the reader will find an amazingly relevant and insightful look into the challenges of living in this world without God or a hope of an afterlife.

In this booklet, the reader is introduced to the speech with Ask the average man on the street, "What brings meaning to life?" and the answer might surprise and

amuse you.

Ask the author of "The Quest" that same question and his answer will stun you. This notable author's response is not merely the offhand remark of a sidewalk philosopher, but (as discovered from the speech itself) the reasoned conclusion of perhaps one of the most educated, powerful and wealthiest men of ancient times. This English translation of his writings attempts to communicate his observations in today's vernacular.

In "the Quest" we end with a clear and biblical presentation of God's plan for hope and eternity. After reading this booklet, many will be impacted by the identity of the author and the context of this speech.

We just finished putting together this new booklet and would like to send you one at no cost. Just email us or return the enclosed response card.