

APRIL 2025

Dave Van Winkle Ministries

Exalting Jesus around the World

An Eternity Changed!

By Dave Van Winkle

Recently, I received an email from a young man in India who viewed one of our social media videos and prayed the salvation prayer along with me. Leading someone to Jesus always brings joy, knowing that their eternal path has been altered. Although there are many Christians in India, Hinduism is dominant and Islam is also significant. Christians are persecuted for their faith. Without hearing the Word of God online, this young man may never have understood the Gospel and given his life to Christ. His life today and his eternity were changed!

The act of preaching the gospel remains a fulfilling endeavor. Despite the physical challenges that come with aging, I am excited about our 23 Discipleship Training Centers in Asia are successfully training pastors to enhance their effectiveness in “making disciples.” Reports indicate that the vision is being embraced and propagated among thousands. We are preparing for the establishment of additional Training Centers in other regions, as well as airing our teaching videos on TV channels. As you partner with this ministry, you make it possible. These verses from Philippians 1 come to mind as we think of your faithful support:

“I thank my God every time I remember you.” — v. 3

“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.” — v. 4

“Because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” — v. 5

We trust that you can see the difference you are making, not only for this life but also for the one to come. We have designated April as “Partner Appreciation Month,” but we appreciate you, and not just your giving, every month!

We greatly value the special connection we share with those who support Dave Van Winkle Ministries. It is clear that we could not fulfill our calling without your commitment and assistance. Teresa and I thank you!



Pastor Dave & Teresa Van Winkle

Pastor Dave served as a pastor and evangelist for 48 years. Dave and his wife, Teresa, seek to exalt Jesus while building His Kingdom. Teresa especially has a heart for children and is an integral part of this ministry.

Touching Brazil for Jesus

By Teresa Van Winkle

Several years ago, I taught a girls-only program in our church called Missionettes. It was intended to be a Christian charm school to help young ladies grow to be all Christ



Lisa and Josh Sears

intended for them to be. You can imagine the dysfunctional home lives that many brought into our weekly class. The teachers had to take the girls from wherever they were in their life to an understanding of who they are in Christ. Some girls were living in challenging or even abusive homes, while

others were raised in church. Of course, growing up in church does not guarantee a trouble-free life. But the teachers found joy in seeing Christ transform each girl's life.

My niece invited a girl named Lisa, who was from a single-parent, unchurched home, to Missionettes. She didn't have a way to get to class, so I picked her and other girls up every week for years. Miss Carolyn and I served as teachers, and through our instruction and love, Lisa understood what Jesus had done for her on Calvary's cross. She accepted Him and grew in her faith.

Now a wife and mother, Lisa and her husband, Josh, and their two sons were guests of our church recently. They are full-time missionaries in the Amazon River basin area of Brazil! They have moved into the interior where many tribes have never heard about Jesus, which brings many opportunities, but the rewards are slow to come. Their oldest son, who is 13, told us he had already made the decision to be a missionary as well. At our church, they effectively told, in story form, the biblical account of Jesus needing to go to Samaria to talk to the woman at the well. The children responded with many questions!

We are so proud of Lisa and her family, who are joyfully doing what God called them to do. *Never underestimate the power of an invitation to church.* Please ask God to give the Sears family favor and spiritual fruit as they minister to the precious people of Brazil.

He Lives Within My Heart!

"You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart!" Remember that hymn? Perhaps you sang it in church this Easter month.

Everything we do in our lives and ministry must be driven by one overarching truth: He lives! Without that historical truth, it is all for naught.

As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Cor. 15: 19, "If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." We have one great hope in this life — and the next — because Christ laid down His life for us and came back to life!

I encourage you to read the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 as a reminder of what the resurrection means for us today. In this month of April, when we celebrate Resurrection Sunday, we invite you to ponder the following quotes as we reflect on the pivotal truth of Christ's resurrection power for the believer!

Meditation Moment

"The Resurrection is at the core of our beliefs as Christians."

— Billy Graham

"The tomb was empty, so that our hearts could be full."

— Author Unknown

"Sunday's empty tomb rewrites Friday's sorrow."

— Author Unknown

Bring on the Sonshine!

By Debbi Wilker

We're thrilled to share the exciting news about our new ministry! Sonshine School Ministries is launching a new initiative this Fall to bring Bible education back into Central Florida's public schools through a proven and powerful method called Release Time Bible Education. Though this concept has existed for over 50 years and is used in many states, Florida has



Dr. John and Debbi Wilker are longtime friends of Teresa and Dave Van Winkle and board members of Dave Van Winkle Ministries.

yet to implement it — until now. Thanks to your prayers and support, we're making history.

What Is Release Time Bible Education?

Release Time is a legally approved program that allows public school students to receive Bible teaching during school hours as long as it meets three requirements: 1. Parents must give written consent. 2. The program must be offered at no cost to the school district. 3. Instruction must take place off school property with transportation provided. Sonshine School Ministries will begin at one or two schools this fall. Students will be picked up in a 15-passenger bus and taken to a nearby church parking lot where they'll receive engaging, age-appropriate Bible lessons during one of their elective or free periods. Then they'll be returned to school.

Proven Results Across the Country

The impact of Release Time Bible programs has been remarkable. A study in Oakland, California, showed improvements in student academic performance, lower absenteeism, and reductions in drug use and teen pregnancy. Across the U.S., students are thriving

thanks to these programs, and we believe Central Florida's youth can experience the same transformation.

How You Can Help

We're inviting our community to join us in three powerful ways: **Pray:** Cover this mission in prayer as we step forward in faith. **Volunteer:** We're looking for bus drivers, Bible teachers, and classroom helpers to give a few hours a week. **Give:** Our initial goal is to purchase one 15-passenger bus, but we dream of operating many buses, reaching every school across Central Florida. We believe the time is now. Let's bring God's Word back to the next generation.

To learn more or get involved, reach out to Debbi Wilker today:

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Email: sonshinebible@gmail.com

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Thank you for being part of this mission. We are deeply grateful for your prayers, your time, and your generosity. Together, we're planting seeds of faith — one student at a time.

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DAVE VAN WINKLE

**HE IS RISEN!
RISEN INDEED!**

**"I am the resurrection and the life."
— John 11:25**

Ask Pastor Dave

Q: Americans are worrying about the economy. Do you have a word of encouragement for them?

A: I absolutely have a word to share. The key is keeping your eyes on the right economy. Psalm 37:25 says, "I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread."

Q: How can we seek first God's Kingdom (Matt. 6:33) in this challenging time?

A: The tug of the world is very strong, and the economy is directly tied to our income. I would encourage folks to operate with Kingdom principles. Proverbs 11:25 reminds us, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Seek out other passages related to Kingdom living and you will position yourself for a better life.

Q: What do you think we can learn from believers around the world about facing hard times?

A: Many believers around the world have experienced the reality of great lack while some have an abundance. Paul tells us that we are to learn the joy of contentment regardless of where we are in life. Contentment in hardship is tough, but this is where faith is perfected and our relationship with the Lord grows as we lean upon Him. I have lived this out many times, and it has always proven true. It is God who blesses the work of your hands.

Q: You've been interviewing your grandkids on video. What would you like to say to the next generation?

A: It is so important that we take seriously the challenge to pass along our spiritual values in Christ to the next generations. Sometimes they may not be open to this, but you can let your light shine for Christ. Then you leave the results to them.

Q: What can believers be praying for their neighbors at this time?

A: The top priority of our prayer list must be praying to the Lord of the harvest for a harvest of souls. Jesus is returning soon, and we must intercede for our friends and family members who do not know Christ. Pray that they see their need for a Savior and are convicted of their sin. This is our call to action from God's Word.