

The Bead Story, Good News For All!!

Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Have you accepted Him as your savior? The colored beads we use attached to our walking sticks, by a piece of rawhide, tell the wonderful story of God's love for us...

-The **Gold Bead** – “The Street of heaven was pure gold, as it were transparent glass”. Rev. 21:21. We all want to spend eternity there. John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” -The **Dark Blue** - represents sin. Sin separates us from God. Romans 3:23 - “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

-The **Red Color** - represents the blood of Christ. - Romans 5:8 - “But God commends his love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ dies for us.” When we accept Christ as our savior our sins are washed **White** as snow. Isaiah 1:18 We're forgiven. Romans 10:9 - “Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Christ from the dead, and you shall be saved.” -Finally the **Green Bead** - Once we accept Christ as our savior there will be spiritual growth. II Peter 3:18 - “But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.”

God's gift to us is free and can be received by praying a simple prayer.

“Lord, I'm a sinner in need of forgiveness. I believe you died for me on the cross and rose again. I want to turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. I ask you to come into my heart and become Lord of my life.” In Jesus name, Amen

Event Schedule

- January 9-11 - Keystone Farm Show, York, PA
- 10-11 - South Carolina Agibuz and Farm EXPO, Florence, SC
- 19-20 - North Louisiana Ag Expo, West Monroe, LA
- 20-26 - ECHO Mission Trip, Ft Myers, FL - Herrolds
- February 1-3 - Western NY Farm Show, Buffalo, NY
- 14-17 - National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville, KY
- 22-24 - NY Farm Show, Syracuse, NY
- 24-25 - Swamp Cabbage Festival, LaBelle, FL
- 23-25 - Western Farm Show, Kansas City, MO
- March 2-3 - Mid - South Farm and Gin Show, Memphis, TN
- TBA - Peanut Proud Festival
- 1-3 - Pioneer Days, Wauchula, FL
- 3-4 - Strawberry Festival, Floral City, FL
- 7-8 - Wichita Falls Ranch and Farm Show, Wichita Falls, Texas
- 10 - Central FL. Dragon Boat Festival, Tavarus, FL
- 17 - Pioneer Day, Arcadia, FL
- April 4-6 - Great Bend Farm and Ranch Expo, Great Bend, KS
- 7 - Maddox Farm Day and Trail Ride, Dotham, AL
- 7-9 - Flowerton Festival, Summerville, SC
- 13-15 - FCF-Canada Annual Meeting, Dalkeith, ON
- May 19 - Watermelon Festival, Arcadia, FL
- 19 - FCFI Golf Tournament, Woodgate Pines, Boonville, NY
- June 1-3 - VT. Dairy Festival, Enosburg Falls, VT
- 1-3 - Western NY Dairy Festival, Springville, NY
- 9 - Dryden Dairy Day, Dryden, NY
- 9-10 - Violet Festival, Dolgeville, NY
- 15-16 - Strawberry Festival, Owego, NY
- 16 - Branford Festival, Branford, CT



Two young friends all excited after receiving a free walking stick at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in GA. They wanted their picture taken showing that they prayed to receive Christ as their savior and signed the bottom of the FCFI tract signifying their commitment.



This church's sign says it all!

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www.fcfi.org



A Publication Presented By The Area Leaders of FCFI

“Big Events - Great Response”

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers just completed a very busy and successful fall event schedule., from the International Plowing Match in Ontario, Canada (picture above of entrance to show), to The Ohio State University Ag Science Review, the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis and finally The Sunbelt Ag Expo in Georgia, all very large events with lots of preparation and most importantly with literally thousands hearing the gospel message at each event. 1 Peter 3:15a “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Our mission, desire, is to bring glory to God by presenting the simple message of Christ's redemptive power, using the bead story, to the lost and to encourage believers to share their faith. We do accept the fact that God gives the increase. 1 Corinthians 3:6

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Correction : Front bottom picture from the September issue of The Harvest was incorrect in stating the Flowerton Festival in SC was one of the top twenty events in the US. Should have stated – “one of the top events in the south eastern US. Our apologies.



The Fellowship of Christian farmers, International “tent” set up at the annual FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Over 4,000 young people stopped by to hear the gospel message that changes lives”



Religious but Lost?

What in the world does that mean? I had a friend that was a rough dude that got born again and that was the title of his message when he would share in churches and hundreds of people have been born again from his sharing. (He shared from John chapter 3 about Nicodemus). I know from experience exactly what he was sharing. I went to a Baptist church went to the pastors class, got baptized and was went through the motions. I looked religious but was on my way to hell. When I was a senior in college I had a dramatic conversion from God convicting me of my sin. My life was

totally turned around immediately by repentance and entrusting my life fully in Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross. No more getting drunk, carousing or partying. My focus began to be on others that were lost and I began sharing with friends and family and others that I had a concern for because of their eternal destiny. My relationship with God began to grow deeper. I meet many people at farm shows that are where I was, they go to church but are not truly born again.

Are you going through the motions like I did? God loves you and wants to wrap His arms around you and fill every one of you with His love. If that is the case you too can be born again by being truly sorry for sin in your life and by turning to Jesus Christ alone. I beg you if you know you have never done that before please turn to Him now.

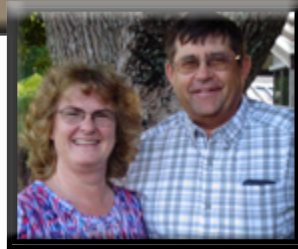
As always I want to encourage believers to join us at farm shows and events in sharing the Good news of what Jesus Christ has done for us and how others can have eternal life. God's richest blessings to all.

~Gary Beery

Guest Column

Ron & Deb Herrold, Westville, IN

Jesus Is The Answer



We look around us and say "What is this world coming to? Why doesn't the government do more to fix our problems?" When the truth is they don't have the answer – we do! Jesus is the only answer for this broken - sin cursed world!

That's why we enjoy doing farm shows so much. At the Farm Shows they come to you and you ask "do you have 5 minutes so we can tell you this story about Jesus and give you a free walking stick?" Almost everyone says yes! It's got to be a God thing, because it is just a broom handle with beads on it. But it is a great way to tell them the life changing, simple story of how God loves them.

1st Corinthians 3:6-8 talks about God giving the increase. Some plant, some water, but God gives the increase. Deb & I are thankful for the opportunities to sow and water and harvest at the FCFI Farm Show tent. There is a song that talks about a person coming to Christ after hearing the Gospel 15 times. What if it is their 1st or 10th or 15th time to hear? We are all fellow laborers together. But sometimes we are so preoccupied by life we forget about sharing the most important message. The bead story has been an important part of helping us to share the gospel with other people. We have had some exciting experiences, like a couple coming in carrying the pamphlet we give out and tells us that they received this last year, went home and read it and got saved. Then there are the sad stories, like an 80 year old man who tells me, he is not saved but his friend keeps talking to him. And a lady named Carol who told Deb she has searched all the religions and how do you know you are right?

I Peter says be ready to give an answer of the hope that is in you – Are you equipped? Remember there is a Greater Harvest!

Ripe & Ready

A 50 year old woman B.J. and her male friend in his 20's were sent to my Gospel station at the FCF tent at the Expo in Moultrie Ga. As I shared the Gospel according to the colored beads, B.J. listened intently and the young man began to tell me that he was of the Baha'i Faith and I realized he was not 'ripe and ready'. So I turned my attention to B.J. and ask her the simple question, 'If you died today, do you know that you would go to heaven?' She shook her head no and her eyes dropped. I got her attention and asked, "Would you like to know today stream down her face and she nodded to Christ and we rejoiced. B.J.'s soul

When a harvest is 'ripe and ready', tug it and it falls into your hand. Some were gathering wild blackberries and dirt roads with my Mama, brother and jams Mama made. We also gathered blueberries. The one thing they all had and ripe, all you had to do was gently would fall-off into your hands. So, the careful not to try and harvest before the tender and ready to release the fruit, longer. Every time I read Jesus words in John 4:35 "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.", I also think about I Peter 3:15 "...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...", Romans 2:4, "God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance." And, Matthew 12:20, "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,..."

As we walk through life, God's Spirit blesses us by arranging face-to-face encounters with souls 'ripe and ready' for harvest. We need to be filled with not only the boldness of the Spirit but also the Spiritual grace and kindness to reach out with gentleness and respect because so many souls are bruised reeds. When God touches them with the Gospel in our words, the fruit of their souls that are 'ripe and ready' will be touched with Divine hands and fall into God's arms. Redeemed!



~John Eubanks
Co-Pastor

FRIENDSHIP ALLIANCE CHURCH, MOULTRIE, GA

Market Place Evangelism

Mohawk Valley Chapter members, Tim Morriarty, Dave Jamele, Sonny LeCelle and Don Kenyon were kept busy all day at the Cream Cheese Festival in Lowville, NY. Lowville is where Bill Brown grew up and the home of Kraft Foods largest cream cheese plant. Dairy cows out number people in the county. Each year FCF shares with over a 1,000 youth and adults. ➔



Market Place Evangelism

Pastor Steve Cockerham, Berean Bible Church sharing the gospel at the NY Balloon Festival, Dansville, NY in Labor Day week-end. ↗



↑ The busy tent at Farm Days, Defuniak Springs, FL. Over 1200 people stopped by.



Levi Wells, Bellefontaine, OH, inviting a show attendee to come inside the FCFI tent at the OSU Farm Science Review. Over 3,000 stopped by to hear the gospel message Sept. 19-21 in London, OH. ↗



← Mike Bastiaansen sharing the bead story. Over 4,000 stopped by the FCF tent. You'll notice that boots were the preferred choice of footwear.



↑ 8 year old boy telling Area Leader Walter Powell that he has been cancer free for 3 years. He and his dad give all the credit to the Lord at Farm Day, B&B Ranch, Defuniak Springs, FL.



↑ What a mess inside the FCF tent at The International Plowing Match, Walton, ON Sept. 19-23. It rained so hard on Tuesday that the event was closed on Weds.

Greetings From The South

Area Leader, Omega, GA

View From The South



As I'm writing this article we are coming to the close of 2107. It seems that as the end draws near and we reflect and see the many blessings God has poured out on FCFI in the south, we are encouraged to share the gospel that is really needed in the world today.

At the Sunbelt Expo in Moultrie, GA in mid-October more than 7,000 people heard the message of the gospel. This show has always been an ideal place to share the good news. Even after 10 years in the same location, people are still eager to hear the message again and again and to receive the gift of a free wordless walking stick. I cannot but help but believe that these who have heard the message are more eager to go and tell others. Some also want to receive a stick each year because they have given their sticks away.

We always need more volunteers to help at this show than we do at any other event in which we participate. God always supplies our needs well in advance with servants who are willing to share the gospel in various ways. Even though our presentation is short, these servants of Christ speak from the heart and offer wisdom to those who attend. Many servants are preparing sticks, stringing beads on leather, praying, erecting tents, and supporting financially before the show opens. Each day of the show we have 15-20 people working in various capacities to make the occasion successful. It is a blessing to observe people who have never worked as a group coming together to serve the lord.

We look forward to 2018 as we continue to spread the message of salvation. You are welcome to join any FCFI outreach and help spread the word. For big things to happen we need servants of God to respond to His calling to share the gospel message. Remember what His word says; The Harvest is plentiful...." (Matthew 9:37) ~ Walter Powell

A Book of Proverbs

"ON SHARING OUR FAITH"

- 1) A child of the King should bear a family resemblance.
- 2) Dying without Jesus can have grave consequences.
- 3) If you want the fruit you have to go out on a limb.
- 4) We don't change God's message, His message changes us.
- 5) Some people dream of doing great things (like sharing their faith), others stay awake and do them.



Assembled by Clark "Solomon" Phillips
Clark is a past member of the FCFI Board of Directors

We all need to be ready to share our faith. 8 Year old Jacob Kasten telling the bead story at The Central NY Farm Progress Show in Mohawk, NY.

other news...



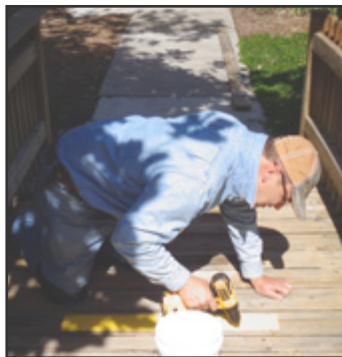
↑
Ron Herrold, IN repairing the perimeter fence at ECHO. Hurricane Irma blew down many trees on the property in Ft. Myers, FL destroying the fence.



↑
After the hurricane lots of buildings needed pressure washing and painting. Lynn Ballard, Remsen, NY working on one of the seven buildings that were painted.



↑
Hank Huigenbos, Wingham, ON, rebuilding one of the demonstration buildings that were destroyed by the hurricane.



↑
Gary Beery, Radnor, OH putting the finishing touches to one of two walkway bridges that were rebuilt.

↓
Walter Powell, GA, Bill Brown, NY and CP Foster, PA putting on a coat of paint to the kitchen, outdoor chapel area at the ranch.



↑
Debbie Herrold, IN and Becky Powell GA painting the bunk house and chapel building. The ladies painted several buildings and bleachers.



Market Place Evangelism

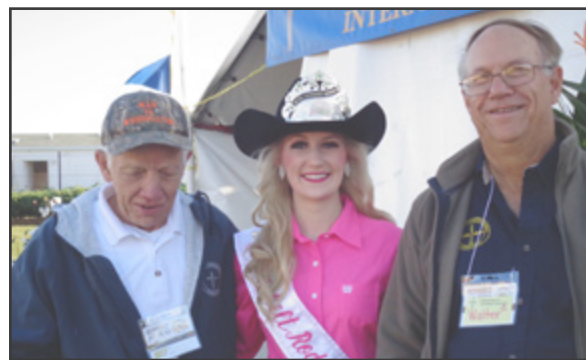
The entire group of 24 volunteers from IN, OH, IL, PA, NY and SC taking a break after church service on Sunday. The A-frame at ECHO serves as lunch headquarters each day. →



Pastor Randy taking time to encourage a young bull rider at a rodeo event, Nov. 26th. The ranch activities are always open to the public. ←



↑
Ron Herrold, Westville, IN, sharing the bead story. The tent was filled to overflowing each day of the event, Oct 17-19.



↑
Sunbelt Rodeo Queen Kayla Shelnuutt taking a few minutes from her busy schedule to visit with Bill Brown and Walter Powell. Kayla expressed her faith with the men and will be representing GA in the national pageant.



↑
Robert Morton, NY, Melvin Bell, IL and Ron Herrold, IN repairing a roof after the hurricane.



Hope For A Hopeless World

I Peter 3:15 tells us to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you. I have heard people make comments to me at various farm shows about

how bad they feel the world has gotten. I believe this is because we are living in the last days. First Timothy 3 tells us in the last days perilous times will come which tells me that people will be looking for hope as the last days events begin to unfold. We were born for such a time as this, so we need to always be ready to give that hope to the world. One time while leading a team on the streets of St. Louis, I felt led to go to a dangerous park. I began to minister to two gangster types about the last days. They said they had just been discussing the last days and one of them prayed to receive the Lord. He was looking for hope and he found it in Jesus. Many years ago, while I was ministering at the National FFA convention in Louisville Kentucky, at a time when we needed encouragement, a total stranger came to our booth and sat right in front of me and said to me, "you have the only hope for these FFA kids and the only answer, so keep giving it to them." This is a word for all Christians, keep giving all people the hope of the Gospel.



Larry Kelley from OK and Jeff Goss sharing the gospel at the Tulsa Farm Show held Dec. 7-9

~ Jeff Goss

other news...

The Mohawk Valley and Northern NY Chapters of FCFI held their annual outreach meetings the first weekend of Oct. Shown at the Mohawk Valley Chapter is Cliff and Joyce Kitchen, chapter president and secretary, Sydney Lenaghan, special music for the evening, and Edith and Wayne Clark, keynote speakers from Quebec, Canada. The Clarks encouraged those present to continue working for the lord.



Thank-you For Supporting Our Mission



Support FCFI: I would like to assist the mission of Fellowship of Christian Farmers in Presenting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (Make payable to Fellowship of Christian Farmers International)

To be used for: General Fund as needed _____ or Area Leaders of Choice
Gary Beery _____ Bill Brown _____ Jeff Goss _____ Walter Powell _____

I am paying by: Visa MasterCard AMEX One Time Donation of \$ _____
Monthly Donation of \$ _____ to be withdrawn on the 15

Card Number _____ Exp mm/yy ____/____

Signature _____ monthly gifts on going until notified otherwise



FCFI, PO Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753

other news...



The entire group of 15 FCF members at Reality Ranch. Pastor Randy Johnson 'founder and owner of the ranch along with two farm workers join in the picture. This was the 8th year that FCF helped at the ranch in Zolfo Springs, FL.

**We'd like to share a few testimonies that came to us
in the past couple of months.
FCF receives many of them and they encourage us as
we work at events sharing our faith.**

~"This ministry saved our family four years ago" ~Debbie Marmon

~ From a letter dated August 30, 2107

Dear Kathy,

Enclosed is the donation we spoke about over the phone. I hope you are able to find a moment in your busy schedule to send me six bracelets for my Dad. He is still in a nursing home rehab center and wears his bracelet I brought him from your booth in Boonville, NY. He wears the bracelet every day and recites the meaning of the beads. He shares it with other patients. He has committed them to memory as he is legally blind, and cannot read the card. It will bring Dad much joy to share the bracelets you send as he spreads the word of God. ~Have a blessed day, Mary

~ A Happening at the FCFI Tent

It was late on Sunday afternoon at the Eden Corn Festival. We had had a very busy day of sharing God's grace and forgiveness with several hundred people using the colored breads. We were taking down the tent and loading the truck when three black ladies (I am guessing in their thirties) stopped and asked, "What's this with the trucks? We see many people walking around with them." I told them about the Fellowship, that we shared the message of the beads at many farm shows, fairs and festivals around the US and Canada and then shared the message with them. When I asked them if they knew where they would spend eternity they said, "Oh, Yes, we are born again and spirit filled Christians." I then asked if there was anything else we could pray about. They said "No, but we would like to pray for you." They prayed for me, for the Festival, all the people that heard the gospel message and for the future success of FCFI. I would not trade that experience for anything.

~Submitted by Clark Phillips and his typist (wife) Sue,

~ As I sit here for a moment of quiet reflection over the past year I have experienced some wonderful blessings! One of those is my annual participation with the Fellowship of Christian Farmers at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, Georgia. What a unique opportunity and setting to be able to personally communicate the gospel with an estimated 8,000 people over the course of 3 days! As we concluded one of our small group presentations, a farmer by the name of Calvin Cole stayed seated and introduced himself to me. He told me that to his surprise that two years ago, when he and his son had gotten up to leave from the presentation, Chase requested 15 of "The Wordless Walking Stick" Owner/Operator Manuals to give to his friends.

When Chase got home, he went to work. He cut down tree limbs and made his very own "Wordless Walking Sticks!" According to his daddy, he made 15 of them for his 15 friends, and then he shared one-on-one with each of those friends over the course of the year! Many of his friends invited Jesus Christ to come into their lives!

As I reflect on that testimony, I realize that as we walk in humble fellowship and obedience with the Lord, far more is going on than we have any idea of! Thank you for giving us the privilege of partnering with you! (editors note: Chase Cole was 13 years old at the time)

~Rev. John D. Hughes, Jr., Minister of Spiritual Development/Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Tifton GA



"Make Every Day Matter"

I have found over the years of having the privilege of writing columns and sharing my thoughts with readers that many times others writing, including the writers of the Bible, say things that I'd like to address with more clarity. This seems to be true in this column of "From the Pen." I get my title from Laura Ingraham, host of "The Ingraham Angle" on Fox News because, YES, I agree we should do all we can to make every day matter. I received an e-mail from CP Foster, FCFI board member, from PA just in time for this newsletter. It was the morning devotion he had just read and wanted to share with others making tough decisions at this very time. The words come from Charles Spurgeon, "When calm reigns on the sea, spread the sails as you will, the ship does not move to its harbor, for on a slumbering ocean the keel sleeps too. Let the winds rush and howl, and let the water lift themselves, though the vessel may rock and her deck may be washed with waves and her mast may crack under pressure of the full and swelling sail, it is then that she makes headway towards her desired haven." Is that you today? Are you under pressure to make this day count? We need to make everyday matter and sometimes that means ruffling feathers, the water. Scripture gives us some guidance as to how we should do it. Colossians 3:12-14 "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, gentleness and patience. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And, above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." Make a difference but do it the right way. Certainly we want to get to the desired haven in our lives, our families, our churches and even in organizations we serve. May God bless you as you serve and may you make this day matter for eternity.

~Bill Brown

Market Place Evangelism

Long lines at the Sunbelt Ag Expo each day of the show. Walter and Becky Powell did a great job of coordinating what has become the largest FCFI event. Over 8,000 stopped by to receive a free walking stick.

