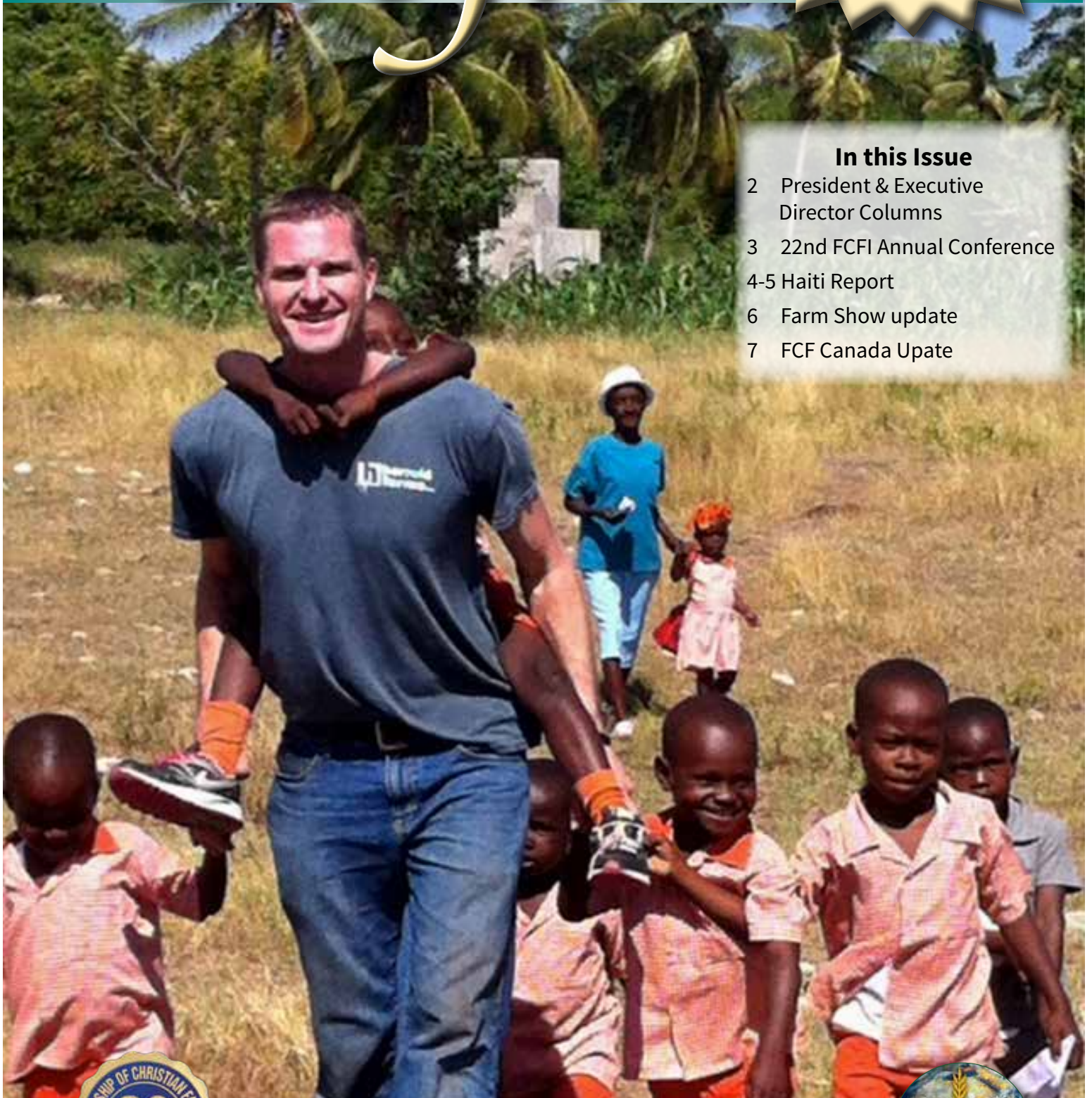


The Profit

Register for
the 22nd FCFI
Annual Conference
at www.fcfi.org
details inside

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*For what shall it profit a man to gain the world
and lose his soul? - Mark 8:36*



Serving, Sowing, Reaping for Christ Around the World.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Farmers of Men

This article explores being Farmers of Men. The nurturing of God's crop, mankind. As we go to the fields this spring, let's more than ever, be sowers into God's Kingdom. Imagine the land of the Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13, was your farm. There before you are fields of good soil, capable of producing 100 times the amount sown. Then there are the weedy fields, the rocky fields and the hard fields. What to do with those? Well...we've been given a life time; a be-at-it-tude (Matt. 5) would be helpful. Some might use the rock to construct beautiful rock terraces, others a foundation for a new building somewhere on the farm while the rocky field returns to profitable production under no-till. The thorny fields could be put to a new rotation and in a season or two the weeds would start fading away. The hard soil fields may take some scientific evaluation, primary tillage and a lot of organic matter, but under the attentive care of the good farmer, it too will take a respected place in the farm.



B. Todd Brace
FCFI President

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus explains the fields are the hearts of people. As farmers, we have learned how make and keep fields productive. Is it surprising Jesus uses the analogy to open our eyes to being farmers of men? For most of us, we'd rather go pick up rocks, kill weeds or till soil than make a Christian call on a neighbor. A good Fellowship of Christian Farmer friend of mine overcame his fear of Christian engagement through the following thinking; he said if my neighbors barn was on fire I'd go rush over and help him...why wouldn't I all the more rush over and help him if his life was on fire. Jesus pressed Peter hard in John 21:15-17 when asking him three times if he loved him, then saying "tend my lambs...shepherd my sheep... tend my sheep." Discipleship doesn't get done with one hour at church on Sunday and regular funeral attendance. Jesus said, "Let the dead bury the dead." In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus steps up as the Master Shepherd and performs the most critical culling of all...and we will all be there. A major lesson of that scripture is the understanding the time for doing the work of God is now and the time for doing the undone has already past.

I'm confident everyone reading this article will be motivated by the up to date information and wisdom presented by Dr. Phil Maynard, in his book Shift; bylined "Helping Congregations Back into The Game of Effective Ministry." A team from my congregation was privileged to participate in a yearlong mentorship and coaching program conducted by the author himself who revealed the tremendous desire of God's heart to see His people nurtured until they are fully developed disciples of Christ. Sadly, he updated attendees to the fact the 80/20 rule is now 90/10 and further clarified characteristically today's harvest fields as the generation of the "biblically illiterate." To be mentored is powerful and pleasing experience. To mentor is the timeless example of Jesus. It's the WWDJ for today. Please join me in seeking the Spirit's leading for a one-on-one or small group mentoring ministry right from the farm shop, stable or barn. For a better look at Phil's toolbox, see his website and consider joining in the FCFI mentoring experiment @ FCFI.org.

In closing, to all you farmers of men...may you stay in the Spirit of The Living God and "go farm"!!! On behalf of the FCFI board, thanks to all the FCFI members, friends of the Fellowship and sponsors who share their time and talents as we collectively nurture The Lord's crop not unlike Paul and Apollos of 1st. Cor. 3:6. Heads-up also toward the 2015 FCFI Annual Conference inspired by Jude 22 to "Make a Difference!"

Your Fellow Sojourner in Christ,

B. Todd Brace, FCFI President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International has had a successful first quarter of 2015. Farm Show exhibits have been full of people who know "things are not going well in America". There has been an increase in workers staffing the FCFI exhibits. This is a wonderful development.

The 22nd FCF International Conference will be in Shipshewana, Indiana. Details for the program and registration is on page three of Profit. Hope you can join us for an encouraging time together in the beautiful Amish Country of Northern Indiana.

FCFI needs to have you register to be a disaster relief worker online at www.fcfi.org. We want to be able to e-mail all workers as fast as possible regarding the Fellowship's response to the next disaster. Henryville, Indiana tornado hit March 1 2012. Hurricane Rita and its storm surge in South Louisiana hit September 25, 2005-----10 years ago.

From March until November a major storm can occur. FCFI wants to be ready to respond to help farm families rebuild as quickly as possible with the love of the Lord. Join the FCFI Disaster Relief Team today. Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support of the FCFI Ministry.

Sincerely,

Dennis Schlagel, FCFI Executive Director



Dennis Schlagel
FCFI Executive Director

— FCFI —

The purpose of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers is to build, maintain, and strengthen faith in God for the farmer, the farm family, and the farming industry through presenting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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22nd Annual Conference

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life, and of some have compassion, making a difference." - Jude 21 & 22 (KJV)

**Blue Gate Garden Inn, Shipshewana, Indiana
 July 31-August 2, 2015**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our theme this year is "Making a Difference" and it all starts with this 3-day conference and investment you won't soon forget! Worship, fellowship, keynote presenter Craig Deall and special music from "By Grace". Don't forget we'll be enjoying great food, renewing old friendships, and the FCFI Auction!

Don't miss this event as we highlight the many farm show and mission trip opportunities, stateside and abroad. As well, you'll hear reports on the work FCFI is doing as we move forward with God's plan for 2015!

Inspirational Speaker: Craig Deall



Special Music: "By Grace"
Pictured: Amos Raber and family

22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Keynote Address with Craig Deall, *Foundation for Farming*
- ❖ Special Concert with "By Grace"
- ❖ Several great workshops including Women's Workshops with Laura Loveberry
- ❖ Opportunity to tour a local Foundations for Farming Plot
- ❖ Early arrival tours including Jayco Trailer Factory, Log Cabin Furniture Factory, Grist Mill, Quilting with the ladies @ Goshen College
- ❖ Lots of shopping and opportunities to tour Amish Country and enjoy Amish food!

Registration Form

22nd Annual FCFI Conference – July 31 - August 2, 2015
 Shipshewana, Indiana

**Registration Deadline
 is on or before
 July 1, 2015**

Name _____
 Spouse _____
 Children _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

**Make Checks Payable to:
 FCFI Conference
 P.O. Box 15
 Lexington, IL 61753**

Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday morning:

Adults _____	@ \$250 US each	
Children (10 and under) _____	@ \$ 80 US each	(Cost of conference includes six meals and accommodations per person)
RV Adults _____	@ \$100 US each	

**Register and Pay
 with your credit card
 at www.fcfi.org**

HAITI REPORT

I've spent time doing missions work in third world environments, but this time it was different.

Our trip began with ten team members from varying parts of the US: Gary and Klorisa from Vermont; Nick from Florida; me (Paul), Chloe, Cody, and Jada from Indiana; and Derek, Mark, and our fearless leader Dennis Anderson, all from Iowa. Although this was an FCFI trip we worked with Global Compassion's orphanage, school, widow and infant caring facilities in Les Cayes, Haiti.

I'd like to help encapsulate the trip by sharing five things that moved me while in Haiti.

5. THE FOOD

Oh, you heard me right – I was moved by the food. I say that tongue-in-cheek; but, seriously, the food was amazing. I've got to admit that I'm somewhat of a wimp when it comes to trying new food items. And I've got this philosophy on missions trips that when you find a meal you really like, you put it down as if it's your last supper, because who knows what breed of dog you might be eating next! (Did I say that out loud? I really am kidding). After six meals I decided that this philosophy was not necessary because it was all so good. Another three weeks and they would've had to load me on the plane with a forklift.

4. THE SCENERY

I really enjoyed how beautiful it was there. It was so lush and tropical. Maybe my senses were a little skewed by the fact that it was in the 80's every day – a far cry from January in Indiana.

3. THE LEADERSHIP IN HAITI

The orphanage where we worked was called the Consolation Center, and the Consolation Center works with Global Compassion Network and other organizations to help make a difference in Haiti. The American staff there (Zackary, Les) and the Haitian staff (Eddy, Max) were so intentional about caring for the physical and spiritual needs of the Haitian children and people in their care. Their dedication to be Jesus to physically and spiritually needy people of Haiti (especially the orphans) was certainly inspiring to say the least. When you spend time in the poorest country in the West, Haiti, the words of scripture concerning the poor flood your mind. This is one of those scriptures I had trouble shaking from my mind: *But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. I John 3:17-18*

2. KEN AND CONWELL

Ken and Conwell are farmers from Iowa that are like many farmers across America, successful. They, like many of us, have a love and passion for farming. From the smell of dirt in the spring to the beauty and wonder of corn emerging every year to the excitement of harvesting another crop. The story of the details that led them to be integral partners in Haiti is too long to share here, but as they both shared the story with us, it was apparent that God had used Haiti to break them and give them a vision for a kingdom purpose. Ken challenged us by likening the farmer in scripture that tore down his barns to build bigger barns, to an Iowa farmer that achieves the dream of farming big, with bin space, machine sheds, acreage, notoriety, and a green combine (which is certainly debatable if we are trying to describe a "successful farmer.") *But life, like the vapor that it is, wound down for this farmer and God was unimpressed. God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, [a fool] and is not rich toward God. Luke 12:20-21*

Through tears they both shared their heart to make their life count for eternity, and as a Christian farmer, that night on the deck of the beach house their message resonated deep within me, to lay down my kingdom to further his.



HAITI REPORT

1. THE ORPHANS

This is hands down number one. I have never spent a substantial amount of time with a group of orphans. I've spent time with children in villages and towns here in the States, in Mexico, and in the Dominican Republic; but there is something different when it dawns on you that these children, in many cases, will not know the security of having an earthly father or mother to love and care for them. There is a feeling that overwhelms you about how near these children are to the heart of God. God is near to the fatherless, and as James says, true religion is visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction. Words can't really express the deep sense of clarity of purpose that comes (during my best moments in Haiti) holding orphan babies, walking the younger boys back from school, spending time with Watson (the boy I am sponsoring), and holding a little girl named Gelan during movie night. I can't explain how it happens, but drawing near to orphans seems to draw people nearer to the presence and the heart of God. *Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked. Psalms 82:3-4*

Ken shared a story that involved his meeting a man in Port-au-Prince who was going out to hand out gospel tracks. The man didn't have time to address physical needs because he had the more important task of getting the gospel out. But as Ken put it, the Gospel has to come with food, clothes, water and shelter. Because without their physical needs met, you're sharing only words; but with their needs met you are getting to the very essence of the gospel, which is the love of Christ.

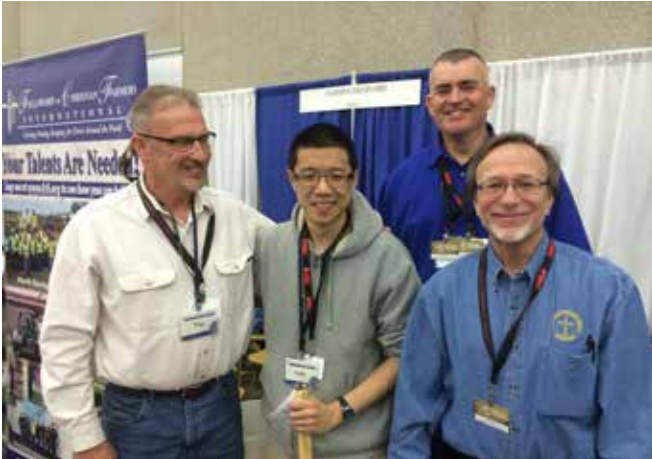
I'm all in for helping Haiti. My wife says that this trip has affected me, changed me, moved me – however you want to say it. I need to go back. The poverty there, you can smell, you can see, you can feel. And there's an endless sea of physical as well as spiritual needs. But the reality is, I don't live in Haiti. As of right now that's not where God has called me to be. He's called me to make an impact to the people in my community. My Haiti experience reminds me that I need to be addressing poverty in my community. In the US (the richest nation in the history of humanity), we are plagued with a different kind of poverty: spiritual poverty. Solomon wrote: *Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' [America] or lest I be poor [Haiti] and steal and profane the name of my God. Proverbs 30:8-9.* So if the gospel in Haiti needs to go out with food and water, shelter and clothes, how does the gospel need to go out here in America? Well, first I'm just reminded that each person I am eyeball to eyeball with that doesn't know Christ is facing a condition that's far worse than malnutrition. They are facing a condition that, if not remedied through Jesus Christ, will separate them eternally from their Creator. Second, the gospel has to go out with love and relationships, because as my pastor always says, "They don't care what you know until they know that you care." My experience in Haiti changed me, there is no doubt, and after you have those kind of experiences life can never return back to "normal" nor do I want it to.

- Paul Herrold



FARM SHOW REPORTS

The National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, Kentucky had the largest team of workers serving the Lord during the four day event. 45 nametags were needed to identify the FCFI leadership team. Shown here, left to right, are Tim Brace, Sam Chua, Jeff Mings and Bob Ansley.



Sam Chua shares the gospel message using a wordless walking stick at the National Farm Machinery Show. 4200 walking sticks were used during the four day farm show. 16 students from the Southern University's Billy Graham School for Missions and Evangelism helped staff the FCFI exhibit. Many people prayed to receive Christ as Savior.



Pastor Jeremy Stout from Marysville, Ohio interacts with two dads and their sons in the FCFI booth at the Louisville Farm Show. The church Jeremy leads prepared 5000 walking sticks for the show and delivered the sticks in a cargo trailer two days before the National Farm Machinery Show so the trailer was as close to the loading dock as possible. This made restocking the FCFI booth easy to do. 18 people came from the church on Thursday and Friday. Praise the Lord for the Marysville Bible Baptist Church and its commitment to share the gospel message at farm shows in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

Each year the National Farm Machinery Show Manager gives FCFI a seminar room in South Wing B to use for morning prayer and devotions before the farm show opens. This year Corey Hayak and Rob Smucker, both agribusinessmen who founded "Ag Associates for Christ" www.aa4c.org, lead the devotions and prayer time. Seminar Room 110 was full each morning with men in Louisville representing their companies. New friendships were formed and the day got started right by praying together to the Lord.



The Iowa Power Farming Show was held in the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Ed Hall from Boone, Iowa is shown presenting the gospel message to a group of people attending the show on an extremely cold Iowa winter day. During the Show two farmers from China visited the FCFI booth. One of the men had serious questions about the Christian faith. Ed Hall carefully handled the questions. The man was ready to pray to receive Christ. The next day the two men were flying back to China. You never know who the Lord is going to have walk into an FCFI booth.



Nathan Griffen, Boone, Iowa, worked all three days of the Iowa Power Farming Show. Nathan's home church, Evangelical Free Church, has been involved with several shows including the Farm Progress Show when it is in Boone and the Hawkeye Farm Show each year in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Local churches involvement in farm show activity has a lasting effect in the local church. Many workers develop a method of sharing the gospel message in their own community long after the farm show is over.

FCF CANADA

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

A glimpse of FCF-Canada activities in the last quarter of 2014.

Walk to Bethlehem

Walk by Herod's palace, meet beggars in the street, meet shepherds in the fields, see angels in chorus lighting up the horizon, walk through Bethlehem market, pay your taxes or go to prison, meet the innkeeper, see Mary and Joseph and the baby, and the final scene dealing with the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection are all part of what you experience when you attend the Walk to Bethlehem pageant in Hudson, Quebec. Hudson Community Baptist Church meets in a converted horse barn with an acreage and outbuildings. They make good use of this property by staging this annual pageant for four evenings leading up to Christmas.



As people complete the walk, they come into the warm church auditorium for hot chocolate and cookies, and the Fellowship of Christian Farmers are there, ready to share the message, summarizing the meaning of why Christ came to earth by using the five colours attached to the walking stick.

The Plowing Match Thanksgiving and Praise

The "Fellowship" in FCF is important. Many of the volunteers from the International Plowing Match met in Barrie, ON, for a time of praise and thanksgiving in November. Everyone pitched in for the delicious meal and the hymn sing that followed.

People were eager to share their experiences of working in the tent. Johanne shared the following testimony:

"It was greeting people, standing outside the tent, connecting with passers-by and inviting them in. One man said to me: 'No thanks; I'm an atheist.' I said to him: 'Sir, God doesn't believe in atheists; you need to come in and hear the message.' Reluctantly, he allowed me to usher him into the tent. I seated him with Duncan, and Duncan shared the gospel with him. After some conversation, this man humbly prayed to accept Christ as Saviour! And that's what it's all about!"



Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

The most prestigious agricultural show in Canada is the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair which takes place in downtown Toronto, Canada's largest city. FCF was there again this year and were able to share the gospel with thousands. Even though it is a "farm" show, many of the visitors who turn up at our booth are from the city, and originally from many countries scattered around the world. It is truly a mission field where the many ethnic groups hear (maybe for the first time) about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is indeed a unique opportunity and we are grateful for all the volunteers who come each year to share their faith.



The Averys

John and Marsha Avery, FCFI members from Bloomington, IL, helped at the first FCF outreach in Canada. The Clarks had the opportunity to visit them during a recent trip south.

Spring Conference and AGM

FCF-Canada is holding its spring conference and Annual General Meeting April 17-19, Dalkeith, Ontario. For more information, contact Edith at 819-242-7067, or email: fcfc@bellnet.ca



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Bloomington, IL



Saturday, June 27, 2015
register online at
www.pedalingforkicks.com

FCFI Farm Show & Calendar of Events view this calendar, and check for updates at www.fcfi.org

MARCH			
3-5	Hawkeye Farm Show-Cedar Falls, IA Joel Brown 563-432-6694	10-12	Ice Cream Festival-Lakeland, FL Bill Brown 315-749-6823
3-6	Susquehanna Ag Day – Elk Lake, PA Doc DeVoe 570-458-9876	16-18	Oklahoma City Farm Show-Oklahoma City, OK 17 New Shower Trailer Ribbon Cutting at 10:00am Tony DeGiusti 405-381-4383
6-7	BBQ Festival-Eagle Lake, FL Bill Brown 315-749-6823		MAY
7-8	Strawberry Festival-Floral City, FL Bill Brown 315-749-6823	2	Spring Fling-Danville, PA Doc DeVoe 570-458-9876
11-12	Triumph of Ag Expo-Omaha, NE Ron Niedermeyer 402-264-4595	9	Berwick Street Festival-Berwick, PA Doc DeVoe 570-458-9876
13-14	Dragon Boat Festival-Tavares, FL Bill Brown 315-749-6823	9	Milton Cultural Festival- Milton, PA Doc DeVoe 570-458-9876
13-15	Susquehanna Builders Show, Williamsport, PA Doc DeVoe 570-458-9876	30	FCFI Golf Tournament-Boonville, NY Bill Brown 315-749-6823
25-27	South Island Ag Field Days-Christ Church, NZ Dennis Schlagel 309-530-7004		JUNE
26-28	Mid-America Farm Show-Salina, KS Harry Kejr 785-225-6707	10-13	National Fielddays - Hamilton, New Zealand Darren Miers 64-27-489-4496
		27	Pedaling for Kicks Bike Ride, Bloomington, IL
APRIL			JULY
8-10	Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo-Great Bend, KS Dennis Schlagel 309-530-7004		31- Aug 2 FCFI Annual Conference, Shipshewana, IN

Join And Support FCFI: I / We would like to assist the mission of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers in presenting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to farmers, farm families and the entire agricultural community.

I am interested in: More information about the ministry Farm shows in my area Praying for FCFI Volunteer Opportunities

I have a prayer request _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

