

# 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 Bead** - represents sin. Sin separates us from God. Romans 3:23 - “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

-The **Red Bead** - 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.”**



Photo  
Pastor  
Rob  
Andreas

## Event Schedule

### September

- 1-2 - NYS Festival of Balloons, Dansville, NY
  - 1-2 - Spencer Fair, Spencer, MA
  - 6-9 - Hebron Harvest Fair, Hebron, CT
  - 7-9 - Antique Power Days, Salem, IL
  - 12-13 - Oneida-Herkimer Farm Progress Show, Mohawk, NY
  - 13-16 - Four Town Fair, Somers, CT
  - 15 - Cream Cheese Festival, Lowville, NY
  - 18-22 - International Plowing Match, Pain Court, Chatham, Kent, On, Canada
  - 18-20 - Ohio Farm Science Review, London, OH
  - 22-23 - Remsen Barn Festival, Remsen, NY
  - 28-29 - Apple Fest, Central Square, NY
- ### October
- 5-7 - Harwinton Fair, Harwinton, CT
  - 5-7 - Ozark Farm Fest, Springfield, MO
  - 5-6 - Outreach Dinners, Adams Center and Steuben, NY
  - 11-13 - 3-I Farm Show, Dodge City, KS
  - 12-14 - Riverton Fair, Riverton, CT
  - 16-18 - Sun Belt Ag Expo, Moultrie, GA
  - 19-21 - Fulton Fall Festival, McConnellsville, PA
  - 27 - Apple Fest, Congregational Church, Salem, CT
  - 27 - Fall Festival, Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church, Arcadia, FL
- ### November
- 3 - Farm Day - Rocking B-A-B Ranch, DeFuniak Springs, FL
- ### December
- 6-8 - Tulsa Farm Show, Tulsa, OK
- ### Mission Trips
- Nov. 4-9 - Reality Ranch Mission Trip, Zolfo Springs, FL



Proverbs 16:3 “Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established.” (ESV) Our desire is to do our best and let God do the rest!!

[www.fcfi.org](http://www.fcfi.org)

### Contact list:

Gary Beery - Radnor, OH  
(740)360-1000  
Bill Brown - Marcy, NY  
(315)736-5964



Jeff Goss - High Ridge, MO  
(314)610-1835  
FCFI Main Office- Lexington, IL  
(309)365-8710



“We plant - God gives the increase.” 1 Cor. 3:6-9  
Fellowship of Christian Farmers International

September 2018  
ISSUE 14

# The Harvest

Credit Cover: Pastor Rob & Sue Andreas

## I'm Just a Farmer, Plain and Simple

By Bobby Collier

I'm just a farmer,  
Plain and simple.  
Not of a royal birth  
But rather, a worker of the earth.

I know not of riches  
But rather, of patches on my britches  
I know of draught and rain,  
Of pleasure and pain.

I know of the good and the bad,  
The happy and the sad.  
I am a man of emotions.

A man who loves this land,  
And the beauty of its sand.  
I know of a spring's fresh flow  
And autumn's golden glow,  
Of a newborn calf's hesitation,  
And the eagle's destination.

I know of tall pines,  
And long, waiting lines.  
Of the warmth of campfires,  
And the agony of flat tires.

But I am a man who loves his job  
And the life I live.

I am a man who works with God,  
I cannot succeed without his help,  
For you see,  
I'm just a farmer  
Plain and simple.

*Inside:*  
News from the Ohio Valley - Pg 2  
Guest Column Pg 2  
View from the South Pg 3  
Proverbs by Clark Pg 3  
Testimonials Pg 6  
Market Place Evangelism Pg 4, 11, 12  
Other News: Pg 4, 5, 9  
From The Pen Pg 9  
Mark Your Calendar Pg 7, 8  
News From The Heartland Pg 10  
Through the eyes of a Pastor Pg 13  
Event Schedule Pg 14  
The Bead Story Pg 14

June is dairy month in NY with many communities holding parades and dairy days to celebrate and promote this great industry. Chenango County Dairy Princess, Morgan Homan, Peyton Graham, Dairy Princess Court and Michaela Eicorst, Cortland County Dairy Princess stopped by the FCF booth to visit with Steve Durucher. We're happy to report all the young ladies have Jesus in their hearts!







## Just A Farmer?

I don't know about that. Farming is hard work, and lots of it. And today, most of us would not believe the technology involved in farming here in the USA.

With that said there is a simple part to it. We do physical labor to plant a crop or to manage livestock and what happens we have no idea. Tell me where did that seed come from or that momma? No farmer made that, and how is it that when we plant it that for some reason that seed swells up with moisture and sprouts and produces a large plant? The momma cow has a calf; where did that come from?

Yes just a farmer, our work is simple. God made those seeds and the plants and the momma cow and the calf and year after year it is still amazing.

Guess what is even more amazing? Not that we were born but if you are a Christian, you were born again! Yes we have been born twice!

In 1Corinthians 3:5-9 God talks to us about planting, watering and the field, but how does that work? We are or should be amazed how the Holy Spirit works. GOD GIVES THE INCREASE!!! Whether agricultural farmers or planting a seed that grows spiritually it is amazing. We do the work and God does the rest.

Tell me if you have done both, which is most rewarding? That's simple, for me the most rewarding thing is planting seed spiritually or watering it and the truly amazing thing is when someone gets born again. Now that's the kind of farming I want to be involved in.

How about you? We can help if you would like, by getting involved in our events in sharing how to be born again. Please don't hesitate to contact one of us. We can help and encourage you if you'd like to get involved. You will never regret it.

*Gary Beery*

## Guest Column

Terry Taylor • FCF Canada Member - Ontario, Canada

## Bead Story Leads Family & Friend to Salvation

People are hungry for the truth. They know that they are missing something but they don't know what.

My wife's Uncle, a tall very heavy set 86 yr. old man, although we love him dearly was by his own admission a very difficult man who thought he knew everything. He was dead set against the church for over 80 years forbidding his wife to go to church although she was a strong believer. He loved to get in his car and drive from Edmonton, Alberta to Reno where he lived for years or Ont., the East coast. He was visiting our place a couple of years ago and wanted to know about the walking sticks. Ah, this was my chance as provided by the Holy Spirit. I went through the bead story, not expecting anything, and then asked him if he wanted to ask God for his gift of salvation, expecting to get a terse no. He said yes, halleluiah praise the Lord. I did not see that coming. He goes to church every week & has changed in the last few years dramatically.

I was at the corner store returning a movie that I had forgotten to return earlier (everything for a reason). I ran into an old friend that I had not seen for years. We visited for a while then he said there are

continued on page 10

## "God has created you to spread the Good News"

Making disciples is something Jesus has left for us to do; therefore missions must be the emphasis of the church and our lives. Sadly, today missions is being viewed as an add on ministry of the church. It is my belief that missions, discipling, evangelizing, and caring for the under privileged have slipped way to far down personal and church priorities.

Every minute of every day hundreds die around the world without the knowledge of Christ. It is criminal that 2000 years after Jesus came for all men to be saved that over 40% of the world's population is still unreached. We all need to re-commit to Christ's command and His priority. Christ does not give us an option. The Great Commission isn't just a great suggestion or an optional ministry. It is to be the ministry of our lives; to make disciples who make disciples.

The Bible is clear that God is a global God, wanting each nation to be reached with the gospel. His heart is for all people and nations. We are sent by Him and by His power. Act 1:8 (NIV) "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the world." Do you notice a repeating word? Three times we read the word You – it is personal. God's mission is directed to you. He gives each and every disciple the power of the Holy Spirit. He is active in the lives of every disciple to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

God has created, called, commanded and commissioned you as His disciples to spread the good news of love and grace to all men. We have only one life, so let's invest it well.



*Andrew Jit* – Global Missions Pastor, Owensboro Christian Church, KY

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_j;k

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ monthly gifts on going until notified otherwise



FCFI, PO Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753

# Market Place Evangelism

Dave Iamele works at the FCF tent at Old Home Days, Vernon, NY. He's explaining the prayer of salvation from the FCF operator's manual (tract).



Region Eight Fieldman, Roy Upson and his wife, Cathy set up a small display at the Roseboom Antique Tractor Show, August 18 & 19th. They reported many good conversations.



Eden Corn Fest, NY. Clark Phillips and Cathy Upson sharing.



Crossroads Bible Church has been faithful for many years staffing the FCF tent at the Skowhegan State Fair in Skowhegan, ME. Many thanks to Jack Brake, show coordinator, shown in picture, and Pastor Curtis Kanagy for taking on the responsibility. The fair is FCFI's longest event. It runs for 12 days.

## Greetings From The South

Area 10 Leader, Omega, GA



**“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)**

For the last several years I have been representing the Fellowship of Christian Farmers (FCFI) in the southeast as Area Leader. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the Lord through this organization. I have met many wonderful people along the way and have become very good friends with them. If I were not a part of FCFI I would have never been given the opportunity to meet them. I have been able to share the gospel along beside them and worship with them.

I feel the “wordless walking stick” is the greatest tool created to use in sharing the gospel. It has been a thrill to go to many different cities to spread the word of Jesus Christ with this tool. There have been many who have accepted Jesus for the first time in their lives and many more

who have been reminded of who He is and what He means in their lives. My fondest memories are the times I have prayed with those who needed prayer and with those who prayed to receive Christ as Lord of their life.

I am entering a new season of my life. At the June board meeting I turned in my resignation as Area Leader of FCFI. I will continue to witness with FCFI under the leadership of Area Leader, Bill Brown. I will also continue to support FCFI.

I praise God for the privilege of being an Area Leader. FCFI is a wonderful organization that reaches out to the farmer and farming community in a way that is different from other organizations. Not only does it meet physical needs, but spiritual needs are important as well.

In my time as Area Leader I could not have done what I have been able to do without my wife as my partner, as my supporter, as my encourager, and my secretary. Thanks to all of her support.

May God bless the Fellowship of Christian Farmers organization along with its staff and the Board of Directors.

*Walter Powell*

## A Book of Proverbs Plain & Simple

### Plain and Simple Verses

Joshua 24:15 “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”

Exodus 20 “The Ten Commandments”

Luke 10:27 “Love the Lord your God with all you heart...soul... strength and mind. Love your neighbors as yourself.”

Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the light, no one comes to the Father except through me.”

Assembled by Clark “Solomon” Phillips

Clark is a past member of the  
FCFI Board of Directors





*A Big Thank You To John Vogel!*

John Vogel has retired as Editor of American Agriculturist magazine and we in FCFI wish to publically thank him for his unwavering desire to include “The Higher Ground” column in each month’s edition, reaching farm families through the north east. For twenty years John has been faithful allowing FCF members the privilege of sharing life’s experiences to encourage those in the farm community. John, we thank you and wish you well as you retire. We know you’ll stay busy sharing the good news and serving the Lord.



*Josh Gant, Holland Patent, NY helped at the Empire Farm Days in Seneca Falls, NY the first week of August. Rainy weather and the challenges facing the dairy industry kept show attendance down. FCF still visited with 1,000 attendees.*



↑ Roy Norman, Woodstock, CT visiting with folks at the Wolcott, CT Fair mid – August. FCF members from Woodstock exhibit at 10 events during the summer and fall.



↑ Jeff Goss had the pleasure of sharing the bead story with several Korean kids who visited the FCF tent at the Four State Farm Show in Pittsburg, KS this summer.



↑ Chris and Steve Brown travelled to Cowlesville, NY for their annual flea market and show. The event planner is a Christian and likes to have FCF there as a Christian influence.



Steve Brown and Bill Slawson at the Woodsmen’s Field Days, August 17-19 at Boonville, NY. 950 people stopped by to hear the story of God’s Grace.





## Dependence Equals Success

In the poem, “I’m Just a Farmer, Plain and Simple”, by Bobby Collier, Bobby writes, “I am a man who works with God; I cannot succeed without His help”. In other words, a good farmer knows he is totally dependent on God for the success of his farming operation. A farmer must rely on God to give him wisdom to grow successful crops and to do the daily work on his farm. The farmer must trust God for strength and energy and to bring in the right laborers to assist with day to day operations. The farmer must depend upon God for the right amount of sunshine and rain and at the right time. Timing is everything in planting and harvesting a successful crop.

We too, must be totally dependent upon God for his help and guidance to see a big harvest of souls saved. According to John 5:30, Jesus Himself said He also was dependent on the Father when He said, *“I can of mine own self do nothing”*. *Jesus only did and said what the Father told Him to say and do. If we try to do things in our strength and wisdom we will fail. But if we depend on God, it will take the stress and pressure off us and put it on Him. He will always cause us to triumph in Christ Jesus and will give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (II Corinthians 2:14, I Corinthians 15:57)*

*Jeff Goss*

Bead Story Leads Family & Friend to Salvation  
continued from page 2

a lot of our friends that aren’t around anymore. That was my queue. I said “WE ALL DIE; the question is where are you going to spend eternity?”. Do you know ? No, was his reply. I said would you like to know that you going to heaven for sure? He said yes. I told him the bead story and he made Jesus his Lord and Savior right on the sidewalk outside the store. He was thrilled, like he had been set free. He was jumping around, laughing, and thanking me over & over. I gave him a Bible to read, convinced him to go to church and talk to God several times a day. He drove off laughing and waving. It was a double blessing because that was the lift that my faith needed at that time, as well. *God is so good.*



## Stick Work Days 2018

Submitted by Ed Westfall



We spent Wednesday – Saturday, July 11-14 at the Brown’s preparing for the Christian Farmers event for 2018.



After receiving the sticks, they are inspected and then the top is shaped, sanded, where necessary and a hole drilled for the rawhide bracelet. The photo of workers include Merrill Dickinson, PA, Steve Brown, Remsen, NY, Russ Johnston, Knoxville, IA, Austin Lup, Gallupville, NY, Mike Bastiaansen, Ontario, Canada, and our youngest stick worker Spencer Farr, Barneveld, NY.



The sticks are then bundled and stacked and ready for distribution. 95 man days went into preparing 17,300 sticks.



Laura Sorentino, PA leads the workers in the garage. Laura faithfully helped all four days. Next to Laura is Rita Sarrasy. The crew puts FCF logo stickers on items, necklaces and other items for handouts. All items provide a method of sharing the Gospel with thousands of people.



## Testimonies from the Field...

*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.*



*Olcott Bible Church Pastor Peter Evander and Sharon Sinkora — sharing the bead story at the Niagara County Fair*

\*On Friday an elderly gentlemen stopped came into the FCF booth to receive a free walking stick. Presenter Christyn Brown gave him the colored bead message. Other workers were informed of his dementia condition, they prayed as Chris shared. He responded saying he wanted to receive Christ. After praying to accept Christ he said “my heart is tingling.”



*Chris Brown sharing the message at Woodsman's field days, chain saws so loud you have to get close!!*



*Pastor Peter greeting fair goers. Chris Dearborn can be seen ready to share. Chris is the Fair Outreach Coordinator.*

## From the Pen of Bill Brown ...



## It's a Simple Message!

Nearly thirty years ago FCF began using a simple message (way) of sharing God's love given to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. The five bead story has served us well. Millions have heard the message and many have responded as the Holy Spirit has convicted them of their need to have their sins forgiven and a pathway to Heaven opened for them. What a wonderful message.

Many in the world would have us believe that we are not inclusive enough; possibly that our message is offensive and that our tent is not big enough. The Bible would tell us differently. “But God commandeth His love for us, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 That means everyone! My favorite verse in the Bible says it all. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 That's very inclusive. Once again, that means everyone!

Some would have us include other material (books) and doctrine to our presentation. To that I would respond, we are an evangelistic organization and we leave the discipleship to the local church. When my schedule allows, I like to attend a men's morning Bible study. The group uses the Bible as its only text. It's a great book and contains all we need to know and guides our lives.

Finally, if you've never responded to God's plan for your life, ask Him to save you and set you on a path to serving Him. The message is on the back page of this newsletter. We would love to have you join us as we share this simple message.

Remember to give Him thanks,

*Bill Brown*

## other news...

*We always appreciate invitations to church activities. Center Point Church in Barneveld, NY invited the Browns to set up a tent at their recently held Music Fest. The functions serve as a way to familiarize folks with FCF and also give us opportunities to share the gospel.*



## Mark Your Calendars

### FALL OUTREACH BANQUET 26th Annual Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International Mohawk Valley Chapter

October 6<sup>th</sup>

at the

Steuben Town Hall

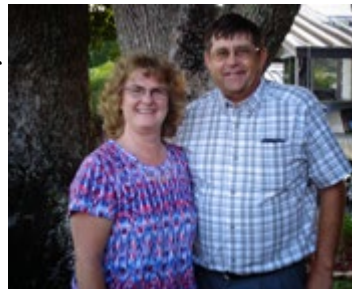
Corner of Route 274 & 9458 Soule Rd

Remsen, NY 13438

With Keynote Speaker  
Ron and Deb Herrold

From Westville, IN

Ron and Deb are semi-retired farmers and serve the Fellowship of Christian Farmers in many capacities. Ron is Secretary of the FCFI Board of Directors. Both of them are very active in FCFI mission trips.



Buffet Style Dinner  
7:30pm  
\$16.00 pp

Northern NY Chapter Dinner

Friday, Oct 5, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Six Town Meeting House Church St., Adams, NY

Contact the Porters at 315-778-5247

Turkey Dinner and all the trimmings - \$14.00

For Reservations Call

315-736-5964

by October 3rd

## Mark Your Calendars



Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization

17391 Durrance Rd.  
N. Fort Myers, FL 33917  
239-543-3246  
www.echonet.org

January 26 - February 2, 2019



Echo exists to provide sustainable solutions to fight world hunger. Echo offers hope in the face of poverty & world hunger through sustainable, affordable agricultural solutions to hunger. Echo wants to equip current missionaries & development workers with their work in agriculture. Their home base in Ft. Myers, FL is an 24 acre research farm to train & demonstrate how to grow & survive in many different environments.

There is a project for everyone at ECHO. We will be painting, gardening, maintenance, construction, library work, office work, etc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form and include your payment made out to FCFI to –  
Ron Herrold, 10438 W 800 S, Westville, IN 46391  
Register early, the space is limited. Cost: \$300.00 per person.

### 2018 Mission Trip Opportunity

9th Annual FCFI Mission Trip to Reality Ranch Ministries

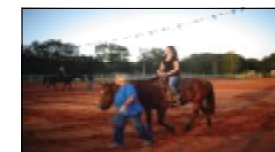
PO box 1726 Zolof Springs, FL 33890

November 4-9, 2018

For more information on Reality Ranch: www.realityranchministries.org

\$320.00 per person (from Orlando, FL)

Includes food, lodging and some material cost for construction projects



#### Work Projects

- Build roofs for livestock pens in rodeo arena
- Build more bleachers for rodeo arena
- Repair horse corrals
- Small maintenance jobs: painting, pressure washing, fence repair, and rebuilding rodeo arena

There is a job for everyone!

For more information contact:

Ron & Deb Herrold 219-916-3535 or 219-916-3994  
Bill & Kathy Brown 315-736-5964 or 315-749-6823