

The Profit

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



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**Sowing, Serving, Reaping
for Christ Around the World**



Dennis Schlagel
FCFI Executive Director/CEO

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers, Int. has been active in disaster relief campaigns in North Carolina (Hurricane Florence), Florida and Georgia (Hurricane Michael), and now assessing the massive flooding on the Elkhorn River and the Missouri River in Nebraska and Iowa. FCFI member contributions of time, talent, and money makes it possible to move equipment to the disaster areas to establish base camps for disaster teams to work. Pages 6 and 7 of this issue of Profit chronicles the Hurricane Relief campaigns.

State FFA Convention Exhibits In February 2018 the National FFA Convention Expo management contacted the FCFI Home Office to announce that the Fellowship of

Christian Farmers, Int. would no longer be able to buy exhibit space at its National Convention in Indianapolis. FCFI has exhibited at the National FFA convention for 25 years. In response the Fellowship had exhibits at the Louisiana and Illinois State FFA Conventions in 2018. In 2019 during the months of March through July, FCFI Area Directors and FCFI members will set up exhibits in 18 State FFA Conventions! Your help is needed to staff and fund these State FFA Convention exhibits. Search the Fellowship Calendar on our website to learn the date and contact person for the State FFA Convention exhibit in your area.

New Intern and Used Shoe Campaign Michael Conlisk from Chenoa, Illinois will be assisting FCFI this spring and summer with the State FFA Conventions in Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. He also will be presenting the Used Shoe collection efforts at churches and schools in Central Illinois. Michael is a sophomore at Lincoln Christian University in Lincoln, Illinois. His long term goals include preaching and farming. Pray for Michael as he serves the Lord through FCFI.

South Island Agricultural Field Days, March 27-29th in Christchurch, New Zealand. My wife, Janet, and I will be flying direct from Chicago to Christchurch, New Zealand March 20-April 5th to be part of Fellowship of Christian Farmers, NZ's exhibit at the South Island Agricultural Field Days, March 27-29th. The goal of the trip is to interact with dairy men and women going through a depressed dairy economy and to get FCFI New Zealand closer to becoming a recognized non-profit organization in New Zealand. Little did we know that a terrorist attack in Christchurch, killing 50 people, would impact the entire nation much like 9-11 did to Americans in 2001. Please pray for the Lord's listening and wisdom skills as the workers in the FCFI-NZ teams interact with stressed/shocked people.



Michael Conlisk

Your Brother in Christ,
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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Dave Carter
FCFI President

This was a different mission trip than the others that I have been on to Mexico. For the first time, I went with the group from Spanish American Mission which is the main support for Pastor Antonio Gomez. The trip was from March 2-9 to the Torreon area which includes the cities of Gomez Palacio and Lerdo. Pastor Gomez's church is in Gomez Palacio though there are other church plants in Torreon and other small towns in the surrounding area. Most of the group was laying block for a church in another location while I was working at Pastor Tony's church or the Ministry Center as Doug Bytwerk calls it. Doug is the Executive Director of the Spanish American Mission or SAM. Doug led this group as he has many others over the last several years. My work was with the two youngest

members of the group and we converted a classroom sometimes used as Pastor Tony's office into an area of two offices, a meeting room, and a receptionist area. During the week, we built walls using metal studs, put up drywall, and mudded the first time. The entire church area has been cleaned up and a roof structure was in place over a future small soccer field that will be used as an outreach ministry to the youth in the area. Used Astro turf has been donated for a playing surface. Hopefully, the turf will arrive at the church very soon.

Some of us attended the Tuesday evening service at the Torreon church plant that Pastor Ramon Sosa is pastoring. They had just celebrated their second anniversary. Wednesday, some of us went to the evening service



at the church in Nazareno which is about 20 miles south of Torreon. I think this is the first time in my many trips to Mexico that Pastor Tony did not preach. His doctor has ask him to really cut back his preaching and travels to the surrounding towns. Tony is suffering from a condition in which parts of his lungs become hardened and no longer function. He cannot risk infection from the dust that is common in the towns around the area. He has asked for prayer for healing and encouragement.

Maybe it is the same in other organizations but, interest in going on mission trips through FCFI has really dwindled. 15-20 years ago, it was not uncommon to have a group of 20+. We have gotten older, priorities change, and there are many competing interests. What is the future of mission trips through FCFI? I do not know, though, I am sure the future will be different than past experiences. I have developed relationships over the years in Mexico that would not be possible if I had not been there. These experiences cannot be adequately conveyed to anyone by words or pictures alone. One really must be on site to build relationships but, those relationships are the basis of caring. It is like the relationship we have with our Savior, to know Him, we must spend time with him. What kind of relationships do you have?

Dave Carter, FCFI Board President



26th Annual Conference

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near." Isaiah 55:6

July 26 - 28, 2019 - Dubuque, Iowa

FEATURING

- Rapid Action Reports
- Mission Reports
- FCFI Auction
- Informative Workshops
- Great time of fellowship and reconnecting with friends
- Opportunities to tour Knipper Dairy, the National Farm Toy Museum, Fenelon Place Elevator, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and the American Lady Yacht luncheon and tour.

Keynote Speaker
Joe Humrichous



Executive Director
Paradigm 1

Special Music
Common Bond Quartet



Saturday Evening Concert

Grand River Center - Dubuque, IA

For more information, contact: FCFI (309) 365-8710 or fellowship@fcfi.org

Register and Pay with your Credit Card at www.fcfi.org

Registration Deadline:
Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Registration Form

26th Annual FCFI Conference
July 26 - 28, 2018 - Dubuque, IA

Name _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Conference fees include; 6 meals and 2 nights lodging per person

of additional Nights, please specify dates _____

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

Additional Conference Activities

CHECK OPTIONS BELOW AND INCLUDE
PAYMENT ALONG WITH REGISTRATION FEES

- ☐ Knipper Dairy (Free)
- ☐ Farm Toy Museum (\$5 each)
- ☐ Fenelon Place Elevator (\$3 each)
- ☐ Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium (\$13 each)
- ☐ American Lady Yacht (\$36 each)

Conference Registration Fees

FRIDAY EVENING, SATURDAY, SUNDAY NOON

- ☐ Adults _____ \$300.00 US each
- ☐ Children _____ \$100.00 US each
- Total** _____ \$ _____

Early Arrival Activities

Please include additional fees with conference registration where indicated.

Thursday, July 25

11:30 am - Lunch

Country Junction Restaurant
913 15th Avenue SE
Dyersville, IA 52040
(on your own)

1:30 - 3:00pm

Knipper Dairy Tour
FREE

3:15pm

National Farm Toy Museum
\$5 each



Friday, July 27

8:30am

Fenelon Place Elevator
\$3 each

9:15 am

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
\$13 each

11:30am - 2:00pm

American Lady Yacht
2-hour luncheon cruise)
\$36 each

Please pay for additional conference activities when registering for conference.

It was a great time to bug out of Illinois as the wind chill dipped to minus 60. Hurricane Michael struck the Florida Panhandle on October 10, 2018 as a high category 4, with wind speeds of 155 mph, causing massive destruction along the panhandle coast, near Panama City. Damage was nearly as great 50 miles inland, near Marianna, Florida.

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers has been busy organizing disaster relief trips since October, and this report is from one such trip at the end of January. FCFI Area Leader Mike Weaver and long time farm show volunteer Mike Brehm led the way, and worked on a crew organized by FCFI, which provided a crew of young, strong men and women.



This group was very handy with a chainsaw, and moved effortlessly through the thick entanglements of fallen trees, brush, and vines. A total of over 80 man-hours of work was accomplished in two days of very hard work on Kent and Virginia Beard's family farm, just outside of Marianna, Florida. The pastureland covers 960 acres, with 125 head of cattle, plus calves. Much of the land is open pasture, but there is significant forested areas for shade. Miles of fenceline run through the woods, and most of that fence has trees laying on top of it. The crew's job is to clear that fenceline of trees and brush, and reattach or replace barbed wire.



The weather was cloudy and quite cool for Florida, but at least it was not Midwestern below zero. The temperature was quite comfortable for physical work.

A critical area was the fenceline along Interstate 10, which the farm borders. Keeping cattle off of the interstate is high priority. It is not known how many cattle have been lost, as many areas still need to be cleared. It is estimated that the work may continue for up to 2 years. So if you are skilled with a chainsaw and barbed wire, please prayerfully consider making a trip to the Florida Panhandle and contributing your time and talents to helping these farmers recover from the most devastating hurricane in a decade.

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International can be reached by visiting our website at www.fcfi.org. You may also call the home office at 309-365-8710, or Executive Director Dennis Schlagel at 309-530-7004. If you can't make the trip, but still want to help out, donations will be gratefully accepted at www.fcfi.org/donate, or by mail at: The Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International, P.O. Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753.

Praise the Lord and thank you for your support!



Although Hurricane Florence hit the North Carolina coast six months ago, much work still needs to be done. Hurricane Florence slowed and lost strength just off the coast of North Carolina, making landfall as a Category 1 hurricane, and dumped nearly 36 inches of rain, causing massive flooding on the coast and more than 30 miles inland.

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International, with outstanding phone work by Executive Director Dennis Schlagel and excellent leg work by Disaster Relief Coordinator Melvin Bell, sent a relief team down to Burgaw, North Carolina, about 30 miles inland from Wilmington, NC.

The team was led by Mike Swartz, Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau, McLean County. We stayed in a new bunkhouse used for migrant farm workers on a blueberry farm. On Saturday, February 23, we drove 600 miles, making Sunday's drive only 300 miles, giving us time to drive down to Wrightsville Beach to see the ocean.

Monday morning brought clear weather, and much warmer than our Central Illinois homeland. Farmer Dean Lanier manned an excavator, making short work of some huge trees. Much of it needed cutting, though, and Mike and Mark did most of the chainsaw work, while Jerry, Homer, and Garrett piled up branches for Dean to grab with "the Machine."

Fence lines running through wooded areas were crushed by falling trees. The FCFI work crew cleared these fence lines and reattached wires, reestablishing the fence line. Hard work for the crew, much easier for me, the media guy.

Wednesday brought us to Buron Lanier's Piney Woods Farm on the other side of Burgaw. Dean and Buron are good friends, no relation. The landscape changed significantly, as we found ourselves in a beautiful pine grove with cattle grazing under the majestic pines. Jerry manned the blue Ford tractor pulling a dump trailer. Farm hand Nelson picked large logs and piles of branches and loaded the dump trailer. Homer handled the back hoe, pushing the dumped loads onto the burn pile.

A few logs were saved and harvested for timber, but most were not usable and burned on site. Had Hurricane Florence hit landfall with the strength of Hurricane Michael, which made landfall near Panama City, Florida as a high Category 4 hurricane, this pine grove would've been decimated. Much of the damage from Hurricane Florence was from flooding, but many of these pines were knocked down. Buron Lanier would not have been able to manage this disaster without the help of the FCFI crew.

Much work remains for those who suffered losses from Hurricane Florence, even six months after the storm. It has



been difficult assembling volunteer teams to help our fellow farmers recover. If you are interested in joining one of these teams, contact the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International at 309-530-7004. We need skilled workers who can use a chainsaw, operate heavy equipment, and also energetic helpers who can mend fences and pick up branches. It is most rewarding to help our brothers and sisters recover from disasters, and the appreciation shown to us has blessed us. If you are not able to volunteer on a work trip, you may still participate by donating to FCFI. Thank you for your support!



Serving, Sowing, Reaping for Christ Around the World

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www.fcfi.org

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FCFI Farm Show & Calendar of Events

VIEW THE CALENDAR, AND CHECK FOR UPDATES AT WWW.FCFI.ORG

APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
3-5	Nebraska FFA Convention - Lincoln, NE Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835	3-5	Four State Farm Show - Pittsburg, KS Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835	5/30-6/2	Vermont Dairy Festival - Enosburg Falls, VT Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
4-6	Oklahoma City Farm Show - Oklahoma City Tony DeGiusti - 405-381-4383	4	Danville Spring Fling - Danville, PA Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414	5/30-6/2	Nittany Antique Machinery Show Centre Hall, PA Michael Steele - 570-494-1240
10-12	Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo Great Bend, KS, Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835	18	FCFI Golf Tournament - Woodgate Pines, Boonville, NY, Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	1-3	Western NY Dairy Festival - Springville, NY Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
12-14	FCF - Canada Annual Meeting Dalkeith, ON, Canada, Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	18	Nescopeck Community Wide Yard Sale Doc DeVoe - 570-204-2110		
14-16	Iowa State FFA Convention - Ames, IA Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835	21-23	Elim Leadership Conference - Lima, NY		
13	Heritage Days - Dothan, AL Mike Weaver - 618-449-1386	5/30-6/1	Kansas State FFA Convention Jeff Goss - 304-610-1835		
22-24	Arkansas State FFA Convention Mike Weaver - 618-499-1386				
26	Missouri FFA - Columbia, MO Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835				
25-27	Georgia FFA - Macon Centreplex Mike Weaver - 618-499-1386				
27	Bloomsburg Renaissance Jamboree, Bloomsburg, PA Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414				
30-5/1	Oklahoma FFA - Oklahoma City, OK Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835				
MAY		JULY		AUGUST	
3-5	Nebraska FFA Convention - Lincoln, NE Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835	6	Cheddar Cheese Festival - Adams, NY Dave Porter - 315-771-4514	6-8	Empire Farm Days, Seneca Falls, NY Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
4-6	Oklahoma City Farm Show - Oklahoma City Tony DeGiusti - 405-381-4383	6	Farmers Market - Cedar Rapids, IA Joel Brown - 319-521-2620	6-8	Minnesota Farmfest - Redwood Falls, MN Doug Peterson - 507-236-6460
10-12	Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo Great Bend, KS, Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835	7	Cowlesville Flea - Cowlesville, NY Bill Brown - 315-749-6823	10	CenterPoint Church Music Festival - Barneveld, NY Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
12-14	FCF - Canada Annual Meeting Dalkeith, ON, Canada, Bill Brown - 315-749-6823			12-15	Turner County Fair - Parker, SD Marlyn Bunger - 605-647-5991
14-16	Iowa State FFA Convention - Ames, IA Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835			8-17	Skowhegan State Fair, Skowhegan, ME Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
13	Heritage Days - Dothan, AL Mike Weaver - 618-449-1386			15-18	Woodsmen's Field Days, Boonville, NY Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
22-24	Arkansas State FFA Convention Mike Weaver - 618-499-1386			14-18	58th Annual Steam, Gas and Thrashing Show Pinckneyville, IL, Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835
26	Missouri FFA - Columbia, MO Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835			16-18	Wolcott Fair, Wolcott, CT Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
25-27	Georgia FFA - Macon Centreplex Mike Weaver - 618-499-1386			16-17	Sunbury River Festival - Sunbury, PA Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414
27	Bloomsburg Renaissance Jamboree, Bloomsburg, PA Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414			18	Roseboom Antique Show, Roseboom, NY Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
30-5/1	Oklahoma FFA - Oklahoma City, OK Jeff Goss - 314-610-1835			20-22	Dakotafest - Mitchell, SD Marlyn Bunger - 605-647-5991
				21-22	Maine Farm Days - Clinton, ME Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
				21-24	Northumberland County Fair Pete DePinto - 570-988-6215
				22-25	Brooklyn Fair - Brooklyn, CT Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
				24	Herkimer Co Family Farm Days - Little Falls, NY Bill Brown - 315-749-6823
				27-29	Farm Progress Show - Decatur, IL Dennis Schlager - 309-365-8710
				28-9/1	Wyoming County Fair - Meshoppen, PA Wayne Laidacker - 570-594-4414
				29-9/1	Sullivan County Fair - Forksville, PA Ernie Reese - 570-764-3937
				28-9/1	Walworth County Fair - Elkhorn, WI Mike Brehm - 262-632-3519
				28-9/2	Wyoming County Fair - Dallas, PA Doc DeVoe - 570-204-2110