



# 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, 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 Color** - represents the blood of Christ. - Romans 5:8 - “But God commends his love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died 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

## 2021 Event Schedule (anticipated)

### 2021 Anticipated Schedule

Jan. 5-7- Keystone Farm Show, York, PA  
13-14 - Delta Ag Expo, Cleveland, MS – Goss  
13-15 - Virginia Farm Show, Fishersville, VA  
15-16 - SC AgriBiz, Florence, SC - cancelled  
15-16 - Ag Expo, West Monroe, LA - Goss  
18-19 - Florida Manatee Festival, Crystal River, FL  
27-29 - Sioux Falls Farm Show, Sioux Falls, SD - Goss  
Jan 30 - Feb 1 - Western NY Farm Show, Buffalo, NY - cancelled  
Feb 10-13 - National Farm Machinery Show – Louisville, KY - Goss and Weaver  
19-21 - Western Farm Show, Kansas City, MO - Goss  
27-28 - Swamp Cabbage Festival, LaBelle, FL  
25-27 - NY Farm Show, Syracuse, NY- postponed to later in year  
25-27 - Tulsa Farm Show, Tulsa, OK - Goss  
March 4-7 - Pioneer Days, Wauchula, FL  
4 - FCFI Dinner Meeting, Avon Park, FL  
6-7 - Strawberry Festival, Floral City, FL  
10-11 - Wichita Falls Ranch, Farm and Hemp Expo, Wichita Falls, KS - Goss  
13 - ECHO Global Food and Farm Festival, Ft Myers, FL  
18-20 - 3-1 Farm Show Dodge City, KS - Goss  
20 - Pioneer Days, Arcadia, FL  
26-28 - Flowerton Festival, Summerville, SC  
April 9-11 - West Branch Susquehanna Builders Home Show, Williamsport, PA - Steele  
17-19 - FCFI-Canada Annual Meeting- Dalkeith, ON, Canada - cancelled  
23-25 - FFA Convention, Macon, GA - Singer  
May 15-17 - Middlecreek Valley Antique Association - Steele  
22 - FCFI Golf Tournament, Boonville, NY  
June 2&3 - FFA Convention, Montgomery, AL – Singer  
4-6 - Nittany Antique Machinery Show, Centre Hall, PA - Steele  
5-6 - Vermont Dairy Festival, Enosburg Falls, VT  
5-6 - Western NY Dairy Fest, Springville, NY  
5-6 - Antique Tractor Show, Madrid, NY - Porter  
12- Chenango County Dairy Fest, Norwich, NY  
12-13 - Meredith Dairy Fest, Meridale, NY  
12-13 - Violet Festival, Dolgeville, NY  
12-13 - Antique Tractor Show, Sharon Springs, NY  
19-20- Strawberry Festival, Owego, NY  
19 - Branford Festival, Branford, CT

**In the Morning,  
Prayer is the key that opens  
to us the treasures of  
God's mercies and blessings.  
In the evening,  
it is the key that shuts us  
up under His protection  
and safeguard.  
~ Reverend Billy Graham**

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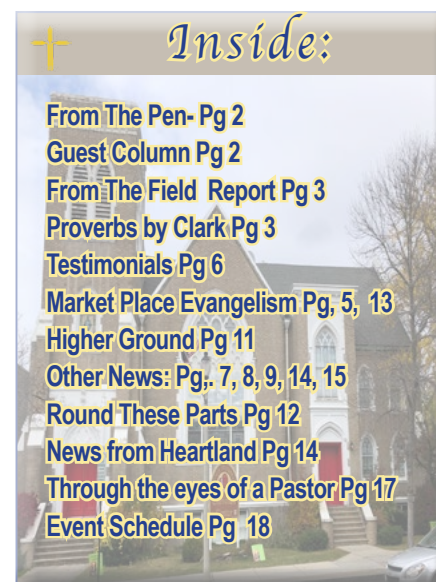
**“We plant - God gives the increase.” 1 Cor. 3:6-9**

January 2021  
ISSUE 21



## “Prayer – Our Connection to God”

**“Rejoice always, pray continually, in everything give thanks,  
for this is the will of God.”  
-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.**



Thirty-five years ago, a small group of men got together to pray for hurting farmers throughout our country. Out of that meeting and considerable prayer the Fellowship of Christian Farmers was birthed. As the saying is so often used “The rest is history.” Every year since the gospel has been shared with untold thousands **Jeremiah 33:3 “Call on me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things.”** That is what we in FCF have done and He has shown us great and mighty things.

**Steve Brown and Mike Weaver admire their work. The damage from Hurricane Sally was overwhelming. Lillian, AL was especially hard hit.**



## “Keep Asking”

The main topic of this issue is Prayer. Good friend, Russ Johnston, gives his take on what the scripture says about unanswered prayer. FCFI prayer coordinator, Mary Jones, encourages us to stay connected to God through prayer. I would simply request that you keep the following in your prayers.



1. *Pray for our country and its leaders.*
2. *Pray members would continue to support The Fellowship of Christian Farmers. Remember, “the Gospel is free but the pipeline to carry it is not.”*
3. *That churches would continue to support FCFI and send workers to help with FCFI ministries. “The mark of a great church is not it’s seating capacity but it’s sending capacity.” =Mark Stachura*
4. *Also asking for prayer for staff that are suffering from ailments, that God would heal.*
5. *That 2021 would be a great year as events open across the US and Canada.*
6. *Pray that FCFI can be a real beacon of light in a dark world.*

Thanks for praying and serving. We continue to “Serve, Sow and Reap for Christ.”

~Bill Brown

**Guest Column** by Mary Jones – FCFI Prayer Coordinator – Tifton, GA

## Prayer: Our Connection to God

I have an antique light fixture that hangs over the bar where we have our everyday meals and where I do food prep and other activities. This light does not have a wall switch to turn it on and off. Rather there is a turn key on the side of the fixture, that has been used thousands of times through the years.

Kitchen and den are L shaped into one room. We often use this fixture as the only source of light between dinner and bedtime in both rooms. On occasion, the light just goes off. Anyone in those rooms are left in the pitch-black darkness when this happens. Upon investigation, it was found the turn key is loose and the connection is lost for a few minutes.



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Redeeming Love Fellowship Church, Stittville, NY

## Lift Your Vision High



“Lift Your Vision High” were words to a chorus we sang many times years ago. It goes on to say, “We are in a way we’ve never been before, so lift your vision higher, and you will see the glory of the Lord.” It is a good reminder for us in our day. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossian Christians the same exhortation, when He said, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

The Prophet Isaiah said, “In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.”

I was recently drawn to these portions of God’s Word and was encouraged to read that the word “also” was a key word for us. Isaiah referred to a significant change in history, but was able to say “I saw ALSO the Lord”. May we be as Isaiah who was aware of what was happening in the earth, but was also able to see what was happening in the heavens.

Thank the Lord that Jesus Christ is risen and we are risen with Him, and we are seated together with Him in Heavenly places. May the Lord help us to choose to set our affections on Him in spite of what is happening in the earth around us.

As we lift our vision higher, we will not only see the Lord high and lifted up, but we will also see the harvest that is already to be harvested. Jesus tells us to lift our eyes and look on the fields. Lift your vision high.

Jesus also encouraged us to look up when certain things begin to happen in the earth and sky and sea. Lift your vision high. “...your redemption draws nigh.”

We certainly are in a way we’ve never been before, so lift your vision higher and you will see the glory of the Lord.

May the Lord continue to bless the work of “Fellowship of Christian Farmers International” as we together continue to lift our vision. We at Redeeming Love Fellowship are looking forward to your being with us again.



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*Prayer: Our Connection to God*

The same can be said of us when we lose connection with our Father. Our faith become loose or shaky and our connection falters. Our power source is still there but we don't feel connected. We can either flip back and forth or flip out altogether. Our lives fill with the darkness of negative thoughts, often followed by negative actions.

To get the light working properly, we have to turn the key backwards until it tightens up again. To get our faith working properly we have to get our connection to our Father back on track. Prayer is our sure source of connection.

Sometimes it is hard to get turned back toward God when we go through dark times. God's Word is the key to get us shinning again. Reading in Psalms will show us we are not the only one with problems and doubts. It will also illuminate that God will never leave us nor forsake us.

*Psalm 121:1-2. I lift up my eyes to the hills, where my help comes from. My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*Psalm 119:105. Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

*Psalm 27:1. The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?*

Our one sure connection to God is prayer. Anywhere and everywhere we can call upon the name of the Lord. We pray to let God's Word illumine our hearts as we cry out in thanksgiving and praise.

*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  
Mike Weaver \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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



FCFI, PO Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753

**Why Prayers Are Not Answered**

Most Christians have never heard a sermon on this subject, yet the Bible speaks loud and long on this subject. I can already hear the voices saying, I know why. James 4:3 "You don't get it because your motives are wrong – you want only what will give you pleasure." There is also a verse equal to that in the old testament. The above action is bad but the end resort is you just don't get what you ask – no harm done.

God on the other hand gives us a very harmful list of things we will do if we don't ask. James 4:1&2 "quarrels, fights among you, evil desires, schemes, kill, jealousy, you fight and wage war." Then come some of the most profound statements in the Bible. "You have not because you don't ask God for it." Everywhere in the Bible whether in deep trouble or just the routine of daily living, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him (when He answers).

For ten years every Sunday night or Monday morning I would get out my ringed notebook and make a prayer list of what I'd like God to help me accomplish that week. I started the list with 16 things. After a while I realized that God was eager to help and answer my requests that my list would grow to 20-30 requests.

During that time I traded in my old pickup and forgot to remove my three ringed notebook behind the seat. A few months later I received a package in the mail, in it contained my prayerbook with a note that said. "This is the strongest prayer book I have even read; thought you might like it back."

*God tells us "I want to answer, do your part and Ask."*



*A Book of Proverbs*

**On Prayer:**

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

**The one who kneels before God can stand up to anything.**

**Seven days without prayer makes one weak.**

**God answers knee mail.**

**God will bless your plan only if you have a plan.**

**Ask and you will receive.**





## Hay Relief, Lake Charles, Louisiana

“Load of 5x5  
round bales  
donated by Ron  
Smith →



“Hay donated by  
Benschoter Hay and Straw

Back to back hurricanes did extensive damage to homes and property in the Lake Charles La. area. Local cattlemen not only lost cattle to the flooding but also much of the hay they had stored for the winter months. Round bales floated away never to be seen again or soaked up so much water like a sponge that they rotted after several days. The hay shortage at this time is not critical but that could change depending on the ability of pasture land to recuperate from flooding and salt water contamination. Donors supplied hay, equipment and mechanical services to FCFI to make this relief effort possible. Over 100,000 lbs of hay was stockpiled at the county extension office in Abbeville La. and The LSU farm in Lake Charles. Please continue to keep the people in Louisiana in your prayers as much remains to be done.

*Submitted by CP Foster*

## † Other News...

### Mohawk Valley Chapter holds 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Outreach Dinner, Oct 3, 2021



*Fieldmen Michael and Karen Steele and Chris and Steve Brown opened the program with a short report on 2020 happenings and how we've adapted to the cancellations due to the COVID-19 virus.*



↑ *Newly elected V-P Ed Westfall finished the evening. Using Ecclesiastes 7:14 to remind everyone that “In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider; God has set one over the other.” Ed encouraged all to support and pray for the work of FCFI.*



*The chapter was pleased to have 73 folks attend the meeting at Lake Delta Conference Camp to hear Keynote Speaker Dr. Paul Davidson. The pandemic was not enough to keep people away. Paul reminded us that “God has set things up so that we as humans can not fix everything. We need to rely on Him. Straight lines are not from God.” Chapter president and sec – Cliff and Joyce Kitchen listening intently.* ↓







## Be Encouraged

With all the negative talk about 2020, there is one thing positive that came out of it and that is people are praying more than I have ever seen. Prayer meetings are not just going on in churches but in places like the White House and even on you tube stations and conference calls. When I was recently ministering at the Gateway Expo farm show in Kearney Nebraska, people there seemed very concerned about our nation and rightly so. I believe this is driving people all across our land to their

knees to seek healing for our nation.

Second Chronicles 7:14 says that if my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and will heal their land. So according to this promise, there is still hope for our nation. It is encouraging to know that if we Christians will do this scripture, then God will move and heal our land. Lately I have been feeling God's presence stronger, and I believe part of this is due to all the praying that has been going on in our nation. We are seeing the fruit of this in our evangelism. At the Kearney Nebraska Farm show we saw about 15 people pray to receive the Lord. One was a foreign exchange student from Germany. We also had FFA kids and soldiers from the Army come to our booth to hear the Gospel. Isaiah 60, speaking of the last days, says that the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee and Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. We saw this happen in Nebraska when the Lieutenant Governor of Nebraska along with some of his people, came to our booth to hear the Gospel message.

So be encouraged because this is only the beginning of a great awakening that is coming.

~Jeff Goss

## Other News...

→ **2020 Fall Nittany Tractor Show Karen Steele shares with two young boys as Kyrie and her mother look on.**



## Market Place Evangelism

### Holiday Haven Winter Fest – Winter Haven, FL Nov 21, 2020



← **Steve Brown and Sandy Singer share at this annual event. In spite of COVID-19 restrictions, over 300 people stopped by.**

→ **Valerie Roman fresh off the Hurricane Relief Effort stopped by to help. Her first experience sharing Christ at an FCF event. Sharing the bead story**



### Regional Farmers Market Syracuse, NY.



← **FCFI worked this weekly event throughout 2020. The weather got a little cool in the fall as you can see, Kathy Brown all covered up.**



## 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*

*"We were so thankful that Lillian Methodist Church provided housing and a kitchen to prepare meals, even though they sustained some damage, as FCF served in the aftermath of Hurricane Sally."*

### **Folks From Mission Trip.**

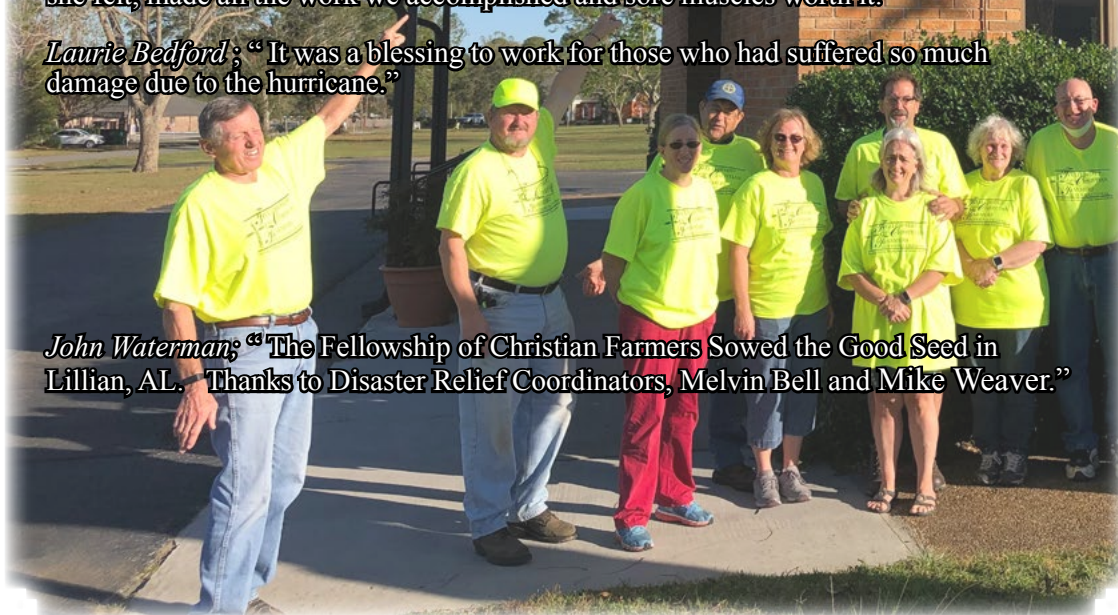
*"Lots of huge trees were cut and removed. Roofs replaced or covered with tarps. For me the bonding of memories of helping others, with a few committed friends who say YES to the call of serving others to build the kingdom for God's glory. Morning devotions provided a great time of fellowship." - Steve Brown*

*Deb Herrold: "My favorite person that we helped was Lisa, our first stop. She had suffered the loss of her father and then her husband died during the storm. Then she had to come home to down trees, and buildings damaged. It was nice to be able to encourage her and show how God cares and that we cared."*

*First time mission worker, Valerie Roman: The trip was a blessing to me and Gilbert, just knowing we were doing the work of Jesus to help those in need. To see the woman (Lisa) who lost her husband come out of her depression and tell each of us how blessed she felt, made all the work we accomplished and sore muscles worth it.*

*Laurie Bedford: "It was a blessing to work for those who had suffered so much damage due to the hurricane."*

*John Waterman: "The Fellowship of Christian Farmers Sowed the Good Seed in Lillian, AL. Thanks to Disaster Relief Coordinators, Melvin Bell and Mike Weaver."*



## Market Place Evangelism

### High Springs, FL City Flea Market



↑ Sandy Singer greeting in front of the canopy.



↑ Pete Singer sharing the bead story with a family all dressed up for Halloween.

### Gateway Expo Farm Show – Kearney, Nebraska



↑ Duane Reynolds giving some Godly advice



↑ Jeff Goss, MO, Duane Reynolds and Dave Ferris, NE already for their first show visitors



## Round These Parts



What a great Disaster Relief trip to Alabama! We, being several people from New York, that joined with Bro. Bill Brown, came to help people dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes Sally and others. We were able to help 8 families with their struggles by relieving them of some of the work that needed to be done. From preparing food, cutting trees, dragging branches, to tarping roofs and even restoring some sheds and putting new roofs on buildings everyone worked together to make this trip amazing. And again thank you to everyone that came and helped. Look forward to working

with everyone again.

Our trip began with people praying, Lord is this what you want me to do? Lord to whom and where would you have me go? Help us help the people you want us to help, and often I ask of Him to bring me to those people who truly need help. Everything we do must be done seeking God's will. This is how we find who and where to go. Even as I drive around the communities that have been damaged it's hard to see who needs that help. But over and over again the Lord directs to those who truly need help. We may not always see their struggles or needs but He does.

Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit who leads where we need to be and to go. Isaiah 30: 21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. So let us continue to be led by the Spirit of God knowing it begins with time close to Him. In closing: Philippians 4:13 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

God bless and see you on the mission field.

~Mike Weaver

## + Other News...

### Hurricane Sally Disaster Relief to Lillian, AL – Nov 15-20



*The whole group ready to head out the first day. FCFI Disaster Relief Coordinators Mike Weaver and Melvin Bell to right in picture*



*Mike Weaver and our first stop homeowner, Liz checking on the Steel for the roofs of two outbuildings. Liz lost her husband the night of the storm. We were able to encourage her with our presence.*



*Deb Herrold removing old roofing before replacing rafters, and new steel.*



*The new building looks great. Two storage building were destroyed but both were back in good repair at the end of the day.*



## Hurricane Sally Disaster Relief



*What a mess!*



*What a blessing the rented skid steer was. All of the trees and branches had to be piled at the edge of the roads for pickup by Fema contracted trucks.*



*Mike Weaver and Mark Postol setting scaffolding on a very steep roof. Great to have carpenter along. Thanks, Mark, for serving!*



*It worked, everyone stayed safe!*

February 2021

## Family Farms

During this time of Covid restrictions one of the best “essential workers” job is that of being on a family farm. We are still able to go about most all of our daily work without the fear of “exposer”. We can still work in our fields and gardens and take care of the animals, mostly without wearing a mask or fear. Selling our products may have changed a bit, but many found consumers ready to buy from the local family farm.

In the early Christian church, “All the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. They worshiped together at the temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s supper and shared meals with great joy and generosity – all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people” Acts 2: 44,46-47a. Farmers have often made going to worship a chance to get off the farm and socialize with other believers and the neighbors. In recent months this may look more like home church or has been limited somewhat, but remember the have other ways of communicating now – so we can stay connected with others. One Christmas Eve service had the Christmas Bible readings done by two farmers sitting next to their cows in the manger/feed alley of their barn.

I had a wonderful experience participating in a short-term mission trip this fall with the Fellowship of Christian Farmers. From the day eight of us flew from Syracuse NY to Orlando we considered each other as family. We ate together, and slept in the same church building, and worshiped together each morning. Most importantly we worked together benefitting a few farmers in Alabama that suffered damage to their farms (pecan groves) due to a hurricane last summer. This experience took me back to my childhood where the quote for our dairy farm was “Where Family Farms are Still Go” added to it was “Work together, then play together”. We all worked hard but still were able to play a few card games and relax together in the evening.

Family can be any select group that you are with on a regular basis. More so, we are adopted into the family by God. We are His children, forever. Our neighbors or other few can be considered our family and that is whom we spend time with and look out for on a daily basis. Our churches may be doing things a bit different this year. As a family we can help the Lord add to the family of believers those who are being saved, welcomed into the family.

*Laurie Bedford*



## ✦ Other News...

### Hurricane Sally Disaster Relief



*Laurie Bedford served as chief cook. What ↑  
would mission trip be without good food and  
fellowship.*



↑ *Redeeming Love Fellowship Church,  
Stittville, NY, sent a crew of 5 to help.  
Shown picking up branches is Valerie  
Roman, mission committee chairman.*



← *Much of the work was cleaning up  
fallen trees. We had as many as 6  
chainsaws running at the same time.  
Ron Herrold, IN, Gary Cagney, NY,  
Gilbert Roman, NY and Steve Brown NY  
serving the saws.*

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

### KATHRYN L. BROWN MEMORIAL

*TO BENEFIT FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN FARMERS*

AT

### WOODGATE PINES GOLF COURSE

- SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021
- REGISTRATION – 11:00 am SHARP
- SHOTGUN START – 12:00 NOON

• FORMAT – CO-ED 4 MAN/WOMAN SCRAMBLE-  
PRIZES AWARDED

• COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT GOLF OUTING,  
GOOD FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

***HELP SUPPORT A VERY WORTHY CAUSE!***

KATHRYN L. BROWN MEMORIAL  
Benefits The Fellowship of Christian Farmers

• RESERVATIONS NEEDED BY MAY 12, 2021

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION

•••PLEASE CONTACT•••

STEVE & CHRIS BROWN @ (315)525-5131 or (315) 982-1823