### 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

#### 2023 Event Schedule (anticipated)

Jan. 10-12- Keystone Farm Show, York, PA.
13-14 - Ag Expo, West Monroe, LA - Goss.
14-15 - Florida Manatee Festival, Crystal River, FL.
18-19 - Delta Ag Expo, Cleveland, MS - Goss.
18-20 - Virginia Farm Show, Fishersville, VI - Steele.
25-27 - Sioux Falls, SD - Goss.

Jan 31- Feb 2 – Iowa Ag expo, Des Moines, IA - Goss February -3-5 -The Home Show, Turning Stone, Vernon, NY

14-16 - World Ag Expo, Tulare, CA – Goss

15-18 - National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville, KY - Goss

23-25- NY Farm Show, Syracuse, NY

24-26 - Western Farm Show, Kansas City, MO - Goss

24-26 - PA Adventure RV Expo, Altoona, PA - Steele

25-26 - Swamp Cabbage Festival, LeBelle, FL

Feb 28 - Mar 2 - Hawkeye Farm Show, Cedar Rapids, IA - Goss March 2-5- Pioneer Days, Wauchula, FL

4-5 - Strawberry Festival, Floral City, FL 10-12 - York RV Show, York, PA - Steele

12 - ECHO Global Food and Farm Festival, Ft Myers, FL- tentative

16-18 - 3-I Show, Dodge City, KS - Goss 17-19 - Home - Condo and Outdoor Show, Ocean City, MD - Steele

25- Pioneer Days, Arcadia, FL 1 - Kansas Ag Expo, Hutchinson, KS - Goss

Mar 31 -April 2 - Flowerton Festival, Summerville, SC Mar 31 - April 2 West Branch Susquehanna Builders Home Show, Williamsport.

ohawk Valley Chapter - Dinner Meeting, Marcy, NY 20 - FCF-Canada Annual Meeting- Virtual - tentative 22-24 - Home-Condo and Outdoor Show, Ocean City, MD - Steele

23-24- Syracuse Gun Show, Syracuse, NY

May 19-21 - Four State Farm Show, Pittsburg, KS - Goss

27 - NY Steam Engine Tractor Pull and Flea Market, Canandaigua, NY

"No one has

ever become

poor by

giving."

3-4 -Vermont Dairy Festival, Enosburg Falls, VT

3-4 - Western NY Dairy Fest, Springville, NY 3-4 - Antique Tractor Show, Madrid, NY

10-11-Violet Festival, Dolgeville, NY 10-11- Antique Tractor Show, Sharon Springs

17-18- Strawberry Festival, Owego, NY 18 - Branford Festival, Branford, CT 23-25 - IH Red Power Roundup, Springfie

4&5 - Mule Days – Calvary, GA - 2022 19- Haven Holiday Market, Winter

ton Winter Fest -Benton, PA - Steele



Shout out and many thanks to the volunteers for FCF Disaster Relief 2022!!! Arcadia, FL

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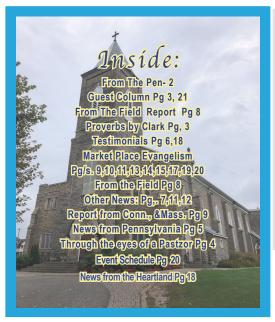
Roy and Cathy Upson - NY (315) 867-4504



#### God - the Restorer

The pictures above show the difference between two tractors; one fallen to neglect and one fully restored at the Ed Westfall John Deere Collection in Westmoreland, NY. Much like these tractors, we humans need to be restored as well. God promises in His Word to do just that!

> Psalm 23:3 "He restoreth my soul" verse 6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."





God still restores through His Son, Jesus Christ!

### From The Pen of Bill Brown

I don't often use others' writing but I thought this note from our daughter Lorri fit this statement and headline so well. She wrote this upon her return after assisting in the FCF Disaster Relief Mission Trip in November, to Arcadia and Ft Myers, FL. after hurricanes Ian & Nicole. It was the first such trip for her.

"Dear Dad and Mom and FCFI.

I just want to say thank you so much for the opportunity to work with and enjoy the fellowship with all of you. I wasn't sure what to expect, but it was the most satisfying, enjoyable work experience that I have had in a long time. You did a tremendous

job in putting it together. Thank you to Amanda and Laurie for providing our meals. Thank you to Mt Ephraim Church for the use of their facilities.





And a special thank you to Mike and Jenna Brucker and family, for providing lodging for us girls. What an amazing family!

I am so grateful that I have been able to reconnect with my dad and mom after so many years of personal struggles. They are amazing people, friends, and parents, that don't stop no matter what. A true inspiration to all!

I will share that for a long time, I had lost some faith in God's plan. But now I can truly say He has been speaking to me, if 'I would only listen. I have finally been able to understand what true fellowship means. I've been broken, and I am a work in progress, but now I can say; "I'm so much stronger when I'm around all of you". Thank you for being God's hands

and feet.

Thank you to Missy, Dawn, Carolyn, Laurie, Russ, Ron, Debbie, Patrick, Ada, Glenn, Bryan, Mía, Pastor Travis, Pete, Jeff, Aaron and Pastor Dana and Debbie Spurgeon. Also, Paul Davidson, who I have always looked up to since I was a child. You are all amazing people, and I am so thankful that God has brought you into my life."

~Lorri Dmitri

Ps 51:10 "Restore in me the joy of my salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit." We may stray but God is faithful to restore!

1 Peter 5:10 "After you have suffered a little while, the God of grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you."

Remember to give Him thanks, and it's never too late to be restored,

~Bill Brown

#### Hide & Seek continued

were louder, anxious giggles and tiny foot taps. "Oh! Here you are!" exclaimed her dad! At this point, Hope was laughing and jumping and squealing with joy and delight from behind the dining room curtain. Her dad had found her, and there was no doubt that Hope was happy to be found. She was loved and valued by her father sought after like hidden treasure.

Are you hiding or are you seeking, or are you doing both?

In Genesis, we learn that Adam and Eve were hiding from God. They were not playing a game but were hiding because of their disobedience and sin and they were afraid. God knew exactly where to find them. "Can a man hide himself in secret places where I cannot see him?" Jeremiah 23:24. Sin had entered into mankind and Adam and Eve could no longer be in God's Holy presence. But God loved and valued them. God had created them; made in His image. God has and had a plan for lost mankind. God loves us and wants a relationship with us. God sent a seeker, Jesus Christ, His son, to this earth, to carry out His purposes. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and save the lost." Luke 19:10

Are you waiting for Him to find you? Perhaps you are hiding in sin, or under disappointment, or behind guilt, or even in unbelief. You don't have to make little squeals like Hope did. God knows where you are and like Hope's father, He will find you. Even in our hiding God loves us; we are precious to Him.

Are you the seeker looking for the One who loves you and values you?

"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call to Him while He is near." Isaiah 55:6 "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13 We want to be loved, to be acknowledged as worthy of finding just because we are human beings. God desires our love, our hearts, and He delights when we seek after Him. "Search for the LORD and for His Strength; seek His face always." 1 Chronicles 16:11.

"Only goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever..." Psalm 23:6

It's your turn, He is waiting.

T	<sup>-</sup> hank-you For	Supporting Our Mission
	We Couldn'	t Do It Without YOU!
Support FCFI Jesus Christ as Lord and		the mission of Fellowship of Christian Farmers in Presenting
Enclosed is my check fo	or \$ (M	Take payable to Fellowship of Christian Farmers International)
To be used for: Gener Mike Weaver Bill		or Area Leaders of Choice f Goss
	isaMasterCard f\$ to be withdra	AMEX One Time Donation of \$ awn on the 15
Card Number		Exp mm/yy/
Signature		monthly gifts on going until notified otherwise



FCFI, PO Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753

### Market Place Evangelism

### Ozark Fall Fest

Jeff Goss reported a great outreach at the Ozark Fall Fest in Missouri.



↑ Justin Elms working at the farm fest.



↑ Karen Hembrough also made the trip from IL to minister to young folks.

 $\rightarrow$ 

20

Donna Elms from IL explaining the wordless bracelet.



### Guest Column

### Gail Westfall

#### **Hide-and-Seek**

Have you ever played Hide-and-Seek? When is the last time you played Hide-and-Seek with a toddler? Recently, I was blessed to watch and quietly observe our granddaughter and her father play this classic game.

My granddaughter, Hope, was first to hide, and her father with eyes shut of course slowly began to count. Hope scurried to find someplace where she wouldn't be seen. Finally, her dad with raised voice counted, "8, 9, 10 ready or not here I come." It was rather quiet for about two minutes. Hope's dad was clomping around "looking" here and there. He looked under the dining



room table and behind furniture, and even in the clothes closet, uttering, "Where is my Hope?" Out of somewhere little squeaks and rustlings could be heard. Her dad was getting closer; and then there continued on page 21

A Book of Proverbs

Clark "Solomon" Phillips Clark is a past member of the FCFI Board of Directors Clark makes his home in North Collins, NY

#### "Healing The Feed Wagon"

I grew up in the village of Defreestville just south of the city of Troy, New York. My dad was a farmer and the farm was primarily a dairy. In addition we grew some potatoes and, of course, hay and corn silage to feed the cows.

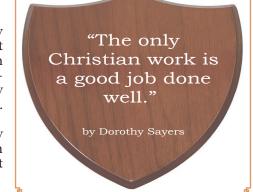
My parents were strong Christians and my two brothers, two sisters, and I went to Sunday School and Church every Sunday morning, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday evenings. I guess I didn't pay much attention to all this. By the time I went to college I hardly graced any church at all. After my wife and I were married, she, a practicing Catholic went to Mass every Sunday and I had a seven day a week farm to tend to.

We had some Christian friends who kept inviting us to various "church" functions. Thank God they

didn't give up on us. Eventually they asked us to come to a Bible Study at their home.

One cold winter morning (after a Bible Study night) my feed wagon got jammed and try as I might I could not get it free. Out of frustration and desperation I sat down on the tractor drawbar and cried out to God. I don't remember the exact words I used, but I surrendered my independence and asked God for "healing" for my wagon.

Our Lord "fixed" the feed wagon but, more importantly He "fixed" me. I was forty-two years old when I was "Born Again". I know I am a slow learner but we serve a patient God. Praise His Holy Name!



#### GOD BROUGHT US HELP

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Matthew 25:40"

This last month the FCFI came and ministered to our needs that we had from Hurricane Ian. I don't suppose anyone really understands the full impact of a hurricane until you have lived through one and its residual effects. I remember the first couple of days



after the hurricane, being in almost a daze. There was so much work to be done and so many people who were hurting, it was overwhelming! What snapped me out of that were the people that came pouring in from other states offering to help. As soon as the hurricane was over phone calls and plans were made to send a team from FCFI down to help. Long before the team came Mike Weaver showed up with a Branson Tractor and a Kubota ATV and dropped them off in the church parking lot and said, "The keys are in them, please use them". Growing up on a ranch I know that you don't loan out equipment to just anyone and yet y'all did. Since then the equipment has been used to help three relief teams perform clean up, but by far the biggest blessing came when Bill Brown's team showed up in November. When you are overwhelmed and burdened there is nothing like family coming to help and that's exactly what they did. Over the next five days we helped out several of our congregation that were still in the cleanup stage as well as finishing up sheetrock in our sanctuary so that we could get back inside. Some of our members were older and could not get out to clean up debris off of fences and it was a blessing to have another believer show up to help. One member told me, "That bunch from New York was just awesome!" and I couldn't agree more. You did it as unto the Lord and may He repay you in kind! Thank you from the heart of a Pastor.

Travis Pentecost, Associate Pastor Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church. Arcadia, FL

### Market Place Evangelism

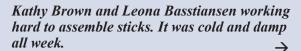


Display greeting IPM visitors − September in Kemptville, ON ←



Busy tent – over 4,500 stopped by to receive a free gift. FCF-Canada Board Member, Paul Booker sharing.









4

Terry Johnson – Cleaning up some sticks at the match

### News From Pennsylvania Michael and Karen Steele PA Field Reps



#### "God's Promises"

I have a lot of favorite promises in the Bible, but some of my favorites are the ones where God promises to take our hurts and wounds and turn them into good. Probably the most familiar scripture along these lines is Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose".

We have all had things done to us that hurt us deeply and we have made mistakes that have hurt others and hurt ourselves as well. But God's great and precious promises cover everything including the hurts and frustrations of life. In *Joel 2:25 God say*, "He will restore to us the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm". In Isaiah 61:3 He promises to give us beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Then verse 7 says; "for your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore, in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them". God even promises us in Isaiah 54:4 "that we will forget the shame of our youth". God's promises to turn the bad into something good in our life and to give us double for our trouble covers us from our youth until now if we will only believe and receive these promises for ourselves. God's mercies are truly new every morning.



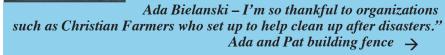
Testimonies continued from page 6

Aaron Nasworthy "This was my first experience like this. It has been physically exhausting but more than anything, a blessing."

Ron and Deb Herrold "Always fun working with you guys."

This guy always seems to be smiling!

Glenn Figelski from MA who has travelled previously to other relief efforts "Thanks for the trip"

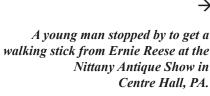


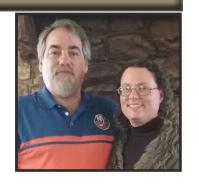


A large family gathers around Karen Steele (light blue shirt) as she talks to a young lady at Heller's Apple Farm



Steeles pictured in front of the Virginia Tech Stadium in Blacksburg, VA. They will also be there again in the spring for the FFA Convention









GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR FCFI
Woodgate Pines Golf Club

May 20, 2023 11am register 12 noon shotgun start

4 man/woman scramble

2965 Hates Road W. Boonville, NY 13309

**5/20/23** 

### 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.



Roy Norman from Woodstock, CT writes "Good news from the Hebron Fair. A fellow stopped by to share his story. Five years ago, he stopped at our booth and prayed to receive Jesus into his life. He was so thankful how the Lord changed him. What a blessing to hear his story, it makes it all worth it.

From the Plowing Match – Marilyn Findley, 85 years old. "Many years ago, I walked into a small tent on a cold day at a local fair. I received a bracelet and a tract. God knew me then and still knows me, I'm on my way to heaven. I'm so thankful to be helping at the Plowing Match.





Disaster Relief Workers:

Missy Schneider "It is amazing to see the work that gets done when the Lord stirs individuals to come together for the good of others."

Pat Bielanski

"As a first timer I was humbled by the damage a hurricane can cause and glad to work with volunteers from NY, IN, MA, FL and MI – God's people serving Him."

Laurie Bedford "Cooking for volunteers on a mission trip is most rewarding." Laurie's Dad and Mom, Herb and Mary Hait, served for many years on the mission trips to ECHO as the cooks.

Bryan and Mia Gyore – "We've always wanted to go on one and it was worth it." →

continued on page 18...

### Market Place Evangelism





The long line as show attendees want that ever popular walking stick. - over 5,000 people heard the gospel message

This young family all knew the colored bead story.







Laura Sorentino made the trip from PA to help at the show. It was colder than normal for south GA.

Laura staffed the kids table.

↓ Mike Brehm from WI is always a welcome addition to the staff.



#### In Him We Are Born Again

A short time ago I was talking to some young people. I kept describing for them what it means to be made new. I would ask this question of you today; what would a new you look like not on the outside but inside. I would share *2 Corinthians 5:17* about being a new creature and ask if they had toys and if they ever broke one. When I used to play with cars sometimes the wheels would bend or a part might break off. I would try to straighten those wheels on my own and I could never get them to work right again. Sometimes I think we see ourselves as unable to be repaired and so we live our lives in a broken state

Truth is, sin has caused brokenness in all of us and is a curse to man and this world. I love that Jesus has redeemed us from the curse and in him we are born again.

Ephesians 4:17-24 "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught



by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

One of our shows we attend is the annual Threshermans Show in Pinkneyville, Illinois. Every year people bring these antique tractors that have been rescued from the scrap yard. They take machines that are broken down and rusted, and restore them to like new or better condition.



When I see a restored tractor parked next to the broken down version the difference is stark. I am thankful that God makes us new and He no longer looks at us as the old model broken by sin, but a new creature in Christ.

~ Mike Weaver
Area Leader/Disaster Relief
(618)499-1386

# Other News...



#### FCFI Outreach Meetings Adams Ctr & Rome, NY

NY FCF held two outreach dinner meetings the first weekend of October, Adams Center and Rome, NY.

Keynote speakers Andy and Joan Mower shared life's experiences and were a real encouragement. Joan "God does have a plan for all of us." Andy "Stay the course and You're a success if you train your children to know the Lord. Through tough times keep serving Him."

John Lake shared his testimony after being involved in a very serious motorcycle accident.

On the day of the accident John was heading home to bale 600 bales of hay. John and Michele own a small farm in the area. He thanked the MHV Chapter



and Finndale Farms for delivering some hay to help him through the winter.



Crop manager Brad Pugh moving the hay into storage.



Troy Finn, owner of Finndale farms delivering hay.



#### "Struggling Along"

I recently texted a friend, "Whatever you're struggling with, I am praying for the Lord's direction." Quickly a response said, "No struggles here?"

I on the other hand, am usually facing a few struggles. A common one for me is trying not to get distracted from one task to do another. Usually, when I start something I like to complete it. But stuff happens and the switching takes place. I have found that the struggles do bring about good lessons.

One is patience. Which reminds me of the mechanical repairs I've been working on an old truck.



I first must learn the procedure to take things apart, then try to reconnect them. Looking at diagrams helps direct me in that step-by-step process. I have learned to be patient through this process as it takes time and direction to do it right.

After raising two children and watching them start their own families, we were hoping to settle down to a quiet peaceful life but then our parents needed our help. They bring a different type of struggle into our lives. Since they no longer drive, they seem to have an appointment several times a week. Our schedule has a few struggles with overlapping events, so we turn to the Bible for answers, a word of encouragement, or a peaceful verse to meditate on each day. Peace which passes all understanding, allows us to function with joy through the interruptions. So even

the struggles can bring a joyful result when viewed through the right source.

What a wonderful blessing the Lord has given us. Being able to follow his direction in our struggles, teaches us patience for the next interruption. This has led to a lot less anger and anxiety for me. If lifes struggles seem to be weighing on you and wearing you down, look to the Bible. The Bible has answers that will help change a negative attitude, and will bring new joy into your life.

My wife and I recently traveled several hundred miles to participate in a farm show. We learned upon arrival, we were infected with a virus. We had a total change of plans. Instead of witnessing to others, we found ourselves in isolation. We returned home when traveling was tolerable, and the event was a huge success regardless. We were saddened, but God always had something else to teach us. During this struggle I had time to write down some testimonies that were fading from my memory which normally I don't have the time to do.

Whatever struggles plague you, know Jesus is with you patiently directing the outcome. We may not see all these possibilities until the struggles have passed, but His promises to guide us is our strength to continue. You can find this strength in plain sight, by reading the Bible as a step-by-step guide for life.

### Market Place Evangelism



Charles Umanec – Missionary to Nepal travelled with us from western NY to help at the show. He helped us at the Corn Festival, Eden, NY, in August as well.

#### **Scrap Show** Gibsonburg, OH



Rev Lois Moranville, Church of the Nazarene, Tifton, OH sharing at the Scrap Show.

#### **NYS Balloon Festival** Dansville, NY

Roy & Cathy Upson headed up the event working with Pastor Steve Cockerham.



### Market Place Evangelism

# Underhill Market Festival Underhill, VT





↑ Chris Brown sharing at the Market Festival this past fall.



Anne and Kevin Fleming, FCF reps in VT waiting on visitors at the Festival.

#### **Cheese Festival**

Lowville, NY



Don Kenyon and Karen Dove along with Ric Rosaro from Cassville Community Baptist Church headed up the effort. We can't thank them enough for supporting FCF.

### Report From Connecticut & Massachusetts



↑ This young couple gave their walking sticks away and returned to replenish their stock at the Spencer Fair in MA over the Labor Day Weekend.



Brooklyn Fair in Brooklyn, CT has been one of the most productive events in CT. Shown getting ready is Roy Norman, Glenn Figelski and John Wrobel.

# Market Place Evangelism

### Pioneer Days Lake Wales, FL



Pete and Sandy Singer along with Bill and Kathy Brown worked the two-day event the end of Oct. Over 500 sticks were passed out with several people praying to accept Christ. The message still changes people's hearts.

## Market Place Evangelism

# Woodsman's Field Days Boonville, NY

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Diane Buell sharing the gospel message at the Field Days.



Tracy Murphy, Mic Sokoloff and Steve Brown taking a short break before things get busy at the Woodsman's Filed Days in August. 600 people stopped by to receive a stick.

work.

 $\leftarrow$ 

→ Mark Nimey, Bill Slawson and Steve Brown all hard at



Mule Day
Calgary, GA

 $\rightarrow$ 

Pastor Nathan Fowler, Pastor of Mt Vernon Baptist Church and John Paul Hasick, Grady County Baptist Association invited Kathy and Bill to exhibit at Mule Day. 600 sticks were given away in 5 hours.



### Market Place Evangelism



#### Canajoharie Street Festival, NY

 $\leftarrow$ 

Cathy Upson sharing using the operator's manual.



Ruth McDonald, a member of Upson's Church  $\rightarrow$  lending a helping hand.

#### Holiday Haven Market

Winter Haven, FL

Pete Singer and Glen Figelski greeting folks at the Christmas event.



# Remsen Barn Festival, NY

\_

Mary Zacek on the right at the Remsen Barn Festival. Special thanks to Mark Nimey for heading up the effort. Over 1,200 sticks were passed out at the event

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### Other News...

FCF spent the week of Nov 13-19 in Arcadia and Ft Myers, FL cleaning up after Hurricane Ian. Thanks so much to Pastors Dana and Travis, Mt Ephraim Baptist Church for making us feel so welcome. Pictures on pgs 11 & 12 share our story.



Pile of rubbish at the mobile home park that one of our teams removed from the home.



The new FCF Branson tractor sure comes in handy when moving brush and cleaning up fence rows.

### Other News...

Glenn Figelski and Paul Davidson on the cleanup crew. Paul was the guy in charge of keeping everyone on task.



Bill's nephew, Bryan hard at \
work running a chain saw.
We had as many as 6 saws
operating at once.

Just some of the damage from

Hurricane Ian. They received as much

as four feet of water over many roads, this bridge was completely washed out.



↑ Yes! I can still work if I have too.