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 In Jesus name, Amen Lord of my life."

2023 Event Schedule (anticipated)



www.fcfi.org Field Contacts Contact List Bill Brown Editor- Marcy, NY (315)736-5964

Making an impact on a little girl... teaching her how to decorate a cake

Steve and Chris Brown -NY - (315)525-5131 Pastor Mitch and Sue Santelli - CT (860)933-5304

Pastor Rob & Sue Andreas -Tech. Advisors (315) 868-1294

Ed and Gail Westfall Content Advisors (315) 863-5491

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Mike Weaver- Eldorado, IL (618) 499-1386

Jeff Goss - High Ridge, MO (314)610-1835

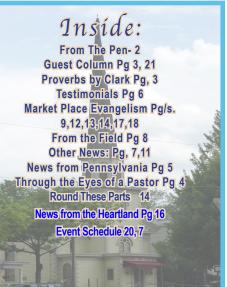
Pete and Sandy Singer -FL (239) 849-5527 Michael and Karen Steele - PA (570)419-9877

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



Making An Impact For Christ

Matthew 5:13 & 14 "You are the salt of the earth but if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything. You are the light of the world." FCFI has and continues to make an impact by being "the salt of the earth and light of the world. Front page banner pictures include; praying at Reality Ranch in Zolfo Springs, FL. - asking for guidance, disaster relief efforts – serving those in need, and finally sharing Christ and making disciples at events throughout the United States and Canada. We would encourage you to join us as we make an impact in a needy world.





Bill Brown delivering supplies to Bob Cox, Wildernness Baptist Church, Spring Hill. FL. Shown lending a helping is Pastor Leroy Thompson. friend of FCFI is from Jamaica.

From The Pen of Bill Brown

Having Your Cake And Eating It Too!

Speaking of making an impact! Kathy and I had the privilege of doing just that a few months ago. The picture shows us with Rocky Jones, son of Mary Jones, FCFI Prayer Coordinator from Tifton, GA. Rocky is a Down Syndrome young man who loves Star Wars. His 44th birthday wish was to visit Disney World and the Star Wars theme park.

It all came to pass in February. Mary and Rocky stayed with us and I accompanied them to the park each day. We started off the week with a birthday cake, *(see picture)*, prepared and donated by our daughter Kris Ford. *Rocky loved it!*



"Committed to each other and to Him"



We were blessed to have an impact on Rocky's life and we continue to do the same for our granddaughter, little Evie. My prayer is for all of us to use our God given talents for His work and glory. May you continue to serve and support FCFI. There's plenty of work to be done. Remember to give Him glory in all things!

Rocky getting ready to enjoy his birthday cake!

~Bill Brown



Guest Column Dennis Schlagel - FCFI Executive Director

Lexington, Illinois

"Road Trip for the Lord with My Grandson"

On Sunday April 23rd at a family supper, I asked the family to pray for safety and a great 95th Georgia State FFA Convention in Macon, Georgia, April 27-28th. I also mentioned to the family that I wished someone could go with me for the 14 hour trip through Southern Illinois, western Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Georgia including Atlanta at night. My ten-year-old grandson, Oscar Jones, raised his hand and exclaimed, "I'll go!" I looked at Oscar's Mom, Abigail, about missing three days of school. Abigail and her husband, Paul, thought it would be fine and that hewould probably learn more traveling to Georgia and attending a two-day Career Show. So, the decision was made----Oscar

is going to Macon, Georgia with his Grandfather. We got the trip going at 8:00 am and made good time on I-57 to Mt Vernon, Illinois. I noticed my phone wasn't ringing very much, in fact, it was not ringing at all. Oscar and I parked at a Culver's Restaurant and started searching for my cell phone under the front seats. Sadly, we did not find the cell phone, but Oscar found an unopened Pearson's Salted Nut Roll. Expiration date was one of the months in 2021. We decided to share the candy bar after Culver's lunch. The friendly Southern Illinois folks waiting for food at Culver's suggested I try a new style Tracfone that are sold at a nearby Walmart. The Saleslady was impressive. It did not take long for Oscar to recognize the opportunity. Grandpa needs this phone for three days and after we get home Oscar can use the Tracfone. The rest of the way to Macon, Georgia found Oscar studying how to send text messages, photos and place cell calls on my behalf. Many pictures were taken of the Smokey Mountains where in 1918 my mother Thelma Pippin was born in Cookville, Tennessee.

Once in Macon and the Georgia State FFA Convention the FFA Ambassadors assigned to the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International helped haul our display and walking sticks into our booth space. It was not long and Oscar and I began talking to many of the 8,000 Georgia FFA members in attendance about their faith in Christ. Impressive group of young people planning their futures and careers and their faith in Christ. Most wanted to use the walking sticks to share the Gospel message with people they came to the convention with.

The road trip to Georgia included two stops at National Park Battlefields so Oscar could get his National Park Passport stamped by the park Ranger. Somewhere on I-24 west of Chattanooga it was time for my grandson to catch up on some sleep. He was ready to get home so he could spend an "Open" Saturday with his Mom and Dad. I decided this road trip was teaching me how much Oscar is loved by his parents and how much Oscar loves his Mom and Dad.

I have a lot of days where I wish I could spend an "Open" Saturday with my parents but can't – they have both moved onto Glory. But now I can spend road trips with grandchildren. I learned a lot about Oscar's love for his parents.

Thank you, Lord, for this unexpected road trip.



check FCFI Region 8 out on Facebook!

Market Place Evangelism





 \uparrow Pastor Rob sharing



← New volunteers Jeremy and Sindy Mills from Edisto Island, South Carolina worked all three days. What a blessing to have some younger folks join in!

Rowertown Festival Summerville, South Carolina Over 2,000 visited the FCF tent, and 60 made a commitment to Christ! The Festival drew record crowds with

over 250,000 people in attendance this year!

← Diane Buell sharing the gospel.



↑ Terry Johnson from Renfrew, Ontario, Canada checked in as they made their way to Florida to give a helping hand



↑ Kathy Brown and Sue Andreas greeting visitors. Sue also staffed the kids table at this event

A Book of Proverbs

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

God Gives Us Guidelines

• Of all the things we open by mistake, our mouth

is the most common.

• You can teach what you know

but you produce what you are.

- Never wait to do a kindness because you never know how soon it will be too late.
- happiness comes not in living or getting but in giving.
 - God gives and forgives; man gets and forgets.

We Couldn't Do It Without YOU!

Thank-you For Supporting Our Mission

	Support FCFI: I would like to assist the mission of Fellowship of Christian Farmers in Presenting
Jesu	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 withdra	wn on the 1	5

Card Number_

_Exp mm/yy ____

Signature _____

monthly gifts on going until notified otherwise

FCFI, PO Box 15, Lexington, IL 61753

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Through The Eyes of a Pastor

Pastor Kevin Cernek

Not Your *"Ordinary"* Neighbor

I received a call the other day from the funeral home. Our elderly neighbor lady had passed away and the family was requesting me to be the preacher for the funeral. It's not unusual to get a request like that, but this one was for a very unusual person.

The deceased was a farmer. She had farmed on her own since her husband had passed away 45 years ago. Not only that, but she was

a dairy farmer, and she milked her cows until she was 87 years old. She was born in the farmhouse and 93 years later she died in the same house she was born in.

Martindale Community Church Chaplain To FCFI

To add to the unusualness of her life, she also worked at a factory

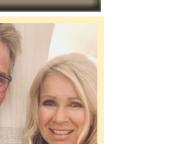
in town - second shift. To work the second shift, she had to milk her cows at 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. – before and after work. She was not your ordinary neighbor or farmer. In the era of technology taking over everyone's life, she somehow managed to keep hers simple and old-fashioned. Each one of her cows was her pet, and she named them accordingly. She never had a phone as long as she lived.

I remember a lot of things about this unique neighbor, but the one story I remember the best was one day on a Sunday afternoon, she stopped by our house for a visit. The reason for her visit was that she wanted to know how to find peace with God. She knew I was a pastor and assumed I could help her. She wasn't wrong. My wife and I talked to her, and we introduced her to the Lord – right there sitting around our kitchen table – We took her into the Scriptures and shared the Good News of the forgiveness of sin and being made complete in Christ. And she eagerly accepted the message and put her faith in Jesus Christ to save her and then she asked if I'd baptize her. So, I did – right there in our kitchen sink.

One of her favorite passages became the *23rd Psalm*. After she passed away her family discovered that she had attached it to the headboard of her bed. And she talked about it often.

She was remarkable and unique, and I look forward to seeing her in Glory Land.

(Kevin Cernek is Lead Pastor of Martintown Community Church in Martintown, Wisconsin. He can be reached at <u>kccernek@gmail.com</u>).







Tom & Tracy Murphy sharing. This show is managed by Lee Publications in NY and the company has been very good to FCF over many years. They do the printing of tracts, banners and cards for the walking sticks. Thank-you!!!



Busy booth at the NY Farm Show, where Sandy Salm and Joyce Kitchen (backs to camera) along with Chris Brown greeted folks. The 3 day show certainly kept everyone busy!



Carol Oot, Steve Hutton & Steve Brown keeping busy!



 \uparrow Carol Oot talks to a young family.

News From The Heartland

Jeff Goss • Area Leader • High Ridge, Missouri



The Power Of The Gospel

The apostle Paul said in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek". I am convinced that if Christians knew how powerful the Word of God is, we would open our mouths and preach it a

lot more.

Psalms 107:20 says, "*He sent His Word and healed them and delivered them from their destruction.*"

Jesus said; "... my words are Spirit and life" John 6:63.

I heard of one ministry that would go into crime ridden neighborhoods and have block parties and minister the Gospel. After doing this in a neighborhood, the crime in that area would decrease. The police noticed this so they began to ask this ministry to go to other parts of the city to have block parties so the crime would go down there. Loren Cunningham who started Youth with a Mission went to preach at a church that was just getting started in South Korea. He said that the people in the church were so poor that they didn't have cars to get to church so they used public transportation. Years later he went back to that same church and he noticed that the people of that church had their own cars. He realized that after years of sitting under the Word of God these people had learned how to be successful.

Jesus said; "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HATH ANNOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR" Luke 4:18a, so let's go out and there and do the same.

~Jeff Goss

Thought For The Day...

In our Christian walk with the Lord, we sometimes lose sight of our main purpose, don't we? Although it is wonderful to help feed the hungry, help the homeless, provide for the poor, or send aid overseas, what is the main purpose of our lives?"

Is our main focus sharing the good news of salvation, or are we busy admiring the beautiful lights in the hall? We cannot solve all of mans physical problems, but we know we can let them know of God's great love and salvation. May we remain focused on our purpose for the day!

~Excerpt from: "A Heart For The Lord" by Gloria Gibbs 16

-News From Pennsylvania Michael and Karen Steele PA Field Reps



Virginia Farm Show A young lady takes a peek inside the Jesus box, while her father holds the lid open. 27 folks prayed to accept Jesus Christ



↑ Karen Steele shares with a Army Vet at the Altona RV Show



Home Show & Arts and Crafts Fair, Ocean City, Maryland. Three FCFI witnesses were manning the sand art table. The sand table was a big hit, even though the convention center was only one block from the beach.





↑ West Branch Home Builders Show. Tim Scmidt drove down from Bloomsburg to help out at this event. A young man listens intently and later received Christ as his savior and joined the Lord's family.

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.

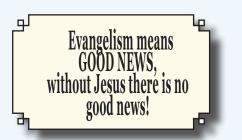


Coordinator to the Caribbean-Pastor Leroy Thompson sharing with a young man.

Thanks to The Fellowship of Christian Farmers for providing over 100 walking sticks with wordless beads, gospel tracts and pens for kids for our recent Wilderness Baptist Church Fair. The effort was to reach unchurched people in our community. From our station at the fair, five us of from the church engaged adults and children with the gospel using the bracelets, pens for children and walking sticks for adults. By the end of the fair, we had seven professions of faith. There was a grandmother, a husband and wife, two young men in their late twenties and two teenagers. PTL! Many children stooped by with the seed of the Word planted in their *hearts.* The church appreciates partnering with FCFI to receive resources for their outreach. ~Pastor Leroy Thompson



Bert Visscher working at the Swamp Cabbage Festival in LaBelle, Florida. I can't get over the privilege of leading someone to the Lord and the encouraging words we can give those walking in their faith! ~Bert Visscher



Fellowship of Christian Farmers

Walking Stick Work Days

Working so that thousands will hear the "Good News" in 2023



Dates – July 11-14, 2023 Time: Start each day at 9 AM – coffee and donuts Lunch at noon - provided We will finish each day by 5 PM Where– Pilgrim Holiness Church, 6079 Cavanaugh Rd, Marcy, NY RSVP - (315)736-5964 -Browns We will have tents set up – rain or shine Our goal is to prepare at least 15,000 sticks for the 2023 event schedule. Our inventory is very low! Come work for a couple of hours – a whole day or every day.



Lots of Work for Everyone!

Round These Parts



article unavailable... we'll catch up with Mike in the September issue!

Area Leader/Disaster Relief (618)499-1386

~Mike Weaver

Market Place Evangelism



Strawberry Festival Floral City, Florida



Really great to have Reverend Carl Chapman and his wife Roberta, who travelled down from New York, to help reach out to the 800+ folks who stopped by at the Strawberry Festival!

Other News...



A new trailer has been added to the fleet of of Region 8. First used on the disaster relief effort in Florida last autumn, and now being used at smaller events in the south. It saves on fuel expenses related to travel pulling a lighter and smaller trailer. Also, the trailer is much easier to maneuver at events.

"Great joy

comes

from being

ofservice

to others.

- Tulsi Gabbard

former Hawaii Crogresswoman



↑ Always work to be done maintaining Region 8's trailers and vehicles. Thanks to Jeff Borton and Ron Troxel shown replacing a door on the FCFI's all important shower trailer.

2023 Schedule

Continued from Back Page 15-17 - Dakota Fest - Mitchel, SD - Goss 16-20 - American Thresherman Antique Show - Pinckneyville, IL - Goss 19- Roseboom Antique Show, Roseboom, NY 18-20 - Woodsman's Field Days, Boonville, NY 23-27 - Connecticut Valley Fair, Bradford, VT - Fleming 24-27 - Brooklyn Fair - Brooklyn,CT 26 - Farmers Market - Syracuse, NY 29-31 - Farm Progress Show - Decatur, IL - Goss September 1-4 -Spencer Fair, Spencer, 1-3- Montour Antique Farm Machinery Show -1-4 - Sandusky County Restorers Antique Power Show, Gibsonburg, 6-10 - Orleans County fair, Barton, VT, Fleming 7-10 - Hebron Harvest Fair, Hebron, CT 7-10 - Nittany Antique Machinery Show, Centre Hall, PA -9-10 - Lycoming County Balloon Fest, Hughesville, PA - Good 8-9 - Central NY Farm Progress Show, Mohawk, NY 9 - Canajoharie Street Fair, Canajoharie, NY 9-10 - Lycoming County Balloon Fest, Hughesville, PA - Steele 10-13- Four Town Fair, 14-17 - MD Bike Week, Ocean City, MD - Steele 15-16 - Country Living Farm and Home Expo, Herkimer County Fair Grounds 16-17 - Gun Show, Syracuse, NY 16-17 - Pennsylvania Heritage Day, Easton, PA - Steele 16- Cream Cheese Festival, Lowville, NY 19-23 - International Plowing Match, Bowling Green, Ontario 22-24 - Wolcott Fair, Wolcott, CT 23-24 - Remsen Barn Festival, Remsen, NY

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From The Field Laurie Bedford Mountain Valley Chapter, Jefferson, NY

Higher Ground

"Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it." Proverbs 22:6

Today I had the privilege to sit with my parents and a local newspaper reporter while she interviewed them for the Valentine's Day issue. As she quizzed them about their long lasting marriage (71 years) they shared some of the "how it works". The regular stuff – communication, working out disagreements, working together in good times and bad,



being on the same page with children and farm decisions. We also talked about both of their sets of parents having life-long marriages and all four of their daughters being married to the same spouse for a lifetime, 46 years for my oldest sister. My conclusion is that they taught their children by example of how marriage and the love of God works.

Growing up I remember Dad working hard (all the time) but on Sunday mornings he stopped so we could all go to church together by 11:00 in town 5 miles away. This example stuck with me and my husband and we seldom miss a Sunday together, yes we were dairy farmers just like our parents. So many parents of young children in this decade have not had the wonderful example to follow as we did. Training for parenting is done so much by example, so I pray that children today will find a mentor and example so that they can become wonderful spouses, parents, and families that our world needs now.

We had a little laugh – that may make the paper – It was what my little sister told her class and teacher when asked, "What does your mother do?" Probably for a Mother's Day card, the teacher expected shopping, cooking, or cleaning. My sister's answer was "Mommy sits on Daddy's lap". Showing and sharing affection continues to help with their long marriage.

Jesus gave us a new commandment "Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13: 34b-35

– Market Place Evangelism

Pioneer Days Arcadia, Florida



Pete & Sandy Singer headed up this busy event at the Pioneer Days, with nearly 1,000 people stopping by. Above we see Sandy sharing the gospel.



Ron & Deb Herrold from Indiana are faithful volunteers at FCFI events in Florida, as well as heading up mission trips. Ron is shown below visitingwith an event attendee at the Pioneer Days.



←

Thanks to Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church, Arcadia, Florida who sponsored this event. Ernie Gonzales, a 17 year old Spanish speaking young man shares while Jim Thornton, church patriarch, looks on.



Oregon State FFA Convention



Julie Goss greeting FFA members at the Utah FFA Convention

Area Leader Jeff Goss with a large group at the Missouri FFA State Convention

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Jeff Goss at the Oregon State FFA Convention



Jeff Goss will be at several FFA events throughout 2023

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Mike Weaver sharing the gosple in Kannsas City, Missouri at the Missouri FFA State Convention

– Market Place Evangelism



Swamp Cabbage Festival LaBelle, Florida

Thanks to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly at the Swamp Cabbage Festival FCFI outreach. 1,000 visitors received a free gift from FCFI, and heard the gospel message!



← NY Farm Show Syracuse, NY

Several 4H young ladies checked in to hear the gospel message shared by Ric Rosero and Tracy Murphy (in back of photo), and to receive a walking stick. Always a pleasure to have the young folks stop in to say hello, and share the good word with us.



Manatee Festival Florida City, Florida

Cold, windy weather greeted all who attended the Manatee Festival outreach. Bill & Kathy Brown along with Pete Singer braved the rough weather to warm the souls of all who listened. A special thanks to Don Taylor as we were quite busy sharing the gospel and handing out sticks to over 860 people!



30th Annual Conference

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

"Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast." - Psalms 119:90

July 26 - 28, 2023 - Dubuque, Iowa

FEATURING

- Rapid Action Reports
- Mission Reports

FCF

- Devotions
- Special Speakers
- Concert
- Great food and fellowship
- FCFI Auction
- **Early Arrival Activities**
- Farm Toy Museum
- Field of Dreams
- Trolley Tour
- Mississippi Cruise



Pastor, Martintown Community Church, FCFI Chaplain

Thursday Evening Concert From the Upper Penisula

Best Western Plus, 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: Monday, June 25, 2023	Registration Form 30th Annual FCFI Conference July 26 - 28, 2023 - Dubuque, IA	Make Checks Payab FCFI Conference P.O. Box 15, Lexington,	e	
Name		*Additional Conference Activities CHECK OPTIONS BELOW AND INCLUDE PAYMENT ALONG WITH REGISTRATION FEES		
L		Farm Toy Museum	\$5 each	
Address		□ Field of Dreams	\$22 each	
		Tuesday Supper	\$19 each	
		□ Trolley Tour	\$30 each	
City	State Zip Code	Luncheon Cruise	\$40 each	
Phone Email Email Night Lo			day 11 per night	
Early Arrival Special Note: Please se Night Lodging fee of \$111 along wi	Conference Registration Fees WEDNESDAY EVENING, THURSDAY, FRIDAY NOON			
	ights lodging per person, starts Wednesday at 5:30pm fy dates	Adults Children Total \$	\$100.00 each	

Other News...



Rocky Jones had a dream come true in Febrary for his 44th birthday. Rocky got to spend a special two days at the amazing Star Wars Theme Park in Disney World. Many thanks to everyone who helped make Rocky's dream come true!



Rocky's Dream Visit To Disney World



↑ Rocky pictured above with his Mom, Mary Jones, FCFI Prayer Coordinator from Tifton, Georgia along with Rocky's favorite Star Wars hero, "Chewy" Chewbacca.

