



“The Harvest”

“Thank You for Giving to the Lord”

From the song by Ray Boltz – “I dreamed I went to heaven, and you were there with me. We walked on Streets of Gold, beside the crystal sea. . . You used to teach my Sunday School . . . one morning when you said that prayer, I asked Jesus into my heart. A missionary (FCFI) came to our church . . . You didn’t have much money, but you gave it anyway, Jesus took the gift you gave, And that’s why I’m here today. . . Little things that you had done . . . Heaven now proclaimed . . .

Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a life that was changed.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are doing.”

Ed Westfall comments – “A life changing pattern may occur after a one-on-one or group experience.”

We thank you for giving to the Lord!



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Mary and Herb Hait from Hobart, NY are perfect examples of “giving” They have served as chapter leaders, mission trip cooks and workers at FCFI events for over 25 years. They are now in their 90’s and still love to help!

Thanks for giving. On behalf of The Fellowship of Christian Farmers we can't thank you enough for supporting, volunteering, and praying for this organization. **Romans 10:13-15 "For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"** It's really quite simple, without your help we cannot be on the road sharing. The gospel is free but the means to get it there is costly. You play a big role, and we can't thank you enough! As the song spells out so wonderfully, "Thank you for giving to the Lord." We will not know the full impact until we get to heaven. It's not good news until it reaches its goal. As I write this, we have a presence at 4 events this week. John D. Rockefeller said it best "The poorest man I know is the one who has nothing but money." Why not send it along for God's work?



**Giving Him thanks in all things,
Bill Brown**

Mary Jones - FCFI Prayer Coordinator, Tifton, GA - Gardening for the Soul

My farming consists of 2 acres of flower beds. I am always searching for the next best plant to fill in just the right spot. Then I have to be intentional in planting, nourishing, watering, weeding and fertilizing those plants to have a prosperous garden full of blooms and thriving shrubberies. It is always a work in progress.

I find our Christian walk is a lot like my flower beds. We should be constantly searching for and planting new souls with God's love, mercy and grace. We never know how each will fill in just the right spot in God's kingdom work.

All of us need nurturing but new Believers especially need to be encouraged, kept in touch with and guided. To get established and stay grounded plants need water and Believers needs to be watered in God's Word...the Bible. We need to know who we are so we can soul shine and bloom where we are planted.

Any garden...and Christian...needs to be weeded regularly. If not, those pesky weeds tend to intertwine with the good plants and then choke them out. We also need to weed out bad habits, friends that lead us astray and thoughts that keep us double-minded.

I have found all my grounds do better with the right fertilizer. My Christian walk also grows richer when I am fertilized regularly by attending church, Bible studies and serving with fellow Believers. Home church, small country church or mega-church...we need to find our spot of worship so we can bloom where we are planted.

I am so thankful to be a part of FCFI...a group that plants, nurtures, waters, weeds and fertilizes for God's kingdom. It is the only way to have a beautiful, blooming, thriving garden of the soul. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age, (Matthew 28:19-20).
Mary Dunn Jones



Guest Column by Mary Jones - FCFI Prayer
Coordinator from Tifton, GA

When my wife and I started to attend our current church the topic of tithing came into question. We had always given a little but never committed to a steady amount. With intense debate and fervent prayer we committed to give a percentage of our income. Let's say we never looked back and new blessings have occurred over and over!!

Sometimes we would have difficulty getting the bills paid on time but with godly principles we overcame! Suddenly the anxiety was gone and we had a peace for the first time. Things still take us by surprise but God's math takes care of them.

Next our time and talents came into play. We started to invite others into our home to share and teach all the Lord was showing us. Our attendance grew in many activities along with our joy. Sharing our lives with others is as natural with Jesus as the guide. Soon we grew in leadership at our church and contributed our time and talents often. The worldly activities we used to have, never compared to the satisfaction of serving our fellow believers.

Then the opportunity to serve with a fellowship that speaks into the lives of those seeking Jesus arrived. This was like putting on the best pair of gloves. God has been training us for this blessings. We are excited to travel and meet likeminded believers whose vision is kingdom building. Struggles just strengthen our desire to continue pressing forward; knowing Jesus is molding us into His servants.

It all started with a commitment to trust Jesus with our giving. The joy and peace we've experienced can't be found anywhere else than at the feet of Jesus Christ.



Steve and Chris Brown - Region Eight Fieldmen from Remsen, NY to the From the Field

This is my Church - Organization – FCFI

It is composed of people like me.

It will be friendly if I am.

It will do great work if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous.

It will bring others into fellowship if I bring them.

Its seats will be filled if I fill them.

It will be a church (organization) of loyalty and love, of faith
and service.

If I who make it what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being

All these things I want my church (FCFI) to be.

Author unknown

Permit me to paint a parallel between the sticks we prepare and the people who prepare them. We were rough. We were rigid in our own way. We arrived without a sense of purpose. We were loosely bound, (some more so than others). Some carried splits or were broken inside. We were rejected by the monetary measure of wealth through success, though we attempted to keep up appearances. When we arrive on 9400 Kennedy Road, we have already traveled many miles. We are shielded (tarp covered) in our individual comfort zones. A number of us did not know what was about to transpire. We are all alike, yet unique at the same time. Most carry a element of rigidity, while others are a little “sappy”. But we notice the apparent mark that each one has received a personal “Touch”.

People and walking sticks start out as a seed and begin this journey called life! Infancy, childhood, adolescence, youth even adulthood pass in a blinding blur! Some come from the wild side, some from farms, while others came from a different country! We begin to establish ourselves in the rich soil of earthly values, setting down roots while reaching for the sky where our dreams, and wills would lift us.

Then one day a catastrophe happened, or so it would seem. Like trees felled in a forest, our aspirations came crashing down. The lofty skies were no longer attainable from this prostrated position. Hope and life seem at an end. Then a strange twist of events takes place that would divert our purpose to a different path. Oddly it was formerly known as the “sawdust trail”. This is the path where we found ourselves rejected, bundled and banished by the earthly standard of success.

One by one we were chosen and inspected (convicted and converted). Like the sticks some were cut, most were routed for the router where all are shaped, pierced and sanded into a form that will eventually strengthen the steps of their Master. The most unique identification mark was given to each one. Each tells the story from ruin and rebellion to the Redeemed! Each carries a variety colors from Creation, to Christ, to Calvary, and finally to the Crown.

I can’t think of a better crowd to walk with. These are the people we meet at stick days.

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn til setting sun.

Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care.

Then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done.

And the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.

~ James M. Black 1856-1938



Pastor James and Lollie Brewer, Pilgrim Holiness church,
Marcy, NY



When You Give to the Least of These
By: Jeff Goss

We just finished ministering at the last FFA state convention for the year in Dallas Texas, and I am reminded of the hunger and thirst that we saw in the young students in states coast to coast. Then I am reminded of the scriptures in Matthew 25 where Jesus said that when he was hungry and thirsty, you gave me food and drink and that when you have given unto the least of these my brethren you have given unto me. I believe this has a double meaning. It refers to not just food and drink but spiritual food and drink which is the most important. Whenever we have food, drinks, or gifts to give away at an outreach, we make sure the people hear the Gospel first because where people spend eternity is the most important thing.

When you give to FCFI of your finances, your time to volunteer, or time spent in prayer, you are giving to the least of these at farm shows, FFA state conventions, mission trips and disaster relief. Proverbs 19:17 says when you give to the poor, you are lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back.

Proverbs 11:25 in the Amplified translation says the generous man is a source of blessing and shall be prosperous and enriched, and he who waters will himself be watered. Because of the law of sowing and reaping, I find that as I minister a lot to people, when I need a word from God somehow God will get it to me. As you give, God will bless you too. A recent study concluded that those who share more also live longer. My parents were generous givers, and they lived a long, blessed life. Remember, when you have given unto the least of these, you have given to the Lord. Someday, when you arrive in heaven there will be many people waiting to thank you.

ROUND THESE PARTS - By Mike Weaver - Eldorado, IL

A couple of years ago I asked several people at a farm show a question. What has Jesus done for you? When I asked that question I received several and various answers. Some of those answers were as follows a nice home, a good wife/family, a good job, a nice truck. I think a lot of people look at Jesus as some heavenly Santa Claus, magician, or genie. I pray; He gives; I want more; He provides and when I don't get what I want He is at fault or he is keeping something from me. This is the result of childish shallow knowledge of God.

It was interesting that only one little boy and one little girl, out of about sixty people, answered, "He died for our sins." I tell you, "This Jesus, didn't die for us so we could have more stuff in this world. He gave himself on the cross, shed his blood that He might be the sacrifice of all sacrifices for the sins of man, that we might have eternal life with him in Heaven one day." We will be escaping this world for something much better.

This is praise worthy folks, this is why we sing the songs of praise, this is why we have peace, and this is why we exalt His name. He has overcome and because He has the victory over sin, death and hell there should be a joy inside us welling up unto everlasting life.

We should have an attitude of praise all the time, every day. If we have an attitude of praise, that leaves little room for grumbling and complaining, distress and general unhappiness.

Thank you, Lord, for your blessings on me.

Mike Weaver





Pete and Sandy Singer in MN



Sandy with a sweet lady at the Drury Inn. Management allowed the Singers to pass out walking sticks. This lady's neighbor has been inviting her to bible study. She prayed to accept Jesus and is now excited to attend.



Marlyn Bunger from SD stopped by to help at the Farm Fest in southern, MN. Marilyn has been helping at FCFI events for 30 years.



Pete sharing the message at Farm Fest. Over 3,000 sticks were passed out.



Diane (Pete's sister, Sandy and Pete already to work at the Art and Craft Fair. 800 sticks passed out.



Market Place Evangelism

NY SHOWS



Cathy Upson spends some time with a young man at the Dolgeville, NY Violet Fest first weekend in June.



Pastor Lou Chapman from Hawkinsville Methodist Church sharing at the Car show in Boonville, NY



Diane Buell takes a few minutes to explain the beads. Thursday was slow but Fri and Sat, the attendance picked up. Thanks to Steve and Chris Brown for heading up the show.



Olcott Bible Church as always staffed the FCFI Tent at the Niagara County Fair in Lockport, NY Great results - They talked to 800 people and had 42 decisions for Christ.



Nighttime at the fair. Olcott Bible Church looks good in the FCF carnival tent!



Steve Brown intently sharing the gospel at the Cowlesville Flea Market in July



Busy tent at Old Home Day in Vernon Center, NY



Market Place Evangelism



Anne Fleming ready to share at the Bradford Fest in VT. The weather turned rainy, but the Flemings still passed out 300 sticks and had several folks ask for prayer.



The crew from Woodstock, CT work many events in MA and CT. Pastor Mitch Santelli, one of the leaders, sharing at the Brandford Festival.



Pat and Ada Bielanski worked with Bill and Kathy Brown at the Strawberry Festival in Owego, NY June 16 & 17.



Tom Nolan – sharing at the Corn fest.



Eden Corn Festival – 15 year old Faith Spinelli doing a good job explaining the bead story



Market Place Evangelism

Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville, NY August 18-20



Tracy Murphy Always do a good job.



Steve and Chris Brown headed up the effort. A big thank you to all who helped. Over 900 stick were passed out.



Tracy Murphy staying very busy.



Mark Nimey sharing with a group of young folks



Our faithful worker, Bill Slawson



Mic Sokoloff getting adamant while sharing. A little hand motions always help



Market Place Evangelism

Empire Farm Days August 2023



Steve Hutton took a day off from work to help.



Bill Gant praying with some young folks at Empire Farm Days



Diana Buell veteran mission trip cook and still takes time to work some shows.



Ada and Pat Bielski are becoming very active in FCF. They work in Ny in the summer and then help out in Fl during the winter months.



Carol Oot will be leaving us soon but she keeps busy not only at farm shows but has also started sharing the gospel at farmers market.



Chris Brown talking with the youth about Christ.



Market Place Evangelism

FCFI at twenty-five state FFA Conventions in 2023



Jeff Goss sharing at the South Dakota FFA Convention.



Karen Hembrough ministers at the Missouri FFA Convention.



Area Leader, Mike Weaver helped at the Iowa FFA convention.



Jeff Goss at the Mother of All State Conventions. Everything is bigger in Texas.



FFA members gather around Jeff Goss as he leads them in prayer in Oregon.



Dave Ferris, tireless worker for FCFI from Nebraska sharing.



Volunteer, Peggy Korn from TN, helping at the IN FFA Convention. Kids are always ready to listen.

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.



Ed and Eileen Scheffler write “Thanks so much for hosting stick days. Hard work and great fellowship. We appreciate having meals together, devotions, lots of water and the afternoon watermelon to “cut the dust.” With the sticks I brought home we had the opportunity to share the gospel with my family at gathering on the 16th. I had wanted to talk to them about Jesus and the sticks were an open door!



It seems that those working grow in their faith and come closer to God as they share the bead story, especially the green bead.
Laurie Bedford – Merideth Dairy Days, NY

Introducing new staff – Bill Nichols of Bellefontaine, OH joins the FCFI staff as Area Leader for Ohio and surrounding states. Bill is married to Margie, they have four sons and have been involved in all aspects of church ministry. Bill is an ordained pastor.



FCFI holds 30th Annual Conference, July 26-28, in Dubuque, Iowa



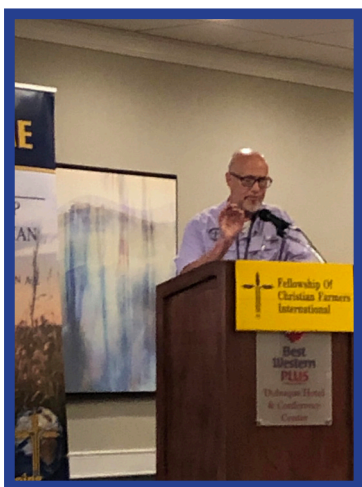
Dennis Schlagel welcomes everyone to the conference.



Keynote Speaker Kevin Cernek, pastor of Martintown Community Church, "What is your Legacy" Kevin encouraged those present to stand firm in God's word and live your life so others will know who you follow and will want to do the same.



Steve Cernek, President FCFI Board. Steve in his remarks on Thursday night reminisced about his father. "It's never too late to fulfill God's plan for your life."



Area Leader, Jeff Goss brought everyone up to date on FCFI's schedule this past year of having an exhibit at 25 FFA State Conventions across America.



Mike Weaver, Area Leader in charge of Disaster Relief. "God can use you if you have a willing heart."



Dennis Kein, one of our workshop speakers presented "Honoring God while protecting your family" 60% of Christians do not have a written will, God owns it all but He wants us to be good stewards.

Walking Stick Work Days



Lou Lenaghan and Pastor Jim Wolford repairing one of the machines. Lou is a retired machinist from Marcy, NY and helps keep our equipment sharpened and adjusted.



Aron Zacek helping Steve Brown tie the bundles ready for storage.



Lots of folks sanding sticks



Work for everyone at Stick Days. Over 15,000 necklaces, bracelets and other items, etc.



Two Canadians hard at work. Paul Booker running one of the drill presses, Terry Johnson sizing the sticks before moving on to the sanders.



Pete Singer FCFI Fieldman covering FL, Pastor James Brewer, Pilgrim Holiness Church - our host and Hank Huigenbos, Ontario, Canada sizing the sticks before they passed down the assembly line for sanding and hole drilling.



30th Annual FALL OUTREACH BANQUET

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International
Mohawk Valley Chapter



September 30th

At the

Lake Delta Bible Conference Center
6420 Pillmore Drive, Rome, NY 13440



With Keynote Speaker

Ric Rosero-Sauquoit, NY

Ric retired after 24 years from Mohawk Valley Community College as a Professor/ Coordinator of the Carpentry – Masonry Program. He now works as a consultant and owns his own construction business. He and his wife, Norayne, are active in their local church and Ric is a member of The Mohawk Valley Chapter of FCFI.



Buffet Style Dinner

7:00P.M.

\$17.00 Per Person

For Reservations Call

Northern New York Chapter Dinner

Friday September 29, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Six Town Meeting House, Church St. Adams, NY

Contact the Porters at (315) 778-5247

Ham Dinner with all the trimmings –\$16.00



South Jersey Chapters Jeff and Gaile Thies with their truck loaded with sticks for events in their area. In the last month sticks and supplies have left Marcy, NY for MN, PA, VT, CT as well as Northern and Western NY. It takes a lot of supplies to work 90 events in Region Eight and beyond.



The Bead Story, Good News For All!!

Do you have a personal relationship with Jeasus Christ? Have you accepted Him as your Savcvior? 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 or 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 our 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 youdied 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***

September

- 1-4 -Spencer Fair, Spencer, MA
- 1-3- Montour Antique Farm Machinery Show – Steele
- 1-4 - Sandusky County Restorers Antique Power Show, Gibsonburg, OH
- 6-7 - Wyoming Farm, Ranch and Hemp Expo, Torrington, WY
- 6-10 - Orleans County Fair, Barton, VT - Fleming
- 7-10 - Hebron Harvest Fair, Hebron, CT
- 7-10 - Nittany Antique Machinery Show, Centre Hall, PA - Steele
- 8-9 - 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, Somers, CT
- 11-15 - Disaster Relief Mission Trip, Mayfield, KY
- 12-14 - Husker Harvester Days, Grand Island, NE
- 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
- 23-24 - Apple Fest, Central Square, NY
- 23-24 - Underhill Market Festival, Underhill, VT
- 29 & 30 - Outreach Dinner Meetings, NY

October

- 2-3 - Vendor Fair, Teel Farms, Barneveld, NY
- 6-8 - Harwinton Fair, Harwinton, CT
- 6-8 - Ozark Fall Farm Fall Fest, Springfield, MO
- 7- Wintergreen Harvest Festival, Canajoharie, NY
- 9-10 - Tioga County Early Days, Whitneyville, PA - Steele
- 13-15 - Riverton Fair, Riverton, CT
- 21-22 - Hellers Apple Festival, Wapwallopen, PA - Steele
- 15-16 - Fulton Fall Festival, McConnellsburg, PA
- 17-19 - Sunbelt Ag Expo, Moultrie, GA
- 28-29 - Pioneer Days, Lake Wales, FL
- 28 - Apple Fest, Congregational Church, Salem, CT
- 21 - Mt Ephraim Baptist Church Family Day, Arcadia,
- 28 - Watsonstown Light the Night, Milton, PA - Steele

November 4- Dragon Boat Festival, Lake Hernando, FL

- 4 - Mule Day – Calvary, GA
- 18- Haven Holiday Market, Winter Haven, FL
- 18 - Christmas Bazaar, CT

December 2 - Benton Winter Fest - Benton, PA - Steele

- 7-9 - Tulsa Farm Show, Tulsa, OK

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The full parking lot at Pilgrim Holiness Church, Marcy, NY during stick days. Folks came by camper and car to help.