



## Public Faith, Protected Freedom

Over the last several years we have lost the privilege to share the Gospel at the national FFA convention and in some states. Whether at farm shows, FFA conventions, or fairs and festivals—it's important to be well acquainted with talking points about our right to share our faith and pray. The often-misused phrase “separation of church and state,” is not found in the Constitution but comes from a private letter written by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists. He intended to assure them the government would not interfere with their religious expression—not to eliminate faith from public life.

- **Supreme Court Victory:** In *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District* (2022), the Court ruled in favor of Coach Joe Kennedy, upholding his right to pray on the football field after games. This is a strong affirmation of our First Amendment rights.
- **The Establishment Clause:** Originally designed to prevent the creation of a national church like the Church of England—not to silence voluntary religious expression in public spaces.
- **Shift Away from the “Lemon Test”:** The Court is now relying more on the founders intention that there would be full freedom of religious expression, rather than rigid secular standards.



Credit for photo needed. Please provide! :)

## Prayer and True Neutrality

- Voluntary prayer—especially when non-coercive and initiated by individuals—is constitutionally protected, even on public property.
- True neutrality means the government neither promotes nor opposes religion. This is very different from strict secularism, which seeks to erase religion from public life.

## The Call:

Let's strive to **excel at our talking points**—not retreat. The Constitution protects our freedom to share the gospel and pray openly. Let's reclaim our voice, with confidence and clarity and push back against woke ideology that seeks to limit the spread of the Gospel

In Him,

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**Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International**

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## FFA State Conventions & Farm Shows

Next to being born again, the most important thing for a person is to discover God's will for their life and then act upon it. Matthew 18:14 clearly reveals God's will, stating, "Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish." This is why we dedicate ourselves to traveling coast to coast, ministering to young FFA students at state conventions and farm shows.

Because we are making a significant impact on the kingdom of darkness by reaching young people for Christ, we have faced opposition. At one state convention, for example, we were told we could not share the Gospel or pray for the kids. This is disheartening, especially when we hear about tragedies like the high school track athlete in Texas who recently stabbed and killed another athlete or the thousands of young people who are overdosing on drugs or committing suicide. Yet, some say there is no need for the Gospel. Jesus firmly declared in Matthew 19:14 (AMP), "Leave the children alone, and do not forbid them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."



Jeff Goss speaking with Nebraska FFA youth.



Mike Weaver pictured at the Tennessee FFA convention

When we minister to the thousands of young people who visit our booth, we believe we are helping to save them from destructive paths like crime, immorality, and suicide. Many kids express to us that our booth is the most impactful at these events, noting that they rarely hear the Gospel preached elsewhere. Beyond sharing the Gospel, we are showing these students the love of Christ, which they may not experience anywhere else. God has entrusted us with the great responsibility of representing His love and compassion to these young people, a responsibility that could determine whether they lead lives of goodness or fall into evil.

Consider figures like Adolf Hitler, the infamous dictator of WWII responsible for millions of deaths. Few people know that as a boy, Hitler served as an altar boy, but his father made fun of him, leading him astray. Similarly, Jesse James, the notorious outlaw, reportedly felt a call from God as a young person. However, mistreatment by soldiers during the Civil War pushed him toward a life of crime. These examples underscore the critical importance of reaching young people with love and encouragement during their formative years.

### Barnabas Foundation: Trusted Partners for Planned Giving

Through Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International's membership with Barnabas Foundation, you have complimentary access to trusted, biblically-based consultation and support for charitable gift and will planning. They'll help you...

- Understand the giving options available to you, in a way that is clear and easy to comprehend.
- Review your will to help ensure it reflects your family and charitable goals.
- Give stock, real estate, commodities or other non-cash gifts while reducing your taxes.
- Make gifts that provide your family with retirement income for life.
- Establish a Stewards Fund (donor-advised fund) account to streamline and simplify your giving.

Learn more by calling Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International at (309) 365-8710 or by visiting [BarnabasFoundation.org](http://BarnabasFoundation.org).



## CP Foster Delivers 4000 Bales as Relief to Farmers in North Carolina



In October of last year, Hurricane Helene ravaged western North Carolina. Locals describe the affected area as larger than the entire state of New Jersey. Yet the response from FCFI and local churches has been extraordinary. Over 4,000 small square bales, round bales, and silage bales were donated by Pennsylvania and New York farmers and delivered to Leicester, NC by CP Foster. Volunteers stacked over 700 bales per trailer, resulting in five deliveries.

The NC mountain folks — proud of their heritage and accustomed to doing for themselves — didn't come looking for handouts. But with their hay destroyed by Hellene, they just needed a little help to get through the winter. They arrived in worn pickups and old cars, many with dogs guarding the cab. And when they came, they stayed — helping load their neighbors, friends, and strangers alike, always with smiles and laughter.

As in the days of Nehemiah, when God's people as a team rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, today we too can see how God works through team effort, thanks to CP, our FCFI donors, and the hay donors.



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

**40 Years: Co-Workers in God's Service**

*"For we are co-workers in God's Service; you are God's field, God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:9*

**July 23 - 25, 2025 - Kalamazoo, Michigan**

Keynote Speaker  
Phil Durst



Dairy Extension Specialist

Special Music  
Bert and Lindy Griesbach



Thursday Evening Bluegrass Concert

### FEATURING

- Farm Show Reports
- Disaster Relief Reports
- Devotions

- Special Speakers
- FCFI Auction
- Concert
- Great Food & Fellowship

### Early Arrival Activities

- Cornerstone Ag & Lunch
- Tiller's International Museum, Demos, Lunch

## Registration Form

**32nd Annual FCFI Conference**  
**July 23 - 25, 2025 - Kalamazoo, Michigan**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Early Arrival Special Note: If you are staying Tuesday night, please send Extra Night's Lodging fee of \$145 along with your registration

### \*Additional Conference Activities

CHECK OPTIONS BELOW AND INCLUDE PAYMENT ALONG WITH REGISTRATION FEES

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BioTownAg & lunch (FREE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dairy & Pig (\$19 each) Adventures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kemin Foods (FREE)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Night Lodging (\$145)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sonoma Farm (FREE)       |   |

### Conference fees include;

6 meals and 2 nights

lodging per person.

Conference starts

Wednesday at 5:30pm

### Conference Registration Fees

WEDNESDAY SUPPER THROUGH FRIDAY LUNCH

☐ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ \$300.00 each

☐ Children \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 each

Total \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Four Points by Sheraton, Kalamzoo, MI**

For more information, contact: FCFI (309) 275-3818 or kris@fcfi.org

**Register and Pay with your Credit Card at [www.fcfi.org](http://www.fcfi.org)**

# I / We will partner with FCFI to make a difference!

Please Check All that Apply

- ☐ **DISASTER RELIEF** Support FCFI Disaster Relief Campaigns in Greenfield, Iowa tornado, Texas/Oklahoma Wildfire - **\$4,000**  
☐ **FARM SHOW MINISTRY** Help cover the exhibit fees for the second half of 2025 - **\$45,000**  
☐ **MOST URGENT NEED** Please use our/my gift wherever it is **NEEDED MOST** on the day it arrives.

**My/Our Gift Amount:** ☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Bus \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address in our database with fellowship@fcfi.org in your address book enables us to send you e-newsletters at low cost.  
Thank-you for helping FCFI get more digital in communicating with you.

- ☐ We will partner with the Fellowship of Christian Farmers in praying for its ministry outreach.

Please pray for us: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please make your tax deductible gift. Mail your check payable to Fellowship of Christian Farmers International To make your tax deductible gift securely on-line please go to [www.fcfi.org](http://www.fcfi.org) and click the 'Donate' button.

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## The Bush Family Meets a Desperate Housing Need Following Damage from Two Hurricanes



This past winter, our family, including 9 kids, was looking for an opportunity to serve by doing hurricane relief work. It was brought to our attention, through Fellowship of Christian Farmers, that a lady in Florida had a need. She and her husband had gutted their damaged home after 2 hurricanes passed through Bradenton, Florida last fall. At this point, her husband left her, taking the money that FEMA had given them to fix up the house. She had no means to get it restored to a livable condition. Our family along with Ron and Deb Herrold were able to spend 7 days helping on this project. We cleaned up, did electrical, plumbing, and drywall. It wasn't long after we left that she was able to move into her newly renovated home.

We were blessed to be able to serve in this way.

1 John 3:17 "But whosoever has this world's goods and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

Executive director's note: The example of the Bush family and this verse combine as a clarion call to all of us to join us in supporting or volunteering as you are able for local disaster relief missions, helping close to home in evangelism and discipleship efforts, and helping internationally online establish and train new FCFI groups overseas to expand the FCFI work in strategic ways.

Our area leaders and fieldmen often lament that they can't find enough volunteers. And our new online discipleship program is ready to go but it takes extra volunteers to set that in motion to get people signed up for it in the booth and to do followup. You can sign up to volunteer online if you go to our FCFI schedule of events. If you have a Facebook account then you can network. Thus you find mutual friends or churches to support that event financially or by recruiting volunteers.

God spoke to Elijah when he was depressed... Rom. 12:4,5 "I have reserved for Myself 7000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal" [the Postmodern culture]. [Paul said] "In the same way, at this present time there is a remnant chosen by grace." Will you be part of that remnant and volunteer or support? Call me Dan at 616 676-6684 or email [dan@fcfi.org](mailto:dan@fcfi.org).

