



The Harvest

“We Plant - God gives the increase” - 1 Cor 3:6-9

“Leaving A Legacy”

We all receive lots of mailbox fillers encouraging us to “leave a legacy”, what most mean by that is to include them, organizations, in our wills. There Is nothing wrong with leaving funds to worthy groups to further good in this world. However, Dr Charles Stanley had this to say concerning “Leaving a legacy.” “The greatest legacy we can leave is our faith.” The question now becomes, is it worth leaving? In pictures below you’ll see FCFI leaving something people can build on, things that encourage.

When we leave this earth, we’ll all leave everything, projects undone, our homes, all our earthly possessions, and stuff of little eternal value. Author, Randy Alcorn, in his book “The Treasure Principle” encourages that we as believers give all we can to Christian endeavors. That should include all we oversee as individuals and corporately – our churches. Our **legacy** is what is important and the impact it will make on family and others we encounter. Our prayer is that FCFI is making such as impact.



KY Mission Trip

INSIDE:

- From The Pen - **Pg. 2**
- Serving Fcfi At Events In VT - **Pg. 2**
- From The Field - **Pg. 3**
- Words of Encouragement - **Pg. 3**
- Through the Eyes of a Pastor - **Pg. 4**
- Nuggets From The Buckeye - **Pg. 5**
- Round These Parts - **Pg. 6**
- Supporting Mission - **Pg.6**
- Market Place Evangelism - **Pg. 7-12**
- Other News - **Pg. 12-15**



There are many people who come to mind when addressing the topic of “Leaving a Legacy.” Of course, we could search the Bible, or look through history for men and women of God who made an impact. But, in this column I’d like to introduce two men who made an impact on my life. In the picture you’ll see a man small in stature, Willam H. Brown, my grandfather, who farmed all his life. He was very dedicated to his farm. What he left was a work ethic. I remember him telling of working on his farm all day and then plowing fields all night with his small Ford tractor to get fields ready for planting. The other man in the picture is my dad, William J. Brown. He became my best friend in later years. He left many things but the thing I remember most was his honesty. He always said, no need to sign papers, a handshake should be



enough. Another incidence that vividly stands out is when I was a youngster, we stopped to fill the car up with gas. Back in those days, a couple of bucks went a long way. On the way home dad realized the gas station attendant gave him too much change. He immediately turned around and made it right. Honesty is a great legacy to leave anyone. The young man in the picture is of me, in my early twenties and already operating my own farm. If I have only passed on some of the characteristics listed above, I will have considered it a worthy legacy. Of course, we never want to forget that the most important thing we can leave is our faith!



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

Serving FCFI at Events in VT – By Kevin and Anne Fleming - Enosburg Falls, VT



We are often asked, when we are out at an event giving away the Wordless Walking Sticks, “Are you farmers?”. They see our large banner of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers displayed and naturally think “Oh here is a booth promoting farming and careers in agriculture”. Though we must admit to them we are not, we consider it a compliment to be thought of as farmers. We have great respect and admiration for those who are farmers. For their dedication and example of total commitment to get their work done, Scripture recognizes them. (2 Timothy 2:6 says: It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.)

We live in a rural community surrounded by dairy farms and among people whose income in one way or another depends on agriculture. We have the examples of working the land and tending animals right in front of us all the time. It gives us the opportunity to use some of the metaphors that God’s Word provides to inform those

we reach out to about who our Creator is and His hand in providing for His creation, both in this life and the next. So we are in this sense farmers. We are not planting corn or soy beans, but we are planting seeds along with our fellow workers. (1 Corinthians 3:5-9 says: What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.) And just as farmers plant their crops with the hope of a harvest, so we plant the seeds of the word of God with the hope that they will be mixed with faith in those who listen to us. (Hebrews 4:2 says: For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.) We encounter people at seemingly all the different stages of faith; from unbelief, including outright rejection, to open confession of saving faith in Jesus Christ. It is indeed like the way crops grow, a mystery to us how a person will receive what we have to say when we meet them and offer them a free walking stick. But we are confident that God knows where each person is at in his stage of belief. We simply pray and trust Him to give us the words for each precious soul we meet. Mark 4:26-29 And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

What a blessing it is to be a field representative for Fellowship of Christian Farmers. Here are a few experiences we have had in the past few months. A mother brought her 10-year-old son to hear the message and he accepted Jesus into his heart. We have been having more teens coming to hear the message and receiving a walking stick. Then an hour later or so they come back with friends to hear the message and their friends are not interested in a stick. It's hard to hear others say they are not ready for salvation; they may not have another opportunity. We do not know when our time is to leave this earth. It is heartbreaking to talk to young children who don't know who Jesus is. We pray for them.

We need to be in constant prayer for our nation, children and encourage church attendance. We enjoy talking and witnessing to fellow vendors. We have had several looking for us at shows year after year. It's also a joy to have Christians stop by the FCF tent to encourage us. People ask for prayer for health, family and for spiritual growth.

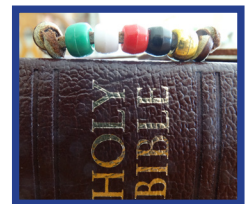
It is so rewarding to see the Holy Spirit working in our lives! We tell the message, and the Holy Spirit does His work. People come back to see us after a year or two of hearing the message and they inform us that they have asked Jesus into their hearts. They are growing spiritually and have joined a local church and witnessing to others.

Thank you for supporting Fellowship of Christian Farmers!



“How beautiful are the feet of them who bring Good News” Romans 10:15b

Words Of Encouragement



David Livingston “I will go anywhere as long as it is forward”

D.L. Moody “I press Christ upon the people, then and there, and try to bring them to a decision on the spot.”

Shakespeare “Sharper than a serpent's tooth is to have a thankless child.”

Ruth Bell Graham “It doesn't make a great deal of difference how much you believe if you aren't behaving as you believe.”

Dr. Charles Stanley “Spiritual legacies begin with God's faithful ones – will others learn of Christ through you?”

Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Walter!

Approximately 12 years ago I was sitting in the barn of Ken Hall, a cotton farmer from Tifton, GA. At the end of the early morning Bible Study, a most ordinary fellow who happen to be a first-time visitor stood up and made this announcement: "The Fellowship of Christian Farmers International will be hosting a tent at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, GA. Last year they gave out 7,000 walking sticks with gospel beads attached and they could use a little help, so if your available, come on Tuesday between 9am and 5 pm, and when you get to the gate call my cell at 229-891-6470 and I will come meet you and get you to the right place!"

Okay, I will confess! I know confession is good for the soul, but it is bad for the reputation! I was just a little bit skeptical of these reported numbers! But he asked for help, and I was our church's staff rep for evangelism and missions and a laundry list of other things, you guessed it, I was the associate pastor! So, I journeyed 30 miles to Moultrie and met Walter Powell at the gate.

Walter quickly got me registered, name-tagged, and a hot cup of coffee. He introduced me to an outlaw, oops, I mean dairy farmer and his wife from Marcy, NY, perhaps you have heard of them, Bill and Kathy Brown. I also met Ron, Deb, Mike, and a host of others who were there! These wonderful folks were so excited to have the opportunity to share Jesus Christ with the folks who would be coming through the tent! I observed 6 different presenters in 6 different groups sharing the gospel bead story. After watching for approximately an hour, Walter asked me if I would lead a group and give someone a break!

That day, that Tuesday, became a life-changing day for me! God not only let me see his amazing love, power, and salvation displayed through humble servants like Bill, Kathy, Walter, Becky, Ron, Deb, Mike and others like Donnie Duncan, He also let me have a part! People were so open and responsive, I could not believe that people would stand in line 20 people deep to get these walking sticks, but they did!

I had to come Wednesday! Although my throat was raw from sharing the gospel over and over, if these farmers had come all the way from New

York, Indiana, Sylvester and Enigma how could I spend the next two days in the church office? During the last 12 years God has used this "Gospel Greenhouse" to train and equip members of our church to share their faith. We used the sticks to share at two of our back-to-school events!

We just finished 2023 Ag Expo Last week, and I was so glad that 2 of our deacons brought 1 man with them that they have been discipling! Let me encourage all pastors to leverage this partnership to equip your folks and reach as many for Christ as we can for as long as we can!

Yours for multiplying disciples,





Through the centuries there have been many men and women of God who have left great legacies which serve as good examples for us to follow. In my opinion, one of the greatest examples of this is William Booth who started the Salvation Army. He and his ministry ministered to the down and outers all over the world. Booth preached thousands of sermons and traveled millions of miles to help the poor and win them to Jesus. There is one story in particular about Booth that speaks volumes about his character. Booth would send a telegram message to his workers around the world to encourage them. Due to the costs of the telegrams, the last telegram he wrote to his workers was just one word, and that one word was “others”. Needless to say, his legacy was that he lived to give. He was a doer of Philippians 2:4 that says, “Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others”. If we want to live a fruitful and satisfying life, then we need to live for God and for others also.

Nuggets from the Buckeye – By Bill Nichols – Bellefonte, OH

The Lord declares in **11 Chronicles 7:14** “**If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**”

We are a people, called by God, to do battle with an adversary, the devil. Our greatest weapon is the Word of God. If we, His people at FCFI, present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who will hear, it will convict and draw them to a saving knowledge of our Lord. We know that His Word will not return void. **Isaiah 55:11** “**So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it will prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**”

The Farm Science Review, our last big show of the year in the Midwest, was a great success for FCFI. We gave out 5,000 sticks and about 1,000 bracelets. Many folks came to the Lord. One man, who had just lost his dad stopped by. We were able to pray and encourage him. Lots of folks stopped by with various situations they were struggling with, and we were able to pray with them. Jesus Christ has always been and always will be the answer.

After a busy summer I went with a group of 19 to Mayfield, KY for a week of rebuilding houses destroyed by a tornado. We slept and ate our meals at High Point Baptist Church, located only 5 miles from our work site. What a great group too work with. There are still many folks who need help in restoring their homes and lives.



Back in the summer I passed by a large building shaped like a giant basket in Ohio. The company that owned it was Longaberger Baskets. They have closed but had been in business making baskets for 45 years. Now the giant basket sits empty with grass growing up around it.

I ask the question, "What will come of what you have invested your whole life into? What will communities remember of the church's influence in their lives?" 1 Corinthians 13 is known by many as the love chapter of the Bible but tucked in scripture is a warning in verses 8-10 Charity (love) never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

The most important thing we can do is to love the people around us. You want to make a lasting impression, leave behind a great legacy? May it be because of love? Love for God and love for others.



John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. Love is the one thing we can leave behind that will truly make a difference. We love people enough to point them to Jesus.

Supporting Mission

Thank - You For Supporting Our Mission



Support FCFI: I would like to assist the mission on Fellowship of Christina Farmers in Presenting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (Make payable to Fellowship of Christian Farms International)

To be used for: General Fund as needed _____ or Area Leaders of Choice
Mike Weaver _____ Bill Brown _____ Jeff Goss _____ Bill Nichols _____

I am paying by: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ AMEX One Time Donation of \$ _____

Card Number _____ Exp mm/yy ____/____

Signature _____ monthly gifts on going until notified otherwise





Market Place Evangelism



What better place to share the gospel than Calvary, GA and Mule Day, Nov 4th. Bill and Kathy Brown, along with Ron and Deb Herrold worked at the event and passed out 540 sticks and lots of bracelets and necklaces in five hours. The event would not allow Christian or political organization on the grounds. Thanks to pastor John Paul Kasick, Grady County Baptist Association for the invite and for a spot close by to set up. Pastor Nathan is shown sharing the gospel outside the busy tent.



Applefest-Cathy Upson sharing at the Applefest in Central Square, NY on a damp Sept day.



Harwinton Fair – Glen Figelski, veteran mission trip volunteer and faithful CT worker shares the bead story at the Harwinton, CT Fair



Pete Singer and Bill Brown worked the Lake Wales Pioneer Days in FL. Oct 28 and 29. The two men talked to 600 folks with 20 praying to receive Christ.



Market Place Evangelism



Scrap 1 – September 1-4 Sandusky County Restorers Antique Farm Show (SCRAP) as it's commonly known was a highlight in past FCFI Board members Bob Carpenter's life. The event held in Gibsonburg, OH drew 600 antique tractors and lots of tire kickers. Roy and Cathy Upson joined Bill and Kathy Brown in passing out 400 walking sticks and lots of smaller stuff to kids. Roy especially enjoyed the show as he is a retired tractor mechanic.



Bill Slawson taking a few minutes to explain the beads at Teel Farms Fall Festival in Barneveld, NY His partner, Bruce Edwards looks on.



September 9th found Roy and Cathy Upson at the Canajoharie Street Fair. It's a rather small event but it is important that all hear the gospel!



Underhill, VT – Underhill Market Festival, September 23-24. Steve and Chris Brown shared the duties with Kevin and Anne Fleming. Over 400 sticks were passed out.



Underhill - Kevin and Anne sharing out front of the tent while Chris Brown is praying with some young folks.



Underhill - Kevin Fleming squats to share with a little girl.



Mark Nimey writes:

Well another year in the books for the Barnfest not sure exactly how many walking sticks were given out but I'm thinking between 14-16.hundred, every stick given out people get to hear the gospel message of salvation... so many people to thank ,first my wife Gretchen Nimey for helping with getting set up and putting sticks together and Nicole Estey for opening up her house to make it all possible and all the workers Levi Nimey Marissa Hefner Jack and Carol, Bill and Bruce, Tracy Murphy, Brenda Joy Brucker and Dee , Gina , Brittany, Bill and Kathy, Ron and Jenny and others ... people are hungry for the word of Jesus... some tears, some sorrow and most importantly some gave there life to Christ ...



**Remsen Barn Fest
September 23-24**



Market Place Evangelism

Sunbelt – Sunbelt Ag Expo – Moultrie, GA Oct 17-19



Sandy Singer sharing in the busy tent. Over 4,500 people stopped for a free gift.



Rocky and Becky – Rocky Jones receiving some help from Becky Powell in preparing sticks for the show. A group of 12 volunteers spent Sunday afternoon helping with preparations.



Our Spanish helpers sharing the gospel. Alvaro Soros, takes a week off from work to work with FCFI. Ane Couttolene helped this year for the first time. It's always great to have Spanish speaking folks on staff.



Mike Brehm, drove all the way from Wisconsin to help once again this year.



Brooklyn Fair – Roy Norman partially hidden behind the corn stalks at the Brooklyn, CT Fair. Notice the Red, second place ribbon. Once again, the guys did a great job in setting up and were recognized by fair management.



Jeff Goss reports – Pastor John Potter from Mitchel, SD has been a big help in Wyoming.



A lot of students from East Wyoming College and local high school students visited our booth in Torrington, Wyoming.



Jeff Goss at the Peoria, IL farm show with a group of farmers that just prayed to receive Christ as their savior.



Market Place Evangelism

Haven Holiday Market, Winter Haven, FL



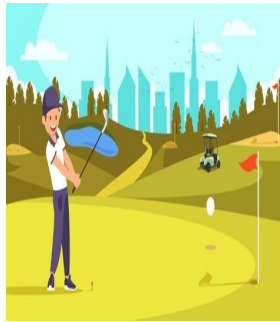
Pete and Sandy heading up the event,
300 sticks were given away.



Haven Holiday - Kathy Brown
helped as well.



Other News



KATHRYN L. BROWN BENEFIT

GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR FCFI

Woodgate Pines Golf Club

May 18, 2024 11am register

12 noon shotgun start 4 man/

woman scramble

2965 Hayes Road W.

Boonville, NY 13309

SAVE THE DATE

5/18/24

Mission Trip to Mayfield, KY



Kentucky – Group picture of the volunteers who spent 5 days, along with 4 days of travel . The group is shown taking a break in front of one of the houses we worked on. An EF-4 tornado struck the area on Dec. 10, 2021. They are still working on repairing houses and businesses. What a privilege it was to work alongside two organizations, In His Service and the Fuller Center. Also, a big thank you to High Point Baptist Church who provided lodging, a great kitchen and nice bathroom facilities.



Jan Barendse from Utica, NY spackling the walls.



CP Foster "In His Service" leading morning devotions. Each morning we are blessed to have a different mission trip worker encourage us with a short message from God's Word!



What would a mission trip be without good food. Our cooks, Ada Bielanski and Laurie Bedford kept everyone well fed.



Glen Figelski and Gary Cagwin working on the deck.



Ron Herrold installing flooring.

Dreams do come true



Cadie – A dream came true for Arcadia Peterson thanks to Redeeming Love Fellowship Church and friends of FCFI. Her dream was to wear a princess dress and visit the castle at Disney World.



Evie Ford shared in the experience as well.

35,000 Sticks Delivered to NY



Mark Nimey unloading sticks for storage. Thanks to Mark and Gretchen Nimey, Holland patent and Humphreys Farm, New Hartford for providing storage.

NY Chapters hold Fall Outreach Dinners



Dave Porter served as MC for the Northern NY Chapters Dinner on Friday night, Sept 29th.



Our keynote speaker shared his life experiences and how he came to the Lord. He challenged men to be involved in helping younger men and said one of the things destroying our country is the absence of men in families. "Faith and Family can coexist."



Ed and Gail – Ed Westfall served as MC for the Mohawk valley Chapters meeting.



Bryan and Mia Gyore from Yorkville shared of their experience volunteering on a mission trip to help south Fl recover from a hurricane. Bryan indicated that it was a wonderful experience as this was his first such trip.



Steve and Chris Brown brought us up to date on events in 2023.



Roy Upson, another of Region Eights field representatives, gave credit to the Holy Spirit that without his help we can do nothing.



Kathryn – Our youngest attendee, Kathryn Dmitri, all smiles. Kathryn is shown with her grandmother, Lorri Dmitri



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 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 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***

Fellowship of Christian Farmers - 2024 Anticipated Region Eight Schedule

Jan.

- 9-11 - Keystone Farm Show, York, PA
- 12-13 - Northeastern Louisiana Ag Expo, West Monroe, LA - Goss
- 13-14 - Florida Manatee Festival, Crystal River, FL
- 16-18 - Ft Wayne Show, Ft Wayne, IN - Nichols
- 18-20 - Virginia Farm Show, Fishersville, VI - Steele
- 24-26 - Sioux Falls Farm Show, Sioux Falls, SD - Goss
- 30-Feb 1 - Iowa Ag Expo, Des Moines, IA - Goss

February

- 3-4 - The Home Show, Utica, NY
- 14-17 - National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville, KY - Goss
- 22-24 - NY Farm Show, Syracuse, NY
- 23-24 - Western Farm Show, Kansas City, Missouri - Goss
- 24-26 - PA Adventure RV Expo, Altoona, PA - Steele
- 24-25 - Strawberry Fest, Live Oaks, FL - 2024
- 24-25 - Swamp Cabbage Festival, LaBelle, FL
- 28-29 - Hawkeye Farm Show, Cedar Falls, IA - Goss

March

- 1-2 - Pioneer Days, Wauchula, FL
- 2-3 - Strawberry Festival, Floral City, FL
- 8-10 - York RV Show, York, PA - Steele
- 14-15 - Utah State FFA Convention, Logan, Utah - Goss
- 16-18 - Ocean City Seaside Boat Show, Ocean City, MD - Steele- tentative
- 17-18 - Home - Condo and Outdoor Show, Ocean City, MD - Steele
- 16 - Sugar Fest, Clewiston, FL
- 21-24 - State FFA Convention, Redmond, Oregon - Goss
- 22-24 - Buckeye Alpaca Show, Tallmadge, OH - Nichols
- 23 - Pioneer Day, Arcadia, FL

Mar 31 - April 2

- West Branch Susquehanna Builders Home Show, Williamsport, PA - Steele

April

- 5-7 - Flowerton Festival, Summerville, SC
- 20 - Mohawk Valley Chapter - Dinner Meeting, Marcy, NY
- 18-20 - Home-Condo and Outdoor Show, Ocean City, MD - Steele
- 20-21 - Syracuse Gun Show, Syracuse, NY

May

- 18 - FCFI Golf Tournament, Boonville, NY
- 18-19 - Renaissance Festival, Holland Patent, NY
- 25 - NY Steam Engine Tractor Pull and Flea Market, Canandaigua, NY
- 31 - June 2 - Nittany Antique Machinery Show, Penns Cave, PA - Steele

June

- 1-2 - Vermont Dairy Festival, Enosburg Falls, VT- Fleming
- 1-2 - Antique Tractor Show, Madrid, NY - Porter
- 8-9 - Meredith Dairy Fest, Meridale, NY
- 8-9 - Violet Festival, Dolgeville, NY
- 8-9 - Antique Tractor Show, Sharon Springs, NY
- 14-15 - Strawberry Festival, Owego, NY
- 15 - Branford Festival, Branford,
- 19 - FFA State Convention - Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA- Steele
- 22 - Farmers Market - Syracuse, NY
- 22 - Nutmeg Truck Show - Brooklyn, CT

www.fcfi.org

Contact List

Bill Brown – Editor – Marcy, NY (315) 736-5964

Pastor Rob and Sue Andreas – Tech Advisors (315) 868-1294

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

Jeff Goss – St. Louis, MO (636) 677-7588

Bill Nichols – Bellfontaine, OH (937) 935-5084

Mike Weaver – Eldorado, IL (618) 499-4788

FCFI Main Office – Lexington, IL (309) 365-8710

Field Contacts

Steve and Chris Brown – NY (315) 525-5131

Pastor Mitch and Sue Santelli – CT (860) 933-5304

Pete and Sandy Singer – FL (239) 849-5527

Micheal and Karen Steele – PA (570) 419-9877

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



Joseph and Jimmy D'Armond helping out at a young age, Learning from their family how to serve, helping to prepare sticks at the Remsen Barn Festival.