

Harvest Report 2023

Photo by Catrina Rawson

Dear friend in Christ,

Merry Christmas from the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International Home Office in Lexington, Illinois. Each growing season has its lessons to learn. This year for me started in May driving across Illinois and Indiana enroute to the Indiana State FFA Convention. I saw many no-till corn fields where new corn plants were struggling to break through the cover crop that had been burned down. These fields did not look good. One of my farmer friends in Lexington told me his corn was stressed. I committed to pray and learn from this situation in Indiana and Illinois. As the weeks went by the corn did break through the cover and spent time growing deep roots. At harvest time my friend told me his corn transitioned from being a Crop Insurance claim to a crop! Praise the Lord. We all need to grow deep roots into God's Word when we are stressed.

Thank the Lord for the Fellowship of Christian Farmers to have church facilities FCFI Romania Mission teams help build over the years. Our new Ukrainian friends are now living in two buildings on the church property where they have jobs in the community and work for Pastor Alex's ministry. FCFI President Steve Cernek is making his 18th trip to Romania to lead a team of farmers to help the ministry expand its reach.

December 9th an EF-3 tornado hit Clarksville, Tennessee. Three people were killed. Exact date that three years ago in Mayfield, Kentucky a Christmas time tornado hit hard. Many people responded to help FCFI disaster relief efforts. Watch our website for details regarding the Fellowship's response to the Clarksville, Tennessee tornado.

The Fellowship needs prayer more than ever as the Board of Directors meet December 15th in Kokomo, Indiana to make plans for the 2024 ministry year. Our Prayer Team has over 800 people who pray for the needs presented to them by the Home Office or by Prayer Coordinator, Mary Jones. More Prayer team members are needed in 2024. The Prayer guide is written by Mary Jones and is printed and emailed monthly.

Today, just as I do every year, I am asking our brothers and sisters in Christ to please pray that the Lord would continue to direct this ministry and its leadership. Pray for the FCFI Board of Directors as they budget and plan for future ministry.

The projected budget for 2024 will be \$600,000. Would you prayerfully consider making a special gift towards meeting this goal? Thank you for your continued support of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International.

In Christ's service,

Dennis Schlager, Executive Director
Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International

P.O. Box 15, Lexington, Illinois 61753 • (309) 365-8710 • Fax (309) 365-7023 • www.fcfi.org

2024 Ministry Opportunities

Help Future Disaster Relief Teams

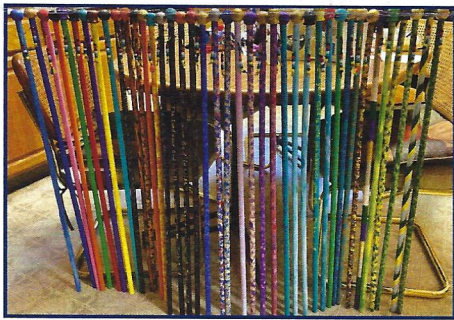
FCFI continues to serve Christ by serving others. In 2023 FCFI mobilized volunteers who served on disaster relief teams in Mayfield, Kentucky; Arcadia, Florida; Yuma, Colorado; Sullivan, Indiana; and Clarksville, Tennessee.

We Need Your Help!

FCFI Rapid Relief teams are on alert and ready to respond when the urgent cry for help goes out.

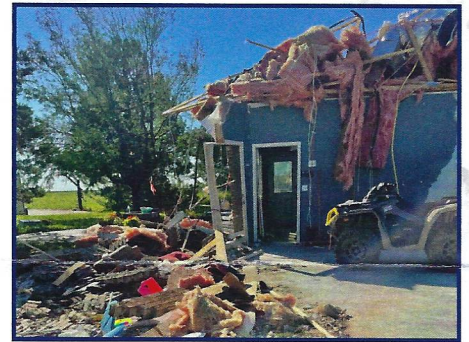
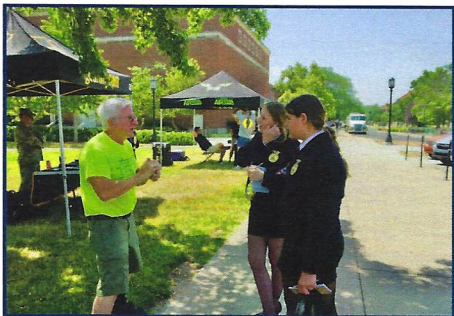
Disaster Relief in Yuma, Colorado; Mayfield, Kentucky; and Clarksville, Tennessee

On December 9th an EF-3 tornado hit Clarksville, TN with 43 miles of destruction 600 yards wide. Contact the FCFI home office to join a Clarksville Tornado Disaster Relief Team. Cell/text 309-530-7004 email: fellowship@fcfi.org



County Fairs, Farm Shows, and Community Events Exhibits Expand

The years of the virus has been hard on rural churches. FCFI has made it a priority to assist rural churches set up exhibits to share the gospel in their community and disaster relief in their area when disaster strikes. Clarion, Pennsylvania was one of those community celebrations. Dan and Jean Hulse from Clarion, Pennsylvania set up an exhibit using 900 handmade walking sticks to share the gospel at the Autumn Leaf Festival. Many friends helped with the exhibit. Their church is planning an exhibit at the Clarion County Fair next summer.



2023 State FFA Conventions

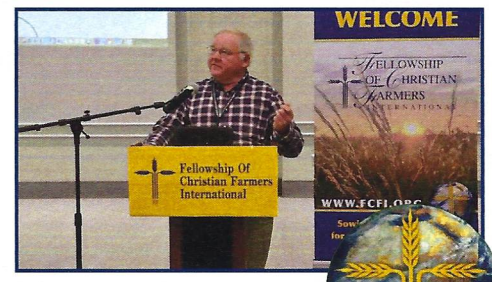
FCFI has participated in 30 state FFA Conventions the past five years. Utah and Idaho were new events for FCFI in 2023. Please pray for the ministry plans being made for the 2024 state FFA Conventions across America. Pray, too, that the Lord opens the door for FCFI to return to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October 2024.

Ministry Need: 30 leaders to assist in starting Zoom and in-person Small Groups in all states to grow in friendship and faith in Christ. State Coordinators needed for Disaster Relief consisting of FFA members volunteering to help impacted by a disaster.



Praying for Farmers returns to the National Farm Machinery Show in February

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers will have an exhibit at the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville. Plans are being made to use a seminar room to pray for farmers.



Serving, Sowing, Reaping for Christ Around the World



Support 2023-2024 Short-Term Mission Teams

For 36 years FCFI partners have helped FCFI as we lead and resource short term Mission Teams who serve and minister here in the USA and around the world!

Your generous support is needed now, so vitally needed resources are ready for our Mission Teams to be able to serve and glorify Christ on the front lines of the mission field.



ECHO Global Farm Mission Trip

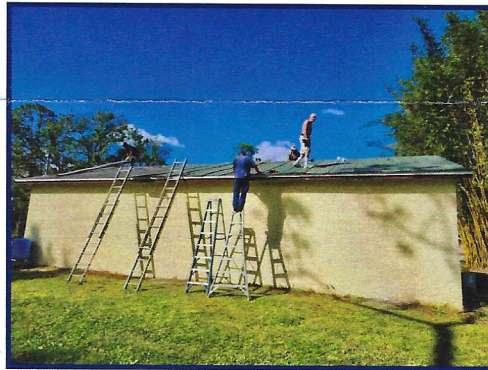
January 27 - February 2, 2024

Cost: \$250

Annual FCFI maintenance projects in support of ECHO's World Conference

17391 Durrance Road, N. Fort Myers, FL

Contact Ron & Deb Herrold for more information: 219-916-3535 or 219-916-3994



Provide Farm Show Ministry Opportunities

Evangelism is FCFI's core ministry goal! We desire to bring as many as possible into the Kingdom of God.

Thousands of people have a chance to hear the Gospel story including the power of Christ's love for them and how each person could know Him personally!

Mecum Fall Premier Tractor Auction

The Mecum Auction Co. is reorganizing its antique tractor auctions. FCFI has sold three tractors in Mecum Tractor Auctions the past two years with all proceeds going to support Fellowship of Christian Farmers, Int. During 2023 another mini 4020 replica tractor has been produced to be sold on the next Mecum Antique Tractor Auction when the auction is officially announced. In the meantime, the latest mini 4020 replica has been used at the Illinois Hunting and Fishing Show in Carterville, Illinois; the Antique Tractor and Engine Show near Geneseo, Illinois; and the Peoria Farm Show in Peoria, Illinois. Young people love to sit on the tractor while their parents share their family 4020 story. The Mini 4020 gets people to stop at the FCFI exhibit so workers can share the gospel with these folks. The next mini replica tractor will be an Allis Chalmers D 21 to be used at the Sept 2024 Antique Tractor and Engine Show.



FCFI Area Director, Jeff Goss interacts with a farmer at the Peoria Farm Show. The mini 4020 replica was on display to attract farmers to stop in the booth and young people to sit on the seat and turn the steering wheel. The mini 4020 replica has been a people magnet for Fellowship exhibits.



Attention to detail, a fantastic paint job, and clean workmanship made the mini replica 4020 fit right in with the 1000 tractors at this year's auction. Let's pray that more tractor enthusiasts would consider donating a tractor to FCFI for Mecum's next auction.

Without the generous financial partnership of our ministry friends we would not be able to touch these unsaved lives. It is my heartfelt prayer that you will partner with us and provide the means to increase the Kingdom while the fields are ripe for harvest.

YES Dennis, I / We will partner with FCFI to help make a difference!

Please Check All that Apply

- ☐ **2024 Budget Goal** **\$600,000**
- ☐ **Farm Show Ministry** **\$310,000**
*Over 100 farm shows in 25 states, 30 State FFA Conventions and
5 NEW County Fair exhibits similar to the Washington County, Texas Fair*
- ☐ **Walking Sticks & Bracelets** **\$50,000**
- ☐ **Rapid Response Ministry** **\$65,000**
Support Disaster Relief projects in Clarksville, TN
- ☐ **Short-Term Ministry** **\$10,000**
Provide support for:
• ECHO Global Farms project in Ft. Myers, FL January 27 - February 2, 2024
• Pastor Alex in Oradea, Romania: March 3-16, 2024. Led by FCFI President Steve Cernek
- ☐ **Most Urgent Need** **\$165,000**
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 \$ _____

** Please make your tax deductible check payable to Fellowship of Christian Farmers International (FCFI)*

- ☐ We will partner with you in praying for the ministry of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St./Prov.: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

please put fellowship@fcsi.org into your address book so you receive all messages from FCFI

Please pray for us: _____

**You may also donate online at www.fcsi.org
using your credit/debit check card.**