Fellowship of Christian Farmers Canada

Issue 52

THE SOWER

March 2019

"A sower went out to sow his seed..." Luke 8:5

Putting Christ in Christmas Shows

Henry & Carol Janzen, Fraser Valley Chapter, BC

West Coast Christmas Craft Show & Artisan Marketplace, Nov 2018

For what was supposed to be a "Christmas Show", our booth seemed to be the only one with a Nativity Scene or Banners depicting the Wise Men and the Shepherds. We were the only booth using the name of Jesus and sharing the Gospel message of His birth, crucifixion, and resurrection. In fact, we were the only booth where anyone could hear that precious name of "Jesus"! And this was supposed to be a Christmas Show celebrating His very birthday!

We are so very grateful to Heather and Naomi, two very Special Christian show owners and organizers. They both worked so wonderfully with us to provide us with the choicest location in the whole arena. An area where our crowds waiting for that coveted, and we truly believe "anointed", stick, could spread out without blocking the isle for the other 200 vendors. Our guests waited patiently to hear us present our 3-minute bead story of the Gospel. This was our second year at this show, with an invitation to return again next year

Of the new believers who received Jesus as Lord & Saviour in our little booth, we were able to encourage them to start attending a local church in their own area, and then to direct some of them to one of our local gatherings.

On Saturday John who lives in "Poco" came to faith in Christ and wanted some info on a good solid Bible preaching church in his area. He said he knew exactly where a church was located near his place, and said he would be there the very next day, being a Sunday!

A young mom with her 4 year-old daughter from the Clayburn area, accepted Jesus and was eager to start attending the new church near her home, together with her daughter!

Another couple who just moved to the East side, was happy to know of a church nearby they could attend and start growing in their new-found faith in Christ! (Continued on page 9)





You're Invited!

By Bill Brown, FCFI Area Leader

"Wherefore encourage one another, and build up one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thess 5:11 (ESV)

It's that time of year - time to start planning on attending the FCF-Canada's Annual meeting and Conference. *"Wherefore*

encourage one another, and build up one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV) Kathy and I have attended each of the annual meetings and always come away encouraged and truly enjoyed the great fellowship. Lord willing, we'll be in attendance again this spring.

We would like to invite you to another conference being held this summer and it's close to home for many of you, just across the border. Plans have been made to hold a summer conference in central NY, July 12-14. We are modeling it after your conference with hope of keeping it reasonable in cost. We will have complimentary lodging at member's homes if you so desire. Our goal is to keep this conference affordable to all. I know we really enjoy lodging with Canadian families when at your conference. Our conference flyer will be available at the Canadian conference in April. We sure would love to have you join us and be a part of our conference.

A few years ago, when writing in this very column, I used the above scripture to challenge readers to be encouragers. I wrote that "it is a pleasure to work with members whose love for the Lord is evident and whose desire is that others come to know Christ." It still is a pleasure to work side by side. We all need to be encouraged. I finished that column with the following scripture. *Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much more, as we see the day approaching." (KJV)* We all need to be encouraged, so I'd sure like to see you at the FCF-Canada's Conference and then this summer at the Eastern FCFI Conference in NY.

Remember to give Him thanks in all things, Bill Brown

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Longing for Fellowship

by Wayne Clark, Executive Director

The year was 51 AD or thereabouts. Nero had recently become the Roman emperor. The Apostle Paul was writing to the new believers in Rome. In chapter 1 of his letter he expresses how he was longing to see them. Why? He says in verse 15: *"that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith."*

As volunteers for the Fellowship of Christian Farmers we have had the opportunity to travel to many places and it is difficult to describe that bond that readily opens up a relationship with other believers. Like Paul, when we hear of a new chapter in another area opening up, we also long to meet the individuals involved. It is good to meet and spend time with the Lord's people.

This winter, opportunities were given to two groups to meet together, to share, to get to know one another, and thereby develop a team spirit in the region. On January 12th a meeting was held in Carleton Place for the Ottawa region, and on the 16th a similar meeting took place in Orangeville for the chapters in southwestern Ontario. It was a time to fellowship, sharing a meal, testimonies, and anecdotes. All participants seemed to feel it was time well spent. One when participant. discussing the advancing age of many of the delegates, exclaimed: "I propose we meet again next year and at that time we will each bring our 'Timothy' with us!"



Ottawa regional meeting with reps from the following chapters: Lanark County, Renfrew County, Outaouais, Ottawa Valley, and Upper Ottawa Valley



At Left: Brad Wilson hosted chapters in SW Ontario in the newly renovated building for his business, Com-Pleat Filters Inc. Reps from the following chapters met: Trillium, Chatham-Kent, South Central Ontario, Niagara, as well as Paul Booker (left), FCFC director from that region, and executive director Wayne Clark

Another opportunity is coming up to fellowship. The annual conference is scheduled for April 12-14. See the schedule enclosed with this mailing. If Paul felt the need to share with others, why not you and me?

Blest be the Tie that Binds By Bert Visscher, Trillium Chapter

Do you know that hymn written by C. Michael Hawn. Let's look at the words.

"Blest be the Tie that Binds"

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes our mutual burdens bear, And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

4 When we asunder part it gives us inward pain, But we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again.

5 From sorrow, toil, and pain and sin we shall be free And perfect oneness reign through all eternity.



Tom Verhoog and a hot knife

The tie that binds is the love of God and His great gift of eternal life. The hymn speaks of fellowship - fellowship with the Father - but also fellowship with each other especially when we share His love.

As the hymn continues it talks about sharing our burdens with the Father and each other and I think of our prayer partnership and our ability to do that through the venue the FCFC provides.

Verse four is a sobering verse as it speaks of death but the ultimate hope and assurance of eternal life is shared at the end of verse 4 and all of verse 5. You know that is exactly what we share when we tell the great salvation story.

We tell people that we are dead in sin (the dark bead) which separates us from God (the gold bead) but because of His great love and sacrifice (the red bead) we are free and pure (the white bead) and out of thankfulness we grow in Christ (the green bead).



Now the reason I looked up the words of "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" is that I was looking for a way to tell the story of our new cord or tie that ties our beads together on our sticks.

A little more than a year ago Tony DeBoer one of the owners of Syfilco (industrial plant that makes bale netting and tile filter among it's many products) said they would make cord for us and donate it to the FCFC. A very generous donation. That cord is sold at a reasonable price to chapters which in turn supports our headquarters and staff. You can see in the picture Tony DeBoer holding a spool of cord in front of the machine that makes it.

There are 1000 meters on a roll. The Trillium Chapter of the FCFC said we would cut all the cord so Henry Post designed a way to thread it on a spool and we cut 200 cords at a time with a hot knife. The other picture shows Tom Verhoog doing that. We did 40 rolls this year with the result of 100,000 strings. Just imagine 40 kilometers of cord.



The generous Tony DeBoer of Syfilco

So the next time you tie the beads, or tell the story, just remember the message of "Blest be the Tie that Binds".

And when you see the cord just remember what Paul Harvey used to say "And now you know the rest of the story".

The purpose of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers is to build, maintain, and strengthen faith in God for the farmer, the farm family, and the community through presenting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

THE SOWER magazine is available through mail, direct to your email, or can be downloaded from our website. There is no cost to you. If you would like this publication let us know at the FCFC National Office by phone (819) 242-8063, by email fcfc@bell.net or by signing up on our website. www.fcfcanada.org

> FCFC AGM & Spring Conference, April 12-14 Register by April 1 See enclosed brochure for details

Central Nova Chapter News

By Roy & Leona Nielsen

As members of the family of God, we are "ambassadors for Christ." (2 Cor. 5:20), and we have a worthy calling, He "has committed unto us the word of reconciliation." (2 Cor.5:19) Praise God that the Fellowship of Christian Farmers has given us a humble, and simple means of facilitating our serving Him. How many times have we heard our booth visitors say, "I have never heard it this way before." "This is so easy to follow." "I see it now." "Now I know why I came today."

The following verses of a hymn (Lucy Ann Bennett) underscores the ministry of FCFC.

The Value of a Soul

Oh, teach me what it means That cross lifted high; With one the Friend of sinners Condemned to bleed and die.

Oh, teach me what it cost Thee To make a sinner whole. Oh teach me Saviour, teach me The value of a soul.

Photo at right: Chapter members prepared to share the Good News of Jesus Christ: (L to R) Cathy Milner, Anne & John Veenhuis, Charlie Milner, Roy Nielsen, Ben Isenor

Testimonies from recent events:



John Veenhuis, at the Halifax County Exhibition:

"While explaining John 3:16 to four teenagers they giggled and carried on somewhat. I asked each one personally, 'Are you a sinner?' One said he was; the others replied 'No'. Another girl joined us and said, 'Yes, I'm a sinner and so are you guys.' Immediate silence, and they became serious as I explained about forgiveness and receiving Jesus as their Saviour. As it turned out, the one girl who was saved and the Holy Spirit used her honesty to turn the conversation around. It was awesome! Praise His holy name."

Anne Veenhuis, at the NS Provincial Ex:

"A lady came to the booth and spoke about her sister who had recently passed away. She was sad as they had always come to the Ex together. I told her about heaven and she interrupted, 'Who knows where it is anyway? They put rockets and satellites up there.' The Holy Spirit brought to my mind Acts 1:9. I was glad to be able to comfort her with God's promise, and show the way of salvation for her. Praise to His name!"

Roy Nielsen at the Cumberland County Ex:

It's always good to see young adults come to the booth. I think especially of two young men who came inquiring. They listened intently and both received Christ as their Saviour, with tears of joy. Luke 10:20: *"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."* How great a salvation! Praise God for FCFC. 6 *(Continued on following page)*

Country Comes to City Roval Agricultural Winter Fair 2018 -

FCF is there as country comes to city. Since 1922, the country has come to the city as livestock and crop producers brought their best to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair - the most prestigious fair in Canada, given the moniker of "royal" by King George V.

The Fellowship of Christian Farmers again had a booth at this fair in the shadow of Toronto's CN Tower.

Frank Thiessen and Brad Wilson, of South Central Ontario Chapter, worked together with FCFC president Jocelyn Aubut to organize an outreach which stretched over ten days in early November. Approximately 6,000

visitors from the full Toronto mosaic came to the booth. It is a unique opportunity to be witnesses for Jesus to the peoples of the world.

300,000 people attend the Royal each year and we thank God that this mission field remains open as we have the opportunity to return in 2019.

Paul Booker shared this testimony of this year's Royal experience:

"A young woman came along; one of our volunteers shared the message with her but didn't push for prayer. A little later this woman returned and said, "I want to learn more about Jesus." It emphasized to me that this is the Holy Spirit's work; it is he, not us, who touches hearts."



(Continued from p. 6)

Ben Isenor, at the Hant's County Exhibition:

"Praise the Lord for another year of sharing His love with FCFC! God is so good. While there were many memorable visits, I was greatly encouraged by a saved boy. While he listened, I would tell him what each colour represented and he would finish the Bible verse. He had never heard the story of the coloured beads, but he had accepted the gospel and was joyful about his relationship with Christ. In my relationship with Christ he continues to teach me in all aspects of my life, and has taught me so much through sharing the gospel with the FCFC. To God be the glory!" 7 full-time worker in ministry.

New Growth- Three More Chapters

The Morden Corn and Apple Festival has been the location where the Fellowship of Christian Farmers has had a very successful outreach in the past several years under the guidance of Henry Janzen. Following this past year's event a group of volunteers met with the goal of starting

a chapter. The executive board of the newly formed Pembina Valley Chapter includes Waldo Penner as president: in the photo at right he is sitting at the window wearing the brown hoody. Waldo is on fire for the Lord and was excited to share the Gospel for the first time with FCF in 2018, and lead people to Christ.





The 2018 International Plowing Match was held in the Chatham-Kent area of southwestern Ontario in September. Some of the volunteers met for a potluck supper in November. This was a time of celebration and thanksgiving for what God had done at the IPM. It soon became clear that this group wanted to start a chapter. Sherman Smith, president of the newly formed Chatham-Kent Chapter said, *"I had never heard of FCF until the training session for the IPM. I said to my wife: "Wow! This is what I've been looking for!" After the IPM I was so enthused! I'm excited about the possibilities. There are lots of opportunities to share the gospel."*

Another group, from the region south and west from Montreal to the NY border, met in late Feb and formed a chapter: **Montérégie-Ouest**. The Ormstown Fair, QC was one of the events that this group took part in. At right, members of the new chapter: (L to R) Yvon Desaulniers, Suzanne Trottier (President), Yves Desrochers, Benoît Roy, Claude Bernard, Josée Doucet, Lise Lafleur



Continued from page 1

Again at the **Salt Spring Christmas Craft Show**, ours was the only booth that offered the true message of Christmas. **Pastor Dennis Scott** has helped us every year. He is always a delight to listen to as he presents the story of the five coloured beads. When Dennis comes to the red bead he tells them, "Now the red bead reminds us of the Christmas Story, when Jesus came to earth as a baby at Christmas time". He then goes on to tell them about the red blood of Christ shed on the cross for our sin, and so on. Among 200 vendors at that show, I think Dennis is the only person who talks about the Christmas Story and about baby Jesus.

Pacific Agriculture Show, BC, January 2019



This was the second consecutive year our Fraser Valley Chapter entered this huge machinery and

agriculture show. Initially, back in January 2014, this was the very first show that Henry was invited to attend as a volunteer and the first time he had even heard of FCFC. That was when Henry got excited with the simplicity of

sharing the Gospel using a simple stick with 5-coloured beads attached with a leather shoelace, with folks just lined up waiting for that free walking stick.

One of our volunteers had the thrill of leading a person to receive Jesus as his Lord & Saviour for her first time. This was the second time she had volunteered with us and the first time she was blessed to be in the "harvest". You should have seen her excitement! So while we are there just to sow the seeds of the Gospel, occasionally we are also blessed to see those seeds take root and change someone's life for all eternity. God always knows exactly when and which one of our volunteers needs that extra encouragement to carry on with the task of sowing more seeds.



Some of the folks who wanted to be sure of where they would spend eternity after death, and prayed to receive Christ as Lord & Saviour were:

- A Dad with his two young teen-aged sons, all prayed to accept Jesus.

- A young married couple from Chilliwack. The wife had accepted Jesus as a young girl and was now unequally yoked. Her husband wanted the peace of knowing God and to know they would be together in the same place after death. They both committed to start going to church together the following Sunday, and wanted to try the evangelical church near their home.

- There are always so many stories that could not be recorded in our reports but they remain in our hearts forever, and that is what spurs us on to do it again and again! There is simply no life for a true believer than to share the good news of the Gospel over and over. We are just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread. The bread of life! It is always such a thrill to see our volunteers get excited about sharing the Gospel one by one and in so doing to actually witness their own growth as they venture out to do what we are all commanded to do in scripture, i.e. "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel".

Thank-you to all who faithfully pray for this ministry and to all our generous sponsors. Without your prayers and donations we would not be able to continue.

THANKS to GOD HIMSELF for times filled with miracles.

SIMAQ (Industrial & Farm Equipment Show)

By Sylvain Couture, Quebec fieldman

A year ago, at the beginning of February 2018, the Capital City Chapter (Quebec City) asked me to find another event for the region. I contacted SIMAQ (Industrial & Farm Equipment Show) with the goal of renting a space at the show. When I called, I asked if I was speaking to the right person for that, and he replied, "Certainly, you are talking to the Big Boss."

He asked "Who are you?" When I replied "Fellowship of Christian Farmers – Canada", he responded "What!?" and proceeded to ask me the same question twice again, then he responded after the third time, "What on earth is that?!"

And here we had an excellent discussion which lasted an hour. He then told me that he would look after a space for us and it would be free. Wow! He told me to contact him again in October and I did. He sent me a contract by email – no charge.

As a result, I returned from the Dominican Republic after two months to help set up this event in January. Immediately upon my return I met with the Board of the Capital City Chapter and then proceeded to the Lake St. Jean area for a training session. Following this, because of bad weather, I decided to stay there for the night.

The return road qoes through Laurentides Park and I decided to stop at the one available stop even though I did not need gas. God was looking after me because that ten-minute stop prevented me from being part of a pile-up down the highway. After being stopped for four hours I was able to proceed in - 40° wind chill. The next morning it took some time to get going. A ball of ice had loosened the muffler - it had to be tied up with wire, and an inch and a half of ice had to be removed from the pickup.

And for the event itself, in spite of having a small booth in a less-travelled area, twelve volunteers from ten different churches 10



shared the gospel with 1,100 visitors. A lady, one of the organizers of this event, had visited our booth at the National Women's Salon last November and a volunteer had presented the gospel. She told the volunteer that she would be at SIMAQ and would collect her walking stick then. As she was leaving, an older couple asked where she got the stick and she directed them to our booth. She told us, "There are not enough people like you. You do an excellent work. I hope you come back next year."

Jessynia Théagène: "It was a very busy day. People came by the dozens!. I compared the love of God to the love of a forgiving mother, because she loves her child. However, I told them that the love of God was greater than the love of a mother. People seemed to grasp the scope and importance of forgiveness and the love of God. There were people who shouted when I said the name of Jesus or when I mentioned sin. Others said that we were part of a sect. It was only a small percentage of visitors. Most people were receptive. I have never talked so much about Jesus in an event since I joined the Fellowship of Christian Farmers!"

Bancroft Chapter News by Ross Rutledge

Why do we share the gospel of the coloured beads? Why do we tell others about Jesus? Because it's not His will that any should perish but that all would come to repentance. I believe Jesus delays his coming so more sinners can be **SAVED**. **Saved from what you ask? This place called hell**. Jesus died on our behalf so that we can have life with him in Heaven. He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay. The great commission is still go into all of your world and preach repentance while we still have time. Thank-you and God bless as we press forward in Christ.



Beloved FCFC volunteer Neil Peters, centre, passed away October 2018

FCFC Chapters

Fraser Valley Chapter Henry & Carol Janzen, 604-859-3407 Abbotsford, BC

Red Deer Chapter Robert Reid, 403-347-8663 Red Deer, AB

Westman Chapter Dan Lepp, 204-728-4784 Brandon, MB

Red River Valley Chapter Henry Martens, 204-898-0545 Rosser, MB

Pembina Valley Chapter Waldo Penner 204-822-9404 Morden, MB

Central Plains Chapter Cornie Sawatzky, 204-685-3110 McGregor, MB

Niagara Chapter, Bob & Kelly Foster, 905-894-0223 Ridgeway, ON

Chatham- Kent Chapter Sherman Smith, 519-676-2189 Blenheim, ON

Peterborough Chapter Mike Sweeney, 705-745-3019 Peterborough, ON

South-Central Ontario Chapter

Brad Wilson, 905-873-2070 Georgetown ON Frank Thiessen, 705-300-1232 Wasaga Beach, ON

Bancroft Chapter Ross Rutledge, 613-332-5758 Bancroft, ON

Renfrew County Chapter Terry Johnston, 613-432-6369 Renfrew, ON

Upper Ottawa Valley Chapter Jim Wall, 613-432-2775 Renfrew, ON

Lanark County Chapter Garry Boyce, 613-253-8193 Carleton Place, ON

Ottawa Valley Chapter Johanne MacKiddie, 450- 566-2466 Grenville SLR, QC

l'Estrie Chapter Prosper Pitcholo, 819-565-4910 Sherbrooke, QC

L'Outaouais Chapter Thérèse Robinson 819-778-6318 Gatineau, QC

Granby Chapter Robert Doran, 450-521-3181 Saint-Hyacinthe Chapter Michel Gagnon, 514-776-8707 St-Jean sur Richelieu, QC

Montérégie-Ouest Chapter To be announced

Mauricie Chapter Jocelyn Aubut, 819-374-7374 Trois-Rivières, QC

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Capital City Chapter Yves Bellemare, 418-222-4556 Quebec City, QC

Saguenay Chapter 819-242-2233 René Déziel, Saguenay, QC

Grand Lake Chapter Ron Hunter, 506-385-2941 Scotchtown, NB

Central Nova Chapter John Veenhuis, 902-671-2242 Stewiacke, NS

2019 FCF CANADA EVENTS

British Columbia

Northview Community Church Abbotsford, Apr 28-29

Squamish Fathers' Day St Market, June 16 Williams Lake Rodeo, Jun 27 – Jul 1

> Canada Day Rotary Stadium, Abbotsford, Jul 1

Alberta Pincher Creek Trade Show May 3-4 Manitoba

Morden Corn & Apple Festival, Aug 23-25

Ontario

Orangeville Home & Garden Show, Mar 29-31 Elmira Maple Syrup Festival, April 6 Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival, Apr 26-27 Perth Festival of Maples, April 27 Aurora Chamber Street Festival, June 2 Downtown Milton Street Festival, June 2

Quebec

ParkSide Ranch Cabane à sucre, April 7 Contact : Bélinda Labbé touchonsleglobe.bella@gmail.com

Un Coeur pour les Autres, April 20 Contact : Gideon Zwygart (montrealrivesud@afcc.info)

Expo agricole d'Ormstown, June 6 - 9 Contact : Benoît Roy (penguinsdp@live.ca)

Expo agricole de la vallée de la Matapedia Amqui June 6 - 9 Contact : Denis Lavallée (denislavallee@globetrotter.net)

ParkSide Ranch BBQ, June 9 Contact : Bélinda Labbé (touchonsleglobe.bella@gmail.com)

Outaouais en fête, June 21-24 Contact : Bélinda Labbé (outaouais@afcc.info)

For more events visit www.fcfcanada.org or www.afcc.info

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