

THE SOWER

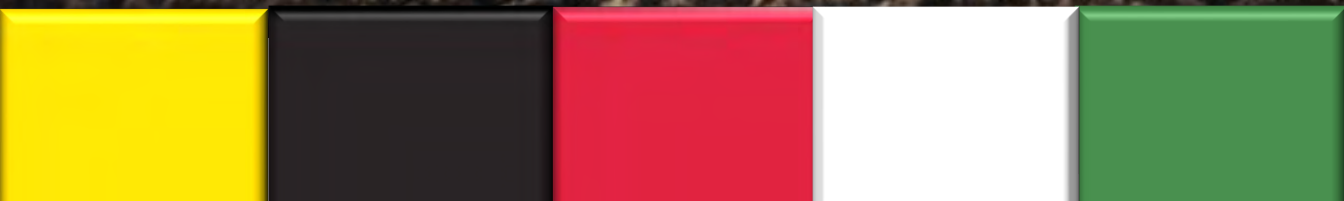
EDITION 57

SPRING/SUMMER 2022

“Open Doors and Open Hearts”

*Fellowship of Christian
Farmers Canada*

“A Sower went out to sow his seed.” Luke 8:5





A Word from the Executive Director - Ed Plett

For the past two years, we have been praying that our All-Powerful God would once again open the way for us to share the “Good News” of the Gospel using the simple illustration of five coloured beads. We praise the Lord that a variety of events are reopening and the hunger for eternal truth is evident in the crowds coming to our booth.

We Praise the Lord for Open Doors and Open Hearts!

In Western Canada, Ontario and in Quebec, opportunities for sharing the gospel have increased significantly this spring and summer. With these open doors come potential new chapters to be realized. Volunteers from Calgary and Rive-Nord QC are now excited about starting a chapter in their local areas and there are two new chapters established, the Durham Chapter in Ontario and the Battlefords Chapter in Saskatchewan.

Another special note was the appointment of **Terry Taylor as Ontario Field Representative**. This appointment was ratified by the FCFC Board late in the fall of 2021 and will fill a special need in that province. We are hopeful of being able to add Field Representatives in Western and Eastern Canada in the future. Meanwhile, I will be asking our God to raise up additional leaders; men/women to assist in parts of our large country where there is potential to expand our ministry. I will appreciate your prayers to this respect as well as your suggestions for possible candidates.

THE SOWER magazine is free.

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If you prefer to receive the Newsletter by mail, please contact us by phone (819) 242-8063
or email us at fcfc@bell.net



Terry Taylor at the 2013 International Plowing Match (IPM), greeting people and inviting them into the FCF tent to hear the gospel message

FCFI Area Leader News - Bill Brown



Here are some of FCF-Canada members in action, working with Kathy and me at some events. Leona Bastiaansen from Elora, Ontario at the Flowertown Festival in Summerville, South Carolina (photo below). Bert Vischer from the Trillium Chapter at the Swamp Cabbage Festival, LaBelle, Florida. Please read his article [Sharing the Greatest Gift](#).



[Leona Bastiaansen helping at the Flowertown Festival in Summerville, SC \(2000 people stopped by the FCF tent\)](#)

Sharing the Greatest Gift - Bert Vischer

As a former produce farmer that grew cabbage, it was intriguing to be at a show relating to cabbage. What a privilege to share the greatest gift ever at the *Swamp Cabbage Festival* in LaBelle Florida. Walking into the show I saw thousands of people lining the parade route on chairs. Some had been there for hours.

(Cont. page 4)

Sharing the Greatest Gift - Bert Vischer (Cont.)

A feeling of festivity was tangible as you walked by classic cars, a pen of camels, face painting booths, numerous food venues and yes, even a bunch of armadillos awaiting their racing time. A balmy eighty degree to start the day turned into a warmer afternoon where shade and ice water were coveted. Thinking about home in Ontario, Canada where the current temperature was well below zero definitely made the heat more tolerable. Now to find the booth of the FCFI.

A cell phone call to Bill Brown, an incredible leader and worker of FCFI (*Fellowship of Christian Farmers International*) led me there. How wonderful it was to see the FCFI tent through the crowd, all set up with supplies of walking sticks, beads, pamphlets. A lot of work behind the scenes and preparation for this event! A hearty round of introductions and welcomes with the other volunteers was encouraging and now our privilege starts. Greeting all of those passing by our booth with a short presentation of the 5 coloured beads.

Gold: The presence of God (Heaven)

Dark bead: The evil we do

Red bead: God's incredible gift and the shedding of His Son's blood on the cross

White bead: Forgiven, whiter than snow


Green bead: Growth in our relationship with our Savior


This is the gist of the story as we tell it over and over. Now if you have never done this, I strongly urge you to share. Every time you do, it builds your own faith and resolve. You will hear wonderful testimonies of people's walk with God. And then you often have the fantastic opportunity of leading someone to the Lord. Oh, what a gift! And to think all of this happened at a Swamp Cabbage Festival.





The Bead Story:


This is the Good News that the Fellowship of Christian Farmers shares with everyone.
We use five colours as a reminder.

 Gold: Gold reminds us of heaven, a beautiful place with no sin, pain, or sorrow. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you." God wants us to go there too: Yes, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life" John 3:16

 Dark: But we have a problem! Sin separates us from God which separates us from heaven. The bad news is that we are all guilty. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

 Red: What is the solution?
Red – the blood of Christ. Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world. He led a perfect life and he was crucified for us to pay the penalty for our sin. Romans 6:23: "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

 White: If we believe this in our hearts, admit we are sinners and sincerely ask for the forgiveness of Jesus, God has promised to forgive us. Then in His sight we are now pure as the white colour represents. This is the Good News! This is a free gift and, like any other gift, if we don't take it, we don't get it! Jesus Christ offers salvation to everyone but only those who accept Him as Saviour and Lord receive the gift of salvation.

 Green: Spiritual Growth. If we believe, we will want to grow to know God better. We can grow by praying, reading and studying the Bible, being good neighbours, worshipping with others and telling others the good news.

What about you? Have you accepted God's gift of salvation?



FCFC Quebec Ministry Report

Jessynia Théagène, Quebec Field Representative

In Quebec, the local committees of AFCC are planning to participate in 29 events beginning in early April and through late September of 2022. We praise the Lord for these opportunities that He has provided.

The new French training video is now available for volunteers. It is 48 minutes long. We thank the Aeshlimann family who welcomed us at their farm. They also prepared the background decoration and meals for us.

We have two chapters who merged: Pontiac and Outaouais. Pontiac chapter is in Outaouais. They will continue to do the events in Pontiac (Shawville Fair and Lady Smith). We will start a new chapter in the region of Rive-Nord to cover the regions of Laval, St-Jérôme, Terrebonne, Mirabel etc. We are excited to cover these areas.



The National Women's show in Ottawa, April 9 -10, with strong support of some 17 volunteers to share the gospel using the 5 colored beads



We were present at the National Women's show in Montreal from May 13 - 15 at the Palais des Congrès de Montreal.

This was our 8th year at the event and this year we were able to share the gospel message with 1000 people through the participation of 24 volunteers from 12 churches.

Thank you for your prayers and a big thank you to all the districts that joined the event! It was a collective effort that yielded very good results, inter-district collaboration is really a blessing!

Thank you for answering the call to come and share the Gospel at the Christian Farmers' Booth! We will be waiting for you next year!

Testimonies from our Volunteers

"I met a 20-year-old who told me that she had a difficult adolescence. She was searching for the truth. She was touched by God's love. She wanted to know more. It is blessing to see a heart touched by the gospel message."

Anonymous

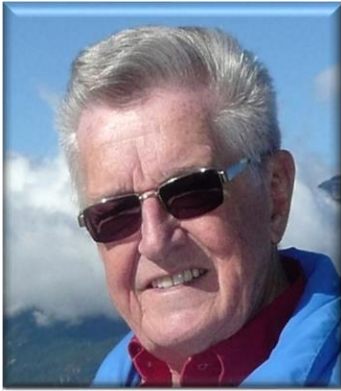
"One of the visitors said to me, "Thank you for the New Testament because I want to understand what is written in it. We pray that God will enlighten him and make him understand."

Lucille

(Cont. page 15)

FCFC Western Ministry Report

Henry Janzen, Western Field Representative



On June 4 & 5, 2022, we participated in “*The Home and Wellness Show*” combined with the “*Small Home Expo*”. This show started out like any other with an evening of training at Starbucks the night before our event, followed by our booth set-up in the large Tradex Arena. We had lots of help to set up with Ed Plett and Abe Wiebe. These guys are always a big blessing to us.

We had so many volunteers to share the message of the 5-colored beads that at times our booth seemed over crowded. However, no one got away with a free walking stick from our barrel without first hearing the whole Gospel message from one of our volunteers. We also had several new presenters who found it much easier than they had imagined to tell the story of Jesus to our guests. What a thrill to equip volunteers who have never taken the opportunity to explain Jesus’ death and resurrection with someone. This is a large part of why we exist as a ministry. A huge bonus for many volunteers is to experience the joy of leading someone into a personal relationship with Jesus upon our guest’s first time of hearing the bead story. That’s what happened to Carol on that weekend.

A young lady in her twenties approached her while she stood holding a stick in hand. Carol shared the whole story in her own words, then asked if she would like to invite Jesus to forgive her sin and to take Him as her personal Savior? Carol was not even finished reading the sample prayer in our tract when the lady eagerly started to pray the sample prayer. When she was done, Carol asked her our standard question; “So where is Jesus right now”? Without hesitation the young lady placed her hand on her heart and said, “He’s in here”. “Why”? was Carol’s next question. “Because I just asked Him to come into my heart” was the quick response. With the Joy of the Lord, she left eager to share what she had just done with all her Christian girl friends. That’s what she told Carol.

We continue to praise God for this ministry which not only gives us an opportunity to use a walking stick to reach the lost for Christ, but the rare and unique opportunity to help many fellow brothers and sisters already in Christ, to share the Gospel with others for the first time! And in some cases, to experience the joy of leading someone to Jesus as Lord and Savior for the first time in their entire life!



Fewer and fewer people in Canada regularly attend church. In response, the Fellowship of Christian Farmers – Canada (FCFC) is taking the message of salvation in Jesus Christ across Canada from BC to Nova Scotia.

Volunteers comprised of interdenominational evangelical Christians, collaborate to present the gospel message in 5 colors at marketplace events such as fairs, festivals, trade shows, etc. This is our mission field!

The International Plowing Match & Rural Expo is Back!

North America's largest outdoor agricultural and rural expo is back this September 20–24 in Kemptville, North Grenville, Ontario. Over the five days, we are anticipating 75,000+ people to attend the International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM) from near and far. The Fellowship of Christian Farmers plan to be there.

Help us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who are not in the pews. You don't need to be a farmer to work with us – we welcome all volunteers who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. We need volunteers to pray, to help to prepare materials for handouts, to act as greeters and ushers at the event, and to present the gospel to visitors. Your financial support is also appreciated (Please see page 16).

We will hold information and training sessions prior to the Plowing Match for those who would like to volunteer. Would your church be willing to partner with us?

For more information or questions about this opportunity for outreach, please contact our Regional Representative for this event, Mike Sweeney at 705-745-3019 or sweeney.m.120@gmail.com

To volunteer or partner as a church please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, John Macdonald at 613-355-8248 or jandrmacdonald@live.ca

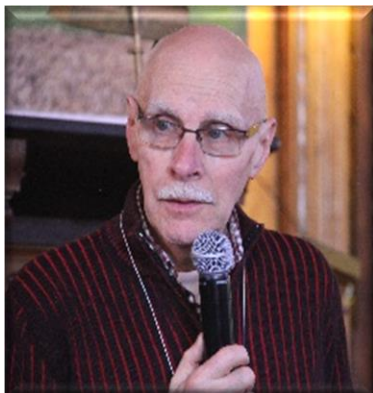


IPM 2018, Chatham-Kent, ON

In this photo, Johanne MacKiddie shares the gospel with 54 school kids, every eye was on her, listening intently to every word.

For several years she helped FCFC with the training of new volunteers at the International Plowing Match (IPM) and she shares her first experience back in 2011:

"I will never forget the lump in my throat, feeling inadequate and pretty much shaking in my boots. But, more so, I remember the presence of the Holy Spirit as He gave me the words and the courage to share, and then, the joy of being privileged to be used by God".



Prayer Coordinator - Mike Sweeney

"I got involved with FCF in 2006 when the International Plowing Match came to our area. When I saw the number that could be reached in five days, I saw the possibilities".

Mike prepares the monthly Prayer and Praise newsletter. Please send your prayer requests to him at: sweeney.m.120@gmail.com

To subscribe please email fcfc@bell.net

The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) - Toronto, Ontario August 19 - September 05 2022



Let's Go to The Ex!

The South-Central Ontario Chapter is gearing up to represent FCFC at the Canadian National Exhibition.

The (CNE) is Canada's largest community event and one of the top agricultural fairs in North America. During this 18-day annual event visitors to the show can expect midway rides, shopping and live shows. The CNE attracts more than 1.5 million people each year. This a great opportunity to share the Gospel!

If you want to volunteer, please contact, **Brad Wilson, SCO Chapter President** at [416-526-5216](tel:416-526-5216). An on-line signup schedule will soon be made available. Your financial support is also appreciated (Please see page 16).

Canada Day in Kelowna, B.C.



"Providentially we ended up in a location that had a constant stream of lots of people.

It was intense! Amazzzing! Praise the Lord!

*We shared the Good News with about 450 plus people!
Glory to God!" - Pat Guerra*



Pat Guerra and his Kelowna Chapter at Kelowna City Park at the Waterfront

Canada Day in Calgary, AB

Russ Harris, Future President of the New Calgary South Chapter

I want to say thank you to Henry and Carol Janzen for encouraging us to form an FCFC Chapter. What a blessing it has been for me and the team! Who would have thought that so many would hear the gospel using a walking stick? Canada day was a success! Our 30 volunteers covered 3 locations; Calgary Chinese Culture Centre, Riverfront Ave and Princes Island Park. We gave out 1800 sticks with many salvations!



Doug Sinclair, (photo left), from Brooks, AB was definitely a servant and a leader. He provided his trailer to haul FCFC supplies from my garage and ensured that each team at the various locations had what they needed. He encouraged everyone and made sure that all was in order.

There was a tremendous amount of joy and freedom to share the gospel. God showed up, as He always does, convicting hearts and giving us boldness.



Russ Harris (Standing behind walking sticks sign) and the team of volunteers on Canada Day

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FCFI Area Leader: Bill Brown, Marcy, NY labrowfarm1@gmail.com

Testimonies from our Volunteers (Cont. from page 7)

"I was invited to volunteer and share the gospel this weekend at the Fraser Valley woman's expo in Chilliwack B.C. I usually struggle with sharing the gospel. This weekend through the beads made it comfortable and brought me out of my comfort zone for me to do that. It felt wonderful to share the gospel with others using the beads and sticks. It helps to keep it simple. It was amazing how many people don't know where they are going after they pass away, I felt sad. I hope this weekend I was able to bring others to faith by sharing about Christ and to let others know the Good News.

Thank you for this encouraging opportunity it was such a joy".

Michelle Lobreau

'Doug Sinclair, a local business owner in Brooks Alberta, seemed to know half of the town folks who visited the FCFC booth at the Brooks Spring Trade Show. Nearly everyone of our 474 guests gravitated to him as a friend.

Doug commented that although he has done business with them over the past 30 years, he had never been able to approach the topic of the Gospel. However, having shared the 3-minute message of the 5 coloured beads on a one-on-one visit with each person, he said it would be much easier to build upon this relationship in the future. '

Henry Janzen, on approaching people that we know with the 3-minute message

Chapters and Volunteering

For a list of our local chapters, please visit our website at www.fcfcanda.org

PLEASE CLIP AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT FOR FCFC MINISTRIES

Join and Support FCFC:

I would like to assist the mission of FCFC
in presenting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Become a member: An annual membership fee is required to join
\$75 per person and \$90 per couple.

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____

Made payable to: **Fellowship of Christians Farmers- Canada**

To be used for: () General funds () Chapter _____

() Field ministry, which province? _____

() International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM) _____

() Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) _____

I am paying by: VISA () MasterCard () AMEX () One time donation of \$ _____
 Monthly donation of \$ _____ to be withdrawn on the 15th of each month.
 Card number _____ Expiry date (mm/yy) ____ / ____
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* Receipts issued for Income Tax purposes Spending of funds is confined to programs and projects approved by FCFC. Each restricted contribution will be used as designated, understanding that when the need for such a program or project has been met, or cannot be completed determined by the organization, the remaining restricted contributions will be used where needed most.

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