## THE SOWER

2024 Edition Issue 60

YET WHEN I PREACH THE GOSPEL, I HAVE NO REASON TO BOAST. BECAUSE I AM OBLIGATED TO PREACH. WOE TO ME IF I DO NOT PREACH THE GOSPEL! CORINTHIANS 9:16 Fellowship of Christian Farmers Canada



## New Outreaches, Field Reps & Major Events Brad Wilson, Executive Director

We had a fantastic 2024 and the Lord continues to bless us with new outreach opportunities. These include our growing partnership with ShareWord Global (SWG), new Field Representatives, and most importantly, reaching more and more people with the Gospel! Your contributions have helped enable volunteers to take the Gospel to 150,000 people across Canada from BC to Nova Scotia this past year.

Our chapters were at some major, notable marathon events like the 18-day Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), the 10-day Western Rodeo in St. Tite, Quebec, the 5 Day International Plowing Match in Lindsay, Ontario, and so many more events across Canada. Please pray that the Lord will keep opening doors (and keep existing doors open!) so that we can continue to reach the lost.



#### **New Outreaches**



Over the Canada Day Weekend, our partnership with the Sudbury chapter of SWG reached nearly 2,000 people with the Gospel at Sudbury's Bell Park. Here is a testimony from one of the volunteers: I have been a Christian for over 41 years, I have never led so many people to Jesus as I did this past weekend. The free walking sticks are an amazing icebreaker. The beads make it so easy to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. After we ran out of sticks on Monday, a lady approached me and asked who was behind the ministry. I told her that the Fellowship of Christian Farmers and ShareWord Global work

together. She asked because she is a teacher and is always looking for ways to reach kids. She inquired about the colors, so I found one of the tags that go on the walking sticks. The tag listed the colors and scripture references. The lady said she could make bracelets with similar colored beads and use the scriptures to explain what the colors represent. Hallelujah! God brings along the right people to further His message!



#### **Partnering with ShareWord Global**

Carla Laframboise-Plum Saskatchewan Field Representative

Harry Rohde from the Regina ShareWord Global Chapter shares these encouraging words: On behalf of the Chapter in Regina, I would like to express my gratitude to the Fellowship of Christian Farmers Canada for partnering with us at the Regina Exhibition this summer, through one of your FCFC members, Carla LaFramboise.

Carla, also a member of ShareWord Global in the North Battleford area, joined our outreach in Regina. She used salvation bracelets as a witnessing tool to share the gospel with people who stopped by our booth. We were able to use them too, and found them to be an effective tool in sharing Christ with people. Carla was also actively partnering with some of our other Chapters in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon with their outreach events over the summer. She was an encouragement and truly a blessing to all of us. May God continue to bless all your members as you reach people for Jesus across Canada.

#### New Field Reps

John and Nichole Démoré are our new Field Reps taking on the area of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec (Belleville to Montreal). They both are in the habit of helping other chapters in Quebec and Ontario with their outreaches including the International Plowing Matches (IPM) in Ontario in 2023 and 2022 and visiting many chapters in Quebec in 2019. Since they were already engaged with our ministry outside of their home chapter, are both recently retired and have a heart for reaching the lost, they are a perfect fit!

We're also delighted to announce Carol Janzen as an official Field Representative, alongside her husband Henry—who also serves as the Field Rep for Western Canada. Thank you, Carol, for your dedication and contributions!

#### Our current Field Reps:



Please pray that the Lord will provide Field Reps in Eastern Quebec, the Maritimes, and when Henry and Carol retire, we will need to find replacements in British Columbia and Manitoba. Field Reps are all volunteers but do get their expenses paid and are eligible for a small honorarium. More Field Reps will mean more events, more chapters and more overall growth in our ministry—please consider donating to their support. Please see p.16 for further details.

#### **Major Events**

Major events have been identified across Canada that require prayer, volunteers, and financing. We're continually seeking funding for two significant yearly events: the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) and the International Plowing Match (IPM).

We would love to add more Major Events in upcoming years and it all starts with prayer so please start now and let's see what the Lord has in store! May the Lord bless you as you pray, give, and participate in sharing the Gospel with the lost across Canada. Please consider supporting these major events. <u>Please see p.16 for further details</u>.

#### **CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION**

South Central Ontario Chapter Aug 16 – Sept 2, 2024



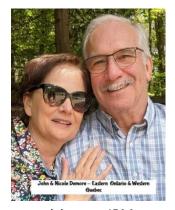
What do you get with almost 19,000 walking sticks, 120 volunteers and 20 church partners from all over Durham region and the Greater Toronto Area? Another great year at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE)! We needed a bigger booth this time to accommodate our volunteers and the 25% more visitors to the booth over last year. We even had some crowding in the aisles. We may need to get an even bigger booth next year to hold even more volunteers, gifts and guests.

Our volunteers have shared this: This year at the

CNE booth I found so many people to be very open to conversations. There were a number of listeners who were very ready to pray. I never pressure anyone to pray. I always make sure they fully understand what they are doing. One man shared that he was trying his best to be a good person and help others, but he felt an overwhelming guilt because he knew he kept doing wrong things. After my small crowd dispersed, he stayed to chat more. I could tell he wanted Jesus. So, I asked if he wanted to pray, and he jumped at the chance! I could tell it was genuine. Several other young people responded similarly. I remember speaking to a group of five young people in their early 20's. Two of the girls were giggling and rolling their eyes as I told the story. They kept acting like it was silly and they had more interesting things to talk about. So, I focused more of my attention to the ones that were interested. By the end of our conversation the one girl who started off laughing looked at me with a lot of emotion and thanked me repeatedly for sharing the

Gospel with her! I led about 20 people to the Lord. Thank you, Lord, for all the opportunities and souls won! It was my pleasure to volunteer at the CNE again this year! Next year I'm going to try to get time off work so that I can volunteer for more shifts!

I volunteered at the CNE on the 16th, the 22nd and the 27th. The Holy Spirit was present with me to lead 34 people to Jesus Christ over those 3 days. They accepted to surrender their lives, receive forgiveness of their sins, make Jesus their Lord and Savior and enter into a personal relationship with him. I praise the Lord and give him all the glory! Every encounter with each one of these people was very special to me. However, one outstanding one was a young Muslim man roughly 25 years old. I lived in Israel as a missionary for one year, so I know what Muslims believe about Jesus as a prophet. I shared with him the truth of who Jesus really is. He was hungry for truth. It was one of my highlights at the CNE; to see him receive and surrender his life to Jesus.



#### **INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH**

John and Nichole Démoré Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec Field Reps

In October, over 5,000 people were reached with the Gospel during the 5-day event, at the IPM- International Plowing Match and Rural Expo in Lindsay.

John and Nichole Démoré, our newly minted Field Reps for Western Ontario and Eastern Quebec did a great job

organizing our IPM outreach this year. Thank you! The Lord also blessed us with the Kawartha Lakes Chapter of ShareWord Global, a great partner, and several local churches also helped out.

Special thanks to Rick Bell and Malcolm Randall, the SWG chapter leaders. Their chapter made thousands of beaded bracelets on walking sticks. They also helped to contact local churches and host volunteer training sessions prior to the IPM. We could not have done it without them!



## A Celebrating Fruitful Harvests and Exciting Opportunities

Terry Taylor, Western ON Field Representative

Hello, dear friends! I'm bursting with excitement. Our journey with the Fellowship of Christian Farmers Canada (FCFC) has been nothing short of remarkable. As we sow seeds of faith, we witness God's abundant harvests—so much so that it's hard to keep up! Join me as we reflect on the incredible moments, the challenges, and the unexpected invitations that have shaped our path.

#### 1. Trillium & Niagara Chapters Shine

Our Trillium and Niagara Chapters have been on fire! Existing shows became platforms for hundreds to hear the gospel, and hearts opened to Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Praise the Lord for His faithful provision!

#### 2. New Churches, New Volunteers

The beauty of this journey lies in the connections we forge. Fresh churches have stepped forward, sending volunteers to support our shows. At the Auburn Huron Missionary Chapel, we trained ten eager souls. Next year, we're planning even more events in their area. In Listowel, twelve additional volunteers joined us across two churches. The FCFC booth at the Listowel Fair caught the attention of other Listowel congregations. And guess what? We've partnered with a Street Witnessing Group (SWG) that uses our gospel beads during their street missions at Waterloo University. Their impact is undeniable.

#### 3. Listowel Debut: A Triumph

For the first time, we participated in the Listowel Home & Garden Show and the Listowel Fair. Hundreds listened intently, and our new volunteers caught the fire of evangelism. Could this be the birth of a Listowel chapter? I'm hopeful!

#### 4. Learning from Challenges

Not every event went flawlessly, but we embrace the lessons. Live and learn, they say. Each stumble refines our approach.

#### 5. Canadian National Exhibition (CNE): A Whirlwind of Blessings

The CNE—an overwhelming success! Over 25,000 diverse souls encountered the good news. Our bigger booth couldn't contain the crowds. It took 120 dedicated volunteers to run this event. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and they're already counting down to next year. But remember, small outreaches matter too. Ten people in an afternoon—a chance to explain deeply. Every encounter counts.

#### 6. Pastors Inviting Us: A New Chapter

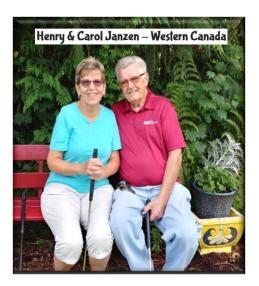
Hold onto your hats! Church pastors are calling us. Yes, you read that right. They want us at their town events, presenting the gospel. One small town had all three ministers inviting us to their Fall Fair. Next year, we'll be there, sharing hope.

#### 7. Expanding Our Reach

My inbox overflows with leads and contacts. Owen Sound, Windsor, Strathroy, Kincardine, Woodstock—they're all on our radar. God's Kingdom knows no boundaries.

#### 8. In Closing

More updates will follow. Bless each of you for your unwavering commitment. Together, we're sowing seeds, reaping harvests, and lighting up the world. Keep shining, fellow laborers! Our journey continues, and the fields are ripe.



#### A Journey of Purpose

Henry & Carol Janzen Western Field Representatives

Carol and I have been keeping a whirlwind schedule ever since our return from our 4-week cross-country tour in June and July. Our days have been filled with events, connections, and the joy of making a difference.

One of our main focuses has been the Fraser Valley Chapter Team. We've actively

participated in their events, but our efforts haven't stopped there. Thanks to the invaluable referral and hands-on assistance from Jeff and Christine, our FV Chapter Team leaders, we're now welcoming a new chapter—the Victoria Chapter—into the fold. Recently, we had the privilege of supporting their inaugural event in Saanichton over the September long weekend. John and Annie Catterall (see picture below), are the leaders of the Victoria Chapter, their enthusiasm and commitment are contagious, and we're excited to see this chapter take shape.



During our time in Saanich, we met a young man with connections in Campbell River, on the northern edge of Vancouver Island. It's a potential opportunity, and we're grappling with whether to pursue it. Similarly, we've received hints of interest from the Smithers area—an untapped region for our Walking Stick ministry in Northern BC's mainland. Retirement may be on the horizon, but these new leads keep us on our toes. As the saying goes, "Make hay while the sun shines." So, we ask for your prayers as we discern our path forward. We firmly believe that these referrals and opportunities come from our Father in Heaven. He provides just enough strength—and sometimes a little extra—to accomplish the task at hand.

So, onward we go—sharing the message of Jesus with our world. We leave the rest in His capable hands. Thank you for partnering with us on this incredible journey.



# **Thankful and Inspired**Russ Harris Alberta Field Representative

It was April, when I texted Robert Reid (Former FCFC Red Deer Chapter President): "Thinking of Fall Activity in Red Deer, AB." Thus, began prayer. Seven months later on November 12th, a beautiful Fall

Day, we set up our outside booth,

and Prayed God's blessing on this FCFC outreach. Robert Reid shared some of the engagements and perhaps ministry impact that God had on him: I was very Thankful & Inspired by the team of four Evangelists that came from Calgary. Their Holy Spirit desire to engage & share the Salvation of Jesus was evident! Prayer was answered!





A steady stream of God prepared people heard the Gospel and responded at the Agritrade in Red Deer, Alberta. Russ, the FCFC Prairie Rep. had a prayer group going before us as well. Again, I learned so much by being in the Harvest with this team.

Volunteer Testimony: Young people had been going to their respective Youth Groups. Two of these High School students had now heard the Gospel Presentation. "Is there any good reason why you cannot receive Jesus Christ right now? You can pray something like this:" And they did!

#### **Amazing Stories & Testimonies**

from our Volunteers



Thank you to all of you who participated, whether as a volunteer at the booth, helping with the setup, creating items to give away, through your prayers, or by providing financial support! Below are testimonies from our volunteers and photos from the events. Please pray that God will grow the seeds that have been planted in the hearts of the visitors at our booths.

Volunteering to share the Gospel is a profoundly humble, awesome experience. It can be uncomfortable at times, sometimes sad, but often exhilarating. It's incredible to see the light spark in people's eyes and hearts, or even just a flicker of curiosity enough

to ponder what has been presented to them. So thankful for our team of volunteers that share faithfully, serve obediently and graciously support one another in the booth. God is calling people to Himself and using ordinary people like us to be His instruments...what an honour. Christine Reimer Secretary/Trainer of Fraser Valley Chapter

### Battlefords Chapter - Cochin Festival Days in Battleford, SK - August

There was a single lady that came up to the booth, she heard the gospel message and began to cry, she said that she believes in the God who can heal and shared about her friend that needed a lung transplant and finally got one. She was so thankful that we had the opportunity to be there in Cochin and sharing the gospel. She stated "We need more of this. Thank you so much" and she was so happy we could pray together, how refreshing.



#### **Amazing Stories & Testimonies**

from our Volunteers (cont.)

#### **Durham Chapter - Stouffville Strawberry Festival - June**

In spite of heavy rain & strong winds, we are very thankful to have reached over 1,250 people with the Gospel. John and Nichole Démoré, FCFC Field Reps along with all of our other 18 volunteer Gospel presenters were very helpful and supportive. Gord Carpenter, the leader of the FCFC Durham chapter, made contact with two churches, one in Toronto and one in Stouffville who are interested in knowing more about FCFC.

Many who came were Mandarin/Cantonese speakers. Several were not familiar with the Gospel story or the Bible. Ron Faller (Durham Chapter) shared this testimony: On Saturday I met a man and his mother. She could not speak English but I had a great conversation with him. He said he tried his best to be a good person but realized that what we think is good may not be good enough for God. He was very sincere and seemed so amazed upon hearing the truth of the Gospel. He understood that he needed Jesus and wanted to pray right there. He did not have a Bible so I gave him one. He soaked up everything I was telling him. I encouraged him to find a Church where he can meet and grow with other Christians. I told him of two churches that I knew of in the area where he lived. Praise God! It was that last person I spoke to before my shift ended and what a great way to end it!



#### Saguenay Chapter Chicoutimi Agricultural Expo - July

We noticed that several young people stopping by our booth, curious and interested. And what did they leave with? A New Testament or a Gospel of John. But it wasn't just a handful of interactions. No, we cast a wider net. Through this event, we reached approximately 2,800 people. Imagine that—a ripple effect of hope spreading through this generation.

#### **Amazing Stories & Testimonies**

from our Volunteers (cont.)

#### **Outaouais Chapter - Oktoberfest Ladysmith - October**

The event was drawing to a close and just as I was about to wrap things up, a young man approached the booth and inquired about the free items, remarking that nothing is free these days. I explained that here, the greatest gift of life was indeed free, which caught his interest. When I asked if I could explain why all these items were free, he initially said he didn't have time. I assured him it would only take three minutes. He agreed and said, "In that case, I'd like to hear the story." As I explained the significance of the red bead and God's invitation to surrender his life to Christ, something



clicked for him (I knew it was the Holy Spirit). He understood that by accepting Christ, he wouldn't face judgment from God but instead receive the gift of salvation. God wants everyone to be saved. I showed him the Bible app available for his phone, and he was amazed that the Bible was now so accessible. He left expressing gratitude for the message and mentioned that he would read the Bible for the first time.

Outaouais Chapter
Ottawa Women's Show – October



Montreal & Rive-Sud Chapter Montreal Women's Show – March



Calgary South Chapter
Filipino Event in Calgary - June





# Thousands Heard the Gospel Alejo Encina Oliver, BC Chapter

I've been in Canada for over 20 years, but I had never seen people, regardless of their race or religion, lining up to hear the Gospel until last fall, when I stumbled upon a group during the Rock Creek Fair. They called themselves the

Fellowship of Christian Farmers of Canada or FCFC.

I just had to know more about it and what draws people to join the line. So, I invited them to Oliver, B.C., to tell us more and to train us. The Kelowna Chapter, along with Henry and Carol, the Western Field Representatives, graciously accepted my invitation. They take their mission very seriously, and I admire their dedication to preaching the Gospel. After we received our training, they helped us establish our own Chapter in Oliver. On July 1st, we joined the Kelowna Chapter to observe their setup, which provided us with valuable insights for our future events.



Around 10 to 20 volunteers came together to participate in modern street evangelism. We put up the sign at 9:30 am. But earlier around 9 am, we had to hide the sign and inform people weren't ready yet. We dedicated the day to the Lord in prayer, led by the Kelowna Chapter leader. Then the fun began! As soon as the sign was up, people started coming. Oh, what a sight! People were waiting for their turn to listen to the Gospel, about 5 to 10 of us were sharing the Gospel while others were busy preparing the supply of the sticks to be ready. I saw Russian families, Muslim, Hindus, Buddhist, Chinese and many tourists from around the world in the line waiting for their turn. Canadians from all walks of life. By 1:30 pm, our 1,100 sticks were gone, and the Kelowna Chapter leader had to run and get more as they went like

wildfire. I estimated that the whole group shared the Gospel to about 1,500 hundred souls but the final tally was over 4,000 thousand who heard the Gospel!

#### 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?

#### PLEASE CLIP AND RETURN WITH YOUR GIFT FOR FCFC MINISTRIES

**Your gift today** will support our vision to train and equip Christians through local chapters, enabling them to share the Gospel in the marketplace with people across Canada, from coast to coast.

	Enclosed is my cheque for \$
	Made payable to: Fellowship of Christians Farmers- Canada
	To be used for: ( ) General funds ( ) Chapter
	( ) Field Ministry Representatives ( ) Canadian National Exhibition (CNE)
	( ) International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM)
	Become a member: An annual membership fee is required to join \$75 per person and \$90 per couple.
	We accept credit card donations online <a href="https://fcfcanada.org/donate/">https://fcfcanada.org/donate/</a>
	I am paying by: VISA ( ) MasterCard ( ) AMEX ( ) One time donation of \$  Monthly donation of \$ to be withdrawn on the 15 <sup>th</sup> of each month.  Card number Expiry date (mm/yy) /  Signature (If you choose a monthly donation, your gift will remain on-going until you notify us otherwise)
Name  AddressPostal CodeCanadian Centre for	
Ema	Christian Charities

\* 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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