Issue 56

THE SOWER

Fall 2021

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

The mission continues...



Sharing the 5-colour message, Canada Day in City Park, Kelowna, BC. (Page 5)

A Message from the New Executive Director Ed Plett

Dear Friends of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers,



I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am presently a volunteer with the Fraser Valley Chapter in BC. I have served both as a board member and vice-president with the FCFC Board of Directors. I now have the privilege of representing this unique marketplace evangelism ministry in my new role as the Executive Director.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, we read the Apostle Paul's exhortation "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for that is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (NIV). To do this is easy in favourable circumstances but difficult when faced with a Pandemic.

Jesus says in John 16:33, "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (NIV). In John chapter 16, Jesus also teaches us about using His name in prayer; In other words, praying according to His will and purpose. So, in what way could this Pandemic be in line with God's purpose?

There are many reports that thousands of people are listening to Gospel messages on various media platforms. They have accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour during this time of isolation. They may never have attended a church service to hear such a message in other circumstances. Let us give thanks for God's way of bringing souls to repentance. We are all still praying for more opportunities to tell others of Christ's saving grace, using the five coloured beads to illustrate the plan of salvation.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for that is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

FCFC's New 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. Prayer is the foundation. Pray that God will find people on earth whom He can take and burn the chaff out of them so they can work for Him. Pray that workers will not grow weary. Prayer goes before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

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



AFCC Quebec Prayer Ministry

Your prayers are essential to the advancement of evangelism in our regions and across the country. The purpose of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers Canada is to build, maintain, and strengthen the faith in God for the farmer, the farm family, and the community by presenting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. May our prayer meetings be transformed into great meetings of evangelization!

Our Quebec Prayer line meetings are starting up again the week of September 27, 2021 (see page 9 for more details). Please join our AFCC prayer support network by contacting us at afccquebec@hotmail.ca

New Board Members FCF-Canada



Harry Pauls was raised on his parent's farm near Purves Manitoba. From a young age, seeing firsthand how his family worked together. His parents and other Christian neighbours started a house church in a community 10 miles away. Harry gave his life to Christ when he was 12 years old at a Bible camp during summer. After High school he attended Bible school for two years where he learned a lot about God's word and made new friends that he still has today.

He was introduced to the Fellowship of Christian Farmers in 2018 when his son invited him to a meeting. He was intrigued by the simplicity

of sharing the gospel using a free walking stick with five coloured beads. He is presently a retired farmer who serves as vice-president for the Pembina Valley chapter. He has participated in promoting the FCFC ministry to churches and sharing the gospel at various events in the area. He is also involved in making walking sticks and whistles in preparation for future opportunities.



Waldene Markling has been a school teacher for over 20 years now. She is dedicated to delivering hands-on learning and enhancing individual potential. She creates a positive environment for all her students to thrive. She is as dedicated in her workplace as she is in her ministry outreach. Her testimony shares the numerous opportunities God has provided for her to lead others to faith and growth.

"I accepted our precious Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in 1994. I was at peace. Unlike anything I had ever experienced before. The Lord gave me a missionary heart. Over the years, I have served in multiple

Christian settings, including: mission trips to Mexico, China, Romania and England. I am eternally grateful for him revealing his great love and patience towards me. I have recently led a ministry called SOS- Sandwiches on Sundays at Northside Foursquare Churches for almost five years. SOS feeds 1200 sandwiches as well as desserts and drinks to 3 downtown east side locations twice a month".

From the Desk - "Looking Ahead"

Bill Brown, FCFI Area Leader



No one has to tell you that the last year has been a challenge. Whether in Canada or the United States, everyone has suffered from shutdowns, travel restrictions, loss of employment to various degrees. We have felt the impact of the Corona Virus and the government's handling of it. There may still be

repercussions felt for years to come. However, I do have a couple of thoughts that may help us to stay focused on what is of importance:

- We work hard to store up treasure in Heaven. Matthew 6:19-20
- If we're trusting in God, we need to be content with all we have.
 Philippians 4:12
- We reach out with open hands, knowing that our time on earth is short and best lived, helping others in need.
- We acknowledge all we have is from God.
- We are willing to stop what we're doing to listen to those who need an ear. Many in FCF, both in Canada and the United States, are struggling with health issues. While praying for them,

why not send a note letting them know you care.

We remain optimistic because of the hope we have that someday we'll be walking on that street of gold. A place where we cannot yet see and with a bright future (Romans 8:25). Because He lives, we can still find joy in everyday living, family and the small things in life. No one can take that away. Let's give Him thanks in all things.

Well, that's my thoughts on staying positive, living each day for Him and keeping things in perspective, looking ahead.

FCFI continues to serve at events, extending a hand of salvation to those in need. Remember, many still don't have the assurance we as believers have. They are waiting to hear.



FCFI Area Leader shares with some students

Signed up and ready to go!

Henry Janzen, Western Field Representative

"Preach the message, be ready whether it is convenient or not..."
2 Timothy 4:2 (NET)

We have an active new chapter in Kelowna B.C. They have a large group of volunteers all signed up and ready to give out "Free Walking Sticks". Their chapter was launched during the pandemic; Whether convenient or not. That initiative began last summer on weekends by the waterfront in Kelowna Park.

They have several events planned for 2021. Ed Plett, his wife Norma and Carol and I, are planning on attending some of these events. These include potential venues like; Kelowna City Park Waterfront, Canada Day, and West Side Daze booth and parade.

A Remarkable Canada Day!

Pat Guerra, Kelowna Chapter President

For 2 hours at City Park on Canada Day, there were eight of us, Dave, Andy, Ron, Ed, Alan, Ray, Wilf and I, sharing the Good News! We gave away approximately 130 Walking Sticks. About 150 -180 people heard the Gospel and had the opportunity to receive Christ as Lord and Savior. More than 20 people prayed to receive Christ!!! Some amazing stories!







Wilfred Wendland in Kelowna City Park

Western Fieldman Report

Henry Janzen



Fraser Valley
Chapter has entered
two Virtual Trade
Shows in 2021.
The Pacific Agriculture
Show on January 18th
and a virtual booth in
the BC Boat & Sportsmen's Show for the
whole month of March.

The overall engagement was high throughout the BC Boat & Sportsmen's Show. There were over 4500 unique users, and over 14,600 listing interactions, primarily coming from British Columbia, with some additional users from the surrounding provinces. We continue to look for more virtual events and hope to try some live Flea Markets very soon.

Fraser Valley Chapter has been busy building up their stick and supply inventory for the anticipated reopening of events in Canada. That has taken up much of our time and money. We are thrilled to report some events are beginning to open up again after the long shut down:

- August 7th- "Love Your City" organized by the Oceanside Church in Nanaimo – in Sutton Park
- October 2nd & 3rd- The Health and Wellness Show in Abbotsford Tradex Arena
- October 23rd & 24th- The Women's Expo in Penticton B.C.

The old Milling Machine has finally been relocated to Swift Current, Saskatchewan, west of Regina. The machine will supply quality



Milling Machine being relocated

hexagon shaped sticks to all our six western chapters and beyond as we continue to grow in the West, Lord willing.

After much prayer, the milling machine was given to our connection in Swift Current at no cost. They are now looking for a deal on a phase converter. We are still hoping to get our first 5,000 sticks from there before the end of August.

Thank you to everyone who prayed faithfully for Carol and me, for our full recovery from the Covid virus. "Carol and I work as a team. It is the greatest joy and privilege to serve the Lord."

In closing, I was reminded of the following quote from a dear Pastor friend of mine in Ontario; "Never measure God's unlimited power by your limited expectations" Only He can answer all of your prayers together with ours. We continue to pray for expansion in the West, from Manitoba to Vancouver Island.

Love Your City

Henry Janzen, Western Field Representative

Each year for the past twenty-some years, the Oceanside Church of Nanaimo, BC has held this event in the park. A most beautiful setting downtown right on the waterfront overlooking the harbor. The local Thrifty Foods Supermarket supplies thousands of free hot dogs and the Salvation Army supplies condiments, several BBQ Grills, and staffing to help distribute them to all local kids and adults.

The church supplies: a truckload of water, cotton candy, popcorn, giant blow-up bouncy castles, and slides. They also supply live music all day long with an intermittent message about Jesus in the large covered pavilion on site. An incredible amount of planning, scheduling, and organization is required. That goes without mentioning the small army of volunteers needed.



FCFC Booth in Maffeo Sutton Park, Nanaimo

This year was the first time we received an invitation to join them with our "free walking sticks". The church accommodated us by supplying us the use of their tent. All was set up for us when we arrived, including balloons attached to each corner and equipped with their table and chairs. Talk about reaching out to us in true Christian love and service!

Of the thousands in attendance at the park, we had nearly 500 guests visit our booth for one of 279 walking sticks plus other free gifts. Everyone who came received our tract explaining the 5-coloured beads with their gift. They all heard the gospel message one-on-one. Before long, you could see folks with walking sticks all over that vast park and even some of them walking downtown. Every one of them had heard a clear presentation of the gospel, with a few even responding to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior right in our booth!

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Ed and Norma Plett made the trip from Chilliwack to join us for the whole day. While on Vancouver Island, Ed & Norma took the opportunity to visit some folks from a church in nearby Courtney. They reported some interest in starting a new FCFC chapter on the island. Then, knowing that we would be swamped with guests and unbeknown to us, God sent us Harold Ewert. Our faithful volunteer from many past events, who helped us all day long. Thank you Lord, and thank you, Harold!



Henry, Ed, Norma and Carol

The following Sunday morning, the four of us attended the Oceanside Church service and spoke with Pastor Mike (& Debora) Graves afterward. He was very impressed after having observed our booth several times throughout the day. He told us that "We have a standing invitation to return each year until Jesus comes back!" end quote. We will be praying for God to open the door to a new island chapter and together with Ed & Norma, Lord willing, we plan to return next year.

We were all truly blessed by how well the whole weekend had transpired. Even to the extent of our awesome God holding off the heavy rain predicted for all day Saturday. We were reminded of who was in charge of the weather after praying together with the church all week about the unfavorable forecast. Thank you to everyone else who prayed for us.

FCFC Events 2021

NEW BRUNSWICK Grand Lake Chapter

Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show Moncton Coliseum Complex November 18-20, 2021

QUÉBEC

Expo Shawville Fair September 2 to September 6, 2021

Public Farmer's Market Les Moissonneurs Solidaires in Lotbinière September 4-5, 2021

National Women's Show in Montreal Palais des Congrès October 1-3, 2021

National Women's Show in Québec ExpoCité, Centre de foires October 1-3, 2021

ONTARIO

South Central Ontario Chapter

Bolton Fall Fair September 24 -26 2021

BRITISH COLUMBIAFraser Valley Chapter

The Health and Wellness Show, Abbotsford – October 2-3, 2021

The Okanagan Women's Expo in Penticton B.C-Penticton Community Centre October 23-24, 2021

Kelowna Chapter

Kelowna City Park- May long weekend 2021 and every weekend throughout July and August 2021

Please visit our website www.fcfcanada.org
for a list
of our Chapters and events near you.

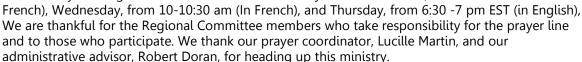
FCFC Quebec Ministry Report

Jessynia Théagène, Quebec Field Representative

We thank God that during COVID we were able to put together a team to support the ministry activities in Quebec. We have five priority areas:

1. Prayer and Drawing Close to God and One Another

We are starting again the week of September 27, 2021! The Quebec prayer line ministry is being held three times a week: Monday, from 7-7:30 am (In



2. Administrative Restructuring

New tools are being created to facilitate administration within the committees. We are working on the next volunteer training for the year 2021 and the online <u>Semeur</u> magazine. New projects for the afcc.info website include a page to encourage membership in FCFC, a page in French to explain how to make donations, etc.

3. Start-up of a new FCFC District in Central Quebec.

In August 2020, we formed a team to help start a Chapter in Central Quebec 2021. After six months of prayer and meetings, we have six potential candidates to form the next Central Quebec committee. Please continue to pray for the realization of this project.

4. Use of Technology for Evangelism and Communication

Despite the shutdowns, AFCC Québec was able to meet the challenge of transitioning to the use of technological tools to continue the work.

<u>Communicating the Gospel and tracking contacts</u> – <u>les5couleurs.com</u>

A dozen FCFC volunteers are participating in online evangelism with "Power to Change. The leader of this ministry, Carole Amico, shared that through the testimony of our volunteers, people are coming to the Lord.

<u>Sharing – testimonial and edification blog – afcc.info</u>

Communicating AFCC news - Newsletter and Facebook facebook.com/afccquebec

Our newsletter for spring 2021 received a lot of interest; 787 people clicked to view it. In addition, our Facebook page has reached 481 subscribers. If you haven't already done so, we invite you to subscribe to our page @afccquebec.

5. Development of an FCFC Youth Wing

The average age of our committee members is 60. At our last Leadership Meeting, we prayed about developing a youth wing. Following that meeting, Mireille Harrison, regional committee secretary for Bas-St-Laurent, mentioned to us her interest in helping develop this youth wing.

New Mission Field:

Volunteer Program of Solidarity Aid on the Farm



This summer and fall, the AFCC QC is organizing teams of volunteers to provide solidarity assistance at the Christian market and gardening farm of the "Les Moissonneurs Solidaires" (Solidarity Harvesters) of Défi-Jeunesse, while sharing the Gospel in their farmers' market.

"Les Moissonneurs Solidaires" produces more than 500,000 kilos of vegetables for Quebec's food bank network, helping to reduce poverty.

Organized by Douglas Wedel (blue), Jessynia Théagène (green), Robert Doran (yellow)

Tour of local churches in Montérégie-Estrie

In July, the AFCC QC team began a tour of local churches to present the ministry and encourage Christians to share their faith in their surroundings.



Grace Chapel of the Christian Brethren Church



Église Évangélique de Farnham

Member Testimonies

Testimony by Paul Booker



My Dad was "full time" in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was mainly involved in "pioneer work," such as starting up local churches as a God-given opportunity. As a result, my first ten years of school life saw me in ten different schools from the Gaspe, to the Peterborough area, to Newfoundland. While in Newfoundland, listening to my dad speak at a children's meeting, I realized I was a sinner and that I needed to place my trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross for my salvation.

Romans 6:23 states, "The wages (or result) of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." I accepted that gift!

In sixth grade, we settled into Ottawa for my last four different schools. During this time, Dad helped spearhead the start of Galilee Bible Camp near Renfrew. On occasions when I wasn't off to a farm, I had the opportunity of serving the Lord by helping at Camp. I often used ventriloquism to explain the gospel and other messages.

Later in my career, I designed the injection mould for some maple syrup equipment. I had the privilege to sell it for a few years and helped some of my customers install the equipment in their bush. The Lord has been very gracious in using me to present His Word. I now get invited to various places to speak. My involvement with FCFC has led to serve on the national Board.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Psalm 23:6

Testimony by Roy Neilson

It is a privilege to give my Testimony again to FCFC. My parents came to Nova Scotia from Denmark in 1930, and I was born in 1936. They had a mixed farm operation in Old Barns, near

Truro. Their church affiliation was Lutheran. Following high school, I rented and operated a neighbour's farm while the owner was an employee in the construction of the Gander Airport, NF. Later I did sales work, then took employment with the Royal Bank. As the Lord would have it, that meant driving past a sign "Farm for Sale" in Fort Ellis. The Lord enabled me in 1957 to purchase the farm through the Farm Loan Board. Leona and I were married in that same year. (Proverbs 18:22)

Now sixty-three years later, our infant daughter of 3 months is with our Lord, and we have three sons married, seven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. Praises to God!



(Cont. page 12)

Member Testimonies

Now, He has granted us retirement as our middle son has taken over the farm. In those farming years, the Lord enabled me to serve in farm organizations at the local, provincial, national levels and in community organizations.

I have always been a regular church attendee in the community and have served as a Sunday school teacher, boy's club leader, elder and board chairman. It was not until we started to attend a gospel-preaching church in 1980 that I became aware that the salvation of my soul was necessary. I then confessed faith in Jesus Christ. However, on April 1, 1988, while I was reading the word of God, the Holy Spirit showed me the depths of my sin-soaked soul; That the loving Lord Jesus Christ was crucified for my sin, was buried, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven to be my Saviour. Since that night, I haven't doubted my salvation. My faith is not based on my decision but on God's word. Now I am a debtor to Him. My words to Leona that night were, "I must go tonight to tell my friend Ivan." Thanks to the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, I want to continue to go and tell others.

In 2009, at the Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show, Moncton, NB, I met Wayne and Edith Clark at the FCFC booth. I signed their sheet as one wishing to be involved in starting an FCFC Nova Scotia Chapter. God puts us in the right place at the right time. Upon returning home, I found out that a farmer friend in Upper Stewiacke, John Veenhuis, had signed up as well.

As I testified in The Sower, Oct. 2010, "I appreciate that FCFC is a one-on-one approach to the salvation of souls. It is founded on God's Holy Word and proves that little is much when God is in it." FCFC fosters untold joy as we obey the Great Commission, and as we hear the response of those who willingly come to the booth, "I never heard it shared this way before. It is important". I also have been thankful for the many friends made through FCFC over the years. I am especially indebted to the friendship of Wayne and Edith Clark.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes unto the Father but by me." John 14: 6

Become a "Friend of the Fellowship"

Membership Fees

\$75.00 per person \$90.00 per couple

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The mission continues...

Richard & Melissa Quesnel, FCFC Administrators



In 2020, FCFC had completed events in British Columbia, Alberta and South-Central Ontario despite the COVID-19 shut-down. FCFC Quebec (AFCC) was able to meet the challenge of transitioning to the use of technological tools to continue the work. We also had the blessing of the opening of a new FCFC

chapter in Kelowna. We are all adapting in these complex times, but God always provides ways to spread the message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

In January 2021, one of our Western FCFC Chapters participated in a Virtual Trade Show. Exhibitors continued to connect with customers online. This allowed them to display the five coloured message digitally. More importantly, the Gospel was presented.

As you have read in this Sower, fall edition, we're excited for the new opportunities to serve and share the Gospel. We are grateful for the continued commitment of our team of Staff, Board members, Field Representatives, Chapter volunteers and our new Executive Director, Ed Plett. We are committed to sharing the Gospel and are developing the FCFC ministry in a tangible and fruit-bearing way in 2021.

On behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, thank you for your financial support. God provides for our financial needs through faithful donors like you. Thank you for contributing to our mission of Training and Equipping for His Service and Evangelizing from Sea to Sea.

Your generosity helps change lives! We greatly appreciate your continuous support and prayers! **The mission continues together!**

"... I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

John 4:35

THE SOWER magazine <u>is free</u> and is available <u>by email</u>. Simply sign up on our website or download a copy directly from www.fcfcanada.org.

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

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?
	I am paying by: VISA () MasterCard () AMEX () One time donation of \$ Monthly donation of \$ to be withdrawn on the 15 th 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)
Na	me
Ad	dressPostal CodeCanadian Centre for Christian Charities
Em	ail:Tel:

* 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.

Fellowship of Christian Farmers Canada P.O. Box 607 Alexandria, ON KOC 1A0

Good News! What is the Message?

The message is real. The message is simple. The message is from God, and the message is needed in this world. It is not a way but THE way.

- The reality is that we are all "terminal" and Jesus said when He left this world that He was going to prepare a place for His followers and would come back for them. (John 14:1-3) The Bible calls this place heaven and it is the sinless, wonderful place where the streets are described as paved with gold. Rev 21:21
- You need to look at yourself. You are not the only one who feels empty and messed up. In the Bible, in the book of Romans, chapter 3, verses 10 and 23, we read: "There is no one righteous, not even one" and "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God".

 Romans 6:23 says: "The wages of sin is death".
- Admit to God that you are a sinner, and then look at the remainder of Romans 6:23: "...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Christ died in agony on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin. In other words, the blood of Jesus can wash away your sin.

Have you repented (turned to God)? Only God is able to make a lasting change in your life. Ask Him to forgive you, but this means that you will turn away from your sin as well. Many people want to receive God's gift of salvation but they want to keep doing it their way. No prayer is a good luck charm. It is a case of surrendering to God and then asking Him to do what you are incapable of doing. If you are not sincere about turning to God, don't bother praying for salvation.

Believing is not just putting something in your head. It is with your innermost being (your heart) that you realize that you are a sinner and Jesus died for you. And your mouth is also part of the deal. Romans 10:9 says to "... confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord" because God knows that this is a practical way to put all this into focus.

You can pray something like this:

Dear God, I admit to you that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sin on the cross, and was raised from the dead for my salvation. Lord Jesus, I pray that you will forgive me and wash me clean.

I want to receive you now as my Saviour and Lord. Amen.

- If you sincerely believe that Jesus died in your place, then you are a new person in Jesus Christ! Your sins no longer have colour but are washed white as snow.
- This is not the end but the beginning. From now on, decisions should be based on His word and will. Pray, read, and study the Bible. Fellowship with others in a group where Christ is at the centre, and tell others the Good News. This is called growing to know God and is represented by the green bead on the bracelet.