

# Banners Unfurled

March 1996

Who would have believed when I was saved out of the hippie life style at the age of twenty two and immediately began to give my testimony publicly on the street that I would still be doing it *twenty seven years* later! Yet, here I am in my home town of Memphis, able to speak weekly with people from literally all over the world.

On week-end nights they block off a 5 block area downtown known as **Beale Street** and on an off night there are several hundred to deal with. But on a busy night which is most of the time, there are several thousand. Several times a year for special events there are as many as 50,000 people. I can't believe the open door the Lord has given me. By 9:30 p.m., they are getting bored and are willing to talk. I know some of you don't have this ideal situation. We now have a direct flight from Amsterdam so there are always people from other countries to speak with as well as my local crowd.

I carry a **banner** of the **White Throne Judgment** painted with vinyl dye on a double wide window shade and hold it up on a tall pole. All I have to do is ask people to explain it to them. MANY times they come up to me and ask me what it is all about and I have the opportunity to explain it to them. As I am talking to one or two people, often 8-10 others will gather around. In between crowds or when the bands stop playing, I preach a short message. Generally the weather holds up so I miss very few times all year. In addition the Lord enables me to go to the University of Memphis several times each semester during the early morning arrival of students. I give them the **Bible Believers' Bulletin**.

My purpose in putting this letter out is two-fold. The first is simply to ask you to pray for me. For years I have attempted to pray for some of you faithfully and now I ask you to specifically **pray for THIS MINISTRY**. It breaks my heart to see the throngs of people and talk to so many of them in depth week after week without seeing more of them saved. Believe me I know this is a seed planting ministry as most of them have no faith in the Bible at all. And that is what I try to do- plant a little faith in them that the next person can water. I know that some will surely get saved later but I do not hear about it so all I can do is pray that they will. Thankfully, the Lord frequently provides a man or two to go with me. Second, this is an invitation for you



to come and HELP. Almost any week-end will do, just call me. They need the preaching and you need the practice!

Just in the month of February, which was a bad month due to the extremely cold weather, I was able to deal with a young man from New York who was here for a marathon, several military men, an Irish Roman Catholic, two Germans, an Israeli, and multiple Americans from here and around the country.

Much thanks to those of you who supply me with Bibles, tracts, and help out by lettering and painting my banners for me. My father especially is a blessing as he sends me money monthly for whatever is needed and faithfully prays for me.

Freida and I headed for a church meeting a couple of hours away the other night and the Lord led us to be late for the church meal, so we had to stop at McDonalds. There I gave out a tract to a young unmarried couple who was on their way to New Orleans to 'party'. He was from Greece and she from England. The young man said he would like to talk to me further, so we ended up eating together and although he was a boisterous argumentative Greek, we attempted to press home that Jesus said a person must be born again. **Suddenly, the girl turned intently to me and said "Is that what happened to you? When was it, tell me about it?"**

It was so intense that you just knew God was in it. The man suddenly decided the conversation was over and quickly terminated our time together. We proceeded on to our church meeting and listened to a preacher get up and rant and rave on how the worst sin of all is to 'lay out of church'. When we left we discussed how refreshing our time with that young couple had been in contrast to the church service. **Dealing with real people in the real world changes your perspective** and should affect your preaching. I have to question whether many of the preachers are doing any public evangelism.

THERE IS MUCH OPPORTUNITY HERE. PLEASE PRAY FOR ME AND THOSE I TALK TO AS I KEEP YOU INFORMED FROM TIME TO TIME.

*In the name of our God, we will set up our banners. Psalm 20: 5.*

# ***Battlefield Bulletins***

## **REPEATERS IN MY CONGREGATION**

Recently a fairly young retired attorney from Washington DC named Oden came by. I talked to him in depth a year ago and then he called me up the same night at 2 a.m. to talk further. He built a house on the river here close to Cybil Shepherd's house (the movie star). He now stops for brief conversation when he sees me.

Several engineers from Ireland come regularly to see me since I preached to them last year. Recently they showed up for me to preach to their girlfriends "because they are really wicked". But in the process of joking around with me I always get to get a little more truth to them. They joked about having to defend themselves from the queers in New Orleans on a recent trip and I told them I had homo-nausea. They said I was their kind of man. I believe the Lord keeps drawing them back.

A University of Memphis football player named Davis that I dealt with last year (about 6'6") recently came back to see me and said he was thankful we were there. He said he knew he was drinking too much and seemed to be bothered by his life. He professes to be saved. I encouraged him once again to live for Jesus.

## **GOD'S SENSE OF HUMOR**

A young man with a long pony tail said he was saved and in boxing training. His father graduated from a local Bible college here. He professed to be saved but acknowledged that he was not living for Jesus. But he appreciated me and informed me that he was going to defend me from any of the hecklers who had been mocking. He faded away and I forgot about him. The next thing I knew I saw these huge lips about two inches from my lips, as I was preaching. The guy was so close I could not focus, all I could see were these lips seeking mine. I quickly maneuvered the banner pole between us as the owner of the lips hung on to it. As I let it go it hit the ground and he stepped on it. Just as I was breathing a sigh of relief over avoiding that kiss, out of the crowd stepped the boxer and took off in hot pursuit of the kisser. The last thing I saw was them rounding the corner a block down. Several minutes later the boxer returned alone and never particularly caring for sodomites I was careful not to inquire as to how it ended. In the meantime there were several men around me exclaiming that while they did not like what I was saying, he had no right to do that and they were really mad!

## **UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES**

When I arrived on Beale Street I knelt to pray and ask God for His protection and Spirit. Two young men took my picture twice from across the street and then came over and allowed me to preach the White Throne Judgment to them. Then I told them some of the history of Nathan Bedford Forrest and other local

facts.. Shawn and Kenny were filming a documentary on the South for a Nashville TV station. I'm sure they thought I was a true southern phenomenon.

## **SOME FRUIT**

I approached two military men sitting on a wall and asked if they understood the banner. After discussing it at some length, one (Andy) said he believed the general principles of the church. I explained salvation as a drowning man who needs a saviour and I showed that Jesus commits himself to you when you stop all self efforts just a lifesaver does. I had him read and interpret I John 5:13. Several people tried to interrupt but finally left and I took Andy through the "Tell It Like It Is" picture by picture. He said he wanted to be saved, so we went to the edge of the sidewalk and on our knees he called on the Lord and then eagerly told the others with me that he was now saved.

## **GOD'S PROVISION**

Recently when I was alone a young man named Stan showed up about 10 p.m. giving out tracts and witnessing on his own. He said he had gotten saved when he was facing a prison sentence of 8 years, but they let him out. I probed his salvation and he followed along as I preached several times to the crowds. He had come here from Denver on a 10 speed bike with a sign on his back about Jesus. I related to him how I had set out on a 10 speed bike through Mississippi to be an itinerant evangelist when I was newly saved. My trip only lasted a week after sleeping in a field one night, etc. He watched me explain the banner to three couples and then as I was talking to some others I noticed that he was explaining it in the same way to other groups! Freida was excited when I told her about Stan because she said she had been on her knees asking God to send someone to preach with me. Before leaving he and I had prayer and he said he would see me next Saturday night.

## **CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS**

MARCH 9 - MARCH MADNESS  
NCAA BASKETBALL

APRIL 13 - BEALE STREET SPRING FEST

MAY 3-5 - MEMPHIS IN MAY  
MUSIC FEST

MAY 16-18- MEMPHIS IN MAY  
BAR-B-Q FEST

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