

Banners Unfurled

September 1996 Vol. 1 No. 4

It has been a great summer on BEALE STREET! I only wish more of you could come and take part. During the summer months, we have been able to witness (sometimes for extended periods of time) to people from Australia, Russia, Persia, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Scotland, Germany, Israel, France and Canada, Poland as well as a group of Muslims at the local mosque along with Bro. Marty Hester. And then of course there are the Americans. When we list these countries, you are not able to visualize the individual faces and conversations that come to our minds as we *picture each soul that we pleaded with*, but as we reconstruct the summer, the joy of having this opportunity but also the sadness of so many lost souls settles in.

BEALE STREET is the *only* street in Tennessee where it's lawful to have an open container of beverage alcohol. It's a historic district, so we have a place to preach that has the streets blocked off to traffic every week-end. The people are basically not in a hurry to go anywhere but are leisurely ambling along or eating in the courtyards and get bored after awhile. And that is when

D. L. MOODY - STREET PREACHER

Direct evangelistic preaching was a prominent feature of D.L. Moody's ministry. The most aggressive phase of it was no doubt the "open-air" talks. During the summer months Mr. Moody could be seen EVERY NIGHT, if the weather permitted, in what was known as the Court House Square. The steps of the building became his pulpit, a half-dozen young men and women his choir, the passing throng, or as many as could be arrested by the exercises, his audience. A position was usually taken where the prisoners in the long corridors could hear what was going on, and these, crowding to the grated windows, became an important part of the congregation.

To one of less determination such efforts at evangelizing would have been discouraging. Opposition in one form or another was frequent. A certain "free-thinker" appeared regularly for months, often interrupting- always trying to hold the crowd after Mr. Moody had closed. Occasionally some half-intoxicated stroller would try to put an end to the open-air service. One evening a large earthen jar was thrown from an upper window of the court-house and, falling within a couple of feet of the speaker, was broken into fragments.

Experiences gathered in such work-the necessity for ready action in emergencies; the strength acquired in stemming opposition; the growth of character in standing unflinchingly for conviction and duty- all these made for larger equipment in wider spheres of action. It was but a repeated demonstration of the Master's principle of reward. **"Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."** Quoted from THE LIFE OF D.L.MOODY By William R. Moody

Disraeli said "The secret of success is constancy to purpose." That was the secret to Moody's entire life and what he demonstrated to us. They say he reached 100 million people in his lifetime, and he himself claimed that "This one thing I do" was the key to his life of service. He did not search the Bible to add to his knowledge, but to save men from sin.



they talk to us. God has been good through the summer letting us have good weather every weekend and having many folks come to preach with me. **In addition to Saturday night, during the summer Freida has begun to go with me on Friday nights for our "date".** We were chuckling to ourselves on arriving home one night when the Olympics had just started. Freida said to me "Boy that sure beat having to watch the Olympics, didn't it?" She really gets filled with the Spirit and gets the joy of the LORD on her countenance when she "button holes" the young men and treats them like one of her kids. She "shines" with an extra special glow after we've been on the street.

I've been working on a good response to the "revellers", (Gal 5:21) who defend their salvation by saying "I ask to be forgiven for my sins every night". I've noted that Pharaoh asked to be forgiven, (Ex. 10:17) and still went to hell and that forgiveness of sins comes with salvation, (Acts 26:18), but "asking for forgiveness every night" and thinking that's salvation falls a little short of the new birth. Linton Smith, missionary to China, suggested "a now I lay me down to sleep prayer" means nothing if there is no 'godly sorrow'. I also heard Evangelist Hugh Callens say that *asking to be forgiven is like pulling a bullet out of the brain of a dead man. SO WHAT?!* These ideas help, but that 'lame' plea came up Saturday night from a girl accompanied by many other college young people and it seemed like the argument would hold water until I asked her what would happen to her if she didn't ask to be forgiven for a sin and then she died. The general consensus was that she would go to Hell, however nobody would actually say that, but she realized she was off base. The whole concept is doing something, however minor, to get to Heaven. At least a Roman Catholic has to say a few "our fathers" or penance to get forgiveness, but it is all the same business- do something to get to heaven rather than trust the **FINISHED WORK of the Infinite Savior**. Some of the young people thought you would slip in on some special dispensation where God would look at your intent as being noble and he would just forget it, but I pushed her into a corner and she seemed to finally understand that just asking to be forgiven was not what it takes to be BORN AGAIN. She then began asking questions on what it took to be born again. *Her whole attitude as well as that of many others was changed after this exchange* so I think God has given me a way to handle this defense or false hope from now on. Her name was Mandy, a junior at Mississippi State in Starkville. I'm sending her the video on "Behold the Man". Pray for her.

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

Battlefield Bulletins

FREE SPEECH RIGHTS UPHELD

Last newsletter we related to you how we were prohibited from preaching on a public street during the Memphis in May Festival based on the fact that the MIM organization had “rented” the public city street and it was classified “private” during this month long festival. God sent along a lawyer not thirty minutes later, Bro. Nate Kellum, who donated his time and abilities to take this matter on. We were sincerely hoping that a lawsuit would not be necessary, but were beginning to wonder when we finally received a reply from the City Attorney’s office at the end of August stating that I did indeed have constitutional rights that had been violated and that they would be protected for the 1997 Memphis in May activities. I would rather the Lord come, BUT thank the Lord and Mr. Kellum for this victory.

SOME WILL AND SOME WON’T

As I was dealing with someone, Freida noticed two teenage girls off at a distance looking at the banner. When she approached the girls and asked if they understood the banner, 16 year old Kim said *“No, but I know I don’t want to go to Hell.”* She further related that she wasn’t sure about being saved because she was “so bad”. Knowing for sure that she had a live one, Freida whipped out her trusty New Testament and sitting with the two girls under the street light, Freida showed Kim the way to KNOW that she would not go to Hell and Kim bowed her head and called on Jesus. She indicated that she was interested in getting into a discipleship Bible study with Freida, so we’ll be following up on that. Just as they were about to leave, Freida asked her friend about herself and she (Terri) clutched her stomach and said “I have been so worried about it lately. It has been on my mind a lot.” But after some encouragement not to wait any longer, she decided that she would wait a little longer anyway. It just makes you sick.

MULTIPLYING

Bro. Dave Cross from East Tennessee called me the week of July 20, and said he had to come to town for a business meeting and wanted to learn more about street preaching. I wasn’t sure what kind of crowd would be out on Thursday night and it was sparse to me but to folks from small towns it seems like a mob. Bro. Cross was beside himself. He went home and made a couple of banners better than mine, then he and several other men from the church he attends (Trinity Baptist, Helenwood, TN) went into Knoxville, Tennessee, found a July 4th Festival and had themselves a ball. Several souls were saved that day, they went back and ordered enough material to make them several more banners and they sound like they are ignited! That’s what I like to see- ***THE CITIES NEED OUR PRESENCE, STREET PREACHERS!*** Evangelism today is by and large being done on the streets. The unsaved masses aren’t coming to your church but you can and *should* go to them. Their next step was to go to the Olympics where they said they were the most visible witness there and I heard they are going somewhere every week-end to preach.

YOUNG ZEALOTS

Bro. Glen Stocker’s youth group from Texas came through on their way to camp and spent their night at my house. TWENTY TWO OF THEM! We had to step over bodies. Believe me, after putting them up, I assure you I have room for you if you want to come street preach with me sometime. The youth leader, Bro Gary Pastwa and also Bro. Randy LaBue, along with several of the boys went to BEALE for a couple of hours. Those kids handed out every tract I had in thirty minutes, I never saw such enthusiasm. They came home telling the women and girls that everybody had to go the next Friday when they came back through town. They were so late getting here the next week that we had scratched that idea from our minds but NO, THAT WAS ALL THEY WERE WAITING FOR. Frankly, we thought they were crazy after driving 10 hours, but at 11 p.m. off the entire crew headed, with a few exceptions. I don’t think BEALE knew what hit them. The young people sang for them and believe me there was a difference in their music. A man got mad at me for “brain-washing” the young people and letting them sing down there. I don’t know how many asked the Lord to save them that night, but I think there were several. What a great bunch of future street preachers and wives, if the Lord doesn’t come! It thrills me to see young people excited for God.

VETERAN STREET PREACHERS

Bro. Gerald Sutek and Bro. Doug Coats from Tulsa, Oklahoma along with their families joined Freida and I on the streets of Memphis for an absolutely wonderful Labor Day week-end. The women along with Mary Bethany Sutek (in her stroller), and Sarah Coats (12 years old) went along Friday and Saturday nights and handed out tracts and witnessed for a couple of hours each night. We marched up and down the streets with signs, joined in a sing-a-long with Bro. Sutek and his accordion and generally had a great time. I can envision hundreds of street preachers on BEALE. But the best time was had by me as I knelt in the grass with a man and his girlfriend for 20 minutes, opened

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS WEEKENDS WITH BIG CROWDS

OCTOBER 5 - UNIV. OF MEMPHIS VS. CINCIN.
FOOTBALL CROWD

OCTOBER 13 - OCTOBERFEST

NOVEMBER 9 - UT VS. UNIV. OF MEMPHIS

NOVEMBER 23 - U OF MEMPHIS VS EAST CAROLINA

MAY - MEMPHIS IN MAY ALL MONTH

You can contact me at 901 386-2035
Ken Lansing, Memphis, Tennessee

to him the scriptures and then heard Raymond bow his head and receive Jesus Christ as his Savior. ***THERE IS NOTHING ELSE THAT WILL COMPARE.*** Brothers don't waste your time on TV. and sports. They will take away your love for the real thing! ***"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*** I John 2:15 ***"Redeeming the time, for the days are evil."*** Eph. 5:16

SERIOUS SIPPING SAINTS

There are so many Christians on BEALE STREET that one night Freida commented that you meet more Christians on BEALE than in church these days. One night I dealt with a truly ideal Southern couple. He was the typical good looking athlete type and she the Southern Belle. His name was Cotton, and they were from Arkansas, a young Methodist couple who seemed to be truly saved. They helped me deal with another young man about salvation, as Cotton held half a glass of beer. But as I talked to them further about service, the conviction really grew on them and they got very serious. I explained to them that what they allow in moderation, their children will practice in excess. They ***really seemed to be gripped by the need to live separated lives,*** which they had NEVER SEEN BEFORE, and he stated as they left that he thought he would go pour his beer out.

A 32 year old man from Conway, Arkansas, was saved but never taught anything. He approached me and was ashamed that he was there. He came over with friends but when they went into the Rum Boogie Cafe, he refused to go in. He had on a Christian T-shirt that said "Die Daily". He was very receptive on MANY issues and as I opened my Bible and answered question after question he just kept saying "Man, I never saw that before." ***Finally, he asked for a pen and started making notes, saying he was going to study all these things more when he got home.*** I mailed him a sermon video.

SNATCHED AWAY

Bro. Mark White, a Bible school student, who loves the street ministry and is responsible for bring other students here to preach was up from Florida one weekend and dealt at length with a Greek Orthodox girl who was really under conviction and just about to get saved when her "Christian" friend arrived and took her away. ***Mark made a great video tape one night, it really captures the spirit of BEALE. If you would like to borrow a copy of the tape, just let me know.***

IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS

We had been praying for some money to meet a particular need of the street ministry, namely \$120.00. Also I needed a new tract bag, and it is hard to find just the right one. As we got out of our car one Friday night and were making our way to our post, suddenly I spied something on the ground. I said "Look, is that real?" whereupon Freida quickly leaned down and picked up what appeared to be a \$20 bill. Except that it was a WAD of twenties. Quickly we surveyed the situation, we were not in a store, there were hundreds maybe even a thousand or two people

on the next street, but no one close to us or appearing as if they were searching for lost money. We may be stupid but not stupid enough to make an announcement and ask if anyone lost any money. ***Knowing that God had for sure saved some poor soul from being able to waste his money drinking that night, Freida tucked it into her skirt pocket.***

We always make sure not to carry any money except for a little change so we can answer truthfully that we have none if a beggar approaches. We were sure hoping no one asked us that night. Later as we got into the car and counted our haul we found that we had \$160.00. Enough for everything we needed- for that day anyway. You know how that goes!!

THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSORS IS HARD!

I talked with a girl from Germantown Baptist Church here in Memphis who told me she used to believe all this stuff, but now rejected Jesus and the Christian way. She then went on to tell me that ***she had already been pregnant and had to give her baby away.*** I thought once again how hard the way of a transgressor is. I know it has been hard for my wife to watch our youngest son Jeremy go away to Bible school this month and it seems that there could be nothing harder for a mother to do than to give her baby away. Freida related a passage to me from a book she read about two young women who worked in a hospital for war victims. One said as she thought about a young patient "I can't get his suffering but smiling face out of my mind! I feel as if a little of his pain stayed with me when we left and I can't get rid of it." ***The lost think Jesus brings bondage and yet a life yielded to Satan or their own flesh causes them to give their babies away*** or walk along as one young girl did led by a leash around the neck by her punk rock boyfriend! Their faces and their pain stay with you!

SILKY O'SULLIVANS IRISH BAR

I've been talking to Silky now for years, in fact he says he is my staunchest supporter among the bar and shop owners. Recently he has come out into the street to talk to me a couple of times. Boy, I wish he would get saved. He's a "good" Irish Roman Catholic so I put on him both barrels of Catholic evangelism. Silky says he's one of my best supporters at the merchant association meetings, ***"You're good for BEALE street."*** he says. During the summer, two of his employees came out to talk to me. They approached me as if they already knew me, so I wonder if he has been talking about me and if God is pricking old Silky. Pray for him.

A TRANSLATOR

Augustine is a new Mexican man in our church. Bro. Martin brought him down to BEALE and he has been coming ever since. ***He is a great help to translate to the Mexicans who come by.*** I think Augustine is getting a real blessing out of being able to talk to them and I know I get a blessing out of being able to talk to someone that I normally would have to let pass by. The other night it was elbow to elbow because of a big college football game that day and he held my banner for me. Several times people quizzed him about how much I was paying him to hold the banner. He said they refused to believe him when he insisted that I was not paying him but ***he did it because he loved Jesus!***

UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES

Bro. Charles Griffith approached Freida one night after watching me preach and her deal with someone for awhile. He is the head of the Baptist Student Union at a couple of local universities. He had come into contact with a young woman at one of the hospitals who had gotten saved in jail last year but desperately needed teaching. After getting her name, Freida made contact and found out her story. Mary was a dancer in one of the local clubs and has lived a terrible life.. After praying about it, rather than plunge right in, Freida decided to have her do a couple of correspondence Bible studies (Source of Light) just to check her sincerity. She has mailed the 4th one back and now has the 5th lesson.. So we are now trying to get her into church and a personal discipleship Bible study. Mary knew nothing of Moses, Daniel or the other characters of the Bible that we take for granted and is learning from scratch through the New Life in Christ Bible study series.

Dr. Robert Imhoff, the new president of **Bethel College** (Cumberland Presbyterian) approached me one Friday night. He was very interested and excited to see us there. He is the new president of Bethel and says he is trying to restore its spiritual moorings. He told us that when he prayed in faculty meeting recently one of the professors had tears running down his cheeks because it had been 22 years since a president had prayed to start out the faculty meeting. Dr. Imhoff came to Memphis (the college is 130 miles away) to see what was here and what the students might be getting into on week-ends. We had a good talk and he gave me his card and told me to call him sometime. I'd sure like to get in there to preach for chapel.

DISARM THEM

One night a couple (Christians, naturally) approached me and said they had watched me several times, saw how I smiled at people and took their abuse and told me that they thought my conduct had to really disarm people. This is my intention. ***I am not personally angry*** with these people, my message is good news to them if they will receive it and I want to always be approachable so I do try to smile some even when I'm preaching hell fire and brimstone. But it is hard sometimes.

**KEN LANSING
3060 WOODHILLS DR.
MEMPHIS, TN 38128**