

# Banners Unfurled

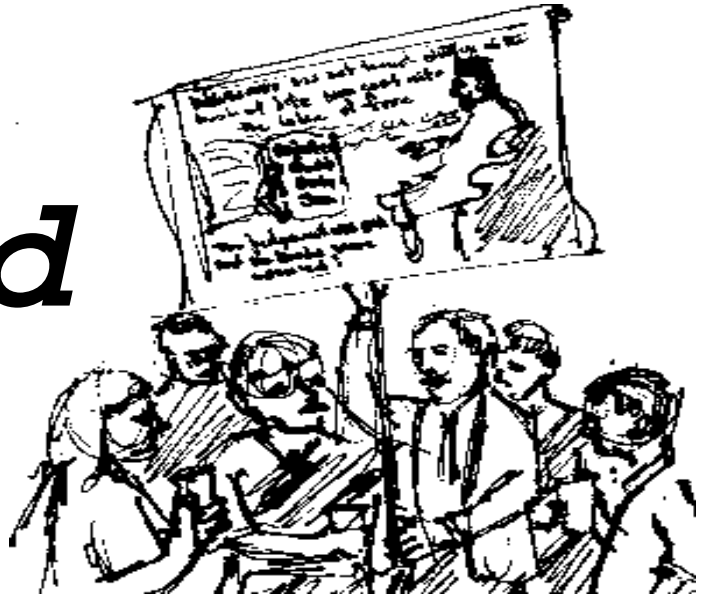
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Winter has now set in, but thank the Lord we live in the South and He almost always makes the weather bearable so we can continue to do street work. The sinners bundle up and go on out to BEALE STREET so we try to also. Fall has been good to us and we have had the opportunity to do more types of evangelism besides our normal street ministry. Sometimes people think street preachers are nuts and only do it because there is nothing else that they can do. But if you will look around you'll see hundreds of ways to reach out to people and it has been my experience that street preachers, instead of limiting their work to the street, tend to be the very ones who are reaching out in all sorts of other ways. It is true though that **I love street work because you don't have to beat around the bush.** They know what you are there for, so you have many more opportunities to present the gospel. You know, God has people scattered here and there winning souls even though we may not agree doctrinally on every point. If you have a good street preaching story you'd like to send along, I'd like to have it.

## THE GOSPEL WAGON

Harry Monroe was a drunk who had just been released by a federal judge in Detroit from a counterfeiting charge. Twenty seven year old Harry wandered into the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago in 1880 and was gloriously saved. The next day, Sunday, he gave his first testimony in the mission and within a few weeks was in charge of the Gospel songs that competed with the tinny music coming from the barrooms nearby. With the passing of the superintendent, Colonel Clark, in 1892, round-faced Harry Monroe, stepped into the driver's seat at the mission. The procession of transformed men and women continued as the excounterfeiter pressed home the claims of Christ. It was not unusual that some of the details of Harry's story spread through the twilight world of the levee, sending hoboos and other riffraff shuffling into the mission one by one to get a look at the new leader of the rescue mission. When they didn't come to the mission, **he took the Gospel to them**, having introduced the idea of the Gospel Wagon. From the horse-drawn wagon, workers preached, gave testimonies, and sang the Gospel to people **on the street. These outdoor services were the forerunners of the famous street meetings of later years.** From the standpoint of homiletics, Harry Monroe would have flunked at the outset in a contest to name Chicago's most polished preacher, for he was simply not a great preacher. Yet he was a master at soul-winning and it was Monroe who taught the great evangelist Billy Sunday his first lessons in giving the invitation and in talking man-to-man with a sinner regarding the steps of salvation.

Quoted from the PGM News



I think of the *Jews for Jesus*. In one of their recent letters they had the following defense for public evangelism.

"I never have liked standing on street corners and I never have like handing out pamphlets, but as long as my legs will hold me up, I'll keep doing it. You see, I haven't found any kind of evangelism that I like doing. **THAT'S RIGHT!** When you tell people the gospel truth, no matter how tactfully, no matter how lovingly, no matter in what form they resist it. Sometimes people spit at us. Sometimes they shout at us, shove us or slap us. We've been called everything but "servant of God" when we've done the difficult work of handing out literature in public places. Why then do we do it? **Because it works!** Maybe we're just not clever enough to find something that works better. I know people tout television and radio as a means of reaching people. But it seems that only Christians tune in to most of the television and radio stations that will make time available for the gospel. You see, that's the real problem. Most evangelism is done in such a way that the Christians who do it feel comfortable and the Christians who hear or see it feel cheered. But comfortable evangelism is like a comfortable cross-rare if it exists."

We were able to go to the *Wings Bearing Precious Seed* Mission Conference at Standing Stone State Park in October. Thanks to Bro. Bob Adams for allowing me a few minutes to present the street ministry here in Memphis. While there I was able to meet some other preachers and already Bro. Galen Hall and family have been down to work the street with me once. Another brother, John Vessel is waiting for me to make him a banner to use in Minnesota and is planning to come down in May for the Memphis in May month long street bash. He doesn't need his banner anytime soon though since it is 10 degrees there in Minnesota. Street preachers need to move south!!

Saturday night, November 2, Bro. Galen Hall, and his wife Valerie from Union City, Tennessee ministered on BEALE STREET with us. It was a cold night, so we came in early after about two hours on the street. Sitting around with our hot tea and cookies, each recounting our individual stories of the evening, it hit me just how *much light was shed on a dark street* because we were there. I can still picture looking down the street and seeing Freida talking with a young man sitting on a concrete wall, Valerie dealing with a man on the street corner and Bro. Galen talking to a group of young men on the wall. In my mind, I can picture torches

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

going up and down the street, mingling with the darkness, creating a pocket of light here and there for a few minutes. Sometimes others were drawn to the light, sometimes it drove them across the street. I wonder what they are thinking about God after our brief encounters with a Bible we believe and literature and a banner. Do they think about God more than they did before we met them on the street? What seed did we plant that one day may spring forth into a new life? What does God think about these souls that heard the word of truth from four of us who love Him and them? When Jesus said **“I am the light”**, He knew what darkness really is. When He told Paul his mission would be to **“turn men from darkness to light”**, He knew what a job it would be because of the power darkness has over men. Oh, what a blessing it is to look back on a cold November night and think of the light that shined on at least a few men and women. Sure, some of them laughed at us, wagged their heads and said some profane, vulgar words but what is that in light of eternity? Others listened and had some questions answered. Most of these lost souls will never open the door of a Bible believing Baptist church or read the word of God. How will they hear unless we go? I believe the entire street was illumined that night and on into the future by the light of just a small band.

## TWO SPECIAL BLESSINGS

I know people think street preachers are mean and calloused but as I looked at the Bible lesson lying there on our breakfast table, fresh from the mailbox I was really moved. As Freida and I talked about it, we had to smile as we found we were both having the same thoughts. An 11 year old girl named Katie had just returned her first lesson to Freida in which she testified to having received Jesus as her Saviour as a result and even pinpointed the time to 6:26 p.m! This contact came because a sweet retired couple let us work in their booth at the fair with them. We met Bro. and Mrs. McDermott last year as we walked through the Mid South Fair. They are with Amazing Grace Mission and have given their lives to working at fairs year round telling anyone who will stop at their booth how they can know for sure they are going to Heaven. We both worked a few hours with them this year and as a result of a teen-age girl that I dealt with, there are now three others (Katie is one of them) working their way through the New Life in Christ Bible study course. Every couple of weeks they add somebody new. Freida has promised to go take them to lunch when they finish the first course, they live in Mississippi about an hour and a half away. One of the girls wrote a note in the last lesson saying she could hardly wait. When we think of the events that God works together in order to give people a chance, we are amazed. A retired couple who looked for something eternal that they could do with the rest of their days, these kids going to the fair just to have fun that day, us being there and Source of Light having a Bible study to use with these kids. It just is such a blessing to be a small part of God's plan and see these girls have a chance to know God. ***“For we are labourers together with God.”***

As I was filling my car with gas, an older man struggled at another pump with his oxygen tank. I yelled at him and offered to help, but he said it was O.K. I didn't have a tract in my hand, so got into my car and was driving away when God spoke to my heart clearly to speak to the man. So I drove back in, got out

and gave him a tract, said a few words to him and never really thought anymore of it. Then as Freida was working at the fair Wendy, a young woman who had been in her Sunday school class a few years ago, stopped to talk. She sadly related that her father had died the week before and she hadn't ever had much hope that he was saved. But a week or two before he died he began to talk differently, as if maybe he was saved after all. When cleaning his car out a few days later, she found a much used tract lying in the console. **It had my name on it.** When Freida told me that Wendy's father was on oxygen, it all came back to me. I had given him the tract a week or so before he died. I hope the end of the story will be that Wendy's father meets us all in Heaven.

***When we enter the beautiful city  
and the saved all around us appear  
We'll hear from several people  
It was you who invited me here.***

## IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS WITNESSING:

Wal-Mart parking lots- People will take literature at Christmas that they will turn down any other time of the year. Get a good Christmas tract and approach people saying something like this. “Merry Christmas. You know, people think a lot more about Jesus Christ at this time of year than any other. What about you? Have you ever received Him as your Saviour?”

Midnight Mass at the local Catholic church- Find a downtown church that opens right onto the public sidewalk. Get a good piece of literature with a title that doesn't look anti-Catholic. Freida and I used to use the Gospel Catholics put out by the Conversion Center in Pennsylvania, but haven't been able to get any more of them. If you find something really good, let us know about it. Wait until you see that the service has been dismissed, RUN from your car and station yourself right outside the doors on the sidewalk. Just give a big smile and say “Merry Christmas.” They will think it is a piece of Christmas literature that the church is giving out and will smile and take them just as pleased as can be. This will last a few minutes until someone looks at one of them, but in that length of time quite a few of them will have gone home with people.

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**New Years Eve on BEALE STREET**

**February in San Francisco**

**Blitz with Bro. Gerald Sutek**

**March 17th- St. Patrick's Day weekend**

**Memphis in May**

**May 2,3,4- Music Fest**

**May 15,16,17 - Bar-b-Que Cook off**

**You can contact me at 901 386-2035  
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# Battlefield Bulletins

## GOD USES BROKEN DREAMS

(as told by Freida)

I kept noticing the young attractive black woman that waited patiently in the middle of the street as Ken dealt with someone else. As I went up and down BEALE STREET giving out tracts, she still waited. Finally, her turn came and then Ken motioned for me to come. As Janice told her story, my heart was broken with her. She was expecting a baby, her boyfriend now wanted her to abort her child and would not marry her. She needed someone to encourage her not to kill her baby, as she desperately did not want to, but there was so much pressure on her. We sat on the curb and began to talk right in front of the police precinct. After a few minutes a policeman came out and told her that she needed to come back to work and seeing me with my Bible told me I could come and talk to her at the desk. We had no idea that she ran the front desk at the precinct, but there enclosed six feet above everyone else, she and I opened the Bible. It was easy but oh so sad to show her that *“the wages of sin is death”*, as I related to her that she was now experiencing some of this death- the death of her dreams of marriage and a family as the wages of her sin.. After twenty minutes or so of showing her the way of salvation, she was just about to bow her head and receive the Lord, when a crisis occurred that she had to take charge of for a long time and I had to leave her. As I left I whispered to her that she could receive the Lord anytime. For the next two weeks, I did not get to go to BEALE STREET, but on my first time back I headed straight to see her. There she told me that indeed she had asked Jesus to save her that next week. Now she didn't know what to do. I invited her to church, but she wanted to go to a black church. Janice is now off work for the birth of her baby, but I have talked to her on the phone and sent her the New Life in Christ Bible study.

## HE MAKES THE DEAF TO HEAR

After a few minutes of dealing with a group of older teen-agers, I noticed that one girl who turned out to be hearing impaired was especially attentive. She was not totally deaf, and could read lips very well and seemed to really be under conviction. I asked her to go to the side and pray with me but she held back so I went back to dealing with the others. After a few minutes, I saw tears in her eyes, and sensed that she really wanted to get saved. I assured her that she could talk to the Lord right where she stood. After a few more minutes of dealing with the others, I glanced back at her and she was all smiles. Upon questioning her she let me know that she had just asked the Lord to save her and truly she did appear to have the joy of the Lord on her. It's good to know that we are only co-workers with God and He can speak loud enough and interpret so that any hungry heart can hear.

## GOOD AS A FREE SEMINAR

We are to be rubbing shoulders with lost people regularly and attempting to engage them in dialogue that will make them think. Sometimes it is even humorous. One night on BEALE STREET,

as I was talking to a young man with a post graduate degree in Philosophy from Cambridge Massachusetts, his father kept trying to drag him away. Finally in exasperation, the young man said “Dad , you don't understand, this is like a FREE seminar!” He had never had any questions answered and hopefully I planted some seeds of faith in him while answering. He was shocked that I did not believe in evolution! If I remember correctly, I think I gave him my chart on evolution which I keep in my Bible. It has a few scientific facts in a nutshell that can be used to discuss it. I've given away more than one of those.

## AMATEUR NIGHT

All alone, one extremely crowded night on BEALE STREET, there were thousands of college age young people. At one point a large group crowded around me and I was engaging the entire crowd. One after another stepped up to try to trip me up with their questions. Standing around were a couple of guys observing it and at some point it apparently came to one of them that this was like a boxing match, in which I was challenging all takers. All at once I became aware of his talk as he would say to one after another, **“You're outa there, buddy, “ or “Whoa, you're not even qualified to get in the ring with this guy, he'll take care of you in one minute”or “You're an amateur, you don't even count.”** They were taunting the skeptics rather than me which was refreshing! I eased off into the crowd and moved on down the street. A few minutes later at the other end of the block I encountered them again, as they began to jeer at a man who approached me. At that point I began to talk TO THEM. They professed to be saved, but said they knew I was a professional and they couldn't even compete. These aren't my favorite times, but they balance things out and make you think and examine why and what you believe, and get prepared to give an answer. Dealing with sinners and seeing the hopelessness will stir your heart as nothing else will and I believe the devil knows it too, which is why it so hard to get people to do public evangelism.

## MY CURRENT MESSAGE

My thrust changes from time to time as I go along. Of course it stays centered on the White Throne Judgment because there is so much depth in it and that is the picture on my banner. (Which is why I carry that particular banner) I notice that my main approach now is that the man in the picture did not have the life required by God to get into Heaven, which is the life of God. He was born in the image of Adam, not God. Animals communicate with animals on their level, and man with man. But man cannot communicate with God without being born again. It is so sad that man does not have the life that God requires and has no concern about it. A car cannot drive without a driver, and man cannot make it to Heaven without the life that God requires. That life is Jesus. **HE MUST COME INTO YOU.** When Jesus said I am the Way, the Truth and the life, he meant the life that is required by God. A person may have religious activity, but without life he goes to the Judgment of the dead. *“I saw the dead. . . .” I John 5:12 “He that hath the son hath life”.*

From there I say that once a person gets life, he doesn't want to fool around with dead things anymore, and then I can deal with professing saved people from that angle.

### **MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW**

Make plans now to be at some of these events. New Years Eve there will be thousands of people (elbow to elbow) to preach and witness to. If your church does not have anything scheduled, and you are close enough to come, you'll sure get a blessing. We'll be having a song, testimony and prayer time for a couple of hours and then the women can visit while the men go out for 2-3 hours. I know that New Year's Eve will be cold probably, but so was last Saturday night (November 30). In spite of a low crowd and the horrible weather, I went on and stayed just a little while. Just as I was rolling up my banner, a young couple **APPROACHED ME** and asked me what it was all about. So I preached the sermon to them that I just described to you about needing the required life of God in order to go to Heaven. The girl then said that she was Jewish and wanted to know where that left her. Neither of them had coats on and were shivering. I told them that I loved Jews and that Jesus was a Jew. She said that the Messiah was supposed to set up a kingdom, at which point I was able to discuss Daniel 9 about the Messiah being cut off with her. She had no answer, but they were really shaking at this point. As they left I told them that God cared for them and I thanked God once again that in spite of the weather there is always someone on **BEALE STREET** to present the gospel to.

I know that many of you are really itching to street preach and do not have a good place to do it. Well, I have the place! So, make your plans and let me know when you want to come. I'll put you up and feed you. Once the weather warms up again, the crowds don't need any special event. Every week-end is busy on **BEALE STREET**. And in the summer we deal with tourists from all over the world. I realize that God must bless for me to be effective so I ask you to pray that God will anoint me and my words.

### **NOT ALL WINE IS ALCOHOLIC ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE**

I deal with the wine issue regularly on the street. A Roman Catholic neurosurgeon from Cincinnati told me that 'no wine' must be a central part of my religion! Obviously it is a part of his, or he would be willing to give it up. During the holidays you may have to answer this question. I use Isaiah 65:8, which says "**Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster. . .**" No cluster of grapes I ever tasted was alcoholic.

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