

Banners Unfurled

January, 1998

Praise the Lord that in the past three months, we have had 4 normal, seemingly sane people visit the church as a result of the street ministry. We're glad to have anyone, but when normal community type people start to visit that is something to shout about!! Since we believe the church is the real powerhouse of God, we do our best to get people there.

God has given me the opportunity to be in several churches to preach and/or to encourage them in street ministry as well as for my wife to speak in a couple of ladies meetings. I made up my mind after I graduated from college that I had spent enough of my life **SITTING** and **WATCHING** others do things on television so I got rid of mine. It was a conscious decision that for the rest of my life I was going to **DO SOMETHING MYSELF**. There is nothing duller than just being an observer. That's why I love street preaching so much, I guess. You are right in the middle of things.

In addition, several preachers have called us, made contact via e-mail or visited since the last newsletter that are already doing public ministry. We've been able to encourage them and hope they'll soon have banners up and going. You can't imagine the difference they make. Recently we were in Pensacola to visit our



son's family and Dr. Ruckman showed photos of some preachers in the Philippines that had made their own banners similar to the ones I use and apparently they are just as effective for them there. When I say they are effective I mean that the banners cause people **to approach me** to talk.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

New Years Eve had great crowds going by at 'whispering distance' so I would just make eye contact and say with all the pathos I could muster, "**Jesus wants to take you to heaven but you can't go unless you are born again.**" If the person got stuck in the crowd long enough I would say, "**You and I were born without the life God requires to get into heaven but He wants to give it to you.**" It is amazing the simplicity that is in the Gospel and still millions keep going on until they fall into eternity unprepared.

After preaching to these crowds and trying to wake them one by one I thank God that one Sunday afternoon on the dam of lake Windermere I looked up into heaven and really said something to God the best way I knew how asking Him to come into my heart. At that moment there was an experience that was silent and subtle but unexplainable. It was one of those lonely afternoons with nothing to do the weekend and parties all over. Just walking through the pasture talking to the horses and on up to the dam thinking a little about what a girl friend, Anita had said about asking Jesus into my heart.

I had been reading the Phillips translation of the Gospels and ignoring the philosophical arguments that 16 hours of college philosophy had implanted in my mind. The stories of Jesus healing the lame and raising the dead over-shadowed even the hours spent at the branch library reading Life Magazine about Leakey's great discoveries of our Ape like ancestors. I had read the Four Spiritual Laws over several times but nothing was quite as compelling as a direct statement by my friend that I had to do something with God (ask Jesus into my heart) that was imperative.



Does my congregation make you jealous? Bro. Galen Hall and I had a great time. We met Bro. Jeff Lewis there. The police estimated the crowd at 60,000.

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

Looking back I know that that simple communication with God changed my life. In line at the Medical exam for induction into the Navy (Vietnam-'69) I almost forgot about a surgery on my arm. The last minute recollection resulted in a 1Y and then a year or two of dissipated living finishing my last year of college and going to work with a 'Big Eight' accounting firm in Manhattan. I packed Phillips in the suit case and didn't unpack him for a year. On a two-month trip through Europe (mid April through mid June) I slid on my face after turning over my BSA Lightning in Logos, Portugal and laid up in a block house on the beach until I got over the 'vino'. I made it back. I was told at the embassy in Lisbon that they buried another motorcycle rider from the US just the prior week.

Back in Manhattan at a party a 'Samantha' witch asked me to tell her about myself. That inquiry appeared to be like a confession to a priest and exposure I didn't want (in my marijuana-clouded mind) so, I looked up to Heaven from the floor of a Hudson river apartment and asked Jesus what to do. In an unexplainable light He told me, **"Tell her about Me."** To which I replied, **"I can't do that"**, and He was gone and the Light was out. When she came back in a little while and asked the same question I told her, **"I believe in Jesus"**. She went back to the other partiers and announced that I was on a bad trip and to leave me alone. The power was broken then but a few minutes later she came back and asked, **"Is Jesus was with you now?"** I replied, **"I DON'T KNOW."** I left walking through those skyscraped streets thinking I am so lost- I'm as lost as a man can be.!

I don't know who those people were and never saw them again. I headed back home to Memphis and was taken to a Baptist Church for the first time in my life by Rob Saunders, the son of one of my mother's college friends. Rob was speaking occasionally to groups about the dangers of drugs so mother had gotten us together in an effort to keep me from destruction. Rob and his wife took me to Southside Baptist Church of Millington, pe. What a contrast to the hedonistic bunch of rebels and war protestors I had been with in Manhattan and Europe.

Paul said, **"Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."** and on November 3, 1970 after three months of seeking the Lord I got assurance from 1 John 5:9-13 that I had eternal life. It is wonderful to know that God has accepted the blood of Jesus as a full and complete sacrifice for my sins. What a blessing to know that Jesus is with me all the time for he said, **"If we believe not yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."** (2 Tim. 2:13) It's such a privilege to tell the thousands that go by that Jesus wants to take them to heaven. What seemed to be an impossible task on the floor of that Hudson River apartment has been such a LIBERATING PRIVILEGE for 27 years. When the writer of Chronicles said, **"Why transgress the commandments of the Lord, that ye cannot prosper?"** (2Chron. 24:20) he had in mind what a blessing it was to follow Jesus in the light and what a tragedy it was to follow sin in the darkness.

Non-Prophet Ministries

Many churches and Christian ministries today have become 'non-prophet organizations.' They are so eager to preach from a platform of respectability that they become unwilling to risk offending anyone with the truth. Our churches stop being a haven of safety and become a house of slavery when people are unwilling to shine the gospel light outside the four walls of their sanctuary.

Jews for Jesus Newsletter

WHY I PREACH WITH A BANNER

It separates me from the crowd and identifies my purpose. The banner gives me a greater presence than I would have without it.

It attracts people to me by its content. They actually come to me to ask questions. Why are you here? What does the banner mean? Through it I get many more chances to plant a seed.

It preaches to others even when I am dealing one on one with someone else. MANY pictures of me with the banner have been taken and now appear around the world in photo albums and video clips.

My banner of the Great White Throne Judgment (a copy made from the soul winning tract "Tell It Like It Is" by Dr. Peter Ruckman) focuses my preaching. Explaining the picture automatically keeps my attention on men being sinners, lost and undone, hopeless unless they receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior.

STREET PREACHERS USE CHRISTMAS PARADES

A good friend, Bro. Jeff Lewis is the youth leader at Grace Bible Baptist Church in Halls, TN and the pictures I saw indicate that they did a great job in two Christmas parades. They had two trailers that read down the sides **"Every knee shall bow"** and **"Not to a baby but to a King."** They had Jesus on a throne with people dressed to represent a nun, Madonna, etc. Every so often they would say **"Jesus is Lord"** and bow before him. On the second half, they had a small congregation seated with a piano and vocalist as well as the preacher preaching salvation to the congregation as they drove through the parade.

Bro. Ron Cook (from Trinity Baptist-Helenwood,TN) says the float in front of and behind them got so far away they felt like they were the only ones in the parade. The reason- they had an empty manger and an empty cross with the street preachers preaching to the crowd from the float.

Both Great Ideas. And people think they have to watch television to entertain themselves!!

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."Mt.9:38

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Feb. 21 - Louisville Vs. Univ of Memphis - College Crowd

**Feb. 19-22 -Street Preachers Convention
Sacramento, California**

May 1-3 - Memphis in May Music Fest

May 14-16 - Memphis in May Barbeque Fest

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Battlefield Bulletins

I thought I would give you a sample of **JUST ONE NIGHT** on BEALE STREET. My wife transcribed these two stories from a sermon so they are just like I spoke them, which means rough.

LACE ON THEIR BRITCHES

This 80 year old Pentecostal woman has a car with speakers on them and she had some black women with her screaming in a shrill voice "You need to get saved" and I mean it was pitiful, just pitiful. So I was trying to get by and a couple of college kids stopped me. I talked to them for a few minutes and of course they both said they were saved, so I did what I usually do. I asked them if the Spirit of God led them down there (Romans 8). Rather than answer, the boy said he had picked up a Bulletin (I take Dr. Peter Ruckman's bulletins over to the university when I preach there) and he had found the tract "**Does Anyone Love You?**" inside it. He was real interested but he goes to Bellevue Baptist (mega church) and was an NIV man so he threw the Bulletin away when Dr. Ruckman called the NIV stupid. And of course **he didn't think I was doing it right.** (MOAN) You know, I shouldn't be passing out anything that wasn't totally salvation. **I replied** "*Kids aren't going to take them if I have the same Christian tract every time. If I am going to go back day after day or week after week to the same group, I've got to have something with some different material in it. I'm not out there only to evangelize the unsaved, I'm out there to try and do something for the saved people too and to put something in their hands that gives them some kick.*" **Well then he says** "*Well, I don't think it is right for you to bring up disputes. Like, man, I wouldn't talk about being a Calvinist with anybody.*" **I said** "*Well, you know I WOULD, because I WAS a Calvinist and I appreciated somebody telling me how to get out. . . you know if you want to have some rewards when you get to Heaven, you've got to be taught right and when somebody was good enough to me to tell me that Calvinism was wrong, that got me out of being in a little cocoon. It made me more evangelistic in getting out of that thing.*" Now, I was evangelistic anyway, I mean 'it hadn't took deep', but it was working that way, I guess. And so, anyway, we had a word of prayer and he left. To me that was a contact that had possibilities. . . he even took another Bulletin so to me it was a contact that might have some fruit. To me, if I can get a guy off the NIV and onto the King James Bible and show him where he ought to be evangelistic. . . He was lifting up E.E. (Evangelism Explosion- a Presbyterian witnessing program). I said, "*Well, it's weak, it's weak evangelism— no Hell.*" I mean I appreciate 'em, but their converts are weak, they got **lace on their britches.** . .

GOOD SEED SNATCHED AWAY

Near the end of my time, I went up to a group and there were six or eight kids. I began to talk to one of the girls and you know how it is when you get a pack of dogs nipping at your heels. They began to nip, but one little ole girl started getting really serious. "*Well how do I get born again? what do I do?*" So I began to center my attention on her and all the others laid off for maybe five or ten minutes. Man, I got the gospel into the girl, that Jesus paid the debt you owe, that God accepted the blood of Jesus Christ as a sacrifice for our sins, but you have got to make it your sacrifice. It is not your sacrifice until you receive Jesus Christ like they had to put their hand on the lamb or they had to take an offering-their own offering- and that lamb then that was offered every morning and every evening became THEIR lamb. Now how do you get the offering that God accepted- God accepted the blood of Jesus Christ. You make it your sacrifice by receiving Jesus Christ. And then I said He wants to come into you. She was just a little girl- just out of high school— she had twenty earrings in her ear. But I mean- she was not . . .so depraved looking, she was just out of high school. I wasn't going to pressure her but she seemed like she was just going to get saved. The conversation was just about over and I had shown her Romans 10 "**Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**" I explained that if she called and Jesus didn't save her that would make him a liar. I had just shown her that and just at that moment the girl who was with her tapped her on the shoulder and she turned around and talked just for a minute and just **BROKE DOWN INTO TEARS.** **The older girl said** "*This is my sister, would you please leave.*" I was in shock and asked if she was really her sister. She mumbled something and then **a guy came up and said** "*Would you leave, get out of here.*" So I left. But I don't know what happened. I don't know whether that girl had spiritual power over them, I don't know whether that was a devil, a witch, part of a group- there is just no telling. But the seed is sown among four types of soil and some way or other that girl was a devil and was there to snatch that seed away. She saw that girl getting close to salvation and just wanted to snatch the seed away so that it couldn't take root. This whole thing was witnessed by a black man who gave secondary witness to them during the conversation saying to them that everything in that banner and everything this man (me) is saying to you is absolutely right, it is absolutely true. He came over to me as I was getting ready to leave and I mean we were both in shock. It was shocking, but I've been around now and I know that there are some mighty spiritual things going on on earth and boy when you get out on the street you are in it. "**For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**" Ephesians 6: 12

I say all of this to say that I wish you would remember to pray and if anybody can spend a few minutes one day a week and get down on your knees for us on BEALE STREET, we would sure appreciate it. That is the work that goes on and it is a blessing to be out there where you can make contacts. It is amazing how many contacts you can make— when you come home after you have talked to 10 or 15 people and you have planted the seed you think “Where in the world could you have shed that much light in such darkness in such a short period of time among such a highly educated bunch of people? You know, to me it is just one of the most wonderful things in the world to be able to talk to people and get into their hearts. At the doors on visitation, you rarely get the liberty to get into and probe into their hearts. It’s just a lot harder. That one boy from Bellevue was critical of me saying it has just got to be a friendship thing. You’ve got to make a friend. I said “Look, by the time you make one friend and been evangelistic with that one friend, I can have 20 contacts a night, hundreds of contacts with people who have problems and people who have questions and come up to you and want to know about this or that.

All of these things have their place--visitation, friendship,street preaching- but don’t forget that Jesus, Paul, Jeremiah, Jonah, Hosea, the disciples, etc.etc. did much of their ministry on the streets. As the scripture puts it “**PUBLICLY** and house to house.”

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO PUBLIC MINISTRY?

Bro. Jerry Sutek spent Thanksgiving with me and we had a great time, as we ministered at the university, a busy shopping district and BEALE ST. Nothing like fellowship with a fellow street preacher. I encourage you to make your plans now to go the **Street Preachers Blitz** in San Francisco in February. This is a three day event planned by Bro. Sutek. There are teaching sessions, good preaching, fellowship and three afternoons of public ministry in three different cities. If you can, you should go.

Make your plans to come and help preach in May for the **Memphis in May** Festivals. There are huge crowds and we can feed you and give you a place to sleep (if there is any time for that). We try to stay on the street most of the day and late at night. People from all over the world are here and while they are out there we try to keep God’s word in front of them. I can sure use YOU!

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First Class Mail