

Banners Unfurled

JUNE, 2000

We had a great time at the BEALE STREET BLAST 2000 in May. Attendance increased by a third this year and on Friday night we had over 200 march in a parade down the street through the middle of a jeering, hedonistic crowd. It makes us sick to see the degeneracy of the young people but I do love to stand up for Jesus in the middle of it all. I think they see the difference. Here is what one man said about his experience:

"While out on the street, I heard a man say **he hated God, I heard a woman say something like 'I don't want to know about Jesus.'** I also had one young man and several young ladies tell me that they were glad we were there. **I saw the tears in the eyes of the young woman as your wife talked to her about Jesus. Hers was not the only heart touched this week.** I went out there to give out tracts and hold a banner, but when Bro. Sutek pointed his wand at me and asked if I wanted to preach, I could not say no. I had no idea what I was going to say, I was panicked, but the Lord put words in my mouth. I know He will again. May God bless all those who put this together. **Please do this again.**"

Sometimes I feel like Christian gatherings are just parties and I never want the BLAST to be that. Although the fellowship is good (and it should be), and the music is out of this world, I want people to leave here having been exhorted, encouraged and trained to do more in a better way with more compassion. The classes were really great this year- I heard a lot of good comments about Bro. Bear's class on dealing with hecklers and Bro. Heishman's voice class. Bro. Jim Walker, who was new this year taught on Sunday morning on the place of the law in evangelism and hit on what I consider to be the missing element today. He and his family also helped out with special music this year and were a real blessing. He wrote to me saying, "**The 'blast' was probably the best thing I've been a part of in twenty years.**" My wife and I were commenting on how great the singing and worship will be in heaven; we get just a little taste of it each year with Bro. Rowley leading us in singing. All the preaching was excellent and I believe people went away with a new burden and some tools to do something with.



A CHINESE BANNER STORY

Because of my ministry with banners I especially like this exciting story of an old lady who has found a way to use her own banner to capture people's attention thereby enabling her to preach the gospel to them.

"When Mao, the Communist leader, conquered China and his policies resulted in the death of tens of millions, he proudly stated, 'The Chinese people have stood up.' If he sits in hell today, perhaps he is allowed to view the followers of Jesus who are now standing up in his country. Who are they? How are they able to stand?"

Some of China's spiritually hungry people have found the Lord because of the simple witness of the 'poster lady'. For years this elderly Christian woman has carried her bag into a market or onto a bus, wherever the public gathers. **She takes out a large poster with the cross of Jesus on it and shares with many curious people about the blood of Christ and forgiveness of sins.** Most had never heard the name of Jesus. Her tattered poster had been taped along the creases where it had become cracked after years of folding.

When our workers gave her a new poster, she cried for joy upon receiving this important gospel **tool.** "

Taken from the Voice of the Martyrs, March 2000

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

STATISTICS

Fourteen people made professions of faith as a result of the Blast and about 70,000 tracts were distributed during the weekend. The Music Fest had a record crowd this year. Sometimes we think the Lord gives them good weather just so more of them will come to Memphis and get one more chance to get saved.

AP NEWS ARTICLE SENDS NEW BANNER OUT

We never anticipated the news coverage that the Lord gave us this Blast. Several news articles appeared in our own newspaper before and during the Blast. But the real coverage came from an Associated Press article, which appeared around the country and even world wide in the military paper, *The Stars and Stripes*. Of course they can never get the truth exactly right, but basically it was good coverage. As a result a new banner is in process for a young serviceman in South Korea to use in his street work outside the military base.

MANY BANNERS GIVEN OUT AT BLAST

Due to the hard work of the Walker Bible Baptist Church in Rochester, NY, and Bro. Doug Coates we were able to give out about 15 complete banner sets at the Blast. Hopefully, these are up and in service around the country now. We have heard from some that they are already using them faithfully. However **Bro. Hall donated one that he did not intend to.** If you have Bro. Galen Hall's banner, with his church name on the back (OLD PATHS BAPTIST CHURCH), please send it back. It has value to him, because he led his first person to the Lord on Beale St. under that banner. He will replace it for you, no questions asked. Bro. Galen Hall, 1203 Lone Oak Dr., Union City, TN 38261

BANNER IN UKRAINE

Bros. Demopoulos & Higgins reported: "We have been seeing others get saved at the train station while street preaching. Those that come out on the street with us have been **working well with the banner** that we have of the Great White Throne Judgment. We are expecting more material soon to make more banners. (sent this month by Bro. Hall)

You would not have all these banners in use if it depended on me. I will tell you right now that I depend on all these helpers- they are the real workers- those who paint and keep the checkbook and do the mailing, etc. If you would send us a picture of you using your banner and a testimony it would encourage all those involved in this work.

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.

"HE THAT SITTETH IN THE HEAVENS SHALL LAUGH"

We can't help but laugh when we think how upset Memphis in May was 4 years ago over one little street preacher with one banner bothering their party. So the Lord thought he would have him a joke and raised up the BLAST and this year they had to put up with over 200 on Friday night with 30-40 banners. For full account of how the court case affected this year, see insert or see web site.

WE'RE HEADED TO HOLLAND

Freida and I will be headed to Holland next week on June 26th to take part in an evangelism team put together by Bro. Nicolaas Verhoef. Chick Publications has donated 250,000 tracts and we have banners in 4 languages- Dutch, German, French & English. We look forward to witnessing to the million people at the international soccer tournaments. Please pray for all of us and everything concerning it.

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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Any summer night - even during the week - there will be large crowds - Germans, French, Austrians, Ect., even a few Yanks who stray across the line.

You can contact me at 901 386-2035 or by E-mail Ken Lansing klansing@concentric.net www.sureword.com/mm/

Battlefield Bulletins

PLEASE TELL HER I GOT SAVED

The young people who come to the Blast are some of the biggest blessings. Two weeks after the Blast Jonas talked to my son, Jeremy on the phone. He told Jeremy that he had gotten saved. Jonas said he just couldn't put it off any longer and asked that we pass the word along to the girl who talked to him. He also asked for a Bible lesson, which we mailed to him. Jeremy recalled Shoshanna Pearl having dealt with him, so he called to let her know. She told Freida later that she had prayed for him for days and just that day she had asked God to save him and to **PLEASE LET HER FIND OUT ABOUT IT SOME WAY.** Her mother said she was flying high that day.

BANNERS SCARE APACHE INDIAN (Chuckle)

A man professing to be an Apache Indian approached Bro. Galen Hall and said "You shouldn't be doing this. You're scaring people with this stuff. You're scaring me." Galen got a real kick out of that and said "You're kidding. You are an Apache Indian and these Bible pictures SCARE you?!!!"

RUINED FOR LIFE

Normally, you would not like to think that you **ruined someone for life** but we like to think that is what we've been able to do for a few men. Last year it was Bro. Wes Neill. This year it was Paul Vanderkley. We were surprised when Paul showed up from U.P. Michigan at the Blast. He had found out about it two days earlier on the internet. Little did he know what he was getting into. Not from a King James Bible believing church, not from a street preaching circle, Paul just got saved about 5 years ago and had a burden that someone should be witnessing to folks in public. It has been a blessing to see him move ahead. He and his family drove all the way back down here 3 weekends later and we spent many hours on the street. Now he is working on a float for a parade and has a few folks to help him preach and witness. He wrote me and said,

"I love you, brother. Thanks so much for having me down there for the blast. Thank you for all your kindness and patience and putting up with all my questions, etc. You all (that's southern, isn't it?) have **changed me for life**, and I will **never be satisfied with the "Laodicean" lifestyle again.** I thought my church was fair to pretty good, till you all **ruined it for me!** "

Amen! I appreciate God giving me the opportunity to not only preach to the sinners but help the saints also.

REAL GOOD PLACE FOR CHRISTIANS TO HANG OUT!!

One of the most distressing things we deal with are the 'Christians' who come to Beale Street 'just to enjoy some good music'. And while we do acknowledge that it is rowdier during the Music Fest, all the same things are there to a lesser degree year round. There is near nudity and certainly lewd behavior and language all the time but during the big crowds the leering men hold crude signs encouraging the girls to bare themselves. (which some do) Things reached a new low when Bro. Pursifull from Salt Lake City said he gave a girl a tract and she put it down and urinated on it. How degraded can we get when our women behave this way? And 'Christians' excuse their being there. If you were in any other city you would never have so many people claim to be saved and yet have a heart full of pornography and loving wickedness and drunkenness. I wonder has it ever crossed their mind "Is this the will of God for me?" Psalms 1:2 says **'his delight is in the law of the Lord.'** If all they are doing is going from party to party and from one diversion to another and NEVER crying "Oh, God what do you want me to do?", NEVER having any spiritual hunger, if they have never even gotten to Psalms 1, why do they even think they have a relationship with Jesus Christ? God will not force anyone to live right anymore than he will force anyone to get saved. He leaves these choices up to us. But if I am going to be blessed it is because I am going to find something of the "law of the Lord" that goes beyond this world and into eternity.

THEIR HANDS 'CLAVE UNTO THE SWORD'

Every now and then you meet someone that the verse in II Samuel 23:10 fits. It fits the folks from Rochester, NY! They are my kind of people- when those men hit the street they are there to stay. Street work is not about making a short demonstration and then leaving, it is about making yourself vulnerable and working the crowds. It takes time to talk to people and let them get nerve to come and talk to you. You've got to sacrifice your rest sometimes to be there. This crew is serious about it. **THANK YOU WALKER BIBLE BAPTIST!!**

PURPOSE

"A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither. We shall never save civilisation as long as civilisation is our main object. " - Mere Christianity

From time to time I've mentioned how the emphasis of my street sermons changes. So it has been these past few months that my sermons have been centered on this idea, "**The party life will end in tears and sorrow.**" There are many variations to the message and it often ends with, "But following Jesus will end in a life of glory, honor, and immortality." The response is often a dropped head and downcast eyes as they recognize the truth. I saw an ER doctor recently that I've talked to for several years who has an early childhood profession from an Independent Baptist Church. As far as living for Jesus goes he has "**already done that.**" He is rarely drunk and has told me his problem is not alcohol but gambling and that he loses \$20,000 at a pop. I asked him last Saturday night if he could witness that the party life always ended in tears and sorrow. He acknowledged that it was true and his own life was a wreck but what he needed was a good woman. I told him he wouldn't find her there on Beale and asked how his gambling life went. He had lost all his houses and all his money. He still has his ER position, but you know that will go one day because, "**the wrath of God abideth on the children of disobedience.**" He asked for my phone number as a bad woman came and dragged him off.

The party life will always end in sorrow. "**Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful and the end of that mirth is heaviness.**" **Proverbs 14:13** Any one over twenty-five knows it's true. But the greatest thing I've learned from using this line is that it genders a greater degree of compassion in me for the poor deceived souls. You just can't help but yearn for the souls of these kids when you look them in the eye and tell them "The party life will end in tears and sorrow" and watch the fake happiness vanish from their faces. Those kids have shed some tears already and they will spend many a night with a wet pillow over the tragedy that will follow the party life.

One girl asked me why we came down there and bothered the party crowd since they weren't interested. I looked her in the eyes and said, "because we know how bad this life is going to hurt you and we want to try to keep you from making a mess of your life." She was changed from a critic to an inquirer at that moment. She understood the heartaches that come from the alcohol, drugs and sex music.

Bro. Dave Rowley preached to the Blast 2000 preachers telling them that the missing ingredient in the street sermons is compassion. I agree and it's my opinion that one way you get some compassion is to preach something that has some compassion in it. Proverbs 16:3 says "**Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established.**" When you watch the faces fall in recognition of the truth you will know you hit a nerve that will well up in your own soul.

"BUT WATCH THOU IN ALL THINGS, ENDURE AFFLICTIONS, DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST, MAKE FULL PROOF OF THY MINISTRY."

II Timothy 4:5

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First Class Mail

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