

Banners Unfurled

January 2001

FROM THE PAST: NORRIS ORDERED TO LEAVE CITY

One of the most trying experiences in all my life was when the financial and liquor interests united, and most preachers were in silence. But Norris spoke in every school and community in the county. A committee appointed by 165 men came to his office & delivered an ultimatum, "We will give you 30 days to leave town or else take the consequences." Norris thanked them and said "I will give you 29 of them back."

Excitement was running high. You could see knots of people standing on the sidewalk and there was one theme. The daily papers refused to take Norris's advertisement for pay. He struck off circulars by the tens of thousands and gave the names of the men who were back of the demand at 15th and Main Streets that night.

Talk about crowds! Norris arranged for a truck to be at this corner before sundown. Talk about scared! But I was not coward enough to forsake my partner. I went. I think everybody was carrying his gun that night. But Norris didn't have any.

The police and fire company tried to clear the streets, but in vain. For blocks and blocks they were stacked. Norris didn't even have a penknife. He tried to force his way through that mass of packed humanity and one man who owned the saloon across the street-Norris pushed up against him and he turned and ripped out an oath and said, "What do you want?" Norris said, "I want to get to that corner down there where I can speak." He looked at him and said, "Who are you?" "I am Frank Norris."

This big 225 pounder whirled around with a forty five in his hand and said, and everybody heard him- "I came here to get the first shot." He turned to Norris and said, "Follow me! The first man that lays a hand on this preacher I will shoot a hole through him you can drive that truck through." He went through that crowd with the gun held before him, Norris hanging on his coattail.

This big fellow climbed up on the truck, sat down with that gun across his lap and said "Frank, give 'em hell." Norris stood on that truck and said "I have nothing against you, and I call on the God of Elijah, the God of my mother to lay bare His mighty arm in judgment in this city." Then he led the crowd in singing, "There's a Land that is Fairer than Day." When he had finished he said "Good night." Everybody quietly stole away and nobody was hurt.

The next morning this saloon keeper walked into the church office and I was scared again when he pulled out that long gun, laid it on Norris's desk and said, "I am through. I want you to pray for me, and I want to give you this gun as a memento." He knelt and was gloriously saved and Norris baptized him. Of course he went out of the saloon business.

The J.FRANK NORRIS I have known for 34 years
Louis Entzminger, DD



BEALE STREET BLAST 2001

Our third annual street preachers' convention, the BEALE STREET BLAST, is coming up May 3-6. It was great the last two years and we expect the Lord to bless it this year also-you don't want to miss it. Last year there were 200 in attendance and we expect more this year. We have had to switch campgrounds this year. We will be at Camp Cordova which is a Baptist campground about 30 minutes from Beale St. The cost will be a little more and there are **NO LARGE FAMILY DISCOUNTS** but it is what the Lord provided. The plus side is there will be several RV hookups left after the speakers get theirs. First Come, First Serve! RV spots are \$7.00 per night plus whatever meals you eat in the dining room. The meals are \$5.00 each. 1st and 2nd graders are 1/2 price for everything and under 1st grade is free. There may be room for a few people just to come to the meetings and eat, but all meals must be reserved ahead of time.

If you would like to fund a 'scholarship' to a needy student of public ministry, you can contact us or just send a tax deductible donation made out to Old Paths Baptist Church designated for the banner ministry, along with instructions on how to apply the scholarship. We have people each year that have never done any street work, are not sure they believe the King James Bible and are in liberal or milk toast churches. Each of the last two BLASTS has produced at least one man who I think would testify that the BLAST changed their life. These men have then gone home and hit the streets and are winning souls. So, pray about helping someone if you are able to do it.

ORDER YOUR BLAST SHIRTS

Orders for BLAST scripture shirts **must be received** by April 15. These will be nice golf shirts except for a size 10-12 child's shirt (round neck t shirt). They will have BEALE ST. BLAST on the front and a scripture on the back.

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

SOURCE OF LIGHT BIBLE STUDIES

About 70 Bible studies were sent out and completed this year. We use these correspondence Bible studies to follow up with people from BEALE STREET or to send to anyone else who requests one. One of our tracts from the BLAST last year showed up in the Union City, Tennessee jail (two hours away) and since that time my wife has had several men in the jail faithfully doing Bible studies. Some have completed several series. A friend of ours from Texas sent us the name of a German lady. Here is her sweet letter of what the Bible studies mean to her:

"I looked in my mailbox every day for the new Book. God is so good, I still get them. I pray that I'm doing o.k. so far with the lesson. I really enjoy it. And learn more about God's word. It is a Blessing to me. To learn more. I have a better understanding. Because I'm German. Thank you so much for the effort and time. For sending it to me. And praise the Lord with stamp on it. The Lord knows, sometime I don't have the money for stamp. Thank you and God Bless you."

We are excited about another new avenue. A Mexican restaurant allowed us to put out free Spanish Bible studies and we just got the first one back this week from a 17 year old. Freida has the answer key so grading the fill in the blanks is easy, but it is going to be fun to try to figure out what they are saying when they write sentences! And of course we cannot meet them and deal with them since we don't speak Spanish. But pray that the Bible course itself will work in their hearts.

NEWSLETTER TESTIMONY

A man requesting a banner wrote, "I recently had the opportunity to read all of your newsletters on your web site. They were a blessing to me. These letters encouraged, challenged and in some cases, entertained me. I look forward to receiving a banner and put it to use for the glory of our great Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

You can read all our past newsletters on www.sureword.com/mm if you have acrobat reader which you can download from www.adobe.com and then click 'get acrobat'. I put them in this format so that the structure stays the way it is in the print version. Thanks to Jody Adair for doing a great job as my webmaster.

COMPANION IN LABOR

It was great to have Bez Cummings, a young Bible school student, with me on the street most of the fall. Every Saturday night for weeks he drove three hours from home, spent the night with us and went preaching with me. Some nights he brought a brother or a friend along. Putting someone up for the night and feeding them is a small price to pay for the opportunity of teaching and encouraging other young men in street work. If you want to come some week-end just give me a call.

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.

BANNER REQUESTS

During 2000, we received requests for about 40 banners and were able to give out 26 banners (including some we always give away at the BLAST). We got three to Nico Verhoef, one each in German, French and Dutch for use at his new ministry in Europe. We still have about 17 people on the waiting list for a banner. Most of these banners were made by the folks at Walker Baptist Church in Rochester, New York. Bro. Doug Coates made a few also.

NEW BANNER DESIGN

We have designed a new banner especially for places where people think they are intellectual and want to argue about who Jesus was. It integrates the idea of "Lord, Liar or Lunatic" with the picture of **Jesus being whipped** from Tell It Like It Is. We worked and worked to refine it down to the basics and still say enough to get their mental wheels turning. We're looking forward to getting the first one done and see what kind of conversations it provokes.

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

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

MEMPHIS IN MAY MUSIC FEST MAY 3-6

MEMPHIS IN MAY BBQ BASH MAY 18-19

Any spring night there will be large crowds
St Pat week end will be mobbed.

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

Ken Lansing, Memphis, Tennessee

Battlefield Bulletins

From Bro. Eric Molitor in the Philippines:

These past two months have been really interesting for us. We were thankful to see several people saved. It all started when Christina Ancheta (a widow in her 70's) got saved as a **direct result of street preaching and the use of our four by six foot banner** of Dr. Ruckman's White Throne Judgment. She became more interested when she read a tract made for witnessing to Catholics. . .she instantly became our most zealous convert ever!

Bro. Ray Meier's preaching in Washington D.C.:

I preached in front of the White House with about 300 people looking on. Most of the crowd stopped and listened attentively. **The banner sure was a blessing.** I preached one sermon to Clinton. There were six White House guards that came out of their watch posts and trained binoculars on me while I was preaching and another fellow standing by who was obviously recording what I was saying. When I started up preaching, there was some Hindu being interviewed by a TV station, and they had to finish up quick when I started up. As I was heading back to the truck to put up the banner, a motorcade passed by. As the motorcade came by, **I unfurled the banner to give the "dignitary" a chance to see it.** Whether he did or not, I do not know, but there were 100 people on the street that saw it.

EUROPE TRIP –June 26th through July 11th

We had a great time in Europe preaching and witnessing as part of the team that Bro. Nico Verhoef put together in June for the Euro football (soccer) tournaments. We went to Brussels, and Amsterdam and then the final day to church with Bro. Jake Huussen's folks (a missionary in Gouda). Together we preached to the thousands who gathered for the championship game in Rotterdam. This was only about the 2nd or 3rd time the church had done any public evangelism and they were really fired up. Some of the men preached for the first time ever and did a great job.

A highlight was a day trip to Monschau, Germany, a medieval town untouched by World War II. It was a rich man's tourist destination. For example, a man and his two boys with their fly-rods and Orvis fishing attire walked through town to or from their place on the river which ran through the town. People from many nationalities were going in and out of the shops or eating at the outdoor restaurants. Nico Verhoef, Leonard Fogel and I unfurled our banners (German and Dutch) and strolled into the center of this beautiful town, which had restaurant tables all around the cobblestone area. About two-dozen folks were seated there and as we went in a cheer went up (to our amazement) from one group of tables. They were from a Dutch church and among them were some Dutch Reformed missionaries on furlough from South Africa. What a relief it was to

know that someone appreciated our witness for Jesus and soon others were communicating with us. This was the only time we experienced anything like this in Europe.

We continued to stroll through the streets and were mocked and jeered at by some German youth who softened after a bit and 8-10 of them grouped together near us and allowed me to preach to them in English as Bro. Nico interpreted in German. It was special for me to get to give a passionate plea for their souls. I know they have their youth to remember someone cared enough to make a spectacle of themselves in an effort to get their attention long enough to present the claims of Jesus Christ.

A NORMAL NIGHT

Freida often asks me after I come home on Saturday nights how it went. Sometimes I have had what I consider to be an outstanding experience but most of the time it is just "normal". Here is a "normal" night:

Jeff Lewis and I were together. At 9:30 p.m. we started out at the "Have a Nice Day" bar and preached our way through that block. Other than a **few professing Christians approaching to rebuke us for judging people**, everyone else pretty much ignored us. A few hecklers came up to bother us, but did so quietly which made it impossible to use them by answering their questions thereby drawing a crowd. By the time we made it to the next block there were quite a few people on the street, and we were able to preach for an hour and a half through that section. Titus 2:11 was the theme for my sermon because there were so many professing Christians. **"For the grace of God which bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men teaching us that denying ungodliness we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world,"** telling them that the fact that they were there showed that they do not understand the grace of God or Biblical salvation. A couple of marines came to ask me my opinion of killing and listened attentively as I explained that the commandment applied to personal conflicts rather than national conflicts and that further reading in the Old Testament would reveal that killing in military engagements was not addressed in the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." I went on to say that the 10 Commandments were given to keep you from hurting yourself, but since they had broken them the issue now was how to get their sin paid for. They were **young guys who listened but not with many questions or any sense of deep conviction that I could see.** They floated off.

By this time there were 2-3000 people on the street—mostly college age kids. These kids come from all the neighboring states to party. One Presbyterian girl came up to severely rebuke me for judging people (**the banner does it to them**) and when I asked how she knew she was saved she proceeded to tell me that she was saved because she repented regularly. When I asked for an explanation, she said she asks for forgiveness and makes restitution and that makes everything o.k. Another girl came close by with a lewd t-shirt on and people gathered around her to observe and take part in **filthy behavior.**

That's a normal night. We're privileged to give out just little drops of living water at one of the world's many dirty watering holes.

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? LORD, LIAR OR LUNATIC?

To Jesus, who men and women believed him to be was of fundamental importance. To say what Jesus said and to claim what he claimed about himself, one couldn't conclude he was just a good moral man or prophet. Jesus never intended that option to be open to man. C. S. Lewis who was a professor at Cambridge and once an agnostic understood this issue clearly. He writes:

"I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' This is the one thing we must not say. **A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher.** He would be a lunatic-on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg-or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

Jesus claimed to be God. His claim is either true or false. If when he made his claims he knew they were false then he was **lying** and deliberately deceiving his followers. If he was a liar then he was also a **hypocrite**. If he couldn't back up his claims and knew it then he was **unspeakably evil** and lastly he would be a **fool** because it was his claims that led to his crucifixion. But this view doesn't coincide with anything we know about Jesus. Wherever Jesus Christ has been proclaimed, lives have been changed for the good, thieves are made honest, drunks are cured and unjust persons made just.

Couldn't he actually have thought himself to be God but have been mistaken? Remember that to tell others that their eternal destiny depends on Him alone is no slight flight of fantasy. This would be like someone believing He is Napoleon. But it is **hard to imagine that Jesus was mentally disturbed**. He spoke some of the most profound sayings ever recorded.

The only other alternative is that He was the Christ, the Son of God. People want to believe that he was a moral, upright, good man or some kind of prophet. When I ask people if they believe he was a liar, they say "NO!" Then I ask "Do you believe he was a lunatic?" The reply is "Of course not!" "Do you believe he is God?" Before I can get a breath, there is a resounding "Absolutely not." Yet one has only so many choices.

Jesus Christ is either a liar, a lunatic or Lord and God. You must make a choice. As John the Apostle said in John 20:31 **"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."**

The evidence is clearly in favor of Jesus as Lord. But **people reject this evidence because of moral implications**. They don't want to face up to the responsibility or implications of making Him Lord.

More than a Carpenter-Josh McDowell

"BUT WATCH THOU IN ALL THINGS, ENDURE AFFLICTIONS, DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST, MAKE FULL PROOF OF THY MINISTRY." I Tim. 4:5

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