

# Banners Unfurled

June, 2001

## FROM THE PAST

On innumerable occasions, the meetings of the Wesleys, Whitefield and other itinerant preachers were attacked by drunken, brawling rabble armed with...clubs, whips, clods, bricks, staves, stones...and rotten eggs. Sometimes they procured a bull and drove it into the midst of an open-air congregation; sometimes they contented themselves by producing noise with bells, horns, drums and pans to drown out the preacher's voice...and not infrequently they expended their fury in burning or tearing down the houses, and destroying or stealing the...possessions of the preachers' followers.

John Wesley sometimes narrowly escaped with his life...while Whitefield covered with blood...was rescued in the nick of time from the brutal fury of an Irish crowd at Dublin...Without regard to age or sex, (the persecutors) pelted whole congregations with showers of dirt and stones. Many they beat mercilessly with clubs.

England: Before & After Wesley by Wesley Brady

## BEALE STREET BLAST

Although my street preaching goes on year round when the weather is bearable, we feel like street preaching really gets started when the BLAST arrives the first weekend of May. Was it a success? From Heaven's viewpoint I'm not sure, but I do know that in our eyes it was a great time this year. The results included: twenty-five professions of faith, two men surrendered to full time service, one young man was saved at the campground and two pre-teen girls were baptized. This is what took place visibly at the BEALE STREET BLAST 2001. So many people had trouble with their vehicles and trailers as they tried to make it here that if it weren't for the fact that we all drive rolling pieces of junk we'd be tempted to blame it all on the devil. Even so, he did seem to do his best to hinder people this year. A day before the BLAST started we began answering the



phone, "Where are you broken down?" But one by one, God got most of us here and we had a great time as usual. How it gets better year after year is beyond our imagination (it is definitely not our planning), but it does seem to. People did not seem to want to leave this year and went away with plans to start a fund to help with it next year. We were at a different campground this year, which worked out fine especially for those in RVs. Freida and I walked over to visit in the RV park and the kids were having a ball riding bikes chasing dogs and each other. Those RV folks are prolific. It seems so superior to us to just packing them off to a kids' camp- to bring the whole family to a time of great preaching and then those that are old enough and not too old hit the street together to sing, testify, preach and hand out tracts. If God opens the door to have it again next year you really need to come. The world can get 200,000 to come to this thing; it seems like we should be able to get at least 1000. This year we had about 175 (about 85 teen boys and men) on the street on Friday night and the partiers could hardly stand it. Boy would it horrify them if we showed up with 1000. Pray about coming next year. On Saturday night during the BLAST, when we got to the street the crowd was literally elbow to elbow and the police told us we could not take our banners in "for safety reasons", nor could we parade through the middle of the street and crowd because we did not have a parade permit. They used the excuse that our banners are on poles and have metal hardware on them and could be taken from us and used as weapons. This is while 200,000 people are getting drunk and getting in their cars to drive. Nevertheless, because the police do have a legitimate interest in keeping people safe, I acquiesced and we went in without the banners. The next day on Sunday after-

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

noon, the crowd was reduced and we took our banners in again. But we do not intend to go without the banners again, Lord willing. If you have used the banners you know that there is a spiritual force and perhaps even protection when the banners are there that is lacking otherwise. You are flying your colors, so it is obvious you are not 'part of them', your banner preaches when you can't, others can find you easily in a mob and the banner actually dispels a lot of evil. When you walk through with a banner, they move away. My attorney plans to work on this issue before the next BLAST. They have not tried to stop me from using my banner since then.

### Holy Strut

Preaching from an elevated platform is scriptural, 2 Chron. 24:20 (though it may get you killed (v.21)). I have used pickup trucks, stools, city provided planters, car hoods, and step ladders. At the Blast some of the men have utilized the railroad overpass. I see some advantages that I think make our work on the street appear more powerful. In the first place I think it stops the 'holy strut'. When we had our Blast parade some of the preachers would take the whole width of the street like a large pulpit area and preach and strut in one direction and then turn and strut in the other direction. Anybody listening would only hear half of his message. Other times I've watched preachers strut up and down a line of people getting tickets or going into a bar and from a detached point of view it looks like a drill instructor haranguing the new recruits or a lecture of miscreant children after coming from lunch in elementary school. The elevated platform seems to add an appearance of authority, it tends to cause you to deliver a message and then get down or answer questions if any are forthcoming, it lets you preach over the heads of the people that are close, it lets you focus on people that may be listening from further away and try to reach out to them, it empowers you to preach NOT deliver a lecture, and it keeps you from strutting up and down the line of helpless victims of your apparent rantings. In all a platform keeps you from being a loose cannon or an unfenced bull.

### COMMENTS FROM YOUNG MEN AT THE BLAST

Tim McGinnis- Y'all are excitingly cool!

Austin Zander- What this has shown me is that the guys on the street are wimps. When I talked to them and they admitted they should not be there, they still wouldn't leave because they are just wimps.

If you would rather read this on the web site, eMail us and we will stop sending the paper version.

### 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.

### WHAT A CONTRAST

We looked around several times during the BLAST at the young women in our group standing on corners handing out tracts or singing in a group and marveled at the contrast in them and the lewd girls on the street. It is so startling that the unsaved have to see it too. Strutting themselves in their pride (and not much else sometimes), having mutilated their bodies with tattoos and piercings, selling themselves cheap to any man that will have them, you had to see the difference that Jesus made. And yet our heart yearns to see Him make them new. We saw an old friend at our son's Bible school graduation recently and marveled at how much Jesus had accomplished in her since we met her 25 years ago. The song says:

When Jesus comes the tempter's power is broken;  
When Jesus comes the tears are wiped away.  
He takes the gloom and fills the life with glory,  
For all is changed when Jesus comes to stay.

"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 - Especially the Fourth of July and Labor Day.

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# Battlefield Bulletins

## ALMOST BUT LOST

One evening in April a young medical student came up to me and as I began to deal with him about trusting Jesus, tears came into his eyes as he told me that he wanted to believe and he had tried to believe, but there was something that held him back. His girlfriend stood quietly for one hour as I talked to him and gave him my testimony. When I stood up in the church with my long hair and dope clouded brain after a gospel presentation and said that I couldn't believe, several men prayed over me. Then one man took me to the back room and asked me, "Do you believe this is the word of God?" In my heart, the Holy Spirit said, "Tell him yes", but a darker voice said "Tell him no". This young man was experiencing the same war that went on in my soul. As I debated the question in my mind I thought of all the fulfilled prophecies I had been studying and I said, "YES". At that point he showed me I John 5:10-13 and I believed what was written. My life changed and has never been the same since. I look at these young people and wish I could impart faith to them, but God has to do the work. I believe this young med student is right on the brink.

"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." Acts 26: 28

## APOLOGY FOR PAST ABUSE

One night in April several young men (led by Pat) who have repeatedly given me a rough time over a year or two came up and asked me to pray for a friend who had gone through a windshield and was not expected to live. So we prayed together there on the street. The group (all Roman Catholics) returned Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May just after I preached. Pat began to apologize for his past behavior to me while I was talking to two girls that were thanking me for my witness. Pat told the girls he used to be very profane and abusive to me. He said that he would often lie in bed feeling so bad and think, "I should not have treated that preacher like that." He got so happy over the fact that he had cleared his conscience and was 'better' towards me. The outcome was that I got to really preach the gospel to him for the first time. He is not ready to get saved yet, but God is working on him. This is one advantage of preaching regularly in the same spot. I believe that someone will get to reap Pat's soul. So be faithful and realize that although you may not see instant results God is at work even in those most hateful to you.

One of my favorite sermons at the BLAST was by

Bro. Meier about gardening. One point he made was that we have to plow up the dirt in our garden (like contact with Pat). It has to be done, but we don't get our tiller and go out there thinking "I hate you" to our dirt. We don't abuse it and furiously yank our tiller through it. No, a gardener loves tilling up his dirt, he loves the smell of it and the feel of it and thinking about what it will produce after it has been worked repeatedly. Even though it seems like everything about it resists growing anything but weeds, you just keep on working with it. THAT'S STREET PREACHING!

## FREE MONEY

A sweet lady came up the other night just thrilled with what I was doing and insisted on giving me some money. After trying to refuse, I finally took it and asked her to watch what I was going to do with it. She got nervous, giggled and said "I'm just a Presbyterian. . . I mounted my stepladder, shook the money and said "Folks, Folks, I know you are sick and tired of these television evangelists fleecing everybody, so I want to give away some free money. FREE MONEY, FREE MONEY, who will come and take it?" After a young black boy came and took it, I then went into my spiel about how it takes humility to receive something free and likened it to Jesus's gift of himself. She breathed a sigh of relief & thought it was just great again after she saw that I wasn't going to use her as a prop.

## SODOMITE DANCE

I was glad to have the chance to preach with a good size crowd (75 people) from Smyrna Baptist Church in Pensacola at the Civic Center where the sodomites were having a dance on Memorial Day weekend. Bro. Bob Love was back of this effort and did a good job, but in cities with Baptist churches on every block, it is a shame that there are not at least several thousand Christians show up to reprove the public flaunting of despicable sin at these type events. That's all it would take to send these sodomites somewhere else. We can't blame it on anyone but ourselves. Like that paragon of virtue, Rush Limbaugh said, "It doesn't matter if you stand against something in your heart if you don't DO SOMETHING to change it." I preached a simple message most of the time- "For because of these things the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience"- are you ready to face the wrath of God?" My simple sermon caused a lovers' quarrel as one man got uneasy, flung his partner's hands off and stormed away, with the partner calling after him, "You don't have to leave, you don't have to worry about them judging us!"

## MEMPHIS IN MAY FLEXES ITS MUSCLES

MEMPHIS IN MAY usually doesn't try to move me from the entry area during the Music Fest but when the corporate crowd is coming for the Barbeque Cooking Contest they pull out their big guns. Two weeks after the BLAST when the Barbeque Fest opened on Thursday night, I was alone at the foot of Riverside Drive just unfurling my banner. Immediately a gate official from MIM approached me and told me I needed to go outside the barricaded area. (The paid admission people are moving from the restricted vehicle barricaded area into the gated park). I told him I was not going to go and that they leased the park not the area outside the admission gates. Then a police Lieutenant came by and told me to stand out of the fire lane which was just a one foot move, so I complied. In a few minutes the MIM director, Jim Holt made another attempt. He told me his attorney assured him the issue of me being inside the barricade was settled. I told him his attorney had given him bad advice, and that the only thing their appellate court victory had accomplished was to ascertain that MIM was not a state actor and thus was not liable for the legal fees (which had already been paid by the City of Memphis) and that the area I was standing on was a city street, that the City of Memphis still had jurisdiction over it and the City of Memphis was under court order not to interfere with my free speech rights at this location. He told me he would give me 2 minutes and then was going to get the police. So I said "Fine, I won a lawsuit over this and I'm not moving." So Jim went over to the police standing by and they talked for a while and then they all left. A little while later the police director came over and I reminded him that I had won the federal lawsuit. Finally he quietly said, "Well, look could I just get you to do this for me. If the crowd gets big, would you just move over out of the way and not block the crowd from the gate?" I replied that I would, and since I/we never appeared to be blocking anyone we never moved from the best spot I could have had for the whole event. So, for almost 14 hours over the three days almost every person who entered had a chance to read my banner and hear the gospel while they waited in line for a ticket!!

"I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from my enemies."  
II Samuel 22:4

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

## ***Banners Unfurled***

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## THE LOVE OF GOD IN BALANCE

From time to time we receive criticism from professing Christians on their way to fellowship with the "unfruitful works of darkness". They complain that our banner and preaching is too judgmental and we would do a better job if we would just preach the love of God. The theme is consistent, if we have heard it once we have heard it dozens of times: "I'm not criticizing you but ...", "you are doing a great job but ...". It is amazing that a professing Christian cruising the nightlife watering holes or on their way to a blues music show expects to instruct a preacher who is obeying Eph. 5:11 how to be more effective, but they do.

On occasions you run into the soul winner and tract distributor who practices this type of evangelism. Their tracts often have a smiley face or 'God Loves you' stick-on labels. But as far as I can remember I haven't been with anyone who told hand-holding sodomites, "Take this tract it tells you how much God loves you", until last weekend at the queer dance at the Pensacola Civic Center. In response I heard the comments of some of the queers who made statements like: "I'll be in church Sunday", or "I know God loves me", or "I go to Bellevue in Memphis", or "My daddy's a preacher and approves of the way I live". These people know about the love of God already. Because of a watered down gospel today, everyone we preach to believes that God loves them no matter what. Nothing is sinful enough to incur God's wrath. The judgment of God is the missing element- just go back and read some of the sermons from 100-200 years ago.

Since another evangelist with the sponsoring church was holding a sign declaring God's judgment on sodomy I felt liberty to minister from this perspective also. I used, "Let no man deceive you with vain words for because of these things (filthiness and foolish talking, Eph. 5:2) the wrath of God abideth on the children of disobedience." (Eph. 5:5) and followed it with, "Are you ready to experience the wrath of God?" Since I was right on top of the groups crossing the street it was unnecessary to lift up my voice to reach the hand-holding, bare to the waist boys of Sodom. For this message, I was 'treated' with a public display of affection by two men and numerous demands not to judge.

I try to practice liberty with other evangelists on the street because we are all 'practicing'. If I disagree, I usually move away and do what I think is the most effective. To our own master we stand or fall. A 'God Loves You' message is better than no message I guess! But the farther I go, the more I am convinced that in most cases it is wasted effort to preach the love of God before the wrath of God is dreaded. I moved across the intersection and met the event organizer, Bro. Bob Love who offered me the stepladder to preach from so I preached the short message (see above) to the groups headed my way as they crossed the street.

We know that God loves the sinners, but is that the entire revelation of God? God loves everyone with an everlasting love, "God is love". God's manifestations of love will end when an unsaved person dies. He cannot let an unsaved person infect heaven with his rebellion. There is a finality at death

illustrated in scripture where God quits dealing with men: "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone." (Hosea 5:17) and before Herod Jesus "answered him nothing." (Luke 23:9). When an unsaved person dies that ends all hope, but until death there is opportunity to get saved. To some people it does seem hopeless, especially people who have heard about the love of God and have embraced the notion that God will eventually let the vilest sinner into Heaven ALONG WITH HIS LOVE OF HIS SIN. This message is more than out of balance- it is a satanic deception.

Bill Bright of Campus Crusade of Christ tells that when he decided to put the love of God first in his Four Spiritual Laws tract (God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life), many on his staff were upset, thought it was heresy to put the love of God before the judgment of God and some left over it. That great evangelist from the past, Charles Finney, said he preached 75% law before he ever offered grace. I think the Old Testament can be summarized with, "You can't get away with sin, saved or lost." This comes before the New Testament. The gist of almost all preaching today is that sin (& very few things are considered sin- lusting & partying in a lewd drunken bar strip is not and sodomy is not) is taken care of if we say, "We are truly sorry. Forgive us..."

The Bible rejecting liberal main line churches have been delivering the God Loves you message and the modern Bible versions have further compounded the whole thing. How many times have you heard that Romans 8:1 says "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..." without the rest of the verse "who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit?" That is because the last half of the verse has been taken out of the modern versions in spite of the fact that verse 13 of the same chapter and all of the Bible states otherwise. Sin has a temporal penalty that is going to get extracted whether you are eternally forgiven or not. And furthermore God won't pay a bit of attention to the "We are truly sorry..." type of prayer if you are planning to sin again next Saturday night.

If we did not love people, we would not be there. . Our heart goes out to the crowd and the individual who is wearing the garb of a sinner on the way to hell. At the events we go to we see going past us the finest of America and we think of the masses who have lived and died a careless life just like these. Just let a person approach me who is the least concerned about facing God's judgment and I will spend all night preaching the love of God to him. But Sin and Judgment are the FIRST elements in dealing with a person wearing the colors of a sinner, not the Love of God. The cry they make to the Lord for salvation will be real then, understanding that they desperately need the love of God and they will experience true conversion.

## MINISTRY OPORTUNITY

Make BANNERS for street preachers and missionaries. To get started you need first and foremost a ventilated work area and time. Call us if you want to be involved in this ministry.

## TOURISTS SENT BY GOD

If you've been at street preaching for any length of time, you know that it is frequently a lonely position. Maybe you've been fortunate enough to always have someone with you but I've spent many a night with just the Lord and me wondering why no other Christians felt compelled to be there. Here I am in the heart of the Bible belt with multiplied thousands of professing Christians and hundreds of PREACHERS and yet there I am by myself. I've felt anger, pity-you name it! I still don't understand why there can be thousands of unsaved people wandering around aimlessly; many of them willing to talk and Christians don't feel any compulsion to be there. Don't get me wrong, I am not always alone, God has been good to send people from time to time to be a help.

But if you are going to go on, you have to forget all of that and just be faithful to what God has called you to do. When you get out there and start looking at all the lost souls and get the chance to see a little light dawn in a face and sense that God has begun a work in them that He will finish (Phil. 1:6), there is nothing like it. There were 98,000 people in attendance for the Barbeque Fest May 17-19. Freida and I were at the foot of a hill and the biggest part of them had to come down the hill looking at my Lord, Liar or Lunatic? banner and pass by Freida giving out tracts. Much of the time I preached a simple message as they stood in line for their tickets and then moved on in. "Neither beer nor barbeque will determine the destiny of your soul. The issue that will decide whether you spend eternity in heaven or hell will be 'what did you do with Jesus?'" I looked at that crowd streaming down the hill, turned to Freida and said "Can you believe it- we get this whole thing to ourselves?" And so God does change your viewpoint and let you see your part in His great and glorious plan sometimes. Any Christian in a large city has people coming from all over the world that God drew there as tourists partially in order that YOU might have a part in giving them the gospel. It is a blessing and also a responsibility that I believe we'll give an answer for.

## WE NEED PICTURES FROM BLAST

We were too busy to take any pictures during the BLAST but we know that some of you took rolls and rolls. Please send us a few of your best shots. Thanks.

## SHOOTINGS ON BEALE STREET

Two or three shootings on BEALE STREET in the last few of weeks have resulted in the historic district being patrolled by more police than you can imagine. Several of the officers have been friendly and talkative. Please pray for them as they read the banners too. There is also a curfew and they are checking IDs after 10 p.m. No one under 21 is allowed to

be there. These shootings have occurred in the early morning hours (1-2 a.m.) and are gang related. The crowd gets very black in the early morning and this is who is involved. Younger people can come into the area to eat with family members, but those are the only young people there now. They say they intend to keep this up-we'll see!! It's a blessing to know that the young people can't be there anymore. We have often talked about how we are so glad places like BEALE STREET weren't around when we were young. You had to drive a long ways (like to New Orleans), which made it HARD. And the harder it is to sin the better. So, at least temporarily, the kids can't come enjoy the lights and glamour of sin on BEALE! And we rejoice over this.

## HALF BEAST-HALF DEVIL

Some have ribbed me about my sermon in which I call the partiers half beasts & half devils. Just to show you that I'm on solid ground I quote from Wesley's tract A Word to a Drunkard:

"Wherein does a man differ from a beast? Is it not chiefly in reason and understanding? But you throw away what reason you have. You strip yourself of your understanding. You do all you can to make yourself a mere beast; not a fool, not a madman only, but a swine, a poor filthy swine. Go and wallow with them in the mire! Go, drink on, till thy nakedness be uncovered, and shameful spewing be . . . thy glory."

