

Banners Unfurled

MAY, 1998

FEDERAL COURT VICTORY

God was sure on this street preacher's side from start to finish in my federal court case. The case that ended in a great victory will help in similar cases around the country. The Memphis in May festival organization leases a public street (Riverside Drive) and then attempts to make it private. I believe God was actively involved in this entire thing and even handpicked my attorney and judge. In May of 1996, I was kicked out of the area which is outside the paid ticket event but inside the barricaded street which is open to the public but closed to cars. Not 30 minutes later a young attorney named Nate Kellum **APPROACHED ME** and upon seeing my banner told me if anyone ever gave me any trouble to call him. From that point on we worked our way through all our options (city attorney, etc.) until we finally had to file a federal lawsuit which was heard in March. The ruling came down April 17th and read like this:

Defendants are hereby permanently ENJOINED from prohibiting Mr. Lansing's expressive activities with the leased areas of Riverside Drive.

My judge was a sane, reasonable man who obviously cared a great deal about upholding the Constitution. There were hours of testimony and arguments but he consistently would reduce it to a few sentences that showed he knew just what was going on. This exchange demonstrates that:

City of Memphis Attorney attempted to say that they wanted to regulate my free speech rights, not restrict them. He stated that I was free to go to Riverside Drive anytime of the year except during the Memphis in May Festival.

Judge McCalla: Mr. D., are you telling me that Mr. L. Is free to go to Riverside Drive anytime but during May? I want to be sure I understand things.

City Attorney: Well, duh. . . yes.

Judge: The reason Mr. L. wants to be on Riverside is to preach to people. There are no people there the rest of the year.

City Attorney: Some are there on Sunday afternoon.



Judge: Not many. Obviously Mr. L. Wants to be where the people are. He does not want to go when no people are there. *Otherwise, he could go preach to the cotton plants in a field in Arkansas.*

Can't you just hear the Lord chuckling?? I had a great chance to explain the Great White Throne Judgment when the judge asked me how I used my banner.

Further humor came by way of a MIM PRIORITY MEMORANDUM which was put out a week before the festival got cranked up. A friend faxed it to me. The last two paragraphs said: (cont. on page 2)

A.W. TOZER

Converted through a street preacher

Aiden Wilson Tozer was born April 21, 1897, on a small farm in Pennsylvania. Within a few short years, Tozer would earn the reputation and title of a "20th century prophet."

Able to express his thoughts in a simple but forceful manner, Tozer combined the power of God and the power of words to nourish hungry souls, piece human hearts and draw earth-bound minds toward God.

When he was 15 years old he was walking home from work at Goodyear and overheard a **street preacher** say, "If you don't know how to be saved.. just call on God." When he got home he climbed the narrow stairs to the attic where, heeding the preacher's advice, Tozer was launched into a lifelong pursuit of God.

In 1919, without formal education, Tozer was called to pastor a small storefront church in Nutter Fort, W.VA. That humble beginning thrust him and his wife into a 44 year ministry with the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

The street preacher never knew!!

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

MIM PRIORITY MEMORANDUM

". . .no one is to interfere with Mr. L. or anyone attempting to conduct similar activities at any of the festival events in Tom Lee Park. The judge has ruled that he is not a safety hazard nor an obstacle to ingress/egress of patrons.If any anyone's opinion he does become a safety problem, no action is to be taken until I am called to participate in the decision unless it is life threatening. This is very important in order to avoid any future claim for damages by Mr. Lansing or others."

I just know the Lord enjoyed this whole thing!!! You can read the judge's 32 page opinion on our web site which is at:
<http://sojourner.shadowcom.org/banners/>

NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS!! After typing the above, we found that Memphis in May has appealed the case, which means it will be heard in Cincinnati in the 6th district appellate court. We are really puzzled over this, because the lawsuit was against both MIM and the City of Memphis. The City has decided to drop out and is not part of the appeal, but MIM is proceeding anyway. Since the City is permanently enjoined from prohibiting my expressive activities, we do not know who MIM would get to arrest me. It actually may be a good thing that it is being appealed because if we win it will make a much stronger precedent. So my attorney is looking forward to it. However, you and I know that we need to really pray about this case. Pray that God's hand will continue to oversee it and get it assigned to a righteous judge.

"Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord. . . He that sitteth in the Heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision."
Psalms 2: 1-2 and 4

I'll keep you informed. Be in prayer as this may affect YOU!

In the meantime. . . what a month! We had a great time- huge crowds, absolute freedom and lots of preachers came to help.

The first week-end was the Music Fest and it brought in the music lovers. A cloned bunch if you ever saw one- including 'tie-dyed' left overs from the groupies who followed the Grateful Dead, RUB's (Rich Urban Bikers), multitudes of degenerates and still sweet looking professing Christians. We put in about 21 hours that week-end along with others who came to help, including Bro. Patterson from the Reclamation Ranch in Washington with his boys and Bro. Doug Coates from Tulsa, Oklahoma. The highlight for the crowd worked up by 'sex music' and alcohol was a few girls who bared their breasts to please the chanting crowd. We were thankful for prompt police intervention and I was able to preach to the offenders ***"The way of the transgressor is hard"*** as they were escorted to the patty wagon.

The second week-end, although not a major event week-end of MIM, was a record for an evangelistic presence on BEALE on Friday night. We had over 22 Bible believing preachers on the street. Bro. Gerald Sutek was able to swing through as well as several other pastors with young men from their churches that Bro. Sutek encouraged to come. Several professions of faith were made during the night and multitudes received literature and heard preaching. Although several had to leave early everyone

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.

remaining of our group was stirred up and refreshed by the spiritual warfare. The combat tested troops had an early morning (2:30 a.m.) praise and song service on our patio. What a blessing to know and serve Jesus Christ.

The preachers came from all directions the week-end of the Barbeque Cookoff - North Dakota, NY, several from Pensacola, and three west Tennessee preachers. These in addition to my pastor's family and Jeremy Hance my faithful partner gave us a good presence on BEALE. Again we put in about 22 hours that week-end, a lot of it in the hot sun. Bro. Dave Rowley said we should have said "preach til you fry" rather than 'preach til you drop'.

Altogether we had about 50 Christians preaching and/or witnessing on BEALE with ***banners unfurled*** during the first three week-ends of May. We do not know how many professions of faith, but there were at least 10-12. The Lord will have to take care of that. As proof that what we do and say doesn't die in May, a Music fest attendee was sitting on the ground and as I talked to him I asked him if I could tell him why I believed the Bible and he replied "Because it's the only book on Earth that tells history in advance." He told me that he and his friends had watched the video they made of last years Fest over and over and I was on the tape preaching to them. He was interested in talking but a heckler would not leave us alone. Maybe next year!

"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 - July 4 is a Saturday so count on large crowds all weekend and Labor day weekend will be the same. Bring your youth group and stay over night and we'll hit the street. They love it.

You can contact me at 901 386-2035 or by E-mail klansing@concentric.net Ken Lansing, Mphs,TN

Battlefield Bulletins

IT'S THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK

Bro. Galen Hall's wife, Valerie, gave a tract to a young man who turned and brought it back. Explaining that he was a Jew and did not need it, he then told them his grandmother had become a Christian 4 years ago and has been witnessing to him. IT JUST SO HAPPENED that Bro. Hall had just that day been studying and underlining the prophecies about Jesus Christ in Psalms 22 and Isaiah 53. This young man allowed Galen to spend almost one hour going through the scriptures with him.

My wife sat down next to a young man (David- from another state) on the curb and he revealed to her that he was to be married in 3 weeks. As Freida witnessed to David he told her that the METHODIST preacher that they picked out to marry them had been telling him all the same things- that before they got married the most important thing to do was to get saved. He allowed her to open her New Testament and go through the scripture with him for 20 minutes. As she explained that God had no doubt directed her to sit down next to him out of the thousands of people there because He was pursuing him, David seemed genuinely awed by the whole thing. He took the tract and promised to call or write when he got saved.

DID THE SPIRIT OF GOD LEAD YOU HERE?

SO MANY TIMES, in the middle of a degenerate crowd someone comes along who is obviously really saved and looks like it. Two women from Arkansas approached me and were so thankful for what we were doing. After determining that they were saved, I followed my usual line with them which is to quote Romans 8:14 and ask them "Did the Spirit of God lead you down here tonight?" They immediately hung their heads and said they knew they should not be there. I gently admonished them for a few minutes at the end of which time they were so thankful and said they felt like coming back and helping us the next night. CHRISTIANS JUST DON'T THINK SOMETIMES! And sometimes they don't realize what it is like there.

Freida approached 4 young men (she likes them because she can act like their mother) and they said they were saved, from Birmingham, just out of college and enjoying themselves a little. Three were soft spoken, but the leader of the pack said he was going to be a preacher and he was even drinking. She dealt with them from Ephesians 5: 10-11 (1) prove what is acceptable to the Lord 2) If you determine it is darkness, don't fellowship with it 3) but reprove it. We use this over and over and over with Christians. The one young man became more and more boisterous but the others got quieter and quieter and even distanced themselves from him and his attitude. One said to her "You're right". She asked if she could pray with them and prayed that God would make them more miserable and guilty with each step they took down BEALE. They looked sheepish when she looked up and we hope God finished the work in their hearts that He started.



THE WHOLE STREET BLOCKADED!

The second Friday night in May we had 10 banners up on the street. Generally the street is taken up with bad music, a group of black kids doing acrobatic flips and tap dancing, etc. But for once, just for a few minutes we stole the show. With all 10 banners unfurled and Bro. Sutek leading the way with his accordion, we marched down the street in a commanding display singing to the top of our lungs "Are you Washed in the Blood?" And believe me they took notice. We didn't really know how much until last Friday night when one of the friendly policemen was talking to Freida and telling her how great he thought our work was. Then he hung his head and chuckled over the night we marched in our parade. He informed her that they got an urgent call from the Hard Rock Cafe saying "You've got to do something, we are trying to run a business and these Christians (or something to that effect) have got **the whole street blockaded!**" He laughed and told Freida he looked at it and thought "Oh, no, chuckle, chuckle," as he approached Bro. David Laverty (traveling with Bro. Sutek from Ireland) and told him we would have to spread out. But righteousness dominated for a few minutes as we "occupied" on BEALE STREET. **AND IT WAS A GOOD FEELING!**

NEW BANNERS UNFURLED WEB SITE

Thanks to Bro. **Jodi Adair**, you can now find more about Banners Unfurled by checking our web site. Pictures, Federal court opinion, instructions to make your own banners and more.

<http://sojourner.shadowcom.org/banners/>

If you are tired of Juno and want more access to the internet but don't want to spend 19.95 try the ISP I use. Concentric is top rated and they have a great plan of 7 hours for \$9.95 and 1.95 per hour if you go over 7 hours. Get your mail and get off and occasionally look at some Bible Believers' Sites. 30 Days free (no required advertisements) and give them my user ID at the time of sign up and they pay me \$20 after you've been a user for a while. Don't forget my ID 'klansing' when you call to sign up 1 800 939 4262 My April charge was \$9.68. You can tell your friends too after you sign up and make \$20.

IT TAKES A LOT TO GET GOD IN A KILLING MOOD!!

On May 16, I had been preaching all during the night that 'it takes a lot to get God in a killing mood', but eventually He will. Just as we were leaving BEALE a car came barrelling down South Third Street the wrong way. Bro. Rowley, another preacher or two, and several dozen partiers that were at the intersection narrowly missed being hit. As the car flew through the intersection people shouted and ran. On the south side of the intersection two people were hit. One body flew into the air and crashed to the pavement in our sight as the driver rushed on and police pulled their guns and ran out after the car. It all happened so fast and the crowd closed in so quickly we did not know what else happened but assumed at least one person was dead. I was amazed that the crowd seemed to have so little care and as for me I was unable to do anything myself but pray. We were shaken and saddened by what we thought was surely a tragic death and knowing that in the old days on many a night our own lives could have been snuffed out and we would have gone into a Christless eternity. We couldn't help but wonder if they had rejected the Gospel for the last time. We waited for news but there was nothing about it. The hospital would give out no information and a day later when it was finally on the news there was only a blip which did not mention that it was in the BEALE district with hundreds of people standing around . It only said it was a teenager driving downtown on South street who drove onto a pedestrian crosswalk but there were no serious injuries. We can hardly believe people were not killed but this event only proves once again that . . 'it takes a lot to get God in a killing mood'.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is LONGSUFFERING to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” II Peter 3: 9.

"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