

# Banners Unfurled

August, 1998

Summer is almost over and you missed the blessing of preaching on BEALE STREET, where you can preach and talk to the highly educated, the down and outers, professing Christians, atheists and people of every stripe. During this summer I have had the opportunity to deal with 5 Muslims (2 different nights) who listened with great interest and sincerity for a long time, two Campus Crusade workers (one from Albania and the other from Rumania here in the states to raise support) who I was able to give some practical instruction in street work, and several professing Christians who hung their head in shame when I used Romans 8:14 on them. **"FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD."** After showing them the verse, I always ask "Did the Spirit of God lead you down here tonight?" A few out of the multitudes of professing Christians



show immediate conviction and remorse, but, boy the anger on the faces of the leaders of a couple of youth groups exiting the Hard Rock would have sent Jeremiah running for cover. I also had the chance to plow in fields of several Jewish men's heart and get Jewish tracts of Jacob Gartenhaus's testimony in their hands. Several missionaries came through and worked the street with us, as well as a youth group of 25 and some others. Sometimes the crowds are mostly hard nose scoffers and won't talk to you or others come and give you a long lecture on their religious concepts. But I always get a blessing out of the unsaved that come back to talk to me every time they come through and I get to plow, plant, or water a little more. The Air Force pilot who came up recently to apologize for yelling at me a year ago got another dose, though still not saved. Pray for him. I was equally encouraged when out of town at a youth rally a couple approached me and asked if I used to carry a banner in Memphis. This couple had watched me and even had a picture of me with my banner. They have since gotten saved (she used to be a singer on BEALE STREET) and although I did not get to lead them to the Lord, they said they were definitely brought under conviction by seeing me there time after time. I hope and believe that there are others like them. Our job is to be FAITHFUL. They have some sweet looking kids now and are faithful in church. There were several professions of faith during the summer- only the Lord knows how many were real. When you work on the street regularly, it makes you even more careful with people. When someone tells you they are not saved and then after 30 minutes they say, "Oh, yeah I did that one time" but they have no understanding of salvation you get REAL CAREFUL with people's souls. I never want to give a person some little something they can cling to that they did with no real conviction or understanding. A lot of people pray prayers of forgiveness- take Judas and Pharaoh- but they are not saved. These people are trusting that God will forgive anyone without understanding the payment Jesus made. Ask them if they sin and die suddenly without asking for forgiveness where they will go. They'll answer "To Hell", and you know they don't understand Biblical salvation.

There is a lot of shallow personal work going on and I don't want

## MY BEST MEN ARE WOMEN

From the very beginning of the **Salvation Army**, founded in 1875 by **William and Catherine Booth**, women played an important role. "Reclaiming" women from a life of prostitution was a significant part of the mission work. A London journalist reported the work of two of these girls:

I was amazed. I found two delicate girls. . . ministering to a crowded congregation which they had themselves collected out of the street, and building up an aggressive church militant out of the human refuse which other churches regarded with blank despair. In the first six months. . . a corps or a church was formed of nearly two hundred members.

When the Booths decided to officially inaugurate the work of the Salvation Army in America, a team of seven women entitled the "Splendid Seven" was sent. There was no condescending to them on account of their sex, as is illustrated in the farewell prayer offered by an Army officer: "Lord, these ladies are going to America to preach the gospel. If they are fully given up to Thee, be with them and bless them and grant them success. But if they are not faithful, drown 'em, Lord, drown 'em!" They did succeed and they served as an example, along with many others that prompted William Booth to say, "MY BEST MEN ARE WOMEN!"

In spite of the humanitarian work that the S.A. conducted in the poorest districts, they met bitter opposition from every sector of society. From rowdies and thugs to sophisticated high churchmen, the Army was the subject of scorn. In the streets, the ridicule frequently turned to violence, and in 1882 there were more than six hundred reported assaults on Army volunteers, **MORE THAN A THIRD OF THE VICTIMS BEING WOMEN- ONE DYING OF HER WOUNDS."**

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

to be part of it. I was on my knees with a fellow suggesting a prayer to him. The first point "God, I deserve to go to Hell." He stood up and said, "I don't believe that." I was sorry but at that point I told him there was no need to go any further. If you aren't drowning you don't need someone to pull you out of the water! A person must understand he is a sinner and condemned to eternal death before he can get saved, which is why a lot of street preaching should be negative (the lawful use of the law is to reveal to a person his helpless and lost condition).

## COURT CASE APPEAL COMING UP IN OCTOBER

The Federal Court Case that we won a few months ago granting us complete freedom on the street during *Memphis in May* was appealed and will be reheard in October in Cincinnati by the Appellate Court. We were asked to compromise with the *Memphis in May* organization and declined. I am not trying to be difficult but we are talking about a PUBLIC STREET. I ask that you really make this a matter of prayer in your churches that God will give a clear VICTORY.

## NO GREATER JOY

There is nothing better than seeing your own son be one of those faithful men. My oldest son, Jon, is in Pensacola with his family going to Bible school and was able to preach with me this summer when he was home. Every time I looked at him he had a crowd around him and was playing the part of a man. What a blessing. ***"I HAVE NO GREATER JOY THAN TO HEAR THAT MY CHILDREN WALK IN TRUTH."*** III JOHN 4

## THE AMAZING EFFECT OF BANNERS

Since I painted my first crude banner on a window shade in 1982 to use in my street work, I have pressed people all the time to use them. I like for people to come here and either use one or observe a banner being used. Thought you might like to hear what someone else had to say. Bro. Kevin Deegan rode a bus from NY for 24 hours to preach in May with several of us. Here are some comments by him and a friend about his time spent here and subsequent use of a banner in NY.

"Thank you for providing an opportunity to serve. I am greatly encouraged and challenged to do more and to glorify God more in my life in general. It was just so good. Thank you!"

"We brought the banner, it sure does get attention, even from God's people. I had just got the banner out and one of our co-laborers asked, "Could I preach with the banner?" It has that effect, then another preached with it. Next thing I know a brother that I have only known to hand out tracts is over there preaching with it. What a blessing."

"Friday afternoon our church went downtown to give the gospel message. It was amazing to watch people as they read the banner. One even stopped and asked what it meant. As I was leading him the LORD, I noticed that there were three others being dealt with. Friday night it was amazing to watch people's faces as they looked at God's WORDS, on the banner."

## 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.**

## TRAINING FAITHFUL MEN

Grandville, Aug. 12, 1998

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Lansing,

Thank you very much for spending your weekend with Mike, Bruce and I. It was one of the best weekends that I have ever had. After speaking with Muslims, Jews, perverts, people longing for truth, etc., my beliefs became much more meaningful to me, and I was pumped up to go and study like crazy.

Currently, God is very clearly leading me to do missionary work in Grand Rapids. I will be working with another young man right in the middle of downtown Grand Rapids. We are very excited that God is using us to build his church.

The weekend that I spent with you greatly enhanced the fire burning in my heart for lost souls. I am very grateful that you took time to teach me and encourage me in the ways of God. He is definitely using your example in my life!

Sincerely,  
Your friend and brother in the Lord,  
Gregg Rozeboom

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

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

September 4-6 Music & Heritage Festival  
Come before the colder weather puts a dent in the crowds

You can contact me at 901 386-2035 or  
by E-mail [klansing@concentric.net](mailto:klansing@concentric.net)  
Ken Lansing, Memphis, Tennessee

# Battlefield Bulletins

## LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Bro. Jimmy Pugh, the songleader at church went with me to BEALE along with several others. During the course of the night several in our group talked to a group of three young men who wandered back and forth. One of them said that in his childhood he rode with his father on his Harley Davidson all over the country selling dope. Bro. Pugh gave them the church number, and on Sunday morning they called for a ride. Bro. Tolbert preached a good sermon and I had the great opportunity to deal with James as he received Jesus Christ and with emotion told the church of his decision. NOW THAT IS THE WAY IT OUGHT TO WORK! That night he was back in church along with his brother. It is such a blessing to be part of a team effort. I appreciate the burden and calling of being a street preacher, but my heart is always to see them come to church, **"I HAVE PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED; BUT GOD GAVE THE INCREASE. . . FOR WE ARE LABOURERS TOGETHER WITH GOD."** 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9

## A LITTLE HUMOR

Not everything on the street is dead serious. Things get strange every now and then. Bro. Dave Rowley (from ND) was standing with me on the street when a guy who was handing out flyers next to us got incensed. After getting right in our face yelling that we were "DOING IT ALL WRONG," he proceeded to mock us (he thought) and took to jumping up and down and screaming "You're going to Hell, you're going to Hell." Then he took some of our tracts and said, "Now let me show you how to do it." At which point he approached a man and said very quietly and gently as he walked along with the guy "Can I give you one of these?" The guy turned and gave him a good cussing. He looked a little chagrined but tried again on several others. After suffering a total rebuff from each one, he sheepishly came back to us, shrugged his shoulders and said "MAYBE YOU'RE DOING IT RIGHT AFTER ALL."

A couple of weeks ago, Freida was talking to a couple of guys who were mad because as they told her "I had called someone a faggot." (Without any reason of course. The truth of the matter was that this guy came up and hugged me and as I got loose from him I told him not to hug me anymore because someone would think he was a faggot.) But these guys who heard about my comment were mad and going up and down the street complaining to anyone that would listen. As we stopped to talk to Bro. Galen Hall who was with me preaching that night he too told us that these same guys had complained to him. YOU GOTTA KNOW GALEN- an answer for everything. He says to them

that- "Look I don't know what happened or what it was all about." They kept on and on and finally he says to them, "Well, you know the Bible says 'By their fruit you shall know them.' And sometimes you can just tell a fruit is a fruit!!" Which finished them off. **"Therefore I . . . should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification..."** 2 Cor. 13:10

## MONKEY MEN

A retired DC lawyer I've been talking to for a couple of years (ODEN) asked me recently what my toenails were for. I said to keep from injuring toes when something falls on them. Of course the right answer was to climb trees when I was in a former evolutionary state. Maybe someday I'll brighten up!

## ON ARGUING WITH WOMEN

A girl got in my face to tell me I was doing everything all wrong, I should not be telling people they were going to Hell, because that was judging. I said "You just judged me," to which she replied that she did not judge me. Rather than continue the argument "Yes you did"- "No, I didn't", I decided to use the crowd instead which I sometimes do. I turned to them and related the incident and asked the crowd if they thought she was a hypocrite for telling me it is wrong to judge, when that is precisely what she is doing to me. They listened as I publicly made my case as if they were the judge and jury. They loved it! When the same things happen over and over you get to practice **"Proving what is acceptable to the Lord."** Eph. 5:10 She left very unhappy but almost immediately a young man came up out of the crowd who had been listening and was dead serious about getting saved. After a review of several Bible verses and some questioning Andy got on his knees with me on BEALE STREET and asked the Lord to save him. Immediately afterwards he made a profession of faith to his friends and mine. You never know how the Lord will work.

## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

I am always excited when we can have a group of us on the street. This little light of mine joined with several other lights shines so much brighter. When you contemplate the darkness of a watering hole like Beale you realize what impression a little light has on the revelers. They think Memphis is the most religious place in the world. We see the depravity, but they see the light. **If every preacher in America spent an hour a week in public ministry they wouldn't think Memphis is so peculiar.** I go it alone lots of nights because a little light is better than no light. Bring some of your men for some practical experience-we'll put you up and I promise you'll get a new burden!

## WHAT ABOUT THE HEATHEN?

What about the people who have never heard the truth? If you do any public evangelism you will be asked this question repeatedly. Of course no answer is acceptable because they prefer to have an excuse to reject the Bible as truth. They are like Huxley, who said he preferred a life without meaning because "it leaves me free to pursue my own erotic desires."

I've tried this answer. If I had the cure to cancer and sent it to the person who killed the messenger, how many times would I have to send a messenger before I would be absolved of any responsibility to get the cure to them? One young man understood that God had absolved himself of any responsibility and is free to move on to a body of people who will be receptive. He still walked away, but I think he realized he was just giving an alibi so he had an excuse to keep Christ out of his heart. Dr. Peter Ruckman says that people will be responsible for what they *could have known if they had wanted the truth*. Of course this lines up with the truth from Romans 1:20, **"they are without excuse."** But once I tell people this that ends the conversation and they go down the street having confirmed that the Bible is not the word of God because God would not send someone to Hell who never heard what we (WASP's) have heard.

A few nights ago a professing atheist approached me to denigrate me for being so un-cerebral and of course the issue of the heathen's destination came up, - Buddhists, Hindus, and cannibals etc. I said, "Oh, they are all going to Heaven. They'll rape your children when they get there and be eating people, but they will all be there. Everyone goes." That completely took the wind out of his sails when he had to contemplate a heaven with cannibals and Hindus priests who systematically rape four and five year old girls (Amy Carmichael biography). **"Answer a fool according to his folly." Proverbs 26:5** By answering according to his folly he was confronted with the conclusion he came to on his own that if there was a Heaven it wouldn't be much of a place of joy and delight if a big group was up there eating people and raping others. He then gave me 45 minutes to press Jesus's claims to him.

Jesus mingled with the people where they were and I thank God for the chance to do the same. Pray for me that I'll be an effective tool in the hands of the Holy Spirit and they won't be able to get this preacher and his banner out of their minds and hearts.

**"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

*Ken Lansing  
3060 Woodhills Dr.  
Memphis, TN 38128*

**First Class Mail**