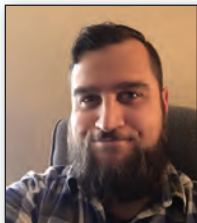


# The BRIDGE

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS • SHARING CHRIST • GROWING TOGETHER by walking the bridges of Fulton

## Knowing the Gospel, Sharing the Gospel

As we seek to build relationships with the pre-Christians in our spheres of influence, there will come a time when you will have the privilege of sharing with them their need for Jesus. What follows are the key points of what we know as the Gospel or the Good News. This is not meant to be a script for you to regurgitate verbatim, but rather an outline and a source of ideas as to how to illustrate the Gospel in a more visual way. My hope is that this will help you organize your thoughts and communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ clearly. Before you read anything or share anything, be sure to pray and ask for the Holy Spirit's help as you seek to share the holiness of God, the sinfulness of man, the sufficiency of Christ, the necessity of faith, and the hope of eternity to the lost people God has given you to love.



by Pastor Tyler

### The Holiness of God

When we call God holy we are saying that He is sacred, other, set apart. Isaiah 55:8 says, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* His thoughts are higher than ours. His ways are better than ours. This means that His Law is higher than morality. In His holiness and authority He

determines what is right, what is wrong, what is true, and what is false.

### The Sinfulness of Man

We were created in God's image (Gen. 1:27). Part of what that means is that we were created to be holy, to be set apart to worship the Lord and to live completely in line with God's ideals of right

and wrong, true and false. God tells His people, *"You shall be holy, for I am holy"* (1 Pet. 1:16, Lev. 11:44). Something has clearly gone wrong because when we look at the world around us, we will not have to look beyond ourselves to see the evidence of our rebellion, our sin, against a holy God. The Bible tells us that the punishment for our sin is eter-

## Five Appeals from John Stumbo

by Pastor J

This past weekend—January 30—the Northeastern District's Disciplemaking Team sponsored a conference in South Glens Falls, New York. The one-day workshop was designed to equip and encourage children, youth, adult ministry workers, teachers, and home-schooling parents. Fourteen people from Fulton Alliance Church (FAC) attended the conference that had close to 400 attendees.

The keynote speaker was worth the price of admission—president of the C&MA, John Stumbo. John shared his perspective on Discipleship by answering "The Why" and "The Who(s)" of Discipleship. He concluded his day by challenging the C&MA family with five appeals. I'd like to share those appeals with you here and encourage you to pray and think over them



John Stumbo

as they relate to our vision at FAC: To Build Relationships so that we can Share Christ so that we will Grow Together. John encouraged us to:

### 1. Use Ceremony as key discipleship moments

How might we emphasize baptisms, first communions, child dedications, commissionings, moving-up from children to youth ministry as a means of accomplishing our vision?

### 2. See love as the clearest evidence of discipleship

John said that this should be the "duh" appeal. However he stressed the importance of insuring we don't lose sight of the fundamentals because we're lost in routine.

How can we insure love permeates who we are as we build relationships, **see STUMBO'S APPEAL on page 3**

nal punishment in Hell (Matt. 25:41). This is the fate of every human born under the sun.

### **Illustrating the Offence of Our Sinfulness Against God's Holiness**

Imagine, if you would, that you are walking through the woods and come upon a boulder. You stand before the massive rock and then without any good reason decide to punch the

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*“The penalty for our transgression is directly related to the authority of the one transgressed against.”*

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stone. What consequences would you experience? Beside from maybe a sore hand, you wouldn't really experience a great deal of punishment for striking the boulder. Now imagine if you walked up to a stranger on the street and punched them straight in the nose. The consequences would be quite a bit more substantial than striking the boulder. Maybe you get hit back or even reported to the police. Now what if you did the same thing to a cop, what might happen? What if you went up to the President of the United States and punched him in the throat? You would be in big, big trouble. The penalty for our transgression is directly related to the authority of the one transgressed against. Now imagine approaching the holy and infinitely powerful God and striking Him in the face. It would make perfect sense that our offence against an infinite God would carry an infinitely greater penalty. When we sin, we transgress against this Lord. Our punishment is deserved.

### **The Sufficiency of Christ**

When our sin is rightly understood before the holiness of God, then it becomes more understandable why the fate of sinful man is the same as the Devil and the angels who rebelled against God: an eternity of conscious torment in Hell (Matt. 25:41). We may think if we're good enough, maybe if we do enough good deeds we can earn forgiveness. Isaiah 64:6 makes it very clear that our good deeds could never save us. *“We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.”* Our works are not sufficient to save and the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament only dealt with outward uncleanness (Heb. 9:13). We could never be good enough or offer a pure enough sacrifice to wash away our sins to earn God's forgiveness. The only One able to live a life good enough, the only One able to offer the necessary sacrifice would be God Himself. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who came and lived the perfect sinless life, a life we should have lived, but could never have lived. Christ came and offered Himself as the great sacrifice that would cleanse us not only on the outside, but would change our very hearts. Christ rose again proving He was who He said He was, and accomplished what He said He did. Hebrew 9:12 puts it like this, *“by His own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having eternal redemption for us.”*

If we do not understand the holiness of God, the sinfulness of man, the sufficiency of Christ, the necessity of faith, and the hope of eternity, we will not be able to adequately communicate the weight of the Gospel to those to whom we are witnessing. My prayer is that having the Gospel laid out before you and providing a few handy illustrations, you will be able to clearly know the Gospel, and clearly share the Gospel in word and deed. 

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Fulton Alliance is committed to being a community that is used by God to make disciples of all nations and to teach them to obey everything that our Lord Jesus Christ commanded them, the greatest commandment being to Love God with all their hearts, souls, and minds, and to love their neighbors as themselves. TheBridge continues the tradition of more than 45 years of communicating God's work through His people at FAC.



## STUMBO's APPEAL

continued from page 1

share Christ, and grow together?

### 3. Instill a love of Scripture and equip with an ability of self-study

Are we in Scripture daily? What ways can we incorporate our personal study into every day conversations?

Before moving on to the next appeal, John mentioned "inductive Bible study" as an example for equipping others to self-study. If you are interested in learning more about inductive Bible Study, contact me and I will provide you with a helpful resource.

### 4. Celebrate preaching as a great discipleship opportunity


This was an appeal directed towards the pastors and elders in the audience. His point was to emphasize the significance of the opportunity we are given and the need for the appropriate investment of time in our study.

As an elder/pastor how can we maintain the proper focus in our sermon preparation?

What can the greater congregation do to help the elder/pastor in their sermon preparations?

### 5. Make it all about Jesus

This last appeal, for me, was the most perceptive. This is the one question that must be constantly asked as I strive to be what God desires and to do the good works He has placed before me. How can I make this about Jesus and not about me? How can I build relationships for Jesus? How can I share Christ for Jesus? How can I grow with others for Jesus?

The stirring of God's Spirit at Fulton Alliance Church is something I've recognized and pointed out to our community in recent days. It was exciting to realize this is not a localized experience, but rather God is moving regionally and nationally the same. 

# Sharing Christ through FAC Good News Clubs

by Ruth Weaver

Good News Clubs (GNC) running in Fairgrieve, Granby and Lanigan schools in Fulton, are not only

We have been blessed at Granby by one of our graduates, now in Jr. High, who takes a bus from that



sharing the gospel in these public schools, but are also meeting some of the economic needs of four families for whom our church provided Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and Christmas gifts.


Up to 50% of Club members are unchurched, but some are getting connected to FAC. Several Club members regularly attend the Quest program (Wednesday evenings at FAC) and others attended the Quest Christmas program. At least two families have started attending our church.

We desire to minister to whole families where possible. During our Club Christmas parties, many parents came and heard their children share the Biblical nativity account. Some of the families have been visited by GNC staff.

An invitation to ask Jesus to be their Lord and Savior is usually given at each Bible lesson. Since October, when any of our children have made the decision for Christ, a rose has been placed in the vase on the left wall in our sanctuary—at least six so far.

school each week to help us. He says he misses the Good News Club!

Thank you for the privilege of making it possible, through your giving to the Building Bridges Fund, for our teams to tell children about what Jesus did for them and how much He loves them and to help the believing children to be established in their Christian walk and witness.

Please keep praying for each Club, because the enemy doesn't want God's Word being taught in the public schools. Also pray for our children, many of whom are in very difficult family situations. Specific names are available for prayer. Ask Ruth Weaver, Ruth Sheldon or Sue Maliszewski. 



Ruth Weaver is the Good News Clubs Coordinator for Fulton Alliance Church. Our clubs are in three local schools: Fairgrave, Granby and Lanigan Elementary Schools. If you would like more information, contact Ruth at (315) 598-4153

# Great Commission Women

by Alice Lamb

Where are you? Right now, where are you? Do you believe that God has placed you where you are for a purpose, on purpose?



PLACED for a PURPOSE


God's Positioning System—Placed for a Purpose is the emphasis this year.

The theme verse is found in Acts 17:26b–27a, “...He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him.”

God has placed our international workers to reach the lost around the world. Some of those lost are the Diaspora, large groups of people with similar heritage or homeland who have moved to places all over the world. This year's National Project will be used to help the Alliance pro-

vide ministries to the Diaspora people to hear the gospel.

God has placed each of us to reach the lost around our community. During the Spring Refresh Woman's Conference, April 22–23, we will hear from speakers, one being our own Karen Spurling, about God's purposeful positioning. Early deadline is in March; more information will be available soon.

Other great events are being planned for a full exciting year. 

## An Annual Report Overview

In case you received, but haven't read, the Annual Report, here are a few tidbits of interest.

**Pastor's Report:** a comprehensive and encouraging report where Pastor J tells us that his family has been inviting people over for meals as they are “enjoying the growing family God is bringing across our path.” He is encouraging everyone in leadership to do the same (of course, this is a great relationship building practice for the entire congregation).

**Building Bridges:** we learn that the covered bridge mailbox next to the coffee bar has Building Bridges proposal forms for people to fill in with proposals for outreach ideas.

**Missions Committee:** nine missions speakers were at FAC last year. How many do you remember?

**Connect Groups:** there are five Connect Groups reported. Have you joined one or do you want to begin a new one?—Joe LeFevre is the man to contact.

**The Media Center (library):** did you know they circulated 546 books in 2015? They also added new CDs and DVDs and their books on tape are plentiful.

**The Senior Servants:** You might not realize if you didn't read the report, there is an ongoing ministry to 3 refugee families in Syracuse.

**Great Commission Women:** Are you saving your stamps, sheets, Labels for Education, etc. Check it out in their report.


**Sunday School:** Adult and Children SS are developing ministries in our community. Check out Karen Spurling's exciting report on God's move and the new curriculum for kids.

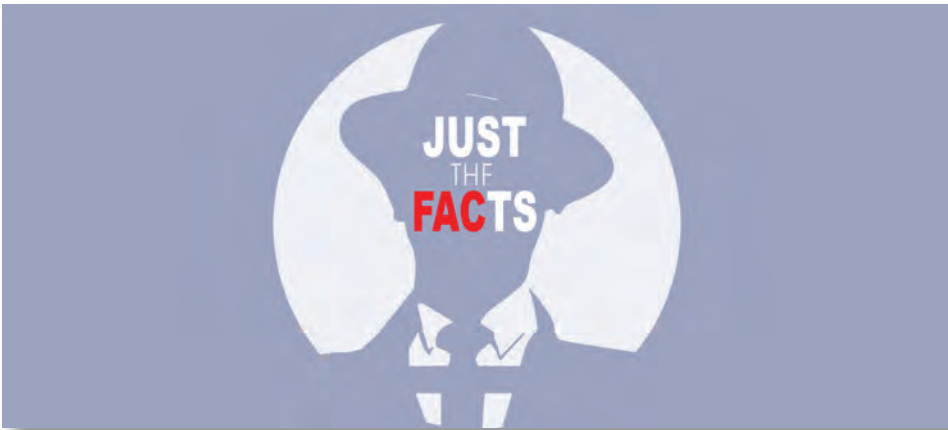
**Quest Kids:** this new ministry is going great and looking to expand their offerings with a summer program.

**The Youth Group:** there's been a name change from CRAZE to Encounter. One of the upcoming events to keep your eye on and your knees bent for is LIFE 2016 in St. Louis.

**The Decorating Committee:** modified some old pews to use by the Fellowship Hall and painted some of the sanctuary walls. Lots of painting needed in 2016—in case you need something for which to volunteer!

Hopefully these reminders will encourage you to go back and read the whole thing. God is at work. MANY people are involved in ministries for which we thank them, and there is always room for YOU to be actively involved here.

On January 26, the congregation met and approved the entire report (with minor changes). Also, Carole Webb and Sylvia Cleaveland were elected to the nominating committee for 2016, joining elders, Jim Smith and Mike Curtis as well as Pastor J. 



### BAPTISM

**Courtney Weaver** (13) shared her love for the Lord and was baptized at church in early January.

### BABY NEWS

**Anthony and Maranatha Lamb** dedicated 6-week-old Skyler Bea, to the Lord January 17, with Grandpa Brian Pribis officiating and lots of relatives witnessing it. Skyler, born December 8, joins her brother Ronan, 2.

Congratulations to **Ben and Becca (Hurlbut) Morse** on the birth of Amelia Jean, on January 14.

We are happy to announce the birth of Ruby Elizabeth to **Rob and Amber Acker** on January 27. She joins big sister, 3-year old, Jade.


### HEAVEN'S GAIN

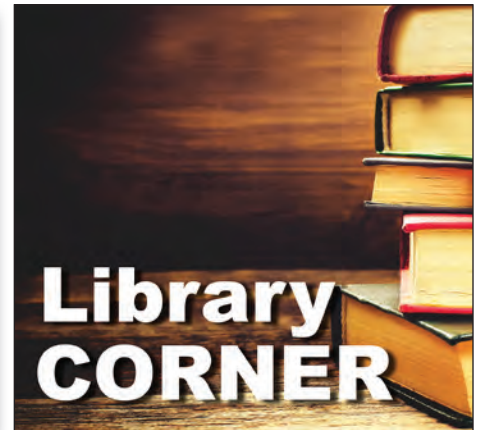
On January 15, **Marien Hall**, 93, peacefully left this earth and went to heaven. Marien's husband, George, was the 3rd pastor of our church from 1966–1970. The church went from about 30 to nearly 200 under their ministry. Marien was a soloist and song leader and did extensive teacher training. After Fulton the Halls ministered in 2 more churches before retiring back here. George died in 1983. Marien lived in Fulton before suffering a series of strokes. The last one left her paralyzed on the right side and negatively affected her speech. For the

past several years she received nursing care at Syracuse Home in Baldwinsville. She died quietly in her sleep and was buried in her home town of Jamestown. She is survived by their only son, Timothy, of Cazenovia. A memorial service for her is planned for Saturday, February 13, at 11:00 AM at FAC followed by a luncheon. Stephen B. Clark will officiate.

**Jeanette Madill** (a former FAC member) moved to Jesup, GA a few years ago to live near her daughter Helen Kilpatrick. On January 11, Helen passed away—she was diagnosed with epilepsy a few years ago and had a seizure from which she did not recover. Helen leaves husband Kevin, and 3 daughters—Ashley, Courtney, and Renee. Their address is: 2100 River Rd., Jesup, GA 31546. Jeanette's is: 125 Pioneer Rd., Lot 13, Jesup, GA 31545.

### LIFE 2016

Fourteen of our youth and their sponsors will be heading out to Kansas City to the C&MA's national youth conference this July, joining 6,000 others for five days of life transforming, glory to God ministry. Please consider ways you can support (invest in) our youth in the upcoming weeks/months. As always, at FAC it begins with prayer—preemptive prayer. Other opportunities to partner with the youth through giving will be made available—be on the lookout! 



### NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY:

*Agents of the Apocalypse* by Dr. David Jeremiah, said to be a riveting look at the key players of the end times.

*The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon—it encourages people of faith to live as God intended.

*Autumn Brides*—3 novellas in one book.

 *Discipleshift* by Jim Putman, Bobby Harrington and Robert Coleman.

*From the Start* by Melissa Tagg—contemporary romance.

*House of Living Stones* by Katie Schuermann—a whimsical and touching story about life in small town America.

*How to have That Difficult Conversation* by Dr. Henry Cloud and John Townsend—gaining skills for honest and meaning conversation.

*It's Good to be Queen* by Liz Curtis Higgs—becoming as bold, gracious, and wise as the Queen of Sheba.

*The Potter's Lady* by Judith Miller is an historical fiction book about business and love.

*Ties That Bind* by Cindy Woodsmall, #1 in her new series, *The Amish of Summer Grove*.

*The Wonder of You* by Susan Warren. 

# Looking Ahead

**COME JOIN US**  
**IN THE FAC FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
FEB07 at 6PM

HALF TIME FULTON ALLIANCE SHOW  
THE JOE KULLE ACCURACY THROW  
SUPERBOWL CHILI COMPETITION  
MC'd by JIM "CATCH 22" SMITH

**FULTON**  
SUPER BOWL  
HOST COMMITTEE  
20 **50** 16



## Coming to FAC, mark your calendars for April 1–3

Paul and Elvie Barner run the Barner Christian Academy in Davao City, Philippines. Paul and his teen daughter, Abby, will be at our church for a mini-mission conference April 1–3. Their school serves hundreds of impoverished children and they would appreciate donations for the school. Items to save (new or gently used): Children's summer clothing (NO baby clothes), children's shoes—any style, stuffed animals, school supplies of any kind. Items may be given to the Eggletons.

*Details of the conference will be forthcoming.*

## Senior Servants Try Again!

Our January meeting was cancelled because of a storm. Our February meeting is Wednesday the 10th. We will still have the soup and bread meal, so you need not bring a dish to pass. Be sure you are signed up with Nellie Eggleton. We may have a surprise Love Story shared with us. Also, we have taken an envelope from the tree for LIFE, a national youth conference to which several of our teens are going this summer in Kansas City. We have pledged \$87 and our offering on the 10th will go to cover that gift.

## A Song Fest at the Fulton Nazarene Church

On February 28 at 6 PM the FAC congregation will join the Fulton Nazarene Church for a time of worship. Come and enjoy the fellowship and music.

*Details of this event will be forthcoming.*

Dear Church Family,

Because of your prayers, thoughtfulness in sharing meals with Karl and me—loving us through God's strength, sustaining us day by day, sending cards to encourage us—from the bottom of my heart: "Thank you!"

—Jackie & Karl Richards

*If you are interested in ministries to the disabled please contact the church office at 593–6842 x 103.*

**BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM THROUGH**  
**DISABILITY**  
**MINISTRIES**



Encouraging every church  
DISABILITY MATTERS  
to embrace disability

**Saturday, April 16, 2016**  
**9 AM – 4 PM**  
**Registration begins at 8:30 AM**

**New Beginnings**  
**35 De Garmo Road**  
**Poughkeepsie, NY 12603**

**Simulcast Sites at:**  
**Auburn Alliance and**  
**Amherst Alliance Churches**