



The Fisherman Quarterly

Preaching - Teaching - Discipling

Swim News!

By Dave Bickers, Member of Board of Directors

It was another beautiful sunrise on Saturday, June 4. When I'm in the Keys, I never get over how beautiful they really are. My prayers were pretty simple that morning. It was Race Day, the 35th Annual Swim Around Key West. This is my third year attending the swim, not as an athlete, but as a mission volunteer. Certainly my prayers were drawn to the weather, the safety of those in the water, and to the overall success of this event. But the team that had traveled from Urbancrest Baptist Church in Lebanon, Ohio to Key West also found themselves earnestly praying for open doors for the gospel to be shared. That's why we were there.

I met Pastor Bill Welzien almost 5 years ago at Mallory Square. I watched as he shared the gospel story using an easel, blank paper, and paints. That meeting started an email friendship and has led into a special ministry partnership. The ministry of KEM and the Urbancrest Baptist Church have the shared goal in reaching our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. That goal surpasses denominational affiliations and allows us to partner together in ways we could not on our own.

It's a very foreign concept for my church in Ohio to understand why folks would want to swim around a 12.5 mile island! Probably makes as much sense to Key Westers why folks in Ohio want to live somewhere where we shovel so much snow. But once you hear Pastor Bill's heart on what this event is truly about, the concept then comes into focus. Yes, it is a fundraiser and most certainly a highly competitive athletic event. It takes hundreds of hours of planning and months of details need to be worked out. But if the Lord gives us life and breath to bring Him glory, this event gives us as believers the glorious opportunity to be His hands and feet for the sake of the gospel. My team was able to serve Pastor Bill and the swimmers in simple things like registration and food service and delivering kayaks. That led to the open doors we had prayed for. We were able to share the gospel with many different participants of this event.



Thank you to all who prayed for the swim. Thank you to all who supported the event with your financial gifts. This event is making a difference in many, many lives around the world. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

A Busy First Six Months

Bill Welzien

The year is now half finished and the weeks have been full with ministry opportunities. In March I flew to Ohio where I ministered in Cincinnati and Lebanon. In April I was in Chicago to do some Open Air Easel Ministry and in May I was in Detroit, Michigan.

The Detroit connection came while ministering at the Mallory Square Sunset Celebration. The time was just after Christmas. Dorin and his wife Livia listened to the message and came up afterwards to thank me. Dorin is a leader in the evangelism department at the Romanian Pentecostal Church he attends. Through his instrumentality I spent from May 11th through the 15th with the congregation of the Bethesda Romanian Church giving a conference on personal evangelism. This for me was unique cross cultural experience in many ways. Most of the adults were from the old country and most of those under twenty years old were born here in the USA. On Thursday evening I spoke to about 150 people through the pastor who translated my message into Romanian. On Friday I addressed about 125 of the youth in English. On Saturday we did open air in a ghetto in Detroit. On Sunday morning I preached on "Fishing Men" in English and in the evening I spoke through the pastor once again. What a warm, enthusiastic reception I received.

On June 20th I will drive to Brooksville, Florida to be the main speaker at the week long Reformed Youth Camp. Three of my children will be in attendance with many other young people.

In July we expect a dozen or more students from Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Wilmington Delaware. We will house them here at the Keys Bible Center and spend a week in instruction in personal evangelism. We will also give them first hand opportunity to use what they learn at the Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square.

As you note from other articles in the letter we had a challenging but gratifying 35th Annual Swim Around Key West (12.5 miles) on June 4th. This event demonstrates that we can turn any experience into an opportunity to share the Good News of the Lord Jesus. Since I am not only a swimmer but also the organizer we begin the swim with prayer and the post swim buffet is begun with prayer in Jesus' name. In the "goody bags" we handed out to all the swimmers we placed a "Key Truths from the Bible" tract, a Challenge newspaper (contains personal testimonies of believers) and an invitation to Keys Presbyterian Church's Sunday services



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Busy Six Months continued

among the other numerous free samples of products. Several of the participants took us up on our invitation and heard a message from Hebrews 12:1-2 called “Running to Win.”

Come August we will celebrate 25 years of faithful preaching at Key West’s Mallory Square. We continue to have incredible conversations with the people who visit that pier and these people come not only from all over this country but from all over the world.

None of this ministry would be possible without your prayer and financial support. Thank you for standing with us and please do continue to pray as God’s Word sounds forth.

Another Swim Completed by Bill Welzien

On June 4th at 9:30AM I joined 73 other solo swimmers and additional relay swimmers to swim the circumference of the Island of Key West, an estimated distance of 12.5 miles. My career total heading into this swim was 51 laps. This one had me wary about my ability to succeed. I pulled a pectoral muscle two weeks before the event. So as not to aggravate my problem I went swimless for the full two weeks before the event. In the end I reasoned that if I didn’t swim I was guaranteed not finishing but if I started I just may complete the course. I knew that many were praying for my success, so with that in mind I launched out.

I micromanaged my body the first several miles wondering what might happen but by mile 4 I felt better and stronger. Praise God for answered prayer. I completed my 52nd swim around Key West in 6:09:40. The wind was 20 miles from the east north east so from mile 5 until 8 it was an extra challenge. My 24 year old daughter Christiana was my kayaker and did a great job on a tough course. It was a joy to have her next to me!

**Funds Needed for Facilities Painting Project
By Bob Keys, KEM Board Member**

Last newsletter we reported to you that the Keys Presbyterian Church building painting project had been completed by the De Risher family/friends from Harvest OPC in Michigan . What a wonderful job they have done. This is a blessing to have completed

most of the expenses including the paint and expenses for the work have been paid by regional churches and individuals in the Western Michigan area. However when all the expenses were paid, we were short ~ \$700 to cover the remaining costs that have not been able to be covered by these churches in Michigan.



Therefore KEM would like to request contributions to help cover the remaining costs which have not already been covered for this facilities painting project. IF you would like to help with any amount to help defray the costs of this project, please send (designated in the memo section: KEM facilities painting project) your tax deductible gifts to: Keys Evangelistic Ministries, 1000 Coppitt Road, Key West, Florida 33040. **Thanks for your financial help!**



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**Welcome to
 Key West**

**Most Southern Point
 in the United States**



BILL'S SERMONS ON YOU TUBE

STRAIGHT FROM MALLORY SQUARE

**Video Presentation – see and hear the Gospel go forth from Key West
 go to www.youtube.com then search for “keyschristians”**

Visit us at www.keys-christians.org

Picture The Scene



It could be in New York's Central Park, or in the park in your own town. But tonight it is at a boat dock called Mallory Square in Key West, Florida. Tourists from the cruise ships pour onto the streets to eat and shop and stand side by side with locals and other vacationers to watch the sun set over the Gulf of Mexico with cheers and celebration. Amid the art & crafts exhibitors, street performers, food



carts, laughs and merriment some pause to listen to a thin bearded man speak the most important words they will ever hear.

Three nights each week around two hours before sunset Bill Welzien can be found faithfully preaching the full gospel message at the Mallory Square Sunset Celebration.



“Bible Bill” as he is known by the locals, has been at it with his attention getting “ladder lettering” for over 23 years.

Keys Evangelistic Ministries oversees this unique ministry that literally has global impact

Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square - Key West,