



# FRANCIS ASBURY

► S O C I E T Y ◄

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**  
*Five Steps Forward*

## From Our President

My wife of nearly 39 years (Dorena) and I moved back to our home in Wilmore, KY, in May of 2020 and on July 1 (in our 39th year of ordained ministry, 44 years of ministry altogether), we began to serve as president of the Francis Asbury Society. We are serving the presidency under appointment from the bishop of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This photo of Dorena and me was taken when we were visiting our youngest daughter Laura and her husband, Captain Frank Wood (U.S. Army). They are stationed in Fort Riley, Manhattan, Kansas, the Sunflower State. There's something symbolic about the reality of turning towards the sun to grow. Malachi reminds us that "the sun of righteousness would rise with healing" (4:2 NIV).

We began the academic year of 2020-2021 working remotely at FAS due to the new realities around COVID safety and procedures. For a while, our offices were closed due to restrictions. We prayerfully asked our Lord, what can we do



*Ron and Dorena Smith*

to further the mission of FAS despite these new realities? I am pleased to report to you how the Francis Asbury Society was able to take **five significant steps forward** in our ministry in this, our first year of transition together despite the limitations of the COVID context.

Ron Smith  
President



# 5 STEPS FORWARD

## **1. A New Web Design and Marketing Strategy**

After prayerfully considering how we could move the organization forward despite COVID, we determined to take a significant step forward in our web design and marketing strategy for books and publications. FAS is now in a high-grade consulting contract with Summit Marketing from Kansas City. Under their tutelage and direction, we will strategically advance in our mission in the area of marketing and communications.





# 5 STEPS FORWARD

## 2. General Fund Leadership 100 Development Campaign

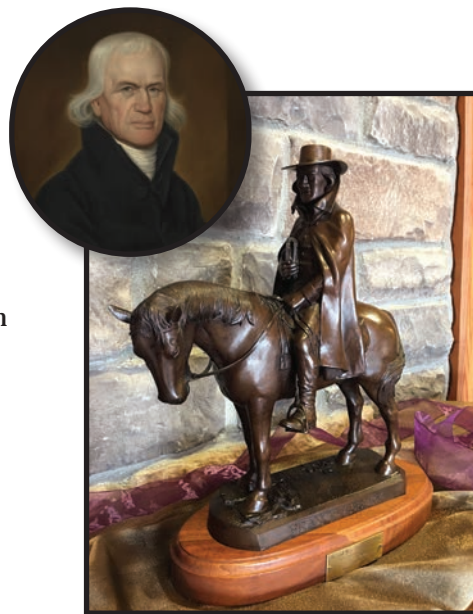
On January 1, 2021, FAS launched a three-year development campaign to raise 300 *new* leadership donors—those who commit to giving either \$100 monthly or \$1,200 annually to our general fund for the FAS mission. We hope to partner with 100 *new* individuals, 100 *new* churches, and 100 *new* camps and conferences who respectively will support our mission for evangelism and making holy disciples. We already have met 50% of the first year's goal in this campaign.

## Our Namesake and Model

Chronologically, our history begins with God and the creation of mankind. But the origin of the Francis Asbury Society (FAS) began with Francis Asbury (1745–1816) himself. Perhaps the most prolific shaper of the landscape of American Christian history, Asbury traveled the American landscape by horse for more than a quarter of a million miles. President Calvin Coolidge said that Bishop Asbury knew more Americans face-to-face than any American in our Republic.

Asbury believed that the key to happiness is through faith which produces freedom. Commissioned by John Wesley, he devoted his entire existence to spreading the Good News that the blood of Christ can cleanse every human heart so that people can be clean from self-interest, our desire to have control over our lives, and so that we can love God with all we are. As Christ commanded, we are to love the Lord with all of our mind, with all of our soul, with all of our strength, as well as to love our neighbors as ourselves. Like Francis Asbury, FAS seeks to embody and proclaim the message of scriptural love to God and one another as the primary key to a happy and holy life.

Asbury's watchword and cry was, "Be Wholly for God." His life and ministry is our model.



*Francis Asbury*

## E4 Outreach (previously Speakers Ministry)

*Jerry Coleman, Director*

In Ephesians 4:11–13, Paul reminds us that “Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all... [attain] the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” FAS is committed to come alongside local churches, camp meetings, etc. with evangelists, teachers, and preachers in keeping with this Scripture. By sending such outreach and with God’s help, we believe we can be an encouraging, saving, sanctifying means of grace to the world.



*Jerry and Jan Coleman*

2020 changed the vehicle for “traveling evangelists.” Over the years, we’ve gone from horses to cars to planes... to the Internet. We saw God open many new doors for the Good News to be preached and widened the audiences around the world via the Internet.

For more information about the speakers, please visit [www.francisasburysociety.com/speakers](http://www.francisasburysociety.com/speakers).

**25**  
**100+**

**FAS Speakers/  
Evangelists**

**speaking events in  
16 states and 9 countries  
(mostly in early 2020)**

**Many**

**virtual events  
via Facebook,  
Zoom, etc.**

[www.francisasburysociety.com](http://www.francisasburysociety.com)





# 5 STEPS FORWARD

## 3. Empower the Nations Initiative

In 2021, the Francis Asbury Society began a collaborative initiative to raise reproducing discipleship groups who covenant to live transformed, holy lives among the nations. In 2023, 100 Christian leaders from 50 countries on six continents will come together for substantial training to lead and reproduce covenant discipleship groups committed to the message and principles of holy living and evangelism. After this conference, our covenant leaders will go throughout the world and start covenant groups among the represented nations.

## Thank You for Your Support!

Our donors are classified in three specific giving levels:

- Leadership 100—at least \$100 monthly or \$1,200 annually to the General Fund
- Ministry 100— at least \$100 monthly or \$1,200 annually to a ministry fund(s) such as one of our Francis Asbury Speakers, Titus Women, etc.
- Friends of FAS—monthly contributions to any fund in any amount less than \$100

We value every contribution, no matter the size, because each gift represents an individual who has chosen to participate in the ministries of FAS. Every contribution further enables us to proclaim the Biblical message of holiness that we can be “wholly devoted to God.”

**770** donors overall

**65** Ongoing Leadership 100 donors

**119** Ministry 100 donors

**126** Friends of FAS donors



# FAS by the Stats: 2020



Total Donations Received ▲ 1% over 2019

General Fund Donations Received ▲ 13%

Percentage of Expenses\*

80% Program

12% Administration

8% Fundraising

\* 2019 latest available

29

Number of  
Ministry Accounts  
maintained by FAS

\$0  
DEBT  
LOAD

18

Number of Years  
FAS has been  
Accredited by  
ECFA

78%

Percentage of Income  
from DONATIONS

Volunteers

5

Full-time  
Staff

8

Part-time  
Staff

17

## Publishing

Stan Key, Director

Drs. Dennis F. Kinlaw and Harold W. Burgess launched the Francis Asbury Press (FAP) imprint in 1983 as a core ministry of the Francis Asbury Society. FAP publishes books written by leading holiness authors that are available as print and media resources such as books, audios, videos, e-books, and more. To better clarify the purpose of different resources, FAP has divided its publishing efforts into three sections: academic, disciple, and witness. Several of these books have been translated into multiple languages and used as textbooks by Christian colleges and seminaries worldwide.

In 2020, we printed six issues of *The High Calling* using the story of the Exodus as a metaphor for a person's journey of salvation.



4505

Resources sold  
(books, audio/  
video, etc.)

2397

Recipients of  
*The High Calling*



# 5 STEPS FORWARD

## 4. Francis Asbury Institute

This initiative is designed to create an academic and clergy think tank to provide substantive Wesleyan thought for the professional and clerical world of ministry and education. "We believe that the soul of the Church lies in the thought life of its people," says our president, Dr. Ronald E. Smith.

We hold pertinent theological symposiums, seek to inspire excellent graduate work in theological education and practical Christian living, and encourage people to continue to do vital research in Wesleyan thought so that our theological heritage is perpetuated for the good of the Church and world.





# 5 STEPS FORWARD

## 5. Discipleship Initiatives and Resources

Through books, publications, prayer meetings, Bible studies, conferences and spiritual gatherings, in addition to covenant relationships, FAS seeks to provide encouragement and resourceful opportunities to walk together in the beauty of His holiness. We want all who are members of the Society to be uplifted and have growth opportunities via our relationships, programs, and resources.

## Discipleship Ministry

*Mike Powers, Director*

As an identifiable community of fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ, we are committed to the experience and expression of heart holiness through covenant relationships which include the FAS Covenant Fellowship, Pastor's Uplift (weekday prayers), Shepherds Watch (clergy support), Monday Prayer Gathering led by FAS Speakers, weekly Bible Study, Hemlock Inn Retreats, Camp Meeting Presidents Fellowship and other FAS-sponsored events.

*"Thank you for these daily prayers. So helpful as I pray."*  
—Pastor's Uplift recipient

*"Thank you, once again, for leading us in greater understanding of God's Holy Word. What a blessing!"*  
—Bible study participant

*"What a blessing to hear such remarkable teaching!"*  
—Bible study participant

For more information about any of these initiatives, contact [mike.powers@francisasburysociety.com](mailto:mike.powers@francisasburysociety.com).



*Mike and Sherry Powers*

**215** Covenant Fellowship members

**86** pastors in Shepherds Watch membership

**10,000** Pastors Uplift prayers: email and Facebook post impact (8 countries)

# Titus Women

ALL OF ME FOR ALL OF JESUS

Our objective for Titus Women is simply to follow the Spirit's leading and walk through the doors He has opened for us. In 2020, Titus:

- Hosted a Zoom™ Bible study this Fall as well as an Advent celebration in December, with over 100 participants.
- Produced 77 podcast episodes, plus a series of 3-minute videos, on Facebook and YouTube, about women in Scripture.
- Updated our Titus Women YouTube channel and are uploading videos on a regular basis.
- Began hosting daily prayer calls in response to the COVID crisis.

Titus Women feel led to keep the Spirit-filled life and holiness as our primary aim and focus, because we believe that is the deepest need of the human heart.

**5000** Downloads of  
*Titus podcasts*

**77** Podcasts uploaded

**482** Books sold



## Our Board of Directors

Though our Board of Directors is scheduled to meet in-person every April and October, things took a different turn in 2020. Due to the pandemic, meetings were held via Zoom®. We added two new members this year. Welcome, Michael Tipton and Ann Kelly! Our board focuses on policies, strategic planning, and financial reviews, leaving the everyday operations to the administration but receiving regular status reports. For more information about our Board, visit [www.francisasburysociety.com/aboutfas/boardmembers](http://www.francisasburysociety.com/aboutfas/boardmembers).



*Pictured (left to right, from the top): Mrs. Joy Griffin, Ms. Jennie Lovell (staff), President Dr. Ron Smith (staff), Dr. Denny Kinlaw (secretary), Dr. Charlie Fiskeaux (staff), Dr. Matt Friedeman, Mr. Michael Tipton, Dr. Cheryll Crowe Johnson, Mr Jay McCants, Captain Dr. Andy Miller, Dr. Abson Joseph, Dr. Chris Bounds (chair), and Mr. Steve Luce.*

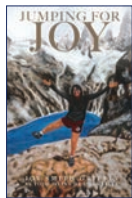
*Not pictured: Mrs. Anny Kelly, Rev. Larry Vickers, and Mr. John Swaim (vice-chair).*

[www.francisasburysociety.com](http://www.francisasburysociety.com)

## Jumping for Joy

By Joy Griffin, FAS Board Member

*"Joy Smith Griffin is a gift to the body of Christ all over the world." --Bishop David Thagana, Nairobi, Kenya*



In a modern-day manifestation of the healing miracle Jesus performed on the paralyzed beggar at the gate called Beautiful in Acts 3, Joy Smith Griffin likewise jumped to her feet, walking and leaping and praising God! Having been paralyzed from a sports injury at the age of 22, her complete confinement for eighteen months led to a personal encounter with the living God that transformed her in spirit, soul, and body.

Called to tell the world about the Lord who healed her in every way, "Jumping for Joy" is a compilation of the missionary journeys of Joy Smith Griffin over a span of three decades to seventy-five nations.