
Subject: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [dscott](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2008 11:33:19 GMT

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I was told at one time there where over 60 ministers going out from FA to minister to local assemblies, and many ministers going to more than one. Many bodies that considered themselves affiliated with FA with their own local ministers. So how many bodies do you know of?

Heres my quick list:

FA (of coarse), Lafayette, Indy=Tom Hamilton/then Steve Hill/then Jeff Barnette, Zion Lake/North Vernon, Bloomington, GreenCastle, Mitchell (bet you didn't know about that one).

Other states: Shelbyville, KY; Columbus, OH and another near Kent State;

I don't know where in AL Jim Oswalt had a church, Bobby Freeman had another in AL, Rusty Tardo in Aribi, LA and Robert Ellender in Lakeport, LA.

I'll probably think of a dozen more at work today.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [Mark L](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2008 16:34:51 GMT

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We had 2 ministers coming up from FA to Canada (Kitchener area). Eventually one moved up here. The one who moved up here had a meeting in North Bay as well. It all fell apart after Freeman passed on. Currently there are still several of us still interested and on tape ministries.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [a barn kid](#) on Sat, 09 Feb 2008 17:15:35 GMT

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Dave Hardy in Lafayette.

Jim Brenneman drove all around - in fact I remember him bringing lobster back for us from when he would preach in Maine I think.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [Duncan](#) on Tue, 12 Feb 2008 21:19:34 GMT

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My dad ministered on the first Tuesday night of each month at a house church near Canton, Ohio. The folks that owned the farm where we met had the last name of Reams. After we moved back to Alabama, Mark Yotter took over as minister. Not sure what happened to the fellowship after that.

As for Jim Oswalt, he ministered in Birmingham, AL. That is where my grandmother, Gay Thomas, used to attend.

Duncan

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [Duncan](#) on Tue, 12 Feb 2008 21:22:08 GMT
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Didn't Jerry Eccles preach up in Canada? I think he still does (or at least lives up there), because he keeps in regular contact with my dad.

Duncan

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [Mark L](#) on Tue, 12 Feb 2008 22:26:33 GMT
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Jerry Eccles did move up here. He moved back to Indiana about 1985. I think he is currently living around Warsaw somewhere

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [Derick N.](#) on Tue, 12 Feb 2008 23:23:58 GMT
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Jim Oswalt also ministered to a body out in Pittsburg PA, I helped him drive his motorhome out there several times.

Steve Hill had a ministry to a large assembly in Rockford, IL.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [-Bill](#) on Wed, 13 Feb 2008 07:58:09 GMT
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Derick N. wrote on Tue, 12 February 2008 17:23Jim Oswalt also ministered to a body out in Pittsburg PA, I helped him drive his motorhome out there several times.

I knew Jim Oswalt. I went to his home. I was shocked when he left Ruthann for another woman. He preached that a re-married man cannot be a minister of God. The Devil is busy.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [-Bill](#) on Wed, 13 Feb 2008 08:00:30 GMT
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BTW, have any of you heard the Oswalt's testimony tape? It will floor you.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [Derick N.](#) on Wed, 13 Feb 2008 14:02:45 GMT
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Bill wrote on Wed, 13 February 2008 02:00BTW, have any of you heard the Oswalt's testimony tape? It will floor you.

Yah I think I still have it kicking around here somewhere. Just goes to show you no matter how powerful God is in someones life, they can soon forget.

I think I have tapes of Tammy Faye quoting the word and singing as well.

My wife and I were pretty close to them at one point, and I saw the chinks in his armor very clearly. He was an inflexible ass in my opinion. I remember one time arguing points of faith with him while on the road to Pittsburgh, and him telling me that we don't brush our teeth to prevent cavities, but only so our breath won't stink. Like God could fix rotten teeth but not take care of halitosis.

Talk about the little foxes that spoil the vines...

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [-Bill](#) on Wed, 13 Feb 2008 15:47:18 GMT
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[/quote]I think I have tapes of Tammy Faye quoting the word and singing as well.[/quote]
That is an incredible tape! I am very fond of the Oswalts. My wife and I both noticed that Jim was not very kind to Ruthann. But I was shocked to hear that Jim left her for another woman. When I was at FA I had many misconceptions about that church. It didn't take long to see that there were lots of problems. Looking back I don't think there were really very many who believed what Dr. Freeman taught. As far as Bible doctrines I can't think of anything I would disagree with Freeman about. He was probably the most blessed brother I have had the pleasure to know. Something I have wondered about though. Jim Oswalt laid hands on Brother Freeman and Stan Hill before they died.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [Derick N.](#) on Wed, 13 Feb 2008 15:58:14 GMT
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I hear you Brother. With all the teaching about not laying on hands, you would think Doctor Freeman would have not allowed it. Who knows, eh?

I also agree with you that not many "truly" believed the message, but were there for varied reasons. At the time I thought everyone was in tune, but looking back on it now, I see the flies in the ointment.

My life got kind of crapped up afterwards, but no matter how messy it got, I never doubted God's Word. I still have that incorruptible faith living in me, waiting and watching for God's next move.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [tomax7](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2008 03:55:45 GMT
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...we had a Body up of about 10 people at Grand Centre, Alberta.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [PORSCHEDADDY911](#) on Fri, 18 Apr 2008 04:35:55 GMT
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there also was a body in shelbyville IN a mn named Darrell Gerald's pastored there i attended there and ministered there also, what happened to that group

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [indy8](#) on Sun, 20 Apr 2008 21:37:27 GMT

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Correction: As far as I know there was no "Tammy Faye" at Faith Assembly. I do know that Tammy Oswalt was never married to Jim Baker the televangelist.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [tomax7](#) on Sun, 20 Apr 2008 21:45:24 GMT

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...and the epistles were the wives of the apostles.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [james](#) on Sun, 27 Apr 2008 22:08:51 GMT

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Jim Oswalt had a group of about 10 near Tulsa, Ok. and the body in Birmingham, Al had 30 or so; Bobby Freeman had a group of believers in Auburn, Al. of 35-40 and is still faithfully ministering Gods Word there in a Bible church; Clanton, Al had a body of 60-70 at one point pastored by Tommy Shelton. To my knowledge, only Bobby is still faithful to the calling God placed upon his life. Here is a quote from Bobby Freeman in 1985, "Outward energies will dwindle, if inward fires are not kindled", how true...Peace and Grace to you brother.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [Michael The Disciple](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 05:35:53 GMT

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Anyone recall a Minister named Don Mitchler or maybe Mitchell? I remember him teaching a good message at Faith Assembly one night. I think I was told he was from another body somewhere.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [capturedbygrace](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 11:31:14 GMT

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Hi, Michael. Yes, I recall him. He lived somewhere near FA, and taught there at times. His wife's name was Agnes, I believe. I really enjoyed them. If I'm not mistaken (it can happen!) Agnes was ill with cancer for some time. I think, but am not positive that she's with the Lord now (not questioning her salvation!). I'm not sure how to spell his name either, but it's something like Micheler. Does anyone know his whereabouts and how he's doing?

While we're talking, what's happening with Jim and Lynn Mansfield? The only minister I still keep (yearly) track of are Bill and Bev Garner.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [sparkles](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 12:47:23 GMT

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Brother Mishler's wife, Agnes, died on July 23, 2004. She was such a wonderful woman, truly a Prov. 31 saint! The Mishler's use to come up to the Grand Rapids, MI meeting occasionally. Brother Mishler was a very good teacher, who truly, with his wife was an example of a Christ centered marriage. I have many good memories of the Mishler's and have been blessed to have known them.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [capturedbygrace](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 14:57:42 GMT

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I would like to have known them better. They seemed like such a gentle, compassionate couple. I remember his smile would light up his whole face... . Thanks for the information--do you know where he is since and how he's doing?

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [sparkles](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 15:08:14 GMT

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I am not sure where he is now, although I have heard he is still in the Syracuse area. Maybe someone in that area knows more about where he is and what he is doing now.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [Michael The Disciple](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 16:58:04 GMT
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I came up for a visit from our Church (not FA) with another brother the night I saw him. We sat on the front row as he taught on "excuses" from the book of Luke. It was like we were absorbing every word. Like it was drawing us in.

After the meeting we walked to the car and sat down. We looked at each other and both of us burst into holy laughter. We laughed so hard we could barely get out of the parking lot.

It must have went for at least 30 minutes before it began to subside. That's why he holds a place in my heart.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [Michael The Disciple](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 17:02:18 GMT
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CapturedbyGrace,

So what came of Bro. Garner? Is he still Charismatic/Pentecostal? It seems some of the Ministers now attend non Spirit filled Churches.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [capturedbygrace](#) on Mon, 28 Apr 2008 19:13:58 GMT
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Neat--speaking of holy laughter, what did it do for you, brother? It has been a cleansing, strength-giving thing for me a time or two, and one other time it was very different. I was waging heavy warfare in that season, and it seemed so different that I asked the Lord about it. He gave me Ps 2:4 later, and said He was laughing at His enemies that I was in battle over. Later that week both a major internal and external breakthrough happened.

Br. Garner is still in Warsaw. He still has a small home meeting that he's had for over 20 years, and in fact had much if not most of the time they were at FA. He has been studying (for over 7 years) the Jewish perspective that adds balance to our westernized ways of thinking about the Word.- Lately the Lord seems to have brought that emphasis more to the forefront with some "students of the Word." I'm looking forward to seeing what the Holy Spirit is cooking up...

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [Michael The Disciple](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 04:50:32 GMT
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capturedbygrace wrote on Mon, 28 April 2008 14:13 Neat--speaking of holy laughter, what did it do for you, brother? It has been a cleansing, strength-giving thing for me a time or two, and one other time it was very different. I was waging heavy warfare in that season, and it seemed so different that I asked the Lord about it. He gave me Ps 2:4 later, and said He was laughing at His enemies that I was in battle over. Later that week both a major internal and external breakthrough happened.

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I would say what it did was completely get me off of self for a while. I could do nothing but laugh holding my gut. It seemed like it would never end even when trying to make it stop.

So does Bro. Garner use the Hebrew name Yeshua now? Does he have a web site?

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [capturedbygrace](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 11:11:53 GMT
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Thanks for sharing that Michael. I appreciate that holy laughter can free us from self--and give a new perspective and strength that stays even once the laughter stops...it is also humbling if it comes on you in a meeting and you're the first one it falls on out of the blue...at least you know you didn't work it up...

I don't know if Br Bill uses the name Yeshua in everyday language. brother--and (here's my "unique" sense of humor again) even though I haven't been to their small meeting or visited in person for at least 15 years, I just know he doesn't wear a yarmulke--that would be overidentification! We've talked a little on the phone and as of this past February, I sensed (as is true in my life as well) a sense of anticipation that I hadn't in a long time... . As far as I know, he doesn't have a website, but I'll try and check.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [Mark L](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 15:19:20 GMT

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As of a yr or two ago Jim Mansfield was still living where he always did (can't remember the name of the town). He is still walking with the Lord although no longer in word ministry. I don't know how he would phrase it but he no longer walks in the faith message and goes to a vineyard church. He is selling some kind of herbal stuff and financialy speaking doing quite well at it.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [capturedbygrace](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 16:51:50 GMT

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Thanks, Hardbones. The town I remember was Leesburg. Are he and Lynn still married? And I wonder how their children are faring?

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [william](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 16:54:50 GMT

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Hardbones wrote on Tue, 29 April 2008 10:19As of a yr or two ago Jim Mansfield was still living where he always did (can't remember the name of the town). He is still walking with the Lord although no longer in word ministry. I don't know how he would phrase it but he no longer walks in the faith message and goes to a vineyard church. He is selling some kind of herbal stuff and financialy speaking doing quite well at it.

That would probably be Milford IN, just north of Warsaw on... was it 13, or maybe 15?

What about Greg Smith? Anyone remember him? He taught some in Lexington KY. We drove down together on one occasion.

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [william](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 16:56:53 GMT

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Yes, it was Leesburg... how could I have forgotten! Not sure where I got Milford, but it was in there somewhere!

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [tomax7](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 17:34:17 GMT

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Bill Gardner?

I stayed at his place a loooong time ago. Have a picture of him standing beside his old coal stove.

If anyone see's him, say hi from Tom Canada.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [capturedbygrace](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 18:46:21 GMT

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Okay, brother, I will. (I've got a message to him now asking if he has a website.)

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [capturedbygrace](#) on Tue, 29 Apr 2008 19:33:22 GMT

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I knew Greg and Jan Smith. Their friendship was a real help to me during my time at FA. He went back down (years ago) near Shelbyville, KY. Our guys and I got to visit once. They lived in an old converted school in the "hills of Kentucky." I would like to know how they are faring as well. I do know some of their daughters went on missions trips-one to Peru, and one to ??? with Ron Luce's Teen Mania... . Last I knew (again, this was years ago) Jan was teaching at a Christian school and Greg was working and back at school for ???.

That reminds me of Terry and Brenda Grabow...remember them? They moved to Michigan, and went to minister over in Ukraine for at least two years. They live in a converted Amish house on the top of a beautiful hill overlooking a valley, and raise their own animals for meat...Terry sold his half of his CPA practice so he could purchase their house outright (I went to see them once also).

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [JohnAndPhyllis](#) on Mon, 18 Aug 2008 15:43:44 GMT

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The church Terry and Branda helped plant was in Russia--New Chebocksary or Novo Cheboksarsk. That was in the summer of 1993--we were part of the church planting team led by Steve Hill, Malcolm Webber and Don Mishler. It was truly an awesome time, with about 800 people saved each night of the three-night crusade (basically everyone in the 800 seat auditorium). We got e-mail from Terry a few years back letting us know that the church was still going strong.

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [tomax7](#) on Mon, 18 Aug 2008 16:03:31 GMT

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...hey speaking of church planting in Russia. If people want to support a ministry presently working in Russia/Ukraine and elsewhere, why not pray/support Tony Abram? I've been friends with him for a number of years and he walks the faith walk with grace.

www.abundantlifecrusades.com or tonyabram.com

He's established a lot of churches (and they don't have his name on the ministry), set up a lot of pastors who are still going, as well seen literally thousands come to the Lord in his crusades.

I'd say he's pretty close to being a modern day apostle by his actions, and don't get yer hackles up, I said pretty close (but I wouldn't be surprised).

He's a humble man with 45 years worth of ministry that can fill a book. It is the Lord that sustains him and his wife - one week he'll be in South Africa, the next in Japan, the next in Ukraine.

Here is a challenge to everyone here. Tony buys houses by faith in the Ukraine and Russia and then turns around and gives them to the local church to meet in.

Why not help sponsor a house, or buy one? Check his 'goodnews' section for the houses. Below

is one of the pages.

<http://www.abundantlifecrusades.com/goodnews/2007-house131.htm>

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [JohnAndPhyllis](#) on Tue, 19 Aug 2008 14:26:06 GMT
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Jim Mansfield used to go on a "circuit" that included a church in the Toronto area, one in Vermont, Endicott NY, and Kent OH. I was worship leader at the Kent house church, and went on his circuit a couple of times. Don Mishler traveled to a church near Pittsburgh, which first met in Beaver Falls, but then moved to Mars, PA. I also led worship there for a time.

John

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [william](#) on Tue, 19 Aug 2008 16:32:32 GMT
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Hi John, welcome to the forum!

Quote:JohnAndPhillis wrote: That was in the summer of 1993--we were part of the church planting team led by Steve Hill, Malcolm Webber and Don Mishler.

We moved away in 88 so I'm a bit fuzzy on what happened in the following years. Were you all still in the building, and who was pastor at that time?

I noticed on Joe Brenneman's blog that he became pastor in December of 93, but I don't know if that was a break-away group or the original group, do you know?

Blessings,
William

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [JohnAndPhyllis](#) on Tue, 19 Aug 2008 18:53:26 GMT
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We were part of the house church in Kent, OH, which was on Jim Mansfield's "circuit." The trip to Russia was in July of '93. We wound up parting ways with the house church not long after, and lost track of what was going on with various splits, etc.

John

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [james](#) on Tue, 26 Aug 2008 00:02:13 GMT
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Hey Alanbook,

Welcome to OvercomersOnline, you are so right about problems. The church is made up of people,
and people have problems. But that's one of the ministries of the church, teaching people how to overcome their problems through Jesus.
Maybe you can share some testimonies from your experiences in Russia sometime.

Again, glad to have you,

james

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?
Posted by [james](#) on Thu, 28 Aug 2008 22:13:46 GMT
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Gary,

I only met Russell Tardo once or twice, though I read some booklets he had out on deliverance in the mid 80's. I remember him ministering deliverance in a hotel room(Adam's Mark) in Indy at the

86 seminar. Also I think maybe he came to our local body in Clanton and preached soon after that. Another pastor from cajun country was Robert Ellender, I heard him preach a few times in the 80's.

So to answer your question, no, I don't know how they weathered the hurricane.

'For all the promises of God are in Him are yea, and in Him A-men, unto the glory of God by us.'

God bless,

james

Subject: Re: How Many Assemblies/Bodies Where There?

Posted by [dscott](#) on Mon, 08 Sep 2008 23:20:17 GMT

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He has a website at faithfullword.com (I think, maybe you should google his name). I used to get messages from him up to about 5 years ago and it looks like he pulled all of the older messages so don't know if he has "distanced" himself from the faith message or not. I don't know, no judgement/criticism here.
