



FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALIA)

His banner over me is love - Song of Solomon 2:4

June 2019 Newsletter



Editor - Tony Vaughan

From The President's Desk -

With our National Convention coming up and lots happening around the ridges, it's hard to know just where to start this month's article. There has been so much communication to catch up on and things progressing on many fronts, so I think I will just jump in and start writing in the hope that the final outcome makes good sense to you, the readers. Planning for the National Convention, I'm so grateful to the planning committee for their dedication to the job at hand.

Have they got everything right? No not yet, but they are working hard to have it all done and running smoothly for a great weekend. How can you the membership help them? Firstly, by praying for them that everything they put in place would have the seal of God on it. Secondly, get your bookings in; the Hotel will not hold rooms much longer - I had a meeting with them on Friday and they are now 45% booked out. If your bookings are too late then there is going to be a problem placing you elsewhere. So help the planning Committee by helping yourselves!

I have been having some difficulties with the programme concerning guest speakers and their Bio's, but rest assured we are going to have a real feast of International speakers, top men of God who have been serving our Lord through FGBMFI for years and are coming to encourage each of us in this all important end times market place ministry. They understand that we are in many ways a fledging fellowship, and are only too willing to come and help us break out into the fullness of God's propose for our being a part of the International Ministry of FGBMFI. I have had the privilege of meeting all of the speakers and have in the main, been encouraged by just being in their presence. These men of God have an air about them that can only come from spending time with the Lord.

The launching of the Woman's Ministry: I always said that when God rises up a lady with the right motivation and skills to take the Ladies Ministry forward without faltering, that I would back that servant of God, helping any way I could. Now that lady has come forward, her name is Mrs Sandra Dolan and I'm delighted to announce at this year's Convention the launching of the Full Gospel Women's Ministry. This ministry will run as a separate ministry to the men's fellowship with its own directors, but be a dual or parallel ministry to the men's fellowship, supporting each other as we go forward reaching souls in the market place.

Under the new by-laws of FGBMFI which will be ratified at the next world convention, we will be able to call each organisation under our covering, whatever we see as appropriate to the culture we live in. This means that we can launch the Full Gospel Women's Ministry without having to wait two years to change our constitution, to accommodate the establishment of this new and exciting ministry. "Catch the Vision Ladies this is for you".

Malaysia's FGBMFI 40th year anniversary: Tony & Roberta Vaughan and Carolyn & I attended this first class event, meeting many of our brothers and sisters from that nation and around the world. This event brought to light the workings of the Holy Spirit in Malaysia, as the FGBMFI men committed themselves to the work of evangelising in the marketplace.

We had several meetings with their national Board of Directors, sharing the spiritual condition of the fellowship in both nations. FGBMFI Malaysia is made up of very wealthy businessmen who when called upon, can put their hand in their pockets and raise funds for major projects. One example being, that by running one golf game during the week of the convention, they raised no less than 530,000.00 RM (which equals \$176,000 Australian) for evangelistic works in their eastern states not yet reached with the Gospel.

Whether they are wealthy or not they all work for the same end; that being to extend the Kingdom of God in their nation which is populated by 60% Muslims. These men of God are an inspiring lot that know how to get involved in the ministry to the fullest. They are networking all day and half the night pushing their fellowship forward, helping each other reach the lost souls in their respective areas of influence and extending the Kingdom of God. You will all be able to meet some of them at our convention.

This year's Convention is going to be one that will be remembered for a long, long time. It's not often that we have the opportunity to have the benefit of such a group of National Presidents and our International President speaking to us all at the same convention. Don't think for a moment that this has been put together by men, for it hasn't; it has definitely been God the Holy Spirit working through people all over the world, setting this convention up.

When I started to speak about it I knew that I knew things were going to be so different this year and yet I just couldn't put my finger on the why, but as we have progressed towards the date, things started to fall into place that only God could make happen. Now I know that if God is directing our steps, then the Holy Spirit will fill every meeting with His presence and all who attend will leave knowing the good and perfect will of God for our future.

God Bless each and every one of you as you prepare yourselves for this great wave of the Holy Spirit, as God moves sovereignly during our convention. Len.

Coffee & Conversation with James

Another true story from the experiences of a long-time member and friend.

Submitted by Ron Oastler

Last night was one of those nights when the thunder rolls were like 21 gun salutes and the lightning flashes a spectacular light show. The steady rain that followed brought a welcome relief during the dry spell, leaving the ground smelling sweet and the paths and promenades washed spotlessly clean. Refreshing ...

'What a wonderful autumn storm we had last evening' James commented with real feeling as he arrived at the Café on the Bay. The thunder alone would have been a memorable event; the lightning was enough to capture the imagination; the showers were the finale and made it a cumulative experience, thinkest thou not?'

Oh, how philosophical James can be, I thought. 'Why yes,' I responded somewhat tentatively, 'sometimes it takes more than one element in an experience to make it so special and meaningful I guess...' What else could I say?

'Indubitably my friend,' said James (as I sensed him transiting to another philosophical statement) 'repetition and association are ways in which our thoughts and attention gain connection.' (I just knew he would join some more dots in his mind). 'It is not unlike a short string of coincidences that lead us to recognise that there may be something significant behind them. As Christians, of course, we need to differentiate between the "coincidences" in life and the "God-incidences" - to coin a phrase. The Lord uses all sorts of situations to gain our attention and our thinking you know.'

'Yes,' I agreed 'and it is not until we look at what is happening sometimes, that we see how God has in fact been getting our attention for a purpose.'

'Quite right,' James swiftly affirmed 'and the sooner we recognise the connections, the sooner we can make the appropriate response. Did I tell you about my friend Peter and his coincidences that were really God-incidences?'

'No, do tell.' I said simply.

'Well, Peter was a fairly new Christian. He came to Christ through the Salvation Army (SA) and was growing as a Christian but was conscious of the need for something more. Then some coincidences, or God-incidences, started to happen...'

'Our friend responded to an advertisement in the newspaper classifieds, for an item in which he was interested. However, the telephone number listed proved to be incorrect. He unsuccessfully tried variations of the number, but to no avail. Then, with a flash of inspiration he switched a couple of digits and made contact with the young lady who had placed the Ad. Then, in the process of the call he revealed that he was a born-again Christian, which prompted her to invite him to her church the following Sunday. I was preaching there that Sunday and made my first contact with him.'

'One of the SA leaders invited Peter to a dinner meeting of the local Gideons' Chapter meeting - and the table arrangements had him seated opposite me. Coincidence? God-incidence? It was a nice second meeting.'

'Within weeks Peter's Sales Manager invited him to a sales breakfast meeting with the SWAP Club ("*Salespeople With A Purpose*") which was a motivational and inspirational time, with activities and a guest speaker. It so happened that I was the speaker at the SWAP Breakfast meeting that morning and it became our third meeting.'

'Well, I said to Peter: "Who's dogging whose footsteps? I am sure that God has a purpose in all of this."'

'I know.' Peter responded 'This is all too much to be coincidence.'

'We need to talk about important things. Things eternal.' I stated. 'How about visiting me at our home, where we can do that one-to-one?'" This we did shortly thereafter, at which time I shared the Scriptures concerning the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, gave him copies of our "Voice Magazine" to take in testimonies of people who have experienced this blessing, and invited him to a Fellowship House meeting the following Friday evening.'

'It was at that meeting, ministered to by a dear brother who was gentle of spirit and sensitive to The Holy Spirit, that Peter surrendered himself totally to God and received the fullness of The Holy Spirit, with all that goes with it. The God-incidences had focused to this point and Peter was now on a new path. He subsequently joined the Fellowship, became a Field Rep and ultimately went through Seminary and entered the ministry. Ah, the power of God-incidences.'

Successful business tips from Christian business leaders

Life-changing business principles from legendary Christian entrepreneurs. Find out how faith, persistence and will power is essential for building a successful enterprise.

Conrad Hilton (1887 – 1979) – Founder of the Hilton Hotels

1. "If you climb Mount Everest, no matter how carefully you plan, anything can happen. Your ice axe slips, your oxygen gives out. A concealed crevasse swallows you up. Well,

that's about the way it was building my first Hilton Hotel."

2. "Success ... seems to be connected with action. Successful men keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit."

3. "When you start planting acorns, the full-fledged oak may take years. And I was beginning to learn what all gardeners must know – patience."

4. "Worrying has never solved anything yet. Prayer, thought, action – yes. Just worrying, no!"

5. "The only thing that stands between a man and what he wants from life is often merely the will to try it and the faith to believe that it is possible." – Rich Devos

6. "If I had to select one quality, one personal characteristic that I regard as being most highly correlated with success, whatever the field, I would pick the trait of persistence. Determination. The will to endure to the end, to get knocked down seventy times and get up off the floor saying, "Here comes number seventy-one!" – Rich Devos

7. "Sometimes success is disguised as hard work." – Rich Devos

8. "Each person's destiny is not a matter of chance; it's a matter of choice. It's determined by what we say, what we do, and whom we trust." – Rich Devos

9. "I believe no amount of business school training or work experience can teach what is ultimately a matter of personal character. Businesses are not dishonest or greedy, people are. Thus, a business, successful or not, is merely a reflection of the character of its leadership." – Rich Devos

10. "All the things we do, all our behaviour, should let others know that we are living by, and operating in, Biblical principles. Principle and character are the highest quality traits on our list." – David Green

11. "Focus on people more than money. Without employees and customers, you're going nowhere. Make sure you never stop thinking about the customer's perspective." – David Green

12. "If you begin to think business whether you own it or work for it like you would a well-managed sports team you will learn a lot of very interesting lessons." – Strive Masiyiwa

13. "You can only find opportunities if you are looking for them." – Strive Masiyiwa

14. "If you want to be successful, you'll need many specialised business skills, but probably the most important one will surprise you: it's the capacity to READ! Yes, READ!" – Strive Masiyiwa

15. "God is the same God, yesterday, today, and forever. The God of Moses is very much alive, and He wants to use you to change your world." – Strive Masiyiwa

Encouragement – by David Smethurst

I'm sure you know Alan Lucas well. I met Alan at a chapter meeting, at which Bernie Gray had invited me to speak, in Capalaba in the early 1990's just after Alan had come to the Lord through the ministry of a couple named Bob and Julie Baxter who were involved at the Capalaba chapter. I began to fellowship with Alan a lot and enjoyed helping him to grow in his witness for Christ. Alan came to Latvia on a mission with me in the late 1990s and was a great blessing to the youth and to the men in the maximum-security prison. He was concerned about his staff at Lucas Real Estate coming to the Lord and invited me to come and speak to them at some of the training breakfasts. Alan became renowned for his involvement at the Redland Festival in the early 2000's. He and his committee were responsible for setting up the wonderful tent of outreach where musicians played and sang, and drama groups put on outreach plays, and I had the privilege of rounding off each session with a short gospel message and also an alter call. It was at one of those tent meetings in 2001 that the Redland Mayor, Eddie Santaguliana sat in the front row, and at the alter call prayed the prayer of commitment to receive Christ.

I counselled him and gave him a copy of my Following Jesus booklet. He passed away of a sudden heart attack a week or so after the meeting. In 2002 we were attempting to sell our small house in Runcorn, Queensland, and Alan put me in touch with a friend of his who is a top real estate agent, named Mark Allen. Mark inspected our property and said that we would fetch a particular price, which my wife, Margarita, refuted, and added \$10,000 to the figure. Mark expressed his doubts to Alan Lucas who simply said, "Just humour Dave's wife with that asking price, and then after a week you can drop the price back to normal". The house sold within two days - at Margarita's price. In fact there were two families, almost bidding for our house, and that pushed the price up. Mark Allen was astounded at this "stroke of good fortune". When he came to see us one evening to sign the sale contract, he said, "Alan warned me about you folk – who you are and who you represent. Please will you lead me to Jesus now!" Leading someone to Christ had never been so easy. Alan had sowed the seeds and prepared Mark to receive Christ by his witness and example. Alan still functions like that today. He's a great soul winner. By the way Mark Allen and I are still good friends today. In fact he guided us to buy the house in which we presently live.

FGBMFI Malaysia Opening Night starting with a banquet and over 800 people in attendance. Malaysia has 88 chapters and growing!



EVENTS – See webpage for details



INTERNATIONAL Our Mission

FGBMFI is one of the largest Christian business organizations in the world. Founded in 1953, we are in 142 nations - meeting in over 7,000 chapters. Our members and leaders include every race, culture, social status and language.

By God's grace, we connect people with opportunities to reach out and help others find a better life and work together to build better communities.

We do this by:

Calling people back to God...

There is a better life by following Jesus Christ.

Promoting integrity and good character...

Being a reflection of God to our world.

Participating in God's good work...

Releasing gifts, talents and resources to help others.

Working together to build better cities & nations...

Impacting our leaders and our culture.

Taking the message of God's love to every family...

A true grass roots effort that is changing the world.

"The mandate from God is that we break the chains of despair in the world. Our mandate is to destroy the isolation of loneliness, and link the world to God!"

Demos Shakarian, Founder



"It is our destiny to lift up God in every business center, every marketplace, every government center and university... every nation, city, town and crossroads of the world. People of faith, shining with God's glory, bringing the uplifting message of God's power... reaching out, helping, encouraging and lifting. Today, through our efforts, we believe that over 2 million people come to God each year."



International President Mario Garcia



FGBMFI (Australia) Convention **9th – 11th August 2019** **NORTHLAKES – Queensland**



Men and Ladies

Save the dates and look forward to our upcoming convention

This is the time to notify your friends and families so that you do not miss out on the National event, where you will be inspired and encouraged with fellowship and guests that will be attending.

And yes, our International President, **Mario Garcia** will also be attending this great time of Australian chapters coming together for this special occasion.

Guest Speakers

Mario Garcia – Mexico

Graham Eagle – New Zealand

Ardian Kristanto – Indonesia

Richard Ling - Malaysia

Rick Loh – Malaysia

Len Donaldson – National President

Sandra Dolan – Women's Ministry