



Editor - Tony Vaughan



From the National President's Desk

Whilst pastoring a church in the a northern suburb of Brisbane in a rented church building, I encountered a spiritual force that took some dealing with, but in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the Mighty Name of Jesus we can overcome all things Satan might throw at us.

It happened this way: one Monday morning I was doing a bit of gardening and general clean up around the church, when I was hit by an unsavoury spirit of darkness. It struck me right in the inner man of my spirit, right there in my stomach.

I just shook it off as some sort of strange phenomena that had just passed by me, but the second time it happened it shook me to my very core, giving me the willies and making the hair stand up on the back of my neck. This time I knew there was a real problem brewing and that I was going to need help to deal with whatever was manifesting itself around this old loved building. Leaving my tools on the footpath, I headed for home to discuss the situation with my wife Carolyn, who was entertaining one of the ladies from our church family. With the support of the two women, the three of us returned to the church to investigate further what was happening there.

On entering the building, the lady commented that she could feel the spirit of death in this place, to which I answered "no that's not it at all, they have been burying their dead here for years". However, there is one office that I have never been comfortable in, let's go there and see what God reveals to us. At that point God gave me a man's name; a man that had been sent to jail for the atrocious sexual acts he had performed on young boys he was supposed to be looking after as a youth leader.

On entering the office, to my amazement I saw as in a vision, a naked boy standing in a corner shivering with fear. It all of a sudden became clear to me what had transpired in this room. God was revealing to me that the man whose name He had given me was, as a young boy, sexually molested in this very office and that on becoming a man, he the victim had transformed and became the predator; committing the same crimes against others for which he would serve a long jail sentence.

Question: "What was I to do now? Dear God help". In an instant, out of my inner most being, came this voice empowered with the authority of Jesus' Name. "You evil spirit of darkness be gone from this place in Jesus Name". The spirit that had caused all this sin to be committed in and around this building, destroying young men's lives before they reached manhood, turned and laughed saying "yes I will go now, but I have had a great time here doing my master's bidding". And with one final loud mocking laugh it was gone.

Ephesians 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.* What is God saying to us His disciples as we read this Scripture? We have all power and authority that Jesus had when on earth as He does in heaven, that we can put these principalities and powers of darkness to flight in the mighty Name of Jesus, if and when we take the battle into the spirit realm where we the true believer have every spiritual blessing. Have you ever considered how powerful that makes you? **2 Corinthian 10:4** *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds.*

When we, the men and women of God are called to enter into battle to deal with a sin problem in any area, do so knowing that God who called you will equip you, giving you all power and authority in the spirit realm or heavenly places in Christ Jesus. When we deal with and overcome such principalities, we, in the power of God, stop them dead in their tracks and that sin can't be passed on to the next generation as was the case above. The day we are entering are dark days very dark indeed, but God has good work for each of us before our days on earth are over. If you want an exciting Christian walk, then get into the battle and feel the Spirit of Almighty God lift you into those heavenly places as He did me on that day.

Blessings
Len.



Coffee & Conversation with James

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

Submitted by Ron Oastler

Normally it is quite stunning to sit out on the promenade to take our coffee, but today it was HOT with a vengeance. It was the edge of the heat-wave band that was spread across the continent. So, I found James ensconced within the café, suitably placed in line with the air-conditioner.

'Nicely done,' I commented as I took my chair 'you certainly organised that well.'

'Well, it is amazing what blessings one can receive by asking.' James commented with a knowing smile. Then he continued: 'There were no tables available in the more comfortable area so I asked the waiter for help in allocating one as soon as it became available.' Then, with a real twinkle in his eye he concluded 'Remember my friend, it was Jesus' brother James who told us that we have not because we ask not.'

We ordered iced-coffees and cold apple slices, in keeping with the conditions of the day, and settled into our traditional coffee and conversation ...

It was not long before James, in one of those quiet pensive moments so characteristic of him, began joining the dots to a previous experience. This one was at a Saturday morning breakfast outreach meeting in Woolloomooloo, Sydney, in the dining room of a large motel – The Astor (which is no longer there, replaced by a high-rise apartment block).

'I well remember an incident, some time back, when "asking" led to a miracle of healing and salvation' said James as he relived the past experience.

'For a particular outreach breakfast meeting, we broke with tradition and, instead of a businessman, we invited a minister to be our speaker. Pastor Norman Armstrong was a long-time friend of our Fellowship, was business oriented, had a sound ministry and was a man of strong faith – an ideal fit to what we really needed at that particular time.'

'As chairman of the function that Saturday morning I was excited about the prospects



for a powerful outcome. I was not disappointed. The preliminaries went well, the guests were attentive and the message of expecting miracles in all aspects of life and living – business, family and personally - was powerful in itself. The Gospel was presented and quite a number responded ... then an opportunity was given for prayer, with a focus on personal needs including healing.'

'As the Holy Spirit began to heal folk I saw some of the wait-staff watching intently at the kitchen doors at the back of the function room. Within a few minutes, a waitress made her way forward and approached me with the question: "Would it be alright if I joined the line for prayer, as I have pains in my arms and upper body?"'

'Why of course' I responded. 'The young lady duly joined those seeking a miracle of healing and, before long, she received the touch from God that she sought. While others "had not because they asked not", she had because she asked.'

'Now, it did not stop there. The young lady hurried back to the kitchen and was heard to say to the rest of the staff there: "It's real, it's genuine, I have been healed, the pain has gone, I can move easily." She sounded like the Samaritan Woman at the Well who went back to the village and testified...'

'One of our committee men, who was one of the many who overheard the waitress' testifying, immediately spent a little time with her "at the kitchen door", sharing the Gospel and leading her in receiving Christ as Lord and Saviour... all of this while others were just observing what was happening in the prayer line. Thank the Lord for committee men like this.'

'So my friend,' James concluded quite emphatically 'one of the powerful principles in life, particularly life in the Spirit, is clearly stated by the epistle writer (who is my namesake): "Ask".'

Of course he is referencing the words of Jesus who, as the record of the *Sermon on the Mount* reads in Luke 11:9 said: "Ask and it will be given you." This of course is a fundamental expression of Faith. Think about it.'

What more could I say in response to James but: 'Indeed, and a very powerful lesson. Thank you James.'



John's Story

In response to your request for testimonials I have a story for you.

I grew up on a farm and for as long as I can remember I have owned a motorbike or two. Mostly dirt bikes but also road bikes. They are an addiction that I don't wish to be delivered of.

In an effort to show my wife that I have finally grown up (now that I am 60) and become responsible, I bought a cruiser, an armchair on two wheels. It has pearl paint, lots of chrome and white wall tyres. It makes a suitable growl and pop from the exhausts and is a joy to look at and ride.

My wife is also passionate about bikes, sadly, not in a good way. She once experienced a wheelie at 120 KPH on the backseat of an earlier bike that I had. (But that was when I was young and foolish. I was only 50 at the time. (Kidding)).

My son however has a hot sport bike and does share my passion. We often rise early on a fine Saturday morning to ride together in the country and through the rain forest of Mt. Glorious not far from where we live. We have commsets fitted to our helmets so we can talk to each other along the way. James likes to invite his mates and they move things along pretty quickly sometimes, leaving me scraping footrests on corners in an attempt to stay with them. Then I give up and let them go. Catching up after a while.

One morning after enjoying a great ride and coffee at our favourite café we headed back down the mountain. The road is steep and it winds along besides running creeks and through the forest. James was out of sight ahead but not far when suddenly I heard this sickening CRUNCH! Followed by a loud metallic grinding noise and a series of smaller crunches.

To say that my heart sank was an understatement. I pulled in the clutch and rolled over to the edge of the road still grinding as I went to a stop. I burst out loudly "No! No! I've done my gearbox! Aaaaahhh."

I sat there in silence all mopey and dejected about the sad (and expensive) demise of my pride and joy. James returned quickly, turned and parked behind me. I blurted out the sickening and sad story whilst he stood there shaking his head and with what appeared to be a callous grin.

He knelt down beside the bike and pulled out a large stick that had somehow wedged itself between the metal heat shield and the exhaust of the rear pipe and was dragging along the course bitumen. The heatshield radiated out the sound and made it sound loud and metallic. I could actually feel it through the footrests.

He held it up to me and said "It's just a stick you big girl!!" We both burst out laughing for some time there on the roadside. I could feel my face blushing inside the helmet. As we rode home, to my ongoing embarrassment, James could be heard chuckling to himself over the commset. Will the great preacher and man of God ever live this one down?

And how could I so easily be tipped off my faith by a stick!! We always pray for safety and protection before riding. How could I have been so foolish? Jesus rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith when they feared drowning whilst in their boat in a big storm. How pathetic they were, not a single metallic crunch to be heard!!!

John Weeks





April 2019 Newsletter

Extract from a testimony – Local Mr. Big of the Drug World in Timaru (New Zealand)

Some years ago, one of our chapter members Allister Squires (AKA as Big Al) introduced me to Graham Walker, the man about town where drugs were concerned. Big Al had befriended Graham and found out that Graham was in the police sights for his illegal activities. In fact Graham had been on their radar for some time and they hadn't quite managed to nail him...

Unbeknownst to our chapter guys, Graham had come up with a plan that entailed getting close to Christians so that the police might think he had turned the corner and perhaps the heat would be off. Graham had no intentions of changing his ways and was taking us along for the ride. Graham was invited to our next chapter meeting and the guest speaker was George Bradfield, who had a powerful ministry and was a FGBMFI chapter member from Mosgiel near Dunedin. Graham sat in the front row with my wife (Roberta) and myself. George shared his exciting testimony and then began praying for those people that wanted prayer. I must add here that in all my years of walking with the Lord I have only hit carpet twice when people have prayed for me ... both times by George Bradfield! Graham thought he would check things out and decided to go forward for prayer. George placed his hand on Graham's head and the next movement Graham was hitting the floor with a great thud. As we were in the front row we saw everything that was going on. As Graham lay there, George moved off and prayed for others requiring prayer. Graham lay on the floor for approximately 20 minutes unable to move, before he rose and staggered back to the front seat, saying to Roberta "wow that was the best trip I've ever had!"

Well, Graham did have the born again experience and he changed his ways. The CIB detectives that had been shadowing him for months, disappeared after a matter of weeks after seeing an absolute change in Graham. Big Al continued to mentor Graham in the things of the Lord and after a number of months, Graham decided to leave New Zealand and live in Australia. We didn't think he would be able to live there with his criminal history, but God opened the door only as he can and Graham settled in Cairns.

We moved to Australia (Brisbane) in 2002 and moved to Cairns in 2007. We started attending a small AOG church and the pastor asked us out to a meal on the waterfront one Sunday night. He and his wife proceeded to tell us about a New Zealander in their church who was away at the moment. As he shared this man's testimony I asked him if he was talking about Graham Walker. He nearly fell off his chair and said "how did you know?" I said that I was there at that time and had met Graham personally. I did meet up with Graham on his return to the church and he was powering on for God and was an absolute encouragement to all those in the church. When I look back I can't help but think what a mighty hand God had in using his servants, Big Al and George Bradfield in ministering the Gospel to Graham.

Tony Vaughan



"His Banner Over Us is Love"

Membership



Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (Australia) is open to all men who wish to be part of this vibrant organisation, who have a heart to reach others and bring them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. You must read and understand our Doctrinal Statement and be willing to serve as a chapter member giving of your time and expertise.

Please return your completed membership application (along with our doctrinal statement) form our **Membership** Director, Daniel Wright - PO Box 129 Taigum Qld 4018. Telephone: 0404 004 946. Membership forms can be printed from our website: fgbmfiustralia.com

Membership fees are \$100.00 per annum. To have an effective Fellowship we need all members to pay their dues to fund the ongoing expenses of the Fellowship as per the budget approved by the National Board. Being paid up members of the Fellowship is important and all personnel should hold their membership as significant and of value. Being members allows you to experience all the benefits that are associated with the organisation including being able to vote and have your say at the appropriate time. If you have no chapter in your area or it is not functioning your membership will be held as a National member. Those already in an active chapter will also be National Members and then chapter members. This way all members are included and not overlooked when information is being passed on.



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 out of your socks 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.

