



From The President's Desk - *Witnessing in the Market Place*

My Market Place has been in the main, in the construction industry on high rise building sites. Whilst employed as a site manager, I was responsible for leading upward of 150 industry hardened men from many different nations and ethnic backgrounds. You want diversity? You find it in the Construction Industry.

Let me start from the beginning of this great time of harvest. Early one morning just as the site was starting to move into the daily grind, my phone rang. It was one of our carpenters reporting in to say that because of problems his wife was having, he could not come in to work that day. I asked the obvious question: what's her problem? His answer was "it's a spiritual matter". After the conclusion of our conversation I felt a quickening of the Holy Spirit and this thought came to me: "I'm more than qualified to help this man's wife after spending 17 years as a minister of religion in a Pentecostal Church". So I rang the carpenter back and said, "Ask your wife if she would like my wife and I to visit her, I'm sure we can help in this situation". The answer came back: "Yes she would appreciate that".

After picking up my wife Carolyn and travelling out to their home, we were greeted in a very hospitable manner and made to feel comfortable. As the conversation passed through the normal niceties of the day and we started to focus on the real matter at hand, the lady told us how they were brought up as Roman Catholics but had gotten away from the things of God and Church life, and that now she was a Reiki Healer operating in the area of holistic-spiritual healing. Oh well now, the whole deal was opening up and we were able to start gently ministering into the core of her problem, explaining to her the trap that she had fallen into as she had been seeking spiritual fulfilment in her life.

I explained that in the Christian spoken language she would be called a seeker, but that in the language she was used to she would be referred to as a traveller. She agreed. I then went on to say it doesn't really matter what we are called, what matters is what or who we are seeking, for we have all been created with an internal void that is crying out to be filled. This need to be filled can cause us at times to be lead into the dark arts and witchcraft.

Satan knows our potential once we find Jesus Christ and God's Salvation plan that from the original sin in the Garden of Eden, mankind needed to be born again (**John Chapter 3**) and brought back into a right relationship with God. **1 John 3:5-9** *And you know that He (Jesus) was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.* The Gospel in a nut shell so to speak.

Her response was: "I need to be born again, don't I?" We told her, "Yes you do". With that and no hesitation, she followed us in saying the sinner's prayer, committing her way to following Jesus and making Him Lord of her life. On her completing that prayer, I turned to her husband who had been sitting ever so quietly just behind me and said "what about this old sinner here?" His answer was "you're too late mate, I said it as my wife was saying it, you didn't think I was going to miss out did you?"

This lovely couple have become very good friends, as they grow in the things of God. The wife left her Reiki add in the paper, which gave us a lot of ministry into areas of witchcraft and the like. The husband became a real disciple, ministering to men on construction sites and calling me when he needed help leading another lost soul to Jesus.

It was through this encounter and many more like it, that I gained ministry recognition by the Construction Trade Unions and have had the privilege of speaking for our Lord at the last eight Memorial days services, honouring the men killed in the construction industry. My point is this; If you step out in faith and speak in your marketplace, God will open up for you ministry beyond your wildest dreams. All the men I have had the unique privilege of ministering to have brought great joy to my heart, for each one of them will not perish, but have ever lasting life.

Blessings Len.

Coffee & Conversation with James

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

Submitted by Ron Oastler

It was supposed to be a mild autumn after a hot dry summer, but we were in the middle of a run of hot days. Fortunately we were meeting a little later than usual and the nor'easter had just kicked in as we took our seats at a little table on the promenade. It was in the shade of the café awning and facing north, so we had the breeze coming at a nice angle – and a cappuccino is enjoyable regardless of the ambient temperature.

'Well, I will be glad to see the end of this hot spell in a couple of days' James said softly, which indicated that he was struggling somewhat with the heat.

'In a couple of days? I doubt that. That's not in the forecasts that I have seen. I'll believe it when I see it – or, rather, when I feel it.' I countered. 'From where did you get that idea?'

'Ah, there are many weather buffs or aficionados but I take notice of those whose experience and reliability are proven over time. Their experience then becomes my experience, so to speak. Of course it is nothing like the Scriptures – they have been shown to be 'inerrant', so we can accept them, and rely upon them totally without any doubt whatsoever. One top Reformed Church theologian, Dr RC Sproul, has written extensively on the *Inspiration, Infallibility and Inerrancy of the Scriptures*. You really should see the YouTube clip on this.'

'It is strange, is it not' James continued 'that there are times when there is a strong case, with strong evidence, and folk refuse to accept it. Example: they stay in cyclone areas because they do not believe the authoritative evidence. Or they refuse to accept a life opportunity because they cannot accept its validity.'

'The latter reminds me a chap by the name of John, who was persuaded by his wife to come to one of our Fellowship meetings.' (True to form, James had a life experience to illustrate his point) 'He set the benchmark by telling me, up-front, that he was an agnostic or at least a 'doubting Thomas'. The very fact that he called himself a possible Doubting Thomas, told me that he knew what that was all about – and that was an opportunity.' James made that final comment with a knowing smile.

'I said "that is perfectly understandable John, the original doubting Thomas maintained his doubt until he was ultimately convinced and was very glad to accept the reality that he discovered. We pray that you may have a similar experience."'

'From that moment on, John observed the interaction of the folk in our meeting, listened intently to the testimonies, heard the presentation of the Gospel and was prepared to admit that he liked what he had heard and would like to join us again – which he did. I felt that John's case was quite different from others, so the only conversations I had with John were about the consistency of the Scriptures he was hearing that call on us to be reconciled to the Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ the Saviour, and of the genuineness and authenticity of the testimonies he was hearing from folk who had experienced that reconciliation. Both of which John acknowledged.'

'Then, at a meeting a couple of months later, I said to him:

"John, you have heard the compelling case for believing, confessing, calling on God and committing to Him. You have also heard the compelling case for the genuineness and authenticity of coming into that new relationship with Father God, as experienced by real folk whom you have come to know here.'

'Like the original Doubting Thomas, it is time to put those doubts aside and make that life-changing decision to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Remember that the Scripture says: "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

'Doubting Thomas realised who Jesus was and confessed Him as Lord with the words: "...my Lord, and my God." Are you now ready to confess Him as Lord and Saviour too? He was – and he did!'

'So my friend' James concluded 'Winning and Discipling folk to Christ includes all sorts of folk, including a doubting Thomas here and there, who sometimes need time for the Holy Spirit to remove their doubts. So, have patience.'

Encouragement by John Weeks

1Sam 30:1 in this story David and his men return from battle to find their homes burned and everything stolen and their wives and children taken captive. V4 they wept until they ran out of tears. After going through the hardest of battles, wounded and tired, then having a shocking setback, they were devastated. It's so hard to pick yourself up from something like that. V6 says "David was greatly distressed" even his men wanted to kill him.

But David encouraged himself in God. He enquired of God asking the two most powerful and important questions. Shall I pursue? And Shall I overtake them? In our words today we would say ...Am I just wasting my time? And Will I succeed? Gods answer was a resounding yes. David did pursue and v18-20 recovered all including the cattle the wives and children and a great financial gain as well.

How easy it is to allow the devastation of setbacks to steal from us, and to rob from us. How difficult to be encouraged in the face of personal attacks. God is not afraid to answer the hard questions, and he is also able to bring us the victory if we will only pick ourselves up and go again into battle.....just one more time.

**"We are hard-pressed on every side,
yet not crushed; we are perplexed,
but not in despair; persecuted,
but not forsaken; struck down,
but not destroyed"**

—2 Corinthians 4:8-9 NKJV

To all the membership FGBMFI

Dear Friends, My best wish is that everything goes well in your lives and always with the blessing of God in your projects both in life and in your spiritual life and service. Precisely, speaking of service, we have been traveling through several countries and in each of them God is confirming His presence in a more intense way since miracles and wonders have been manifested in the latest revivals that have taken place. Throughout the world, miracles, healings, and wonders have been seen in a wonderful way: The FULL GOSPEL, in its total manifestation.

I have been asking God for wisdom to be able to make the best decisions about the future of our Organization, these are challenging times, but I have the full assurance that these are the times that God has chosen for this Fraternity to return to its spiritual roots. From the first day that we took this responsibility and opportunity of service we have received power from God and his Son Jesus, the power of His Holy Spirit with full freedom to do the work on earth through men and women transformed by the power of His Holy Spirit.

The moment has arrived and is in front of us, the one who does not have ears or cannot see will stay as the signals are given. We cannot get away from them, they are becoming clearer and stronger each day. We need to return to our beginnings. The revelation in our hearts is that our place is here and now, that our call is unique before God and has been designed by his Holy Spirit for us to walk and carry the power and grace of God. We cannot stay at home, we need courageous men anointed by the power of God and with the clear conviction that "Christ is our hope of glory."

We have a year full of activities and I know that in some of them I will have the privilege of greeting you personally, my greatest wish is that together we will fulfil the call of our Fraternity, we cannot do anything apart, let's always remember that Jesus asks us to be ONE with Him as he is with His Father. This is how the grace and favour of God the Father will always be with us. This Vision cannot be contained in four walls, it was and will continue to be for the whole WORLD, just as our Founder Demos Shakarian saw it and it was continued with his son Richard. What remains for us is to continue the work and to know that many men gave their lives so that this Vision could continue and fulfil its purpose, and I remind you of what God said to our founder, "I gave you my Name and my Power. How could you want more? Now, go and do the work."

Count on all our support for these special times, from the International Office. You will always have our prayers and our best wishes to multiply the work, so at the end of our days they will tell us "Come good child, here is your home" With special affection and always at your service.

God bless you.
Mario Garcia
International President
www.fgbmfi.org

Extract from a testimony – Zona

Zona was a prominent business person in the community. She had owned her own real estate firm for many years and was still a dominant force in the market place, even though she was over 70 years of age. Zona first came to my attention by way of one of the partners in our firm. She had a major problem to the extent that she was thinking of closing or selling her business. Gay asked me if I would look at it for her to see what we could do. Putting some procedures in place and with some mentoring and counselling, we were able to resolve the issue reasonably quickly. Zona was extremely grateful and asked if there was anything she could do for me. I just felt the Holy Spirit saying "invite her to your next chapter meeting", which I did. Zona was happy to attend and parked herself in the front row of the meeting. When the meeting concluded she thanked me and went on her way. I was not sure if she had enjoyed the meeting because there was very little comment.

A few days later I received a call from Zona, saying that she was selling a family home where the marriage had broken up and the husband was left in the house on his own. She had real concerns for David and his emotional wellbeing. I was amazed by her next request – could the chapter men get around David and see if we could help him through this terrible situation. Zona gave me the address and I went to see David – it was a 'cold call' so to speak and David was not keen to speak to me. I quickly needed to find some common ground and called on the Lord for some help. Slowly David opened up and explained the betrayal that had taken place, with his wife running off with another man and taking their 2 children. He was shattered and heartbroken.

I spoke to David about the things he would need to do in the short term and in the longer term, where he could get his life back and also connecting with his children. Long story short, the boys got around David and he came to the Lord and became a chapter member. He started going to church and growing in strength walking with the Lord. His ex-wife slandered him in an attempt to stop home seeing his children, however when the case went to court the judge allowed him free access to his children, due to a wonderful reference his pastor had written (who was also there to support him).

Several weeks later I received another call from Zona (she had kept in touch with David as she was selling his house) saying that there was another young man she had just met who really needed support. She asked if the chapter guys could help?! This situation was a little different and Patrick was 6.4 feet tall and built like Arnold Schwarzenegger. He had a Rottweiler with a studded colour and rode a big motorbike. Patrick had lost his way in life and was heading down the road to depression. I took Patrick to a meal at our favourite Chinese Restaurant and proceeded to tell Patrick about Jesus. He told me he really liked what I was sharing but the voices in his head were getting wild! I looked up to see how far the entrance/exit door was and, could I make it without Patrick tearing my head off. Patrick was led to the Lord the following week and he also became a great chapter member (the voices in his head got dealt with). He also attended our church, but after 6 months he told me that he had to return to the Catholic Church and tell them all the things that he had learnt and experienced that perhaps they didn't know.

I could go on, but suffice to say Zona sent more men to us and became a Christian herself a year after our initial meeting. She was on fire for God and attended all our public meetings, always sitting up the front. I look back and think how gracious is our Lord and the circumstances He provides to bring his children to himself. Because Zona was well known in the community she was able to tell people about her commitment to the Lord and how happy she was in doing this.

Tony Vaughan

EVENTS – See webpage for details

Brisbane Chapter Dinner 18 May 2019 – Col Stringer

Toowoomba Chapter Dinner 24 May 2019 – Padre David Snape

***Did you know that the moment you received Jesus
into your heart your journey in eternity started***

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.

