



From the National President's Desk

**When the Dog Bites**

At 73 years old I was supervising the construction of a 12 story building, something that I have been doing most of my working life. I was onsite in a consulting role, helping a young man who I had trained in the industry establish his construction business, when finally I came to the realization that this might not be where God wants me to be. I therefore tendered my resignation knowing full well that the project would go on full steam ahead with or without my hand being at the helm.

For the first week out of work I spent the time looking to God for direction, studying the Bible, praying, getting my books up to date for our accountant, doing some writing and relaxing with my wonderful wife, wondering what God had in store for us next.

When I started in the trade I did it because I just like to build things, so I was quite open to the next phone call I received about a small formwork job, building a large stormwater pit for the Redland Council. Great, that would be something I could do without all the stress of major construction, so I went head and priced the job submitting my quote and thinking what a smart boy I am. Then as I sat thinking about what I had done and going over the tender in my head, the penny dropped. I had made a simple but costly mistake in the price I had submitted, not that great that it would prevent me from doing the project if I won the tender, but big enough to make me realize that my pricing wasn't the only mistake I had made that day.

I had been asking God for direction and then charged on in my own fleshy manner pricing work that had zip to do with what I had been seeking God about. Talk about running out in front of God! Now the more I thought about this situation the lower I began to sink, as the dark clouds of depression started to grip my heart in a downward spiral of hopelessness. Had I offended God? Was my personal relationship with God on the rocks? On and on it went, downward and further down; was there a bottom to this fall from Grace? A leader of men now in the bog of despondency desperately looks for a way out?

Well of course there is, there is always a way out; we just have to come to it. Dear God Help! *Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts.* Thank God for **Zechariah 4:6** Yes God will if asked throw each of us a lifeline,

not when we think we need it, but when He knows we have learned the lesson that we needed to learn from the experience we are going through. Do you want God to direct your steps? Then don't forge ahead like I did with your religious common sense. I have read my Bible, I have said my prayers, my relationship with God is good, everything is rosy in my garden, and I can just get on with life my way. No you can't, for right in front on that pathway is the pit with a thin veil of religiosity over it preventing us from seeing the true depth thereof and before we know it in we go boots and all.

The problem with a strong personality is we find ourselves running around doing all sorts of things in the flesh, because it is easier to do for ourselves than it is to trust God. The sad progression of such activity is when things start to go wrong we start to panic and being strong willed, we mistakenly translate our panic as inspiration and charge on into the trap that Satan so deceptively has set for us...and that could be game over, **but God!**

As for me, **Romans 7:20** says: *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.* Indeed I have been bought at a price, yes the Precious Blood of Jesus was the ransom price over my sin, now stamped **paid in full.** So then, I'm no longer my own man but the purchased property of the Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. What am I supposed to be doing with my life?

Glorifying God in my body and in my spirit; therefore when being dogged by depression what do we do? **Philippians 4:6-7** *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Depression is a state of mind that God never intended for us to carry. **Matthew 6:25-34** makes it quite clear that no God-created living thing was made to worry, lest of all man, the pinnacle of God's creation. **Colossians 3:1-4** *If you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

More on this subject next month. 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 a familiar scenario ... I was a tad early and was relaxed and far away in thought as I waited for James to arrive. I was brought back to reality by that familiar voice gently bringing what I may call a 'commentary greeting'.

'Well, it certainly is one of those days, is it not' James intoned. 'Beautiful. May I say 'typical' weather, in an outstanding location – and to think that we actually live here! I do notice though, an influx of visitors who have discovered our little paradise.'

'I could not agree more,' was my quick response 'and the influx of people at this time of year has really added to the traffic and the hustle and bustle around town and around us for that matter...'

'Ah yes.' James mused. 'So many people, so much activity and distraction; things do not get done as desired or as they should. Things like "Wait time" increases - and both customers and staff in supermarkets and in shops and cafes experience a degree of stress. You can see it.'

Then, addressing me directly, James finished his musing with the curious comment that 'it is just as well there are individuals who can step into the breach and cover for those who are thwarted by the pressures and distractions from all of the hustle and bustle of life.'

'Yeesss' I acknowledged, though not quite sure what was behind James' comment. My drawn-out "yes" was the trigger for James' elaboration of his comment.

'Ah yes' he said, almost musing again, 'I recall a time and a situation when I was hemmed in on all sides with demands upon my time ... activities, responsibilities, deadlines, you name it. I knew the principles of time management, including the establishment of priorities and timetables, and disciplined myself to follow them.'

'Now, one of the items on my list was the restoration of a big old "Grand-father"



clock. While not high on my list, I did wish to take up the offer of help with this task, from Dave, a former work colleague ... and to use this "reconnection" to share with him the Gospel of God's grace.'

'To my horror, in the midst of my vortex of activity I received a phone call advising me that Dave had passed away and his funeral was to take place at the end of the week.'

'Not surprisingly, I was deeply troubled as I drove to the harbour-side Anglican Church at the end of that week.' James' tone was rather solemn as he shared this very personal experience. 'I arrived early as it was my desire to have time for prayer and contemplation in the church ahead of the service. The Vicar, who was in the vestibule to welcome attendees, asked if I was connected to the family or was I a work colleague. I indicated that I was a work colleague.'

'Then came the first of a number of surprises.' James' eyes lit up as he recalled the unfolding event. 'The Vicar said "You are also a member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship."'

'Yes, I am. How did you know?'

'I recognised the badge you have in your lapel' The Vicar replied. 'I have attended a number of meetings of your Fellowship'.

'Well, I come with a very heavy heart today, I told him, sharing my story about the grand-father clock and wishing to share the Gospel with Dave.'

'The next surprise ...' James continued as he brought up a powerful memory 'was the Vicar's encouragement to me to rejoice. God had brought him into contact with Dave and his family some weeks prior to Dave's admission to hospital and he had the privilege of bringing Dave to faith in Christ. God was in control. You know, I can still feel the relief, the joy and the thankfulness to the Lord for having a man step into the breach and secure Dave's eternal future.'

'But the surprises did not end there' James continued 'The Vicar told me that while Dave was in hospital, and right up to the time he went to be with The Lord, he went around the wards and shared his born-again experience with folk and led some of them to faith in Christ. What an outcome ... Praise the Lord.'

'So,' James concluded 'I learned the basic lesson again ... in those pressured situations "Do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6 NLT." Trust God to put a man in the breach!'

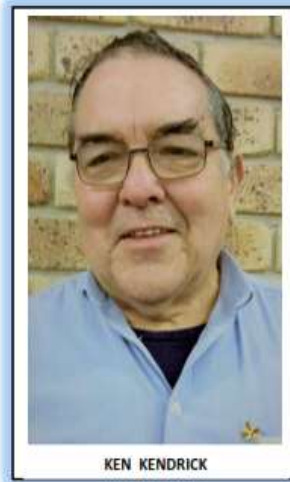


Your Personal Invitation.....

to attend the

Fellowship Dinner

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International  
Toowoomba Chapter



KEN KENDRICK

GUEST SPEAKER: KEN KENDRICK

Ken retired in January this year after serving 22 years as a Security Officer at Grand Central Shopping Centre. He also was the Chaplain to the staff there and remains so today. He is married to Margaret and in September they will celebrate their **50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary!!** They have 3 adult children & 4 grandchildren. Ken grew up in Central Qld as the son of a Primary School teacher and so lived in various small towns with one teacher schools where there was no Church or Sunday School. While only 8 yrs. of age he learned that he was adopted and that his parents didn't want him to know this. Ken moved to Brisbane as he turned 17 to commence an apprenticeship with the then PMG. He later joined the then Commonwealth Police where he served for 17½ yrs. Later he purchased a business in Pittsworth and in 1988 while attending a Marriage Enrichment Seminar, he made a commitment to become a Christian. Through a Distance Education Bible College he attained an Associate Diploma of Ministry. He served in the Church in Pittsworth and in 1996 moved to Toowoomba where he headed up a Crisis Care Ministry with his wife. Both Ken and his wife have undertaken extensive training with the South West Regional Domestic Violence Service. Ken has also undertaken extensive training into Suicide Intervention and First Responders for Suicide. Margaret is a qualified Family Counsellor and family therapist having studied with Australian Institute of Family Counselling. **Don't Miss Hearing Ken's Story!!**

**Come, hear a great Testimony & enjoy Dinner & Fellowship!**  
From Telephone Technician to Detective Senior Sergeant to Security Officer at Beef City and Grand Central Shopping Complex...& there is more!!  
*Bring a Friend!*

**FRIDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE - 6:30 for 7:00 p.m.**  
**ALL SEASONS FUNCTION CENTRE**  
**Cnr North & Tor Sts Toowoomba**  
(Sacred Heart Complex) – parking available in grounds  
**Dinner Cost:- \$23:00 p.p. RSVP 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Please Ph. John 4636 2579 / Michael 4633 3934/Doug 46352771**

*Congratulations to our National President Len and his wife Carolyn on their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 23 June 2018*







***I BOMBED Pearl Harbour***  
***"I LED THE AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOUR"***

**Captain Mitsuo Fuchida's Personal Testimony**

**Pearl Harbour**

Captain Fuchida had risen through the ranks of the Japanese Naval Air Force while logging over 10,000 hours of flight time, mostly from the decks of Japanese aircraft carriers. He had gained extensive military service during Japan's expansion into China. As a result he was chosen to help plan and then to lead the air assault on Pearl Harbor. At 06:00 hours, Captain Fuchida led the first wave of 183 attack aircraft towards Pearl Harbor. At 07:40 he opened his cockpit and fired a green flare into the air to let the other Japanese pilots know the attack was to proceed as planned. At 07:49, he ordered his pilot Lieutenant Mitsuo Matsuzaki to send the radio signal "*Tora! Tora! Tora!*" to flagship *Akagi*, informing them that the attack was commenced with total surprise; *Tora* was the acronym for *totsugeki raigeki*, "torpedo attack" and in Japanese *Tora* means tiger. He remained over Pearl Harbor until the second wave of attack finished to see the extent of the damage to the US military installations. His plane was hit 21 times by anti-aircraft fire. It was amazing that his plane did not crash. Because of the success of the mission, he was granted an audience with Emperor Showa.

**Battle of Midway**

During the Battle of Midway, Capt. Fuchida was not able to participate because he had appendicitis. However, he did observe the progress of the battle from the carrier *Akagi*, and later he wrote a book entitled, *Midway: The Battle That Doomed Japan, the Japanese Navy's Story*. When the *Akagi* was hit by American aircraft, he had to evacuate the bridge by lowering himself down by a rope. An explosion then occurred throwing him to the deck, breaking both ankles. He was rescued and later treated.

Following the war, Gen. Douglas MacArthur summoned Fuchida to testify in Tokyo. He was disgusted with the idea of war trials and thought that everyone should know that war was war and that cruel acts occurred on both sides. He believed the Americans were certainly as cruel towards their captives as the Japanese were. However, he met his former flight engineer Kazuo Kanegasaki at Uruga Harbor who told him that he was treated well as a prisoner of war. Kanegasaki recounted that Peggy Covell, who cared for Japanese prisoners, had parents who had been missionaries and were captured by Japanese soldiers. In fact, before the soldiers beheaded them, her parents asked for and were granted 30 minutes to pray for their executioners.

Peggy's parents were missionary teachers in Japan until 1939, when they departed for safety reasons to the Philippines and sent their children on to the United States. Eventually, the parents were captured by the Japanese and executed Sunday morning, December 19, 1943. Fuchida could not understand why they would pray to a god who could not save them from the sword. Why would the Covell parents pray for their enemies who would shortly behead them? Why would Peggy return to Japan to assist with the Japanese POWs? She claimed, "Because Japanese soldiers killed my parents." Kanegasaki could not provide an answer for Fuchida. In Fuchida's moral framework, the duty of virtue required revenge to prove loyalty to a loved one whose honor had been disgraced. In Peggy's case Fuchida saw no rationale for Peggy's forgiveness or a higher obligation to love someone, especially an enemy.

The examples of Peggy Covell and Jacob DeShazer created a desire in Fuchida to know more about the Christian god. In 1949, Fuchida purchased a Bible near the same Shibuya Station where he had received the pamphlet. As he read the gospels, he came to understand the reason for the forgiveness that motivated Peggy and Jake. It was the crucifixion of Jesus and his words in the gospel of Luke, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." On April 14, 1950, he accepted Christ as his Savior. In May he went to where DeShazer resided and knocked on the door. DeShazer answered and Fuchida said, "I have desired to meet you, Mr. DeShazer. My name is Mitsuo Fuchida." After a moment, DeShazer recognized the name and said, "Come in, come in." The former enemies embraced as brothers in Christ. Fuchida spent the rest of his life as an evangelist. His booklet, *From Pearl Harbor to Calvary*, recounts his journey to faith.



***"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: [fgbfiaustralia.com](http://fgbfiaustralia.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



**SOMETHING TO PONDER**

Looking at Genesis Chapter 1 we read of God's creation and the days that took place in forming our planet. I had not given this much thought before but it took God one whole day to create Adam in his own image – how awesome!

**PSALM 139:14 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

*We hope to see you there*



**2018 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

At this years conference, we will be hearing some practical teaching from some of our men about how we should go about putting our hands to the plough. Don't miss this challenging event!

**VENUE:** Commercial Club Albury  
618 Dean Street  
Albury, NSW, 2640

**DATES:** 10th to 12th August 2018

**COST:** \$125.00

Morning tea Saturday &  
Dinner Saturday night Included

**RSVP: Wednesday 1st Aug 2018**

