



From the National President's Desk

People of God, I have just returned from my travels to America, New Zealand, New South Wales and Victoria, in which time I have learned much and spoken often at many different meetings and for a range of reasons. But none of the last two months of my life can compare with what I'm about to share with you in this article.

I was awoken by the Lord in the early hour of 12.45am on the 17th of August 2018 with this thought "am I a man or a donkey?" And my thoughts as I lay in my bed took me to the story of Balaam and his donkey and how the Angel of the Lord caused Balaam's donkey to talk before he had Balaam's attention. **Numbers 22:31** *Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. And the Angel of the Lord said to him, "why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before me. The donkey saw me and turned aside from me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live." And Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, "I have sinned, for I did not know you stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back." Then the angel of the Lord said to Balaam. "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.*

Sometimes we feel that we are flogging a dead horse or in Balaam's case a stubborn donkey, when in fact it is the Angel of the Lord who is standing in the way, preventing us from progressing with our inferior man made plans, that have in the most part very little or nothing to do with the ways of God.

We as the people of God, who want so much to see the Holy Spirit move sovereignly in this nation, need to come clean in our personal relationship with Almighty God and seek His direction concerning the pending revival we keep hearing about, without actually seeing and coming to the realisation that the only way we will ever experience a new wave of the Holy Spirit sweeping across the land is heeding the Word of God. Even as He gave it to King Solomon the second time He appeared to him.

2 Chronicles 7:12 *Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice." When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour*

the land, or send pestilence among My People, If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

According to **Romans 12:1&2** We, who are called Christians, need to lay down our lives as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is our reasonable service and we should not be conforming to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God; not only to ourselves, but also to the men of the world, that God through our actions and conduct might be glorified.

I believe Satan has set a trap that most of us have fallen into; that being world events, which in turn have caused us to take our eyes off the Lord and speak more about what's happening around us and not what the Lord is about to do. That is because we haven't been spending the time we should in the Word or in prayer so that we know that we know what God is about to do to restore our nation. Yes!

We willingly pull down politicians and speak ill of them when the word of God tells us to pray for them. **2 Timothy 2.1** *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for Kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

Men, serving God through the FGBMFI we need to be forming up our prayer groups, even if only two or three in number to start with and seek God. For it is only when the Holy Spirit moves that we will see the results that we so desire. Holding placards in the streets and calling the sinners names won't move the hand of God.

It is going to take prayer and lots of it to turn the tide of wickedness that is flooding the land. We are standing on the brink of great things in God, yes! God is ready to move. Are we?

Len.



Coffee & Conversation with James

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

Submitted by Ron Oastler

Well, another lovely day in the Port. The Booking Office at the ferry wharf has a nice little coffee shop with a grassed area, picnic tables and a great view. So we gave the Marina a miss and 'sat out' for a coffee right close to the water. A tranquil little haven. Not many people frequent this spot, being hidden from general view.

'How nice is this?' Quipped James. 'We have this place to ourselves, more or less. What a blessing. This is such an ideal place for those personal and private conversations. I like it.'

'Yes, I know what you mean.' I responded. I really did know what he meant. I had experienced a few situations in the past where finding a private and secure place for a very personal discussion was nigh on impossible. As I responded, the thought occurred to me that this little exchange may be the trigger for another recall from James' seemingly inexhaustible trove. It did not take long ...

'It is interesting, is it not, how people's perceptions can change over time – and the reasons are not always apparent?' Another rhetorical question, typical of James' soliloquies. 'I recall a work associate with whom I had many things in common, including our Christian Faith. Alain was a really nice fellow, a solid Christian, and we had some good fellowship. However, his pedigree was very much orthodox and of several generations duration. He had been forever wary of any apparently new "moves of the Spirit" and of those associated with those moves – of which he saw me as "one of them".'

'So, you mean that you could walk together to the extent to which you agreed but no further?' I asked.

'Exactly my friend, so I just endeavoured to be gracious, regardless of what comments and innuendos came my way. The net effect was a growing confidence and respect for me. That was good.'

'The ultimate of that confidence and respect came in a rather unusual way.'



James stated. 'Alain had a colleague in his group, a highly qualified graduate from India, who was struggling with the complexity of his assignment due, in large measure, to personal problems. Having tried to encourage and support his colleague but to little avail, Alain phoned me and asked if I would meet with this colleague to help him in his struggle. This of course I agreed to do. That was good.'

James then described his encounter with Alain's colleague, with almost a ball-by-ball description of his meeting.

'Well' said James, 'after a short briefing from Alain I sensed that this meeting was going to be more than a "workplace counselling" session – rather, a personal, heart-to-heart interaction. So, I arranged to meet in the Staff Dining Room but then transitioned to the lovely outdoor eating area where we selected a small secluded table for our personal discussion. There Alain's colleague told of his job complexity, his performance concerns and the pressure under which he was working. I assured him that I understood how he felt about the job pressures and then gently questioned: "tell me about yourself my friend ... what is happening in your life".'

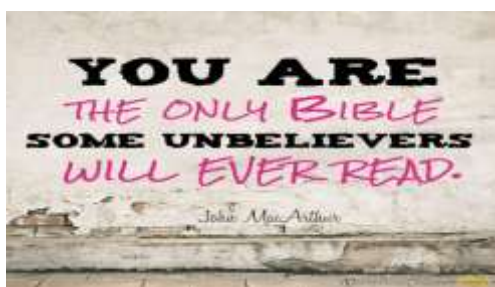
'He opened his heart about the issues in his life, including struggles he was having in his marriage and family. This of course was a "circular" situation – the work situation affected the home situation which affected the work situation. While psychological counselling can certainly help folk in situations like this, what he really needed was a life-changing experience with God - with, and through the Holy Spirit.'

Breathing a sigh of relief, James admitted 'We were blessed to be in the seclusion of the garden area and to have some flexibility with our time, as I shared with my friend the narrative of the eternal Gospel in detail.'

'Making sure that he understood that the fundamental issue for him was being right with God – being reconciled to Him by grace and through faith alone, in Christ alone – my friend committed his life to the Lord there and then, in the garden.'

'God's Word then became relevant to his work and family situation through such scriptures as: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgivings let your requests be made known to God." And again, God's voice: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."'

'So, Alain was now able to shepherd his colleague as he began living a whole new life.'



Brisbane Chapter News

It certainly was an International Fellowship happening at the FGBMFI (Australia) Brisbane Chapter Testimonial Dinner on Saturday 25th August 2018 when a young University Student Elvis Okoffo from Ghana became a member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship (Australia) and was welcomed into the Chapter by President Michael Terranova and long-time member James Tatters.



Also we were privileged to have two guests from Nigeria with us. Professor Daniel Olorunfemi and his lovely wife Christie sang as he played the keyboard. They are returning home but we have invited them to be like the boomerang and come back again soon.



YES truly INTERNATIONAL at the BRISBANE CHAPTER.....

Doug and Pauline Gray showed some lovely photos taken at the World Convention in Las Vegas with 900 registrants, where Doug gave a great testimony of God guiding and leading him in his business life for 57 years, and their involvement in Youth for Christ (a few years ago now) and FGBMFI in the Toowoomba Chapter and beyond.



September 2018 Newsletter

President's Report 2018 AGM - Hands to the Plough, Convention

Well, may we all say, where did that year get to? It only seemed like a day or two ago that we were all in Redcliffe in Queensland, enjoying the 2017 convention, making plans and committing to do things to extend the Kingdom of God here in Australia. Here we are again, now in Albury/Wodonga doing it all over again, but I believe this year is our year to make a big difference, by advancing out from this convention into the four corners of the nation like never before. Yes! Inspiring the men of this great nation to come on-board, establishing new chapters and taking back the ground that was lost when the fellowship imploded.

I have been doing a bit of overseas travel of late, learning what caused the real problems over in America, putting this once great Holy Spirit-driven Fellowship on the back burner. When I left to attend the international AGM and World Convention in Las Vegas, I didn't know whether I was going to be bringing back a positive or negative report to this meeting, mainly because for the past two years I had this niggling feeling in my spirit that things weren't as they should be in the international office. The international office heads up the worldwide ministry of FGBMFI, as you all would be well aware.

To my absolute delight, I bring a very good and positive report of the new leadership team of godly men, aptly led by the new International President Mr Mario Garcia, who some of you would have met when he travelled around Queensland with Doug and Pauline Gray. I was invited to sit in on the International Directors' Meeting of the 47 countries represented by their appointed delegates. To be there in that room just watching and observing how the meeting progressed as Mario and his team negotiated their way through some of the toughest decisions, while making every aspect of the meeting transparent, left absolutely no doubt in the minds of all those attending that our Ministry and Fellowship is back in the hands of God-appointed and anointed men that are above reproach. Men drawn from different countries around the globe, all being leaders in the business and commerce world, but men bound together by a common cord and creed of service to their fellowman, good men of the highest calibre.

I also spoke at the New Zealand FGBMFI National Board Meeting, sharing what I had learned in America, encouraging them to re-affiliate with the International Office. Following that, I was the only speaker at their annual South Island Men's Camp, with men from all over New Zealand attending. All I can say about that was it was the best men's camp I have ever attended and that's not because I was the speaker, but because the Holy Spirit was ministering to me, as I was speaking to the men and praying on the altar calls as God met the needs of men. It was just the greatest time, God is good. Finally, I was taking to six cities, speaking every night and seeing signs and wonders following my ministry. Praise God for His grace.

We here in Australia have a lot to learn and a fair bit of catching up to do if we are going to be the dynamic market place ministry we all believe that God wants us to be. But we can glean from our brothers overseas, enriching our own ministries and seeing the power of God back in this nation, with signs and wonders as we share our testimonies and preach the Gospel that saves souls.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't thank the National Board for their hard work throughout the year; this organisation would not function without their dedication and commitment to the administration of the fellowship. We will all miss our outgoing National Secretary, Mr Ian and Mrs Sue Smith. They have been the backbone of the team and will be hard to replace. Let's make sure we send them off with our heartfelt thanks and blessings. Dan Wright has found it hard-going keeping up with the load that we called him to carry. He is a good man and the right man for the job, but is time-poor with his new role as an accountant in a major car sales company. Well done Dan, you are a champion and we take it on board that this could be your last year as National Treasurer. Thanks for the heads-up, it gives us time to find a new man before the next AGM. God bless you. Tony Vaughan has been just the best Vice President I could have hoped for, always being there with his good sound counsel and advice when and as needed. As you would all know, Tony moved to Rockhampton and is now starting a new FGBMFI chapter there. We need to pray for God to bless that chapter and make it prosper under Tony's leadership.

Alan Mackenzie, Chapter President for Adelaide North and National Director, has been working hard, looking after South Australia and bringing his years of wisdom and knowledge of all things FGBMFI to the table, helping to steer and steady the ship as we stand together on this journey of reconstruction of the fellowship. God bless you my friend. All chapter presidents and the hard workers that support them, we acknowledge you for all your labours of love. Keep on keeping on, the windows of heaven are about to open wide and your loads will be lightened by the new people coming in as a proof of your ministries. God bless you one and all.

This year might have been difficult, but if we didn't go through the hard times we would not appreciate the good times and yes the good times are there. All we have to do is stand up and say to God: "Dear Lord, use me. You died for me, I now lay down my life to serve You. Let me stand in the authority of your wonderful name and call the lost to repentance and salvation." **1 John 3:8** *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.* This year, let's help to take the might of this scripture to apply to someone's life so they can say Jesus has destroyed the works of the devil in their life. Amen.

Len



"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

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



Meeting our brothers and sisters in Christ - Malaysia

Roberta and I visited Kuala Lumpur last month and had the absolute pleasure of meeting up with some FGBMFI Malaysia men and a number of Board members and their wives. I was very impressed with their organisation, leadership and their very committed members who are all actively participating in reaching people for Jesus. The one thing that stood out was the JOY of the Lord on these men and their single-mindedness in getting the job done. They have chapter meetings each day of the week, with different chapters in a number of areas in the city and surrounding areas, and this does not include Fellowship meetings that also take place over and above the daily meetings. The meetings are run in a very professional manner and their hospitality is of the highest standard. If I were to sum up my experience with these men I would say they all presented with a spirit of excellence and commitment. I also noticed that these men are also very active in their own churches and have outstanding relationships with their pastors, who understand the work of the FGBMFI Malaysian fellowship and, the importance and the need of having saved people go to a vibrant church.

Tony



Some FGBMFI Malaysian board members at Chinese banquet

FGBMFI (Australia) 2018 National Conference – selection of offices

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|-------------------------|----------------|
| National President | Len Donaldson |
| National Vice President | Tony Vaughan |
| National Treasurer | Daniel Wright |
| National Secretary | Kevin Quick |
| Board Member | Allan McKenzie |
| Board Member | John Wicks |

Our sincere thanks to Ian Smith for his outstanding work over the last 5 years as National Secretary, it is very much appreciated by the Board and all our members.