



From the National President's Desk

Let me open this article with some leading questions: like in your opinion what is so unique about the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International Australasia Limited? What makes us different to other Christian organisations, and what attracts men to join this God empowered Ministry?

If you, like I, have considered these basic questions, I would dearly like to hear your opinions, helping us to redefine our God-given purpose in a world that is changing at a rate and direction that is staggering to say the least. I believe that now is the time, like no other time in the history of the church that we have to make changes to the ways we conduct God's business here on earth, in an attempt to fulfil our God-given role in the end time ministry before the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

For my part as a person who has spent many years in Christian ministry as a pastor and more years than I like to remember on major construction sites, I do see things quite differently to the more conventional believer of our day. For instance during my season leading a conventional Pentecostal church I always felt closeted and restricted, being unable to accomplish everything I felt God was calling me to do, being restrained and limited by the four walls of the church when there was a whole world out there that needed Jesus.

This feeling was very deep-rooted and eventually brought about my resignation from fulltime ministry and a return to the construction industry, where God opened for me the opportunity to minister to the lost men of that industry, which had been my privilege until taking up my present position as your National President, giving me a much wider field of ministry.

How would I define this ministry? It is unique in that it gives every member an equal opportunity to serve God in whichever or all of the fivefold ministry gifts of the Holy Spirit as defined for us in **Ephesians 4:11** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.* The very pivotal point of this ministry is our determination to serve God by serving our fellow man, walking in the footsteps of Jesus who said in **Matthew 20:28** *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."*

Also **Luke 22:27** *But I am among you as he that serves.* Two very good examples, do we need more? Well maybe the life of the apostle Paul whose life is laid out in scripture as a pattern for us set to our own lives to. **2 Corinthians 4:5** *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus sake.*

Motivated by his love for the Lord Jesus Christ, Almighty God, and the Holy Spirit, Paul poured out his life unashamedly into other people's lives, in the blessed assurance that the gospel that he proclaimed possessed the power of God unto salvation for those he reached out to.

The basic platform of our fellowship right from the early days when Demos first established FGBMFI to now, has been that of giving our testimonies in public meetings; not a new idea, but a good one. Let's take Paul's testimony found in **1 Timothy 1:12-16** *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all long-suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."*

Paul's understanding of how Jesus Christ had dealt with him as he transformed him from what he was to what God had called him to, was the secret behind his determination to serve in whatever capacity or ministry God granted unto him, laying his life down as a pattern for us to follow. Note the God-given skill Paul used as he spliced his testimony together with the gospel in his presentation; part of the testimony was that in him first Jesus Christ might show forth all long-suffering. There are times when it all seems too hard and that the whole world is against us and preventing us from ministering, and that there is more ingratitude than pats on the back. Did that stop Paul?

No it didn't! Look at **Philippians 4:12** *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.* Verse 13 is the clincher for us. *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Paul never looked to what he could get out of the ministry, but rather what he could put in to it; his hunger was for souls.

We are now entering into a new era of unchartered waters. We can't go backwards we can only go forwards, from victory unto victory, but it will take us as a fellowship to pull together and strive for perfection in our God given ministries. Please pray about our future, seek God, and if you have any constructive ideas share them with us (the National Board) for our consideration and implication. God has been good to us and will continue to pour out His blessings as we expand across the nation.

Len



Coffee & Conversation with James

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

Submitted by Ron Oastler

It was 'between seasons' and, while it should have been a tad cold, it was gloriously warm in a sunny corner of the Marina Promenade. I was a little late this morning. I had found a bunch of keys at the side of the road and had decided to take them to the local Police Station before meeting up with James.

'Well, Good Morning ... I trust everything is well with you?' James enquired. To which I replied 'Oh yes James, just a little errand of mercy that took a whole lot longer than I figured.'

I explained the situation to James, who always revelled in a story: 'On the way here I found a set of keys, roadside. I took them to the Police Station but had to wait quite a time to be attended to. They had a couple of Call-Outs which left only one officer at the Station. It seemed like ages before the small amount of paperwork was done and I was free to go. But the interesting thing was that a man arrived at that point asking if a set of keys had been handed in. You guessed it – they were his. End of story.'

It was no surprise to me at all to hear James' rejoinder.

'Ah, a little delay, a little inconvenience and a good outcome, eh?' He quipped. Then, without a pause he continued 'reminds me of an experience I had at Sydney Airport ...'

James then related his own story. 'I had returned from a business trip to the US – a rather long and tiring exercise as you know – and was standing at the luggage carousel waiting to collect my bag. The mass of people had thinned out until there were only two of us left standing there. There was but one big blue bag that continued to go around on the carousel endlessly. It was not my bag and apparently not that of the man standing nearby.'

'I felt a peace as I waited, and was whistling softly the melody of Amazing Grace – appropriate under the circumstances. The other gentleman who was still waiting for his bag turned to me



and somewhat surprisingly asked: "Did I hear you whistling Amazing Grace?" To which I replied "Yes. It is a beautiful melody and the lyrics are quite powerful.'

'The gentleman then asked "Are you are a Christian?" To which I replied "I certainly am..." "And so am I, said he."

James continued: 'We introduced ourselves and I learned he was Bud Edwards, a Cadillac Dealer from Texas. He had only been a Christian for some months and had felt the Lord tell him to go to Australia and He would show him what to do then. Some folks thought he was crazy ... and here he was at the Luggage Carousal, his bag apparently lost, and asking the Lord what to do.'

'I sensed that he should meet up with Bernie Gray in Brisbane. Bernie was an outstanding automotive man from way back. He had imported the very first Subaru vehicles into the country. His One Stop Shop for Car Care was an icon. More than this, he had a heart to see men come to know the Lord and he was leading the Fellowship at that stage. So ... I called Bernie and put Bud in touch with him.'

'Now, at that stage a Qantas Supervisor came by the carousel. I explained our lost bags situation and he replied with a broad smile "No Sir, Qantas does not lose bags. We occasionally mislay them but we do find them – and we return them to their rightful owners. I will check for you."

'It was at that very moment that Bud exclaimed "OH NO! I repacked my gear from an older brown bag into a newer blue bag. That's my bag on the carousel! It has been there all of this time!"

'So, Bud's bag went unidentified and mine was mislaid – and all for a purpose.'

'Bud went to Brisbane and spent time with Bernie, shared testimony, had fellowship, spoke at a function, returned to Texas.'

'Bud says that the Lord taught him through his Australian experience, to trust Him totally – even when people think you are crazy. Bud is now the senior pastor of a church in Texas.'

'So my friend' James concluded 'we do not always play a prominent role in another man's experience with God but it will always be significant – and we need to be aware of the potential in all situations. "All things work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose for them."



Your Personal Invitation.....

to attend the

Fellowship Dinner

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International
Toowoomba Chapter

Guest Speaker: TREVOR WATTS MP



TREVOR WATTS MP

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH
SHADOW MINISTER FOR POLICE AND
COUNTER TERRORISM
SHADOW MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE
SERVICES**

FGBMFI SPEAKERS –

*Our speakers are selected from
Christian Businessmen, Professionals,
Politicians and Laymen who have a
story to tell of God's goodness.
MEN & WOMEN WELCOME TO COME &
HEAR TREVOR'S PERSONAL STORY.*

Trevor grew up in England living one door down from his local church. He joined the Boys Brigade at the age of 7 and was a keen participant for the Brigade's football team. Trevor's involvement with the Boys Brigade lead to many friendships and guidance from people within the local community. These early encounters for 8 years thoroughly shaped his character, his beliefs and his faith. Trevor's father was an Australian and his mother was English and at 17 Trevor left England to travel. He spent 4 years playing basketball for the South China Athletic Association. He moved to Qld and in 1991 he transferred his studies to the USQ where he completed a Bachelor of Business, Diploma of Export Management.

Trevor saw huge opportunities for Toowoomba, Highfields and the Darling Downs, believing in the need for strong regional voices in parliament to fight for a fair go. Trevor Was elected as the Representative for Toowoomba North in 2012 and re-elected in 2015 and again last November.

From his early upbringing in the Christian Faith, Trevor finds those values & priorities, character and faith very important in his political career and in his family.

He and his wife Sue have 4 children. One of Trevor's statements from his Maiden Speech, "Finally and privately, I say thank you to my God for watching over my life, especially through a near-fatal accident last year (2011) and for giving me the strength to meet life's challenges".

FRIDAY 16th MARCH - 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 14th

Please Ph. John 4636 2579 / Michael 4633 3934

MALCOLM REEVE (courtesy FGB UK)

Profession: Retired Police Officer

I was brought up in Norfolk where I joined the police as a cadet. This led me into a 30-year career until I retired as chairman of the Norfolk Police Federation. Early in my training as someone who loved sport I was part of a four-man police team in a national running competition over seven mountain peaks in the Snowdon range. Although we all came from one of the flattest parts of the UK, our team won! I was grateful for a secure career with the police and the future looked bright. Outwardly all was well, but like many other colleagues in the police and emergency services, I faced intense pressures at times.

In my 20's I ran into problems in my personal life when a relationship collapsed due to my immaturity and selfish behaviour. I also felt wretched when my parents



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were divorced and my sadness increased when my dear grandad, Peter, found he was dying of cancer in his mid-60s. I sat with him in the early hours as his life ebbed away. But at 4 a.m. he suddenly sat up and swung his legs over the side of the bed. His eyes seemed bright with renewed hope. I reached across to him and then he died in my arms. I noticed there was a great sense of peace in the room and even a fragrant atmosphere that puzzled me.

I did not know then that my grandad had a life-long faith in God. I found out later that he had told my mother don't worry, Eileen, the Shepherd has come to see me and Peter's death made me think deeply about God. I wasn't a churchgoer, but one night I tried to pray the Lord's Prayer although I couldn't remember the middle bit. I called out in the darkness God, if you are real, you need to show me! Yet I seemed to be beyond God's reach. My personal life was a mess and I was looking for hope and a way out. Later, I talked with a Christian lady friend, who had some answers I had never heard of. Very simply she explained who Jesus is. The Bible, she said, made it clear that it was possible for anyone, even me, to know Jesus as a living, personal Saviour who could change lives.

A tremendous urgency gripped me as I said I need to know Him now. So she prayed a simple prayer and I followed the words, line by line. I acknowledged that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that He died on the cross for me a sinner, so that I could know forgiveness and find a new life. Tears just flowed and I felt as though someone had lifted a huge burden off my back. Then a sense of lightness, peace and joy flooded my life. It was not just a passing emotion.

As I joined a local church and grew in faith, my life was radically changed. I had always wanted to help people, but now I found many unexpected opportunities to do so. Police officers sometimes have to bring tragic news to relatives. In 1988, I had to visit the home of a widowed mother whose young son had been killed that day in a major accident on the A11, following a crash between a Securicor van and an articulated lorry.

When this heartbroken lady told me she was a churchgoer, I mentioned that I, too, was a Christian. She asked me to pray for her. Some months later, I was back in her area, so I popped in to say hello. You know, I have been going to church for 30 years, she admitted, but I realise I don't know Jesus Christ the way you do. You speak of him as a friend. As we sat at her table I led her in a simple prayer of commitment to Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour. I noticed that the change in her life was instant and she seemed no longer grief-stricken, but peaceful. A year later, a colleague phoned me and said buy the evening paper. There, on the front page, was another tragic story of Dinner lady killed in freak accident.

A car had skidded on ice as she cycled nearby, and she was killed instantly. It was shocking news, but an inner voice said "Malcolm, she is with Me." During my police career, I helped to start a Christian police fellowship. I also became a full-time chairman of the county's Police Federation, which deals with the welfare of officers and any complaints made against them. My wife, Cecile, is a graduate in world development studies and helps to promote Fair Trade products. I am now in training to serve the community in pastoral care. It is amazing to see the way that God has brought fulfilment into our lives. Being a Christian is the best adventure anyone could experience. We love to see the way the Holy Spirit touches people's lives. Malcolm is an officer of the Cromer Chapter in North Norfolk and training to be a local preacher in his Methodist Circuit.



"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."



Internationale Con...

Garcia



BIG PHIL – courtesy of FGB UK

Profession: Ex Paratrooper & Biker

Continued...

In February 1998 I felt depressed and planned to escape so I could get shot by the special police. Just as I was about to put my plan into action a prison officer said he wanted to pray for me. We argued for 45 minutes and in the end I gave in and then went to sleep for 14 hours. When I woke up, I demanded to see the governor to ask him about the screw who had prayed for me.

The Governor told me, after he had checked the staff files, that there was no such officer. It was not until I became a Christian that I realised I had been visited by an angel. I was released on the 31st March 1998.

Back in Britain in December 2003 I attended an FGB dinner in Bolton. The speaker that night was a Chinese Christian named Kim Goh. He told his story of how he got saved, and about the weapons and drugs he had used. I sat there nodding my head as he talked.

He called me to one side and said, Jesus loves you and wants you now. I told him to do one, or I was going to kill him. But he poked me in the chest and said it again, and I tried to lift my fist to hit him but I could not lift my first above my belt.

I found myself saying "OK pray for me then." That is when I made my commitment to Jesus. The following week I was invited to go along to the CMA (Christian Motorcycle Association) and was made to feel at home. It took 18 months but finally Jesus got through to me and mellowed me so that I am now helping people instead of hurting them.

Since then I have talked to business men at FGB dinners and to bikers at motorbike rallies. I tell them about the change JESUS has made to my life in the last 3 years. I show them that if they want to change, all they have to do is ask JESUS into their lives and He will come in and change them too.

So, in finishing, let me say that the Christian life is not always easy. But if you ask Jesus, He will help you through even if you think He is not helping you. I would like to share with you the prayer I said when I became a Christian. If you say it and mean it from your heart, your life will change for the better.

Dear God, I will meet you half way, if you will help me and carry me the rest of the way. Then I will do what I can to pass on your love and hope. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I am not going to Heaven because I have preached to great crowds or read the Bible many times. I'm going to Heaven just like the thief on the cross who said in that last moment: 'Lord, remember me.'

Billy Graham