



Editor - Tony Vaughan



From the National President's Desk

The first book I ever read as a Christian was THE GREAT ADVENTURE by George Otis and my life has been full of adventures ever since. Some exciting, some scary, but all of them developing out of my personal relationship with our Lord.

He led me through many trials and testings, showing me that truly we can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens and empowers us as the need arises. Therefore I would like to share some of those real life experiences with you from my journey walking with the Lord. Not that I want to boast about myself, or what I might have done or haven't done. Rather, I'm writing this set of articles to encourage you, the members of The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International Australia, to step out in faith, letting the Lord direct you into a fuller, richer, Holy Spirit inspired Great Adventure of your own. We give God the glory for the great things He has done with our lives.

Remember, the first step in any adventure is always the hardest. **Knowing our authority in Christ Jesus when confronted by demons.** My first encounter in this area happened this way: As a young committed Christian building churches, my company was in the completion stage of an Assembly of God Church in a suburb of Brisbane, Australia that we attended as a family. Money was short as is often the case on these sorts of builds, because we always seemed to stretch the size of the building further than the budget allowed, hoping that God would make up the difference. Often He did. This case being a good example: completed cost was \$225,000, using voluntary labour; the bank valuation 12 months after completion was \$500,000.

The church was out of money and the members of the board each threw in \$1,000.00. Other people did likewise when approached, but we were still short of enough funds to complete some of the roadworks and landscaping required, before we could gain the final certificate from Council. Oh what a dilemma we found ourselves in. These sorts of situations can, if we are not on guard, open doors that allow attacks from the evil one and this was no exception. As you know, they can come on you when you least expect it or have been stretched to your limits, for that's just the way the devil works.

I had been praying a lot about this whole situation, having outlaid all our ready cash on this project and seeking God for His supply where my

family was concerned. I did this knowing that God never lets you down when you are pushing into Him in prayer, and He has promised to supply our every need according to His riches in Glory.

God works in mysterious ways. His wonders to perform often involve Him using people around you to fulfil your everyday needs, helping you to meet life's challenges. As God would have it, a fellow Company Director from a construction firm I had worked in before going into business for myself, rang up and shared the problems he was having on a site out in a country area of Queensland. He was ringing in the hope that I would go out and take control of the site and complete the project for him. He was willing to pay me some very good and much needed money for this job. My immediate thought then, was that the money would be enough to complete our church and thereby gain our certificate.

Praise God for His wonderful provision just in the nick of time! During this time I was out of town some 500km from home, living in a country pub with a bunch of construction workers, only making it home once a week or once a fortnight. It was during this vulnerable season of life I received a love letter from one of the women in our church. Whilst flattering it was not really what I needed at the time, but before that week was over I received yet a second letter from her.

This one could not be called a love letter for it was more a lust letter, making it quite clear what her desires and intentions were towards me. That put the willies up me good and proper. Question: How are we as Christian men to handle this sort of sordid situation when confronted with it? We all know or should know that they can only lead to absolute disaster when exposed and that Satan will make sure they are. I was a happily married man with five children who had never been confronted with this sort of thing, even in my wildest days before becoming a Christian.

Praise God for His Word: Genesis 2:18 *and the Lord God said, "it is not good that man should be alone: I will make him a helpmate comparable to him"*. That's it! I have been abundantly blessed with one of the very best helpmates and I sure needed her help to get me out of that mess that was not of my making.

On returning home that weekend, I gave both letters to my wife to read. Now, she is a very understanding soul, but this pushed her to her limits. The ensuing explosion reassured me that she was up to the task and was prepared to do whatever was necessary to bring this problem to a godly conclusion before it developed further.

Continued on page 3...



Coffee & Conversation with James

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

Submitted by Ron Oastler

'I never cease to be amazed at the ethnicity of visitors to the Port who join the Whale Watch Cruises' James commented as he seated himself comfortably by me at the Café on the Bay. 'We have not only become a multi-cultural society but are blessed with a transient population from the four corners of the globe.'

With such a soliloquy I knew that a highly relevant experience would be re-told shortly. So I filled the pause with the statement: 'Yes...it seems they come from everywhere.'

'Well, it used to be from the UK, from the Mediterranean, from Central Europe, from Asia, and then the Middle East and Africa. What a variety of backgrounds, cultures and experiences. I also recall that we had quite a number of outstanding Information Technology specialists from the Indian Sub-Continent who joined our company. Wonderful people. Highly talented. Highly trained and experienced, with high cognitive skills – great thinkers.'

'Did I ever tell you about Raj?' James enquired.

'No' said I, 'what was his story – do tell?'

'Ah, Raj was one of those people who was a deep thinker. As a Senior IT Consultant he would nod wisely as information was presented to him, he would avoid premature conclusions, he would seek validation of propositions and, when convinced of the right conclusion, would commit to a well-reasoned decision. Raj was well respected throughout the company as a professional and as a person.'

'Now, a very interesting thing happened. One of my sons was a senior high school student, and a lass in his class attended a Reformed church by the Coast. Her church was running outreach meetings, utilising external speakers, and through our rather tenuous connection I was invited to speak at one of their Friday evening meetings. That was interesting enough.'



'My wife and I arrived a little "en avance" and proceeded to meet with some of the folk who also had arrived early. In conversation with one young man, a fine committed Christian, it transpired that his father worked in the same company as did I – and his father's name was Raj. Yes, the very same Raj and his son then capped it all with the statement that his father would be at the meeting a little later in the evening. How wonderful.'

'Sure enough, a little later Raj arrived and we had quite a warm chat – how nice that was - and then the meeting got underway. There were some forty to fifty folk there and the meeting was handled well with some traditional hymns and worship songs, a personal testimony, and then it was my opportunity to share. It was one of those times that you just knew that the Holy Spirit had everything under control.'

James paused for a moment, pensively, then continued: 'As I recall, I had a simple message – I shared the basic fundamentals of The Gospel, and presented it on a clearly logical basis for understanding and acceptance. As the great Apostle Paul espoused, *'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind ...'* [Romans 12:2]. This change of thinking, of understanding, is of course a universal injunction and not just one for the Christians in Rome. This links directly with the truth that 'Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.'

'You would recollect that the Apostle Paul visited Berea, in Macedonia, preaching and teaching to both Jews and Hellenists in that place. Acts 17:11 bears record that the folk there 'searched' the Scriptures to get their minds around this Gospel and make sure it was true. Interesting is it not, that 'searched' in the Greek is *'anakrinō'* properly to *scrutinize*, that is, (by implication) *investigate, interrogate, determine*: - ask, question, discern, examine, judge, and of course *search*.

'Is it any wonder then that **many** Bereans, both men and women, both Jews and Greeks came to Faith in Christ!

'So' said James, rounding out the account with a real sense of fulfilment, 'the truth of the Gospel was presented that night – the way of Salvation – and opportunity given right there to receive Christ as Lord and Saviour. It was my great joy then to see that the first hand of several to be raised was that of Raj, and my privilege then to pray with him at that time.'

'Was it any wonder that Raj reminded me of the Bereans ...?' he concluded.

The former drug addict who found God and built a successful business

From BBC News - By Julie Griffiths Business reporter, Glasgow

At his lowest point, Ryan Longmuir took drugs every day "just to feel normal."

He was also dealing them, and at one point faced a possible jail sentence. Born in the Scottish new town of Cumbernauld, Ryan began experimenting with drugs when he was 12, initially because he was curious and had fallen in with likeminded friends. "I tried everything - cocaine, Valium, ecstasy, speed, heroin... I'd go on benders for two or three days at a time, and I'd take five or 10 ecstasy tablets in one night," he says.

"From the age of 15 to 20 I took drugs every single day." Thankfully for Ryan, everything changed when he was 20, and he has not touched drugs ever since. While the cynical may raise their eyebrows, Ryan, now 37, says he discovered God and quit overnight.

Without the drugs, he was able to get his life back, and aged 24 he launched a catering company called Regis Banqueting. Today the 13-year-old business has blue-chip clients including mobile phone network O2, luxury carmaker Bentley, and investment bank JP Morgan. With drugs his main interest and income at the time, Ryan left school in Cumbernauld, 13 miles north-east of Glasgow, aged 16. Four years later he was dealing thousands of pounds worth of drugs a week, and if he continued he says it was clear that he would become a "big time gangster drug dealer".

Trying to run away from his lifestyle, Ryan decided in 2000 to go to New Zealand for a year in search of a fresh start. But it fell apart just two weeks after he arrived, when New Zealand customs intercepted a package of 100 ecstasy pills that Ryan had posted to himself from Scotland. Facing a jail term, he phoned a friend back in Scotland. She said that she would pray for him and suggested he do the same.

Ryan says: "I thought 'you're off your head' but I decided to try it, and I got down beside my bed and I said, 'I don't believe that there is a God, but if you're real then show me that you're real and I'll believe in you.'" Out on bail, Ryan had to go to the police station every two days, but his appetite for drugs was undiminished. It was only when he met two female hitchhikers that things changed. The women took him out for lunch, then to church, and allowed him to move in to their home.

"That was when I thought there was maybe something to this because why would two complete strangers do that? That was the catalyst for change." Ryan says that discovering his faith was fast, and the change immediate. Drugs suddenly lost all appeal, and he threw all the substances that he had into the sea, and has been clean ever since. "I know most people who have been taking drugs don't have that experience. Most people do ok for a bit then they relapse. Everyone's journey is different but that was mine."

While Ryan escaped jail time in New Zealand, his Visa was revoked, and he returned to Scotland in May 2000. He joined a church, the evangelical Freedom City Church in Cumbernauld, met his wife and got married. To earn money he got a job working with drug and alcohol addicts, where he was able to draw on his own experience to try to help others to quit. However, when the funding for his role ran out a few years later he found himself without work. It was then that the opportunity to start his own business came about. His church wanted a catering company to run the cafe attached to their conference centre on an ad hoc basis, and the then-pastor suggested Ryan might fit the bill. Despite having little to no catering experience he jumped at the chance and Regis Banqueting was formed. Ryan attended catering college alongside running the cafe and learned as he went along. "I had to phone my mother-in-law to ask how you make steak pie," he says. "I was young and naive. If I knew what I know now, I probably wouldn't have started it." To help Ryan expand the business into contract catering, the Princes Trust, the UK start-up support charity led by the Prince of Wales, gave him a £5,000 loan.

While Ryan says the first three years were tough, with him taking a salary of just £6,000 in year one, over time the clients and contracts got bigger. Cumbernauld-based Regis Banqueting now has 65 staff - 20 full-time and 40 part-time, many of whom are seasonal - and annual turnover is £1.3m. Meanwhile, Ryan and the company have won a number of awards including the Royal Bank of Scotland's young business of the year crown, and director of the year from the Institute of Directors organisation. Prof Eleanor Shaw, head of the Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Strathclyde, says it is Ryan's motivation and enthusiasm that helps make him such a success. "Catering is a really difficult market to be competitive in, but he has such energy," she says. "He's very hardworking and is so motivated that it brushes off on everyone around him."



March 2019 Newsletter

Looking back on his troubled youth, Ryan says he knows that his life might have turned out very differently. As a result he tries to help others who face addiction and poverty, for instance by employing former addicts and ex-offenders among his staff.

He is also in the process of starting another company, alongside Regis, that will focus on creating a brand of casual dining restaurants, the first to be launched in Glasgow next year. The plan is to expand across Scotland and the UK before going international. "I say to my wife sometimes that it's amazing how we're making more money than a doctor or lawyer - and we're making sandwiches," says Ryan.

Continued from page 1...

I rang the letter writer and told her I was home and that she was welcome to come around if she so desired. I didn't let on that my wife was also home, with her guns loaded and ready to do her very best. Well, around came the letter writer - you can only imagine her surprise - not only was my wife at home, but there on the kitchen table were the two letters she had written. Then the fun started, as I explained that my wife and I had never strayed in our marriage and that my wife was my best protection I had in this sort of situation. I also explained that as a male, I had no right to try to minister to her or help her, but that my wife was willing to do all she could to help guide her out of the dark place she was in. As for me, at that stage I left and got out of their road, so as not to cloud what God was about to do, as my wife lovingly and without animosity ministered to this person. Two weeks later was the next time I was home, so I went to the evening service at the new church which we were now using. After the meeting, the letter writer asked if I would stay behind and pray for her as she was still having some problems.

Knowing I was safe from any sexual attack I agreed. After the congregation had all left the building, she shared with me what the problem was and it became quite evident that she was demon possessed and her real need was deliverance. As I was praying for her, out of her mouth came the most hideous laughter. It was the sort of a laugh or taunt one might use to mock, ridicule or jeer at someone to throw them off their set course. At that point in the conflict you must make a snap decision; either run or stand your ground and take the battle to the enemy. Thank God I stood my ground in the knowledge that the battle is not ours but the Lords and that He has strengthened each of us so we can stand against the enemy in any conflict and win the day. Now the laughter turned to a deep male voice as she struggled to stay upright. I spoke to the demon that was within her with these words: "you can fool some of the people some of the time but you can't fool me. Come out of her in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth."

The lady let out one almighty scream and out of her body came the most horrible looking thing I have ever seen. It stood about 1.2 meters high and looked for all the world like an over grown ugly frog or toad. It stood there for a moment which seemed like forever, with its long arms reaching down almost to the floor until I said with all the authority in my voice I could muster, "be gone in Jesus name." Then finally without so much as a by your leave, it walked straight through a double brick wall and was gone. Praise God for His wonderful power over the Kingdom of darkness and for His Grace that allows us, His children, to deal with these stinking things.

My wife and I now had a new friend, who when she opened up, told us of all the ways in which she had been trapped by the demonic forces that had led her into all sorts of depravity. It has been our privilege to see her grow in the things of God and live her new life in Christ Jesus without the distractions that were once destroying her. There are many reasons why and how people become demon possessed, and not the least of them being that they get interfered with as children, opening the gate to not only shame but torment. We have the power and God-given authority to set people free in Jesus name. **Luke 4:18** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

Do you want to live an exciting Christian life? Then live your life as an ambassador for Christ Jesus as we have been commissioned to do.

Blessings 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: 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



Hi men, 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.

Upcoming Events – see webpage below.

www.fgbmfiaustralia.com/events

Toowoomba Chapter Dinner 22 March 2019 – Speaker Dale Murray

North Lakes Chapter Dinner 27 March 2019 – Speaker Dr Shu Chan

Brisbane Chapter Dinner 30 March 2019 – Speaker Dr Steve Ryder