



FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALIA)

His banner over me is love - Song of Solomon 2:4

July 2019 Newsletter

Editor - Tony Vaughan



From The President's Desk -

Beloved members of the fellowship, we are fast approaching our Australian National Convention and much has been accomplished in an attempt to make it by far, the best National Convention to date. The international speakers have confirmed that they are coming, the date has been set, the venue is booked, the menu chosen, the invitations have gone out, the musicians are ready, the program looks good and we could say all is done. But is it? No, not by a long shot, not by a country mile, it's not all done yet. Thus far it's all in the flesh, but without the anointing of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit, there is little point in holding such an event.

What is now needed more than anything else for a successful National Convention, is for God's special people to seek God as to what is going to transpire under the mighty hand of God and leading of the Holy Spirit, and His special convention anointing. For the time has come for us as God's chosen people! Yes, chosen by God in Christ Jesus before the foundations of the earth, to get into some serious prayer; as in **Matthew 6:33** *Seek you first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness*. What then are we seeking as Kingdom of God people? This scripture is drawn from **Psalms 105:6** *Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore!* Seeking the Lord in this light means seeking His presence.

Sadly, our life experience reveals to us we have a sense in which God's presence is not always with us. No wonder the scriptures frequently encourage us to seek the Lord and to seek His presence continually. If therefore we want any manifestation of the Holy Spirit during our time together, we must seek God's presence to manifest in and around our National Convention in the knowledge that God, if asked, will grant us the desires of our hearts. This responsibility is not the National Board's only, but is to be shared by all the membership. That way, when we do come together, we come in the spirit of unity and there God commands His blessing.

The theme of this year's convention is **"BREAKOUT"**: what's your first thought when you hear the word breakout? Maybe it's someone breaking out of jail, or breaking out of debt, or breaking out of a bad relationship and the list goes on. What about **BREAKING OUT SPIRITALLY**, yes into a new dimension of the awesome power of Almighty God's Holy Spirit, with signs and wonders following your ministries.

I believe with a passion that we the saints have not experienced anywhere near what God has in store for us who believe, as we enter into the end times or last days as we know them. **Ephesians 3:20** *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us*. What we need to experience is spiritual breakout. There was one moment in time when our lives were changed forever, that being when we were born again, born spiritually, right? Or have we fallen back into our old ways and neglected the work God has called us to? What I sense in my spirit is, that we need a breakout like the men of old received when the Lord called them. What of the disciples, who one day were fishermen and after the Lord called them they all became fishers of men, for the Lord Himself had broken them out of their old mold or way of life.

Are Peter, Andrew, James and John the only ones to experience a spiritual breakout? No, not by a long shot. What about the woman at the well (John 4); after her encounters with Jesus and her breakout she evangelised the city she lived in. The demon possessed man from Gadara (Mark 5) after his breakout stayed and proclaimed all that Jesus had done for him; and all the people marvelled. The apostle Paul on the Damascus road had his breakout and went on to write no less than two thirds of the New Testament, instructing all of us how to better live and serve God. What of those throughout the ages who experienced personal breakout and went on to do great and mighty things?

Our founder Demos Shakarian was one of them. Whilst praying on his lounge room floor he received his personal breakout; yes a breakout that changed the lives of many worldwide. We won't be by the Sea of Galilee at the convention we will be beside the lake at Northlakes. Who of you would like a spiritual breakout? You can if you are really ready to hear what our Lord wants to say through the speakers during the convention. Those in the paragraph above had one thing in common - they were all willing to listen when the Lord spoke.

If God was to speak into your heart at the convention, calling you into a new dimension and experience and taking you beyond your wildest dreams, would you be ready to respond, leaving all else behind to gain your breakout? If so, we would love to see you there so register now and get into praying that the presence of God fills the venue and our lives are changed into His likeness, because we are experiencing our breakout. His Banner over us is Love. Len

Coffee & Conversation with James

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

Submitted by Ron Oastler

It had rained throughout the night and now it didn't seem to know what to do. The sun hidden behind a blanket of steel-grey cloud, rain coming in light misty spells followed by heavy squalls and all of the while that threatening grey sky. Most unusual for The Port - yet attractive in its own way.

All around town visitors were seen wearing hats and the inevitable plastic raincoats, plus carrying tightly furled umbrellas 'at the ready' in anticipation of the next squall! Fascinating. So, with weather like this, we decided to meet in a café a couple of streets back from the marina and away from the direct hit of a squall - though it was a little chilly in the larger facility.

James arrived and joined me with an expressive and rather appropriate 'Brrrrrrr; Good morning'. 'Me too' I muttered, 'I feel like doing some calisthenics or at least a 'walk around' to offset this cold'.

'A sagacious comment my dear friend,' James responded 'a stroll, if not a brisk walk can do wonders for circulating the blood and warming the frame. In fact that thought stirs a memory from way back ...'

'Have I ever told you how I became involved with our Fellowship all those years ago?'

'Noooo, do tell' I encouraged. 'Ah, some brethren whom I knew, had been encouraging me to become involved in developing the Sydney Chapter. I attended several of the meetings and was impressed. Now, the International Director of the Fellowship in Australia at that time was one Ray Moulton, who was the founder of *Gospel Film Ministry* in Melbourne.'

'Ray had previously attended a Booksellers Convention in Los Angeles and having come across the Fellowship's "Voice" magazine he returned to Melbourne with a good quantity of them and within a few days he sent copies to contacts around Australia. As with the few meetings I had attended, I was impressed with Voice magazine.'

James continued: 'My name was apparently passed on to Ray Moulton in Melbourne, and the word that came back was that Pastor Norman Armstrong, who was located in Sydney, would make contact with me. Now I knew who Pastor Norm Armstrong was, but I had never heard him preach, nor even seen him, let alone met him. So I just awaited his call...and time passed.'

'One day, on a day just like this ... cold, wet, windy and somewhat miserable, I had an unusual experience. I had been on a business trip to Melbourne was in the old Essendon Airport awaiting a seriously rescheduled flight back to Sydney, delayed obviously by the seriously inclement conditions.'

'The gate lounges were full - but I was fortunate enough to find a seat along the side of the concourse. It was interesting to see many folk strolling along the concourse to keep warm and to while away the time. One man in particular caught my eye. He wore a narrow brimmed hat, along with a grey plastic raincoat over his suit. I had seen him stroll up and down the concourse several times before I heard the Lord say to me "that is Pastor Norman Armstrong". Now remember, while I knew the name, I had never heard him preach or even seen this man, let alone met him.'

'So, as he drew near I rose from my seat with a real test of faith and approached him and asked "Is your name Armstrong?" to which he replied "Yes, it is."

'Then with only a short pause I prompted "Pastor Norman Armstrong?" (Was this second question a hiccup in my faith, or was I overawed by his first response?). "Yes, that is me," he confirmed "and who may I ask are you?"'

'I introduced myself and Pastor Norm quickly came back with the statement "Praise the Lord, I have it on my list to contact you about joining a committee to run a Chapter of the Businessmen's Fellowship."

'So it was that I subsequently met with him, joined a small group of brethren and began running regular outreach dinner meetings in the greater Sydney area. Over time, I was privileged to serve as Chapter Secretary, Vice-President and Chapter President, etc. Meanwhile of course, there were brethren in Brisbane and Adelaide who had joined this God ordained move and were engaged in similar outreach dinners - but more of this later'.

'However, my initiation was by way of that special little miracle - a lesson I have never forgotten.'

'It is not unusual then on a day like this, seeing a man in a hat and plastic raincoat, to have the memory of Pastor Norm revived. It also reminds me about responding to a prompting of the Holy Spirit and exercising Faith.'

HIS PRESENCE – John Diamond **Brisbane Australia**

Reprinted from VOICE magazine September 1980
(Volume 28 Number 8)



My son lay dying. As I stroked his silky blond hair, I wept in anguish that his time with us had been three short years. As he slept, I remembered my mother's death when I had been only a couple of years older than Christopher was now. My five-year-old mind was not capable of understanding a great deal, but I knew that mother and I were alone in the house. As I lay in my cot looking through the bars towards her bed, I could hear her gasping for breath. Suddenly a robed figure

stood at the foot of her bed. Although I could not make out his countenance, He said to me, "Don't worry, John. Everything will be all right." His presence had given me a sense of peace. I have always felt He was there to take my mother home. Since that time, I seemed to know God was with me. While I was growing up, I went to a boarding school where I felt God's presence in the sanctuary. Leaving school, I joined the Royal Air Force and then entered the field of computers. After immigrating to Australia in 1968, I met and married my wife Joy. We settled in Brisbane.

In 1974, I was invited to attend a businessmen's luncheon. I thought it was a good idea because I could meet businessmen who might require computer time. Imagine how I felt when the men hugged each other and clapped their hands! Yet I felt they had something special. I was interested because I had been thinking there had to be more to religion than Sunday morning.

A year later I was invited to a banquet where Demos Shakarian was the guest speaker. At the close of meeting, he invited people to come forward for ministry. The first invitation was for salvation. I thought I do not need that. The second was for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. "I don't need that, either," I thought. But then Demos asked businessmen who had problems at work to come forward. I was having difficulties, and the urgency to go forward pressed in on me. My heart felt like it was racing. I pushed my chair back, thinking how stupid I must look as I nearly ran to the front.

My hands went up, and all I could say was, "Please, Jesus, help me. I need you so much." I continued praying, asking for Jesus' help. Someone prayed for me and I could feel the presence of God touching me. I now knew Him as my personal saviour, but I also knew there was more. My Fellowship friends began praying with me to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Lord was blessing me and making changes in my life and I knew it, but I still wasn't at peace about the fullness of the Spirit.

At the first National convention of FGBMFI to be held in Brisbane - May 1976 - I responded to the invitation for prayer. There at the altar, I was slain in the Spirit and the Lord gave me my prayer language. My "Sunday morning Christianity" gave way to a new, power-filled life in Jesus. Joy frequently questioned me about the luncheons and banquets, but I found it hard really communicate to her that Jesus is alive and that she too, could have a personal relationship with him. Each night I'd put my hand on her head as we went to sleep and silently pray, "Lord, Joy is for You, in Your time."

When we decided to visit my relatives in England, I prayed, Lord, if you want me to witness for You, then I must have my wife know you as her Lord and Saviour." I also had a vision that I would attend a FGBMFI banquet, but when I inquired, I found there were no chapters in London. A few months later during lunch Joy said to me, "John, there is something I've been wanting to say for a fortnight." I wasn't prepared for her next remark. I thought she'd say something about the house.

"You've changed, John," she said. "God seems so real to you. I want to know Him, too. The next time there is a banquet, I want to go." Joy went with me to our next banquet. I was surprised when the chairman asked me to give my testimony. When our evening speaker gave the altar call, Joy responded and was born again! God had answered my prayer. Joy became a Christian before we went on our holiday to England. While we were there, I attended a banquet in London to form the first FGBMFI chapter. The men who were organising the chapter mentioned that they had only thought about it three months before, but God had shown me 11 months before that I would be there.

Two years later, in March of 1979, our little Christopher was diagnosed as having cancer. We were told there was no worldly hope for a cure. But my parish priest, Full Gospel Fellowship friends, Joy and I had a healing service. We anointed Christopher with oil and laid hands on him. We prayed, believing that our request for his healing had been granted. Another minister shared that I must be willing to give Christopher up to God, for His perfect will to be done. Monday, May 7, I was at Christopher's bedside asking God what I should do. If only I could

experience God's presence and have peace about my son as I had when my mother died. I cried out to God: "Father, wherever You are in that vast space between heaven and earth, please let me know what to do." God's answer came through the lips of my son, the last words he spoke: "Praise the Lord." When I began praising Him, I knew the Holy Spirit was with me. I felt the Lord's presence just as I had when I was a child. Only ten minutes after the Lord urged me to praise Him, Christopher went to meet Jesus. He went so quietly it took me a few seconds to realise what had happened. Although I knew the presence of the Lord was with me, it was still not easy to give up my son. Hadn't we prayed for a miracle? Hadn't we anointed him with oil and claimed his healing? What was I to think?

These questions have not had quick or easy answers, even though we have known the peace of God throughout the trying times. We did learn that children afflicted with Christopher's kind of cancer generally suffer a great deal. Doctors, we learned after Christopher's death, had been puzzled that his illness had not evidenced the pain they expected. We believe this lack of pain was an answer to prayer. In September 1979, four months after Christopher's death, God blessed us with a beautiful, healthy daughter to enrich our lives. Last Christmas (1979) I had some photographs made from slides we had taken of Christopher. When I pulled the pictures from the envelope, my eyes filled with tears once again at our loss. Hurrying across the street to a church, I sat in back and gave way to my grief, once again asking the Lord, "Why?" My tears finally subsided, and I returned to work. Before the day was over, an elder in a local church approached me. He said he had been in the audience at a recent prayer breakfast where I had given my testimony. He related that he now felt much more able to minister to bereaved people in his congregation, because my sharing had helped him understand how to relate to them. In God's goodness, He had given me another evidence that blessings could come out of the tragedy of Christopher's death. God has allowed me to minister on several occasions to those who have lost children as we did. I praise Him that He has shown me that He really will turn our mourning into joy.

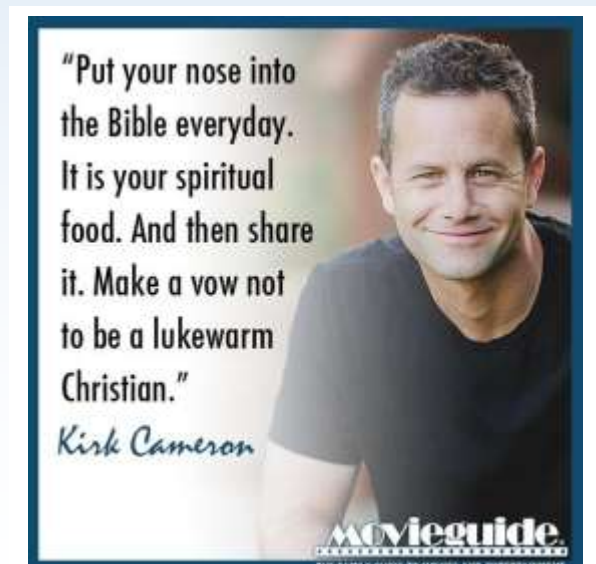
God has continued to give comfort, sometimes at totally unexpected moments. At a prayer meeting not long ago, we sang praises and went into a time of personal worship. My thoughts were on the cross of Jesus, but suddenly the cross disappeared, and I was looking at beautiful clouds. As they parted, I saw the right hand of Jesus. Holding His hand was Christopher, dressed in a familiar T-shirt and shorts. I was assured once again that Christopher was with the Lord. King David experienced the loss of his child as recorded in 2 Samuel 12:23 and said, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." Those words have become our promise, but we also recognise that God can receive glory now as we await that time. Our prayer is that we will not miss any opportunity to share with others the love Jesus has showered upon us. He has truly shown us that Romans 8:28 is for today. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God ..."

SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE

John Newton

"Salvation is wholly of grace, not only undeserved but undesired by us until God is pleased to awaken us to a sense of our need of it. And then we find everything prepared that our wants require or our wishes conceive; yea, that He has done exceedingly beyond what we could either ask or think. Salvation is wholly of the Lord and bears those signatures of infinite wisdom, power, and goodness which distinguish all His works from the puny imitations of men.

It is every way worthy of Himself, a great, a free, a full, a sure salvation. It is great whether we consider the objects (miserable, hell-deserving sinners), the end (the restoration of such alienated creatures to His image and favour, to immortal life and happiness) or the means (the incarnation, humiliation, sufferings and death of His beloved Son). It is free, without exception of persons or cases, without any conditions or qualifications, but such as He, Himself, performs in them and bestows upon them."



EVENTS – See webpage for details

Brisbane Chapter Dinner 13 July 2019 - Neil Johnson

Toowoomba Chapter Dinner 19 July 2019 - David Ham

Brisbane Chapter Dinner 31 August 2019 - Abida Peltola

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.

Guest Speakers

Mario Garcia – Mexico

Graham Eagle – New Zealand

Ardian Kristanto – Indonesia

Richard Ling - Malaysia

Rick Loh – Malaysia

Len Donaldson – National President

Sandra Dolan – Women's Ministry