



FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALIA)

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

September 2019 Newsletter

Editor - Tony Vaughan



From The President's Desk -

Wow! What a national convention that was. All praise be to God the Holy Spirit for His presence with us throughout the weekend. Men can plan and organise dates, times and venues, but without God's Divine visitation very little is accomplished and our meetings become flat and uninteresting. The comments from some of our visitors after the first meeting on Friday night was very much in this vein: "We have not been in a Pentecostal Worship meeting like that for years and years, thanks for having us here at your convention". Well for my part, God's presence had filled the venue in answer to your prayers and I was able to breathe a sigh of relief, in the understanding, that if God was in the house then the meetings were His and we were in for a Holy Spirit filled weekend. That's what those who had faithfully prayed long and hard leading up to the convention believed for. Praise God, their prayers had now been answered.

So we come to the meetings themselves and the rich deposit that the international speakers left with us. Like pure gold of great value, it may remain securely locked in its hiding place under the ground or in the rocks of the earth from which it needs to be extracted, that it's real value might be realised. So is the knowledge given to us by the wisdom of God through the speakers He puts before us, at conventions like the one we have all just experienced. I believe God put in place the godly international speakers from three nations that were such a blessing to us over the weekend, for our encouragement and instruction in Market Place Ministry. As we go forward we must be more aware of the Holy Spirit, who knows the will of God and will lead us into God's good and perfect will thereby making us fruitful.

Now back to the hidden treasures that were laid into our hearts by all the speakers. Each speaker brought their own unique presentation, revealing a different facet of the same diamond, whilst skilfully inspiring the hearers into their tried and tested methods of sharing the love of God in the market place. We heard some great testimonies by men who have experienced the Holy Spirit leading them in their market place ministries, as well as in their business endeavours. Yes! Bringing them from near total destruction, to prosperity both spiritually and physically. Truly God's transforming power working in them changes them into mighty men of God, enabling them to reach others with the love of God, through the use of their own great testimonies, thereby making new disciples and starting the cycle all over again.

How, one may well ask? Well it's not rocket science really, all any of them did that's different to what we are doing is they opened their hearts to the lost, making available the hidden treasure locked away in its secret hiding place of their own hearts, thereby releasing the power of the Holy Spirit to do what God does best: "save souls". This is the divine work of God and God alone. Friends, we have the same God-given privilege that any of our speakers have. That of being witnesses to the saving grace of God and building on to our own testimonies through the exciting things we experience, as we see firsthand and for ourselves the mighty power of God, as chains break off a lost soul as God draws them into His Kingdom. I have had a lot of experiences in life, but none better than to see a lost person come to full salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I'm going to throw open a challenge to you all. Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan told by Jesus in Luke's Gospel. It is about a traveller who is stripped of his clothing, beaten and robbed of all his earthly possessions and left to die on the roadside. First a priest and then a Levite came by, but both avoid the poor beaten man. Finally, a Samaritan happens upon the distressed traveller and has compassion on him. *So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*

Here is my challenge: read the parable and judge for yourself which of the three, who could have helped are you? The priest, the Levite or the Samaritan? The oil and the wine here like in Revelation 6:6 speaks of prosperity and the Good Samaritan gave of his own wealth to save the poor beaten traveller. We have wealth that is beyond our ability to measure, but if you are willing to pour it out the flow of the Holy Spirit will never cease to amaze you.

There were eighty people at this year's National convention. If we all got about the call of God on our lives throughout the next 12 months, who knows how many could be at our 2020 national convention, which is now already in the planning stage.

God Bless

Len

Coffee & Conversation with James



Last month we received the last in a series of 62 articles from Ron Oastler regarding testimonies of personal salvation that were all true and very encouraging, especially for those who needed encouragement and direction in witnessing to others personally. Ron is being encouraged to write a book sharing his testimony in walking with the Lord and the experiences and privilege he has had in discipling others.

Ron has spent most of his life walking with the Lord and lifting up his name. Because of Ron's credentials in the business world he was able to reach many top businessmen and shine a light on their need to receive Jesus as their personal saviour and those they worked with.

Ron is one of our two people responsible for FGBMFI (Australia) spiritual oversight along with David Smethurst, so you can see that we have always been in very good hands as both men have dynamic ministries in the Lord and are great encouragers of the fellowship.

On behalf of FGBMFI (Australia) the Board would like to express our sincere appreciation for Ron's contribution since June 2014 and for his advice whenever needed.

(An extract from a sermon preached at the F.G.B.M.F.I. World Convention, Anaheim, 1975.)

Found by John Diamond

Who is this Fourth Man?

In Genesis he is the Seed of the Woman,
In Exodus he is the Passover Lamb,
In Leviticus he is our High Priest,
In Numbers he is the Pillar of Cloud by day and the Pillar of Fire by night,
In Deuteronomy he is the Prophet like unto Moses,
In Joshua he is the Captain of our Salvation,
In Judges he is our Judge and Lawgiver,
In Ruth he is our Kinsman Redeemer,
In 1 and 2 Samuel he is our trusted Prophet,
In Kings and Chronicles he is our Reigning King,
In Ezra he is the Rebuilder of the Broken Down Walls of Human Life,
In Esther he is our Mordecai, and
In Job he is our Ever-Living Redeemer, "For I know my Redeemer lives",

Who is this Fourth Man?

In Psalms he is our Shepherd,
In Proverbs and Ecclesiastes he is our Wisdom,
In the Song of Solomon he is our Lover and Bridegroom,
In Isaiah he is the Prince of Peace,
In Jeremiah he is the righteous Branch,
In Lamentations he is our Weeping Prophet,

In Ezekiel he is the wonderful Four-Faced Man, and
In Daniel the Fourth Man in Life's Fiery Furnaces.

Who is this Fourth Man?

In Hosea he is the Faithful Husband, "Forever married to the backslider",
In Joel he is the Baptizer with the Holy Ghost and Fire,
In Amos he is our Burden-Bearer,
In Obadiah he is the Mighty to Save,
In Jonah he is our great Foreign Missionary,
In Micah he is the Messenger of Beautiful Feet,
In Nahum he is the Avenger of God's Elect,
In Habakkuk he is God's Evangelist, crying, "Revive thy work in the midst of the years",
In Zephaniah he is our Saviour,
In Haggai he is the Restorer of God's Lost Heritage,
In Zechariah he is the Fountain opened up in the House of David for Sin and Uncleanness,
In Malachi he is the Sun of Righteousness, rising with healing in His Wings.

Who is this Fourth Man?

In Matthew he is the Messiah,
In Mark he is the Wonder-Worker,
In Luke he is the Son of Man,
In John he is the Son of God,
In Acts he is the Holy Ghost,
In Romans he is our Justifier,
In 1 and 2 Corinthians he is our Sanctifier,
In Galatians he is our Redeemer from the Curse of the Law,
In Ephesians he is the Christ of Unsearchable Riches,
In Philippians he is the God Who Supplies all our Needs,
In Colossians he is the Fullness of the Godhead Bodily,
In 1 and 2 Thessalonians he is our soon coming King,
In 1 and 2 Timothy he is our Mediator between God and Man,
In Titus he is our Faithful Pastor,
In Philemon he is a Friend that Sticks Closer than a Brother.

In Hebrews he is the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant,
In James he is our Great Physician, for "The prayer of faith shall save the sick",
In 1 and 2 Peter he is our Chief Shepherd Who soon shall appear with a Crown of Unfading Glory,
In 1, 2 and 3 John he is Love,
In Jude he is the Lord coming with Ten Thousands of His Saints, and
In Revelation he is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Who is this Fourth Man?

He is Abel's Sacrifice,
Noah's Rainbow,
Abraham's Ram,
Isaac's Wells,
Jacob's ladder,
Issachar's Burdens,
Jacob's Sceptre,
Balaam's Shiloh,
Moses' Rod,
Joshua's Sun and the Moon that stood still,
Elijah's Mantle,
Elisha's Staff,
Gideon's Fleece,
Samuel's Horn of Oil,
David's Slingshot,
Isaiah's Fig Poultrice,

Hezekiah's sundial,
Daniel's Visions,
Amos' Burden, and
Malachi's Sun of Righteousness.

Who is this Fourth Man?

He is Peter's Shadow,
Stephen's Signs and Wonders,
Paul's Handkerchiefs and Aprons, and
John's Pearly White City.

Who is this Fourth Man?

He is Father to the Orphan,
Husband to the Widow,
To the traveller in the night he is the Bright and Morning Star,
To those who walk in the lonesome valley he is the Lily of the Valley, the Rose of Sharon, and, Honey in the Rock.
He is the Brightness of God's Glory,
The Express Image of His Person,
The King of Glory,
The Pearl of Great Price,
The Rock in a weary Land,
The Cup that runs over,
The Rod and Staff that comfort, and
The Government of our life is upon his shoulder

Who is this Fourth Man?

He is Jesus of Nazareth,
The Son of the Living God!
My Saviour,
My Companion,
My Lord and My King!

Chapter Report from Goulburn Valley

From Ray Hungerford



Steve Downie

I would like to share a little about the powerful testimony of **Steve Downie** of the Pocket Testament League of Australia. Steve's father was left on the front porch of an orphanage as a baby, and consequently he spent his early years in orphanage and foster homes before eventually being adopted by a communist family. He never understood why the people around him called illegitimate, and by the time he was twenty he was an alcoholic.

His mother was the daughter of an English sailor, over in Western Australia who they found out had a wife and family in England and a wife and family in Australia (a bigamist). He abandoned his family in Australia and his mother ended up going from foster home to foster home and at the age of 16 ended up in the same town as Steve's father.

At the very young age of 16 she married Steve's dad and had two children. His father would go to work and then to the pub with his mates. So it was his

mother that kept a very meagre household. They had a third child, a boy (Timmy) who at the age of about 18 months got whooping cough, and in the 1930's the doctors had no answer and Timmy died. Steve's Mum and Dad were devastated, stricken with grief and his Dad felt alone, he could not confide in his pub mates. One day after three months, he had done a lot of walking and he walked into a small church building hoping he would find someone to talk to.

An old gentleman greeted him and he was able to pour out his whole life's story. The old man asked him to read John 3:16 and said to read it out loud (*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*) Then the man said read this passage again and put your name (Charles) in the reading. When he went home that evening his Dad had a new life in Christ, which brought a new beginning for the whole family and he never drank again. After this experience the whole family came to Christ. They had three more sons who all became elders in the church, so this was the background to Steve's story. There was a lot more in his testimony but this was the powerful part which laid the foundation for Steve's Life.

By: *"Happy Jack" Burbridge*

Author of the amazing prison book: *"The Enforcer"*

Deep seated buried anger in a child is all the devil needs to help drive a wedge between that person and God like little else can do. It took Jack many years of his own pain, and causing others a lot of pain, to understand it. I was just 13 years old when I began stealing hub caps with my friends. By the time I was 15 years old I was stealing the whole car. By the age of 21 I was an enforcer for organised crime; by the age of 29 I was a bank robber, heroin addict and next in line for the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List.

My life would be a strange one for a man whose mother had given him to God when he was still a tot in diapers. One day my Mom had taken her two year old toddler in her arms and prayed, "Lord, I dedicate this child to Your service." God had answered, she said, promising that one day I would be His servant. Over the years, Mom had to hold onto that promise, but she never doubted. God had promised and she believed Him. Each time she heard about a new eruption of violence in my life, or read another headline about yet another crime I had committed, she prayed, "When, Lord? When ...?" When I was eight years old, my Dad came home from the service and trouble came with him. It was 1945 and Dad had seen a lot of war. He had been gone for so many years that Mom had trouble turning the family over to him again; she had been head of the house too long. Their reunion started an argument that lasted for three years, until they finally called it quits.

While Dad was in the service, Mom had worked as a nurse's aide at the local hospital. With both parents gone, Johnny, my big brother, and I were alone together constantly. He became best friend, teacher and father to me. He was my idol and I was his shadow. Johnny taught me, guided me and loved me – and when we were separated, the first seeds of rebellion took root in the fertile soil of anger and hurt. I stood on the steps of the school one sunny afternoon waiting for Johnny to pick me up. Johnny always came for me, but each afternoon I could hardly wait to see him again. As his 1922 Franklin pulled up at the sidewalk, I ran to the car in excitement, but when I opened the door, I saw that he was crying. Silently, I slipped onto the seat beside him and watched the tears rolling down his cheeks. "Mom and Dad ... couldn't make it," he said slowly. "I have to go with Dad. You're staying with Mom." The words rang in my ears. What did it mean? Dad had divorced Mom, Johnny explained, but they hadn't separated us. That was the *judge's* decision.

The judge? A judge was somebody who sentenced murderers to the electric chair and made bad men go to prison. Why would a judge want to take Johnny away from me? I stared out the window at the familiar sights of kids walking home from school; at the sidewalks bustling with people who disappeared into the stores and then reappeared behind the decorated windows. I suddenly felt alone – and terrified. Johnny took me home, as he always did. But this was the last time. I stood on the sidewalk crying as I watched his car vanish around the corner.

At first, I couldn't accept the fact that one man, a judge, could have the power to separate Johnny and me. But I gradually understood. When a judge spoke a few words, pounded his gavel a couple of times, everyone had to obey him. I didn't understand all the adult reasons for the divorce – all I knew was that the judge had torn my young life apart. *He* was against me. He wanted to destroy me. He hated me – so I hated him back with an anger I had never known before.

Mom and Dad still went to the same church they had attended together before and Johnny and I were caught in the middle. It was painful for me to watch Dad and Johnny sitting across the church from Mom and me each Sunday. I didn't understand why things had to be this way. Church, I decided, was an uncomfortable place; a place to be avoided. Sitting in church, to me, meant being hurt.*To be Continued*

EVENTS – See webpage for details

Brisbane Chapter Dinner 12 October 2019 – Rachel Cropper & Te Whetu



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



Everyone enjoying a catch up at the convention



What a blessing to have our International speakers attend our 2019 Convention. Our guest speakers were presented with a Didgeridoo to take back to their home countries. From left: Raymond Tay, Rick Loh, Adrian Kristanto, Richard Ling and Graham Eagle. Centre is our National President Len Donaldson who made the presentations. Could you please keep Richard Ling in your prayers. Richard was very unwell with a major medical issue, but still blessed us with his attendance at the convention and had to undergo further medical treatment as soon as he returned to Malaysia after the conference.