



FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALIA)

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

October 2019 Newsletter

Editor - Tony Vaughan



From The President's Desk -

Since our National Convention we have been under attack with all sorts of unsavoury things happening. Now if it was only me who was suffering, I would accept it as a personal attack and look for reasons in my own life. Like a spiritual gate I might have left open, areas I should not have been in, or words I should not have spoken – do you get my drift?

This all started even before we had left the convention venue, with my wife Carolyn falling ill and completely missing out on the final day. Then we both got the flu, even after having the flu shots. We hadn't quite got over that and John Weeks, Chapter President Brisbane North, fell through a roof and badly broke his foot, putting him off work for at least six to eight weeks. Whilst John was still in hospital, in comes Patty Dolan with a suspected heart attack and occupies a bed in the same ward.

Then I was put in hospital in need of a gallbladder extraction and was in quite some pain. I'm no sooner home recovering and Phillip Stone, Chapter President Goulburn Valley, calls from hospital with a broken hip, putting him out of action also for six to eight weeks and the list goes on. "What the heck is going on? We had a very successful Breakout National Convention, all things in the garden were looking rosy and then all these setbacks one after another.

It wasn't until some four weeks after the Convention being well enough, I was visiting one of my old church ladies who interceded for me during my pasturing days. As I was sharing with her all the great things that had transpired at the convention, it struck me like a ton of bricks. We as a fellowship of true Christian believers, had been praying for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit throughout the convention, which to our collective delight we experienced - mission accomplished. Then like what happened to Israel when under attack by the Amalekites **Exodus 17:8-16**. Verse 11 *and so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed, and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*

I started to think about this scripture and the fact that we might have dropped our hands after the convention. Giving Satan an opportunity to attack us and how he fights dirty, attacking when least expected. The scripture concerning the Amalekites' attack on Israel is found in **Deuteronomy 25:17-18** *Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.* Let's examine Satan and his hordes, despicable and treacherous methods of warfare.

For they came at the rear of the camp attacking the tired and weary stragglers; yes he strikes when we are tired and haven't got our guard up when we are most vulnerable. I thank God for His word of encouragement **Isaiah 59:19b**. *When the enemy comes in like a flood. The spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.*

We as the people of Almighty God have been endowed with great spiritual power the day we received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. **Isaiah 54:17** *No weapon formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me says the Lord.*

We as a fellowship have important work to do and that being the work of prayer. Yes! It is all there for us, but like in the days of Joshua as he led the army of Israel against the Amalekites. That great scriptural example of intercession as Moses the man of God intercedes for Joshua and his troops, as they prevailed in the battle. Can you picture Moses up on the hill lifting his rod above his head as he prays for victory? Knowing the very fate of Israel in battle depended on his intercession. What passion he would have been praying with; not sitting or kneeling but standing lifting his rod above his head, honouring God as he prayed until he becomes weary and his hands start to fall. But then Aaron and Hur come to his assistance, lifting Moses' hands up for him so the army could continue to prevail.

Moses couldn't do it all by himself, he needed help to achieve his God-given task. Neither can any of us, for in these end times we are going to need each other, working together to change the very direction that the world is heading. Consider what the outcome would have been had Moses not interceded for Israel at that time; history itself would have been changed.

Prayer is not always easy. I find it very difficult at times, especially praying by myself. I have to just push into God with greater determination. Therefore I can appreciate the example of Aaron and Hur coming to the aide of Moses. When we come together in prayer meetings, we are supporting each other in the power of God and like Israel we too will see the victory.

In conclusion, Moses built an altar and called its name **THE LORD IS MY BANNER**, giving the glory unto God in recognition for the answered prayers in their time of need. Yahweh-Nissi **THE LORD IS MY BANNER**. We of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International also have a God-given banner **FOR HIS BANNER OVER US IS LOVE**.

Keep praying for one another and for this worldwide fellowship and its leaders. We all need prayer.
God Bless Len.

But wait, there is one more....

Coffee & Conversation with James By Ron Oastler



It has been unseasonably warm and dry throughout the autumn and winter months, the Port area just coping. However, for the valley it is a continuation of the hardship of the last several years of worsening drought.

I was pondering this whole situation, especially given the fact that I was experiencing a 35 knot westerly bringing hot air down the valley from over the range. My contemplation was interrupted by James' unmistakable voice, with serious tone, stating: 'Climate Change or not, our country folk are in a desperate situation – what to do about it and how to do it, are serious questions.'

'Ah' I said, 'knowing the *What* and the *How* are pretty much the keys to life, aren't they? But oftentimes it is so difficult to find the answers to those two questions. Where do you start?'

'Well' James responded readily, 'it seems often to be a combination of both the natural and the spiritual. The answer can be in front of us, but it is virtually disguised. We need real wisdom to see the principles for success within the situation with which we are confronted.'

'King Solomon points out, quite clearly, that the answer in the final analysis is indeed a **spiritual** one. Proverbs 16.3 reads; *"Commit your works to the Lord and your thoughts will be established."*

Then, obviously pulling up a past experience, James continued: 'Of course there are times when this is not a commitment that provides an instantaneous response. Revelation from the Holy Spirit comes at a time and place of His choosing. ... did I ever tell you about my breakthrough in

witnessing and winning folk to Christ?’

‘Noooo.’ I replied expectantly. James really had my attention with this topic, and I was keen to hear his story.

James took my cue and began to unfold his story. ‘I committed my life to Christ during my senior high school days. There were several elements in my spiritual nurturing, one being through my mother, a second through my church, and a third was through the ISCF (Inter-School Christian Fellowship) meetings at high school. It was actually through the ISCF meetings that I began to develop a desire to see others come to know Christ as I had done.’

‘Of all the speakers who shared with us in those ISCF meetings, the ones by whom I was most encouraged to share the Gospel were from the Open-Air Campaigners (OAC). This organisation had a team of full-time evangelists who preached the Gospel in parks, on street corners, at holiday locations, in schools and factories plus tent crusades around the country - wherever they could attract an audience.’

‘So it was,’ James continued ‘that as I entered the world of work, I began reaching out in similar fashion to those dedicated men. With a couple of young lassies from my home church supporting me, one of whom played piano accordion and both of whom sang, we brought the gospel to various locations around Sydney. We found opportunities in places such as Bondi Beach on a Saturday afternoon, the Sydney Town Hall environs on a Sunday evening and occasionally, suburban picture theatres at interval time.

We were generally well received, though disappointingly we did not see much fruit for our labours – one man came back to our home church in the city and received Christ there; one Air Force Cadet took my contact details to get in touch about making a decision. That was it.’

‘I have to admit to being somewhat bewildered as to what we were missing in our approach to *witnessing and winning* folk to Christ. I read books on evangelism, I asked pastors and ministers for answers, I often cried out to the Lord for the answer. Nothing!’

‘Then, after some considerable time, the Holy Spirit led me in what is to me a personal miracle ...’

‘I was at work, sitting in my office toward the close of business one Thursday, when the phone rang. It was our Head office training department calling to tell me that they had a staffing problem.

They were not able to run the Sales School commencing the following Monday, in which I had four of the ten students enrolled. I was asked/told to provide one of my sales managers or senior representatives to facilitate the three-day class. I was not impressed.’

‘A quick meeting the next morning with my subordinate managers proved to be frustrating. All had valid reasons why neither they nor their senior representatives could handle the three-day course - vacations, family commitments, major client projects and other personal and business issues. It was at this juncture that, to my shame that I said to my secretary, in high dudgeon: “This is ridiculous.

I will have to do it myself!” So it was,’ James added with a sigh, ‘that I made my way to the Head office on Monday, welcomed the students from the various branches and began the training program.’

‘Now, while I was not familiar with the training material, it was well structured. The students had workbooks and I had an instructor’s guide. We **listened** to an audio taped presentation of an element of the sales process, noting the key behaviour required of an effective sales representative. A bell sounded and we **stopped** the tape and discussed what we had just heard. Then starting the tape again, we were introduced to the next element of the sales process and so on. It was very professional with good concepts and was well presented.’

‘We went through the opening of calls, qualifying the potential for a sale, identifying relevant benefits, handling objections, etc., all elements of a sale. Then came the time to address “*closing a sale*”. This is when it happened.’

‘I have relived this moment many times. I pressed the button on the player and the narrator made the following statement “closing the sale has **three elements**, *first* - summarise the benefits (what/why the prospect should/will buy, *second* – assume the sale has been made (based on the agreement achieved throughout the call), *third* – and ask for the order!’

‘**Ask for the order!** It was at this stage that I had a sense of being totally alone in the room. It was as though the lights had gone out and I was in the presence of the Lord. I heard the Holy Spirit speaking into my spirit “this is why I have you here” – a reason beyond the natural.

‘I immediately reflected on the spiritual aspects of those three elements of the close...

‘Summarising the “reasons why” – ensuring understanding of the claim of the gospel on a person’s life.’

“Assuming the sale has been made” – trusting that the Holy Spirit is at work in the person’s heart.’

‘Asking for “the order” – encouraging to pray, here-and-now, to confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour.’

The most significant for me personally, at that time, was actually “asking for the order”.’

‘I was transfixed. So much so that the bell had sounded on the tape and it had run through the blank section at the end of what we had just heard, and the narrator was starting on the next element. I had to apologise to the class for my lapse of concentration. Little did they know what had really happened.’

‘I learned some lessons that day my friend. First, be careful how you react to situations that appear to be a nuisance or an imposition, as it could just be that you are reacting to something the Lord is doing. Also, be prepared to learn those spiritual principles that may be in your hearing but in disguise.’

James concluded: ‘It was within days of this experience that I led a taxi driver to the Lord, followed a little later by a librarian, and then an exciting series of encounters where the Holy Spirit did great things with people in a variety of situations.’

By: "**Happy Jack**" Burbridge

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

So I started sneaking out. Our church, Midway Tabernacle in Mishawaka, was the old-fashioned kind where praying could go on half the night. That gave some of us kids plenty of time to find something *fun* to do. Some of our folks were in the choir facing us, but the congregation was so large that no one would notice a couple of skinny boys slipping down the aisle. And since it was a Pentecostal church, everyone had their hands raised and eyes closed; no one would be looking around anyway.

One by one, we slipped out and met in the parking lot behind the church. The

October 2019 Newsletter

first night, we stuck to the church grounds, but the second night, we got up enough nerve to go down to the amusement park two blocks away. And we really played the scene, strolling up and down the walkways, watching people shoot wooden rabbits or plastic fish for prizes. The lights, the music, the sound of laughter, and the bright colours – it was exciting to me. It was harmless enough, except for one thing – I didn't have enough money. The quarter that Mom had given me for the offering plate didn't go very far in the park.

The next week, all my friends, except me, backed out. They decided that sooner or later they'd get into trouble with their folks, but that didn't bother me. Anything would be better than having to sit in church. I had my first taste of freedom and I liked it. And anyway, it didn't take me long to decide that church people, especially Mom, were weirdos just doing their thing. If Mom wanted to waste half the night in church, *fine*; but I was going to the park.

One Sunday night, the inevitable happened. I didn't make it back to church in time and I found Mom waiting in the parking lot for me. When she found out about my escapades, she was hurt. What did she do? She *prayed*. Mom was one of those "prayer warriors" who figured that the solution to every problem was prayer – hard prayer. When I was older and came home in the middle of the night, I braced myself as I opened the front door. I knew Mom would be praying. The minute I stepped in the house, I'd hear a loud, agonizing voice, "Lord! *When* are you going to save my son? Lord! Change my boy ...!" I'd turn the TV and radio on full blast, slam pots and pans around the kitchen, stomp and make any racket I could to drown out the sound of those prayers.

I didn't need anyone praying for me and I didn't want God or anybody else to change me. For years, I flew into a rage whenever anyone said they were praying for me. One night, Mom confronted me in the kitchen about something I had done, and she ended by saying, "Son, I'm praying for you." It infuriated me, and I wheeled around and put my fist through a cabinet door, an inch from her jaw.

Soon after my church friends chickened out, the two of us who were still going to the park found some new friends – ones who wouldn't chicken out and didn't go to the church anyway. One of the boys, Jim, a freckled-face red head with an Irish temper, had been friends with me since elementary school. Years later, we would still be friends – as partners in organised crime and one of the most dangerous teams in the mid-west. But for now, we were just a couple of kids trying to figure out where we could pick up a buck or two. When we stole our first set of hub caps, it was just for a prank. The safest parking lot I could think of was the lot behind my church. We didn't even have to be quiet there. We

lifted a set of hub caps, wore them like hats and danced around the parking lot. When we moved to the amusement park and clowned around some more, a man approached us to ask if the hub caps were for sale. "Hey kids," the man whispered to us, motioning us over into the shadows. "Are those hub caps you got for sale? I'll give you a dollar for the set."

We had been wondering how we could get some money, so we accepted the man's offer eagerly. The man told us he wouldn't mind having a few more hub caps sometime; he'd even like a few "extras" too, like radios, tires, fender skirts ... and he'd pay a lot more than a dollar. For the next few months, we stole hub caps and "extras" but within two years we had graduated to wholesale car theft. We stole cars, stripped them and sold the parts to the man in the park and some other men. They got what they wanted and we got what we wanted. Continued.....


Your Personal Invitation.....
to attend the
Fellowship Dinner
Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International
Toowoomba Chapter

GUEST SPEAKER: COLIN RYAN

Colin Ryan has been involved as a volunteer and on staff with Teen Challenge for more than 14 years. He is an ordained Australian Christian Churches Minister and is currently having time off Pastoral Leadership after being the Senior Pastor of Empower Church for 8 Years. Colin's current role at Teen Challenge is the 'Community Development Officer'. He started his working life as a bricklayer, and is now passionate about seeing people set free from addiction.

He recognizes the call of God to Toowoomba and is very involved within the Toowoomba Community.

He has been married to Ingrid for 19 years and they have 3 children. Hear Colin's personal testimony.



COLIN RYAN

Come, Bring Some Friends!

Teen Challenge is a community service helping those seeking to recover from addiction and other life-controlling issues. They operate two residential rehabilitation facilities for both men and women, located in a peaceful rural setting in Toowoomba.

They have had 45 years of experience and a 70% high success rate with those seeking to make a life change. The aim is to meet the needs of the whole person; not only dealing with the addiction, but also targeting the underlying issues that led to their addiction. Colin has played a pivotal role in Teen Challenge, presently serving as 'Community Development Officer'.



FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER 6:30 for 7:00p.m.

ALL SEASONS FUNCTION CENTRE
Cnr North & Tor Sts Toowoomba
(Sacred Heart Complex) – parking available in grounds
Dinner Cost:- \$28:00 p.p. RSVP 16th October
Please Ph. John 4636 2579 / Michael 4633 3934 / Doug 46352771

EVENTS – See webpage for details



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



The Bunnings doorman

By Ian Eckel (Rev. 12 v11)

This gentleman is at the age that I thought he should be retired and doing what all grey nomads are doing. Well actually he is, because you see he made a life changing decision some 13 years ago to marry a much younger woman in New Guinea, and she bore him a son who is now 12 years old and the joy of his heart. So that's why he has chosen to work at the age of 72. So every time this guy is stuck at the front door of the tradies section of Bunnings and whose job is to be friendly and welcoming to all the tradies, I take advantage of the fact that his feet are nailed to the floor and he can't run away from me.

But our conversation is always reciprocal, he is my age and we can relate to each other. This time the conversation somehow got around to our wives, his having just returned to PNG to sell their house there, and him being left with the joy of his life, his son. And me being wifeless due to her going home to glory some years ago. I mentioned that she had stopped going to church some 5 years before her passing, which I have now worked out that she was losing her short term memory. And he asked me what church I go to, as his son asked to go to church, when he asked which church he wanted to go to, he said, to the Salvation Army.

When I said that it was Pentecostal, and like going to all churches and meeting all Christians. He said that they were the ones that hypnotize people and push them over backwards. I rescued the situation by telling him my testimony, how no earthly person touched me and no earthly person prayed for me, then I relayed how I had a divine apparition before me and I felt a hand going down inside of me and taking out all the rubbish in me and then being filled from the toes up with an incredible peace. I was so relaxed I found myself falling backwards, laying on the floor, one side of my mind was saying to me "what are you doing down here you idiot", and the other side saying "if this is God I never want to get up".

His statement came from seeing the televangelist shouting and laying hands on people, and thinking it was all from man. The next morning I awoke with this scripture on my mind. Matt. 7 v 6 "Do not give what is holy to the dogs, nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces".

Wow, I suddenly realised what this scripture meant. The one thing that God holds precious above all, is His Precious Holy Spirit and His gifts. They are not meant to be flaunted before all the world to treat like worthless rubbish. Then not understanding they will turn on Christians and attack you, mocking what you know is a wonderful gift from God. I ask the question why these televangelists flaunt the works of the Holy Spirit before those who don't understand. Do they think that this will save the hordes? Someone said to me, it was so Christians worldwide seeing it on TV, will be impressed enough to send them more money.

The point I want to press home is that it was the word of my testimony that put this guy's thinking straight and gave me the door to lead him to Christ.

