



From the President's Desk -



One of the big problems, if not the biggest problem that Christianity worldwide is facing today, is separation from God. There is a lot that's working against any Christian organisation, including our own Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, to draw men and their families away from anything holy, righteous, virtuous, honourable or good for the binding of families together in Christian unity. Over the past 40+ years I have observed a gradual but purposeful desensitising of the general population, from being very much Christ-centred with the majority going to church on Sundays or at least sending their children to Sunday Schools, where they learnt the gospel by well-presented Bible stories.

The majority of these Sunday Schools were run by what we Pentecostals called mainline churches, those who in our opinion had a form of godliness but lacked the power thereof and we often spoke derogatively about their lack of the Holy Spirit and the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their communities. They indeed would speak negatively about us, with statements like "there goes the charismatic maniacs or hallelujah people who climb up the walls in their services".

Whenever we individually make such comments, we are speaking against the Word of God for **Ephesians 4:1-6** Reads. *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.* We! That is, all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord are members of His body; we are the body of Christ. Formed by God into a body of unified oneness that should be demonstrating to the world, the special unity we have with one another; inseparable from the one body. We may have different secondary denominations, but we are one body in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 12:25 *Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand".* Yet here we are today speaking words of destruction against fellow members of the body of Christ that we have no right to judge, for we are supposed to be one with them not separated from them; our spoken words have the power of life or death. When we speak negatively concerning other members in the body of Christ, we are unwittingly opening the door to those who would separate us from each other and God Himself. Satan first separated Adam and Eve from God in the Garden of Eden by perverting the Word of God and thereby beguiling Eve; the result was, they were put out of the garden separated, from God.

My point is this: we as Christians must be aware that the world today is a very fast-changing world and Satan's methods and purpose for destroying our fellowship with God have not changed, it is only the ungodly people he uses that change. Look down through history and count the number of Christless men Satan has used to separate God's creation from God, that he, Satan might reign in God's place. We only have to look at the world's politically elite to see the lack of true statesmen, godly, and righteous men to know that Satan has his hand on world affairs and is using these people to separate us and our families after us from God, and His purpose for our salvation and blessings.

The time is right now for organisations like the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International to revisit their roots or God's starting point of their interdenominational ministries. For us, that would be Demos Shakarian's God-given vision and more especially pages 145 to 147 of 'The Happiest People on Earth' book. How often do you hear people say, "we haven't fulfilled the vision yet"? I personally don't think we have reached nor seen the horrors that terrified Demos when he realized that the faces he saw were all dead. Yes! Dead in their trespasses and sin and separated from God in a lost eternity. Friends, we like to concentrate on the good thing in life and shun the not so good; scripture tells us first the natural and then the spiritual.

It is my personal belief that the way the world is heading we will soon see those worldwide horrors Demos saw, because too many have been separated from God. This wonderful worldwide ministry has had its fair share of good times and a handful of not so good times, but all of the past is only preparation for the future and we need to let the Holy Spirit lead us into that future by the power of His might and the might of His power. There is much to be done in underpinning and strengthening this fellowship in preparation for a mighty move of God, not only here in Australia, but worldwide.

At our 2019 Convention and AGM, it was said that we must change the ways we are conducting our fellowship or die of old age. There were some significant changes to our National Board at our 2020 AGM so the board could come together around one table and pray for the leading of God. Now that the National Board have settled in, we resolved at our last board meeting that we would be running a much more transparent operation, with the appointment of Bill Wilcock as Membership Director and the defining of his roles. He will be contacting Chapter presidents and members alike to collect information to be fed back to the Board, and information from the Board to the membership on how we can collectively build a stronger and better fellowship through open communication.

A need for men's camps to increase the quality and opportunity for closer fellowship was highlighted, and preparation for them will continue until the lifting of Covid-19 restriction and then in state areas throughout the nation. These camps and personal training will become a reality. In acknowledgement of five years, membership and contribution to the fellowship men who have reached the age of 80 years or more will be granted perpetual free membership. International trips to set conventions will be organised for all members to participate in, with the first one being up to Malacca in Malaysia. As travel opens up, the Board will be working hard to get young vibrant international speakers to support our push for younger members. We must bring our average age down to around 40 years to be viable in today's world. Stand with and pray for your National Board, we need all hands working together as one new man in Christ Jesus. God Bless.

Len

Mike Hedley – Missionary At Large



Mike & Anna Headley

FGBMFI UKRAINE

Matthew 7: 7 - Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. This scripture was and is so very real to me during and after a mission trip to Ukraine with three men. Before travelling to Ukraine, we met every week to seek God for signs and wonders to happen during the crusade. Most times we would be prostrate on the carpet crying out to God. We travelled to a central town to conduct a crusade.

The local Mayor approved it and we were set to go until the Mayor's brother, an orthodox priest complained. His church was across the road from our church where the crusade was to be conducted. On the day of departure, the Mayor cancelled our crusade. We asked if we could perform Russian dancing outside the church. On day one, we held the crusade inside the church and on day two our dancers performed outside. Large crowds came and we were wondering if we would be in trouble.

The crowd was hungry for the word of God and listened intently to the testimonies and the priest was listening in, so we continued without interruption. There was a man and woman in town who were Russian prefects, and everyone knew who they were. The children were warned to run away from them. On the third and final night we heard some amazing testimonies of healing. Suddenly, the crowd went silent as they stood back to let the male prefect walk to the stage and begin sobbing. He took the microphone and declared that he was touched by God and had never in his life seen and heard such testimonies.

The crowd went wild as they celebrated with him. The atmosphere was filled with God's love. I was privileged to pray for a lady doctor who spoke no English. I was given an interpreter. The doctor said she had a serious sickness that was incurable. There was a lady praying behind her and weeping. Suddenly the doctor jumped for joy and declared that she was healed. I was a little cautious, feeling a bit like Thomas until my interpreter told me the story. The doctor was a senior surgeon in the local hospital and my interpreter was a kidney specialist. Furthermore, the weeping woman behind was also a surgeon. I jumped for joy and joined them in weeping. God was answering our seeking and healing people as went.

Luke 9: 2 Go preach and heal.

At the end of the evening my friend blew a shofar which is a ram's horn used to celebrate Jewish events. It was sounded during Jubilee and slaves were set free; debts cleared etc. It was a wonderful way to give praise to God, and still is. When my friend blew the shofar, the crowd went silent. After about 4 minutes, the exact same sound came back to us from Heaven with a powerful anointing. There were no mountains or valleys to bounce the sound. We returned to the hotel rejoicing in the presence of the Lord. **Psalm 126: 3 - The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.**

The lady prefect worked in our hotel guarding the rooms. She was a huge lady and very unhappy. We were given flowers at the crusade, so my friend (Italian) went down on his knees and serenaded the lady. Suddenly, she burst out laughing and accepted Christ as her saviour. Before leaving town, I prayed for the pastor's father who was completely deaf in one ear.

He was totally healed. The next day we travelled up to the Polish and Russian borders and on the way visited an orphanage where children were lying in filth and receiving little care. We prayed for them and came away feeling sad and broken-hearted.

As we came to a river, we wanted to have a swim because the temperature was well over 30 degrees. There was nobody around and we had no togs, so we stripped to underpants and ready to dive in, when a loud voice shouted out. STOP.....It was a local man who told us that Chernobyl was just a few miles upriver over the Russian border. We quickly got dressed, thanked the man and thanked God.

After much more ministry, we returned to Kiev completely exhausted. We flew to Germany and proceeded to look for Singapore flights. We were told that our names were not on the list. Please come back in 20 minutes, so we did and received business class tickets. I sat down and buckled up. That's all I remembered until landing. I missed the service, the meals and comfort. It was still a blessing. We were celebrating all the way home.

Written by Bob & Debby Gass



The power of gratitude

'Rejoice always.' 1 Thessalonians 5:16 NKJV

Ever find yourself asking, 'Why me, Lord? How come you don't answer my prayers? Well-meaning friends tell you to keep your chin up, things will get better, but you can't see any light at the end of the tunnel. And just when you think things can't get any worse, you pick up your Bible and read, 'Rejoice always...In everything give thanks' (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV), as if you're supposed to *enjoy* your situation!

Alexander Maclaren said, 'Seek to cultivate a buoyant, joyous sense of the crowded kindnesses of God in your daily life.' The fact is, however, when life overwhelms you the last thing you feel like doing is giving thanks, right?

But as Nancy Leigh DeMoss observes: 'Unless you just love the way duty feels when it wakes you at three in the morning, or hijacks your plans for your day off, or hands you an unexpected bill that wasn't in the budget...don't try living the Christian life without gratitude. By sheer willpower and effort you may succeed at "gutting out" right responses, but your Christianity (so-called) will be hollow, hard-edged and uninviting...If all our faith had to offer were words that only fit in a theological textbook, it would be unkind to extend them to someone struggling to survive. True Christ-centred, grace-motivated gratitude fits life's most desperate moments and difficult situations.

When there are no answers, it gives hope. It transforms overwhelmed strugglers into triumphant conquerors...Gratitude is a hard-fought, grace-infused, biblical lifestyle...and [its] transforming power is reserved for those who know and acknowledge the Giver of every good gift and who are recipients of his redeeming grace.'



Something to think about

John Eldredge, in his best-selling book *Wild at Heart*, paints a dynamic picture of Christian service:

We don't need accountability groups; we need fellow warriors, someone to fight alongside, someone to watch our back. The whole crisis of masculinity today has come because we no longer have a warrior culture, a place for men to learn to fight like men. We don't need a gathering of Really Nice Guys; we need a gathering of Really Dangerous Men. It's a long-standing truth that there is never a more devoted group of men than those who have fought alongside one another, the men of your squadron, the guys in your foxhole. It will never be a large group, but we don't need a large group. We need a band of brothers.



My Precious Prodigal

By Lowell Lundstrom

The nightmare phone call shattered my world and nearly destroyed my ministry. "Reverend Lundstrom," the officer said, "I'd like to meet with you at the police station. Your 17-year-old daughter is scheduled to appear in court for propositioning a vice officer." My daughter, a prostitute? Impossible. We dedicated Lisa to Jesus Christ as a baby. We raised her on Bible stories, gospel songs, and prayer. There must be some mistake. The reality of this hellish nightmare was like getting hit with a cement block in the chest when I read the vice-officer's description of her proposition. When I opened the police file and saw her mug shot, my knees nearly buckled.

This was no mistake. My beautiful, precious daughter was a hooker. Lisa was in peril; and my world, as her father, was in shambles. Lisa had been going through a spiritual struggle for a long time. I had warned her of the dangers of living in a spiritually cold condition. But I never dreamed, in a thousand nightmares, that my daughter would become a prostitute.

Facing the Issues - When the Lord won my heart in April 1957, my wife Connie and I began singing and preaching immediately. We started a radio program and produced TV specials. We also conducted citywide crusades where thousands came to Christ. Lisa had an older sister Londa. Both were talented musically, but Lisa never really enjoyed singing before audiences. Lisa also had a high-energy brother Lowell, nicknamed Tiny - who wore a cowboy hat and boots and was always a hit. Our youngest son Lance was quieter. Lisa loved him dearly and took care of him when he was a baby. Somehow, in the midst of those ministry activities, I failed to see that Lisa was hurting. She felt sandwiched between her older sister and younger brothers. I failed to see her unresolved conflicts. This created a root of bitterness within her spirit. Her inner anxieties were ticking away - like a time bomb ready to explode.

We toured almost every night trying to rescue others while our own precious daughter silently faded away from God and our family. The judge committed Lisa to my care, but the situation was so explosive between Lisa and me that she was placed in a halfway house. She soon escaped and headed south. She was under the influence of what the judge described as the worst pimp in the region. To think that my daughter had chosen a pimp as her mentor and rejected me was devastating. I knew that raising children in the high-tension atmosphere of crusade evangelism created great pressure upon them. They grew up sleeping in guitar cases backstage, while Connie and I, the singers and band were out front preaching.

Years earlier, when the children were small, I made what I thought was a fair deal with God. I said, "Lord, I'll give my life to help Your lost children get saved, but You must watch and guard over my children." But now, Lisa was gone. Sometimes we wouldn't hear from Lisa for months. During those periods, I didn't know if she was dead or alive. In the midst of this agony, I felt God had betrayed me. I was experiencing a triple jeopardy in my soul: I felt God had failed me; Lisa had forsaken me; and some of my friends were distancing themselves from me.

[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."



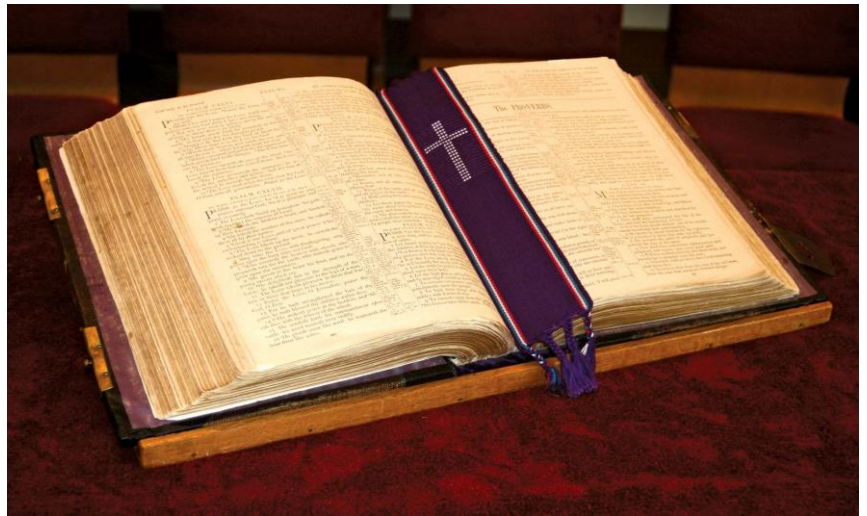
International President Mario Garcia



I kept travelling and preaching 300 nights a year - as I had for the previous 26 years. I still loved God, believed in Him, and preached His message of salvation. Multitudes were coming to Jesus Christ. But each day I had such a deep wound in my soul that my sorrow felt like a brick soaked in battery acid, eating away on my insides. The one person I really wanted saved most was gone - and I didn't know to where my precious prodigal had vanished.

Continued next month

***Cling to the whole Bible, not part of it.
A man cannot do much with a BROKEN
SWORD!***



Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face. President Ronald Reagan

Powerful Possibilities

(From Ron Oastler)

*To dream the dreams of what could be. Seeing what others may never see: that's the **Power of Vision.***

*To do whatever I'm able to do, being determined to see it through: that's the **Power of Will.***

*To go beyond my current best, putting myself to the ultimate test: that's the **Power of Courage.***

*To be what I was destined to be, through knowing the God of eternity: that's the **Power of Faith.***