



From the President's Desk -

As your National President I'm very concerned with the lack of growth over the last three years. According to Demos's God-given vision, FGBMI was set up to reach men with the good news that Jesus came to save the lost and we as an organisation are to be working to that end.

I was woken by God early on the morning of January 27th with this portion of scripture sounding in my mind, much like the ringing of bells in volume: *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin. With that said I couldn't just lie in bed, but had to get up and into my office, for I knew that our gracious Lord had something more He wanted to share with us.*

John 16:7-16. *"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my father, and you see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged".*

Acts 1:8. *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses".*

This Fellowship Ministry was built on a move of the Holy Spirit, as ordinary men like you and me having been endowed with great power from above and moved by God, did extraordinary things. Men and women all over this nation and the world were being saved, baptised in the Holy Spirit and willingly started sharing their testimonies. Not only at fellowship dinners, lunches and breakfast meetings, but in their homes, work places, on buses, trams, trains and on the streets; wherever and whenever they saw an opportunity to share the all-encompassing love of God in Christ Jesus. There where wealthy men, poor men, doctors, labourers, house wives, teachers; you name them and God was saving them. Yes! All sorts of people thrown together forming chapters as they served their new found Lord and Saviour.

Friends, I'm afraid we as the ruminant followers of Jesus Christ, have fallen into a very cunningly devised trap, set by Satan in his attempt to prevent further growth. Not only to FGBMI but to all forms of Christian ministry in this the Great South Land of The Holy Spirit. During the week I was asked, "Can you name anyone in your church that hasn't run down a politician?" Sorry, I couldn't give a definitive answer, but it got me thinking about the power of the tongue; we can build up with it and we can pull down and destroy with it. Life and death are in the power of the tongue.

Let me explain the trap. In the early days of the fellowship we rode on the wave of the Holy Spirit, finding favour within the churches as we shared the love of God with the lost. They were gloriously saved by the grace of God and we were taking them to our respective churches for teaching and Bible Studies. We expanded, the churches expanded and an unwritten memorandum of understanding was forged between the Church and our fellowship and there was much joy in the land. This was a great time to be involved in the ministry of FGBMI, with not just ones and two being saved, but hundreds. Well, do I remember one meeting at Gambaro's Caxton Street restaurant. Chaired by Bernie Gray, the speaker was Bill Subritzky and when the altar call was given 120 went forward for prayer. Today we struggle to get 50 or 60 saved people to a meeting let alone any lost souls.

I believe the Satanic trap all comes back to the power of the tongue. More and more these days we are hearing how poorly the Church is doing. Comments like "no longer is the Holy Spirit in their meetings" need I go on? These are negative words of destruction having great affect in the spirit realm, giving the principalities and power of darkness sway over us. In that sense we have unwittingly surrendered our God given authority in the Spirit Realm.

Ephesians 1:3. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Spirit Realm) in Christ.*

How do we put it right? Quite simply by speaking words of affirmation, words that build up and don't pull down; changing our negative comments to positive words of encouragement, every time someone speaks ill of the Church or Pastor, tell them that they are releasing destructive negative power into the spirit realm, crippling another man's ministry. End your conversation with a prayer for greater release of Holy Spirit power into that Church or ministry. It won't be long before you will start seeing and indeed experiencing the differences; first in your own relationship with Jesus and then in the ministry of the people and organisations you are praying for. Instead of our negative words giving authority to the kingdom of darkness, our positive words of encouragement will pull down strongholds, releasing the power of God over our nation.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5. *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down of strongholds. Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

Let's go forward under God's banner of love, for His banner over us is love.

Len.

Stay Strong Against Temptation

Satan is always on the prowl like a roaring lion (note the word 'like' but he is not a real lion), our God is a 24/7 and the Lion of Judah. God never sleeps or slumbers, so we have a direct line always to our Father in heaven. Satan is always able to play the long game, and this has been made so clear with the way he smashed the voice of the churches through paedophile activity over many years that has come to our attention over the last few years. I think seeking God's forgiveness every day and at any time of need, will help us stay focused and out of danger.

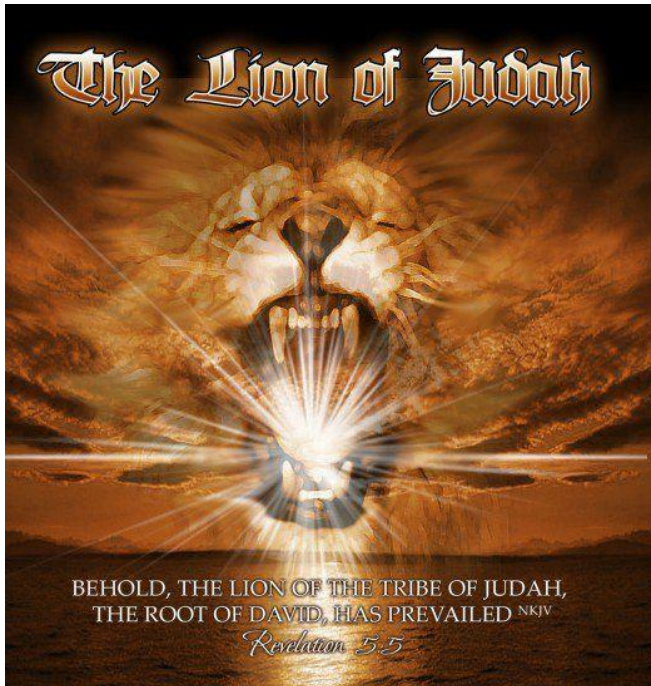
Now the thrust of my message. Satan knows you and watches you and he is always looking for an opportunity to pierce your armour and bring you down. So, we must remain righteous before our Lord and our God, seeking his forgiveness when we sin and certainly coming before him when we close our eyes at night.

How did Satan trap David? We all know that David was not perfect but he communicated with God regularly. He had a number of wives and possibly access to all the women he ever wanted. So, what made David desire Bathsheba? The Bible said she was beautiful but to David she was the **most beautiful women** he had ever seen and the trap was that she was married. Whilst David tried to cover his sin the prophet Nathan opened his eyes in an instant and brought him low.

We will all go through the fire but we don't have to go through it alone.

Look to your Christian friends and family and the unstoppable power of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will never leave us or forsake us when we call on his name.

If we are faithfully serving the Lord, we will always have an adversary, but living in the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit will destroy these attacks although they may look overwhelming at times.



By: "Happy Jack" Burbridge

Author of the amazing prison book: "The Enforcer"

As I wept and prayed, it felt like God reached down and turned a faucet on the inside of me ... and the hate and anger flowed out. The greatest peace I had ever known flooded my heart, and I knew something tremendous was happening to me. I poured out my heart to God – and He was pouring out His heart to me.

After that, God put a bigger, happier smile on my face that many say has never left. The name "Happy Jack" followed me wherever I went, but the reason for being happy wasn't because I took pleasure in hurting people like before. I was now happy knowing God loved me, forgave me, and happy knowing that I was now working for the REAL "boss" – THE Judge who controls the eternal destiny of every person.

God graciously released me from prison much sooner than what my scheduled sentencing time had been originally pronounced by the judge. But after my spiritual born again conversion, my heart began to have deep concern for other inmates and the families and close friends of those inmates ... and that concern didn't leave me once I walked outside those prison walls. I had an ever-growing desire to go back into the prisons to help people find peace with their Creator like I had been so blessed to have been given to me. God placed a call on my life and my precious wife, Carolyn's life,

and He opened doors in so many prisons across the country and even out of country that I couldn't begin to count how many now we've ministered in.

You can stay updated on Jack and Carolyn's ministry by going to the following website:

<http://fromcrimetochrist.com/welcome.htm>

APPRECIATION

In one of our first newsletters I published an article by Ron Oastler on appreciation. It has been so powerful that I have used it at several places where I worked and in so doing opened eyes that had not thought of this before. I thought I would republish again as we have many new members who would have missed it and it's a good refresher for those men that have read it previously.

STAFF

If you have bought stock recently, you understand the meaning of 'appreciation'. To appreciate means to raise in value. Healthy organisations have appreciating assets and their most valuable assets are their people. Everything rises or falls on leadership – 'the ability to influence behaviour'- and that applies to all of us! Quality people produce quality goods and services. If you're able to increase the value of your colleagues, you create a more valuable organisation. So how do you do it? By appreciating them!

The best way to increase long term value is to appreciate people.

Appreciation brings out the best in us...it motivates us...helps us learn better... and inspires us to be more productive. Williams James the great psychologist said, "The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated." Mark Twain said, "I can go two months on one good compliment!"

Successful people appreciate three things about others;

THEY APPRECIATE PEOPLE'S DIFFERENCES:

Recognise and value individual uniqueness. God made us different for a very good reason! Life would be bland and boring if we all thought alike. There is strength in diversity.

Focus on creating unity without forcing uniformity.

THEY APPRECIATE PEOPLES DEPENDABILITY:

When they've stayed with you in the tough times. The Trade Wind's aren't our greatest environmental feature, but they are famous because they're dependable. Appreciate people you can count on.

THEY APPRECIATE PEOPLES EFFORT:

When they've given it their very best shot...regardless of the result. A pat on the back always gets better results than a kick in the pants!

There are three characteristics of effective appreciation...

It is real – genuine from the heart.

It is recognisable – clear and specific.

It is regular – not just special occasions.

As Dr Ken Blanchard says (The One Minute Manager),

"Make a habit of catching people doing something right.

By the way, appreciation not only works at the office. It works with our spouses and children too! The more we appreciate our family the more valuable they become!

From Ron Oastler

Dr. Terry Peters, San Antonio, Texas

When I was 14 years old my mother arranged for me to attend a religious prep school away from home. She had been to one and insisted that all eight of her children attend one as well. At the boarding school, the other boys came from Chicago, Oklahoma City, and other big cities. I was from a small country town. When we met, they decided, "Here is a boy who needs to learn about the fun things of life." Within six months I was smoking, drinking, and chasing girls.

A year later my dad went broke. We raised potatoes in Alabama, Texas, and Idaho. The prices dropped, and he had no choice but to sell all his equipment. All the money was gone and I was sure it was my fault because I was living in 'sin'. I decided that if I would just follow all the rules of my religion, it would fix the problem. However, the more I tried to be good, the worse I got. I deduced, "I might just as well have a good time because I am going to hell anyway!"

When I finished high school, even though I had good jobs, I didn't really like them, mostly because I did not enjoy working for other people. So, I went to a Chiropractic College.

Why Chiropractic College? When I was four, I had fallen out of a moving car and the injury had paralysed me. I would scream if anyone even touched me. My parents took me to a Chiropractor. He treated me a couple of times and then said, "Get off the table." I complained that I couldn't because it hurt too much. He forced me and, to my amazement, I did not hurt at all. At that time, I told my Dad I was going to be a doctor like that doctor.

I completed my Chiropractic degree and received my license, but that did not fill the void in my life. I figured it was time to get married. I still carried that 'monkey on my back' only now it got worse. We had three lovely children, but nothing got better.

One day I came home from work and my wife said, "If you don't leave, I will file for divorce tomorrow." In my upbringing, divorce was about the worst thing that could happen -- it would certainly condemn me to hell.

We separated and she went back to South Carolina, where her family lived. I thought that if she and the children were not in the same city, we would get along with less strife, but the separation made matters worse. I decided that if I could not help myself, there wasn't much hope of my helping other people, so I quit my practice and went back to selling shoes.

Continued.....

EVENTS – See webpage for details

Brisbane Chapter Dinner 29 February 2020 – George McArdle



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



Notice - GATHERING TO REMEMBER DINKO MIOCEVICH



Greetings from Busselton, W.A.

We cordially invite you to a gathering, to celebrate and remember our great friend Dinko Miocevic, who sadly for us, but joyfully for him, went home to be with the Lord and Mavis late last year. Many who could not get to the funeral could not express their gratitude and thanks to Dinko for the part he played in their walk through this life. Hence this gathering.

We propose Saturday the 22nd of February 2020 in Busselton, at the Senior Citizens Centre behind McDonalds from 5.30 pm until around 9pmish.

This is a gathering for anyone who wants to come, male and female. We also propose bringing and sharing a meal, but to make it easy for those travelling, the purchase of a chicken or pizza or whatever you prefer will be greatly appreciated.

For any who cannot make the event, especially those in the Eastern States, but would like to contribute, we suggest a return email expressing your thoughts about Dinko that will be read out at the meeting. For those who do come we will be allowing heaps of time for us to share how Dinko touched and blessed us over the years. We look forward to hearing many stories about our wonderful friend and mentor, Dinko.

We are only here for a short time and with the passage of time memories diminish, so let's remember Dink together, one more time.

An RSVP by the 15th Feb would be appreciated as although we are not catering, we need to know numbers.

Sincerely yours,

Trev Adams and the Busselton team