



### From the President's Desk -

I was on a ZOOM meeting hosted by Raymond Tay FGBMFI Malaysia, who was one of the speakers at our 2019 National Convention. After all the normal preliminaries of such a meeting were over and done with, the Guest speaker Dr. Prakash Daniel, who was born in Chennai, India, and is a preacher with a prophetic mantle based in Florida USA was introduced. His testimony was very good and well-presented, honouring our marketplace ministries format. While his testimony was inspirational and full of God's workings in his life, it was the scripture from Matthew's Gospel he used during this Holy Spirit stimulated presentation that struck deep down in my heart.

**Matthew 13:3-9** "Behold, a sower went out to sow, and as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth, but when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. Yet others fell on good ground and yielded a crop; some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He, who has ears to hear, let him hear".

Note that the word *seed* is in italics; indicating that it wasn't in the original text. It is not until we read the explanation of the Parable verses 18-23 that we find the word is no longer in italics. Reason is that now Jesus is explaining the parable, for ease of our understanding! Jesus refers to the word of the Kingdom as that which has been sown into the heart of the hearer as seed. The sower therefore should have full confidence that the word of the Kingdom is good and powerful and if sown with care will bring forth a large harvest.

Back to my thoughts during the meeting: Our generation never had to go to war in a full on world conflict, but has had the privilege of being raised up in Christendom by some of the most dedicated prayer interceding saints that ever walked on God's earth. The words of the Kingdom that they sowed in prayer, we will (if we have the heart for it) have the privilege of harvesting.

A purposeful reading of **Hebrews 11:1-40** reveals for us a short history of Old Testament people of God who walked by faith, lived by faith, served God by faith, died in faith, obeyed God by faith. **Verse 1.** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* **2.** *For by it the elders obtained a good testimony....* **13.** *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth....* **39.** *And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise...* **40.** *God having provided something better for us that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

As I listened to the speaker my mind was racing back to the old praying saints I have known; people like my own grandfather who instructed me in the Scriptures each morning when I was seven years old. Showing and teaching me all he knew about the end times; encouraging me to come to a place of understanding of these important matters. Instilling in me, that He wouldn't see the return of Jesus in his life time, but that I would. Dear old sister Margery Kuskopf, who lovingly took my wife Carolyn through an in-depth study of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, praying in other tongues and at times not realising that she had stopped speaking English during the lesson. Sister Edna Watts one of my Prayer Intercessors, who would

pray right through the night on my behalf, that I would be unhindered in the work I was doing. Sister Lila Fahay another saint who whenever I was called out to deal with demons or any difficult ministry, would roll up her spiritual sleeves covering me in prayer until I was home and safe again. Pastor Eric Job who was so in harmony with God in His prayer life that he knew just the right time to come to my home to lead me in the sinner's prayer. And the list goes on, but they all prayed for souls to be saved and for the great end time harvest.

Whilst they all had obtained a good testimony, these and many like them died without receiving what they had so diligently prayed for, but what they sowed in the Spirit by way of the word of the Kingdom, by faith they were assured of the answers to their prayers. Persistently praying for a better outcome for others not necessarily for themselves; continually embracing and confessing by faith those things not yet seen. Nevertheless, praying and having full confidence that God would provide something better for us. As the meeting ended, I was still overtaken with my thought; coming to the satisfactory conclusion that we have the God-given privilege of harvesting the souls those old Saints had prayed for.

God saved us all unto good works; there is no better work than the work of the Kingdom; if we all work together, we can bring in the harvest. AMEN!

Len.

### Coffee & Conversation with James By Ron Oastler

Balmy weather; ideal for coffee and conversation at the marina; stymied by the novel coronavirus (the dreaded Covid-19 strain) until now; freedom at last, even if 1.5 metres apart for social distancing (!).

James' greeting was therefore not entirely unexpected – 'Good morning my friend,' he began, 'ready for some close fellowship that is not too close.' He quipped. 'Close spiritually but not physically is the order of the day – but how blessed we are now able to meet up in His name.'

'It certainly is' I replied, 'it has been quite some time since we met together – but, like you, I am blessed that we are able to meet up in His name. Being able to share our experiences of His providence is pretty amazing.'

'Ah,' mused James 'an interesting piece of theology there my friend. God's Providence. A distinction is quite often made between "General Providence", which refers to God's upholding of the overall order of the Cosmos, and "Special Providence", which refers to God's specific intervention in the life of individuals and peoples - often what we call miracles. The latter may appear to have major immediate effects, or perhaps minor effects that show to be significant, and are not reasonably explained as coincidences or "happenstance".'

'Opportunities to share the Gospel with folk can be providential. A good reason for maintaining awareness during our encounters with individuals in everyday life.'

Continuing this line of thought, James reminisced in his usual style: 'I recall an interesting encounter some time back, during a business trip to the USA. It happened that I was visiting one of our company's facilities in Florida and undertaking what might be called a "tour of inspection". The pre-tour briefing was conducted over coffee, by a senior lady from the department in question who had been introduced to me as Kylie, and in the course of conversation it emerged that her

surname was Atlee.'

"That is quite a famous British name." I observed, "Clement Atlee was the Prime Minister of the UK in the immediate post-WW2 period, replacing Winston Churchill. It sounds like you are personally very well connected." To which Kylie replied: 'Oh no, that was my husband's surname and he had no connection with the British PM nor his ancestors, at least for many, many generations that we know of. No, my maiden name was of Dutch origin (which she spelled out) and anglicised as Oldfield.'

Then, with that far-away look in his eyes James continued: 'Her comment about the surname immediately brought from way back, the memory of a half-hour Christian program on local radio in Australia presented by the Christian Reformed Church of America, where the preacher's surname was the same as Kylie's Dutch maiden name.'

'Sensing that this was a providential moment, I made comment to Kylie: "I recall a Christian radio program in Australia, quite some time back, where the American preacher had the same surname as your maiden name ..." To which she responded with surprise – and a sense of some pride: "That was my uncle Peter."

'Now I was sure that this was a providential moment.' James affirmed. 'So, I progressed to Kylie's situation with a simple segue: "Dr Peter knew Jesus as Lord and Saviour and presented the claim of the Gospel to all. So, what about you Kylie? Have you committed your life to Jesus as Lord and saviour?"

'Thoughtfully, she responded: "Yes ... I did ... when I was much younger ..."

"Well Kylie," I replied "now I know why I have come some 10,000 miles to be here today. It is for you. It is time to renew your relationship with the Lord with a fresh commitment. You know that the Scripture says, 'by Grace we are saved, through Faith'. It also says, 'with the heart we believe and with the mouth we confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour'. So, what are you going to do?"

'With only a momentary pause, Kylie said "Thank you, I will renew my commitment."

'At that stage we had to leave it with Kylie and the Holy Spirit. The Tour Guide joined us at that moment, announcing a tight schedule. Suffice to say, my friend: Be aware of Providential Moments & **Carpe Momentum** - seize the moment.'

### Are Christians Losing Their Spiritual Edge

*How you have fallen from heaven,  
morning star, son of the dawn!*

*You have been cast down to the earth,  
you who once laid low the nations!*

*You said in your heart,*

*"I will ascend to the heavens;*

*I will raise my throne*

*above the stars of God;*

*I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,*

*on the utmost heights of the North.*

*I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;*

*I will make myself like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:12-14)*

Some years ago, Roberta was managing a Nursing Home and was approached by one of her employees, Mavis. Mavis told Roberta that she was having major problems with her adult daughter who had already had two of her three children removed from her and taken in to foster care. Her daughter's name was (let us say her name was Tania) and she been diagnosed with schizophrenia and was on medication for her condition.

Mavis told Roberta that she had been to all the churches in the area and said none of them could help her regarding her daughter's condition. Roberta asked me if the FGBMFI boys could help as Mavis was getting desperate. I said that we needed to meet with Mavis and get Tania's story. We met with Mavis a few days later and she begun to tell us about Tania. Tania was a very normal child up to the age of 13 years.

Mavis said this all changed when she heard screaming coming from Tania's bedroom where she was playing with her cousin. The screaming was so loud that the next-door neighbor came over (she was a Salvation Army Officer) to see what was happening. Mavis said that when she entered Tania's bedroom, she found out that they had been playing with a Ouija board (Satan's entry point), the neighbor took the Ouija board and burnt it but no one had any idea with what they were dealing with. From this incident Tania's life was changed and started to go downhill.

Current background at this time – Tania was living in a flat in a seedy part of town and was on prescription medicine but was selling half of this off to other druggies. She had three children but as mentioned, two had been taken into state care. The youngest daughter who was still with Tania was about eight years old. Mavis said that she would sleep most of the day and be up all night and was not looking after herself or her daughter. Her flat was a mess and she seemed to live day to day in the most appalling conditions. All attempts by Mavis to help seemed to be a waste of time, even though she loved her daughter and really cared about her and her grandchildren.

I told Mavis that we would pray and make a time to meet Tania and her daughter. We got the men in the chapter organised and they started praying up a storm and fasting. Several of us were to meet Tania but for unknown reasons it was about seven days before we could see her. After a few days after our meeting with Mavis, she came and said to Roberta that an amazing change was taking place with Tania and she was really hoping that this change in behaviour would not be reversed. This was exciting news as the Holy Spirit was working and we had not got to meet Tania yet. Roberta assured Mavis that once you put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, he will not let you down – Mavis was so encouraged!

The visit – on the day, several of our men plus Mavis, Roberta and myself went to Tania's flat. When she opened the door, she smiled and gave us a warm welcome (she knew that we had been praying for her). You could feel the overwhelming power of the Holy Spirit. The place was nice and clean with all the blinds pulled and everything in its place, a far cry to what is used to be like.

I asked Tania if she would like us to pray through her flat and she was happy for this to take place. We prayed through the place and we noticed several posters on the wall which were undesirable to say the least. As we passed them Tania asked us if they would be honoring God and by her volition took them down and destroyed them as we continued through each room. When we got to her bedroom her mattress was on the floor, I asked why was the mattress on the floor and not on the bed? She said that when she climbed into bed an unknown invisible force would push her out.

We anointed the doors and windows with oil and soaked the whole place in prayer. We told Tania about Jesus and what he had done for each one of us, and how he changed our lives. We then asked Tania if she would like to receive Jesus into her life. The

miracle – Tania, Mavis and her granddaughter all received the Lord together sitting on her couch holding hands. The change in Tania's life was profound with major changes taking place. She went to the hospital and told them that she was a 'born again Christian' and did not require any further medication because she had been healed by Jesus (we did tell her to check with her doctor first). This caused some problems for the people that were buying half her medication as their supply in this quarter had now dried up.

Tania joined a lady's prayer group, went to church and started to grow before our eyes. She would ring Roberta and ask what certain scriptures meant and, how they should be applied. She would let us know how she was travelling, and it was no problem encouraging her with her great love for the Lord. We moved overseas and lost touch, but I am sure the Lord will complete the great work he started in her on that day of salvation.

### Mike Hedley (Part 1) – Missionary At Large



Mike & Anna

I was born in the southern suburbs of London in August 1939, when bombs were dropping over the city. During this period there was a mass exodus of Children sent up to the north of England 'including me' to escape the bombing. My father was a civil servant and was excluded from the military call up but was always away in Dad's army. After my return to London in 1944, life was not easy with few friends because the war had not finished for another year. I then joined a local Anglican church as a choirboy, where I managed to make a few friends.

At 15, I commenced an apprenticeship repairing radio and televisions. Because of my church background, I began to search for more as a believer. In the summer of 1955, I attended a church camp when a minister asked us to accept Jesus into our lives, which I did and felt wonderful. Even my parents said that I was changed for the better, but I did not understand this amazing feeling. Again, I attended a Billy Graham crusade in London where I went forward once more, but still.... not understanding what happened to me.

At 17+ I joined the British RAF as a wireless technician. After training, I was posted to Butterworth in Malaysia, attached to the RAAF Australian Airforce. Malaysia was then known as Malaya which was still under threat of communist terrorist attacks, so I

turned to drinking with the boys and we would travel on a ferry to the Island of Penang to party on until the last ferry back to Butterworth. I began to understand how God cares for everyone and that the Bible tells us.... **If we are not against him, he is not against us;** I experienced the reality of this scripture several times.

On one occasion, the boys went to Penang for the usual night out. It was pay day which meant that I had money in my pocket, and I would never turn down an invitation to join the boys, but for some reason I refused and stayed in the barracks. Three of my drinking mates came back on the last ferry, but only one made it home because they were so drunk that two fell overboard and were mangled in the propellers. Eventually, I became bored with these activities and once again turned my attention to seeking the reality of Christianity, but still not finding the answer. Local churches did not attract me, even though I was beginning to become really hungry for God.

Eventually, I decided to attend a Catholic church in Penang which drew ridicule from the boys, but that did not worry me because of my hunger. Later I stopped drinking and met a nice Penang girl named Anna who became my wife. We raised three beautiful children in London and continued to attend church, but when the cold winter came, it was a big job to dress the children with coats, scarves, and gloves. When we reached church, we would take them off and then back on to go home at the end of the service and because I still had not found the answer, we gave up attending church.

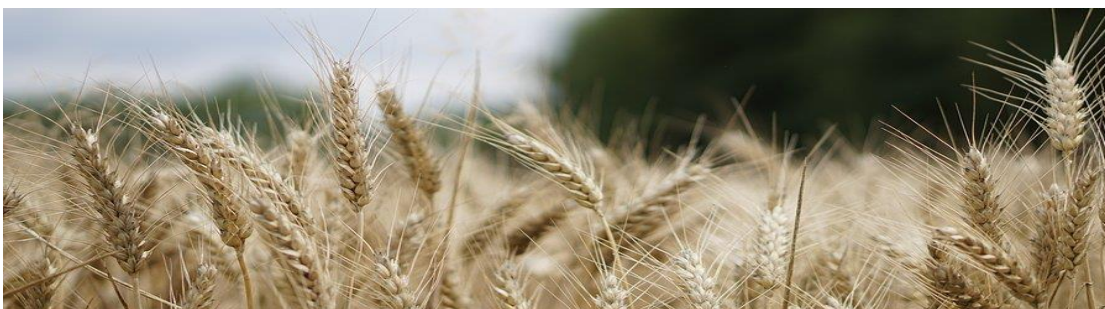
In 1971 we immigrated to Sydney, Australia, but the busy lifestyle reminded me of London, so in 1974 we moved to Queensland and loved it. After 26 years of continuing confusion and a few jobs under my belt, a friend invited us to attend a Pentecostal church south of Brisbane. We were shocked with the singing and raising of hands etc. As we observed this behaviour, we began to realise that the people were worshiping with all their heart and not like a football match. There was weeping and someone would call out some Godly words. A preacher then asked people to come forward after his sermon, just like the camp and Billy Graham did. Well, I ran down the front and once again said yes to Jesus.

This time I was so determined for it to be real after 26 years in the wilderness. After they prayed for me, a man explained that there were things I needed to know, do and have. I jumped with joy and did not let this man out of my sight until I received the answers that I had been longing for over the years.

I learnt that the Bible is misunderstood by many, simply because people do not take the time to read it. I discovered that the Old Testament is so accurately foretelling the coming of Jesus which is written about in the New Testament. Read about amazing miracles that have happened in my life since accepting Jesus as a reality.

*To be Continued....*

### 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**



"I... 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



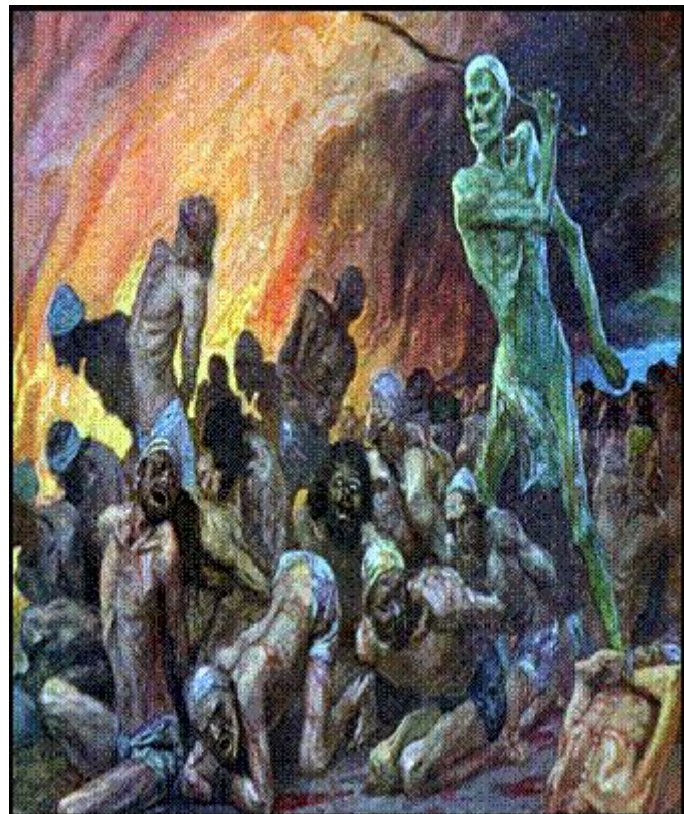
## Revival Is Coming

I have been reading Isaiah 60 this morning. I am convinced that this scripture is poised to be fulfilled now at this time in our history. Without doubt this is our time to shine as lights in the darkness. This is surely a time of gross darkness on the earth. God has promised us that when the Devil comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him.

Just last week Bill Gates has come out saying he has developed a nano chip that only needs the slightest tap on the skin to be absorbed into the body. To go on the hand for scanning purposes!! It is God's time to rise upon his church, his people and glorify his son. I think our part is to press in as never before and make the preparation of our own hearts towards him.

He reveals our calling and his intent in ch.61 In chapter 60 verses 16 and 17 we see that there will be ample provision to do whatever is needed. What a welcome change for ministries that have struggled financially for years. Times they are a changing. . . Jesus said when we see all these things coming to pass (prophesies and signs of our times) we should look up; our redemption draws near. We look now with great excitement to his very soon return. Blessings to all and your families.

**John Weeks, National Director, FGBMFI (Australia).**



Proverbs 1:29 for they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the LORD.