



From the President's Desk -

C O V I D 1 9
2 6 8 4 3 1 9 (Roman Numerals -Add them all together you get 33)

It was at the age of 33 that our Lord suffered on our behalf. **Isaiah 53:1-5** *Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

I love this passage of Scripture: *Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?* Who indeed, only those, we the remaining children of God have shared the true love of God with. **Romans 10:14** *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher.* Friends, do you get it? If the lost (and that could be your next-door neighbour), have never heard about Jesus; do they believe and are they saved? How can they hear unless someone tells them? That someone should be you. Yes! Love your neighbour as the Lord has loved you, by showing them your love for God by leading them to Jesus.

He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. Let me share from my morning devotions a fresh revelation about this tender plant. **Psalm 80:8** Reads *"You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nation and planted it. You prepared room for it, and caused it to take deep root and it filled the Land."* Was this tender plant in the loins of Jacob when God brought the children of Israel up out of Egypt? **Exodus 19:3-6** *And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."*

From the root comes the vine and this root came out of dry ground, Egypt! **John 15:1-8** *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you. Unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My word abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be

My disciples.

He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. The night I gave my heart to Jesus; God by His Holy Spirit showed me a vision of the crucifixion with Christ Jesus on the cross. There was no physical beauty in the form of that man on the cross that made me desire Him; yet there was something extraordinary yet powerfully, awesome, in His appearance as I looked up and saw His unfathomable love and compassion, just for me a sinner.

Of late, as I have been in self-separation away from any physical human contact, I have been spending time reading the Bible and studying, which draws one closer to God Himself. Now the amazing thing I am experiencing is my original vision of Christ Jesus. Those all-seeing eyes that penetrated right into my heart the night I surrendered my life to Him, revealing that there is not one thing about me He does not know.

Members of the fellowship, we are New Covenant believers and our blessings come by obeying God's voice and keeping covenant with Him, in the knowledge that He is the covenant keeping God. His desires should be our desires, His will our will, for His promise is if we obey His voice and keep covenant with Him then He will make us a special treasure of His own. Imagine that - you and me, a jewel in His treasure chest.

God Bless, keep safe and let the love of God shine through your every action.

Len.

Below are some words of wisdom written by Bob & Debby Gass.

'In the multitude of counsellors there is safety.' Proverbs 11:14

NKJV

To succeed in life, you need wise and competent people around you, informed people with a proven track record who can assist you. But be advised: the best people with the most knowledge will challenge, stretch and confront your previously held viewpoints. That doesn't mean you should avoid them. On the contrary - that's exactly why you need them! You must get over your fear of people who are smarter, more talented and more experienced than you are, and learn from them instead.

What stops many of us from approaching competent people is that we feel ignorant when we're around them. It's okay to be ignorant - but it's not okay to stay that way! Don't keep running back to familiar people who don't challenge you to grow. The more you move into new arenas in life, the more you need 'the multitude of counsellors' who will push you to be more than you are, even if it's uncomfortable at first. Go where they are, listen to what they say and evaluate their opinions.

If you're going to build yourself up spiritually, emotionally and financially, go outside your comfort zone. If you don't, you won't have the information you need to move beyond the familiar and attain your future goals. Only those who are willing to be stretched achieve their dreams. And remember, the people you need most are usually busy people. Generally speaking, they won't reach for you, so you must reach for them. And be prepared; some of them may turn you down, while others, recognising your hunger for wisdom and knowledge, will respond and help you to succeed.

A short testimony from our National Treasurer - Daniel Wright

I had just about finished my time at Cricks, a car dealership on the Sunshine Coast. My resignation had been handed in and I was doing the usual reflection that happens once you've decided to leave but are not quite out the door. I had done a lot of praying for this business and the staff and they had seen me pray for different things and heard stories of my answered prayer.

I had pulled different people into my office and prayed for them in their times of need. You gentlemen would have even helped me pray for one of them, a young fellow who suffered 3 strokes. He saw great improvement and I thank you for your support and God for answering prayers. But as I reflected, I thought, God we did not get one salvation, while I was here. I was confronted with the brutal facts that despite all this good work I did not share the gospel.

I know that I had certainly planted a seed of God and hope but I also didn't follow it with up the living water and the message of the cross. During that time, I thought about the verse John 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. What could have been an opportunity for doubt to creep in was turned into a Philippians 4:6 moment when I prayed and asked God if I could bear some fruit... I had not led anyone to the Lord for quite a while, (Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God).

That's what I was experiencing at the time, however the story is all about Nathan Dowe, a young chap around 40 who I used to work with about 16 years ago. He was a locksmith and I worked the counter at Bretts hardware. I was dropping my son at work at Stafford Shopping Centre one day early 2019 and I bumped into him in the carpark. I said 'hello' and after a solid 10-minute catchup we exchanged the usual, 'we have to catchup soon' comments and exchanged phone numbers.

I mentioned about a brekky we could go to one Saturday morning and he seemed keen. About 4 months later we ran into each other again back at Stafford Shopping Centre but this time it was at the completely opposite end of the car park. He said something like it was weird meeting like this I think the universe is trying to say something... I said it's no accident we have met again, you really need to come a men's brekky I go to. He was keen and he had to keep moving so we parted ways. The next month, July 2019, I invited him to the brekky and he said yes. He enjoyed himself, I did not see what was going on inside him, but God was doing a work.

We did not discuss the meeting too much after that and he had to head off. It was several months later 15 November, we started texting each other and I asked "how have you been?" The response came back "not good hey. I've been drinking way too much, not your problem, but I have no one who cares." I retorted, "totally my problem can I call you?" So we got on the phone and it was evident he had been trying to drown his sorrows and he asked me "why do you love me so much?" I told him I loved working with him, we got on great when we worked together and had a similar work ethic.

He pressed me again – "not that I have worked with others that I got on great with, but they did not love me or care me about like you do..." I replied "If you really want to know Nathan, it's because I have a love that is not of this world. I told him about Jesus and, how he died on the cross and how it changed my life." I was getting to the pointy end of the conversation and thought I need some help here. So, I called up my

mentor Len Donaldson (our National President), gave him a quick brief on where we were at in the conversation and patched him into the 3-way phone call. He finished it off nicely and took care of the objections about why Christ would love someone like him.

Len said, "Well its time, are you going to say the sinners prayer?" Nathan said, "Yes, but I don't know what to say..." "that's ok I will lead you." said Len. Nathan said, "Ok, but I want Dan to lead me in the prayer." It was with great joy that I took him through the prayer that night and invited him to church on the Sunday.

In the Sunday service the Pastor asked for anyone to make a commitment to the Lord. Nathan put up his hand, a public display of the decision he had made on Friday night. It brought a lot of joy; I know the Angels were rejoicing but it was a real encouragement for me from the Lord. I now had the duty of discipleship...

This is something we have been working in conjunction with our church and with our FGBMFI Chapter and I am pleased to announce he was baptised on the first Sunday of this year. God has done a true work in Nathan and I look forward to watching him grow over the coming years. Praise God.

Everything Depends on Leadership



During the early Middle Ages, the Ottoman Empire (Anatolia) was being invaded by the Byzantine Army. From a high point overlooking the battleground the Ottoman army officers were seeing that they were significantly outnumbered and appeared to be no match for the advancing army.

Some officers thought perhaps they should surrender, other officers thought that they should retreat, other officers thought they should seek help from tribes alongside their borders. After viewing the situation for some time, the Ottoman officers approached their General looking worried and saying we have a problem.

The General looked down the valley and said Yes we do have a problem – "**where are we going to bury all the enemy soldiers!**" The battle took place with the Ottomans routing their Byzantine invaders.

We should remember that Jesus has called us by name and the

best quality for leadership is his wisdom especially when we face circumstances that look overwhelming, formidable or outside our control.

Jesus is able to see further than any valley or circumstances. Asking God for **wisdom** in any situation is also handing the problem/s over to him and allowing him to guide you and hear his voice.

Hearing his voice will normally depend on how strong our relationship is with the Lord, so our endeavour should be to grow in His Word and our relationship with him. We should also be careful that once we have given a problem over to our Lord that we trust in Him completely and do not try and take charge of the problem again.

We are in the Lord's Army and no weapon formed against us will prosper. Satan was beaten at the cross, so we stay on the offensive as God continues to snatch the lost souls from the fires of hell. It is awesome that we are privileged to be his hands and feet in this ongoing battle. "WE ARE AN **OFFENSIVE WEAPON** IN HIS SERVICE".

FGBMFI (Australia) Oversight Committee

Ron Oastler & David Smethurst

Ron & Norma Oastler



David & Margurita Smethurst



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)*

When Satan fell one third of the angels went to earth with him. We don't know how many that was but if we all have a Guardian Angel it would be a guide as to one third of the demons that are now out there. Some years ago, the mayor of our city asked to speak with me, he knew that I was a Christian and the FGBMFI Chapter President in the city. He confided in me that he had a professional friend whose daughter was doing many strange things, causing them much concern.

He thought that the girl may have schizophrenia. I shared with him that sometimes it was not schizophrenia but demon possession. I said that about every third or fourth miracle that Jesus performed whilst on earth was casting out demons. I then asked him where he thought these demons had gone or were they now given a different name (perhaps a medical name but not in all cases)? He was somewhat thoughtful but could not answer the question I put to him. He then asked me what I thought would happen. I told him if Satan is behind this he will try and destroy her. I then offered to talk with the girl's parents. His response was to say "No, no they would not like that and, would not understand". We parted company and a week later this poor girl hung herself off a bridge. Shortly after this terrible incident I met with the mayor again and asked him if he remembered our conversation. He said to his utter regret that he did!

Since the Bill Subritzky's have gone, I personally have not heard any churches preach or train anyone in this area; the focus seems to be on the physical, not taking into account what is taking place in the heavenlies. Satan came to rob, steal, kill and destroy. Even though Satan has been defeated, He does not concentrate on non-Christians for obvious reason and attacks the body of Christ.

Remember the scripture 'my people perish through lack of knowledge' (Hosea 4:6). We need to 'man up' and re-arm spiritually as we seem to have lost the initiative (at the moment). Starting each day by reading Ephesians 6: 10 - 18 (The Armor of God) and Psalm 91 will help us focus on what is truly out there. It is very important we pray regularly for our family, friends and all those that we know and love. Our

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



leaders also need our prayers more than ever as righteousness exalts a nation. In Jesus's name we are able to take authority over any situation and we can ask Jesus to give us spiritual eyes to see what is happening in any instance. The Holy Spirit can quicken our spirit, giving us that vital window on what the problem may be and the prayers required to defeat it.

Praying in tongues is a language that Satan and his forces cannot understand, as your spirit talks directly to God on the matter at hand. Discernment and wisdom must go hand in hand, and it is important that we do not take the battle on alone if possible. As Chapter members we should work as a team and prayer and fasting may be required before we face the problem before us. We need to continually know that he who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. I will follow up in the next few months with some more personal experiences.

I will pour out a blessing

By Ian Eckel

This is a true story about an Anglican couple, I'll call them Dave and Mable (that's not their true name of course). This happened about 20 years ago, and I've lost contact with them, so I'll tell the story to the best of my recollection.

Dave and Mable were invited to a local FGBMFI dinner and at the end of the testimony they responded to the call to ask Jesus into their hearts. They also said they would very much like to receive the gift of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit when asked.

When they went home that night they couldn't sleep as they were so excited. As they talked about their new found life in the spirit, the subject of tithing came up due to the fact that the FGBMFI member that talked about giving mentioned the Old Testament scripture of God's challenge to the tribes of Israel - that they had robbed God because they weren't tithing and that if they would bring all the tithes into the storehouse He would pour out a blessing that they would not be able to contain.

So being new Christians and knowing nothing about the difference between the laws of Moses that God gave to the tribes of Israel and the gentiles who are not under the Law, they thought they had better tithe.

Seeing that they wanted to find a new church first, one that preached the whole gospel, they decided in the mean time to start a bank account called 'tithes' and would get 10% direct deposited from both their weekly pays into this account. But what would they do with the money until that time? It was decided they would pray about it and let the Holy Spirit show them where to give it.

The first chance they had to give it away was to a Christian businessman that was in dire straits because the firm they were doing a big job for insisted they give them 90 days credit. They had exhausted all avenues to borrow the money needed to pay their workers and faced losing them to other companies.

When they heard about this, they withdrew all the money in the tithe account and gave it to this businessman and told him he didn't have to pay it back as it was a gift. But in a couple of months this man turned up with the money plus interest, he was adamant that they take all the money as he was now out of the red and thriving thanks to their generosity.

As time went by, Dave and Mable saw this tithe account grow. No matter how much they tried to give it away it always came back with interest. They said there were countless numbers of needy people they helped.

Then one day it happened, they found a church and guess what? The new building fund was in need of money. There was an appeal for the congregation to dig deep to meet the repayments, so they withdrew the tithe account and closed it and from that day forth all their tithes went into the church. Dave and Mabel told me this story, with a sense of loss that they could no longer see the joy of the faces of the people that they used to help.