



From the President's Desk -



Today our Christian ministries stand at the crossroads where the two ways meet. It's not rocket science to those who are born again, Spirit filled, Bible-believing, sons of the Most High God, that evil is prevailing over all the earth including this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. According to Australian Census, the population identifying Christianity as their religion has declined from 96% in 1911 to 54% in 2020; a drop of 42%. Some of the decline can be attributed to the fact that we have become a multicultural society and a country accepting a diversity of religious beliefs. Have you ever asked yourself why are all these foreign people coming to Australia? They are coming to get saved, they just don't know it until till someone tells them that Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

That, my friend, is the true liberty that all men deep down are seeking and need. According to the scriptures this can only be found in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. A reading of **Proverbs 1:20-33** reveals for many, some very interesting parallels for us to draw from. Starting from verse 20 stating, [Wisdom calls aloud outside, literally in the marketplace of the city she speaks her words] who then is Wisdom? **1 Corinthians 1:30** *But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.*

If Jesus is for us wisdom, then how does He call aloud in the market place? He uses those who have been saved unto good works; that's right, us! What revelations have we here then? The call of the Lord is to the simple those who are foolish, gullible lacking knowledge. Hosea 4:6. *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.* For scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. Think back to before you were saved, what sort of foolish nonsense and how gullible to the ways of the world were you then, until someone shared their knowledge of the love of God with you - which in turn convicted you of your sin.

Proverbs 1:23. *Turn at my rebuke* or [at my pleading]. Often in scripture during this dispensation of grace, we see the pleading of our Lord to the unsaved like in **Romans 12:1** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.* Paul used this old word to beseech; meaning to beg or plead with. So when we are ministering in the market place we are pleading on our Lord's behalf to those lacking knowledge of the things pertaining to our rich salvation in Christ Jesus.

Here in Proverbs the promise is: turn now and *I will pour out my spirit on you. I will make my words known to you.* How powerful is our testimony then? Not at all until it is shared with the lost. Then and only then is its power released into the heart of the hearer as sown

seed, which God breathes on and the great transformation starts: from lost to saved, from powerless to empowerment, with the great power of the Holy Spirit.

Do all respond to His pleading? Obviously not, and we are living in a similar wicked generation as those of King Solomon's days. Our Lord Jesus Christ has done it all on the cross of Calvary to redeem us from death and distraction, bringing us into a right relationship with God. However, the simple still reject the knowledge of God's Word and His wisdom, in turn rejecting Jesus and His salvation. Sadly, they are so gullibly entrenched in the ways of the world that they can't hear God calling them unto salvation. Or is it that they can't hear the Gospel, because those called of God to share that good news are silent in the marketplace, having little to no love for the lost. Remember God so loved the world (the lost) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. If we are anything, we are His hands extended into the marketplace and His mouthpieces calling and pleading with those God is calling. Or are we satisfied to just sit on our hands and keep our mouths closed, letting those whom God loves go to a Christless eternity?

We make our boast that we are Full Gospel Businessmen, blessed of God possessing great power from above. My question is, what are we doing with all the great gifts of the Holy Spirit that God has so willingly and liberally bestowed on us who believe?

If we are really honest with ourselves, our answer would be very little to not much. Please slowly reread Proverbs 1:20-33, asking God to reveal to you what He has revealed to me: of our responsibilities as sons of God, His will for our lives, the ministries of FGBMFI and the judgement to come, in the knowledge that we will stand before the judgement seat of Christ and give account on that great and awesome day. The testimony we give on that day will be the one that counts the most.

Len.

Coffee & Conversation with James
By Ron Oastler



The dreaded 'East Coast Low' was with us. Ocean beaches were taking a battering. Wave heights were abnormally high as they came through the heads and up into the Port. The wind was whipping the rain squalls into cold, stinging lashes on exposed face and hands. I shivered. However, quite typically, James was his usual philosophical self about it all as he greeted me.

'Good morning my friend, only four or five more days and, according to

the Met Bureau, our weather will be back to normal again. Relatively that is.' There was the usual lilt in his voice and smile on his face as he spoke. Then, almost without drawing breath he continued; 'After a wee while you will forget the surrounding details and only recall the general experience. Memory is such a fascinating thing.'

Well, where do you start in responding to such a flexible turn of conversation – though of course I had contributed nothing to the conversation as yet.

'I suppose so' I responded rather limply, 'and in any case, I find it harder to access my long-term memory as I get older.'

'Ah, but it is wonderful is it not, when for whatever reason a precious long-term memory is triggered. Even when the fine details remain hazy the preciousness of the memory brings its own blessing. It may be about a special time or place that was significant to us, or something shared with a family member or a friend or even a stranger.'

'I know what you are saying James.' I stated. 'I have found it encouraging to revisit good memories; precious memories; rehearsing them, so to speak. When I do that it invokes a sense of thankfulness to our Lord for those wonderful experiences he provides in His providence.'

Quickly picking up on my statement, James added: 'Yes, and I am reminded that the great Apostle Paul enjoined us in Colossians 4:2 to "continue in prayer and watch in the same with **thanksgiving**". I particularly like the New Living Translation of that verse, that has it as "**pray with an alert mind and a thankful heart. "So, *always be thankful* is our word for today!**

'I had an especially thankful moment not too long back. At the conclusion of the Sunday Morning Service at the church we were attending, a couple approached us and introduced themselves as Roy and Anna Meadows." Do you remember us?" they asked." I recognise your faces; please help me with my recall..." I replied'.

'You were responsible for me becoming a Believer,' was Roy's opening gambit. 'Oh?' said I – and they then proceeded to recount the details.'

'They were at a church on the North-side of Sydney one Sunday morning, where I had been asked to preach. Anna was a regular member of the congregation, having received Christ as Lord and Saviour some months prior. However, Roy apparently did not attend. He was only there on this occasion because he heard that a businessman would be preaching, and that caught his interest.'

'These facts filled in some of the broad-brushed picture that formed the backdrop to the occasion in question. The rest was still somewhat vague. However, I seemed to recall using as a base text, Proverbs 3:5-8:

"Trust in the LORD JEHOVAH with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge/know him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones."

'The powerful message in this part of God's Word is of course that it provides great wisdom for life and living – whether it be personal life, family life, community life, business life or whatever.'

'The key though, is if we are to really have His hand upon us, directing and making our paths straight, then we need to know Him; fear Him; have our trust in Him; be in relation with Him - reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.'

'So, as was my custom, I concluded that message with a clear statement of the need to be reconciled to God now (!) - and gave an opportunity to do so. The Blessed Holy Spirit had Roy ready, and he made that wonderful

commitment. Precious memories. All the Lord's doing – not mine. It is such a privilege to be participants in "*winning and discipling folk to Christ*". '

Mike Hedley (Part 2) – Missionary At Large



Mike & Anna

MYANMAR. (Part 1.)

Burma was under military rule and the citizens including Buddhist Monks were on hunger strike. There were no more visas issued because of the coup, but I received mine much earlier and for some reason, they let me in on the last plane.

Before boarding, I met several missionaries whose visas were cancelled, and they were amazed when I showed them mine. They gathered around me to sing and celebrate, sending me off at the airport with prayer. Taxi men were afraid to take me to town because of checkpoints and sometimes the military were trigger happy. I found an Australian who was driving a truck to town with supplies for the Australian club, which seemed to be the only safe place to go at the time.

He had a full cabin but offered to put me on top with an Australian flag to wave at the military avoiding any bullets. We were stopped four times before reaching the hotel, much to my relief. At this point, I suddenly remembered a scripture as I was walking into a very dangerous situation and fear was trying to grip me.

Isaiah 43:1 Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.

God is actually commanding us not to fear and the Bible mentions it 80 times. He also knows that the enemy uses fear to limit our hope. From that moment onwards, I had no fear and proceeded with boldness. The Hotel was empty and one block from the centre of town. Soldiers were taking girls into the rooms to rape. There was a spirit of death in the air and no sooner had I unpacked my bags; shooting began in the town centre.

The soldiers were locked in the town hall at the town centre without air conditioning. They were starved and fed rum and told to shoot troublemakers and anybody dressed in green and white, representing the protesters. Unfortunately, the local school colours were green and white and many were killed. Approximately 3000 people were killed, including some monks. The media reported a few hundred to the western world. That night, I propped up 3 pillows and began to pray and worship God with no fear in my heart.

Suddenly a shape appeared at the foot of my bed and straight away I knew that it was demonic. I declared (as in the Bible) that it go in the name of Jesus. Nothing happened and then it appeared at the side of the bed. It was a full-on battle, because many people were dying at the same time. I started to sing Christian songs about the blood of Jesus that overcomes all as loud as I could. My

next recollection was waking up in the morning with the sun streaming in through the window and the peace of God all over me. I had slept so still with just one pillow and wondered where the other two were. I looked across the room and saw that they were very neatly placed on a table. **I DID NOT GET OUT OF BED ALL NIGHT.** I knew in my heart that this had been a demonic attack on my life and God sent angels to overcome.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall hurt you. The above scripture was Jesus telling his disciples. So, you may ask that it only applied to them and not for today? **Mark 16: 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe and in my Name, they will drive out demons.**

This scripture was Mark talking to the Christian Jewish tribes which is current to this day. The next morning, four war correspondents tracked me down, because I was the only westerner in town apart from the journalists. I joined them to see the carnage in the town centre. There were still Muslims shooting down from a mosque close by. That night we heard that drunken soldiers were going from house to house and shooting suspects.

Wisdom led me to a local minister whose church was several blocks from the hotel, and he invited me to stay at his house, even though it was illegal at the time. I waited for dark and hopped from hedge to hedge and made it to the pastor's house. The next day, there was fighting and shooting in the street outside the house, so in order to protect the pastor and his family, I made a dash for it back to the Hotel. Waiting for me was a government spy who wanted to know where I had been. **To be continued....**

HEBREWS 6:4-8 (NIV) A SOBERING SCRIPTURE

⁴It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. ⁷Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. ⁸But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

GOD WILL NOT DISAPPOINT

Written by Bob & Debby Gass



'I called on the Lord in distress; the Lord answered me.' Psalm 118:5 NKJV.

At age 26, Thomas A. Dorsey started a publishing company and founded the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses in America. He worked with some of the greatest singers in the history of gospel music, including Mahalia Jackson.

But one night after singing to a Saint Louis audience, he was handed a telegram that said, 'Your wife just died.' She had passed away in childbirth. Thomas hurried back home to Chicago, where his newborn son died the following day. He plunged into depression, avoided people and grew angry with God. 'I felt God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve him anymore or write gospel songs.

'Then a friend took him to a neighbourhood music school. That evening Thomas sat down at a piano and began to play...and pray. He poured out his heart to God, and what wonderful words they were: 'Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light: take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

'Dorsey testified that the Lord healed him that night as he sat at the piano. He went on to pen more than a thousand songs and become one of the most influential Christian songwriters of all time. All because he reached out to God for help.

The psalmist did that too: 'I called on the Lord in distress, and the Lord answered me' (Psalm 118:5 NKJV). So, the word for today is - turn to God; he will not disappoint you.

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



FGBMFI Virtual World Convention

It was great to have two of our members, Doug Gray and Daniel Wright, share a short testimony at the convention which was viewed by 32,000 plus on the night. Doug spoke on their Christian family lineage covering many generations and Daniel related how his father-in-law came to accept Jesus as his Lord and saviour.



Doug Gray



Daniel Wright



You are loved **more than you will ever know** by someone who died to know you.

Romans 5:8

simplylovequotes.com

"The will of God will never take you to where the grace of God will not protect you. To gain that which is worth having, it may be necessary to lose everything else." – Bernadette Devlin