



**From the President's Desk -**



When I feel unqualified to write articles such as this, I know with assurance that as a Full Gospel Business Man, there is a lot of power in sharing testimony one with another.

For many of us, the past year has been one of many trials; myself included, where it just seemed to be one trial after another throughout the year. No sooner would I overcome one thing, then another would come my way. As the year progressed, my life became more difficult until I was finally cut down with sunstroke three weeks out from Christmas. This manifested as one big cold sore covering the whole of my bottom lip and affecting my complete nervous system; oh happy days! For all who experienced something similar, let us take encouragement from scripture.

**1 Peter 4:12-19** *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, but when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*

When each of us decided to follow Jesus, we were committing ourselves to do so no matter the personal cost. If we have to go through trials, our commitment doesn't diminish; it should only get stronger. Reflecting on the past year, I questioned whether there were areas in my own life that I needed to deal with? Answer! Yes, you see I let what I perceived other people were doing wrong to get between God and myself. Like how pastors today are becoming CEO of church boards and selling off those now valuable church properties, that in the main had been built and paid for by previous hardworking congregations that had gone before them. My second area of concern was what was happening in American politics. In both instances I had set myself up as judge and jury instead of letting it go through to the keeper. For God said, "Vengeance is mine and recompense". Then there was my concern about the pandemic sweeping the world; was it sin-driven invoking God's wrath?

We are best to leave to God what is God's business and get on with what God's Word is instructing each of us to do. Coming to the above

conclusion was not that difficult, for one morning around 3:00am, God woke me and instructed me to study the book of Jude. As I opened this one chapter letter, my spirit started to rejoice in God my Saviour as the darkness I had been walking in started to fall away, and my communion and fellowship with God was now being restored. Praise His wonderful name! You see, we can go through all the actions of reading and praying and even keeping our devotions up. Still, if we aren't adhering to the Word of God, we are breaking fellowship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit and are therefore left in that dark and horrible fearful place.

Let's go to the book of Jude to see just what stimulated my spirit to rejoice. The first verse reads; *Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.* Being the brother of James in the natural, he would have been a younger half-brother of Jesus. He could well have included that in his opening statement, giving more support to his credentials, but no, his delight and privilege was that he was a servant of Jesus Christ first and foremost. Jude's opening statement here should encourage each of us. Even though we may have been blessed with all spiritual gifts, (1 Corinthians 12:1-11) able to prophesy and preach great inspiring sermons and are blessed with all the benefits of Psalm 103, we should not lose sight of the one simple fact that Jude brings to our attention; that our greatest privilege is to be servants of Jesus Christ before all else.

Then who is Jude writing to? *To them that are sanctified by God the Father.* That is right - made free from sin; this is the good news of the Gospel. Nowhere else in the Bible are we expressly declared to be "sanctified by God the Father". As I pondered this amazing truth about God's grace that wrote the salvation plan, it became so clear to me that the whole of the Triune God Head; Father, Son and Holy Spirit are involved in the salvation of each soul saved from sin. God the Father sent the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price, and the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. When we accept those simple facts, we are sanctified by God the Father.

There is yet more in this verse; look again, "preserved in Jesus Christ, and called". John 6:36-40 tells us that Jesus said He who comes to Me will never hunger, never thirst, never be cast out, never be lost. Right here is the good news that caused my spirit to rejoice in God my Saviour; I have been redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, saved from sin that I might become a servant of God, by reaching out to others in the market places of the world.

Men let us put aside 2020 and ready ourselves for this great year in God. I believe we are entering into a new and exciting era of the power of Almighty God over all the earth, even more so here in the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. This new move of God will manifest in and through those who have realised that God has redeemed us to serve Him in newness of life.

Have a Holy Spirit charged year.

Len.





Written by Bob & Debby Gass

Refined for service

**'I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.'**

Isaiah 48:10 NLT

Never become jealous of someone else's talent. And don't be intimidated by it, because the God who called and equipped them will use you too. When you learn to appreciate and applaud the gift of God in someone else's life, you put yourself in a position where he can bless you as well. The fact is, we're all necessary to God's plan. The Bible says, 'God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as he pleased' (1 Corinthians 12:18 NKJV). God sets and God allocates! So seek him and you'll find your assignment.

Why did Jesus say, 'Many are called, but few chosen' (Matthew 20:16 NKJV)? Part of the answer is found in these words: 'I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering' (Isaiah 48:10 NLT). You need more than just a calling - you need character in order to have credibility. And that means spending time in the refiner's fire. Generally speaking, it's not your calling that gets you into trouble; it's your character - or lack of it!

God says: 'I want to see how you respond under pressure. When you want a *yes*, but you have to live with a *no*. When you desire to be in public ministry, but you're assigned to a back room.' God is a wise businessman; he doesn't put untested merchandise in his window. So what 'furnace of suffering' are you in today? Are you feeling the heat of the refiner's fire? If so - rejoice! When you come out, you'll be equipped and ready for service. And *that's* the word for you today!

*"His Banner Over Us is Love"*

*The best advice I can give you for success in business is to read Proverbs*

*The second-best advice I can give you for success in business is to read Proverbs again!*

**Something to ponder**

Dr Norman Campbell offers this maxim –

***"Broke is temporary but being poor is an attitude".***

If your Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills, please note the above maxim and ask for your needs to be met through Him.

Psalm 50.10.

## **How precise is our God**

**Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? Psalm 117**

**Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible? Psalm 119**

**Q: Which chapter is in the centre of the Bible? Psalm 118**

FACTS: There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and there are 594 chapters after Psalm 118

Add the numbers together and you get 1188

What is the centre verse in the Bible? Psalm 118:8.

***"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put your confidence in man".***

**Now isn't that odd how this worked out... or was God in the centre of it?**





## ***The rich man in hell pleads for some relief from Lazarus.***

*Luke 16:19-31*

*But Abraham said, Remember, my son, that in your lifetime you were given all the good things, while Lazarus got all the bad things. But now he is enjoying himself here, while you are in **pain**. Besides all that, there is a deep pit lying between us, so that those who want to cross over to us from here to you cannot do so, nor can anyone cross over to us from where you are.*

*The rich man said, 'Then I beg you, father Abraham, send Lazarus to my father's house, where I have five brothers. Let him go and warn them so that they, at least will not come to this place of pain.'*

Jesus is showing a picture of God's justice and giving the people a clear warning that Hades is not the place that any of us wish to go to. Today in the fast lane it can be hard to convince people that God will send those who reject him to the PIT. We so often hear that God is a God of love.

This is true but some people tend to forget the other sides of Father God's nature. Being true to himself he will indeed punish those who openly come against him as stated in his Word. We need to be more urgent and committed as we do the Lord's work, as Jesus tells us there is a pit that cannot be crossed and those trapped on the other side in death are without hope.

Do you feel a burden for others? If so, let the Holy Spirit guide you and strengthen you for the task ahead. Where there appears to be no way, or no hope for others - let the Lord lead you through and be expectant for without faith we cannot please God.

### **Several sayings by Ron Oastler:**

***If you can't change the people, then change the people!***

***If you can't fire them with enthusiasm, fire them with enthusiasm!***

**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



## The need for fellowship

Men can be strange fellows at times, none more so than when wanting to handle every situation on our own. The Prince of this earth really encourages this macho image so that we do not get together to discuss issues or support each other in times of trouble. We hear the saying in our everyday life (you need to man up!). As we know a problem shared is a problem halved. Being men that are walking with God, we should see the lie of deceit that Satan spreads and we can hopefully assist others during hard times.

We must also realise that the battle for souls goes on day and night and we know the enemy is like rust – it never sleeps! Thankfully, our God never sleeps or slumbers, so we never lack resources when calling on his name. If we think in worldly terms, we can lose our perspective and initiative very quickly because spiritual problems require a spiritual response that will go on not only in a spiritual sense but also affecting the flesh where many problems are manifested.

You will have heard many times about being at the sharp edge of the battle but in FGBMFI we need to be at the "bleeding edge" of the battle if we are going to influence other men who may be going through difficult times or situations beyond their control. In a well-run chapter there should be incredible fellowship with a very HIGH level of trust. It is in this environment that men will share openly and look for answers or support for any issues that they may have. Without a high level of trust, men will not seek your counsel, so we must be real in every part of our lives.

A fruit of trust is the desire to fellowship whenever possible with our brothers in the Lord. I have been at chapter meetings where men have walked in with various needs and chapter members have provided money, food, accommodation and follow up without a blink. You will have experienced these situations in your own chapters but when the rubber meets the road, we need to be visible.

To say that men think differently to women would be an understatement and our problems can grow like mountains because in a worldly sense we do not communicate like most women who have no problem sharing information with other women. We have brothers in FGBMFI who have shared some of their most intimate concerns but were only able to do so because they knew they would receive Godly counsel and support for their problems.

Helping people grow is part of what we do but it must always be with the grace and wisdom of the Holy Spirit so that God is front and centre of what is taking place. When we remember that God gives us every breath we take we can take no credit for anything we do but simply praise his name at being used in His service. Being hearers of the Word and not doers of the Word will see us just being another non-relevant organisation wasting people's time. When men pray together with open hearts God is able to move and we have the joy of seeing his hand at work.

After all testimony is about what God has done in our lives and how blessed we are to receive His grace and relate his grace to others. Does this build trust and faith – unequivocally yes! When starting a chapter committee meeting it is good to start by asking everyone how they are travelling. This may lead into individual prayer before any other business takes place. We need to take care of our members before we can help others.



The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer —

AZ QUOTES