

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALIA)

His banner over me is love - Song of Solomon 2:4 March 2021 Newsletter



From the President's Desk -



There has been much talk about the American election over the past few months and it just won't go away for some time yet. When the population of a nation is divided and everyone seems to have a different opinion on who's right and who's wrong, it's a sure bet that somewhere in the mix Satan is working his deceptive works of division. Mark 3:24-25 "If a Kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand, and if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

We of the so-called free world, have an interest in the political state of America, as it is without a doubt the strongest and most powerful nation, that we believe holds democracy as their fair means of government. Or do they? It is a historical fact that the American constitution was formed and written by their founding fathers; mainly puritans, Bible-believing, God-fearing, praying men that would seek God first before all else.

The America of today is a far cry from the times of the puritans, when the nation as a whole held all things godly in high esteem. Today America aborts one million babies each year, which is nothing but murder in the womb. This is falsely justified by their humanistic worldview driven by the left faction of politics, leading the nation away from God towards a completely totalitarian government. Rigid systems of government by a single party which allows no opposition, and which demands complete obedience to the State. (China)

How did such a powerful nation, as America get into such a diabolical situation? "Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!" (Sir Walter Scott, 1808) Was President Trump right when he called out the fake news propagators? The art of deception is as old as politics itself; we only have to look at how the socialistic Nazi 3rd Reich deceived the German people, leading into the Second World War. Repetitive use of a false statement makes it seem true. "Repeat a lie often enough and it becomes the truth" is a law of propaganda often attributed to the high-ranking Nazi officer Joseph Goebbels.

As Christ's ambassadors, we have a responsibility to hold to the truth, remember Jesus said in **John 14:6.** "I am the way, the truth, and the life." **John 8:31&32** "if you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." To know the truth is to know the facts. **Hosea 4:6** "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Thank God we have the Bible, which is the Word of God and it changes not.

I was reading the book of Daniel and rediscovered some interesting truths around his life, and the life of King Nebuchadnezzar and would like to draw some parallels from it concerning President Trump and the situation in America. The life-saving challenge to Daniel was, would his God reveal to him the King's dream and its interpretation? After gaining extra time from the King to seek God for the secret to the Kings dilemma, Daniel gathered his friends around him to [seek]

mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. The secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven].

Look at Daniel's response: Daniel 2:20-22 "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His, and He changes the time and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him. Thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might and have now made known to me what we asked of You. For You have made known to us the King's demand."

Faced with this major life and death problem Daniel goes home and calls together his friends, men who would intercede with him until God revealed His answer to the King's demand. Praise God, when the answer came Daniel didn't hog the limelight but acknowledged the importance of his fellow intercessors in gaining the revelation of the secret. "Made known to me what we asked of you. For You have made to us the King's demand". In known the above statement, we and us are referring to the whole group of fervent prayers. It is important for us as believers to remember that one part of the Body of Christ receives healing or blessings because of the fervent prayers of the rest of the body.

He removes Kings and raises up Kings. Romans 13:1&2 "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God". Did God's people pray concerning the America elections? If your answer is yes; then how come President Biden won on the day? I put it to you; it must have been God's will.

Why such a man as President Biden? Genesis 6:3 And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years". Some translate the Hebrew verb doon used in this passage not as strive, but rather as a shield. This makes sense to me for God's judgment was going to be swift on the people of that day; God gave them 120 years to repent as Noah was preparing the Ark and warning of the cataclysm to come.

Today one leader can be much like any other leader, but have we experienced in our lifetime a leader like King Nebuchadnezzar? He was not a nice person to be around or under his command, according to scripture, if any opposed him or got out of line; he would throw them alive into a hot fiery furnace. What of his advisors? Under the threat of death for not been able to interpret his dreams. What I got out of this account was that God places such tyrants or ungodly leaders in the position of great power for the explicit purpose of fulfilling His plan.

As Christians, instead of making personal judgements about who should be in power and who shouldn't be, we should be more like Daniel and his friends and spend our time seeking God in fervent prayer for His will to be done. Our nation, the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit aborts about 90,000 babies a year; not that I keep records, but God does and this, as we all know, is an abomination unto our God. It is high time for us saints, to call out to God confessing the sin of this nation, for we do not know how long God is going to shield us before he moves.

Let me suggest that as many as possible join the FGBMFI National Zoom Prayer Meeting on Thursday nights, that like Daniel and his friends we might change the direction this nation is taking, turning from destruction to revival life in Christ Jesus. I believe in the fervent collective prayers of the saints accomplishing much.

God Bless one and all.

Len.



Written by Bob & Debby Gass

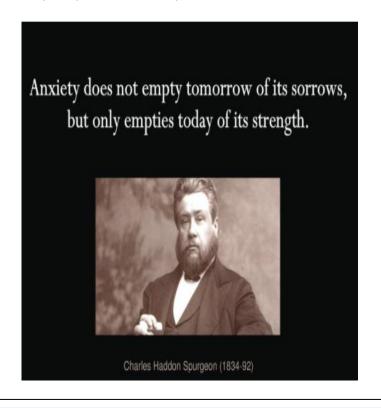
WHAT'S YOUR VISION?

'As in the vision I had seen.' Ezekiel 8:4 NIV

When God gives you a vision it will change your life. John Sculley, former president of PepsiCo and Apple computer said, 'The future belongs to those who see the possibilities before they become obvious.' The Bible tells us God 'calls those things which do not exist as though they did' (Romans 4:17 NKJV). Vision paints the target, lights a fire within you and draws you forward.

If what you're pursuing in life doesn't come from a burning desire within you - from the very depths of who you are and what you believe - you will not be able to accomplish it. Why is that? Because along the way you will have to overcome obstacles, opposition, roadblocks and resistance. Esther's vision meant putting her life on the line to save the Jewish people from annihilation. She said, 'If I perish, I perish' (Esther 4:16 NKJV). Did she perish? No, but she had to be willing to. Are you?

To fulfil your vision you must do two things: (1) Measure yourself. If you've previously thought about your life's vision and articulated it clearly, measure how well you are carrying it out. Talk to those you trust and ask them to tell you what they think your vision is. And if they can articulate it, then you are probably living it. (2) Write it down. 'Write the vision and make it plain...that he may run who reads it' (Habakkuk 2:2 NKJV). Writing clarifies your thinking. Once your vision is in writing, it becomes the road map to your destination. Consult it often and pursue it with all that lies within you. If you do, chances are you will live to see it fulfilled.



<u>Testimony Dinner - Adelaide North</u> Chapter

It is my great pleasure to let you all know the Adelaide North Chapter recently had its first function for the year 2021. We had an Australia Day dinner on Tuesday 26th January at The Navy Clubrooms at Elizabeth, South Australia. It was a great success. As President of the Adelaide North chapter, it was my first official function after being elected to the position at our last AGM in March 2020. With the onset of the Covid 19 virus last year we weren't able to plan any functions due to the pandemic.

God's hands guided us and he provided for us a great evening of fellowship and testimony. We believed for around 45 to 50 guests to attend the evening and God provided us with 64 guests. The cooks did a marvellous job of stretching the food to feed the extra attendees.

Firstly, we sang a wonderful rendition of our National Anthem 3 verses with Denise Hazelwood playing keyboard and Dave Langford accompanying her on his guitar. David-John MacKellar welcomed everyone and after a brief introduction of the original vision given to Demos from The Lord, and Grace by Bevan Hazelwood. Alan Mackenzie shared a bible reading. The parable of the sewer, Luke 8:1-15. We sat down to a very nice meal of Australian hot pot and mash. Some of the guests had a meal of vegetarian curry.

We also had in attendance 15 guests who were from outside of the Kingdom. We had Hindus, an atheist, and some ancestral worshipers. A Hindu family has since chosen to send their children to a Christian school. Praise God and we pray that the school's Christian influence impacts the family.

After the first course was served, we had a short testimony from Dr David Lazarus. President of the Indonesian Adelaide North Chapter. I have included as an attachment a few paragraphs of his story.

As we are celebrating Australian day, it is my honour to share my testimony. When I finished my study in 2018, I was struggling to find out what is God's plan for me and my family. Although, I want to come back to my country, my children did not want it.

Thus, we decided to apply for permanent residency in Australia, as we believe that God has planned everything. However, we faced financial issues as both me and my wife were unemployed in that time. We also realised that this issue was above our capability and therefore, we asked some friends to join us in prayer. As James 5:16 says that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective, we believed that our mighty God would open doors for answering our problem.

Indeed, He provided solutions. He did not come through a spooky voice in the middle of the night, nor send lotto numbers through my dreams. But He sent angels. Yes, I saw real angels, without wing nor halo. The angels were my friends who chipped in \$25, \$50, \$300 to help me. As a result, I am proud to be called as an Australian, as on 20 November 2020 the applications to be Australian citizens for me and my family have been approved.

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Finally, God want us to be an angel for others in our neighbourhood, our workplace, our community or our church. He wants to use us to make His kingdom to be done not only in heaven but also in earth. Through our fellowship like tonight, we will understand issues faced by others and, may, become the angel for them. Following desert of Pavlova, fruit and cream, we were treated to a great testimony from Mr. Felix Ceza, our main speaker for the evening, who at the time was also our newest member. I have also attached a few paragraphs of his story.

My name is FELIX CIZA and I was born in East Africa, in the country called Burundi.

I grew up in Christian home, but I was not a born again Christian. Back the Year 1993, we had a civil war and in 1996 we sought exile in our neighbour country and ended up in a Refugee Camp. In the Year 1999 I was in Secondary School but because of poverty, I left the School and walked no less than 200km on foot to seek money. I found myself getting into bad habits because of bad friends and strangers that I met, such as drinking and smoking even using strong tradition cigarette, seeking of peace of heart.

Some of the jobs required the use of herbs as means of having good luck, which did work at all. I found I was developing sickness such as heavy chest pain and fever that nearly took my life. In 2000 I went back home reconcile with my father. I went back to school, but I failed because of depression and pain that I was going through. My grandpa took me to two witchdoctors to get cleansed as he believed, but it made my situation even worse. My father took me to a Pentecostal prayer warrior who prayed for me and everything was over. From then on, I went, and I started joining my father in prayer and we shared the Word of God together. Praise the Lord, from then my life was totally changed, I am a born again Christian.

It was a great night celebrating our National Day with a wonderful dinner and two great testimonies.

Praise the Lord that the people who were there who didn't have a relationship with Him will remember and think about the goodness and unity of all the guests who attended the dinner. We had some Bibles on display and there were 3 Bibles taken. Praise God that they now belong to someone who will read it and get to know the Lord of all.

Now we are looking forward to our next function. ANZAC day dinner, speaker to be advised.

Blessings to you all. Kind regards, Bevan Hazelwood. President Adelaide North Chapter FGBMFI (Australia)



EVENTS – See webpage for details



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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



John Szilard – Chapter President Blacktown, Sydney

I was born and brought up in Hungary. When at primary school I was taught about God, Jesus and the Bible, I accepted it all without questioning, but didn't take it seriously, until I needed some special help. Then I asked Jesus and He did help. This made me believe that He was real. In high school we were taught that the Bible is the absolutely reliable Word of God, however, when the Church was well established, the age of miracles was finished. I believed that also.

Soon I began to experience unmistakable answers to my prayers, which helped to build up my faith and trust in the Lord. This process continued slowly. At this stage I had no idea what a close relationship with the Lord and life in His power really meant. The time came when my faith was seriously challenged. During the war in 1944 I was in my first year at university when the Soviet army was pursuing the retreating Germans and their allies within Hungary. Men within the age bracket to be called up into military service, but were considered politically unwanted, were thrown into labour camps to support the army, including myself and my cousin. The idea was: use them as long as they can work, but if they won't survive till the end of the war, all the better.

At first, we were stationed in and around the capital, Budapest. However, when the front approached Budapest, we were told that our unit will be transported to somewhere in the West. We anticipated that as Germany will soon be collapsing, there will be turmoil and political mass killings. So, better escape now. God provided a convenient way of escape. We acquired new identities and found a job in a small biscuit bakery in a suburb. For accommodation a relative sent us to an old widow in an outer suburb, who took in lodgers, but she had no vacancy. She sent us on to her friend, who put us up in her lean-to laundry.

Soon the authorities wanted every able-bodied man, who did not have an essential job, to join the army. Our bakery job did not qualify as such, but then we acquired forged documents that we were assistant firemen in another suburb. The next day on the street we met a paramilitary group, who suspected our true identity, promptly captured us and escorted us into their office to check our documents. We were in great danger, because we had also unfinished forged documents in our pockets.

First, we showed genuine documents, but their leader suspected them to be forgeries. At the same time another henchman interrogated a lad also captured. After being beaten he admitted, he was an escaped labour camper. They told him he would be hanged. Then we showed another genuine paper certifying where we stayed, signed by our landlord and authenticated by the local police. At that moment the face of our interrogator turned into a friendly smile: "I see you're O.K. I am sorry." We were free!! Praise the Lord!! What happened, was that our landlord was a trusted friend of this mob. Unbeknown to us the Lord had led us into a lion's den and hid us behind the lion's back! In this way He had made arrangements for our rescue long before we got into this danger.

By then the besieging army advanced much faster at the opposite side of the city, in the area where a friend of our parents lived. We rang him up and he agreed to have us, so we decided to move over there. In the meantime, aerial and artillery bombardment intensified, and all public transport ceased; people had to walk. On our way we had to cross a bridge over the river Danube and the bridgehead was guarded by a sentry. After our incident with the paramilitary mob this looked dangerous. About 2 metres in front of us two soldiers were walking and chatting, turned to each other. Seeing their faces, we were frozen stiff with terror: they were part of the team guarding us in the camp! What now? Turning round suddenly and going back would attract the sentry's attention. We looked to the Lord for guidance and He answered, "Keep going." We trusted Him and went on.

The soldiers stopped at the sentry and discussed something. So, we walked past behind their backs, unnoticed. Praise the Lord!! After some other dangerous incidents, the war was over. When I returned home, I found that my parents have been abducted by armed men and were never seen again. Our house was ransacked. At the age of 19 I had to start a new life, making a living, also looking after my ageing grandmother and somehow continue my university studies. This was only made possible by the Lord's ongoing help. By the time I graduated, the communists were firmly in power, making life again more difficult. *Continued...*.......