



FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALIA)

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

May 2021 Newsletter

Editor - Tony Vaughan



From the President's Desk -



TRIBUTE TO GRAHAM EAGLE
National President FGBMFI New Zealand

And there were giants in the land of Canaan that put fear into the hearts of God's people, which prevented them from taking the Promised Land. Then there was a giant of a man among men in the nation of New Zealand, that overcame all of life's problems and all that the devil could throw at him; proving that if only each of us pressed into God, we could overcome the obstacles that we face in our daily lives.

There are many good books written on how to overcome adversity, but they are only words on pages that are seldom read by those who are facing such trials, tribulation, difficulties, hardships, misfortune, or harsh conditions. This man, Graham Eagle, was the spectacle by which many fallen souls saw Jesus. **1 Corinthians 4:9** puts it this way "*For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and men*". A scene from the coliseum in Rome; the procession of the condemned Christians going to be executed, the apostles last as spectacles in this horrid parade of death.

Graham's life, from the outset, had been tempered by the assortment of difficulties he had to overcome, but instead of wallowing in the bog of despondence, he reached out to God for full salvation, was born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. Graham got on serving God in newness of life with resurrection power, quietly and unassumingly moving forward, doing the good and perfect will of God.

I for one was spiritually stirred when I first heard Graham Eagle's life testimony at a Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International Annual Convention here in Australia. I thought I knew Graham from the few times I had met him, but how wrong I was. Here on our speaker's stand, was a true man of God with all the attributes and grit that can only come to men who have fully submitted themselves to God. This man of God was the real deal and there is much we can learn from him, even though he has gone to his well-earned reward in the presence of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

My observation of this leader of men: As National President FGBMFI New Zealand he had a unique manner of leadership that chapter Presidents here in Australia would do well to emulate. I first encountered what could be misconstrued as Graham's laid-back mannerism at the En Hakkore men's camp South Island New Zealand. I was invited to their Dominion Council meeting the day before the camp, where he openly shared and allowed me to share. He did not run the meeting from the front so to speak, but had John Spiers their National Administrator, conducting business.

During the camp itself I was the speaker for the weekend. Now there were a lot of great prayer meetings conducted by good godly men out of their ranks, men like Mike Bunt and others who knew their God and how to flow in the Holy Spirit. I found that at each of these prayer meetings they would start praying what I was going to be speaking on throughout the day. (Strange? Not really.)

At the conclusion of each session there would be an altar call and the men would come out for prayer. God was moving and many men were being set free. Prayers were being answered as men were praying for each other and the Holy Spirit's presence was everywhere in the room. Graham was sitting quietly in the front row of seats, keeping a weather eye on all that was transpiring. My first thought was, nowhere is a man of God that has full confidence in his own abilities and the outstanding abilities of his leadership team. Yes, a true man of God that didn't control or dominate the spiritual ministry time during the altar call, but willingly allowed the members to do the majority of the laying on of hands and praying. Thereby giving the men the privilege of not only praying for each other, but also the added joy of feeling the Holy Spirit's power flowing through them.

God the great potter and restorer of our souls, had taken a broken vessel and made of it a true giant among men, an anointed leader. **Psalm 23** says it all concerning Graham.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His namesake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Thank you, Brother, for being our friend and sharing your God-given life of leadership, love and grace with so many of us. We look forward to meeting again at the first resurrection.



Gone to Glory 16 April 2021

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:23

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Written by Bob & Debby Gass

A Lifestyle of prayer

'Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.' Matthew 21:22 NKJV

You say, 'If God loves me and knows what I need, why should I have to ask him for it?' Because prayer means talking to God and listening to God, which leads to building a *relationship* with him. Jesus said, 'Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you' (Matthew 6:33 NKJV). When your prayers are based on your relationship with God, your needs get met. When you love God and spend time with him, his Word says: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit' (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NLT).

Did you get that? God has a level of blessing in mind for you that your natural eye can't see, nor your natural mind can comprehend. And when you pray, he reveals things to you by his Spirit. When that happens, your faith grows and you're able to receive what God wants you to have. So develop a lifestyle of prayer - praying all the time, everywhere you go, in the midst of your daily routine. 'Casting all your care upon him, for he cares for you' (1 Peter 5:7 NKJV). God cares about every detail of your life.

So when you become anxious about something, talk to him about it. And don't forget to read his Word. That way when a problem comes up you can say, 'Father, you said in your Word you would do this for me,' then quote the promise and stand on it.



The Sniff Test.

From Daniel Wright our National Treasurer

As a graduate accountant working in one of the top firms in Brisbane, the Audit Partner I worked for would ask me this simple question when I would present a file for review: Does it pass the sniff test? What he was asking was, did you take a step back and look at what you actually calculated, does it look right, does it pass the reasonableness test and finish up close to your expectations? During my time there I presented a file that did not pass his sniff test, it was quickly identified, and I was asked to go back and check my work with some guidance on what to work on.

In a similar way Christ's Kingdom operates using this God given sense and I believe it is closely linked to the gift of discernment. It says in 2 Corinthians 2:15-17, ¹⁵For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. ¹⁷For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

There are 3 parties here:

- God;
- Those who are saved; and
- Those who are perishing.

I love the fact that when our aroma reaches God our Father, He smells Christ. I don't get a mental picture of Him going around sniffing us, but

rather a fragrance catches His attention, and he turns to see who it is. Do you know those times when a fragrance captures your attention? A personal favourite is when I get home from work and as I step out of the car I am greeted with the smell of roasting meat (I am sitting here thinking of a roast lamb, can you smell it?). As I approach the door the smell gets stronger, and I am overjoyed the smell is coming from my house and not wafting in from the neighbours.

I have to think to myself what part of Christ actually gives off this fragrance? Is it His aftershave, I think not, I believe it is his Righteousness.

That's right, you know the Robe of Righteousness He gave you when you unloaded all your sin onto Him at Calvary? This transition from filthy rags to clean to a Robe of Righteousness, makes me think of Joseph in Genesis 41:14. He was taken from the dungeon and brought to Pharaoh; he was given a shave, and a change of clothes, because there was no way he was to be brought before Pharaoh stinking of his prison clothes. Imagine how good he would have smelt after being 2 years in the stinking dungeon. I don't know how often the laundry was done for the prisoners...

The second party is those who are saved, for those of us who are saved and those who are to be saved, this is the "aroma of life leading to life." The smell of life, some of the images that pop to mind when I read this is the smell of a new born, and the smell of flower gardens in spring. Both of these are encouraging, refreshing for the soul, just like a fellow believer who gives off the aroma of Christ. It is a familiar smell and a desired smell.

The third party is in contrast to the second and is those who are perishing or don't have Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. When they catch a whiff of you, you can see they are repulsed, unphased or uncomfortable. The gospel is offensive and can be offensive to the ear and to the nose. Sometimes you don't have to say a word to evoke such a response. To these people the only course of action is to pray for them and share our testimony with the thread of Gospel woven throughout it. To those who do not believe, they are already condemned and despite being offered life, they see it as a form of death towards all they like and desire. Now sin is sweet for a short while, but the fruit is bitter. The ignorance that the end of the way is death does not seem to be enough of a deterrent to change their ways. I pray that everyone who reads this will be conscious of their spiritual aroma as much as their physical aroma and keep their Robe clean by keeping a short account with the Father. 1 John 1:2 says, "And if any man sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Earlier I mentioned that the sense of smell is related to the gift of discernment. It is that spiritual quickening that hits you like a bad smell and makes your senses aware of who you are dealing with. Questions for reflection: How is your robe of righteousness, is it clean and still smell like new?

Do you keep a short account with God and confess your sins quickly to get the stains off your robe?

Are there times when you have had your senses/discrimmation quickened? Did you smell the smell of death in their actions, actions or motives whose end is destruction?

Remember to take discernment with you to business dealings and when meeting new people...

God Bless



Testimony from Greg Biddell

Testimony – Saraman the Man who stilled the storm.

Mark 4:38-39 But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.



When it comes to seeing miracles, faith is an important part of the equation, but it is not the only segment that brings about a perfect result. When I was a Bible School student, I thought I had 'faith' all worked out. Doesn't the Bible say, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God?"

Because I had grown up in the church as a child and constantly heard the Word over and over, I automatically assumed, my faith level had grown to a mammoth level. However, just like in mathematics, there is more to solving an equation than just one segment of the calculation. I've always concluded that faith and doubt are forever battling it out for supremacy. During my teenage years at youth camp, we would play a game known as tug-a-war. I learnt it wasn't the team who had the most faith that won the challenge, but the team who possessed the most power.

During our time as missionaries in Papua New Guinea, I met a local Christian man who became a pastor. His name was Saraman and he believed everything he was taught from the Bible. He loved the stories of Jesus and the miracles that He performed. One afternoon, Saraman came to a pastor's Bible study and heard the story where Jesus calmed the storm. A couple of weeks later, he accompanied one of our missionaries as an interpreter at a village in Moikepa. It was a long and difficult trail back to the mission. They had to walk over two very high mountains and cross two rivers.

After the service was over, the weather began to develop into a tropical monsoon and my missionary friend (John) decided to out-pace his faith believing counterpart. John arrived back to the mission station drenched. Sometime later, Saraman walked in through the mission gates as dry as a bone. A short time later, Saraman and Roy, another missionary went on a similar expedition. The rain came and Roy took off like a Jack-Rabbit. He'd heard about Saraman's testimony how he rebuked the rain and stilled the storm, but just like John, Roy ran ahead and was drenched to the skin by the time he reached the gates. Of course, our local hero who believed God, again had commanded the rain to stop and it had.

I'd heard about these two miraculous events and couldn't wait to witness this move of God like the disciples had experienced in the Bible with Jesus. When the opportunity came for me to accompany Saraman, I leapt at it with eager anticipation. The Moikepa Church was located on the side of a mountain, just a hundred meters from the river in the Valley. After the service had finished, we came out of the church and could hear the roaring of the wind and pounding of the rain on the water below as it was making its way across the river. I looked at the tempest and then looked at Saraman and made one of the smartest decisions I'd ever made.

I turned my man of faith around to face the storm and then grabbed both his arms and stretched them out towards the oncoming storm. I remembered the Bible says that people of faith can command mountains to be removed and to be cast into the sea. On that day, Saraman did not let me down. With a commanding voice, in his own dialect, he demanded the storm to go and to leave us alone and it obeyed. What a miracle!

For the next couple of hours, we walked together without one drop of rain falling upon us. It was like walking under a huge umbrella. We could see the rain around us all the time, but it never once harassed our journey. My question was, how could a man who had never been to school or Bible School, a man who had only seen his first white person just a few years before, possess the power and authority to still the storm like Jesus did? I have concluded that many Christians may possess a greater amount of Bible knowledge than that of my New Guinea interpreter. However, in mathematical terms, Saraman possessed a small amount of pure faith with absolutely no doubt. Whereas his long-term Christian counterparts in the Western World may have built up a storage pile of ten tonnes of faith, but it is sometimes buried under twelve-tonnes of doubt and unbelief.

John 14:12-14 12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

EVENTS – See webpage for details



May 2021 Newsletter

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...

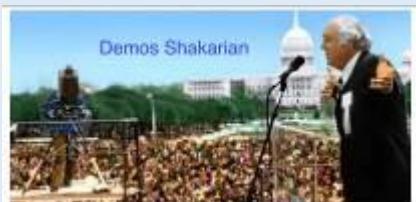
Impacting our leaders and our culture.

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

In our Bible study fellowship, we gradually learned a great deal about life in the Spirit from Scripture passages which in my school days were never taught, in sermons never preached. We learnt also much about using the gifts of the Spirit and spiritual warfare in practice. Here are a few examples.

A student of mine developed such a bad duodenal ulcer, that in spite of two operations, medication, and dieting, he suffered a lot. After our ministering, the Lord healed him. A friend of one of us was deeply depressed even after two stints in hospital. Following ministering, she threw away her tablets and never looked back. We were driving with Klara from England to Spain to attend a conference in Madrid.

Approaching the French/Spanish border I had to pump the brakes more and more to make them work, a sure sign of imminent complete failure. It was Saturday noon and not much chance to have the faulty part replaced before Monday, yet we had to arrive in Madrid by Sunday night. After prayer I felt Jesus saying: "Keep going. I am with you, nothing will happen." So, we drove on, through mountains, Madrid streets, after the conference to holiday resort, back home, about 3000 km, without any hitch.

A professor colleague of mine suddenly acted in an unreasonable way, obstructing the work of many of us. With a Christian colleague, we recognised Satan's hand in the matter and bound him in the name of Jesus. Within a few days the professor came back completely changed and all problems were fixed in a friendly atmosphere. When his marriage blew up, a student of mine asked me in despair to help. They were devout Buddhists from the Far East. I passed their problem on to Jesus, then had a counselling session with them. After a Spirit-led 90 minutes they left as a newlywed Christian couple with tears of joy. Three months later they were baptised. A friend rang me. His sister was in hospital with liver cancer and two days before, the doctor gave her three days to live. She couldn't eat and was only sustained by intravenous drip-feed. She was terrified, asking everyone possible to pray for her. I felt Jesus wanted me not to simply pray for her, but with her, indeed, to minister to her. We asked her, she agreed, and we visited her the next day.

She had been a Christian but married an atheist and gradually neglected God. She was extremely weak, obviously very close to death. After prayers and Bible reading, we laid our hands on her and anointed her with oil in the name of Jesus. After three days she began to eat, gaining strength. After three weeks she was home, walking up and down the stairs unaided! Praise the Lord! However, she didn't quite grasp what had really happened. Two months later my friend invited her, her husband and me for tea. After more prayers, Bible reading and discussion they both embraced Jesus as their Lord and Saviour! There were too many interesting incidents to describe here. As the years went by, I began thinking about retiring and at last leaving Europe for Australia.

I already had a few relatives there. In the meantime, our son, Paul, grew up and met a girl from New Zealand, whom he soon married. We all went to New Zealand for the wedding, then had a holiday in Australia. There Paul looked round for a job and found one which suited him ideally and the manager agreed to wait for him to arrange immigration. In the following year, I took an opportunity to retire at Christmas three years early, so we could follow them.

Jesus arranged everything like clockwork. Our immigration was approved much faster than we expected and when we put our house on the market, the estate agent found a buyer even before the first advert appeared. There was one hitch: my Head of Department insisted that I should work till the end of the academic year, i.e., the end of next June, but this was a blessing in disguise. I received my salary for another six months and had time to fight successfully for the redundancy payment I was entitled to.

Because of the arrangements we had already made, we had to leave before Christmas, and I was to return early January and stay with a friend. In Sydney we stayed with Paul while looking for a house. We found a nice house at an affordable price in a nice and convenient location, and we signed the contract about an hour before I had to go to the airport.
Continued.....