



**From the President's Desk -**



**WITH RESURRECTION POWER**

As your National President I have always been a devout follower of Demos Shakarian's God-given vision and will continue to do so, but of late I have been thinking, isn't it time we had a vision of our own for Australia? The theme of our National Zoom Prayer meeting 16 Sep 2021 was "A fresh vision for our Nation." During the evening, the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt, and Forde Blackwell challenged me to cast a fresh vision whilst the participants prayed in other tongues. My response was "I love you to Forde" and it was left at that until God started to nudge me in the direction of a fresh vision. So come Saturday night 24 Sep 2021 with restless sleep, I got these words: "with resurrection power." Please indulge me further as I lay out what I think this is all about.

Full Gospel Business Men without knowledge of the resurrection, are what I would refer to as powerless Christians; good people with a form of godliness but lacking the power thereof. That said, let us look at the meaning of the Resurrection Power of Christ Jesus.

Without a doubt, the greatest spiritual change the world has ever known was the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. The whole of Christianity hinges on these three; what mighty power was in play to accomplish these for the benefit of mankind? Without the crucifixion there would have been no resurrection; without the resurrection there would have been no ascension; I might at a later date write on the other two, but for this article, I will try hard to stay with the resurrection.

The major problem I see in modern-day Christianity isn't the lack of power, it's the lack of knowledge of how to function in resurrection power. In our homes we have power points that drive all sorts of appliances, but if we didn't push the plug into the socket and turn on the switch nothing would work. We learn about electricity and how it works by experiencing it; have you ever had an electric shock? Through that shocking experience I learnt to respect electricity. In the same way, resurrection power is to be experienced by the believer.

**Romans 6:4-5** *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so, we also should walk in newness of life, for if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.* Soon after being born again, baptism for me was knowing that Christ's blood sacrificed on the Cross at Calvary had paid the full price of my sin, setting me free to walk in newness of life. **2 Corinthians 5:17** *therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* That was it for me; the old man who had been dead in trespass and sin had been buried with Christ Jesus; that the new man could rise up out of his watery grave as a new creation

walking in a completely new life. **Philippians 1:21** *for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* I came to Christ bankrupt in both heaven and earth, and God through the power of Jesus's resurrection, restored all that Satan had taken from me.

**John 11:25-26** *Jesus said to her. "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? Jesus's statement "I am the resurrection and the life" leaves us in no doubt that he can raise us from death and destruction, turning our shattered lives into productive ones. When we are reaching out to lost souls, we have the assurance that what Jesus did for us He can and will do for others.*

**Philippians 3:10** *That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection...* It's not enough to know about him, we need to know him, to have a personal intimate relationship with him, for he is the lover of our souls. And to know him is to know the power of his resurrection. Yes! To walk the lives he has prepared for us in complete victory. For we are made complete in him and there is no obstacle that we can't overcome in his resurrection power. In him, we are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the spiritual and physical realms; here on earth and in the life to come.

**Romans 8:11** *"But if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you. He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. The adjective "mortal" equals earthly bodies, so here we have an encouraging word that the Spirit of our living God wants to and can give our earthly bodies a new Spiritual life. We refer to this as the resurrection power of Christ Jesus. As we continue our spiritual walk with Jesus, he upsills us to the degree that we know, speak and walk in his resurrection power. Therefore, sin is overcome, sickness and disease conquered, marriages restored, finances put in order. Resurrection power is the Spirit of God, the life of God and the power of God. We will not be defeated by any principality, power or weapon that Satan throws at us for we walk in and minister in the resurrection power of Jesus, which is the power of Almighty God, the power that knows no defeat.*

**John 14:12-14** *"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.* What sort of Christians are we, glass full or glass half full? It's only the glass full Christians that will get this. If we understand what Jesus was saying, then the greater works are done by glass full Christians and the lesser than these is what the half glass Christians get done. Jesus didn't stop at the cross, He rose again in resurrection power.

**Acts 1:8** *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* Please, as Full Gospel Business Men, it is time for us to seek a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live our lives and minister in the resurrection power of Christ Jesus.

I was encouraged by the unity in our AGM. When we the people of God dwell in such unity, it is then that the Lord commands the blessing. Let us maintain unity and walk and serve God in resurrection power.

Len.



Written by Bob & Debby Gass

## GIVING BRINGS RECEIVING

2 Corinthians 9:6 NKJV

Jim Penner says: 'It was a cold snowy day as my mother drove my sister and me to church. Living at the bottom of the Rocky Mountains I'd become accustomed to slipping and sliding. I remember my mother being tense...and hoping she'd have enough traction to make the curve without ploughing into the semi-truck ahead. Her tyres were bald, and new ones were low on our priority list that included food and shelter.

As Mom placed a cheque in the offering that day, I remember thinking there were better uses for those funds. Yet here she was tithing! Surely God would understand we had so many needs at home. But there was a contentment about her...a peace that passed understanding as she gave to the Lord cheerfully and gratefully...

After the service a church elder walked over to her and said, "I see your tyres are bald...come by my shop tomorrow and I'll give you some snow tyres." Mom said, "But I can't pay you." "No problem," he replied, "I just want to help. That day I witnessed two levels of giving: Mom with her offering, and a kind man who wanted to help another human being.'

Big things come from little things, and 'he who sows bountifully will...reap bountifully' (2 Corinthians 9:6 NKJV). As John Mason observes, 'The miraculous realm of God always has to do with multiplication...Suppose a kernel of corn produces one stalk with two ears, and each ear has 200 kernels. From those 400 kernels come 400 stalks with 160,000 kernels...all from a single kernel. Some blessings are material, some spiritual. We don't always know what we need most, but God does, and a generous spirit opens the floodgates of Heaven.'



"I'm not the King. Jesus Christ is the King. I'm just an entertainer"

*A series of true stories compiled by John Wright – FGBMFI UK*

## An Awesome Encounter

### The story of Neville Jayaweera in Sri Lanka

I was born to a Buddhist family in Colombo and educated at a Christian Missionary College. This gave me a fierce prejudice against Christianity. I then joined the Ceylon Civil Service to start a meteoric career. I worked 16 hours a day, treated my subordinates with ruthless intolerance, and rose to become Government Agent in the Northern Province.

Then the Prime Minister appointed me Director General of the Ceylon Broadcasting Authority. I had reached the top! But then disaster struck. At the Election in May 1970 the Trade Union dominated Opposition came to power. They saw me as their enemy, bringing charges against me, so I had to resign. My ego was crushed, and my pride was shattered. I was full of resentment and bitterness, so I tried Yoga meditation. But when I closed my eyes, I saw a man in a long robe with his hands outstretched towards me. I knew it was Jesus. Despite my previous antipathy, I cried out, 'My Lord, forgive me.'

Then the dam burst, and I fell into uncontrollable sobbing. The next morning, I felt light as a feather, clean inside as if a well of fetid pus going back so many years had been drained away. At last, I was experiencing joy! Then confirmation came that this was indeed the work of Jesus Christ whom I had hated. A Christian friend of the family wrote to say I had been on his mind. He enclosed Francis Thompson's poem, *The Hound of Heaven*, that described where I had been, fleeing from God. I was now driven by an overpowering desire to proclaim Christ. This led to much persecution and harassment.

Finally, the Royal Commission, that had been investigating all the complaints against me, completely cleared my name so that glowing tributes were paid about me in Parliament. Now we have moved to England and enjoy a happy and contented family life. All this thanks to that awesome encounter when I met the Saviour of the world who died even for sinners like me!



FGBMFI (Australia) Business Tips

**Appreciating the Big Picture**

Some years ago, I was managing a large law firm and we had some very large commercial clients in the city. One of these clients was starting a new company by a way of a joint venture with an overseas country in relation to deep sea commercial fishing. Our senior commercial manager was appointed to the board of this new company, and it had been in its setup phase over the last few months. The senior commercial partner was concerned that there did not seem to be progress or activity happening at the company. He asked me to go and find out what was going on (he often asked me to do this with some of the firm commercial clients who were not travelling well, and to find out where the problems lay) ...

I made a visit of the site and most things seemed to be in order until I visited the company head office. The manager of the new company had successfully run his own company before taking up this new role and was known to me personally. I was greeted by an array of Mac Computers (dozens of them) and he said that he went for the Mac suite because that was what he and the staff's preference was. I asked him where was the software to run the fishing operating programs? He informed me that software was being written and would be here soon. I then asked how long they had been working on the new software, his reply was about a month, and they had not seen anything to date.

I said to him this could take months before it was even BETA tested. I said my advice would be to take out the Mac's and put in IBM mini main frames and Microsoft PC's and software, as they already had programs for the fishing industry (production and inventory). I pointed out to him that every day they did not process was costing the company thousands in non-productivity like fishing boats sitting idle, wages, power, and rent etc. He said that everyone liked the Mac's, and he would stick with it. I reported back to the senior commercial partner in our firm.

Ron Oastler has many great sayings and one of them is **"If you can't change the person, then change the person"** and that's what happened. The new computer equipment was brought in, and the Mac's were taken out. The company began catching fish and exporting some weeks later. It may seem strange, but the manager did not see or appreciate the big picture, as time and money are very important for any startup company if they wish to succeed – he also lacked a real sense of urgency. You all know the old saying "can't see the wood for the trees" so if you are having problems in your business that you cannot resolve, it may be prudent to ask someone you know and trust to look at the problem with you.

Tony



*Stewys Views*



V I C T O R Y

And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee.

Jeremiah 1:19

## 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



## **My Name Was on a Federal Most-Wanted List** - By Richard D. Mangone

Continued... Temptations bombard you. Sex is always an issue. In my case God froze my sexual feelings, and I can only explain it as a miracle. The Holy Spirit empowered me to control my body. Other inmates and the guards watch you closely, waiting for your fall. Some mock you and avoid being around you. I was even accused of being too happy. While working in the prison kitchen, I saw inmates steal food and utensils. Informing on them would mark you as a rat and leave you vulnerable to violent retribution. But God always sheltered me from harm.

And of course, you miss family. My mother and wife died during my incarceration. I was not allowed to attend Mary's funeral, even though I was allowed to work outside the prison fence and was not considered a flight risk. Through it all, I would spend two to three hours studying the Bible each day, supplemented by hours of prison-ministry courses on the weekends. This gave me the strength to grow and never give up. I began teaching courses to inmates and preaching to the prison's Spanish congregation, with one of my cellies translating.

Leaving prison six years ago opened up a host of possibilities for serving God. Today, at 75, I volunteer with the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services System, counselling men in federal and state prisons. I've given talks about how to survive prison to as many as 100 convicted felons and their families. In 2016, I founded Bezalel Prison Ministries to help ex-offenders readjust to civilian life.

As I reflect back, I can see how a dollar sign sat on the throne of my heart for many years. But Jesus sits on that throne today. I relinquished my life to him. Each day, as I am guided by the Holy Spirit, I am continually reminded it is Christ who rules and not me. Prison gave me the opportunity to grow in Christ and to finally become the person God wanted me to be. In the future, I hope to minister to as many prisoners as I can, especially white-collar criminals who are so susceptible to attempting suicide. What remains of my life is dedicated to the Lord's work. I'm at peace now, enjoying the fruits of helping others.

