



From the Vice President's Desk -



Len is still having time out but we hope to see him back in February.

Some years ago, I was the Timaru Chapter President in New Zealand, and our Vice President was Errol. Errol was a professional musician and had his own band for over 40 years. The band was called Solid Gold and they were very much in demand for their middle of the road music. I was managing a law firm at the time and Errol and I would meet most days for a coffee in the morning at Robert Harris Coffee Shop. Other chapter members would join us regularly, as we discussed what was happening in the city.

This was a time when we saw many come to the Lord. Errol was probably the best Vice President you could wish for, always there contributing and supporting myself and the chapter. In most of our public meetings Errol and two others (Tamara and Dean) would sing some songs as people came before the meeting started. Some guests said they were there only to hear Errol and his small group play. In short, Errol was closer than a brother and a very loyal friend. My wife Roberta was managing the Timaru Hospice at this time, and they had beautiful gardens where I would come sometimes and have lunch with her in the gardens.

One day a lady (Carolyn) from church came past and asked me why I was not down South with Errol. I said I did not know Errol had gone anywhere and said that Bronwyn (Errol's wife) would be with him. Carolyn said that Errol had gone on his own. Instantly I had a check in my spirit wondering what was going on. I rang Errol straight away and when he answered I asked where he was.

Errol said that he was standing on a cliff and was asking God to help him jump off! Well, a thousand thoughts went racing through my mind and I had no clue in the world that my brother was very depressed. With all the calm I could muster and praying silently, I said to Errol that God did not want him to jump off that cliff and I suggested he go to Ken Taylor's place. Ken was the Chapter President of the Wanaka Chapter and a retired wrestler who fought professionally in the UK and in New Zealand; he also featured in the television series 'On the Mat'.

Ken lived about a hundred miles away from where Errol was currently. Errol hung up and I had no idea what he would do so I rang Ken and explained the situation to him and asked him to ring me if Errol arrived. I then rang Bronwyn and explained what was happening and that I would let her know if I heard anything, leaving her in a state of shock. Some hours later Errol arrived at Ken's, and he put Errol to bed and called the doctor. I let Bronwyn know, and she set off to be with Errol. After a few days Bronwyn brought Errol home to Timaru. A few days later I went round to visit Errol to see how he was doing. It may

have been a callous question, but I wanted to know what stopped Errol jumping. Errol looked me straight in the eye and said – Tony, there were two reasons. Firstly, I had turned my phone off and the second reason is, you and I both know there is no cell-phone coverage in that remote area, so I knew that it had to be God. There were a number of what if's e.g. like what if I had not had dinner with Roberta that day; what if Carolyn had not passed at that exact time; what if Errol had not answered his phone...God is never early, and he is never late, always arriving on time! Errol took about a year to come right with good care from Bronwyn and regular visits from the guys, plus having chapter committee meetings in Errol's home. Errol and I still communicate regularly and know that we serve an awesome God.

Errol's favourite verse when he reflects on what happened is Psalm 34:15-17:

15 the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

16 the face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 the righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

So men, whatever your situation or, wherever you are, God has always got your number – Tony

Business tips from the Mercer PR Blog

RE-EMPHASISING TRUST

I recently heard about a survey that found 9 out of 10 people will deal with someone they trust but don't like, over someone they like but don't trust. Trust is the cornerstone of all relationships, personal and business.

I have written before of the importance of every company and organisation building their "trust bank". Your stakeholders need to trust you - staff, suppliers, clients, potential clients, neighbours, industry contacts, and others. Trust is built by:

- 1) Putting procedures in place that protects stakeholders and benefits customers; and
- 2) Telling them about it.

At some stage you will face an issue that can potentially damage your reputation - it's guaranteed. When that time comes, your ability to successfully deal with the issue is directly proportional to the amount of trust you have built. During times of crisis, you need your clients, suppliers, employees and others to believe you. **They will - if they trust you first.**

The most expensive in the world is

TRUST

It can take YEARS to EARN and

Just a matter of SECONDS to LOSE....



Written by Bob & Debby Gass
Reasons for discontent

'They have dug...cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!
Jeremiah 2:13 NLT

Let's take a moment to understand some of the reasons for discontent: (1) *Looking for happiness in the wrong places.* God said: 'My people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me - the fountain of living water. And...dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all' (Jeremiah 2:13 NLT)! There is an emptiness inside you that only God can fill, and he will, if you invite him in.

(2) *Failure to serve others.* How we treat others is often a reflection of how we feel about ourselves. Philosopher-poet Eric Hoffer said: 'The remarkable thing is that we really love our neighbour as ourselves: we do unto others as we do unto ourselves. We hate others when we hate ourselves. We are tolerant towards others when we tolerate ourselves. We forgive others when we forgive ourselves. We are prone to sacrifice others when we are ready to sacrifice ourselves. It is not only love of self but hatred of self which is at the root of the troubles that afflict our world.'

(3) *Comparing ourselves with others.* Paul writes, 'Rejoice with those who rejoice' (Romans 12:15 NIV). When you resent someone else's achievements or blessing, joy drains out of your life like a sieve. The Bible says: 'For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them... Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour' (Romans 12:4-10 ESV).

SALVATION PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Your Son, Jesus. I admit that I am separated from You because of my sins, and I want to be right with You. Thank you for forgiving me of all my sins because of what Jesus did for me... "who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness- -by whose stripes you were healed." (1 Peter 2:24) The Bible says "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10) I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that Jesus was raised from the dead for my justification. I confess Jesus as my Lord & Saviour. I am now saved! Thank You Father God! Thank You Lord Jesus! Thank You Holy Spirit!



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

Extreme Riches

A Report from Hmong Christians in South East Asia 'These trials have come so that your faith— of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed'. 1 Peter 1:7 Believers in the Hmong tribe of Southeast Asia want to encourage Christians in the West. One of them said: "The Communist authorities feel threatened because so many Hmong people are Christians.

They beat the Christians to try to force them to return to their worship of evil spirits. The local police forbade us to become Christians. They threatened to put us in jail and even kill us." Then a woman added. "But if we have to die for Christ's sake, we are willing." These believers are willing to put themselves in even greater danger to let the world know they are standing strong in the face of persecution. The Hmong tribe is the largest of Southeast Asia and is experiencing the greatest growth of Christianity. It is also one of the most persecuted people groups. Another woman said, "I thank God that we have remained strong. I do believe that the persecution is just a test of our faith in Christ.

It brings out the true riches. It brings out the silver and the gold. Just pray that we will be faithful to the end." Steel is strengthened through a tempering process—heated to extreme temperatures, beaten, and cooled. Then the process is repeated again and again, heating and beating the impurities away. A similar tempering process strengthens our faith. When we are heated by hatred from others, beaten by persecution, and then cooled by the gentle reassurance of God's presence, our impurities are driven out and our faith strengthened. Have you recognized the tempering process in your life? Don't resist any part of it. Learn from your brothers and sisters in the Hmong tribe. Your enemies will make you stronger as a result of their hatred.

Confirmed by Tongues

The story of Rev. Ralph Goldenberg A Jewish follower of Jesus was having second thoughts about being ordained into the Church of England ministry when he got the surprise of his life. A message in tongues was given during a home meeting which Ralph Goldenberg immediately recognised as Sudanese Arabic. Having grown up in Sudan, with the ability to speak several languages, he knew exactly what it meant.

And it could not have been a clearer confirmation of his calling. "Allah be'hebak – Inta min al dam beta Ibrahim – Al Angiel fi fomak" which translates as: "God loves you. You are from the blood of Abraham. The gospel is in your mouth." The speaker hadn't even realised he had spoken a real (as opposed to an angelic) language. He then gave an interpretation of what he had said, as instructed by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:27: "You are to proclaim the gospel and bring my people to the kingdom."

This miraculous incident sparked the beginning of a very fruitful 20-year ministry for the Rev Goldenberg, a former optometrist. **As recorded in his autobiography, 'Find the Truth and Lock it in Your Heart.'** www.creativebooksolutions.com

FGBMFI Business Tips

THE NEW LEADER'S FIRST 100 DAYS - compiled by Don Myers

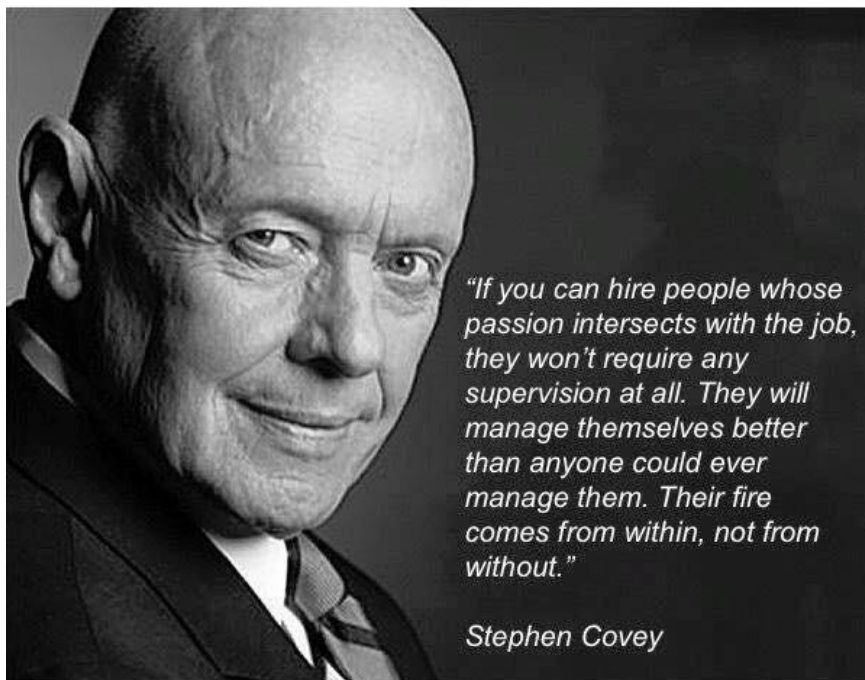
Whether you're a new CEO, a new team leader, or the President of the U.S., the pressure to descend from the mountain and present the Tablets of Truth can be overwhelming. It is also a trap. The first thing you ought to do if you're the new person in charge is **nothing!**

Resist the temptation to 'Hit the Ground Running.' It is almost certain to be wrong. One, you don't know as much as you think you know. And if you start off by imposing your views on people, you're not going to have what you most need when you most need it—namely, the commitment of the people you need to get the work done. A new leader is in a temporary state of incompetence.

Your most important tool is an open and questioning mind and manner. It's your one chance to ask stupid questions!

EIGHT RULES (AN AGENDA FOR THE FIRST 100 DAYS)

1. LISTEN. Ask open-ended questions and force yourself to listen, really listen, to what they say. That means not talking.
2. RESIST THE SAVIOR SYNDROME. This is not the time to announce a bold new strategy or 'vision.'
3. KEEP IT SIMPLE. When people are deluged with long lists of priorities and action plans, their eyes glaze over and inaction reigns. But when they are given a couple of concrete priorities wrapped inside a clear and simple theme, they can move ahead with purpose, leaving room for individual imagination and experience to fill in the details.
4. HIT PAUSE. When posed with a good question wait a beat. If you don't have the answer, promise to get back to them, and then do so.
5. LOOK FOR QUICK WINS. If you can find a few things that were serious flaws in the organization and fix them quickly, you can establish your credibility as a leader very fast.
6. SPELL IT OUT. Use your early management meetings to do more than meet and greet; this is the time to establish what you expect of them, to communicate your management philosophy, and to set the tone—it'll be hard to reset it later.
7. DON'T DIS YOUR PREDECESSOR. People forget that just about everyone who is there when the new leader arrives has worked for the old leader and probably has some loyalty to him or her.
8. GIVE FEEDBACK. By synthesizing what you learn and communicating it to the organization, you give your workers an ownership stake in the new agenda and improve your chances for broad-based support.



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



Christian Leadership Qualities

Christ must be the centre of our lives and existence.

Continually search your heart for any offence against God or other people.

We must master the small things first before God trusts us to go further.

You must run and set an example in your home.

Consistency is required in every walk of our lives.

Be prepared to humble yourself in any situation if required. Humility in Christ is a weapon that cannot be defeated.

Be courageous in serving the Lord and trust him completely!

Be an encourager, even if the situation looks hopeless, remembering that we are calling on the Lord of the Universe to intercede.

Lead by example and be prepared to listen to others when the need arises.

Thirst for God to do new things in your life, making yourself available for him totally.

Always remember that your family comes before FGBMFI.

Be committed in all your endeavours.

Create a prayer life that produces fruit [bank account] - Tony

**Protect the JOY that God has given with all your heart.
remember no joy no peace,
know Joy know peace.**