



From the National President's Desk

Wow! Now that the conference is over its time to get back to our God-given ministries and labours of love that the Lord our God has called each of us to, remembering that we have been saved unto good works. Not that the Lord needs us, but that we need to be fulfilling God's divine purpose in our individual lives. I believe that all who attended the conference have been inspired by the very presence of God as the speakers brought the Word of God under the inspirational anointing of the Holy Spirit and what a time of refreshing it was.

After leaving the conference and getting my feet back on the ground, I started to wonder "what next" Lord? This is how God answered my thoughts even before I asked the question. Being constant with our morning devotions, Carolyn and I were challenged by a word out of **Acts 15:26** "Our beloved Barnabas and Paul; men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." One only has to read passages such as Acts 13:50, Acts 14:19 or the short testimony and overview of Paul's life found in 2 Corinthians 11:22-33 to better understand the hazards referred to in the text. 'Hazarded' translated from the Greek word *paradidomi* would then better read "men who have handed over their souls", or "men who have handed themselves over" to a higher authority in full surrender.

Men, who have given up, risked their lives to follow their passion. Men, who have given up all to follow Jesus, in Acts 20:35 Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive". First comes the giving and then comes the receiving. Now concerning Paul and Barnabas, the hazards were incidental to the handing over of their lives to Christ; it's not a matter of how much did they receive, but how much did they give? Jesus gave His life a ransom for sin and became the Saviour of the world; they gave their lives in service to Him, resulting in them receiving enough of the power of God, which enabled them to overcome the hazards they encountered during the rest of their lives. **James 1:3** "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials." Paul and Barnabas knew their power source, resulting in their lives being a God given pattern for our own.

So now that our understanding has been enlightened somewhat, let us push on to what we are gaining from the passage; men who have handed themselves over in complete surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ enter into the realm of consecration to Christ or the process of being

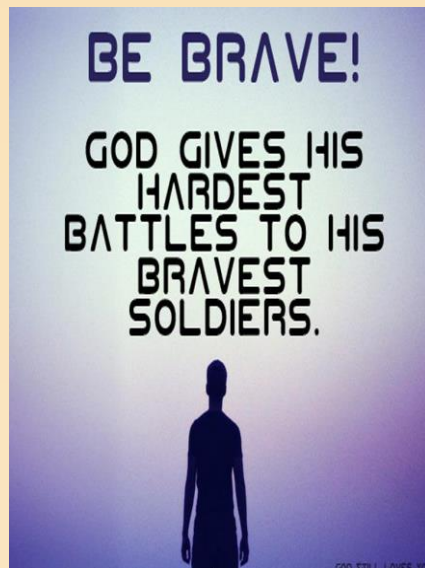
made Holy; metaphorically meaning to make perfect, although not faultless but bringing to a state of completion or fulfilment.

What then is your passion? Has it been ignited enough to motivate you to hand over completely to the Lord the control of your life? Are you yet prepared to relinquish your self-management to God's divine management allowing the Lord to take the reins and guide you in the direction He desires you to go?

The power of the Holy Spirit is the Lord's, the surrendering of one's self unto Him is ours, but while one's self or old nature is alive Christ is not seated on the throne of our hearts and we are therefore self-centred and not Christ-centred as we should be. We fail to render true Spirit-filled service here as Paul and Barnabas did with the blessed assurance of greater eternal rewards at Christ's second coming.

Time is short, the harvest is ripe, the labourers are few and the Lord is waiting. Are you ready? We are in the marketplace ministry business. What then are we marketing? Is it the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship or is it the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ? The answer is simple, we will market that one to whom we have surrendered to.

Our fellowship is the vehicle, our testimonies are our method, but the gospel is the power of God unto salvation that will save the lost and build up our fellowship, so let's let God have control by burying self in true consecration unto Christ and go forward in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs and wonders following our ministry, taking our fellowship with us to greater heights, that men might see Christ in us by our good works and glorify God with us in true Christian commitment. God Bless you one and all. Len.



From Ron Oastler



Another true story from the experiences of a long-time member and friend.

I love meeting up with my long-time friend James – the conversation is always 'God honouring' and I am always personally encouraged as well. The stories that he shares are 'real life' experiences from FGBMFI meetings as well as those from 'out there in the marketplace'. All of these things are true, they actually happened. I love the fact that James does not use any journalistic license but just presents the facts of encounters he has had with such a variety of people ... (and the local Marina is a great place to share these times too!)

We were meeting a little later than usual and the Dolphin Watch Luncheon Cruise was heading out into the Port as we took our seats under an umbrella at an outside table. At that moment a smart looking young man, fully kitted with a good-sized briefcase, walked by on the other side of the Promenade.

'That is Steve' James informed me, 'he runs a very good little IT Service business. I came across him through one of my sons who had him fix some computer hardware problems. Steve is a fine Christian and I have come to know him quite well. I have now used his service as well, with a few problems I was having. My daughter has now joined the list of Steve's clients too ... interesting is it not, how important connections can be.'

Then, as if wanting to clarify his statement James continued: 'Connections do not necessarily involve a statement of recommendation to be important. The mere fact of there being an apparent connection between people can be important in itself.' 'I think I know what you mean' I said tentatively.

'Well, let me tell you of one experience that I had a little while ago that might explain the significance of my point' James offered. 'As you know, FGBMFI men are sometimes asked to speak at Church Men's functions. Well, I was the guest speaker for



a Saturday Morning Men's Breakfast Meeting at a truly great church in the Western Suburbs of Sydney. Here is the scene: there was a 'head-table' with one of the Elders as chairman – Pastor Gordon sat next to the chairman – there was another Elder next to the Pastor – I was seated next ... and with well over one hundred men at the function, every seat in the house was occupied and the place was a buzz.'

Continuing his description, James added: 'The formal proceedings had barely commenced, when another guest came through the door. The Pastor, in a state of shock, exclaimed 'That is Joe, my next-door neighbour to whom I have been witnessing over a long period. He has never accepted an invitation to any service, meeting or function at the church over all that time – and here he is!' 'Well,' said James, 'the interesting thing was what happened then ... there were no seats left so they set a place for Joe on the very end of the head table ... right next to me. Yes!'

James was now excited as he unfolded the rest of the story. 'Joe said that he worked for the Water Board ... I told him that my father was with the Water Board too, for many years and that this was an interesting connection. He then stated that he was a Plant Operator. Again, it was an interesting connection that my father was a Plant Inspector for the Board, and we talked about some of the Board's equipment with which I was familiar. Again, a connection.'

'Then, James said pensively, 'I highlighted two things to Joe ... the first was that of all the people in the room God placed him next to me, where there was this connection ... and second, that Joe could know God personally and connect with Him through making Jesus Lord and Saviour of his life as the Bible states in Romans 10:10. Then, with a short word of encouragement to make that a 'now' decision, Joe committed his life to Christ.'

'Finally' James concluded, 'coffee was about to be served, after which I was due to speak, so I leaned forward and said to Pastor Gordon: 'I would like you to meet a brand-new Brother ... Joe has just committed his life to the Lord'. The Pastor was absolutely ecstatic to say the least. The handful of men who then made decisions at the end of the event added another dimension to the miracle that had already taken place – Praise the Lord.' 'So you see my friend, simple connections with people can be quite powerful in themselves as they can lead to great outcomes' was James final summary.

DENNIS DOCKHAM HEARING HIS VOICE TESTIMONY



My name is Dennis Dockham. As I was growing up we lived in the Jamaica Plain [J.P.] section of Boston. We moved to Dorchester when I was in 2nd grade. I lived through the forced busing issues within the city of Boston. I attended Middle School, and I became a student advocate while in High School. I was always getting involved in serving others by volunteering in many organizations throughout my twenties.

I got married April 1989. We moved to Quincy, Massachusetts [MA] where my son Kevin in 1993 and my daughter Christine in 1996 were born. A lot of time was spent helping others through many organizations. I started to drift away from serving people.

My life became more business oriented, as I got into middle management. I compromised my principles, and no longer was a servant, but a self-centered arrogant money hungry person. My life started to be unmanageable. Alcohol and gambling became part of my daily routine, as I fell into addiction in earthly ways. Then in February 2006, I was arrested as a direct result of my alcohol use.

Over the next two years of court proceedings, divorce, and giving up on life, I was ready to throw in the towel and began praying to the God. God said, "He had no use for me." I was pleading nightly for God to take my life and end my pain. Once again, I was being selfish and only caring about my pain and not anyone else's pain. In April 2008, I was sentenced to five years in the House of Correction. My life was over, and my eyes covered by scales.

Once I was incarcerated, I started looking for God, asking why He did not take my life which I prayed for so many nights over the two years of my court proceedings. I had hit rock bottom. I was the lowest type of person as a criminal. I ended up in a place that I never thought I would ever be. After the shock of being in jail that first week, I fell to my knees and cried out to God asking for answers. Then for the very first time I felt a presence upon me. I heard God say. "Come to Me and give yourself over to me, and I will stand with you." At first I was scared and did not understand the things that started to come to me in visions and thoughts - some I still cannot explain today. As I started to search my

deepest thoughts, I picked up a Bible and joined a Bible study group that was run by a Christian brother who had been coming into the jail for over 10 years. I started to understand more about the feelings I had within me and how it affected my earthly ways of living in the flesh.

Now seeing the changes I needed to make in my life, how could I do this myself? Self-centered and arrogant, I thought I was better than everyone else? Well, God knew what He was doing by placing me right where I needed to be at this point in my life. That Bible study has forever changed my life because I came to know Jesus as my Lord and Saviour, and that He died on a cross for a sinner like me, who was undeserving of what He had done on the cross so that I could live with Him in eternity.

I realized that without God in my life that I would always be the same. So once again I fell to my knees, this time to turn my life over to Christ asking for His forgiveness and seeking His wisdom. I was born-again on October 27, 2008. On this day, I really felt His presence within my soul and my eyes became open to the Light of Christ. This was the start of a life changing way of living that would become my daily walk with Christ.

Since my release in November 2011, from the House of Correction, I have taken the wisdom of God's Word and put it into practice in my daily walk. I became obedient in serving my Lord and Saviour, humbly serving those who are out there lost and shackled in bondage. I shared my story of a broken, unwanted, despised individual who only thought the way out was death. Now in full repentance, I am seeking truth and striving to walk in the Light of Christ, surrendering all my faults over to God daily that my fleshly behaviours, would never return again in my life.

Allowing the Holy Spirit to direct and guide me, I proclaimed my faith in the power of resurrection by a full immersion baptism on March 25, 2012, confessing to my rebirth in Christ as written in scripture. I praise God every night for salvation from my sins and for the daily guidance He provides to me through prayer and meditation. Remember I mention about pleading for Him to take my life? Well, I am happy that God had different plans for me.

Yes, God took my life as I surrendered to his calling. I became a new creation in Christ Jesus, humbly living my life as a faithful servant. I strive to glorify God in everything I do, using my God given gifts, reaching out to the lost and forgotten through a ministry that was put on my heart by God in a vision. By putting my faith in Christ, the foundations of Disciple of Christ Ministries was formed in June 2012, which is currently serving over 150 inmates across the USA through our Pen Pals for Jesus Ministry.



September 2016 Newsletter

What an awesome presence of God at our 2016 Convention. For me it was a real time of restoration, being in the company of the saints and the fellowship that followed. Every speaker had godly things to share and I can only describe it like beautiful clear flowing water being poured out on a desert. We had people from many parts of Australia and even Tasmania – praise God! The facilities were first class and the staff at the resort went out of their way to ensure we had everything we needed. There was a large contingent from Adelaide and they stayed over for a few more days to experience the warmth of the Sunshine State. Well done David McKellar for arranging the bus and driving the boys north!

Our AGM went well with the Board returning to 5 members.

Office holders for 2016/17:-

National President – Len Donaldson

National Vice President – Tony Vaughan

National Secretary – Ian Smith

National Treasurer – Daniel Wright

Director – Alan MacKenzie.

Our thanks go to Mike Crosby and Bill Wilcox for their work over the past year.

I know I speak for all the members in thanking Ian and Sue Smith for organising a great convention and all the hard work that was required to make it an overwhelming success – we are indebted to you both. We also thank Len & Carolyn Donaldson for their dedication and incredible work in the Fellowship and at times this has come at a real personal cost. Please keep them in your prayers and look for good things to happen over this next year. It was great to see Nell Gray there and I know Bernie would have been proud of the way things went.



“His Banner Over Us is Love”



Membership

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (Australia) is open to all men who wish to be part of this vibrant organisation, who have a heart to reach others and bring them into a relationship with Jesus Christ. You must read and understand our Doctrinal Statement and be willing to serve as a chapter member giving of your time and expertise.

Please return your completed membership application (along with our doctrinal statement) form to our treasurer Bill Wilcock at PO Box 129, Taigum QLD 4018. Membership forms can be printed from our website: fgbmfiustralia.com

Membership fees are \$100.00 per annum. To have an effective Fellowship we need all members to pay their dues to fund the ongoing expenses of the Fellowship as per the budget approved by the National Board. Being paid up members of the Fellowship is important and all personnel should hold their membership as significant and of value. Being members allows you to experience all the benefits that are associated with the organisation including being able to vote and have your say at the appropriate time. If you have no chapter in your area or it is not functioning your membership will be held as a National member. Those already in an active chapter will also be National Members and then chapter members. This way all members are included and not overlooked when information is being passed on.



**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."

Richard Shakarian, International President



Richard & Vangie Shakarian



Gone To Glory – Charles King

[Isaiah 62:6-7](#)

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

Charles shared his testimony again last year and it was run over two meetings to give it the exposure and credence of God that had taken place over 95 years of Charles' full and blessed life. To say Charles touched many people lives would be an understatement, especially those that Charles nurtured when they were released from prison in New Zealand.

Charles' passion for the Lord never waned and he was an enormous encouragement to the Coast Chapter, carrying out many of the committee roles with a great smile. Charles had that ability to listen and then ask the right questions; in this he was genuinely interested in people and helping them on the right path to eternal glory. Charles' wife passed away last year and now this awesome couple will be reunited with each other and the Lord. Over his long life Charles gave testimony to whoever would listen and none could doubt the Joy of the Lord that was on him – it just flowed out.



In the photo above you can see the reedy smile of Charles (centre) locking hands with the late Bernie Gray on the left and John Diamond on his right. Charles and John both came from the United Kingdom and always had a lot of banter with each other.

