



From the National President's Desk

VISION

On pages 145 and 146 of that wonderful book HAPPIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH Demos Shakarian had a vision; a vision that was to put in motion the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, a fellowship that would reach out into some 144 nations; building an army of mighty God-fearing men, willingly sharing testimonies and the Gospel in the Marketplaces of the world under the mighty hand of God. Men and women of all races would be encouraged to experience the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the awesome power that is available to those who earnestly seek a fuller relationship with God committing themselves as modern day witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Whilst many would call Demos a visionary and that in its self is not a bad thing, I would put it to you this way: that He was a man that had a vision, a vision that has not been fulfilled or come to its conclusion yet. What happened in this vision was that Demos saw millions and millions of lifeless, miserable, physically and spiritually dead people locked in their own private death. This caused Demos, to cry out to the Lord "what is the matter with them? Lord, help them!" Then came the pivot-point; the vision changed from one of death to one of life; now millions upon millions of men's heads were raised, eyes shining with joy, hands lifted towards heaven. These same men who had been so isolated, each in his own prison of self, were now linked in a community of love and adoration. Asia, Africa, and America – everywhere death had turned to life. The rest we know through reading the book, but my point is this – is it all over or was that just the beginning?

Of late God has been leading me through the Scriptures, opening my understanding on vision, and this is the real reason for writing this paper; that I might encourage you to seek God until you can push out by faith grasping hold of the vision seeing it through to its conclusion. Demos was a man who had a vision and what he has left us, the fellowship members, is that vision. It is my deep belief that we can stretch out in faith and pray that vision into its fulfilment. God knows the world needs to hear the Gospel today like never before – time is short – Jesus is coming back for those who have heard the Word and believed. We as believers understand that the conclusion of all things as we know them will be at the return of Jesus.

In light of the above statement let me pose a question: "what value do you put on your fellow man? Is it taken from a secular humanistic worldview or a Christian/Biblical based worldview? As Christ's ambassadors it is important that we have a clear worldview of the priceless value God placed on man at creation, thereby helping us to better understand the fact that man's dignity and

worth are not imputed by man, but they are intrinsic to man as one who has been created in the image of God. Man's worth is directly related to his origin. Any view of man's origin which does not view man as the product of divine design and purpose, cannot attribute to man the worth which God has given him. To put it another way, our evaluation of man is directly proportionate to our estimation of God. Today society is standing on the road to ruin with little understanding of the true value of life; in spite of our advancement in technology and our ability to achieve great things in the main we are ethically and morally bankrupt.

It has come to my attention that there are some serious discussions taking place right now pertaining to the issuing of a life certificate pronouncing an infant legally alive, very much like a death certificate declares a body to be dead. Just think of the implications this will have on a defenceless baby in the mother's womb unable to speak for its self; they could then be terminated after the birth before certified as living. **Jeremiah 17:9-10** "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind".

How did we get to this place of such darkness? All throughout the Scriptures we read and reread of Satan's seemingly endless attacks on life which is contrary to God's first commandment as found in **Genesis 1:27-28**. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth".

When we are in the right place or relationship with God we have dominion over all the earth and all things therein. The choice is ours. **Joshua 24:15**. And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. And verse 18 ends with the people's decision. "We also will serve the Lord for He is our God".

What further reason do we need than this one? "We also will serve the Lord for He is our God". With the decision being made what is our starting point? **Matthew 22:37-40**: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. And the second is like it; you shall love your neighbour as yourself". These words of Jesus call us to account; how much do we as a people esteem God, are we prepared to lay down our lives to serve Him? It is a matter of love. **John 3:16**. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life". **There is more to come, God Bless and keep each of you, till next month Len.**

From Ron Oastler



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

Our favourite Coffee Place is at the marina and that is only around one kilometre from the ocean. I was thinking: Is it any wonder that conditions are generally temperate and the overall ambience unbeatable. Add to that a local community that is a wonderful blend of long-time residents, artists and writers and artisans who work from home plus retirees escaping from capital cities, and you have a location that is quite egalitarian.

'Aha, we are in a really pensive mood are we?' was James' greeting while on the approach.

'Well yes, in a way.' I responded, and then I shared with him the thoughts I had about this little slice of paradise...particularly the interesting blend of people.

'Very insightful my friend,' James complimented 'it is indeed an eclectic neighbourhood and demonstrated, I might say, by the obvious ease with which people relate with each other. Folk are more open and accommodating when there is no 'them and us' or 'big names and small names'. Connecting with people is so much easier when it is more of a peer to peer relationship.'

'Yes, I guess people will therefore be more open and accepting of what you have to say.' I ventured.

'Oh, very much so,' James emphasised the point 'much more accepting when they feel it is peer-to-peer. I recall a particular experience that I had in a lovely country town in Queensland some time ago. My wife and I had been invited to hold a short 'marriage enrichment' seminar on a Saturday, following a men's breakfast outreach in the morning. The event was held in a public hall in town and we had sessions in the afternoon, followed by an evening meal-break and concluding with an evening session.'



'The attendees were absolutely wonderful people, including a number of unsaved folk who had been invited as part of the outreach.' James recalled. 'One in the latter group was a fine man – a successful shopkeeper in town, a real businessman - whose wife had been able to persuade him to attend the whole event.'

'We came to the evening meal break at the end of which I went into the kitchen area to fetch another coffee. There was our shopkeeper friend, so I engaged him in conversation with the question: 'What do you think of the concepts we have been covering today?' He was happy to say that he thought it was good and worthwhile.'

'This was a good opportunity to ask another question' James said with a smile. I asked him: 'This afternoon we discussed 'what real love is', and 'the power of love in the marriage relationship'. Have you thought about God's love for you and his call for a real relationship with Him?'

'His answer was interesting to say the least.' James remarked. 'He said: 'Thought about my relationship with God? I have been leaned upon by many preachers who have visited our town, including Pastors from big churches and Principals of Bible Colleges,' and he named some of them. 'They tried ... but they didn't succeed.'

'My comeback' James continued 'was, 'I understand their desire, as ordained ministers, to encourage you into a real relationship with God. However, I am talking with you – as one businessman to another businessman – as man to man.'

'Now, God loves us and has a plan for our lives, but man's sin separated him from God and His love and plan. So, God made it possible to be reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ and his sacrifice on the cross. It is up to us to acknowledge that we are sinners and to receive Jesus as Saviour and Lord. This is then the start of a whole new life – it is being 'born again' - you would want that would you not?' I asked.'

'Then, with only a short pause to make that life-changing decision, he responded, 'Yes, I would.'

'There we stood, in that little narrow kitchen, with our coffee now cold but our hearts wonderfully warmed, and prayed together as he made his commitment. Not surprisingly, God had used the openness of a peer-to-peer connection to achieve the reconciliation of a fine businessman.'

So, always remember my friend,' James concluded, 'there is power in witnessing man-to-man as we seek to fulfil our mission:

'To Win and Disciple Men to Christ.'

Convention at Sea

Our special thanks to those that responded regarding our 'expression of interest' regarding a convention upon a cruise ship in August 2017. Unfortunately we did not get the numbers required to carry this off but it is something we may look at again in the future. The Board is now planning a convention - 'land base' facility. Details to follow shortly.



The Light Horse Charge at Beersheba

"Then Abraham reproved Abimelech because of a well of water which Abimelech's servants had seized... And he said, you will take these seven ewe lambs from my hand, that they may be my witness that I have dug this well. Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because the two of them swore an oath there."

Genesis chapter 21 verses 25 -31

With the day on the wane, it was now neck or nothing; the time had come to commit the reserve. Chauvel issued decisive orders for the occupation of Beersheba. Brig. Grant of the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade and Fitzgerald of the Yeomanry were at Headquarters; they pleaded for the honour of the charge. "Put Grant straight at it" was Chauvel's terse order.

1630: The 4th and 12th Australian Light Horse Regiments drew up behind a ridge. From the crest, Beersheba was in full view. The course lay down a long, slight slope which was bare of cover. Between them and the town lay the enemy defences. The 4th was on the right; the 12th was on the left. They rode with bayonets in hand. Each drew up on a squadron frontage. Every man knew that only a wild, desperate charge could seize Beersheba before dark. They moved off at the trot, deploying at once into artillery formation, with 5 metres between horsemen.

Almost at once the pace quickened to a gallop. Once direction was given, the lead squadrons pressed forward. The 11th Australian Light Horse Regiment and the

Yeomanry followed at the trot in reserve. The Turks opened fire with shrapnel. Machine guns fired against the lead squadrons. The Royal Horse Artillery got their range and soon had them out of action. The Turkish riflemen fired, horses were hit, but the charge was not checked. The Light horsemen drove in their spurs; they rode for victory and they rode for Australia. The bewildered enemy failed to adjust their sights and soon their fire was passing harmlessly overhead. The 4th took the trenches; the enemy soon surrendered. The 12th rode through a gap and on into the town. There was a bitter fight. Some enemy surrendered; others fled and were pursued into the Judean Hills. In less than an hour it was over; the enemy was finally beaten.

From his headquarters, Chauvel had watched the battle develop. He saw the New Zealanders swarming the Tel; on their right the 9th and 10th LH Regiment were trotting in pursuit under shrapnel. On the Wadi the 2nd and 3rd LH Regiments were pressing forward in their attempt to take the town from the east. The Royal Horse Artillery were firing in support. Then over the ridge rode the 4th and 12th . . . shrapnel . . . the signal to charge! Not for almost an hour did Chauvel learn that Beersheba had been won.

Then disaster. The 9th and 10th in pursuit were bombed by a lone German aircraft; they suffered heavy casualties. The Desert Mounted Corps watered at the wells of the patriarchs and in the pool. For days, the charge was the talk of the camps and messes. The Australian Light Horse had galloped into history.

South Australians can be proud of the contribution of the 3rd and the 9th in the Battle of Beersheba.

A Squadron 3rd/9th South Australian Mounted Rifles began as the Reedbeds Cavalry in 1841 and is privileged to have inherited the honours, the history and the tradition of the Australian Light Horse.

Footnote – Not part of this article

The Australian Light Horse broke the Muslim hold over the Holy Land with this mighty charge.



JOHN 15:13 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.



"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 our **Membership** Director, Daniel Wright - PO Box 129 Taigum Qld 4018. Telephone: 0404 004 946. 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



"Jesus Loves You, Man"

(The Gary Johnson Story)

Jesus Did It!

The honest-to-goodness greatest Love Story ever told . . .

And then one of his friends suggested they head out towards New Mexico and West Texas, where he had some connections, and could make good money working on oil rigs. But their timing couldn't have been worse - the rigs had just begun capping off wells, and there were no jobs to be found. Gary's friend soon returned to Arkansas, but Gary decided to stay and found work in a factory. But before too long, he had hooked up with a drug runner and was hired as a bodyguard, accompanying him on regular runs from New Mexico into Mexico and back again. He also worked protection for the drug runner's father, who was apparently involved in some shady business dealings. Like something right out of *The Soprano's*, Gary would accompany this man to bars and strip clubs where he would meet with his "business partners."

Gary's drinking and drug abuse escalated. He lived in a tiny little trailer, mattress on the floor, and kept two mayonnaise jars beside his bed. The one on the right was filled with "speed" to get him going. And the one on the left was full of "downers" so he could rest at night. And in between, he drank and *drank hard*, being particularly fond of Southern Comfort. In fact, he overdosed after drinking a 1/5 at a party one night. Someone said, "Nobody can down a whole 1/5 of Southern Comfort!" And Gary stupidly responded, "Oh, yeah?" and killed it. Unfortunately, he had already spent the evening drinking, smoking weed and popping pills. And he has no idea how he made it back from the party to his trailer. He only remembers laying on his back - completely paralysed - drowning in his own vomit. He was unable to turn to the side and unable to call for help. But, just like the gun that didn't go off, Gary awoke the next morning to find himself rolled over onto his side.

And like the drinking and drugs, Gary's violence was rapidly increasing. Gary says, "All my dreams were gone. And I found myself in the underbelly of society. It wasn't that I was particularly brave. I just didn't care. I was scared, angry and always in 'attack mode'." He had become explosive. And after he smashed a car windshield and tried to pull a Mexican gang member out

through the hole as the car was driving off, the drug runner Gary worked for said he was beginning to draw too much attention. He fired him, gave him a couple hundred dollars and urged Gary to return to Arkansas before he got himself killed. A few days later, Gary headed back to the Delta.

Salvation: Jesus Is Calling

Gary had only been gone six months, and nothing had changed in Lake Village ... but everything had changed in him. He got a job and tried to go back to the same routine of working, hanging out and partying - but he was miserable and couldn't hide it. He had only been back a couple of weeks when two of his old friends picked him up for a "good time." They were all getting drunk, smoking reefer and were headed to an open-air concert in Memphis. Gary was angry the whole day, stepping on blankets and picking fights as other patrons were trying to listen to Pat Benatar and the other bands. And after a day of misery and confrontation, Gary and his friends finally headed back that night after stocking up for the ride back home: A 1/5 of Crown Royal, two-three cases of beer, and a few bags of weed. Gary says, "I remember it so clear. I was so mad. I hated everyone, especially myself. "And then one of Gary's best friends, Ajax, turned to him in the car and made the most astounding statement, "Gary, I don't know why I'm telling you this, but Jesus loves you, man."

These simple words of Ajax (his real name is Alex Reginelli, an Italian Catholic friend) penetrated the hard, angry heart of Gary Johnson like nothing before. And boy, did that make Gary mad! "Ajax, you better shut the @\$*# \$#&*!!!" Gary shouted back. But it was too late; those life-changing words from the deep, gruff voice of Gary's friend were sinking in for the first time in his life. Gary says of that night, "When Ajax said 'Jesus loves you, man,' *thick* conviction hit that car!" Now remember, Ajax had a joint in one hand and Crown Royal in the other - but the same God who used a donkey to talk to Balaam, used an Ajax to talk to Gary! Ajax turned back around and they rode in peace for a while. But before too long, he did it again. Turning around, looking right into Gary's eyes as he sat in the back seat, Ajax said once again, "Gary, man, I don't know why I'm telling you this ... but Jesus loves you!"

Continued...