



Editor - Tony Vaughan



**From the National President's Desk**

In penning this newsletter article, I'm so much aware that time for our National Convention is fast approaching. On the one hand I'm looking forward to gathering together with you all in the Commercial Club at Albury NSW, and on the other hand I'm seeking God as to our best way forward as a movement. Times are changing, not for the better; therefore we as a vibrant Full Gospel Ministry need to move with the times, but not necessarily in the same direction, for our steps are to be or should be ordered by the Lord.

What are conventions really all about? They aren't just an occasion for us to be together, as good as that might be - but they do give us ample opportunity to voice our opinions on a range of subjects, to share what we have discovered during our prayer time seeking the Lord and to elect our offices for the forth coming year. Now it was as I was contemplating all of the above, that the Lord seemed to lead me to the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles which recapitulate the historical record of everything which preceded them, outlining the successes and failings of those in both civil and religious public office. 1 Chronicles focuses on the building up of David's army, the recovery of the Ark of the Covenant, the construction and dedication of the Temple, Israel's worship of God and concludes with the handing over of the Kingdom to Solomon.

By reading 1 Chronicles we soon learn that Israel's encouragement, inspiration, rewards and even their discipline all came from God, as He directed the leaders in their public office so that the nation would strengthen spiritually under the mighty hand of God.

Let me encourage every member of the fellowship to be seeking God for such inspiration as the time of our convention approaches that our nation might benefit both corporately and spiritually under the guiding hand of God, as Israel did during their season of 1 and 2 Chronicles. For our day, I see the returning of the Ark of the Covenant as depicted in chapters 13 and 15 as a realisation that we can't have God's best for our nation without the full anointing of God on our ministry.

How did King David achieve the return of the Ark? First he consulted with the Leadership Team and then at the right time with the full Assembly of Israel, with these words "If it seems good to you, and if it is of the Lord our God, let us." The people soon came into agreement. Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

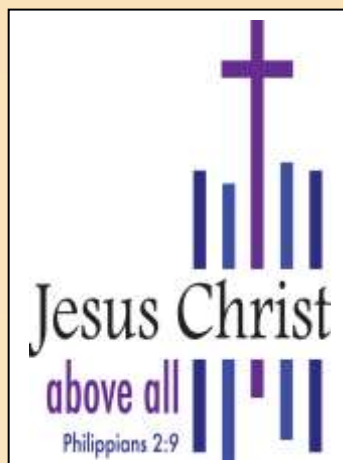
Physical unity is a good thing, but spiritual agreement is even better; for it is there that God commands the blessing. **1 John 6:27** *Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.* There is food for the natural body and there is nourishment for the spiritual body. **Matthew 6:33** *Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* **John 6:63** *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

What then is the greatest need of this country right now? Strong God-fearing men that will call out to Almighty God for His plans and purposes to be revealed and implemented in the Spirit realm over the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. Who then are these men of God? If The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International Australasia Ltd is going to be what I believe God wants it to be then you are one of them. The price of your salvation has been paid in full on the Cross of Calvary, your sin washed away by the blood of the Lamb; setting you free from all entanglement with the unfruitful works of darkness to serve the only true and living God in newness of life.

Take the challenge, go into your prayer closet and pray with all your might till you hear the still small voice of God directing your thoughts, giving inspiration and direction until you know that you know that you have something of real substance to bring and contribute at the National Conference. For together in partnership with God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we can stem the flow of ungodliness that is running rampant, destroying the minds of our young people and sending them headlong into a Christless eternity. Now is our time to put our hand to the plough.

God Bless, see you at the convention.

Len



**Coffee & Conversation with James**

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

Submitted by Ron Oastler

It was that time of year again. The Northerly migration of the humpback whales was on and after a summer of feeding on krill in Antarctic waters, these charismatic animals migrate north to sub-tropical waters where they mate and give birth. During their annual migration of up to 10,000 kilometres, humpbacks attract thousands of visitors to coastal vantage locations like The Port. One big contingent of visitors is Korean Tourists who love to go on the whale watch cruises.

Today, James and I had changed our schedule and were having lunch together at the Marina. Just as we were concluding we were startled by a kerfuffle at the ferry wharf where one of the cruise ships was now disembarking.

A highly animated conversation was under way, complete with significant gestures and all. It appears that a passenger had been on-board the cruise, who was not ticketed with this Tour Group. The Tour Guides thought the person was one of theirs and the rest of the group made the same assumption. No one really knew the person - certainly not enough to know they were not 'one of them.' Oh dear ...

'Ah my friend, what an interesting situation indeed' James commented. 'Of course, it is certainly not uncommon for a stranger to be in the midst like this and no one know them - anything about them.'

'You mean, they sort of blend into the group without really being part of it' I asked.

'Well yes' James tentatively agreed, 'but they may even be accepted as part of the group by default - still without anyone really knowing anything about them.'

'Yes, I think I know what you mean.' I acknowledged.

'Ah, but there is a greater tragedy, that of someone in the midst of a group for a considerable period of time - weeks, months or even years - and no-one really knows much if anything about them.'



'Bringing it close to home, just think about many of our local churches ... how many folk are there to whom we say "Hello" each week but know little if anything about them? How many are there who are not really known, yes really known, by anyone there? There is a lesson here for all of us: get to know the folk around us, relate with them, speak into their lives, make sure that they know our Lord and encourage them in The Way.'

Then, typical of James' homilies, he went on to say: 'I can clearly recall an experience that taught me a lesson about folk really knowing those within their group.'

He then went on to describe how he and a couple of men from the Fellowship had been on an outreach to an outback country town one Saturday, where they had shown that wonderful film *Good News America*, had prayed with folk who were (as AW Tozer put it) "In the Pursuit of God", and then stopped off in a regional centre on their way home where they took the Sunday morning service in one of the mainline Churches.

'Oh how I enjoyed that wonderful morning in Church.' James reflected. 'We were there by invitation and our connection was very positive. The hymns that morning were grand. The congregational singing was uplifting. The whole ambience of the place was inspiring. The only quizzical element was a comment that the minister made to me at the beginning of the service. Knowing that the emphasis of the Fellowship is on "*winning and discipling folk to Christ*" he volunteered that everyone in the congregation there that morning were already members of the Church and had been for some time.' Sooo, I felt to give personal testimony with an emphasis on being "born again" - and knowing it! Some basic theology combined with its experiential application. It certainly was an expression of the simplicity of the Gospel, then capped by "what about you?"

'Opportunity was given for folk to be "Born Again" ... and to the surprise of many, a lovely young lady aged in her mid-twenties immediately responded. In counselling with her afterwards she volunteered that she had been coming to the church for more than six months and had been well received by all. However, no-one knew her well enough to know that she had never committed her life to Christ. That day the Holy Spirit confronted her with the claim of God on her life and she responded to His call, receiving Christ as Saviour and Lord.' 'So my friend' James concluded, 'get to know people, make no assumptions, they may be with us but not of us - and that uncovers an opportunity to "*win and disciple them to Christ*".'

### Testimony of Doug Gray – Toowoomba Chapter



#### *Doug Gray – Word from the Lord – 'You Look After My Business and I'll look after yours!'*

Doug was born in Toowoomba and still lives there with his wife, Pauline who is a certified General and Midwifery Nurse, training at the General Hospital in Toowoomba. They have been married for 54 years and are blessed with 2 married sons; Paul, who is a Medical Specialist at Royal Brisbane Hospital and Tim who is a Secondary School Music Teacher and Director of their Christian Children's Program, J.a.m. "Jam Jesus and Me" and Timmelle Music Studio. Doug and Pauline have 4 Grandchildren aged from 17 to 21. Doug is a retired Company Director and worked a local pest control and carpet cleaning business for 57 years. Doug, along with Pauline as Secretary, kept his business small so as to be able to give that personal expertise to his clients and also to be free to schedule his work around taking speakers to FGBMFI Chapters throughout the area over many years. Fifty-seven years is a long time to work in the one business!! When openings came for Doug to help out with Christian organisations, he asked of the Lord, 'How am I going to be involved in these extra things and still carry out my business and care for my family?'

The Lord spoke into his spirit, 'You look after my business and I'll look after yours!' Over the years, Doug proved this many times. He was never without work to go to! He believes the Lord opened the way for him to add carpet cleaning and dyeing to his pest control business and when one part of the business was slower, the other part was there. He only ever had one part-time employee at a time and several of those men ended up in Christian ministry.

A few God instances Doug recalls: Doug travelled a lot in the earlier years treating homesteads, woolsheds, hotels etc. He had a request to treat a one hundred year old hotel in Tara, with a crawl space of only about 45 centimetres and using a leadlight to see his way. He was working at the far end of about a 40 metre lead when all of a sudden there was pitch darkness. The only way out was to follow the lead to the manhole which was in the staff tea room of the hotel. He noticed a young workman had pulled the lead out to plug in his kettle for a cup of tea. (The humorous side was that when Doug popped his head up out of the manhole saying someone switched the light off, the young workman got such a fright, he took off and Doug didn't see him again!). Doug was able to reconnect the leadlight and finished his work. He says the spiritual



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aspect to this story is that the Lord leads our steps and He will always lead a person back to Him, if they will only follow His leading and guidance. We need His light to guide our way as Jesus is the Light of the World. Another time, after working all day at a large motel complex and Doug had just finished the last building which was very low to the ground, packed his pest control truck and went to get the truck keys out of his overalls but found no keys were there. This meant he had to go back under this building and his torch was flat. As he started to go back under the building, he saw something shining about 15 metres in so went to check and there were the keys. This was only possible because of a beam of sunlight coming through a hole drilled into the brick foundation – the position of the setting sun was just in the right position at that right time for him to see the keys. There was only about a 2 minute window of opportunity to find them. Incidentally, that hole was drilled through the brickwork some 40 years prior to put phone cables through. We may say these things are coincidences but Doug believes in his business there were many such 'God Incidences'.

In all the years Doug had been working in pest control, he had never been bitten by snakes or dangerous spiders even though there were many occasions when this could have happened. God is our Protector! Psalm 91.

Doug has been involved in the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International since the Inaugural Dinner held in Toowoomba in 1965. Besides other positions, he has served as Chapter President for 5 years and Regional Director for 28 years and is still involved with the Toowoomba Chapter. Both he and Pauline have attended many FGBMFI Conventions, including overseas such as U.S.A., New Zealand, Malaysia (held during a 3 day cruise), Hawaii, Bali, Armenia and Costa Rica. Their 'holidays' had to revolve around the Conventions. Doug has seen many people come to know the Lord, be healed and baptised in the Holy Spirit during these many years. He remembers meeting many wonderful men and women through the Fellowship, many of whom have become lifelong friends. Doug and Pauline have always been part of the local church and in their earlier years, worked for 10 years in a voluntary capacity for Youth for Christ, reaching out to the youth of the city.

Some of his hobbies have been restoring old Mercedes Benz cars (Finnies), including their sons' first cars and he has done his own maintenance on business and private vehicles. He enjoys helping his grandchildren with projects, including fitting a weed-eater motor to an old pushbike and more recently, working on a 2002 vehicle to bring it up to roadworthiness for one of his grandsons.

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International has been a major part of their lives and Doug says it is still one of the best organisations for men (and their wives) to get involved in. It doesn't matter what part of the world you go to, there will be some contact with FGBMFI. It is a great means of winning other men to Jesus by simply sharing personal testimony one on one in the market place and inviting them to a dinner or other function promoted by FGBMFI in the area. From our experience, Doug says that FGBMFI is alive and well around the world today and it is truly wonderful to see such a ministry continuing today, nearly 65 years since it first started by Demos Shakarian in California. The newly elected International President, Mario Garcia and his wife, Silvia, are at the time of writing this, visiting Asian countries, attending Leadership Conventions and Conferences in these areas. They visited Australia 2 years ago and Doug was again involved in driving them some 5,500 kms with 22 meetings as part of the FGBMFI Queensland Outreach.

**Ash Kotecha -Profession: Evangelist** *(Courtesy FGB UK)*

Born into a prosperous Hindu family in Malawi, south-east Africa, I came to the UK at the age of 17 for further education. As a fun-loving university student, I also had a serious side. Sometimes I found myself asking deep questions about the meaning of life. I was soon accustomed to student life in Manchester as exams - and girlfriends - became hot topics. Perhaps it was my family background, but for someone so young I was also seriously searching for truth. I read books on philosophy and world religions, including Buddhism, but was soon disillusioned. Did God exist? Is anyone up there?" I wondered. Curiously, some western students were also exploring Asian religions, including Hinduism. Once, at a party, with a drink in one hand and a "joint" in the other, I took one puff - and felt myself float up to the ceiling. In a frightening out-of-body experience, I actually saw myself below, standing with my friend. Was this like dying? It seemed to me that at death, anyone might slip out of their body just as easily. I never took



***"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](http://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."



International President Mario Garcia



drugs again. After graduation I moved to London and was soon caught up in a hectic business life. I was wheeling and dealing in property, false passports and driving licences! Eventually, I owned a lovely house in Harrow, Middlesex. However, to cover my mortgage, I rented out two rooms to a couple of young women students. They were ideal tenants. Always cheerful and tidy - even offering to cook, and iron my shirts! Their practical kindness impressed me. They were full of joy and peace, and I was hungry for what they had. They said it was Jesus who gave them the happiness that I wanted. One day I asked them where they disappeared to each Sunday. "Church", they replied. Out of sheer curiosity I accepted their invitation to "see what it is like".

After a few visits, a leader in their church asked me if I believed in Jesus. As a Hindu, I was baffled. Surely someone like a bishop or even the Pope would have to give permission for someone like me to become a Christian?

"No", said my friend, "you don't need to see a bishop. Just ask Jesus, that's all".

Yet to me, Jesus was merely the God of the Western world. To trust Jesus would be a huge leap of faith!

"Don't worry," said my friend. "Jesus will catch you. Just say these words after me: 'Dear Jesus...!' " I said the words, adding (as he suggested), and as sincerely as I could: "I am a sinner and I ask you to save me, Jesus, and make me your child. I open my heart to you and I ask you to come into my life."

Then a strange thing happened: I felt as light as a feather, as if a huge burden had fallen off me. I felt I'd landed on a very solid rock. I was soon baptised with water as a sign of my new faith - and I felt as clean as a new-born baby. But as the days passed, I still found the Bible hard to understand. I also found it difficult to share my faith without fear among my Hindu family and friends.

So, a leader at the church prayed for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. It was a life-changing experience as I spoke in a heavenly language (tongues), praising God with all my might. Suddenly, I had a new confidence in Christ - and I discovered that the Bible became a new, living book to me.

However, my Hindu family and friends were very upset with me for "bringing shame on the family name." Jesus, they said, was the white man's God, "but we have our own gods - no one can change from a Hindu to a Christian. It's unthinkable!"

One day I was visiting my perplexed parents and found my father sick in bed with a slipped disk and much pain. My mother, a devout Hindu, shouted: "Why don't you ask your Jesus to help your father?" What was I to do? I laid a hand on my father's head and prayed in tongues for a few seconds. Then I heard a voice telling me he was healed. "Dad," I said, "I think you are healed."

He must have believed me because he leapt out of bed, got dressed rapidly and then rushed me over to a sick nephew's home "to do your magic". Amazingly, the nephew was also healed.

The family persecution eased as many in my family became believers and were healed.

Curiously, when I was born, my mother had a premonition that I would serve God. Eventually, at the age of 77, she phoned me one day saying: "Son, I am dying - and I am very scared." We prayed, and she was not only healed but lost all her fear of death. As a result, she asked Jesus to save her as well. She is now going strong at eighty-five!

Yet today, I realise that the greatest miracle is not physical or emotional healing, but spiritual birth through simple faith in Jesus Christ. That's what the Bible calls being born-again, when we receive the life-giving Holy Spirit.

I met my wife, Sharon, at Bible School and we later pioneered a church, before God called us into an evangelism and healing ministry. Sharon is a gifted musician and prophetic psalmist.

It has been a tremendous thrill, in recent years, to see God change people's lives as we have travelled across the UK and Europe, preaching the Gospel and praying for the sick. We are also setting up an internet training ministry to reach people in the Middle East and Asian nations.