



From the National President's Desk

Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus! This is the season we dedicate to the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Yes! Time for family and friends to come together in the bonds of love, rejoicing with one another, counting our many blessings and reflecting on how good God has been to us throughout the year and not only this year, but for all our Christian life; from the very first day when we committed our lives to Him, asking Jesus to come into our hearts and to take complete control of our lives.

Do you remember the absolute joy that flooded your innermost being on that day; how the grass seemed greener and the birds in the trees sang songs the like you had never heard before? People in the streets and in your workplace looked at you in wonderment, wondering what had happened to you; transforming you from a downhearted lost soul to the bright cheerful person you had become virtually overnight. O loved ones, let us all give thanks to God throughout this Christmas season, for the born again experience that set us on the path of righteousness in a renewed relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Although times of celebrations are good in themselves and we should celebrate whenever the opportunity arises, for as born again Christians we have much to celebrate; but we should never lose site of the fact that we are living our lives in a hostile environment. One that is growing slowly more anti-Christian day by day. We should be aware that Christendom has in the main over the past two or three decades been eroded by false doctrine and the cunning craftiness of eloquent men with their own agendas, plotting and slowly eroding the very foundations of our Christian belief system.

Why now even the educators of our children are teaching confusion as to their gender, claiming to have more training in these matters than us and being of a higher intelligence than we are. Carolyn and I were blessed with five children and we only had to take their nappies off to know their true gender. It's not rocket science, is it? Paul in **1 Corinthians 2:1-5** wrote these words: *And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with*

you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

God has promised to supply our every need according to His riches in glory. During this celebration season it would be a good time for us, the members of the Body of Christ, to draw on that promise by waiting on Him to renew our strength – that we might mount up a mighty army to take back what the enemy has plundered from the Kingdom of God.

That being every soul of our straying loved ones, every soul of our friends and their families, every soul of our work associates, and that is only our Jerusalem. God could move any of us into distant fields of harvest. God has given us that power, the power of the Holy Spirit, the same power that raised Christ from the dead. Jesus came as God's gift to man, crucified dead and buried, but now risen and baptising believers with the Holy Spirit, transforming us from ordinary to extraordinary people. Yes, even the temple of God, His unique dwelling place.

It is therefore our responsibility to wait on God until we know that we know what His purpose and plan is for us, His redeemed. Much like Christmas when you have received a present, you have to open it to know what it is. Well, God is the giver of good gifts and He has poured out these gifts that we might be fully equipped for the day, but until we wait on Him we will not know the true value of the gift.

I believe that 2019 is going to be the year of massive growth for the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, not only here in Australia, but worldwide. Only those who wait on God will understand what God is about to do. Spend time with God this season and let Him reveal to you what He has in this year's wrapping. My expectation is rising as I receive letters from all around the country enquiring about our fellowship. Have a God inspired Christmas Season. Len.



Coffee & Conversation with James

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

Submitted by Ron Oastler

The waters across the Bay looked like glass ... smooth and shiny, not a ripple, not even the hint of a minor breath across the surface. It was just one of those days. 'Tranquillity itself' was James' subdued comment as he took his seat at the little table at the Marina Café on the Bay.

'Have you ever noticed' James quizzed, 'how artists and architects and others seek to capture the intrinsic beauty of an expanse of water that looks like a shining mirror?' 'Well' I replied somewhat tentatively, 'some of Monet's paintings would probably fit that description reasonably well I guess ... but architects?'

'Oh there is a variety of architectural devices to convey the serenity of calm water' was James rejoinder, 'from some "infinity pools" through to real or artificial water features. In fact, I recall a luxury hotel overseas that had a beautiful function area with a large, though shallow, attractive pond in front of a sweeping staircase that led to a mezzanine level. It spoke quite eloquently of tranquillity.'

'That does sound impressive' was about all I could say in response. 'The overall scene in that function room is indelibly impressed upon my memory ...' James voice trailed off as he called up that memory.

'I had been invited to speak at an outreach dinner in that city and the venue chosen was the luxury hotel. The meal was excellent, the service was top-class, the testimonies were powerful and the ambience of the place was absolutely ideal. What a night.' 'It was easy to share testimony and to present the Gospel in that place. Folk were relaxed and yet attentive, while the wait staff were unobtrusive, ensuring a receptive environment.'

'Having given testimony and clearly presented the need to each and every one of us to be reconciled to God, folk were given opportunity to commit to faith in



Christ. Some seven or so folk around the tables readily responded with a raised hand, signifying their willingness so to do.'

'It was then, as I looked around the whole of that function area one more time, I particularly noticed one of the wait staff. He had been standing at the top of that sweeping staircase for some minutes, right above the pond, listening. Now he had his hand raised, signifying that he too wished to commit to faith in Christ. So, as we asked those folk to come forward for prayer, our waiter joined this group, made his commitment and received helpful counsel from one of our function committee men.'

'Yes,' James concluded 'that was a few years back now, but you can see why that whole scene is eternally etched in my memory ... the room, the design feature, the tranquillity ... and the blessing of the waiter's response. Simply, God's blessing.'

The Exit Centre Founder - Moses Tay

Continued...

In 1996, I was released from the prison. Out from the prison, I vowed with a new determination to do good and be a changed man.



I wanted to stay away from drugs, to help out in the family business, and to be a filial son. However, I failed miserably again. I got back to my old ways and started taking drugs again. At the time, I felt I was in the dark abyss of no return. Life to me then was meaningless and hopeless.

That was the turning point in my life. It started from one simple word of encouragement from my brother that I picked up my courage to step into the rehab centre to be reformed. That was the beginning of a life journey towards light. I repented before the Lord and embarked on a journey of hope and renewal.

It was through one verse from the Bible that made me to be willing to give my whole life in servitude to The Lord, and to be used by Him as His valued vessel - Romans 12:1. God summoned me to go out and help those who are bound by drugs. Till this day, I have been involved myself with the drug rehabilitation ministry for 21 years.

During my time in the ministry, I was able to see the mercy and grace of the Lord acting in the lives of many of those lost souls bound by drugs. I am deeply moved by being able to witness God's deliverance of them. I give all praises and thanks to The Lord.

The Lord said in John 8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Another thing that I am greatly grateful for is that my third elder brother Kok Ann, by witnessing my living testimony as a transformed person through Jesus Christ, accepted The Lord in 2001.

Currently his entire family members have all turned to the Lord. Following this, my youngest brother Kenny and his

entire family, my third elder sister Susan and her entire family, my fourth elder brother Raymond and his entire family, all accepted the Lord one after the other.

Furthermore, I was truly exhilarated when my father accepted Christ and was baptized on 29 Sep, 2012. He returned to our Father's embrace on 27 Feb, 2013. As for my mother, she accepted Christ and removed all the idols from her house on 3 March, 2013. She was baptized on 4 Aug, 2013. She is now 91 years old and is still healthy and well. Another matter that struck me greatly was that a number of my nephews and nieces have also accepted The Lord.

I can only describe this as a miracle of God that it is his mercy and grace showered upon my family. This was something I prayed for earnestly after I converted, that all my family members turned to Jesus Christ for His saving grace. I have been able to witness it all with my own eyes. The Bible says: Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26).

Thank the Lord that I have been able to experience his faithfulness and his abundant grace all these years. As mentioned in the Bible:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalms 23:1). The Lord is my shepherd and I am His sheep. As long as I remain faithful and follow His ways, my life will be abundant and will never be lacking.

In 2009, I founded and established The Exit Gospel Rehabilitation Centre. God was able to help me to weather through the hardest of times of my life through various helps and support from many people. As of 2017, I stepped down as the Centre's Principal and passed the baton of leadership to a committed and capable leader.

God had prepared and raised up a new leader and 15 other like-minded co-workers to run the Centre. The Centre currently has about 100 occupants and about 90% of them have accepted The Lord.

In our current society, drug abuse and addiction problem has reached an epidemic proportion, the youths and intellectuals are the main targets and victims of this social problem. These are the people the Lord loves. It made me think of how I should help these people. Should I just continue on with my everyday life or should I ...? This is my current struggle, and worries....

Apostle Paul said: "I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race" (Romans 9:1 – 3)

For a good 22 years (1975-1997), I had lived a life that was sinful and corrupted, walking on the edge of death without hope. I was saved by our Lord Jesus Christ's grace, that I can live to serve Him and his people. I could never imagine where I would have been now if I had not been saved by His grace. I have nothing to boast but the power of Christ that saved me. Amen.

As Paul had said: May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14) P/s: Please keep me in your prayers with regards as to my future plan and direction. Thank you. Brothers and sisters in Christ, may the grace of The Lord forever be in your hearts. Amen!

A big thank you to Raymond Tay for getting this testimony to us.



December 2018 Newsletter

Remembering Armistice Day ...continued

One hundred years ago at the eleventh hour the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the Armistice was signed to end the Great War and bring peace to this world. Nearly five percent of the Australian population lost their lives or had psychological injuries nowadays we know that to be PTSD.

FGBMFI member John Diamond served in the UK RAF as a GCA Ground controlled approach radar technician from 1954 to 1959, in what is called the Cold War. He would be in the GCA truck about 20 metres from the runway with all officer precision approach operators. He tells of Flight Lieutenant Toby Foxlee DFM who came from Ormiston in Brisbane and flew as bomber crew with 617 Squadron, taking part in the famed Dambusters raid in P – Popsie as the front gunner and at other times he flew with Wing Commander Guy Gibson.

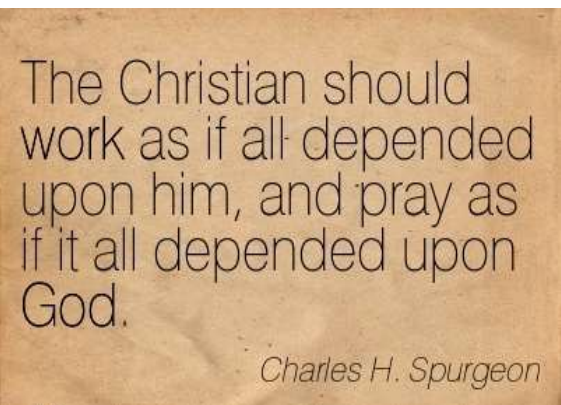
This centenary year John was asked by his pastor to lead the service at 11.00 hours as part of Remembrance Day 2018. He chose to wear his 'finery' with the medals that his ancestors were awarded for their part in WW1 and WW2. His grand uncle Arthur Henry Diamond joined the 17th London Regt (Stepney and Bow). Arthur married in August 1917 and was KIA in North East France and is buried in the Calais north cemetery. He was entitled to the top row of medals in the picture. The medals also refer to wife Joy's family as Claude Campbell joined at age 18! His mother writing a letter giving permission for Claude to "go to the front", he returned at age 22. His face on a welcome home family photo shows the effects of such warfare.

These medals also cover another relative, James Christensen who served in the 52nd Battalion, third reinforcement. He was KIA at Bullecourt and records show he has no known grave.

The second row refers to his Mother's service in the WAAF at UK Fighter Command HQ as a plotter during the Battle of Britain. His father, having passed his aircrew training, got an ear infection that stopped him receiving Morse Code and could not fly.

The third row is his father in law's medals. George Christsen, of the 7th Div Commandos who fought the Japanese in the Wewak area in northern New Guinea. His Brother Jack Christsen also served in New Guinea. Finally, the fourth row belongs to George's brother James Christsen who was a Rat of Tobruk and KIA and buried in Libya. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, seen quite clearly on the left hand end of the row.

Right - The picture shows John saluting as the Last Post is being played.



"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...

Relaying 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



NORTH LAKES CHAPTER

North Lakes Chapter: this Chapter was established by members of the Brisbane North Chapter under the President ship of Kevin Hooper, who after holding the reigns for two years had to hand them over to Willie Fourie due to poor health. Kevin still plays a supporting role and attends most meetings. The North Lakes Chapter has become very much a flagship Chapter within our Fellowship following and structuring their meeting almost copy book from our Training Manual. The Chapter tried a range of different venues around their catchment area, always praying for God to direct their path and to help them find a venue that was upmarket enough for them to attract Business men to their strategically placed Chapter. This Chapter is right in the heart of one of the fastest growing areas in Queensland. Consisting of a mixed housing and business property estate. Situated just north of Brisbane, on your way to the Sunshine Coast and a short drive to the City of Redcliff; who believes God answers prayer? The North Lakes Chapter does, for right in the middle of the area a new Hotel has been built and is being managed by Christians willingly giving favour to the Chapter, who now hold most of their meetings there. When North Lakes holds a meeting you can expect great food at a very reasonable price of \$20.00 per plate lunch time menu. I love going there for both the food and the fellowship.

So much for the structure of the Chapter, but it's what God is doing within the Chapter that's the real story that needs to be told. Let me tell you of just one meeting bathed in prayer, held in November. Brisbane North had an American speaker, Dr Ed Stewart coming and thought that he would be a greater benefit to their daughter Chapter if we held a combined mixed dinner at their new venue, promoting the North Lakes Chapter. This is how it all rolled out to the glory of God. Both Willie Fourie and John Weeks from Brisbane North facilitated the meeting in a businesslike and yet godly manner with plenty of Holy Spirit anointing. I, Len Donaldson, gave a short testimony and the main speaker kept his message within the allotted time. Those who required prayer were prayed for under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and some have since given testimony not only to their answered prayer, but also to the words given over them by Dr Ed Stewart. During the after meeting fellowship time I was able to meet people who had attended a FGBMFI meeting for the first time. They were good people, one of them being the Managing Director of a major printing company who made this statement: "Len, I like what you people are doing here, all your printing will be done free of charge." In reply I said "would you print us a book." To which he replied; "I said all your printing".

The second person was someone I knew, a lady who had for some years pastored with her husband and had just recently stepped down from Ministry. When I asked her what she was doing, her reply was "I don't know, I'm still waiting on God". I told her that I knew and she said "what"? My reply under the anointing of God was: "Take on the Ladies in Fellowship within the FGBMFI and make it happen". She jumped out of her seat and gave me a big hug saying: "I'm all covered with Holy Spirit bumps and you have just made my day big time". She is going to be in England for one month and then we will be having coffee and see where God leads. Brethren, this Chapter I believe will be one of the biggest if not the biggest chapters in Australia. Things just happen for them as they seek God for answers, no matter what the problem. "GOD BLESS THEM REAL GOOD." North Lakes will be the venue for our 2019 AGM and Conference to be held on the 9 – 11 August and will be attended by the National Presidents of Indonesia, Malaysia and New Zealand, plus Mario Garcia our International President. Plan now to be there. May God Bless each of you this Christmas. Len.

Presentation to Nell Gray

Nell has been presented with an Armada Pen and a framed "GRATITUDE AWARD for 50 YEARS of FAITHFUL SERVICE" with FGBMFI. Nell is a gifted Administrator and real diamond, who is known throughout Australia and many parts of the world. Her service has been exceptional and we are all still reaping the benefits of her loyal and dedicated service today. Nell was the rock behind her husband Bernie and when he went to be with the Lord, Nell continued to work and assist with the Brisbane Chapter, keeping them on the right track. Our sincere thanks to Nell for her contribution and the encouragement she is to all those that know her.



L_R John Weeks, Nell, Michael Terranova, Len Donaldson and Willie Fourie

Proverbs 31:10-11 A good woman is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds. 11 Her husband trusts her without reserve, and never has reason to regret it.