



## FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL (AUSTRALIA)

His banner over me is love - Song of Solomon 2:4

November 2019 Newsletter



Editor - Tony Vaughan

### From The President's Desk -

What are our priorities as a marketplace ministry? If we take a scriptural example it would have to be **Matthew 9:38**. "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest". Posing a second question, why? The simple answer is, for the harvest is the Lord's and He loves the harvest, yes! He loves each and every one that comes to Him in true repentance, laying their sin at the foot of His cross, in the realisation that Jesus died as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world. He died for all sin once to put it away.

So now we are praying to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest. This sort of praying could have a profound effect on the way in which we serve the Lord. If we are praying earnestly and fervently in the Spirit, we might see the harvest as the Lord does and how Demos Shakarian did in his God-given vision.

THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH page 145 "And what I saw terrified me. The faces were set, lifeless, miserable. Though the people stood so close together, shoulders touching, there was no real contact between them. They stared straight ahead, unblinking, unseeing. With a shudder of horror I realized that they were dead".

As we all know, this vision motivated Demos into starting this wonderful worldwide ministry that has seen so many lost souls saved, baptised in water and the Holy Spirit, then going on reaching others with the good news, that Jesus came to save the lost. Those heading for a Christless eternity, souls without hope, dead in trespass and sin; even as Demos saw them.

What troubles me is this: are our priorities for this wonderful world-wide fellowship of FGBMFI or for the lost souls that Jesus came to save? We can so easily get caught up in the good meetings, food and fellowship syndrome, missing the real reason that the ministry was established in the first place - that being to reach the lost.

**John 3:16** *God so loved the world that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* Then it stands to reason that love is central to our relationship with God. He first loved us; then shouldn't we love Him in return? Yes, but we do love God. Then how do we demonstrate our love for Him? Not by going to the meetings only, but by taking the lost with us that they might hear the testimonies of others and realise their deep need for salvation and get saved. **Ezekiel 18:23**. "Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? Says the Sovereign Lord. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live".

Now are the days of salvation, it is now that the harvest is at its peak and ready for harvest. We need to reset our priorities and push out into the harvest fields. In **Revelation 14:14-20** we read of two harvests. The first **verse 15**: *the harvest of the earth is ripe. This is the now verse.*

Second, **verses 18-20**: "thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe. (Even over ripe). To be thrown into the winepress of the wrath of God. **This is the too late verse.**

Joel 3:13. "Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow for their wickedness is great. 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision". If we have our priorities right we have the privilege of being the labourers in the field, bringing in the end time harvest before the wrath of God is poured out.  
Len.



### Coffee & Conversation with James By Ron Oastler



'What a change in the atmospheric,' was James' greeting as he scurried into the coffee shop. An *East Coast Low* had arrived in the Port and had brought with it some welcome showers, some light and some heavy but all of which were needed at this time.

The waiter was close by as James joined me at the table. He asked if he could take James' heavy wet jacket to allow him a little comfort. 'Oh, thank you so much. That certainly is a real blessing.' James responded.

The waiter reciprocated with 'Thank you sir for your courtesy ... are you a Christian?' then, without a pause he said 'I thought that you and your friend were Christians, by your general manner and the way you talk to each other and to other people here. It's nice to have you visit our shop. Perhaps when I am not on Roster you could tell me about how you became a Christian?'

'I would be happy to do that. Please let me know when you are available.' James offered. 'I will' the waiter responded, as he resumed his duties in the Coffee Shop.

Then, turning to me, James observed: 'One of the lessons which I learned early on was that we communicate both consciously and unconsciously, all of the time. So, interesting, is it not, that our waiter friend saw a differentiating factor in us that he recognised as a characteristic of what a Christian should be.'

'What a responsibility rests upon us to show the characteristics of Our Lord in our daily life. As the Apostle John said: "whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked (1John 2:6)" The word walk of course meaning to live, or how to conduct one's self.'

'It reminds me of that occasion about which we shared some time back ... it was while running a Sales Skills Workshop for a client overseas, where I was unknown to any of the participants. Toward the end of the luncheon adjournment on the first day one of the men, named Steve, came to me saying that he needed help with a problem in his marriage. He said he just knew that I could help him! So, *how we conduct ourselves* does communicate ...'

'Do you remember' James continued, 'I told Steve that I would be happy to talk with him at the end of the afternoon, when the rest of the team had left for the day... and it happened just so.'

'We met in the lounge area of the Workshop venue and Steve told me his story. He had accepted re-location with his employer and his wife accompanied him in this move. However, following her appointment to a well-paying position

in another company, she wanted to go it alone and pursue her own career, putting an end to the marriage. Steve's question was: what do I do?

'Well,' said James, 'I shared with him the best answer to that question is to hear direct from God and to hear from God we need a relationship with Him – to know Him personally. Steve's next question was how do I do that? So, I explained to him the good news of the Gospel in its simplicity ... the Bible says that sin has separated us all from a living relationship with God (Isaiah 59.2) and we therefore need to restore that relationship.'

'God made that way possible, through Jesus Christ paying the price for our sin. This provides the opportunity for us to come to God, confess our sin, and ask for His forgiveness, believing in the fact of Jesus death and resurrection for us (1 John 1.9 & Romans 8.34). God said that if we do that, we have the right to become His children (John 1.12).'

'Then' said James thoughtfully, 'I asked Steve if he was ready to come back to God in this way'. He said yes and prayed there and then, in the venue lounge. I could almost hear the angels rejoicing.'

'... and the good news does not end there either,' James continued, 'the one pastor whom I knew in that city said he would disciple him and a manager from Steve's company was a member of his church.'

'So' James concluded, '*how we conduct ourselves* can open opportunities to fulfil the Great Commission, which is to *win & disciple folk to Christ.*'

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**Toowoomba Dinner Meeting 18 October 2019**

*From left to right – Chapter Member Doug Gray, guest speaker Colin Ryan & Chapter President John Wise.*



By: "**Happy Jack**" **Burbridge**

Author of the amazing prison book: "**The Enforcer**"

We stole cars, stripped them and sold the parts to the man in the park and some other men. They got what they wanted and we got what we wanted. When I entered high school, I discovered a talent that would become my career – violence. I had always been a good fighter, because Johnny and his friends were six years older than me and I had to learn to fight if I wanted to go around with them.

But I had always had a mean streak, too, even when I was a little kid. When I was just six years old, I put our paperboy in the hospital. Every day when I was out in the yard playing after school, the paperboy would try to hit me with our paper as he rode by on his bike and he usually succeeded. One day when I saw him coming, I dragged a snow shovel behind a tree and when he rode by, I jumped out and swung the shovel with all my might. The bike went in one direction, the boy went in another, and papers flew all over the street. Everyone thought that I hadn't really meant to hurt him, but they were wrong. I wasn't sorry at all when the ambulance came.

But now I was in high school, and bigger. And meaner. I wasn't a bully, but I could take care of myself. One day a black guy stabbed me in the knee and I threw him down a flight of concrete stairs. When he landed at the bottom, right in front of a door just as the teacher was stepping out into the hall, I got expelled. I didn't think it was fair, but then I knew the authorities never were fair. I got expelled again when a teacher hit me on the hand with his stick for having a comic book hidden in my math workbook. He meant to knock the book out of my hand, but he missed and came down on my knuckles. I reacted on instinct – I jumped up and slugged him.

After graduating from high school, it was the 1950's, the era of the leather jackets, duck tails and motorcycle gangs. I had it all. I had already made up my mind what I wanted to be. My hero was the James Cagney type gangster and I wanted to be just like him – a top gangster, not just a thug.

**FIGHTING IN THE MILITARY**

"Burbridge, you got the right temperament," a rough-looking sergeant barked. He looked me over, slapped me on the back and made me squad leader two weeks after I arrived at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

By "the right temperament" he meant that I was as mean as a snake. I started fighting almost the minute I arrived and didn't stop for three years. Big and hot tempered, I'd take on anybody, any time, any place. It helped a lot when I went from 182 to 210 lbs. During basic training – I added 30 lbs of muscle to a 6'3" frame – and nobody could beat me.

In the base championship boxing matches, I emerged as the winner and was scheduled to a match with the winner of another Texas base for the Division Championship title. The day arrived, the bell rang, I went out to meet my opponent, and the last thing I remembered was a glove in my face. The glove belonged to a guy twice my size and just as fast. He won by decision, because he beat me to a pulp, but I wouldn't stay down. I knew I was getting mutilated, but I was determined to last all three rounds. When the last bell rang, after what seemed like an eternity of getting punched in the face, I was taken to the infirmary.

It was one of the few times I ever lost a fight. Instead of deciding I'd better back off from fighting, since it *could* be dangerous and I *might* get hurt seriously someday, I just decided I'd be meaner and faster than the other guys so I wouldn't get hurt. It wasn't long before I learned karate and another more exotic form of martial arts. With these new skills in violence, I just got tougher and more hot-headed. If I kicked a man in the teeth for looking at me wrong, what could he do about it?

After basic training, I was shipped to Wiesbaden Air Force Base in Germany, where I had further training – but not for the Air Force. I hadn't been in Germany but a few days before I discovered that the little frauleins were only too willing to play all kinds of games with the American soldiers, and I began a lucrative business in prostitution. I had done some amateur pimping before, but now the profits were considerably higher. I soon got involved in a host of black market activities and was making money hand over fist. And I was having a great time. I played drums in the base band (twice for Elvis when he was on tour in Germany as a soldier), wrecked cars for guys who wanted to collect the insurance money, raced, gambled, and as always – fought. I got into one scrape after another, had a summary court martial for my "attitude," and was always in one kind of trouble or another.

Continued.....

**Renewing Our Focus**

I am writing this article to reposition our purpose in FGBMFI (Australia) which I hope will help our focus on being effective instruments for the Lord's service.

To be part of FGBMFI (Australia) we must have the mindset of evangelists and the great need to see people snatched from the fire. We do this during our working hours and our leisure time's work individually in market place but through FGBMFI (Australia). We do have a structure in terms of public meetings, where with some format we try and assist salvation outcomes.

To use an analogy, if you were interested in rugby union (the World Cup has recently finished) you can go to a match and watch or as a spectator, or you can be one of the 30 players on the field. If you are one of the 30 players you are playing the game and not a spectator. So we set up public meetings with structure which should flow like the following:

Chapters look at their events diaries and look to hold public meetings on the following agreed dates throughout the year. Keep in mind that we should avoid church buildings as much as possible so invitees do not think it is a church meeting. Also try and keep the same meeting days as people get used to attending on a set day if possible. Once your calendar is agreed upon, the chapter would then source speakers for these dates (if a speaker cannot make it on the date invited then try another speaker rather than move the date).

So far so good...

The chapter then invokes its meeting protocols along the following lines:

Public Meeting – chapter members appointed to welcome people at the door and have people to talk to visitors/ first time attendees before the meeting starts, seating them with people who will make them feel welcome and comfortable.

The Chapter President officially welcomes everyone and gives the format for the evening (this is very important as people may have babysitters etc. and may become anxious if they do not know what time the meeting will close).

Notices may be given during the food courses and the Voice Magazine explained and its use as a witnessing tool. This will differ in different chapters but the main thing is keep everything business-like and flowing. What you are trying to achieve in an orderly fashion is have your speaker on **as soon as possible**, so that the business end of the meeting takes place without the speaker running out of time!

After the meal the guest speaker is invited to share his/her testimony, resulting with an altar call at the conclusion of their message (remember no preaching during a testimony and the speaker has been given a set time to speak).

Hopefully people will respond positively to the altar call and be looked after by chapter members and directed to a Bible believing church. General prayers for others can take place after the altar call and you may then finish with tea coffee. People should be told after the altar call that the meeting has officially finished and they may leave if they need to go.

So far is a broad outline of what takes place to make things happen. I now move back to our rugby game and mention spectators meetings. These are meetings where everything is set up well and conducted well but there is no **urgency** in inviting the unsaved. So in effect with no candidates for salvation, we are in spectator mode and going through the motions.

How do we switch to player mode?

We must be aware that all our meetings will be ineffective if there are no unsaved people at the meetings – all our work and effort goes for nothing.

So each member must be **accountable**. Members must encourage each other (iron sharpens iron) to bring at least one new person to each meeting, so that the meeting fulfils its purpose of saving the lost. I can't stress enough the need for prayer in asking the Lord who you should invite and keep a 'hit list' to pray over the people you would like to attend. Be persistent because eternity is at stake.

Also, it is of the utmost importance when you invite someone to say to them that **you will pick them up**, as it can be very stressful going to a meeting not knowing anyone. I have known people who did not turn up because they found it too daunting just to arrive at the door on their own.

Praying for the right speakers for each meeting is important and you need speakers who will relate well to the people attending e.g. a bank manager would be good to speak to people with a financial background. Why I say pray about the speakers you invite or at the very least have someone you know recommend them, because I was at a chapter meeting where the speaker was excellent (not recommended by anyone that I know of) and at the conclusion of the meeting instead of giving an altar call he went off and started to talk about how good Freemasonry was and we should get involved – the meeting concluded very swiftly after those comments. We had not done our homework!

Remember it is the Lord that draws and saves people but we have

**EVENTS – See webpage for details**



## 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



the privilege of providing the vehicle to help make this happen. If you have any concerns in regards to holding Public Meetings please let the board know and we can offer advice or assistance.

**So the honest questions to be asked are in relation to a functioning chapter:**

**How many salvations do we have this year?**

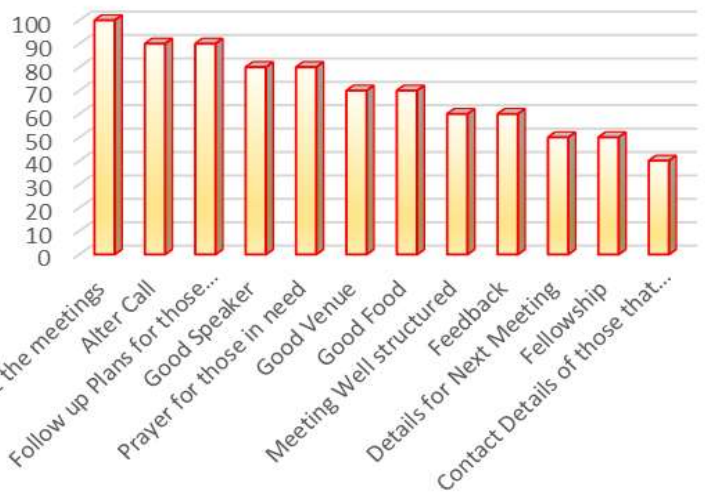
**How many new members do we have?**

**How many members have left, and have we used these men and kept them busy and interested?**

**Looking at the questions above may reduce the feeling of going through the motions and transform the chapter into player mode.**

*By Tony Vaughan*

### Guide to Meeting Structure



### Meeting Importance

- Having unsaved at the meetings
- Altar Call
- Follow up Plans for those making a decision for Christ
- Good Speaker
- Prayer for those in need
- Good Venue
- Good Food
- Meeting Well structured
- Feedback
- Details for Next Meeting
- Fellowship
- Contact Details of those that attended

***Ensure that the Chapter has prayed for the meeting beforehand asking the Holy Spirit to move sovereignly with power and authority over the event.***