



From the President's Desk -

Isn't it exciting when God speaks to you, whether by His audible voice or from His Word the Bible? New chapters in our lives open up and we seem to get a much clearer vision of God's purpose in our lives. That was the case the morning God woke me with **John 16:7** sounding in my mind like bells ringing in volume; that which I wrote about in last month's newsletter. Good news, folks, God hasn't finished opening that passage to us yet.

Concerning the Great Commission Jesus in **Mark 16:15** instructed His disciples to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature". Yes! That's right, to share the love of God in Christ Jesus; to convince the lost that Jesus came into this world not to condemn, but to save them. The conviction of sin is the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit according to **John 16:7**. "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment". There is a desperate need in the world today for us as believers to get our lives lined up with the Word of God, that we might become instruments of honour in our Master's hands.

Place yourselves in the position of Christ's disciples. Jesus had just said to them that it was expedient for them that He leaves and goes away; making it possible for Him to send another Comforter to them, one who would convict the world of sin. He premises His words with "I tell you the truth". Therefore, there can be no rebuttal to this statement. Thank God, Jesus is always for that which is most expedient for us, whether we understand it clearly or not. Even when we are heading in a wrong direction, He graciously over rules our mindset, bringing us through troubled waters into His safe haven.

I see something here of a great advantage to us as believers and indeed unto our Lord, in the coming of the Holy Spirit; if as Jesus expressed in **John 15:1-8** That He is the true vine and that we are the branches and how that the branches must bear fruit or be taken away and burned. **Verse 5**. "I am the true vine, you are the branches, He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing". In the natural world of seed time and harvest, summer and winter, we observe that in the cold of winter when the sap is down, the vine loses its leaves and there is no fruit to be had. However, as spring time comes around and the sap goes back up the vine, new life appears in the leafage and then comes the abundance of fruit.

Do you see the analogy here in line with what Jesus has just said? If He, Jesus is the true vine and we are the branches, the Holy Spirit is the lifegiving sap bringing new life to the branches, with fullness of joy in the expectation of their fruitfulness. The fruit that we the branches bear we bear unto Jesus, for that fruit is the fruit of His purchase and the purchase price was His death on the cross, which He referred to as His going away. The warning was clearly given that without Jesus we can do nothing.

Romans 8:11. *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.* We then as ambassadors of Christ Jesus, have the great privilege of working in partnership with the Holy Spirit. This privilege paid for on our behalf and prayed for by Jesus **John 14:16**. "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever". Yes! There is a small personal price to be paid for souls; time in intercessional prayer, praying for the lost. Those you pray for are those you gain.

Oh dear believer do you understand that the presence of Christ's Spirit in His church today, is so much more desirable than His bodily presence? That is why Jesus said that it is expedient for us that He should go away, to send the Holy Spirit to us. Christ's physical bodily presence draws men's eyes, His Spirit draws their hearts. Furthermore, His earthly body could only be in one place at a time, whereas His Spirit can be in every place at all times; it's not a mystery it's a fact. Every one of us who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit have become the unique dwelling place of God's Spirit. **1 Corinthians 6:19**. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were brought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's".

Sinners in the main know that they are what they are and don't need us to tell them those facts. Our role is to share the love of God with them, explaining things pertaining to the Kingdom of Heaven and the advantages we have as believers. Skilfully using our testimonies as we share personal life experiences, paving the way for the Holy Spirit's work of convincing them of sin. He can do it far more effectively than we can, without bruising the fruit.

Praise God it's harvest time.

Len.

Coffee & Conversation with James **By Ron Oastler**

... another true story from the experiences of a long-time member and friend, as retold by Ron Oastler.

Both James and I had a very full list of activities lined up for the day. So, we took the decision to make a change from our usual coffee and conversation and make it an early get-together for 'Toasties & Talk' at the Marina Café.

'Ah, how invigorating is the early rising my friend.' was James opening pronouncement. I was not too sure whether he was asking a question or making a statement, though I think it was the latter, so I responded with a simple: 'I guess it all depends.'

Just then we observed a handful of men coming onto the Promenade from a half-cabin launch that had just tied up. They were carrying rods and tackle boxes plus, more significantly, some heavily laden icebox coolers – it appears that they had been successful! That was good to see. But what we overheard, as they passed us, was the really interesting thing.

'I've got to hand it to you mate, you made the big difference today with that good Burley' was the real word of praise from one. 'The fish just couldn't resist its attraction and took the bait! I'll be following your example from now on ...'

'Me too' came the affirming chorus from the others.

After they had passed by, James quietly commented: 'Ah, I see that there has been some learning by experience within the group. Interesting, is it not, that scattering something attractive can assist in the taking of the real bait. Remember, Jesus was always speaking and behaving in ways that attracted people, the result being that many took the bait and committed themselves to Him.'

Continuing with the example of Jesus, James commented that the experienced angler made better fishermen of the group, by his demonstration of skill. He noted: 'This is somewhat akin to Jesus saying to His disciples; "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."' Yes?

And of course, the Apostles did follow his example and lived "The Gospel" as burley before the multitudes, proving to be effective fishers of men.'

As expected, James reinforced this truth from his own experience.

'You might recall my story of my secretary, Rhonda. The burley on the water was my sharing with her the greatness and goodness of God for all of a person's life and living. She came to me one day with a dilemma. Her Parish Priest would not allow her to marry her fiancé as she had been previously married and divorced. Explaining her situation, Rhonda said to me "you have been telling me that Jesus has the answers to life and living, what am I to do?" What a profound question, I thought. The burley on the water had brought her to this point.

'Well Rhonda, I could tell you what the Scriptures say about your dilemma, but you can hear from the Lord Himself. When we become a child of God, by receiving Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we then have His Spirit within us to lead and guide us in His ways. You would want that would you not? You can receive Him right here and now by committing yourself to Him. Can we pray together to that end?' So it was that Rhonda "took the bait" and fulfilled the scripture:

"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." Romans 10:10 NIV

'Then after praying for Rhonda, I took a bible from the shelf and suggested she read the Gospel of John which tells of the love of Jesus and the Father - and the Book of Acts which tells of the enabling power of the Holy Spirit ... Then, having prayed with her, I bid her God's blessing and good evening.'

'The next day Rhonda said, "I've read all of the Gospel of John and the Book of Acts, what should I read next?" How wonderful ... so then two things then happened. I suggested some further scripture reading, plus I called an on-fire Spirit filled Anglican Minister who was rector of a church close by where Rhonda was living. They agreed to look after her come Sunday and shepherd her in her new-found faith. Which they did - and the Holy Spirit started an exciting work in her life.'

'This is another of the lessons we need to learn about "Winning & Discipling folk to Christ"', was James closing statement.

Dr. Terry Peters, San Antonio, Texas

Selling shoes was very mechanical. It was like being dead and yet still alive. In my search for answers, I got involved in Eastern religions. I read every book I could find on the topic, wanting to find spiritual power. By then I believed in reincarnation, transcendental meditation, and evolution. When my parents came to Houston for my sister's wedding, they kept bugging me to come back to the Panhandle of Texas. This continued during a trip we took together.

When I had left home to attend Chiropractic College, we had had parties to celebrate the great success I was going to make of myself. Now, to go home defeated, with my tail between my legs, seemed just too demeaning. Then I remembered a Bible story about Gideon who had laid out a fleece. I knew there was a God, so I thought, "I'll try that." I told God, "If You want me to go back to my home town, I won't have a place to live or a new job like I have here."

When we returned to Houston, I noticed a note on my car window, which said, "Dear Terry, we've moved to Wisconsin." I no longer had a place to live and, as it turned out, I did not get the new job I had been counting on.

In one of the books I'd read, it recommended that if you did not have

anything else to meditate on, you should use the 'Our Father'. In doing this, I found myself crying out to God in desperation. To my surprise, I felt a tangible love come over me.

I moved back home to the Panhandle of Texas in 1970. The first person to call me at home was my school buddy. He had become a 'born-again Christian' and kept asking me to go to church with him. One day I agreed to go with him so he would stop bugging me.

This was the first time I had ever been in a church where people looked like they were enjoying themselves. They seemed so happy and at peace. I thought to myself, "Oh, God, if I could just have some of that." I began to copy their style of worship, thinking that if I did maybe, just maybe, I would feel better.

When I raised my hand very slightly, that 'monkey' went off my back. I now believe that my life was changed right then. The moment I entered into the worship of Jesus, something changed in me; perhaps it was that sign of surrender. I don't know what it was; I just know the 'monkey' was off my back for the first time in 16 years. At the end of the meeting they invited people forward for prayer. When I got to the front, the minister asked why I had come and I answered, "I don't know. You invited us forward for prayer, so here I am."

I kept my friend up till three in the morning going through the Bible, talking about what it meant to be 'born again' or 'saved', and saying the 'sinner's prayer'. Two weeks later I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Then I met a man named Morris Means; he was a sign painter. We became friends, and for the next two years, he disciplined me in the importance of prayer. I was under a lot of stress because I could not seem to make enough money, and my wife was now divorcing me, and threatening that I would never see my children again. Though I felt a lot better now that I was 'born again,' I still had a lot of problems. Every time I would go to Morris with my problems, he would ask if I'd prayed about it. I would tell him I had and he would always answer, "Well, go pray some more."

Off I would go to pray, and when I came back to him, he would always answer the same, "Go pray some more." Soon I discovered that when I spent time with God, my problems would go away. One day Morris said he was going out to a cottage he owned to spend some time in prayer and I asked if I could go along. He agreed.

I stayed there for twenty-six days. When I came back, nothing had changed that I could feel. I was still broke, though happy. At this point I wanted to go into full time ministry, but the friend who'd led me to the Lord, phoned and said he had a friend, a Chiropractor, who needed help. A couple owned the practice. The husband had been killed in an accident and the wife was sick. She was looking for someone to take over her practice. The third time he called, I agreed to check it out.

Once again, I put a fleece before the Lord. I said, "God, if You want me to be a Chiropractor, I want a rug on the floor, a trained receptionist, a X-ray machine and all the equipment, and I do not want to borrow any money." At that time, I couldn't have borrowed any money if I'd wanted to. When I saw the office, it was better equipped than I had even asked for. I thought I would never get it unless I borrowed a bunch of money.

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To my surprise, all she wanted was for me to pick up a small rental fee. Before I left I was already adjusting patients. In a couple of years I was able to buy another office that was twice as big. I became very prosperous and well known in my profession.

Then I attended a meeting of the FGBMFI. Within a few months I was asked to be president of the Chapter. By the end of the year 300 people were coming to the chapter meetings. Then I began to pray for the territory 150 miles in radius around my town. In the next seven years we started 13 chapters and held four successful conventions.

I was about 40 years old at the time and so many wonderful things were happening. Everyone would come and tell me what a great job I was doing. The compliments went to my head and I began thinking that I was really pretty good. Now when my friend kept telling me, "Terry, go pray some more," I told him to leave me alone, that I was too busy. Pride had entered in. One day God told me to resign from all my positions. I knew what it was like without God in my life, so I obeyed.

I turned my business over to my brother and asked the Lord to send me someplace where true revival was to take place. He brought San Antonio to my mind and I moved to South Texas in 1979. Without Jesus this would have been a very difficult time, but it was a positive time of learning with God's help. One day I was in my office when someone wanted to talk to me. It was my ex-wife who, to my surprise, offered to send me photos of our children, whom I had not seen in ten years.

Later she invited me to see them. It was very special; the children and I made an immediate connection. They were 12, 13, and 14 years old at the time. When my eldest son, Ted, was fifteen, he came to live with me. A year and a half later his brother, David, came to live with us. Since that time my children have given me five grandchildren. Dr. David Peters is a Chiropractor and worked with me for four years. He now practices in Missouri. My daughter, Debra, has a Master's degree in Civil Engineering, and lives in South Carolina, and my other son, Ted, lives in Houston, and has a mortgage business.

There came a time that I began to pray for a wife. I asked God to choose one for me this time. One day several of us from a singles group went to visit a girl who'd been to our church once. It was an awkward afternoon for me. After a long time of being quiet, I started to talk to her about God. I asked her, "Do you know Jesus?" She answered that she knew all about the person and life of Jesus. But when I asked her if she had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, she said she didn't, so I asked if she would like to have one. When she said, "Yes," I led her in a 'sinner's prayer'.

I then asked if she would like to receive the Baptism of the Holy

Spirit. I explained that it was when God gives us power to live the Christian life. She said yes, so I prayed for her and she immediately spoke in 'tongues'. Four months later, in April 1985, Gerry and I married. Since that time God has prospered our Chiropractic business. She takes care of all the finances and paper work.

The greatest thing that has happened to me in the last few years is a project to get people to pray. I was praying for something no one else was doing in the body of Christ. That was when God told me to begin exhorting people to pray. In May of 2000, we began putting the audio on the internet (www.fgbmf Outreach.org/prayer). I believe this is one of the most important things I have done in my whole life because, without prayer, nothing of spiritual value can happen.

If just one person in every country listens to one of these messages and begins exhorting others to pray, it will create an atmosphere of revival around the world.

Recently I participated with the FGBMFI Fire Teams at Celebrate America in Brownsville, Texas, where 11,000 were fed and received the Gospel.

You Don't Know What You've Got Till it's Gone

By Ian Eckel

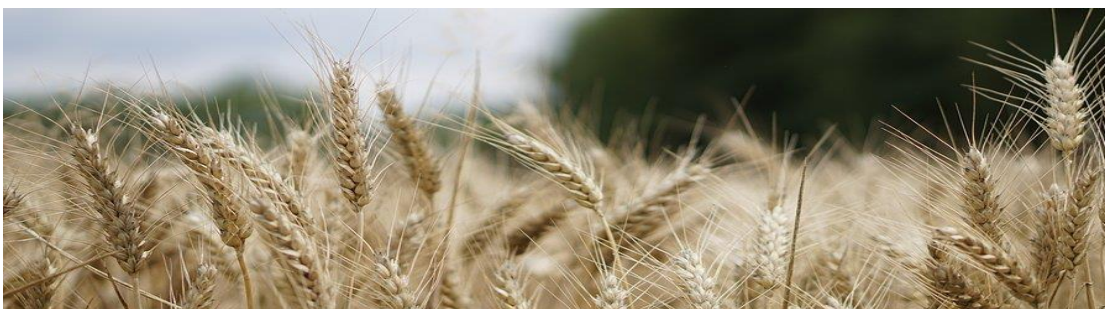
It struck me that God's economy is love, and in the beginning, man only had the mateship of the animals God surrounded him with. But God had the plan to give him another human so that he could experience intimate human love. The sort of intimacy that welds human hearts together.

As most of you know by now, I have lost that intimacy that I enjoyed for 45 years, with the passing of my wife.

When Sharon and myself sat down to construct our testimony, we decided to confess all the shortfalls of our life together. She had to forgive me for a lot of idiot things I had done and said.

One thing that had stuck in her memory from the time she first conceived our first child to this time, was the stupid statement I made jokingly, "whose child was it, as she conceived when we were 'not having serious sex' but were just 'playing around'". Stupid me, I made the same comment when the same thing happened with our second child because the circumstances were similar. Sharon carried that hurt unbeknown to me for something like 13 years. Being asked to share our testimony at an FGBMFI dinner was the best thing for our relationship. Having to stand up in front of dozens of people and be brutally honest healed this hurt that Sharon carried buried in her heart.

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



I have been in the building industry for 55 years and the building site can be pretty ruthless. Blokes would never say away from the building site, what they say to one another on site. But that crude sense of humour does escape at times in the most inappropriate time and place, and the poor wife can be the victim of man's stupidity.

My wife used to say that I threw out lots of emotional hand grenades. That was all right among men, they would either throw them away or throw them back at me. But women, who were not used to this type of humour, would hang onto the grenade till it exploded. I could never understand what they were getting upset about e.g. like the times I would ask a chubby woman, 'how's the diet going, it doesn't seem to be working'.

There is a simple diagram that deals with four things in a Christian's life, it's simple to illustrate. Just draw a diamond and add two lines connecting the four corners which makes four boxes, the one at the top is the things that we know about ourselves and the things that we know that everyone else knows. We quickly deal with them.

The box on the right is for the things we know about ourselves but no one else knows, these things we have to deal with them when God puts His finger on them when the Word reveals them. For me, it was answering every altar call for about the first ten years. The box on the left is for the things that everyone else knows about you, that you just can't see. This is where you need to allow the body of Christ to correct you, and for me, I had the pleasure of two women in the congregation who were constantly digging me in the ribs, along with my wife. God bless their souls.

The bottom box is where all the things that you and no one else know about you so no human can help. This is where only God can help, this is where you sense that there is something wrong but you just can't just get hold of it. So it was with Sharon and myself, this hurt that Sharon was carrying would never have surfaced and been dealt with if it wasn't for FGBMFI.

So, fellows, time is too short to carry hurts that husbands and wives carry to the grave. Ask God what is in your bottom box, and confess them before God and man or woman in this case. There could be hurts that you have caused in your marriage that stop your wives from letting themselves get close to you.

Well Done Good & Faithful Servant

Our sincere thanks to Michael Waters from the Toowoomba Chapter who has just retired as the Chapter Secretary and Treasurer after 10 years in that position. Having spent some time as a member of the Toowoomba Chapter, I was able to see firsthand Michael's commitment to this position and I also noticed that he was a gifted administrator.

Michael, we know that your chapter appreciates you and your years of dedicated service, but we also want you to know that the Board appreciates your contribution to the organisation and, unto the Lord. We wish you and Gail every blessing in the Lord.

