



**From the President's Desk -**



A Christian testimony consists of a line of words strung together to tell a true story about an individual's life, or events in a person's life, that should inspire the hearer to pursue godly life changing measures to improve their own relationship with God, through Christ Jesus our Lord. I have heard many good testimonies and quite a few not so good ones, but the thing I find extremely interesting is that often what is revealed within a testimony, whether the speaker is aware of it or not, is a prophetic word. Yes! A word of immense encouragement to the individual hearer, who has an ear to hear. Not only man's testimony, but more importantly what the Spirit of God is saying within the testimony, concerning the days and times we are living in; often revealing a new direction or method of operation God wants a person or organisation such as ours to move in.

That is exactly what happened at the Brisbane North Chapter's big breakfast Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August, when Giel Smith was sharing his excellent God-honouring testimony. As he was settling nicely into the meat of his testimony, these words came forth, just flowing out of his mouth like fresh water from a spring: *"I believe that God is moving in a new direction in preparation for a revival over this nation and beyond. He is going to use the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International to spearhead it by building this ministry up better than it ever was in the 50's and 60's, that signs, wonders and miracles will occur in the Market Place as God draws people unto Himself"*. Giel continued on with his inspiring testimony, concluding with these words from Psalm 121:8 *The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore*. Now, the above scriptural verse caught my attention, sending my mind back to the last time I had used it in a public meeting. I had just completed my final message at a Family Easter Camp for the Newcastle Uniting Church, for which I was the guest speaker for every session, speaking on the infilling of Holy Spirit and the ministry gifts.

I was in Newcastle as a construction manager, building the John Hunter Hospital and also pastoring an Italian Assembly of God Church, sharing at most of the meetings on Sundays and during the week. By the time Carolyn and I arrived at the Westbrook camp site, I was almost completely burnt out and without a single word from God to share at the Family Camp. What a predicament, but God.

Each morning I would rise from my bed at 4.30am, stoke up the fire in our room to get warm and just wait on God for the Scriptures to speak on for that day. Oh, how faithful is our God? Right from the very first meeting to the last, God's anointing filled me as God spoke through me to those lovely God reverencing people; not my word but His. Throughout the weekend and at every meeting, God was building something in the spirit realm and hearts of the people, that was going to be life changing to each of them. At the conclusion of my final

message, the Pastor asked if I was going to have an altar call for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. My answer was, "no sir I'm going to pray for you to be filled and then you as the pastor of these people will pray for a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit into your congregation; you are the shepherd of this flock". After praying for the Pastor, who was mightily filled, I prayed a benediction over the congregation using Psalm 121:8 and left the meeting, knowing that what God had called me to do was done.

Both Carolyn and I went for a walk through on old cemetery that was part of the camp site just reading some of the names and inscriptions on the tombstones, giving thanks to God for what was transpiring back in the meeting. The altar call lasted two and a half hours as the Spirit of God filled those God-loving people with his Holy Spirit, under the hands of their pastor.

Back to Giel's testimony – when you bring both ends of it together, the prophetic and the scriptural, you get the real feeling that we are going to be part of something of a magnitude over and above anything we may have hoped for, or even experienced in the past. Yes, something that only God can orchestrate. What of the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel in Zechariah 4:6 *Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts*. And verse 9: *The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it*.

I believe that God is about to move by His Holy Spirit in a new way, to achieve His will and purpose according to His time clock as we enter into end-time ministries. We must be clear it won't happen by power or the might of man, but by the Spirit of God, as in the days of Zerubbabel. The difficult high mountains were brought low, meaning that no problem we might face in the future can't be overcome by the Spirit of God in Jesus name. We, today's members of the fellowship, have an obligation firstly to God and secondly to the past members, who laid the foundations of this worldwide marketplace ministry here in Australia, to complete the work that they, under the mighty hand of God started. Now is the time to put the mistakes of the past in the past, seeking first the Kingdom of God and all His righteousness and being filled with His Holy Spirit, that all that Jesus taught might come to pass not only in the confines of the fellowship, but in every panting heart in our market places, as we move forward in anticipation of some fresh and exciting spiritual awakening.

God Bless you, pray it in.  
Len





Mike & Anna

**MYANMAR. (Part 2.)**

I was caught up in the 1988 Burma coup when conducting a mission trip and this is a continuation of my story. After spending the night at a pastor's house, I escaped back to the hotel for the protection of the pastor and his family. When reaching the Hotel, I was confronted by a government spy who interrogated me about my whereabouts. God gave me the wisdom to be friendly with him and I was able to change the subject. Remember that I said there was no fear in me, and the following scripture explains why...

**Proverbs 9:10 the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge.** So, I revered the Lord with awe and not with fear. There was no food in the Hotel except for eggs, which I devoured and licked the plate because of hunger. Once again there were no reliable taxis and as I was contemplating what to do about getting to the airport, a thought came to me. The pastor suggested that I visit the main Baptist cathedral in the city to pray for the pastors. I made my way to the cathedral in the centre of town, where all the killings took place the previous day. I began to feel that it was a mistake to go there.

There were soldiers on every street corner with loaded guns trained on me as I approached the cathedral. Opposite was a Muslim mosque, where men were shooting the soldiers from the prayer calling tower. I later discovered that the soldiers were ordered to shoot anyone who attempted to enter the cathedral. The big stained-glass windows had been smashed and there was blood on the pavement. So, I did what any smart person would do and that was pray.

**Psalm 66:19 But God has surely listened and has heard my request.** I boldly knocked on the big wooden door of the cathedral and a priest answered with fear written on his face. "Come in quickly", he blurted out and slammed the door behind us. He introduced me to the Bishop of Burma, who was also scared and asked me why I had come. I told him that I had come from Australia and wanted to encourage as many pastors as possible.

As we talked about the church in Australia, the Holy Spirit was prompting me to pray for him. To my surprise he said "yes", promptly kneeling upright and I did the same. After I had prayed for the Church in Burma and for grieving people, my back began to ache, but the Bishop stayed perfectly upright. Once again, I felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit telling me to pray for him. This time I was glad to get up and relieve my backache. I walked towards him and slowly stretched out my hands in order to place them on his shoulders. As I did, he went stiff and then melted as I lost my inhibitions.

The power of the Holy Spirit came upon me as I prayed for him, and afterwards he stood up and hugged me as we both wept for at least 10 minutes. I looked at his face and saw a new boldness. The fear had gone. When it was time to leave, he opened the door and looked straight into the eyes of the soldier with a gun. To my amazement, the soldier smiled. This was my signal to hot foot it back to the Hotel, where the receptionist was so upset with me because I had not gone to the airport yet. I managed to get a lift to the airport and mingled with the huge crowd. There was

only one plane on the tarmac and a huge crowd trying to board it to Bangkok.

I held out my passport, but the soldier ignored me because I would not bribe him, but after a few attempts, he stamped it in anger. If the soldier had not stamped my passport, I would have been an illegal person with a risk of being thrown into goal. I was told by the Bishop that an American missionary was goaled and brainwashed for several weeks before being released. Before leaving the Hotel, I had coffee with the war correspondents who gave me videos and film rolls to smuggle into Thailand.

Whilst waiting to board, the soldiers were walking up and down searching passengers. Again, I prayed, and they ignored me. We finally boarded and after landing, everyone stood up and cheered. Being the only Caucasian on board made it easy for the media people to locate me and receive the smuggled articles, which told the truth about the number of deaths. (Philippians 4:7; James 3:18; Luke 10:6).

**PRAYING ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL**

Written by Bob & Debby Gass



**You do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives.'**

**James 4:3 NIV**

When you pray for the salvation of a loved one, you never have to wonder if it's God's will. His will is clearly spelled out in Scripture: 'God...wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth' (1 Timothy 2:3-4 NIV).

However, when it comes to praying for things that *aren't* clearly promised in Scripture, you may have to say, 'If it be your will.' Why? Because the Bible says, 'When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives' (James 4:3 NIV). Sometimes we have a hard time accepting this truth because we're convinced our petitions are justified.

But unless your heart is pure towards God and your will is lined up with his, your motives for asking may be tainted by self-interest. John says: 'This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything *according to his will*, he hears us. And if we know that he hears - whatever we ask - we know...we have what we asked of him' (1 John 5:14-15 NIV).

When you pray for something you're not sure is in keeping with God's heart, you may have to add, 'If it be your will.' This doesn't mean you're weak in faith when you say, 'Lord, I want this thing - if it's your will, fits in with your plan, is your best for me, and it's in your timing.' Paul says, 'We can see and understand only a little about God now' (1 Corinthians 13:12 TLB). We see only a partial picture, but God has complete knowledge of the situation from beginning to end. So pray in faith and trust God for the right results.

## **Brisbane North Chapter Pinning Four New Members**

At the Brisbane North Chapter breakfast on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020, Len pinned four new members into the fellowship. It is encouraging to see the chapter growing, with Len and his wife Carolyn providing the breakfast and their home as the venue.

L to R Bill Wilcox - (new members *John Hermann, John Lester, Dr Phillip Dupre, Bill Turner*) and National President Len Donaldson.



**[EVENTS – See webpage for details](#)**

**Thought to ponder in our changing times -  
If you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to  
convict you?**



## 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**



"I... 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



### "As a Man Thinketh in his heart so is he"

By Ian Eckel

The news media must be loving this present crisis that is ravaging the world. And when we Christians watch too much of it, it causes us to look down with fear and despair in our hearts. But thank God we have a choice, and because we Christians have a hope that the world doesn't, it is our duty to bring that hope to this lost world.

Sounds like pie in the sky stuff doesn't it, but I am reminded of the parable that Jesus told about the two sons that the father asked to work in his vineyard. The first said "I will not" and the second said "I will Sir" but he didn't go. One thing I learned in the building industry, was to always say yes to the building inspector. My Pommie mate George, who was 10 years my senior, taught me that.

When I first started working with him, sub-contract carpentering, the housing inspector would demand ridiculous things and George would always say "yes I will sir". Then when the inspector had left, I'd say to George, "what! You're not serious, surely we're not going to do that" and George would softly say, "no we're not, but I have found because I said I will when all the other carpenters would argue, he thinks that I did it and I've found he never looks to see if I did it and if by chance he does look, I will say humbly, "sorry sir I clean forgot" and tell him that I would do it straight away – but I wouldn't".

And so, I wonder if that first son said the same thing in his heart. But let us turn our attention to the second son. What did he think in his heart as he walked away? Gee, my father has been so good to me and what he asked me to do is so important to him, and really, as a son it is my obligation. What has 'Our Father' asked His sons to do; hasn't He asked us to work in His vineyard? Do we readily say to God "yes, yes, yes", then go about our daily routine feeling justified, that we have said yes with good intentions? Well, I remember the saying that the road to hell is pathed with good intentions.

Like the second son, there is always the opportunity to turn around and go back to the field and pick up that hoe and start hoeing. God chose us to be His sons, to do His work in the field. If we feel that God is not watching us to see if we will do His will, we are allowing the spirit of deception to fool us.

Is the thought in our hearts to do the work of an evangelist, to pick up the hoe and go into the field? When the Romans persecuted the early church and shut the doors of the churches and they were scattered throughout Asia, that was when the greatest work of spreading the gospel happened. I keep hearing from all these spiritual Christians that the end is nigh, and I say to them then, shouldn't this compel you to save souls. Or will we keep saying yeah, yeah, yeah, and push it to the back of our minds?

