



From the National President's Desk -



LEN'S WORLD VIEW FROM UNDER HIS JUNIPER TREE

When as a Christian in leadership, one is attacked with bad health physically for any extended length of time, it isn't long before strange thoughts start to play havoc with the mind pushing one into mental chaos and finally under the old Juniper tree, as was the case with Elijah, God's prophet. So has been my experience over the past four months, not been able to keep my mind on anything for more than two minutes and losing my ability to draw from the Word of God; a very dark place indeed.

Elijah, after hearing that evil Jezebel was going to kill him as retribution for his executing 400 prophets of Baal at the Brook Kishon; ran as far as Beersheba, leaving his servant there, continued a day's journey into the wilderness. *1 Kings 19:4-9 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree, and he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him. "Arise and eat." Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So, he ate and drank, and lay down again. V.7. And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."*

So, he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in the place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

This record of Elijah's time under the Juniper tree, in the wilderness, and cave, just about sums up my last four months. With the sickness, doctors couldn't find out what was wrong, so couldn't prescribe any real cure. The real battle was in my mind, with all sorts of distorted thoughts, that brought about questions, like, "Is God done with me?" "Have I lost my effectiveness as National President?" "Is it time for me to pass the baton to the next leader?" "Why hasn't FGBMFI flourished?" "Where is the passion for Christ Jesus?" "Why are we losing members?" "Why are some members reluctant to pay their dues?" "Is this the end of the fellowship here in Australia, when as FGBMFI members we should be leading our nation back to Jesus?" "Where is the new wave of the Holy Spirit we keep hearing about?" "When will the great breakthrough start?" and the clincher of them all was, "Is my life here on earth spent? Please take me home Lord, I have had enough".

Looking back four months, the Lord told me to be still and know that He was Lord, now for someone, physically active as I have been in the past that was a hard call, and before long I found myself sick at the mercy of God. In Job 2:9-10 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" But he said to her,

"You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. Whilst a lot of seemingly negative thoughts come when one is in the bog of despondency; good and meaningful thoughts also come through the haze, like, thank God man, for the wonderful wife God has given you, your help mate, who has stuck by you throughout this trial, picking up the load you couldn't bear. And what of the good men and women of the fellowship who have been praying day and night, trusting God, for your speedy recovery? These are God given assets that are hard to come by, but worthy of heartfelt thanks; real people to whom I am most grateful to. May God Bless each and every one of you for your faithfulness and understanding.

The world, as we knew it will never be the same again, for this Covid-19 has left its mark deep into the psyche of our population; fear, unanswered questions, lies and innuendoes abounding, people doing things against their own wills, just because they were told to by the so called politically elite, untrained bureaucrats telling qualified doctors what they can and can't do in their medical practices, everyone having their own opinion on a myriad of subjects. But how many are seeking the truth? As God said to Elijah; "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

Each of us need to answer that question, honestly, what are we doing here? If we are true to the word of God, then how many lost souls are we going to reach with the good news of the Gospel this year, leading them back to Jesus? Yes! What contribution can I make to our functions, so they are recognized for the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, as God saves, heals and baptizes people with the Holy Spirit, with signs and wonders following our testimonies?"

Far too many Christians are more worried about the One World Order and their cohorts, than what God is doing 1 Kings 18:21 "And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word." Friends, the world is about to have a reset orchestrated by the power of wealthy men, but it is my belief that God is about to have a worldwide reset that will trump anything man might think he can do Revelation 5:5 "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed."

What did I learn under the Juniper tree? God led us to sell our home and downsize, enabling Carolyn and I to balance our finances. To give 43 years of Christian book collecting to the church, leaving only the Bible for our reading, as God speaks to us all by the scriptures, to sell all my construction tools, thereby cutting any likelihood of doing any physical work, giving more time to seek God. To sell or give away all material things excess to our personal needs, as He would supply our needs according to His riches in glory. And guess what? Carolyn was given a lovely car.

Forty years ago, I lead a respiratory physician from the Prince Charles Hospital to the Lord. Last week I phoned him in Sydney to explain what was wrong with my health and over the phone he diagnosed the problem and said "Len, you have asthma, get your GP to prescribe these medications." Within 24 hours of taking those medications my health started to return praise Almighty God, for His grace is sufficient for me. Now that my head is back where it should be and I'm able to think straight again, both Carolyn and I can see the hand of God in all the decisions we made during that trying time and are in total agreement that it was God resetting our lives to bring us into alignment with His plans and purposes.

As members of FGBMFI we should all be dissatisfied with the lack of progress and the poor spiritual condition of the fellowship as it is presently. Demos in his God given vision saw men alive, faces turned upward to heaven with their hands raised praising God. Luke 21 Jesus

said, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the power of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh. That will be the fulfillment of Demos's Vision; and that is what we as FGBMFI members should be working towards. Len.



Written by Bob & Debby Gass

HOW TO BE FRUITFUL

'The seeds...fell among...thorns.' Luke 8:14 NLT

You must eliminate the weeds. In his famous parable of the sower, Jesus said the seed fell into four different kinds of soil. 'The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature' (Luke 8:14 NIV).

Notice, three varieties of 'weeds' can keep you from growing into spiritual maturity. (1) *Worry*. You become so preoccupied with every day cares that you take your eyes off Jesus. (2) *Riches*. Making money and buying things dominates your life so much that you don't have time for the Lord. (3) *Pleasure*. Pursuing 'the good life' can choke out your spiritual growth. It's okay to have a good time, but you need to protect your priorities.

When you have time to shop, go to the beach, play golf, or spend hours watching television yet you don't have time to read your Bible and pray, your priorities are out of balance. You say, 'I just don't have time to serve the Lord. I'm too busy. I don't have time to commit.' Then you are too busy!

You'd better do some weeding. Lots of things in life are not necessarily wrong; they are just not necessary. Maybe you need to cut back your schedule a little to remove the weeds. You have to tend your tomato plants, but you don't have to do anything to produce dandelions; they grow by themselves when you neglect your garden. Getting the idea? If the 'weeds' in your life are keeping you from bearing 'fruit', it's time to stop talking about it and take action.



A series of true stories compiled by John Wright – FGBMFI UK

Totally Unscripted!

Shopping in Waitrose, I passed an elegant lady of about sixty trying to choose between two packets of peaches. Totally unscripted, I paused, and I heard myself say with a charming smile, '*Madam, they are both quite delicious!*' She smiled as I swept on to choose some ripe Avocados.

Suddenly the Lady accosted me in return and said with a smile, '*They are all quite delicious!*' As she swept away, I called after her, '*May the Lord bless you and keep you*' Suddenly she was back, to announce that she was a Scottish Presbyterian. '*Have you been born again?*'

I asked. She admitted she had not, so I gave her my testimony. How I was a thirty-two-year-old Church going graduate from the Harvard Business School with an E-type Jaguar chasing girls, only to meet God when, on my knees, I asked for His forgiveness, if He was there? Immediately I was filled with JOY. I had been born again! She left happily with a Voice magazine to help her to find the Way to Heaven.

The Messiah came to me in a Dream

The testimony of Orthodox Jew Yonatan Perry.

Yonatan turned away from God after his father died when the Rabbi was unable to offer any comfort. Then, on a bus, he was handed a card with *The Lord's Prayer*. He decided to pray the prayer and found that his body began to shake, and he was close to tears.

He was directed to a Messianic website, but when he discovered it was about Yeshua (Jesus), he rejected it as he did not want to be a 'Christian.' Then war broke out at Gaza, and he was called to the front line. On guard duty he bent down to tie his shoelace when a bullet brushed through his hair. He realised a 'higher power' had saved his life. Soon afterwards he had a dream when a man in a white robe held out his hand to him and said, '*Son, your sins are forgiven. Go from here.*' Then one day with his platoon he had a strange foreboding, '*we need to get out of the building immediately,*' so he led his men out. Six minutes later the building was hit by rockets and went up in flames.

He was severely traumatised by this and spent a year in a military hospital. But then Yonatan remembered his dream and started to read a New Testament. He was astonished to see how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about the coming Messiah in his Tenach (Old Testament.) So, he asked Yeshua to help him, if He was indeed Messiah. He lay down and slept for 48 hours.

Then he told an incredulous Psychiatrist that Yeshua had healed him, confirmed by tests. So, he cried out to Yeshua, '*I am yours!*' Yonatan now works as a manager in a hospital and is a member of a Messianic congregation in Tel Aviv. Yeshua is alive and still heals the sick!

Tongues and Interpretation gets people saved

From David Smethurst

"Therefore, tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers". 1 Corinthians 14:22

I had always puzzled over this verse of Scripture in the light of the apostle Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 14 of the speaking in tongues in church, which edifies the believer speaking in tongues but does nothing for the understanding of others in the church. He preferred to prophesy in the local language to edify the believers, and that also non-believers would be able understand what was being said as well.

One Sunday many years ago, I arrived late at the local church I was attending in Johannesburg, because I had preached at an early service at a local Anglican Church where I was conducting a mission. I sat near the back so as not to disturb as the service was already underway, but shortly after that, four well-dressed foreign visitors walked in looking for four seats together. There were none available except in the first row right in front of the pulpit.

A few minutes later the communion part of the service began, and ushers began to serve the communion emblems. The foreign visitors sitting in the front row were a little flustered not being familiar with the evangelical method of serving communion, but nevertheless participated. There was a respectful silence over the congregation at that time, and a lady we knew well, stood up and began to speak in tongues. It sounded like French, and I knew this lady could not speak French. I noticed the four foreign guests had looked at each other in surprise at this manifestation. Then a man on the other side of the congregation stood up and began to give the message of interpretation. The four guests in the front row looked at each in shock and surprise but waited respectfully for the lengthy interpretation to finish. Then the man who was obviously the leader of this foreign delegation stood up and asked the pastor if he could say something. The pastor being an amicable man told him to go ahead. The well-dressed gentleman with a French accent, asked the lady where she had learned to speak "Ancient French" - a language that was not spoken publicly any longer, to which the lady said, "I can't even speak normal French let alone ancient French". The foreign gentleman said, with great surprise, "That is incredible."

He then turned to the gentleman on the other side of the congregation, who had given the interpretation, and asked, "And where did you learn to speak Ancient French – because you gave an exact translation of what the lady said". The local church man also said, "I didn't know in the natural what the lady said. God gave me those words in my thoughts to speak out."

The foreign gentleman, obviously used to being in control, turned to the pastor and said, "May I have the microphone to say something to the congregation?"

The pastor obliged, and the man proceeded to say, "We are visitors from France attending a conference in Johannesburg and were looking for a Catholic Church to attend this morning in this area, and we lost our way. We saw your sign advertising a church service, so we decided to come in here. Obviously, this was God's will for us."

He proceeded to say, "I am a curator of a museum in Paris, and I speak a number of languages including Ancient French, which is not spoken much any longer. That is why I was most surprised to hear this good lady speaking in Ancient French, and this gentleman giving such an exact translation."

Then he began to weep, as he said, "What was spoken this morning has given me the solution to a problem that has plagued our family for the last 200 years, and my colleagues with me here, have known about this issue too. We are obviously in the right place today."

He turned to the pastor, and said, "We are God-fearing people, but we obviously don't know Him like you people do. Will you please introduce us to Him and help us to know Christ." People everywhere in that congregation were weeping as well, as the pastor led them to Jesus.



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



From a recently (November 2021) retired Prison Chaplain, Michael Corey, who shared at a Church Men's Breakfast.

Jesus went around talking in parables so we can understand.

He is the Bread of Life so that **Bakers** can understand

He is the Living Water so that **Plumbers** can understand

He is the Light of the world so that **Electricians** can understand

He is the corner Stone so that **Architects** can understand

He is the Hidden Treasure so that **Bankers** can understand

He is Life so that **Biologists** can understand

He is the Door so that **Carpenters** can understand

He is the Good Physicist so that **Doctors** and **Nurses** can understand

He is the Good Teacher so that **Educators** can understand

He is the Lily of the Valley so that **Florists** can understand

He goes The Extra Mile so that **Surveyors** can understand

He is the Rock of Ages so that **Geologists** can understand

He is the True Vine so that **Horticulturists** can understand

He is the Righteous One so that **Judges** can understand

He proclaims Freedom for the Captives so that **Prisoners** can understand

He is Great Wisdom so that **Prison Officers** can understand

He is The Word so that **Actors** can understand

He is the Good Shepherd so that **Farmers** can understand

He is Alpha and Omega so that **Scientists** can understand

He is The Way so that **Police** can understand

He is The Truth so that **Politicians** can understand

Jesus Christ is The One – He is The Way, The Truth, and the Light.

