



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Encouragement from the National President

On our recent trip around Queensland, I was able to meet up with so many Fellowship Members and join in their meetings, which was great and a very real part of the reason I took the trip. Since my return home I have been reflecting on what I have learned or observed concerning the overall spiritual health of our once great movement and I would be amiss if I didn't share my findings with you all. Over the years from the 80's until now, there has been a constant decline in our membership as indeed is true of Christian Church life generally speaking. There is no doubt that in the 70's and 80's the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International played a leading role under the mighty hand of God in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during that memorable season. People were being saved and baptised in the Holy Spirit, lives and marriages regenerated, denominational barriers broken down and the Body of Christ was functioning as one great organism and people were flocking to our meetings to find the reality of God. Yes the God that was answering our prayers and motivating us all to do some of the most extraordinary things as He, God moved in the meetings. Wow, what a time that was.

Well men, what we have to look forward to will make the 70's and 80's look like a Sunday School Picnic in comparison. My observation was that all over Queensland as indeed would be for the rest of the country; there are pockets of strong Christian Men holding the ground for the Kingdom of God. They may be small in number, but they have a heart for God much like Gideon's three hundred chosen men, men

of discipline. These men are ready for the forward push of God, just waiting for the Captain of the Host to give His command to move.

Now this poses a question, are you ready? Have you been preparing yourselves? For the day is at hand. **2 Corinthians 2:14-17** Reads. *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.* Indeed who of us are sufficient or adequately prepared for these things? We know in our own hearts that what is impossible in the flesh, we are more than able to achieve in the Spirit. We have been called to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh, yes! So here is my challenge to you who would be prepared: take time to read **Romans 8:1-39** then reread verses **26 & 27**: *likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses, for we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

1 Corinthians 12:28 *And God has appointed these in the church; first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps administrations, varieties of tongues.* It is my personal belief that if we want to be proficient in any of the first seven or any other gift of the Holy Spirit, then we must exercise ourselves spiritually in the eighth by praying in other tongues.

Jude 20 makes this very clear. *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.*

This is a matter of discipline, start by praying in the spirit for fifteen minutes allowing the Spirit of God to speak through you and build up from there. It will surprise you how soon God will reveal His good and perfect will to you and your confidence in walking in the Spirit returns. Remember we are a market place ministry and what we take to the market place is that which we have received from God by revelation in our prayer time. God Bless you all. Len

Special Day

Bernie Gray celebrated his 80th Birthday on Saturday 12 April 2014 with family and friends. Bernie is a man that has walked with God for many years and has been the face of FGBMFI in Australia since its inception. Bernie is a great encourager and has FGBMFI friends all over the world, many who still contact him for advice. Whilst on the FGBMFI International Board Bernie made 56 trips to America! Throughout his walk with God he has been blessed with the support of his loving wife Nell.

Recommending reading

At times we need to pick up a good book to encourage us and encourage others. The following books are a must read (not in any particular order) to strengthen your own faith and pass them on to encourage others:

"The Happiest People on Earth"

By **Demos Shakarian**

"I Dare You God"

By **Mike Hicks**

"Top Cop" story of Gary Raymond

By **David Nicholas**

"The Man from Little River" - The Story of George McArdle

By **Denise A. Austin**

You will be blessed by reading them! A search of the internet will lead you to the sellers of these publications. We do have some copies of the Happiest People on Earth.

Aspect of Leadership



Comments by General Colin Powell:

"The day staff stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."



Luke 16:19-31 - The rich man in hell pleads for some relief from Lazarus.

But Abraham said, Remember, my son, that in your lifetime you were given all the good things, while Lazarus got all the bad things. But now he is enjoying himself here, while you are in pain. Besides all that, there is a deep pit lying between us, so that those who want to cross over to us from here to you cannot do so, nor can anyone cross over to us from where you are. The rich man said, 'Then I beg you, father Abraham, send Lazarus to my father's house, where I have five brothers. Let him go and warn them so that they, at least will not come to this place of pain.'

Jesus is showing a picture of God's justice and giving the people a clear warning that Hades is not the place that any of us wish to go to. Today in the fast lane it can be hard to convince people that God will send those who reject him to the PIT. We so often hear that God is a God of love.

This is true but some people tend to forget the other sides of Father God's nature. Being true to himself he will indeed punish those who openly come against him as stated in his 'Word.' We need to be more urgent and committed as we do the Lord's work, as Jesus tells us there is a pit that cannot be crossed and those trapped on the other side in death are without hope. Do you feel a burden for others? If so let the Holy Spirit guide you and strengthen you for the task ahead. Where there appears to be no way, or no hope for others - let the Lord lead you through.

For GOD so loved the world . . .



My Precious Prodigal

By Lowell Lundstrom

The nightmare phone call shattered my world and nearly destroyed my ministry. "Reverend Lundstrom," the officer said, "I'd like to meet with you at the police station. Your 17-year-old daughter is scheduled to appear in court for propositioning a vice officer." My daughter, a prostitute? Impossible. We dedicated Lisa to Jesus Christ as a baby. We raised her on Bible stories, gospel songs, and prayer. There must be some mistake. The reality of this hellish nightmare was like getting hit with a cement block in the chest when I read the vice-officer's description of her proposition. When I opened the police file and saw her mug shot, my knees nearly buckled.

This was no mistake. My beautiful, precious daughter was a hooker. Lisa was in peril; and my world, as her father, was in shambles. Lisa had been going through a spiritual struggle for a long time. I had warned her of the dangers of living in a spiritually cold condition. But I never dreamed, in a thousand nightmares, that my daughter would become a prostitute.

Facing the Issues - When the Lord won my heart in April 1957, my wife Connie and I began singing and preaching immediately. We started a radio program and produced TV specials. We also conducted citywide crusades where thousands came to Christ. Lisa had an older sister Londa. Both were talented musically, but Lisa never really enjoyed singing before audiences. Lisa also had a high-energy brother Lowell, nicknamed Tiny - who wore a cowboy hat and boots and was always a hit.

Our youngest son Lance was quieter. Lisa loved him dearly and took care of him when he was a baby. Somehow, in the midst of those ministry activities, I failed to see that Lisa was hurting. She felt sandwiched between her older sister and younger brothers. I failed to see her unresolved conflicts. This created a root of bitterness within her spirit. Her inner anxieties were ticking away - like a time bomb ready to explode.

We toured almost every night trying to rescue others while our own precious daughter silently faded away from God and our family. The judge committed Lisa to my care, but the situation was so explosive between Lisa and

me that she was placed in a halfway house. She soon escaped and headed south. She was under the influence of what the judge described as the worst pimp in the region.

To think that my daughter had chosen a pimp as her mentor and rejected me was devastating. I knew that raising children in the high-tension atmosphere of crusade evangelism created great pressure upon them. They grew up sleeping in guitar cases backstage, while Connie and I, the singers and band were out front preaching.

Years earlier, when the children were small, I made what I thought was a fair deal with God. I said, "Lord, I'll give my life to help Your lost children get saved, but You must watch and guard over my children." But now, Lisa was gone. Sometimes we wouldn't hear from Lisa for months. During those periods, I didn't know if she was dead or alive. In the midst of this agony, I felt God had betrayed me. I was experiencing a triple jeopardy in my soul: I felt God had failed me; Lisa had forsaken me; and some of my friends were distancing themselves from me.

I kept travelling and preaching 300 nights a year - as I had for the previous 26 years. I still loved God, believed in Him, and preached His message of salvation. Multitudes were coming to Jesus Christ. But each day I had such a deep wound in my soul that my sorrow felt like a brick soaked in battery acid, eating away on my insides. The one person I really wanted saved most was gone - and I didn't know to where my precious prodigal had vanished.

Continued next month

Chapter Meetings

FGBMFI (Australia) Chapter meetings are covered by our National Insurance Policy for 3rd Party Liability. If you have any questions please contact our National Treasurer John Diamond ilex66@tpg.com.au





April 2014 Newsletter

Bio: Michael Crosby – National Director

Mike was born on the 13 September 1949 at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and was brought home to Mt Gravatt where he was to spend approximately the next 60 of his years of his life living within 15 kilometres of his father's home. At age 15 he left school after year ten and took a job with Queensland Rail. This lasted 17 months, and then he tried studying accountancy by distance education. He could not stand being cooped up in a room and the outdoor work with his Dad's company began. Here he learned how to make concrete posts and to drive the delivery truck and after five years he was placed in the house raising and removal crew; this proved to be his best work which he still does today after 45 years. He married at age 20 and had 6 children; 3 boys and 3 girls.



At age twenty eight he gave his life to Jesus. In his early thirties he attended Garden City School of Ministries and graduated 6 years later with his Bachelor of Ministries degree. Mike served as a pastor in the AOG & Apostolic Church and two other denominations. It was during this time his wife of 27 years filed for divorce putting an end to his marriage and minister's career. He returned to his trade which he still does today. During his time in the apostolic church he was part of a mission's trip to the Bicol region in the Philippines. Mike has now visited 17 times in 20 years and helps support the pastor with his work which continues to this time. He now lives with Yvonne, his wife of 16 years in Plainland, Queensland and serves on the board of FGBMFI Australia. Mike is enthusiastic about seeing souls won and disciples made for the Kingdom of God.



Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.
 Martin Luther King, Jr.



Remember this Easter and everyday – every sin was covered on the cross!

Several sayings by Ron Oastler:

If you can't change the people, then change the people!

If you can't fire them with enthusiasm, fire them with enthusiasm!

"His Banner Over Us is Love"

Membership

Full Gospel 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 to our treasurer John Diamond at 43 Knight St, Rochedale South QLD 4123. Membership forms can be printed from our website: fgbmfiustralia.com

Membership fees are \$100.00 per annum. To have a vibrant 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 a paid up member of the Fellowship is important and all personnel should hold their membership as significant and of value. Being a member 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 organisations 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."

Rick and Toni, International President



The need for fellowship

Men can be strange fellows at times, none more so than when wanting to handle every situation on our own. The Prince of this earth really encourages this macho image so that we do not get together to discuss issues or support each other in times of trouble. We hear the saying in our everyday life (you need to man up!). As we know a problem shared is a problem halved. Being men that are walking with God we should see the lie of deceit that Satan spreads and we can hopefully assist others during hard times.

We must also realise that the battle for souls goes on day and night and we know the enemy is like rust – it never sleeps! Thankfully our God never sleeps or slumbers so we never lack resources when calling on his name. If we think in worldly terms we can lose our perspective and initiative very quickly because spiritual problems require a spiritual response that will go on not only in a spiritual sense but also affecting the flesh where many problems are manifested.

You will have heard many times about being at the sharp edge of the battle but in FGBMFI we need to be at the "bleeding edge" of the battle if we are going to influence other men who may be going through difficult times or situations beyond their control. In a well run chapter there should be incredible fellowship with a very HIGH level of trust. It is in this environment that men will share openly and look for answers or support for any issues that they may have. Without a high level of trust, men will not seek your counsel so we have to be real in every part of our lives.

A fruit of trust is the desire to fellowship whenever possible with our brothers in the Lord. I have been at chapter meetings where men have walked in with various needs and chapter members have provided money, food, accommodation and follow up without a blink. You will have experienced these situations in your own chapters but when the rubber meets the road we need to be visible.

To say that men think differently to women would be an understatement and our problems can grow like mountains because in a worldly sense we do not communicate like most women who have no problem sharing information with other women. We have brothers in FGBMFI who have shared some of their most intimate concerns but were only able to do so because they knew they would receive Godly counsel and support for their problems.

Helping people grow is part of what we do but it must always be with the grace and wisdom of the Holy Spirit so that God is front and centre of what is taking place. When we remember that God gives us every breath we take we can take no credit for anything we do but simply praise his name at being used in His service. Being hearers of the Word and not doers of the Word will see us just being another non relevant organisation wasting people's time. When men pray together with open hearts God is able to move and we have the joy of seeing his hand at work.

After all testimony is about what God has done and how blessed are we to be there and relate his grace to others. Does this build trust and faith – unequivocally yes! When starting a chapter committee meeting it is good to start by asking everyone how they are travelling. This may lead into individual prayer before any other business takes place. We need to take care of our members before we can help others.



**FGBMFI (Australia)
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