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Training

My thoughts are that training in FGBMFI is paramount to our success in fulfilling Demos's vision. Training is one of the cornerstones in providing a robust and well trained organisation. In short, training is critical to our very existence as a group and in life generally. I think over the years some training sessions were done on the fly and not followed as per the training manual. I can recall many years ago when I was undergoing training in the New Zealand Army an instructor told us of a firefight (ambush) he was involved in Vietnam. He said he broke out of the jungle into a clearing having just run out of ammunition only to find a Viet Cong soldier in exactly the same predicament. He went on to say that due to his superior training he was able to change his magazine first! For our history buffs, when Rome was at its peak its armies were the best trained soldiers in the world, hence their dominance over the known world. It took seven years to train one Roman soldier and as we know, they were so good that 1000 men could move as one. As we grow as an organisation we will need to ensure that we adopt a thorough training program that covers all areas of being a FGBMFI (Australia) member so that we can do our tasks with excellence and be relevant to those areas where we impact the business community. Doug Gray has oversight of Training and will bring his considerable knowledge of FGBMFI to the fore. It is hoped that chapters can be visited and chapter executives given the opportunity to further their training and have the ability and confidence to train others in their chapters. New members need to be encouraged and trained to be at their best in carrying out Demos's vision. The board at this time is also turning its mind to the "how to" recruit

younger men into the fellowship and they in turn will be expecting to see that we are professional in equipping them for the future. Our training manual is being updated and will be given to chapters electronically when completed. We also need to keep in mind that we are a "learning organisation" and look to new ways of doing things that will improve our reach in being servants of the Lord Jesus Christ in saving lost souls.

"The key to any successful business/organisation is training. Without proper training people are left wondering what to do and how to do it. When everyone understands what is expected of them, they will be more productive and satisfied...." Dale Carnegie

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



LOOKING BACK LOOKING FORWARD

There are times in our lives when we need to look back to see where we have come from, that we might see more clearly where we are going and this has been true for myself as I have been learning the ropes of leadership of our fellowship. I look back to the seventies and eighties when the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in Australia was a Vibrant, God Inspired, Holy Spirit, Empowered, Movement that weekly touched many hundreds of men's lives and also those men's families with the power of the Gospel, by simply sharing their testimonies of how God set them free from the snares of Satan.

What went wrong? Today we may number 350 or less members, split into two camps FGBA and FGBMFI and some not knowing which camp they are part of, in a country with a population of 22.68

million, the majority of who are going into a Christless eternity not having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Looking forward, what needs to be done to rectify this situation? As I was praying about this problem I woke one morning around 3.30am with a Scripture **John 15:1-8** burning so much in my heart that it was almost audible.

Verse 1. *I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He take away; and every branch that bears fruit He Prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5. I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

Is this what God has done to the Fellowship, pruned us back that we might bear much more fruit? If so what should we be doing in preparation for the new growth that is going to come? For my part God has been leading me on a path of repentance from sin and dead works. The answer became clearer during a Fellowship prayer meeting I attended at the Toowoomba Chapter Monday night 6th January, where the leading of the Holy Spirit was into the area of reading the Word and Prayer as being God's way of first building and strengthening the individual members, followed by a fresh infilling of His Holy Spirit. Yes men, that's for me, we can still have our day of Pentecost.

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I don't believe for a moment that God has finished with Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in Australia yet, no not by a long shot. What I see as a good starting point for the New Year is that we find ways to get together in small groups all over this Great South Land of the Holy Spirit and start reading God's Word out loud and praying for each other, making God the centre of each meeting and hearing what God wants to say.

At my home 6 Parkmore Street Boondall Qld. there will be a Barbecue Prayer Breakfast every Saturday morning, 7.30am to 9.30am - anyone who has a mind to pray may attend; I love my food so I will be cooking, come with a short testimony, a Word from the Lord, a Hymn, a Psalm or Spiritual Song, come to pray and seek God for His direction. **Isaiah 40:31.** *Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.* We need to get ready to be instruments in Our Master's Hands.

Call me if you're coming on **0423 767 550**, love to have you there.

May God Bless and keep you and your families. Have a great year.
Len

REMEMBER

It's not what we have already done in Christ but rather, what we keep on doing in Christ.



FGBMFI – (Australia) Oversight Committee
Ron Oastler & David Smethurst

Ron & Norma Oastler



David & Margurita Smethurst



LIFE IS A SERIES OF PROBLEM-SOLVING OPPORTUNITIES

from

Graeme A'Court

South Pacific Director for Hamilton Medical

The problems you face will either defeat you or develop you - depending on how you respond to them. Unfortunately most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. They react foolishly and resent their problems rather than pausing to consider what benefit they might bring. Here are five ways God wants to use the problems in your life:

1. God uses problems to DIRECT you. Sometimes God must light a fire under you to get you moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change. Is God trying to get your attention? "Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways." Proverbs 20:30 (GN)
2. God uses problems to INSPECT you. People are like tea bags. If you want to know what's inside them, just drop them into hot water! Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What do problems reveal about you? "When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience." James 1:2-3

3. God uses problems to CORRECT you. Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. It's likely that as a child your parents told you not to touch a hot stove. But you probably learned by being burned. Sometimes we only learn the value of something ... health, money, a relationship. . . by losing it. It was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws." Psalm 119:71-72 (LB)

4. God uses problems to PROTECT you. A problem can be a blessing in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious. Last year a friend was fired for refusing to do something unethical that his boss had asked him to do. His unemployment was a problem - but it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison a year later when management's actions were eventually discovered. "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good". Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

5. God uses problems to PERFECT you. Problems, when responded to correctly, are character builders. God is far more interested in your character than your comfort. Your relationship to God and your character are the only two things you're going to take with you into eternity. "We can rejoice when we run into problems. . . they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady." Romans 5:3-4 (LB)

Here's the point: God is at work in your life - even when you do not recognize it or understand it. But it's much easier and profitable when you cooperate with Him!





Bio – Doug Gray (Training Officer)

Doug was born in Toowoomba and still lives there with his wife, Pauline who is a certificated General and Midwifery Nurse, training at the General Hospital in Toowoomba. They have been married for 50 years and are blessed with 2 married sons; Paul, who is a Medical Specialist at Royal Brisbane Hospital and Tim who is a Secondary School Music Teacher and Director of their Christian Children's Program, J.a.m. "Jam Jesus and Me". Doug and Pauline have four teenage Grandchildren. Doug is a retired Company Director and worked a local pest control and carpet cleaning business for 57 years. Doug, along with Pauline as Secretary kept his business small so as to be able to give that personal expertise to his clients and also to be free to schedule his work between jobs, taking speakers to FGBMFI Chapters throughout the area over many years.



Doug has been involved in the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International since the Inaugural Dinner held in Toowoomba in 1965. Besides other positions, he has served as Chapter President for 5 years and Regional Director for 28 years. Both he and Pauline have attended many FGBMFI Conventions, including overseas such as U.S.A., New Zealand, Malaysia (held during a 3 day cruise), Hawaii, Bali and this year in Armenia. Doug has seen many people come to know the Lord, be healed and baptised in the Holy Spirit during these many years. He remembers meeting many wonderful men and women through the Fellowship, many of whom have become lifelong friends.

Doug and Pauline have always been part of the local church and worked in a voluntary capacity in Youth for Christ, reaching out to the youth of the city, over a ten year period. Some of his hobbies have been restoring old Mercedes Benz cars (Finnies), including their sons' first cars. He has done his own maintenance on business and private vehicles. He enjoys helping his grandchildren with projects and the last being to fit a weed eater motor to an old pushbike which was to the delight of one his grandsons.

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International has been a major part of their lives and Doug says it is still one of the best organisations for men (and their wives) to get involved in. It doesn't matter what part of the world you go to, there will be some contact with FGBMFI. It is a great means of winning other men to Jesus by simply sharing personal testimony one on one in the market place and inviting them to a dinner or other function promoted by FGBMFI in the area. From our experience, Doug says that FGBMFI is alive and well around the world and it is truly wonderful to see such a ministry continuing today after 60 years since it first started by Demos Shakarian in California.

"His Banner Over Us is Love"

Membership

Full Gospel Business Men's 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 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 paid up members of the Fellowship is important and all personnel should hold their membership as significant and of value. Being members 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.

General Colin Powell: Lessons from a very successful leader

"Don't be afraid to challenge the pros, even in their own backyard." Learn from the pros, observe them, seek them out as mentors and partners. But remember that even the pros may have levelled out in terms of their learning and skills. Sometimes even the pros can become complacent and lazy. Leadership does not emerge from blind obedience to anyone. Xerox's Barry Rand was right on target when he warned his people that if you have a yes-man working for you, one of you is redundant. Good leadership encourages everyone's evolution.





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."

Richard Shakarian, International President



It's all there...in Noah's Ark

By Ron Oastler

You're in deep trouble if you miss the boat.

When you're flat out trying to survive, remember that there are others in the same boat.

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, He could ask you to do something really big.

Don't listen to critics. Get on with what has to be done.

Build your future on Higher ground.

For safety's sake, always travel in pairs. Two heads are better than one.

Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on-board with the cheetahs.

When you're stressed, float for a while.

Remember, the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.

Watch out—the woodpeckers inside are as great a threat as the storm outside.

You can still float alone when everyone else is in involuntary liquidation.

No matter what storm, when you're right with God there'll be a rainbow—His promise of a future and a hope!



God's giving is inseparably connected with our asking.

"You do not have, because you do not ask. James 4:2

Many years ago, just after World War I, there was a grocer who tried to weigh a prayer. During the week before Christmas a woman came into his store and asked for food to make a Christmas dinner for her children.

He asked her how much she had to spend. She answered, "My husband was killed in the war. I have nothing to offer but a prayer." The grocer said gruffly, "Write it down," and went about his business. To his surprise, the woman took a slip of paper out of her purse and handed it to him. "I did that during the night while I was watching over my sick baby," she said. The grocer took the paper and callously placed it on the weight side of his old-fashioned scales. He said, "I'll give you the weight of food equal to the weight of this prayer."

To his great astonishment, when he put a loaf of bread on the other side of the scale it didn't budge. Startled, he added a brick of cheese, and then a turkey, but it still didn't move. Finally, he had loaded so much food on the scale it couldn't hold any more. He handed the woman a bag and said, "You'll have to sack it all yourself," then turned away.

It was only after the woman left, tears of joy streaming down her face, that he discovered his scale had broken at the precise moment he placed her prayer on it. For the first time, he looked down to read what the woman had written:

"Please, Lord, give us this day our daily bread." (Matthew 6: 11)