



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Hello, to all you who have been called of the Lord for a time such as this. I've been challenged of late concerning the subject of vision. Are we the united members of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, following a man or are we following the God given vision that was given to Demos Shakarian? If your answer is the vision, than let me encourage you to read both the books written by Demos, THE HAPPEST PEOPLE ON EARTH & THE VISION INTENSIFIED in so doing you will find fresh purpose for your lives and your ministries as indeed I have.

Proverbs 29:18. *Where there is no vision the people perish.* By way of explanation, the vision we have is in reality a God given revelation of what God requires of us as a Ministry in this end time move of the Holy Spirit. Individually as we meditate on the full vision we will find our mission or where we fit in the overall purpose of God, than corporately we come together to develop strategies and procedures by which we the united individual Chapters of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International here in Australia will be able achieve the God given vision. All this we do in the knowledge that without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we will achieve nothing, by that I mean nothing, no nothing.

In conclusion let me quote from the vision: Let the Holy Spirit witness to you the TOTAL power of this God-given Vision, and let God pour upon you a new anointing for His service. THE VISION: "It's a group – a group of men. Not exceptional men. Just average business people who know the Lord and love Him, but haven't known how to show it. They will tell other men

about Jesus. No theories. They tell what they've ACTUALLY EXPERIENCED OF GOD to other men like themselves – men who might not believe what a preacher said – but who will listen to plumbers and dentists and salesmen because they're plumbers and dentists and salesmen themselves.

God is building a people of extraordinary power that are willing to serve Him in newness of life. Operating in Miracle healings. Speaking in tongues. Powerful deliverance. Men who could Talk about God, but also men who know how to DEMONSTRATE THE POWER of God in their own lives, and in the meetings. Yes Spirit-filled Men lead by the Holy Spirit. The Vision is people. The Vision is God's Holy Spirit changing lives. The Vision is God BREAKING THE CHAINS OF THE DEVIL and setting the captive free. It is Almighty God working through us. Are you ready?

**The Way Forward**

As FGBMFI (Australia) establishes itself we need to ask what are our plans going forward and what do we want to be remembered for, what will our legacy be? Looking back over the years I think we could have done things differently and we are only looking back so that we do not make those same mistakes in the future. Firstly our love of the Lord and love for fellow man must be our inspiration in reaching others and have them join a vibrant organisation and finding them a church home if they do not have one.

Whilst we have chapter appointments and position every FGBMFI member is to be active and confident in evangelism because that is our core product. I have seen over the years that some members do need training in this area whilst others are reaching the lost on a daily basis. We have talked about training in our first Newsletter and how important this is. We also need enthusiasm and the direction of the Holy Spirit to hear what God is saying or where he leading us. I can recall some years ago while in New Zealand we invited Ron Oaster over to speak to all the chapters on evangelism. Ron held two meetings, one in the South Island and one in the North Island. We had an incredible turnout of chapters and men as Ron spent 3 days talking at each location about his experience in leading people to the Lord.

When we travelled back to our home towns the men went about the business of savings souls as they had been taught over Ron's weekends. It changed our city and we even had the mayor coming to some of our meetings.

We need to be fully armed in aspects of what we do but we must have that confidence of knowing and standing on God's Word when we are doing His business.

**Going forward: these areas may require attention.**

A solid foundation being laid that will have God's unity, love and blessing over it. A foundation that will stand the test of time especially when put under "fire" by Satan. Recruiting with care, not every candidate has an evangelistic heart and potential members need to be vetted as to their suitability for the long road ahead. We should not look at numbers but at quality and how they assimilate their new role in the organisation. Our member profile is for young men between the ages of 20 to 40 years or thereabouts. We need to identify these men and as you would expect many will already be churchd whilst others will join by being invited by FGBMFI members. We should all be thinking of the young men we know who would be a blessing to the fellowship and get them involved. Our chapter has a "hit list" where we write down individuals names and pray over that list at our prayer meeting each week. Expect God to call them and be open when you approach them as the Holy Spirit has gone before you. The key to operating well is leadership and we should always be looking for those individuals who show these qualities because without good leadership we lose direction and our effectiveness. Leadership is everything! Be professional in all we do because we are doing the Lord's work and why give Him second best. To belong to our organisation new members will require training and encouragement along with regular fellowship. If we look at our organisation as a military model you need fresh young men continually to fight the battle at the front lines. This has been a major weakness in the past where we have not placed the right amount of emphases on recruiting to keep the chapter and the organisation vibrant. All that I am mentioning is not new - in many cases it has just been out of focus!



### The Making of a Champion

By David Smethurst



In serving and counselling athletes at the last four Olympics and Paralympics as well as the Commonwealth Games and Rugby World Cup, I have seen a little of what it takes to make a good athlete into a great athlete.

All the athletes who qualify for the Olympics rate very highly in my estimation. I mean, they qualified against all odds and made it to the Olympics, even if they came last in their event. They were considered to be amongst the best in the world.

However, my heroes are amongst the Paralympians who for years battled to overcome injuries, loss of limbs, or being born with a disadvantage. Then they had to get the victory over disappointment and discouragement to become super sports people – some of them even qualifying for the Olympics. I feel very inadequate when I'm in their company. They "counsel" me with their courageous attitude and lifestyle much more than I've been able to counsel them.

The motto of the Olympics Games is "**citius, altius, fortius**" in Latin, or in English – **swifter, higher, stronger**" – this has been happening in every Olympic and Paralympic Games right from the start of the modern Games back in 1896. The athletes have been getting swifter, higher and stronger all the time.

What makes a champion? When all things are equal – the training, the discipline, the diet, the competition schedule - what produces that extra burst to beat the other competitors?

Years ago, the Australian Institute of Sport, noticed that East Germany was winning more medals in certain sports than other nations. It was discovered that they looked for and chose their champions long before they were champions – when they were very young. They looked at the physical and mental ingredients in their present and past champions, and then searched out youngsters who had the same ingredients and trained them into champions. So the Australian Institute of Sport in looking

for future women rowers found that two essentials for great rowers were long thighs and long forearms. They searched for young girls who had these characteristics, together with other sporting inclinations. They trained them rigorously and within two years they were world beaters. Other nations could not believe that they had only been rowing for such a short period of time. They had the right physical and mental qualities but still needed to be disciplined, trained, strengthened and equipped to be champions. All this came together for them to win Olympic Glory!

What a lesson in life for us. We have the Word of God and the history of Christianity at our disposal to see what the heroes had that enabled them to succeed, and to avoid what caused them to stumble and be disqualified.

So what is the secret of greatness? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "*Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.*"

It is a "ME FIRST" kind of world. As aggressive participants in the game of life we are all looking for what we can control to make things happen in our lives. However, attempts to become great in any endeavour are fruitless if we focus only on what we stand to gain from an act. Greatness is given to us in return for what and how we give to others.

#### So How Can We Achieve Greatness?

1. **Forget about being great.** When we focus on our rewards we automatically forfeit greatness to selfishness. *Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God and He will exalt you in due time.*
2. **Think of others first.** It is only through being considerate and attentive to the needs of others that greatness can be achieved. *Jesus said we should always be mindful of helping others.*
3. **Have an Attitude of Serving.** Live in faith that by devoting yourself to serving others with all your heart you will have great abundance in your life. *Jesus said that if we would be great, then be a servant to all.*
4. **Stay with it.** The deal with attaining greatness is that you won't know that it is happening. If you are truly on track your focus will be on others. Be aware that problems and situations will try to change your focus back to yourself.

Sharpen your focus, don't change it. Trying times are where greatness is bestowed. If you have the courage to start and the willingness to persist while placing others first, then you will overcome the obstacles and reap satisfying rewards!

We have God's promise to be with us and in us, to empower us with the Holy Spirit. He will give us His ability to overcome our inadequacies, to recover from failure and win. We have eternal life operating in us – that quality of life that Jesus had when He rose from the dead. So let's just do it – let's be more than conquerors through Him who loves us.

DL Moody said, "It has yet to be seen what God can do through just one person yielded completely to Him." **Let's be that person.**



#### Something to ponder

Dr Norman Campbell offers this maxim "Broke is temporary, but being poor is an attitude".

If your Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills please note the above maxim and ask for your needs to be met through Him. Psalm 50.10.





March 2014 Newsletter

**Bio – Len Donaldson National President**

Len Donaldson, a man transformed by the awesome power of God from being a public nuisance number one, living a self centred life of drunkenness and waste to a born again, Holy Spirit filled, God Anointed, Bible Reading, Public Minded, Gospel Preaching, People Serving, Praying Man of Almighty God and now National President of the Full Gospel Business Man's Fellowship International. His message is, "What God has done for me and my life, He is more than willing to do for you and all who turn to Him through Jesus Christ".

My life started in a house of seven sisters, the only son of an Irish Timber Miller and Joiner who was a Church Warden raising his family with a strong hand and rigid Victorian outlook in Northland Country New Zealand. It was a good life although hard at times; we as a family were brought up in an atmosphere of genuine love. Both Mother and Father provided for us well, educating each of us in colleges in Auckland city. I only saw my father rarely under the influence of alcohol once in my life although drinks were always in the house. Mother was a different story and suffered from over indulgence.

I left home after working with my father for eight good years, in an attempt to find my own way in life, to go and find my fortune if you like; I had been well trained in all aspects of construction from standing trees to completed projects. Possessing a good work ethic, that has stood me in good stead with all who employed me. First blessing that I discovered in Australia was Carolyn my wife a lovely Christian girl who had been looking for a husband so she could get on with her God given role of having babies, of which we had five. "Thank you Lord". The problem in our marriage was I was still a drunk, lost soul living selfishly hand to mouth and only for myself. It took a lot of prayer by Carolyn's family and friends and in particular her Mother to set the scene that put an end to ten years of hell that I had put them through.

Finally, their prayers were answered and I got gloriously saved. One night after a big night on the booze, dear old Pastor Job, under a personal instruction from God came and ministered to me in spite of my drunken condition. (O how brave he was, even knowing that God would protect him from my violence). On my knees, I made my confession to Christ that night under a vision of the Cross of Calvary with the realisation that Christ had to die to take away my sin. When I stood up I was stone cold sober praising God with my hands raised above my head giving God all the glory for the things He had done. I had finally found God, yes the God I only heard others talking about, the God I tried to find in College and at other times in my life. That night for the first time in my life I had done business with God and here was the deal, I gave Him my heart, He gave me a new life, He took away my sin, I would from that night serve Him. Best deal I ever experienced. Life from that night on has been one awesome adventure under the mighty hand of God, with all its ups and downs; one never stops learning the ways of God, yes we have good times and bad. As a Christian I've experienced firstly the tragic loss of a sixteen year old son in an auto accident (he was not driving) then car and aeroplane crashes; been flush with money one day and broke the next; learning how to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Building High Rise Buildings and Churches all over South East Queensland, but more importantly building into other men's lives by sharing the love of Jesus with them, seeing the transforming power of God as He takes ship wrecked lives of near destitute men and makes them good upstanding men that can hold their heads up high and overcome the obstacles that beset them.

I have served as both a fulltime and part time Pastor, but never found the fulfilment I was looking for, I had a Church with a congregation of one hundred and thirty souls; ministered on sites in the Construction Industry; spoken at Union Rallies with gatherings of two and three thousand Hard Core Construction Workers, seen the power of God change lives; have had signs and wonders following Ministry; seen men and their children miraculously healed, but have still felt there was more. Re-joined FGBMFI in the hope I could use their Ministry to Men to expand what I felt God was doing in the Construction Industry, became the National President and now, finally I feel that I'm where God wants me to be and all that has gone before has been preparation for this most exciting end time adventure.

*"May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields.  
Until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Irish Blessing



*"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's.

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](http://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 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.



## 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."

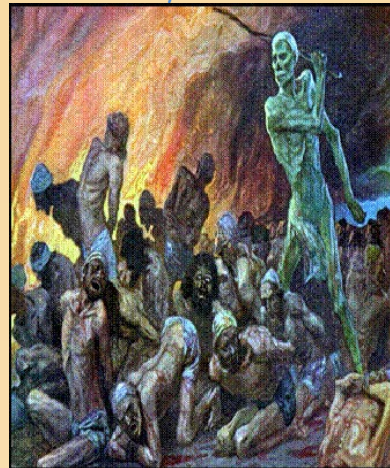
**Richard Shakarian, International President**



## Something to think about

A comment made by Billy Graham

*The smallest package I ever saw was a man wrapped up wholly in himself.*

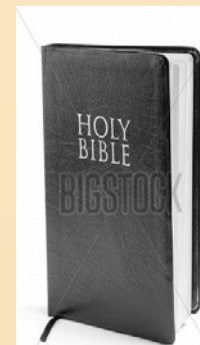


Proverbs 1:29 for they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the LORD.

### Message to the Church of Ephesus -

Revelation 2:4 -Nevertheless I have [somewhat] against thee, because thou hast left thy **FIRST LOVE**

Remember the day and the weeks when you first became a Christian! Everything was great and the grass was green, you witnessed to anyone who was around and your boldness was contagious. You sought out every meeting you could and Church became a reality in your life. You experienced the power of the Living God and saw things that you had only dreamed of up until that time. You were on "**FIRE**" for the Lord and an embarrassment for any Christian and non Christians who got within range of your enthusiasm. Then you heard other Christians say that -given time you will "mature", settle down and fall into line. When we first met Jesus he gave us something wonderful and precious, it was the "Joy of the Lord". In our above Scripture we are reminded that we must return to, and hold onto our first love. Without our First Love we drop into a routine or go through the motions of being careful not to get too excited about anything. If our First Love is flagging then we need only ask Jesus for a fresh touch to return us to where he first met us.



*Cling to the whole Bible, not part of it.*

*A man can not do much with a **BROKEN SWORD!***

Within the covers of the Bible are The answers for all the problems men face. **Ronald Reagan**

## Powerful Possibilities

(From Ron Oastler)

*To dream the dreams of what could be. Seeing what others may never see: that's the **Power of Vision.***

*To do whatever I'm able to do, being determined to see it through: that's the **Power of Will.***

*To go beyond my current best, putting myself to the ultimate test: that's the **Power of Courage.***

*To be what I was destined to be, through knowing the God of eternity: that's the **Power of Faith.***



Men meeting at Len Donaldson's for Saturday prayer breakfast - Brisbane.