



From the National President's Desk

Do you remember the old chorus "I Surrender All", how we used to sing it with such meaning in our hearts, but did we fully understand what we were singing? As Full Gospel Business Men we have aligned ourselves with and in fact, joined one of the world's largest marketplace ministries; a ministry that's main purpose for existing in the full economy of God is to reach lost souls from the world with the good news that Jesus came to save sinners, allowing God to transform those lost souls out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Heaven. For this to be a successful ministry we in turn must die to self and be fully surrendered to God in thought, word, and deed.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved".

This passage opens up many precious gems to the student of God's Word "God so loved the world that He gave". What did He give? Yes! He gave His all, His very best, His only begotten Son in full surrender that we through Jesus might be saved. **1 John 3:8:** For this purpose was the Son of God made manifest that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Fellowship Members do you remember when you were first saved and the zeal of God consumed you completely? What glorious days they were, the grass was greener, the birds sang their songs louder, colours were so much brighter and all things in life seemed new. How then did it all start for us?

It started with our first commitment to God when we voluntarily laid our lives down in full surrender, asking Jesus to come in and reside within our hearts, taking full control of our lives, bringing us into safe haven, and bathing us in His love. Oh what glorious days those days were when we first believed.

Let me share a truth with you: do you know that you can still have that excitement, that fullness of joy and that thrill of knowing the closeness of God in your daily walk with Him, even the fullness of the Holy Spirit, being led by God again? God is moving in our land, get ready to

ride the wave of the Spirit. I believe God is about to sweep this nation with His winnowing fan. Some would say now what does Len mean by winnowing fan? It's an old farming term meaning to separate chaff from grain by blowing a current of air through the harvest, winnowing something out, to blow the chaff out from the grain, to identify and reject what is unwanted or of no use from any group or mass. Then how does that relate to us?

Let me answer with two Scriptures: **Haggai 2:6.** For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land. **Hebrews 12:25-29.** See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven. Whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more" indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we are receiving a Kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.

We are now living in the timing of God yet once more, the time for harvesting souls is shorter today than ever it has been; what God requires of us today is our full surrender. To take up our cross and follow in the footsteps of Jesus, extending His ministry out into the world, bringing in the harvest of souls.

If each one of us prayed in faith with vision until we could see the lost coming in by their ones and twos, God would soon extend us until many souls would come and our meetings would be full of new sons and daughters of God. Have you ever lead another soul in the sinner's prayer? I don't believe there is greater joy in this life than when one hears a true confession of sin as God brings a repentant soul out of darkness into His glorious light. Just try it once, you could become a great soul winner.

Blessings
Len

From Ron Oastler



Another true story from the experiences of a long-time member and friend.

To say it was a bit wintery the other day when I was due to meet up with my dear friend James, would be an understatement. It was another one of those rare days that was absolutely bitterly cold - and of course Murphy's Law prevailed: I could not get the car to crank over! So, I decided to take a cab to the Marina for my coffee and conversation with James. I would see about my car problem later in the day.

I was not very late but the ever punctilious James very gently ribbed me with the comment, accompanied by a cheeky smile: 'Chauffer not up to it today? Reduced to a cab are we?'

Giving him a short retort along the lines of cabbies being a bit indifferent I suggested we order coffee and gateau, and catch up with each other's news and views.

'Agreed,' James responded, 'and let us start with your comment about cabbies being indifferent shall we?'

I explained to James that it had been my experience that the majority of them live in their own little world when driving and are indifferent about everything else.

'Ah my friend' quipped James, 'you only need a tiny lever and you will find that a cabbie will open up like an oyster.'

'Oh' I said 'what sort of little lever?'

'Well, let me tell you about a cabbie whom I hailed to take me home from the Sydney International Airport.' James offered. 'He was very quiet and as you might say 'indifferent' on the trip. However I observed from his complexion, and his accent when asking for my destination address, that he was certainly not Caucasian. So I opened a short conversation by complimenting him on his handling of the traffic and then asked him courteously what his 'home country' was.'



James continued the narrative: 'It appears that he was from Sri Lanka. 'Ah, I said, 'I met a wonderful young man from Sri Lanka who lived in Sydney and was tragically killed during a visit back to his homeland. His name was **Dissanayake.**'

James continued. 'The cabbie said: 'Dissanayake, I heard about his death from friends back home. I knew him. I went to school with him. His father was the Pastor of a church in Colombo. We were good friends.'

'So I asked him about the church and whether he had ever attended services there. To which his reply was that it was a Pentecostal church and he had in fact attended a couple of services with his friend, but had never made a Christian commitment.'

'This was my opportunity!' declared James. 'I said to my young cabbie 'Now I know why I am in your cab today. God wants you to know that He loves you and wants you to have the opportunity to know Him as your Saviour and Lord today.' Then I made sure that he understood God's plan of Salvation.'

'By this time we had arrived at my home so we sat in the cab for a few minutes while he prayed and committed his life to Christ. Certainly no indifference in this case!'

James concluded his wonderful story by telling me: 'God is good ... it transpired that my young cabbie friend lived in a Sydney suburb where there was a wonderful 'Four Square' Church. The senior pastor happened to be a good friend of mine, so the cabbie and I agreed that I would have the pastor contact him to help him with his new-found relationship with God. This I did and was told that there were a number of young Sri Lankan men in their church, and I was assured of good shepherding for my young friend. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to witness to a cabbie!'

GONE TO GLORY

John Townsend

"How are you cob"... John's greeting when he met you. John was an inspiration to all in the fellowship, the joy of the Lord was there for all to see. John had many gifts and one of these was encouragement. He just got alongside you in a quiet way and you knew that his counsel was from the heart. John was a natural front man and very talented musician who could also write poetry. Every convention that John was at or Men's

advance, John would be asked to share his music with us. John's wife Helen and their family always supported him, no more so than in the last few years of John's illness where they all went through very tough times. Through all his adversity John was a rock and would even ask how you were going when you had conversation with him; John always had a grip on the wider picture of life. We offer our sincere condolences to Helen and the family and ask that you would keep them in your prayers in the days and weeks ahead. Instinctively, every ANZAC Day we think of John and this will go on as we remember the impact he has made on our lives – To God Be the Glory!

Klara Szilard

John Szilard is the Chapter President of the Blacktown Sydney Chapter. John's wife Klara passed away on 17 March 2017 after a stroke. John and Klara spent a lifetime together and we ask that you keep John and the family in your prayers in the days ahead.

The Board is organising the printing of FGBMFI (Australia) Voice magazines. For this to be successful we are looking for testimonies and ask that you give consideration to sending your testimony in Microsoft Word format to me so that production can begin. Remember what God has done in your life will touch and affect others because our testimony is a powerful weapon.

Revelation 12:11

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their **testimony**; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

We serve a Mighty God

Several weeks ago at a chapter meeting at Len Donaldson's home, Mike Crosby shared a need from the Philippines and the men responded – Mike's letter to Len. Hi Len, what a mighty God we serve. A big thank you to all who gave and sowed into a young missionary's life in the Philippines. A big thank you to Len who allowed me to share Menchie Mendez story at Saturday's breakfast.

Yvonne and I and two others visited Evangel Bible College in 2009. Menchie was at the college and after our visit decided to become a missionary. She went to Thailand and self-supported by teaching guitar as well as sharing the word of God. Her Visa ran out and after four years she returned home in October 2016 to live with dad. Typhoon Nina hit the Bicol region in December 2016 and her dad's house was destroyed.

With no work or income she shared a home with family /friends. As the number of people increased staying at the house, she was asked to live outside in a shade hut (no walls and a palm branch roof) – good for shade but the water runs through the roof. During the next 2 months, 3 more typhoons and a lot of rain saw Menchie come down with fever and I encouraged her to get to the hospital. On arrival the doctor told her one more hour and she would have been critical.

The blood tests confirm dengue fever. She was kept in hospital and her bill grew to over 9,000.00 pesos – once stable (not healed) she was sent on her way. On hearing this my heart was moved to do something so I rang Len and told him. He said "she is God's responsibility"; I asked if I could share at the breakfast which I did. The result \$560.00 was given that morning of which \$540.00 was sent and twenty dollars was the sending fee. Menchie received just over twenty thousand pesos. She paid her hospital bill and some of the money owed for construction work on a 6 meter x 4 meter concrete house.

You men are a mighty blessing to those in need. Menchie continues visiting the islands around her teaching children about God so you could say her mission work continues at home. God has called her and she is active in her call to reach out to the lost. One thing I know, she will reach souls that we cannot but we can continue to be part of her work / ministry through prayer and in practical giving as God leads each one.

At this time there is a need for their little concrete house to be completed. If anyone is moved to help please let me know. Once again you guys are awesome, thank you and God bless you all.

Mike Crosby



What is Heaven like?

[What does the Bible say about heaven?](#) *It's in the Bible*, John 14:2-3, NIV. "There are many homes up there where my Father lives, and I am going to prepare them for your coming. When everything is ready, then I will come and get you, so that you can always be with me where I am."

Heaven is beyond our comprehension. *It's in the Bible*, I Corinthians 2:9, NIV. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him."

How did Isaiah describe heaven? *It's in the Bible*, Isaiah 65:21-23, NIV. "They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; My chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them."

Peace will pervade even the animal kingdom. *It's in the Bible*, Isaiah 65:25, NIV. "The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy in all My holy mountain."

The handicapped will be healed. *It's in the Bible*, Isaiah 35:5-6, NIV. "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb shout for joy."

God will live with His people and there will be an end to death, crying, and pain. *It's in the Bible*, Revelation 21:3-4, NIV. "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'"

Heaven is a real place where the people of God will live one day. In fact, heaven is where God and the angels live. John 14:1-3 even says that Jesus is in heaven preparing us a place to live. In heaven, those saved by God, will have new bodies without the curse of sin! There will be no one who is blind, deaf or cannot walk in heaven (Isaiah 35:5-6 and Philippians 3:21). Although Jesus builds houses in heaven, the Bible also says that those saved will also build their own houses and inhabit them as well as plant and eat from vineyards (Isaiah 65:21).

Most importantly God will be in heaven and He wants to be your friend. He wants to dwell with you and wipe away all your tears (Revelation 21:1-4).



"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 our **Membership** Director, Daniel Wright - PO Box 129 Taigum Qld 4018. Telephone: 0404 004 946. Membership forms can be printed from our website: fgbmiaustralia.com

Membership fees are \$100.00 per annum. To have an effective 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



Richard & Vangie Shakarian



"Jesus Loves You, Man"

(The Gary Johnson Story)

Jesus Did It!

The honest-to-goodness greatest Love Story ever told . . .

Gary Johnson was born in 1961 and raised in the Mississippi/Arkansas Delta during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. Poverty, racism and violence was as much a part of his life as hunting deer and trapping 'coon. Complicating matters further, Gary, his brother Billy, and four of their cousins were all abused by their maternal Grandmother. All the parents were completely unaware that Grandma - who had been exposed to and participated in the practices of witchcraft much of her life - regularly tied the young kids up, threw them into closets, and terrorized them as they lay down for naps.

One of her favourite methods was to put quarters on their eyelids - telling them they'd die if they opened their eyes - and then stand outside the bedroom window dressed in waders, holding an axe and scream. The unsuspecting parents were, of course, devastated when they found out what had been happening. In fact, Gary's dad - the son of a very violent father from the mountains of Kentucky and a full-blooded Cherokee mother - was going to kill Grandma. But Gary's mother pleaded with him to quickly move their young family to avoid any bloodshed. Gary's dad heeded her words and so V.O. and Frances Johnson and their two young boys resettled 200 miles away in a small town called Lake Village, Arkansas.

For a while the family ran a store, living in a trailer park, always struggling to make ends meet, and this is where Gary discovered the confusing world of Christian denominationalism. He laughs and says, "We were whichever bus got there first - I was Baptist one week, Pentecostal the next and the following week I'd be Catholic!" And while he certainly noticed all the differences from one denomination to the next, Gary felt they had one message in common: "God was unapproachable and distant, and definitely not very happy with me!"

Gary and his family soon moved to the

woods - driving into Lake Village for school and work - but very much at home in the outdoors. Gary - who eventually reached the height of 6 foot 4 1/2 inches and weighed in at 320 pounds - loved sports, football in particular. And when he wasn't at school or practice, he was busy chopping wood, hunting and trapping. In fact, the family's existence was very much like something out of a Daniel Boone movie - no hot water, getting up when the moon was high to run the dogs and hunt raccoon. And Gary actually earned spending money by selling the skins of bobcats, raccoons and minks.

The after-effects of childhood abuse was also very much a part of Gary's life. Though by nature Gary was very jovial and playful, he never hesitated to resort to his fists whenever he felt threatened. This only worsened after Gary started drinking at 12 and doing drugs when he was 16. And when he was old enough to get into bars, he soon discovered that many drunks try to prove their manhood by taking on the biggest guy in the bar. And, invariably, that was Gary.

He's been in more fights than he can remember and had guns pulled on him more often than he can count - remember, this was the Delta 25 years ago and *everybody* had at least two shotguns in their trucks and many carried pistols in their glove-boxes. Someone even pulled the trigger once, with the gun pointed right at Gary's temple, but miraculously it never fired. During all this hard living, violence and confusion, Gary always had a tender heart towards God... he just thought God didn't love him. Many are the nights he'd pull his truck over to the side of the road and with tears streaming down his face, scream out, "Don't forget me, God! Please, don't forget me!"

Having graduated from High School in 1979, Gary originally planned on working a year or two before fulfilling his dream of going to college and playing football. But time passed quickly and his dream of playing college ball along with it, increasing Gary's bitterness, frustration and anger.

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