

VISION

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God is Faithful

I was born up North in Kawakawa and am happily married to my wife Liza. We have two amazing boys and another child on the way.

I came from a good Christian home; well, as good as any home can be. Mum, Dad and my two older brothers. My Dad studied at Auckland University and after graduating he was appointed Pastor at Kawarau Baptist church.

I lived with my parents until the age of 14. I made some close friends who weren't the best. They all came from broken homes. I was searching for my place in life.

Resentment began to build up towards my Mum and Dad. I eventually ended up hating them, especially my Dad. I resented that other kids I knew were allowed to do things my Dad stopped me doing, such as watching TV shows. At the age of sixteen I was pretty much out of home for weeks on end drinking, smoking, partaking of entry level drugs, living the party life. Home was a smoke and alcohol free zone.

When I would come home late at night, I would see my Mum praying and reading her Bible at the dinner table. Often in the morning, she would be kneeling in prayer beside her bed (I now know who she was praying for).

That lifestyle went on for years. My hate grew worse and I found contentment in being completely intoxicated. I fell in love with a young

lady. We were together for a year before she became pregnant. The child was aborted. The hurt and guilt of this did not hit me until later on in life.

I found a job brick laying and the money started to roll in. I lived paycheck to paycheck. My boss was from Rarotonga, a big guy with dark skin, named Sharka. He was a hard man, but he was also a

Christian. One day he started to tell me about the Ten Commandments. He asked me: "Have you lied? Have you had sex before marriage?" and so on.

I came from a Christian home so I thought, oh here we go. Cheeky me - I asked him the same questions back. His response was yes; he had asked for forgiveness. Well, I had no answer for that - I hated Christians.

My friends and I used to drink and drive often - it was normal for us; day or night it didn't really

matter. One afternoon I was driving drunk to collect an old mate from school. I got caught and lost my driving licence for six months. I did not care much for the police and I still drove most days until I got my licence back. My heart was very hard.

I was now enjoying the nightclub scene and had given up drugs. My girlfriend had stayed with me for about two years so far. Around this time of my life, whenever I drank one or two bottles of beer, I couldn't stop drinking until the box was finished.



Parts of my night started to go missing from my memory.

One night, we loaded up the van and decided to go get drunk over at Mount Maunganui. It was about 3 or 4am and we were parked at the beach front. A van pulled up beside us. I can't remember much, but what struck me was that this lady gave each of us a free pie and milo along with a pamphlet. She was a Christian with an American accent. Maybe the first Christian I did not hate. Well, the pamphlets went straight in the bin, but we appreciated the pie and milo.



I had plenty of friends and about three close ones. I found rest in being completely intoxicated and spending long hours into the morning playing computer games with my buddies. Some of these computer games you play with people from different countries. They take your mind away from real life for hours on end and we loved them.

I would never think about my Mum or Dad. I was as far away from Jesus as you can be. I was never going to be a Christian and for that matter I didn't even know how to become one.

For my 21st birthday, my friends and I visited nightclubs, drank from yard glasses and generally had a "good time", but in the morning I could hardly remember anything we had been up to. But this was about to change, God brought me to the

end of myself.

My girlfriend left and some of my mates also started to leave, but my heart was harder than ever before. After a few weeks I was so miserable I did not even want to drink.

One day at work, I suddenly thought of my mum. She would usually be one of that last people I would think about. I rang her and asked if she could come round so we could talk. I did not even know what for. What do you talk about with your Mum?

They lived outside Rotorua on a small farm. I lived in town in a two storey house with my brother and my best mate. Mum came in with Dad. He stayed down stairs - I did not want to see him.

That hour I gave my life to Jesus. Immediately I felt all the hurt, hate and resentment bottled up inside me leave - I can't explain it. I could smile.

There's not a drug or alcohol or anything this life has to offer that can surpass the love of Jesus that came into my life, nothing else can make you feel this way.

The next week I went up to my immediate boss and apologised for the way I had treated him. He looked at me in a really funny way, with his eyebrows raised and asked if there was something in the water.

Within six months the Lord brought me from working in a timber shed to working in an office. Over a period of time I was put in charge of the Sales Office - without any qualifications (at school I was without a doubt in the very bottom end of all my classes - you would think things like this would not happen to a guy like me).

Liza and I now own a distribution franchise in Whangarei where we employ thirty-four part time staff.

To cut a long story short, Jesus took me from where I was and gave me a new life, a hope, a future. He can do the same for you. No matter what you have done or where you are at.

Jesse Reid is President of the Whangarei Chapter.

Masterton Convention 2021

Over Queen's Birthday Weekend (4-7 June) we will be gathering in Masterton for our 2021 convention.

The National Board believe that this is going to be a pivotal convention for the fellowship. Several prophetic words have indicated that God is going to do something significant amongst us during the weekend and we would encourage as many members as possible to attend.

Registration information was sent out last month, if you didn't receive anything or require brochures please contact the National Office.

You can register online through our website: fgbmfi.org.nz

Speakers for the convention include; Greg Simnor, Geoff Wiklund and Jeanette Ward.

We hope to see you at Masterton in June.



Increasing Our Spear of Influence

Some years ago, I got involved in pigeon racing. It was like having race horses in your back yard and was a great family sport. Over a period of time there were two men (Graeme and Steve) who I witnessed to but did not see any direct results over a long period. They were always polite and not dismissive, and our friendship grew. Graeme moved to Singapore as the Asian Pacific Manager for a large American firm which had its headquarters in Sweden. I continued to stay in touch with both men as I had moved to Timaru to take up a new position. Wanting to spread my faith to others, I played senior rugby for two more years, helped coach the senior B rugby team and also coached the Under 19 rugby team.



I coached my youngest son's rugby team and cricket team. I also got involved in Scouts in the local area and was able to witness to the boys and their parents. In Scouts we have what is known as 'Scouts Own' which is an outdoor church service, which the boys put together (with help) themselves.

Family and friends are invited as the boys share the Gospel with everyone taking part. For doing this they receive a badge to indicate their knowledge of scripture and how Jesus treated others. I was also asked to lead a weekly Youth Group where we did fun things making the Gospel come alive in their everyday walk with God.

To say I was busy was an understatement, but people were certainly hearing the Gospel. I was an

Elder in the local church, led house group every week at our home and was also the President of the local FGBMFI Chapter.



My pigeon loft

My office was above our garage and Roberta came up one morning and asked why I was crying. I said look at that! She read the email from Graeme – “Tony, I have become a Christian and I wanted you

to be the first to know”. God is so good and shortly after this Steve became a Christian also.

As we get older, we need to make a conscious effort to be part of the community so that we can still have influence in sharing the Gospel and reaching people for Christ. I have now joined the local Racing Pigeon Club in Rockhampton after asking the Lord for souls in this area. I have managed to share my testimony with the club president and told him how God delivered me from alcohol in July 1983. He was amazed what God had done through my life and we have become particularly good friends. I hear through the grapevine that he has shared my story to others in the club (praise God).

So, whilst we have breath and life, we are still useful to our Lord if we make ourselves available and have expectations of his continuing goodness. I hope this will encourage you to think of ways to use the gifts God has given you, if they are dormant at the moment.

Tony Vaughan, National Vice-President FGBMFI Australia

Do You Know Your Audience?

The Lord directed me to one of my life verse He'd given 10 years earlier, this time He asked me to read it in another translation. My 'aha' or revelation came then: **this old message (scripture) told in this new way (another version) was prophesying future things to come in my life and ministry.** Wow! Did you get



that? When I looked at a scripture I knew well and was familiar with in a new version, it gave me a new understanding or interpretation of what God wanted me to expect and look forward to in the future.

Now if this revelation was so good for me, I wondered how it would be for the body to receive the truth, **that as we look to God for His way, He often gives us a New way that's for the Time way.** If we want to see the generations now and future generations to come living all in for God, we need to change the way we communicate the message of Jesus to those ones, so they can understand and receive His words, message and invitation. It's a new day so a new way is needed!

So, here's the keys to knowing our audience, with scriptures that when both applied by us will bring transformation:

1. LISTEN: Do we stop and give undivided attention to hear?

Ouch, sometimes this is hard to do, because there is so much going on in our lives and the issues we face, that us talking about our stuff seems to make us and it feel better.

But the Lord clearly said we will truly know where people are at, when we shut our mouths, give our voice a rest, put our opinions aside and tune in to listen to what is spoken and what is not.

For when we listen, we hear the language they speak, and the culture they live in, and we receive an invitation to enter their world and how they see things. What a privilege that is!

Read John 3 and see how Jesus listens as He meets with Nicodemus and reveals to him it's all about Relationship not Rule keeping.

2. SPEAK: Do we speak from our head or heart? How's the tone, and delivery of our voice?

Do our words connect at a heart level? This is often overlooked by the Body of Christ, and we go by the first impression rule says, 'within the first 5mins of meeting someone you both will make a judgement on each other, so make that impression count'. This has been adopted as the norm in the world.

But should this be our way? What would Jesus do? **Our go to or view of a person needs to be choosing to see them as the Lord sees them,** not by the appearance they present or the situation you meet them in. Asking Lord "give me Your eyes to see them"

Let Christ lead you, not the first impression rule.

3. Show Interest: Are we interested in them as a person, and do we know what they like?

People are not silly they know genuineness and they know agenda; we need to leave all agendas with God and choose to love them because they are children of God whether they know it or not yet.

Read Luke 8:43-48 and remind yourself of this amazing Daughter (who by the way is All of us) who receives that day, her miracle from God, because she reaches out in faith.

Check in time: Have you invested time to get to know your audience? This will determine the impact of what will happen to the message you have been given to share. **Knowing your audience is key to the effectiveness of Jesus message being shared and encountered.**

How many of us have experienced this? We speak the right word at the right time, BUT to the wrong audience and the result is the message falls to deaf ears and the seed does not plant. Me you say, but here's the good news, **take heart because if you have taken time to get to know your audience and built relationship, then you can guarantee**

it will be received better, and seed be planted and watered by God.

Remind yourself in Matthew 14:13-21, of the Miracle when Jesus Fed the Five Thousand, miracles are the business of God.

4. **LANGUAGE.** Are we using their language? Do you know their language? We need to consider not only the dialect, but the manner, tone, volume, heart and character of the ones in front of us.

Jesus was able to speak and reach everyone in this way. When He spoke, they listened, received and went away encouraged, equipped with a testimony to share with others. We can do this, it calls for us to be compassionate, vulnerable and transparent, **we are authentic and original.**

Read John 4 where we see Jesus Talking with a Samaritan Woman.

It's when we are **deliberately taking time to be with them, listen to them speak and share their thoughts, without interrupting,** we get to know them and in result we experience life and community transformation through Jesus' power.

Ok what about in a corporate setting do the above points fit? Yes, no matter where you are, it's essential you know your audience for the effectiveness of your message, or meeting all comes down this truth: **we've all got to begin and end with listening to the Father, and then doing and speaking what He says.**

Do you want to better know your audience in life, work and ministry?

Do you want to stop judging a book by its cover? Do you want to live from a place that realises and takes consideration that every situation, and person will be different?

Yes!! Then it starts with us being flexible, we decide to be flexible. Jesus modelled this for us, in the above scriptures how he relates to each different scenario. He starts teaching one to one, then speaks to a large crowd, and lastly is silently drawing in the sand. He knew His audience and how to best relate to them.

When I was a Youth Pastor I was invited with the youth, to an evening talk on Relationships and sex by the Pastor. The message was good and relevant, but **he lost the audience because of the way it was delivered, and because of confusion of the wording,** result was message was lost in translation, simply because he didn't know his audience. We then spent hours trying to interpret

and translate the message for these youth. As this pastor experienced loss in translation, the same can happen for us.

Because when we communicated, we didn't use the right language that knows how to reach our audience and connect to them at a heart level, which brings transformation, an encounter and a yes to Jesus' invitation. Who can relate to that? But there's an answer for us to remember.

It's **Jesus' SECRET WEAPON** that we have too! Which is **access to The Father!** Because of Jesus we have 24/7 access to the Father for how He sees and what He knows. Jesus chose to put aside His own agenda, opinion, and wants, to do and say only what the Father asked Him too.

Jesus modelled how we are to wait for the right moment, words and action to approaching others. Are we going to do the same? For then we will be effective in knowing our audience, reaching their heart, and the Father will be a witness in all our conversations, words or messages.

Challenge Time! Grab space with the Lord, your journal and be expectant to hear from Him and record what He says.

1. Let's start with **Personal Preparation. How are you preparing your heart for the day?** Use the link below and a message to see the secrets to excel in this area <http://www.encounterministries.org.nz/un categorized/how-are-you-preparing-your-heart-for-the-day/?preview=true&frame-nonce=e012d699f8>
2. **Turn off your phone! Keep your appointments with Him** don't allow distractions, be in the moment present with Him.
3. Now your prepared it's Action Time. Will you **consciously listen, and actively listen?** Persevere, as this will be hard for many, but the rewards are worth it.
4. Lord what are Your **words, direction & timing for me?** Follow through with them.

5. Allow the Lord time to direct you in conversation, **intimacy and hearing Him is the goal, not speed.**

6. **Give Thanks continually** as He works through you.

7. Read Proverbs 3:5-6 in many different translations and apply them.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (TPT)

"Let joy be your continual feast. Make your life a prayer. And in the midst of everything be always giving thanks, for this is God's perfect plan for you in Christ Jesus.

Never restrain or put out the fire of the Holy Spirit. And don't be one who scorns prophecies but be faithful to examine them by putting them to the test, and afterward hold tightly to what has proven to be right. Avoid every appearance of evil.

Now, may the God of peace and harmony set you apart, making you completely holy. And may your entire being—spirit, soul, and body—be kept completely flawless in the appearing of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One. The one who calls you by name is trustworthy and will thoroughly complete His work in you"

Father would You lead, direct, and teach to us how to take this message and apply it to our lives, work and ministries. Show us how to reveal and declare You to this generation and future generations in a way that reaches hearts and allows our Neighbours, Community and Nation to be transformed through the word, message and witness of Jesus they hear. Lord help us to be a generation of good listeners. In Jesus name, amen.

Craig and Winnie Patten

Craig is President of the Mahurangi Chapter

For encouraging and thought provoking messages check out [encounterministries.org.nz](http://www.encounterministries.org.nz)