

VISION

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God Can Use Anyone

My name is Jason Warren. I am married to Erica and we have 3 teenage children. Cameron, Nicole & Adam.

We have been in business for 21 years at Pukekohe. Our company, Trackworks Machinery, sells, services & repairs earthmoving equipment.

I was born near Dargaville. I was a sickly child with bronchitis and asthma type problems. I suffered from nightmares, often about a witch under our house. Finally, our family doctor advised my parents to move away from Dargaville, as the river's dampness could be the problem. Dad got a job in Whangarei and we moved there.

Soon after settling in Whangarei, things worsened. I used to see witches and frequently my ankles got tugged on. Black clawed hands would reach out from under the bed. This was so clear it would terrify me. I would hear a voice say, "If you get off this bed, I'll drag you under here and take you." Most nights I couldn't sleep and would only fall asleep out of exhaustion. If I awoke for the toilet during the night, it would be worse as I could feel it touch me in the dark. Once it grabbed me by the throat, choking me. No one believed me. This increased the anguish and worsened the attacks. I would wet the bed many nights as I couldn't move, or by not waking until it was too late. Fear, guilt &

shame were covering me. Doctors in Whangarei tried surgery, but to no avail. They finally said that I would grow out of it and that I had an overactive imagination.

When I was 5-6 years old some older local girls abused my brother and me. Even at such a young age we hid what was going on, until we got caught. The girl's parents separated soon after and moved away.



At the age of 9 I heard the creation story and received a little red Bible at primary school. My parents often fought. I couldn't stand it and would go to my room and read that little red Bible. I often said, heaven must be amazing, not like this. My dream was to walk with God like Adam. One day in the middle of town my parents were fighting, I was so horrified, I challenged God and said: "If you're real, stop them fighting." Thirty seconds later my

mother was shaking and in my bewildered father's arms. Then I knew God was real. God certainly isn't conventional; that's all I'll say.

At age 12 my parents were in a terrible car accident. As dad was a self-employed carpenter he had to take on smaller jobs during his recovery. One elderly couple Dad worked for were very well versed in the Bible and introduced him to the

Word. We started attending church and reading the Bible every day for the next 3-4 years. No Holy Spirit and very little grace, but at least the military style boot camp reading program Dad ran was in the right book. Family life seemed more fractured between my parents. My brother and I had jobs now and were hardly ever home. Mum arrived at my work one day and asked me to help her move out. I refused as I was absolutely blindsided. I went home that day and found my Dad crying on his own. Even in hospital I never saw him cry. Their separation put me into a spin and led to the wrong sorts of relationships. Partying with older co-workers, flat mates and the like. My moral values seemed to disappear in that season.

Now 21 years old, my 17-year-old girlfriend told me she was pregnant. This shocked me to the core. I begged her to keep the baby, or at least carry it and I'd raise it. She said no, it would ruin her life plans. Her parents rallied around her and asked me to leave her alone until they helped her fix things. I did my best to keep her thinking of the baby but without success. In deep despair I decided to do God's work for him and take myself out. I drove my car down a hill, closed my eyes and put my hands in my lap awaiting the bang. 10 seconds later still nothing and the car appeared to be still driving. I gingerly opened my eyes and found I was way down the road and the steering wheel was turning by itself taking all the corners. The irony was it was the same hill of my parents' accident years earlier.

Six months after my girlfriend's abortion, guilt was eating me up. Something in me was broken now. I truly had experienced God's grace but felt unworthy of it. I began boxing and martial arts and I practically lived at the gym. No way was I being forgiven as I deemed myself an outcast to God. I had no understanding of the cross's redemptive power. I only saw God as having to judge me, not a loving Dad calling me into his arms.

Through martial arts I met my future wife. She became my training partner for Ju-jitsu. 32 years later, I kick myself at his unmerited favour. The Lord told me years later she was angelically chosen for me because she carried a warrior spirit.

Many years later I worked as a branch manager for a large private company. The owner promised me a joint business partnership with him. Unfortunately, 2 years into this he was killed in his helicopter. Our silent little company now had to come out of the shadows and stand up alone.

After many years following my own way and the world's systems, I asked God into the business, but

I still held the keys. He, over the years, used lessons and miraculous signs to slowly get me to hand things over completely. The business has seen highs and lows but God has saved us supernaturally many times. Once we needed \$60,000 by Wednesday. On Sunday night we cried out for the impossible. A man turned up unannounced at 9am Monday morning with a cheque for the exact amount. He told us God sent him.

Our customers, staff and even their families have had experiences that can only be explained with the Biblical viewpoint of the God of the impossible.

One of our mechanics collected a bus in the Far North to drive back to Auckland. Late at night he turned the lights on and drove the 3 hours home. The next day none of the lights worked so he pulled the dash out, to find it had no wiring at all. (Nothing attached to the switch he'd used the night before).

The mother of a young staff member drove up from Taranaki for prayer. She was healed of her cancer. The miracle the Lord did to her was astounding. It made 3 surgeons shake their heads (one was flown down from Auckland for his specialist skills). Hard to dispute the facts when the growth of cancer is photographed, scanned, biopsied and been monitored for the previous 2 years then the cancer disappears. She was completely healed. The operation was cancelled the day before she was due for admission to hospital.

I've had visits to rooms in the heavenly courts. I've seen fire on my bedroom roof and had wind come through walls. I have experienced timely dreams the night before an enemy plan was about to attack our business so we were able to intervene in time. I was once picked up into the sky. When I stopped freaking out, I realised I was lying in a large hand at about 1200 feet. The Lord revealed a glimpse of his perspective. I was able to hear everyone speaking plus know what all the people were doing. The more I listened and relaxed the more I could take in. He really doesn't miss anything.

I wish I could tell you of the dozens of miracles I've seen. Jesus is amazing.

On many occasions I experienced enemy attack within hours of mighty miracles. As light grows, darkness takes note. Righteousness, truth and discipling become far more important. God speaks to my heart in more depth as my love for others grows. The enemy has chased after many I love, including a principality coming into our home after my eldest son. My son was absolutely terrified

when it threatened him verbally. I could only feel its presence when I realised this was actually happening. Cameron told me, "Dad it keeps moving away from you." I anointed his room and chased it outside. It even moved the cat flap as it passed through the door. I felt inadequate as it was able to physically hurt me, so I went to yell in tongues at it but instead of my tongue, another booming language vibrated through me. The voice had total authority. I felt it. I've never heard such a voice before or since. The entity submitted immediately and lifted its attack. It moved back towards Auckland.

Psalms 27 & 91 say that we are truly safe in him. It's true, no matter what you face, seen or unseen. But beware that you don't start battles with no authority. The enemy knows his rights.

With my experiences I sometimes couldn't relate to teachings I would hear and see in the body of Christ. I found I loved the testimonies of people. Many were very challenging to my old way of seeing God. I joined a small giftings group at my church.

I was hungry to learn more about the Holy Spirit and spiritual matters. I found the giftings group great, as they encouraged the prophetic gifts to be used and trusted. This gave me more clarity of the Holy Spirit's presence and voice. He speaks differently to the world and I've learnt to sift even my own flesh, as I often find fears, tradition and culture trying to challenge the Holy Spirit's message.

In 2012 the leader asked if the group could have an invited guest speak at our place. I asked who this was. An American prophet was his reply. I'd never meet a real prophet, so I was intrigued. This was the beginning of new things for our family. It was like having Jesus in our lounge. He was other-worldly. Hidden truths revealed about everyone were beautiful. I received a massive word about my life, my wife and heaven's call on us. For the last 10 years now I've been discipled in ways that only

God could orchestrate. He chooses who I will follow. Offices and calling appointments belong to the Lord, not man. It hasn't been easy at times, but I've only ever wanted to put my Lord in lights. He's the greatest prize I've ever received. Harken unto my voice & be obedient was all he ever asked of me. I had no idea what cost that would have.

Confirmation of hidden things from strangers has been consistent throughout this journey. But I have also seen others reject my advances on behalf of the Lord. I obediently went to a dying man to lay hands on him, but his wife told me I worked for Satan and I was deceived. As I drove away weeping, the Holy Spirit said softly, "Who did they say I worked for." I felt so loved and broken at the same time. The man died soon after.

Today we head up 2 Gates Ministries and lead a passionate small group at the House of Refuge Home Church. The Lord has been gracious beyond all my expectations. NZ and the Pacific Islands are in for a real treat. God has special plans for NZ. The demons know the sons and daughters of the Most



High. That's why Satan's team is hurting so many – but soon glory will be revealed in more abundance than ever. Captives will no longer be contained as Spirit meets Word. I've faced the devil once and he's a true deceiver'. There is no truth in him. The truth dwells in us; a light on a hill cannot be hidden. I have 6 children in Heaven and many family members. Our cloud of witnesses is fighting from victory. It took me years to understand that concept. Be part of Heaven's victory which is what you were made for. We have exciting times ahead.

Jason Warren, Franklin Chapter

Diverse Conference

The words from Isaiah 43:19 "See I am doing a new thing" helped inspire Craig Patten to organise the conference held on a stunningly fine day at Snell's Beach on 11 March. Eight speakers, four worship teams and members, friends and visitors from Cape Reinga to Waihola (south of Dunedin) gathered to worship, fellowship and be instructed. There were men's and women's sessions, plus combined afternoon and evening sessions.



Men's sessions featured testimonies from Andrew Buchanan, Rudi Saleupolou, Don Simpson, and dynamic teaching from Hugo Vaughan. Evangelist Craig Patten led the evening session into a powerful time of waiting on Holy Spirit backed by sensitive quiet worship music leading into release of healing, repentance and fresh revelation of God's direction for many.

The session for women featured Winnie Patten, Christine Simpson, and singer-songwriter Carly Adams.

Even as we began arriving at Snells Beach Create Campus, Alister on lead guitar and Paul on bass guitar were filling the auditorium with bright songs praising the Lord in worship.

Sessions started at 9 am with testimonies by Winnie Patten in the women session downstairs and Andrew Buchanan with the men upstairs.

Winnie Patten spoke on grasping and holding onto a new level of God's Glory that He longs to share with us through worship and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Andrew Buchanan shared that while he was building his brother's coffin after a tragic event he

heard God speak to him. Was he going mad? At a cafe Andrew then confided in his wife that the Lord had said "Would you come and do a new thing with me." While in the cafe a man approached him and said: "God is doing a new thing for you and your family." Confirmation that he was not going mad. That began a whole new relationship with Jesus, doing a new thing in his life.

Jason, Jess and Liam we're our caterers at the Create Campus Cafe and were excellent, spoiling us totally with exceptional baking and cooking.

After morning tea Alister Goodland with his friend Paul hit the guitar strings, again leading us praising God in the men's session while downstairs Carly Adams, who writes and plays her own worship songs, provided music for the women.

Carly spoke about the Father's heart. She encouraged the women to labour with Him and waiting on Him to see what creativity will break out when both the Father's heart and our hearts are in unity.

Rudy Saleupolou spoke about the "good and evil in life"; how good is called evil and evil called good. Rudy shared about his understanding of the tree of life. He shared how God has divine appointments and opportunities. He spoke about his broken relationship with his father and how the Lord healed it. Rudy said he asked his father for forgiveness who then spoke these words Rudy would never forget; "From anything bad that happens, good will be born out of it."



After a wonderful lunch, we are-convened at 2 pm. Hugo Vaughan was the speaker. With a most

professional presentation, he spoke on culture and health in business. Culture defines a business and can lead to success or failure. Whether the culture will be good or bad starts at the top with you or me. We influence the culture of our workplaces and can have significant impact by virtue of God's presence within us. If the culture around us is unhealthy we are responsible to speak up or simply demonstrate a better way of conversation or actions. Using visual aids, he showed us how differently children now learn from previous generations. Having been a teacher, later principal of schools in Africa and eventually the directing principal of the largest network of private schools in the world, overseeing 2000 teachers and 135 principals, Hugo was able to speak with considerable knowledge and authority. Hugo stated that children learn from others. He said that 80% of all invention comes from adapting ideas from others, rather than from scratch. Quoting 1 Thessalonians 5:23 he observed that people focus all their body, mind and spirit on what they value.

Hugo spoke on leadership which is about empowering and equipping others to lead. Without these actions it's just management. He rounded it up by saying "it's good to do everything right when people are watching." "It is culture to do everything right when no-one is watching." The culture we create is how we act, whether or not anyone is watching. If leadership does not create a culture, one develops without planning, as a culture of its own. Christians reflect the Bible others read in them, this is culture.



Then came The Simpsons.

Christine spoke to the women about moving forward and keeping our eyes focused on Jesus, sharing also the triumph of Christ over personal trials in her life.

Don Simpson sounded the Maori pukaea, a large wooden hand carved trumpet. Don sounded it to the: north, east, west, south calling New Zealand to repent that God has had enough of our sin, quoting Isaiah 47:6 "I was angry with my people." Keep praying Don said, never give up. "God is going to bless FGBMFI throughout New Zealand." Proverbs 21:1 God can change the course of a river by earthquake or flood and can change a heart. Don declared that we are an army of God and people are more important than material possessions. Using the Passion translation of Isaiah 43:19 "I am doing something brand new." Quoting Arthur Wallace from 1953 - "Revival is the sovereignty of God the preparedness of man."

Don shared how the Lord has healed his eyes. He spoke about their time in Whangarei and that prayers of 15 years ago have not fallen to the ground, but are now bearing fruit. Challenging us, Don said, "Are you a cruise liner or a battleship? We are at war with a cunning enemy. We have heard the pukaea, the alarm is sounded."

Craig Patten, in the evening miracle service, did something brand new, something diverse. Worship music was quiet, for a long time without words, just gentle strumming of guitars and the vocal sounds from Dedge Reynolds.

Craig opened with prayer then spoke contemplatively, focusing everyone on the presence of the Holy Spirit. When people felt Holy Spirit being present we were encouraged to go forward for more power and presence. That session had a flexible ending time and many stayed on to worship into the late hours of the night.

Interviews

Amyas asked Dennis Tomes, an FGBMFI member . "What did you think of our Diverse Conference?" Dennis replied "This was very uplifting. Andrew Buchanan's message touched me, and from Hugo Vaughn I received good instruction."

Speaking to Bill Sheppard, a friend of the Mahurangi chapter, Bill responded, "This is very encouraging to keep on track. I am keen to come to the Mahurangi Breakfasts when I can."

New International President For FGBMFI

Mr. Francis Owusu (Ghana) is the new International President of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI).

Francis is the 4th International President in 71 years and was elected at the International Directors meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on February 10, 2023.

Francis Owusu is a product of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK, and a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) UK.



He is an Executive Director of the Fiesta Hotels & Residences, a family-owned hospitality group based in Ghana.

Francis accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour at a Breakfast Meeting of the Fellowship in Ghana in the year 2000.

Francis has been a member of the Fellowship in Ghana since the year 2000 and served on the National Executive Committee for several years.

Francis was appointed as an International Director at Large in the year 2010 by Richard Shakarian, the 2nd International President.

In 2018, he was appointed International Treasurer by Mario Garcia Olvera, the 3rd International President, where he served until his election as International President on February 10, 2023.

In the year 2011, whilst on a flight to Accra after attending an International Directors meeting in California, the Lord spoke to Francis to "Protect the Vision".

Over the years, Francis has continued to receive revelations from the Lord on the Intensifying Vision from Armenia to Africa.

He is married to Jennifer, and they are blessed with children.

Gone To Glory

Win Larsen (Mt Albert)

Win served as Youth Leader at Onehunga Methodist Church during the 1970s, after graduating from the "School for Christian Workers".

Win's childhood and upbringing was not ideal but he found acceptance in the Lord Jesus Christ and committed to serving Him.

Win was always ready with a "word" for whomever he was speaking to – usually a word of encouragement.

Win had been a member of FGBMFI since the 1970s.