

Evan Walker

FROM DRUGS TO JESUS

Putting off the old man, and a fervent desire to embrace the new.



I was born in Dunedin in 1955, 1 of 5 children, in an average family. At an early age, I became aware of a lack of affection and my father's drinking. We discovered that he was more approachable when he was drinking. In my early teens (14) I seldom came home during weekends, instead going to parties and drinking. My self-esteem was low, not knowing what to do with my life. I got an apprenticeship as a shoe repairer. However, I had progressed to drug use so wasn't learning much at my job. My friends and myself were using LSD. Regular use of this alters perception of reality. We progressed to using many types of drugs,

becoming more deeply involved in local drug taking, part of the 70's hippy culture. There was a sense of emptiness, and a feeling of being disconnected from society. In 1976, I had moved into a house with a friend who had recently become a Christian. I was selling drugs of different types. We experimented with many types of drugs, which didn't help my work or mental state of mind.

I had also met my soon to be wife. I was supplying a group of bikers with pot and she was part of the group. We soon moved in together, still with my Christian friend. We were not aware that he had most of his church praying for us! There was a feeling in both of us that we should get married.

We married in May 1977. Not long after, we both accepted Jesus as our Saviour. This was a huge change. We started attending church and going to small home groups. This was during the charismatic revival. There was much ministry for us in our home group. I found it easy to leave my old life behind, but it was not as easy for my wife.

The following year, our son Samuel was born. Unfortunately, he died after living only 3.5 months. As new Christians, our faith was almost child-like. We didn't question why God would allow this to happen, but trusted that he knew what was best for us. However, this was still a very difficult time for us. Driving to our son's funeral, we felt sick with grief. However, when we walked into the church, the presence of the Father, and probably angels as well, was evident. It was the first time either of us experienced His presence in such a tangible way.

However, life with an empty baby's bedroom was difficult. We felt like a rug had been pulled out from underneath us. After a stressful Christmas break, a friend suggested we apply to go to Orama Christian Fellowship on Great Barrier Island. That was exactly what we needed! There were over 100 people there, strong Christians who helped us to understand the Bible, and the truths it contains. I gained a lot of confidence and grew in my faith. After 6 months, in December 1979 we moved to Queenstown, where we thought we may find other people interested in community living.

We still retained remnants of our hippy / alternative past, but mostly we were motivated by the unity of purpose we found at Orama. Our time in Queenstown was not easy, but we rejoiced at the birth of our daughter Hannah in October 1980. We were living on the banks of Lake Hayes, looking directly at Coronet Peak! It was a time of trials and learning. I become a cook, but the split shifts were difficult. Wendy discovered a new aspect of faith. If she had a doctor's appointment, she would stand on the road to Queenstown (long before cell phones & 2 cars). Usually she only had to wait 5 minutes before a friend came.

In 1982, we moved back to Dunedin. We didn't have much, and Wendy was pregnant, but within a few months we had our own house! This was a time of growth for both of us. We had a large home group in our house. I was elected on to the Vestry (yes, an Anglican Charismatic church).

I returned to my old trade making orthotic footwear. We were growing in the Lord. For a time I led worship and discovered gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us for the benefit of the church body. For myself, I mostly exercised gifts in the areas of prophecy and discernment. As my journey progressed I discovered that all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are available to all believers, but also in different measures. God also creates every person with motivational gifts as described in Ephesians 4:11-16, again for the benefit of the whole church body. I'm not yet fully sure where I fit in, but I'm on an interesting journey. As new Christians we settled into the first church went to, but we always had a yearning to be a part of community living.



In January 1987 we moved to West Auckland. In hindsight, it was crazy, but I became a more complete person. The reason we moved quickly became a problem. We bought a house in a new subdivision, found a church nearby and settled in, or so we thought. We were visited by someone from the church and told we had to give more. There was also a lack of sound biblical teaching. So began a slow search for a spiritual home.

Our girls were getting older, Wendy was working as a social worker, I had many jobs, truck driving, orthotic shoe making again, and a 9-month period of unemployment.

We also needed to work on our marriage, but we didn't seem to notice. In 2000, Wendy left. We had stopped going to church, and our communication had not been good. That started me on a downward spiral, mostly drinking.

For about 17 years I wandered in the wilderness. Not all was bad. I sensed God as my Father reaching out to me during this time. A friend who needed somewhere to stay moved in with me. We became close. She loved the Lord, but felt guilty about our relationship. However, it was good for her and me. She was dying, and needed a place to stay where there was peace. Also, I didn't drink as much anymore!

Unfortunately, my wife (now divorced from me) died in Oamaru in 2013, at age 43, far too young.

In 2010, I moved to Timaru. I didn't want to go back to Dunedin. When I moved the first person I met was a Christian. This pattern followed me until I finally turned my life around in July 2017. I ponder often, about how things happen in life. Why? As we come closer to knowing our Father, and the spirit world that surrounds us, we get glimpses of the why.



Our Father wants us to be sold out for Him. What does that mean? Letting go of unhealthy selfish habits and desires, and developing a fervent desire to embrace new Godly priorities, becoming aware of the Holy Spirit, and His promptings. When I turned my life around, there were no “fireworks”. For me, there was a desire to be holy, to change who I was, to become a follower of Jesus. Yes, I had believed in Jesus most of my life, but, for years I was someone simply filling a seat at church on Sundays. Now I had a desire to get involved. I started going to the annual Full Gospel camp in the Southern region, and getting involved in the local Full Gospel chapter. Also, in my business, showing an attitude that reveals our Father to our customers.

One of my favourite bible verses is: Romans chapter 12 v2. “Become transformed by the renewing of the mind”. That is important for all Christians, because the mind becomes a battleground. The enemy tries to steal, but we, who accept Jesus into our lives, have power to resist temptation, our old nature and to live in victory because of Jesus’ death on the cross and His resurrection.

It's been a long journey, but Jesus enables me to walk in victory. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, once given, never leaves us. Despite the “extended holiday”, the Holy Spirit was (is) still at work in my life. Now, if I am involved in prayer ministry, I expect to see the Holy Spirit move!

Sometimes, I feel as though I am still a learner. I guess I am. There is much truth in the Bible, and much more for me to learn. Any one of us can pray a simple prayer such as “Lord, take my life, it's yours. Less of me, more of You”. In doing so God takes us at our word and will adopt us as sons or daughters with the nature of Jesus entering into our lives. These are exciting times, The Holy Spirit is moving over New Zealand. I would like to encourage you to listen to His voice. Hear that quiet prompting. ***Go, speak to that man over there.***

Bless you all.



Evan Walker, Timaru Chapter

Remembering a Previous National Director Roland [Rolly] Johnson

Roland [Rolly] Johnson was a member of the Timaru Chapter for a number of years, serving there before going on to serve in leadership as a Regional Director and then a member of the National Board of the Fellowship for a number of years.

Rolly's conviction and faith in Christ Jesus served him well and he represented the South Island with vigour and enthusiasm, taking over the role that John Livingston had on the National Board for a season.

His stature meant that Rolly stood out in the crowd as he towered head and shoulders over other people. A great man of God with a heart for the Fellowship and for the role he had.

In 1990 while serving on the Board, he and Margaret his wife, travelled to Anaheim with nineteen other Kiwis to the world convention of the Fellowship being hosted there.

A man who served well, now with his Lord and Saviour, walking the streets of gold and enjoying eternity with Him.



Figure 1 Rolly is standing behind Ian James, the then National President

Tony Shaw, the President of Timaru Chapter, broke the news on 14/01/2025 that Rolly Johnson has gone home to be with the Lord.

God Bless

Keith Wooderson

Upcoming Event : 1

Convention 2025

The poster features a scenic background of a sunset over a beach with waves. A large wooden cross is silhouetted against the bright orange and yellow sky. The text is overlaid on this background. At the bottom, there is an orange banner with white text and logos.

NEW ZEALAND 2025

FGBMFI *convention*

30th May - 2nd June
JETPARK AUCKLAND AIRPORT
HOTEL - AUCKLAND

Registrations now open at: www.fgbmfi.org.nz

NEW ZEALAND

TO EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY
An event that welcomes all to come and meet Jesus.
Then to learn how to share the fullness of Jesus in our
families, workplaces and communities.

Full Gospel Business Mens Fellowship International (NZ)



GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE - The 2025 National Convention will be held at the JetPark Auckland Airport Hotel.

REGISTRATION - May we urge you to complete your registration NOW, using our website at www.fgbmfi.org.nz with credit card payment or internet banking. Registration is available to members and non-members alike. Registrations received after 20 May will incur a late fee of \$20

ACCOMMODATION - JetPark Auckland Airport Hotel is recommended for your choice of accommodation. Make your own reservations direct with the hotel.

Online - www.jetparkauckland.co.nz/rooms

Phone: 0800 538 466

Use promo code: FGBMFI

This will give you a 15% discount on "park and fly" rates.

JetPark Hotel have a shuttle bus service that operates between the airport and the hotel, each 30 minutes.

MEALS - The banquet and breakfast meals as listed in the programme are part of those meetings. Admission to these meetings is by ticket only, which are to be ordered with your registration. Children under 5 are free when parents buy meal tickets for themselves, children 5 to 10 are half price.

You may register for the Convention with or without the purchase of any meal tickets.

MEETINGS - Meetings are open for all people of all ages, except for the FGBMFI Men's Seminar and the Annual General Meeting which are for men only.

PARKING - Free parking is available at the venue.

CHILDREN - We encourage you to bring your children, they will be your responsibility as there is no children's programme.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - All FGBMFI members are urged to attend this important meeting. Only two delegates may vote and speak on behalf of each chapter. Non-members are most welcome to sit in and observe what makes the Fellowship tick.

LOVE OFFERINGS - To cover the expenses of speakers, venue hire and miscellaneous costs, freewill offerings will be received during some of the meetings.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES - Prior to the convention all enquiries may be made to: FGBMFI National Office
Email: office@fgbmfi.org.nz
Phone: 03 260 7111

PROGRAMME

Friday 30 May

10.30-12 noon Worship & testimony

1 - 3pm Men's seminar

1 - 3pm Ladies seminar

6 - 10pm Banquet

Saturday 31 May

8 - 10am Testimony breakfast

10.30 - 12.30pm Annual general meeting

1.30 - 4.30pm Electives

7 - 10pm Public meeting

Sunday 1 June

9.30 - 12 noon Worship & praise

1.30 - 4.30pm Electives

7 - 10pm Public meeting

Monday 2 June

8 - 11.30am Testimony breakfast



TO EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY
An event that welcomes all to come and meet Jesus.
Then to learn how to share the fullness of Jesus in our
families, workplaces and communities.

Full Gospel Business Mens Fellowship International (NZ)



Convention : Older and Younger Participants



Barry (age 91) and Heather Magee.



Mirraco Levi (age 10) with dad Allan Levi.

Upcoming Event : 2

(2) The International body's Asia Pacific Global Outreach, held fortnightly on Zoom, is open to everyone to join.

The dates for the meetings in 2025 are :

19 April, 3, 17, 31 May, 14, 28 June, 12, 26 July.

The meeting commences at 1.00pm New Zealand time and run for 1 hour.

It is well-structured, generally has 3 seven-minute testimonies then a longer speaker. Each meeting follows a stated theme, e.g. "Work Life Balance". If you want to gain an International perspective of the Fellowship we are part of, this is a great experience from the comfort of your home. The link to join this event is : Zoom link : <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86222434472?pwd=ZkMvVTlXTFgzWlhySjVtUTkyRDJnQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 2243 4472

Passcode : FGBMFI

National Leadership Meeting Dinner Photographs



Lower North Island Camp Photographs



Lower N.I. Camp - Group photograph



National Office – PO Box 2 – Mosgiel 9053 – Phone: 03 260 7111 – email: office@fgbmfi.org.nz