

VISION

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Masterton Convention



Geoff Wiklund

Geoff Wiklund with wife Joanne, alongside Greg Simnor with wife Danielle, and Jeannette Ward provided a wonderful platform of ministry, each with their own style. They interacted together to build a powerful podium for our Lord Jesus Christ to minister through the FGBMFI National Convention held in the Solway Park Hotel in Masterton, over Queens Birthday weekend. In a single statement, I would say all three speakers focused on that important message of love. Love, seasoned with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Geoff, a successful pastor and teacher, now retired to Kerikeri fed us from his rich storehouse of treasure when he spoke in the three sessions scheduled for him.

The challenge he brought to the men on Friday afternoon was that of "A man and his Integrity" based on Job 2:9 and Job 27:5 where Job said 'I will not put away integrity from me' when faced with his many challenges.

Geoff challenged all present to "Hold fast to Integrity" and, to keep our integrity, we need a Holy Spirit answer. (1): We need to pay our tax. Pay what is due and give honour to God. (2): Testing. Do what is right but, receive grace and show mercy to others. When we do wrong or fail, God does not condemn. Keep coming back to Him and let Him



change us. Our faith becomes real as we are tested, humble ourselves and are graciously restored. (3): Tithes. Be faithful in this area of our lives. God, "tests us in all the little things". (4): Training, "let your words and your works speak". Look at what you have got and multiply it.

Perfection: Geoff encouraged us all to: "Ask God to give you the right thing for you to do". Perfection comes when working in tandem with God's plan in your life. Also; "We need to make the choice of integrity". Job prayed for his friends – then God released His glory on him.

Geoff's ministry over the weekend was powerful, sowing seeds into our lives with wonderful words of encouragement. Referring to the metaphor of the potter and the clay, he said: "Flick out the impurities of your life, as the potter does with the clay, to perfect a vessel. Stop trying to make yourself. You feel worse as you try harder. Try surrendering harder. It is the power of God that makes the difference. Sin is easy to spot, look for the grace.

Another amazing convention that was so impacting and empowering for all who wanted to receive.

Keith Wooderson

Greg Simnor

The first time I saw Greg Simnor I thought I may have been in the wrong room and wrong meeting. For starters I did not think that churchy ministers of the Christian Faith would look like an All Black forward, or Mr Universe, such were the bulging biceps of this 6 foot plus senior minister of The Rock Church in Wellington.

From that moment I decided I would NOT be arguing theology or anything else with this big strong guy!

BUT after 15 minutes of Greg speaking, my second impression - was that I doubted IF I had heard any speaker in my 35 years in FGBMFI speak with such PASSION about LOVING JESUS!

All derived from a make or break time in 1997 when Jesus Christ crashed/smashed into Greg's life. He was gloriously saved, restored, forgiven, transformed and healed -- that was truly a Saul to Paul conversion experience.

Greg found there was NOTHING else in life that he needed but LOVE -- in meeting JESUS.



SO -- 4 days of teaching and preaching on LOVE -- and some of it had very relevant headings like "How to have confidence in God in uncertain times?"

Some great lines such as the following: -

- * We get tested -- so we can grow

Greg's books: 'Bird's Eye View' and 'Imitate Me' are available for free at www.therock.org.nz

- * We are vapour – here today and gone tomorrow
- * LOVE unconditionally
- * To know HIM -- is to be still and at peace
- * I am HIS creation
- * HE moulds us like clay
- * WE are the temple HE can live in
- * What you believe --you think
- * Get out of the religious spirit --Get into the person/love spirit
- * There is NO death for a Christian --as we NEVER die
- * LOVE --is not just a word. LOVE is a person -- JESUS CHRIST

SO --All of us at this FGBMFI convention were challenged to open up our lives and let GOD and LOVE in!

Thank you GREG for coming and sharing about the transforming LOVE that you proclaimed ONLY came through JESUS CHRIST.

YOU were truly a breath of fresh air!

Barry Magee

Jeanette Ward

Around fifty women registered for the FGBMFI Annual Convention. I am certain that all the women who attended were grateful to have a 'ladies only' time. Thank you for honouring us in this way!

Jeanette Ward started out being our speaker, then quickly turned into being our sister and friend as she shared life experiences, God's inspirations and valuable life treasures with us. Jeanette has been the Aglow NZ National President for the past ten years. I wonder how many women wanted to become 'Aglow' women after attending this conference!

I took notes when Jeanette shared. I took lots of notes! She encouraged each one of us that we have our own leadership gifting, our own ministry gifting and that we are all needed. She said the giftings that we carry are needed. She told us we have our own testimony and our own example. She said that we are needed and our testimony and our example are needed. She believes, and she wants us to believe, that every person carries a unique sound, given by God, and together we can impact



our town/city and ultimately our nation for God's glory.

April Bent





Convention Recordings

Each of the sessions at convention were videoed by John Fickling and his helpers. This is a ministry of John's and he has purchased equipment to be able to produce recordings to a high standard. All proceeds from the sale of DVD's and USB's go to help cover the costs of recording, copying and posting out the materials.

It is not too late to order convention recordings. If you were unable to attend convention you can still view the proceedings by placing an order with National Office by emailing office@fgbmfi.org.nz (preferred), or calling 03 260 7111.

The best-selling sessions have been:

Greg Simnor – Friday banquet
Greg Simnor – Saturday men's seminar
Geoff Wiklund – Sunday teaching 1
Geoff Wiklund – Sunday public meeting
Greg Simnor – Monday breakfast

	DVD ORDERS	PRICE
1	Friday – Men's Seminar – Geoff Wiklund	20.00
2	Friday – Ladies Seminar – Jeanette Ward	20.00
3	Friday – Banquet – Greg Simnor	20.00
4	Saturday – Testimony Breakfast – Geoff Wiklund	20.00
5	Saturday – Ladies Seminar – Jeanette Ward	20.00
6	Saturday – Men's Seminar – Greg Simnor	20.00
7	Saturday – Public Meeting – Jeanette Ward	20.00
8	Sunday – Teaching Session 1 – Geoff Wiklund	20.00
9	Sunday – Teaching Session 2 – Greg & Jeanette	20.00
10	Sunday – Public Meeting – Geoff Wiklund	20.00
11	Monday – Testimony Breakfast – Greg Simnor	20.00
12	COMPLETE SET OF DVD's	150.00

	USB ORDERS	PRICE
1	Complete Set of VIDEO's & AUDIO's on USB Stick	150.00
2	Complete Set of AUDIO's on USB Stick	50.00

Lower North Island Camp

Our Lower North Island camp was held the weekend of 9-11 April at the Highland Home Christian Camp in the beautiful Pohongina Valley north of Ashurst.

Andrew Robertson was the main speaker for the weekend and really emphasised that our heavenly Father delights in us and wants to bless us with every good gift, so that we in turn can be a blessing to others; but we have to be sold out for Jesus.

The various chapters were well represented with men attending from most regions. It was fantastic to have all the National Board members present for the weekend and it gave the men the rare opportunity to have one on one time with our national directors and also enabled us to minister alongside these great men of God.

We definitely appreciate the sacrifices our board members make on our behalf.

On reflection, I came to realise that many of the men present have amazing testimonies, but we tend to look at the gifted speakers with a colourful past and a radical salvation experience. We think our testimony is 'nothing' compared to theirs, but the point is, it was never meant to be.

I feel the camp is a safe place for the men to grow, learn and mature in the Lord and to critique our testimonies so that we can be all the more effective at reaching to a lost and hurting world.

A huge thank you to Wayne Stokes and helpers for organising this Camp. I was truly blessed, challenged and returned home more in love with Jesus.

We were saddened to hear only a few days later that Graham Eagle has gone to be with Jesus. One of his famous quotes was: 'Bible' = Basic instruction before leaving earth.

Barry Kowalewski, Stratford Chapter



"His Banner Over Us Is Love"



Lower North Island camp participants

Inviting Jesus In

I was a bonny bouncing blue eyed baby boy born in Ranfurly (renowned for hoar frosts), in Central Otago. My mum recalls the winter I was born. She was a bit slow in letting go the clothes tub water on the outside of the house. The water stayed frozen for six weeks. I was the fifth child. My parents acquired a 99-year lease on 700 acres on the Blue Mountains, Tapanui, West Otago: a virgin block of mainly tussock. With a team of draught horses Dad cultivated that land that now, 70 years later, grows beautiful grass and well maintained Pinus radiata shelter belts.

After leaving school at 14, I spent some time in the high country and returned home to go into partnership with my parents. However, in 1970 farming did not paint a pretty picture, so when Brenda and I got married we

chose instead to have an extended honeymoon in Australia for 18 months travelling the perimeter and then up the middle.



Our mother had encouraged all 7 of us children, to undertake Sunday school by correspondence for 10 years, resulting in us knowing it was right to attend church on Sundays.

On our returning from Australia we moved into the high country, attending church regularly. I was confirmed in the Anglican Church in Pleasant Point. Moving to the Waikato we attended a house group of all young marrieds. There were many social events including ten pin bowling, white water rafting, indoor cricket and church services together. At a

service in Hamilton a preacher spoke of Daniel in the lions' den followed by an altar call. Brenda and

I were at opposite ends of the pew but God called us up together, the first of many many people who responded to the call to repent, believe, receive and invite Jesus into our lives and hearts.

What changed? My pack of dogs were looking at me sideways, no more well-chosen expletives. I would like to say I always kept my eyes and life fixed on Jesus and I did try to do so. But I often found myself saying: "Sorry, Lord".



We were blessed in business owning our own farms, and blessed with four healthy children. They have permission to correct me. We are all Christians.

Sadly, while travelling in Crete with our eldest daughter, Sarah, and her husband Aaron, Brenda tripped on the uneven footpath and broke her arm and bruised her breast. The bruising resulted in cancer. After radiation and chemotherapeutic treatment, she developed leukaemia. Her sister in Australia was a suitable bone marrow donor, but, sadly, after some time, her body rejected it. My Brenda died after 3 good years at 58 years old after 35 years of marriage. It was my privilege to be married to such a great girl, wife, mother and grandmother. My children said to me: "Now dad you are mother and father" and they have held me to it. We all communicate every week. Now with 15 grandchildren, some have in fact shown their own genuine love and learning about Jesus.



Three years later I met and married Diane. She was running a riding school with over twenty horses

and heaps of children. She was also involved in youth ministry which both of us had been doing for more than twenty years.

Although I was semi-retired we bought a beef and sheep unit and reared in excess of one hundred calves each year and fattened cattle. Over the past few years we have reduced our sheep numbers but increased cattle. For 30 years I have been breeding Piedmont cattle from the Piedmont Valley in Italy. In 1988 I bought and imported a heifer for \$50,000 with embryos, donors and recipient surrogate heifers. I then direct marketed beef to butchers' shops. I have only quit this recently and we intend trying semi-retirement again.

We are blessed with a new house and gardens built by Diane. This is a home God has provided for his use and each week we have many guests here at our banqueting table.

I am still very involved in church and FGBMFI. I first joined FGBMFI 45 years ago. The founder of the organisation was Demos Shakarian, maybe one of the biggest dairy farmers in the USA during his lifetime, so that naturally appealed to me. At FGB meetings men share their stories to encourage other men to get to know our best friend Jesus Christ.

John 3: 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

We have 76,000 people here in Rotorua. Surely it is God's desire that all people at least hear of, learn more about and be encouraged to come into God's Kingdom. I am praying for that to happen in Rotorua.

Rex Davis, Ngongotaha Chapter

Gone to Glory

Graham Eagle (Napier)

On his return from America in the late eighties, Graham quickly became involved in the Napier Chapter of FGBMFI. He was the vice-president when Napier hosted the National Convention for the first time. At the end of the 1990s he became President of the Chapter for a couple of years before being elected onto the National Board. He always had a practical impact at the local level which he carried out quietly and without any fuss. Prior to the era of emails, the printing and mailing out of the monthly newsletters was always done through his factory at his expense. He even provided prepaid envelopes for the mailing out. He was always available to pick up speakers who were touring the country from Taupo or Palmerston North and would always accommodate them. He hosted regional meetings at his home each year even though he wasn't the Regional Director.

Graham always supported the local chapter dinner meetings and the fact that he didn't attend the Napier meeting after the Ashurst Camp and a few days before his sudden death surprised the local members.

Having Graham as the National President allowed the Hawkes Bay chapters to keep up with the play as he always reported back from Dominion Council meetings, his travels overseas and other developments that he was privy to.

His presence working quietly behind the scenes in the Hawkes Bay area will be sorely missed.

Kerry Coker, Napier Chapter

After serving as the Regional Director for the Hawkes Bay, Graham was appointed a National Director of the fellowship at the Palmerston North convention in 2003. When Alex Moody stood down as National President in 2005, Graham was asked by the National Board to take over the reins as the National President. Graham continued as National President until his death earlier this year.

Graham was much loved throughout the fellowship. He was always prepared to go and share his story around the country of how God lifted him from the rubbish dump to the board room. He never forgot his humble beginnings and loved serving the God that turned his life around.

Graham was a great story teller, a hard worker, honest and direct, a big picture person – he didn't like getting bogged down in the details, and he was open about his own shortcomings. He will be missed by many and the fellowship has lost a true Full Gospel Business Man.

The memorial service for Graham can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/5TdOMmpcA-U>

Other News

Appointment of National President

The National Board are pleased to announce that Graham Simpson has been appointed the new National President with the unanimous approval of the board.

Graham and his wife Sandy live in Auckland and Graham works as a lawyer.



Convention Donations

We are pleased to inform members that the generous offerings at convention exceeded our target and will also cover our budgeted loss for the coming year.

Our thanks to all those that contributed.

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