

VISION

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www.fgbmfi.org.nz

Living For Jesus My King

My first real encounter with God happened way back in 1959 – at a Billy Graham Crusade.

I had been “Christened” in a Methodist church in Hastings (NZ) as a baby and went to an Anglican boarding school in Hamilton (Southwell) as a 12-year-old.

So, I knew something about Christianity – but it was never personal.

I had two questions as a teenager. Was it possible to know God personally and did God have a plan or purpose for my life?

Billy Graham answered those questions in no uncertain terms. There I was, up the front, having asked Jesus to forgive my sins and come into my life. Boy, did He do so!

God's presence was so real. I knew I was changed. Don't ask me how to explain it.

I was born again – whatever that was. I had eternal life – whatever that meant.

things. So began a life of discovering God, and finding out what his purpose was for my life.

What a purpose! It included a call to full time ministry; marriage (to Jenny); family (4 kids – one in heaven), and an ever growing and deepening relationship with the Lord.

I was always hungry for more of experiencing God's power, his love and his presence.

My hunger and searching led me to involvement with the divine healing movement then current in the church : Agnes Sanford, T.L. Osborne, Oral Roberts, the Order of St. Luke, the CFO movement.

I began to hear of people having a life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit – the baptism in the Holy Spirit as it was being called at the time.

That is for me, I decided – and began to seek and pray.

The FGBMFI (Full Gospel Business Men's



Figure 1 Darrell Curtis opening the Auckland Regional Conference in Silverdale in April 2024.

All I knew was that a new life of relationship with God had begun.

New Christians classes at the local Methodist church (Pitt Street) helped me understand these

Fellowship) appeared on the scene in New Zealand with its booklets about the baptism in the Holy Spirit – which I devoured.

Prayer by Dennis Bennett and Allan Newton (a Methodist minister) followed – and finally, after a few hiccups, I entered into the full blessings of Pentecost. Wow, what a transformation!

Never had I felt so loved. Never had I had such an assurance of my faith and my relationship with God. Prayer – and worship – wow!

My relationship with God entered a whole new dimension. Tongues poured out of me like a river. “There’s a river of life flowing out from me” we sang – “makes the lame to walk and the blind to see ...”

The prisoners in Paremoremo loved the line that says – “opens prison doors, sets the captives free” – both in the natural and in the spiritual!

“There’s a river of life flowing out from me!”

I am now 80 years old and, as another song says, “Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before.”

My life is full of purpose, praise, joy, and fulfilment. An old Pentecostal song has the words -

“Living for Jesus is the best life of all, serving and following Him.

Living the worldly life is no life at all, I know it since Jesus came in.

Nothing can satisfy like Jesus within, He makes my happy heart sing.

Walking the Saviour’s way, happy in modern day,
Living for Jesus my King.”

I am and I do.

If you don’t know Him – and the fullness of His Spirit – you don’t know what you’re missing!

If you want to know more of Darrell’s story you can read his book “Dare to Be a Daniel” online or purchase a copy from your local Christian book seller.



Figure 2 Darrell in a prayer group praying for a participant in the Auckland Regional Conference.

Darrell Curtis, Silverdale Chapter

Kernel of Wheat

Extracts

MIKE’S GOD MOMENTS by Mike Bunt

..... began to pray, immediately the word “kernel” popped into my mind. Looking up the verse in the Bible, I spoke it out.

Another time, I heard correctly from God but got the interpretation so very wrong. The FGBMFI board members like to visit the National Convention venue before the event to meet with and encourage the local organizing committee. We gathered and prayed for the convention being held in Masterton, a rural town in the lower North Island of New Zealand. As Graeme Eagle, our National President, began to pray, immediately the word “kernel” popped into my mind. Looking up the verse in the Bible, I spoke it out. “But Jesus replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to

be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds” (*New International Version Bible*, 2023/1978, John 12:24).

I thought, “What a strange word to bring forth.” Toward the end of the prayer time, the song *Lift Jesus Higher* came to me, and we sang it.

I discovered later this verse that is also in the same chapter of John, in verse 32: “And when I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (*New International Version Bible*, 2023/1978).

I pondered this word over the next two weeks, and, thinking the verses were important for our Masterton convention, called my mentor. We had a long chat. Masterton was a significant place for Graham, our President. It was at Masterton where

he became born again and went on to be very successful in business and as a Christian leader. Interestingly my mentor, George, also had his Christian awakening there.

Our convention had to be put back a year because of the Covid pandemic. Sadly, Graeme collapsed and died at his workplace on the 16th of April 2021, six weeks before our conference. We thought the kernel of wheat dying was for the FGBMFI. We had slipped away from our core calling and were relying on our own strength instead the Holy Spirit, and we felt that we had to give it back to God. However, now we knew it was a literal word from God. Graham, our leader, was to die, to be called home.

We were stunned, as you can imagine, but we held on to those two Bible verses as a promise that God was going to raise up FGBMFI and use it further for His glory.

The Bible says, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (*New King James Version Bible*, 2023/1979, Isaiah 55:11).

If I had known what was ahead when speaking out the word from God, I may not have spoken it out.

(Above is a section of the book sub-titled “Kernel of Wheat” from Mike Bunt).

Mike Bunt, Taieri Chapter

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To purchase “Mike’s God Moment” for \$20 contact Andrew Stirling at Pure Books, 14 Station St Timaru, Phone 022 620 6772

Website : purebooks.nz Email : shop@purebooks.nz

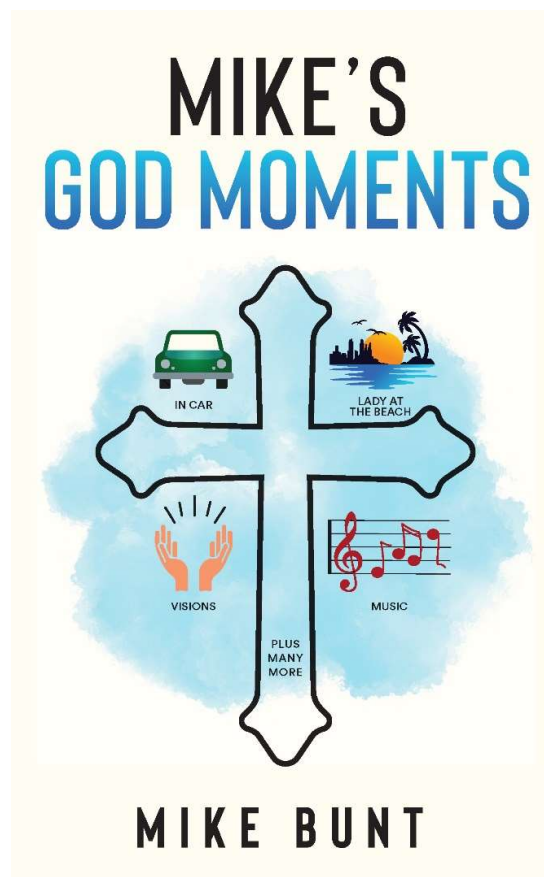


Image of book Cover



Recent photo of Mike Bunt

Upcoming Event

The FGBMFI Southern Region is hosting a three-day En Hakkore Camp in Central Otago 6-8 September 2024. Geoff Winter from Hamilton will be our keynote speaker for the weekend.

Anyone is welcome to participate. For more information, please contact Evan Walker on 021 408 088.



FGBMFI SOUTHERN REGION
Men's Camp 2024

A camp for MEN. Be refreshed, encouraged and trained on how to share the wonderful news that Jesus brings.

6-8th Sept 2024
Friday 4pm - Sunday 1pm

En Hakkore
207 Orangapai Road
Orangapai (18km south of Ranfurly)

GUEST SPEAKER:
Geoff Winter

Geoff was raised in a Christian home, but just followed through the motions of doing "Christian things". After suicidal bouts of depression in the midst of a ship wrecked marriage, his life was transformed. He now has amazing testimonies of lives saved, healed and delivered. Geoff became President of Full Gospel Businessmen Hamilton, toured NZ sharing testimony and planted Manifest Love Church.

- Praise & Worship
- Teaching Sessions
- Practical Workshops
- Leisure Time
- Fully Catered
- Accommodation Provided

Contact:
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Report on the Waikato / BOP one day conference on 29th June at Manifest Love church, Hamilton

About fifty men turned up on a cold foggy morning at the Church centre, some travelling hundreds of kilometres to be there. A handful came south from Auckland, including National President Graham Simpson. Others came from the south, as far away as the Wairarapa, Palmerston North, and Stratford. The four Waikato chapters were well represented. About a quarter of the men were from the local Manifest Love Church that Geoff Winter pastors. Meals were prepared by Hamilton President Allan Levi's wife, Ariana, with helpers.

There was a lot of inspiring worship led by the seven-member local FGB band. Most of them led worship at last year's national convention at New Plymouth. It was refreshing to hear men leading the singing and refreshing to hear all the men singing too.

The key speaker was Joseph Wilson. Born in Hyderabad, India, he was raised in a traditional Christian church, but drifted away. Later he went to a Pentecostal church where he gave his life to Christ and was baptised in the Holy Spirit. In recent years he lives in New Zealand but travels extensively to teach and minister overseas. His interactive style of teaching was well received. Several things of many he said, "All God's people are special, not just pastors. Don't put yourself down." "Ask God, what more do you want me to do?" "Knowledge without mileage is useless!"

We heard four powerful testimonies as well. Ps Kamal of MLC, who was converted to Christian out of a very staunch Hindu family after his best friend's sister was raised from the dead. Ps John Tan, based now in Auckland, told how he came to Christ out of a staunch Buddhist family in Malaysia as a young man. He then called men to come up and receive the fire of God. John is the leader of the AOF (Angels of Fire) ministry in NZ. A number fell under the Spirit. Please see the photos. Allan Levi's testimony was about how Geoff Winter's mentoring and discipling had improved his leadership skills and public speaking greatly. Lastly Ps Geoff Winter taught in a practical way how to impart healing to a person.

Some healings took place. Owen Johnson prayed for Joe Hiestand from Cambridge who was able to walk without a walker and received healing from dementia. Praise God! Others were also healed. Great fellowship and conversations took place at the three mealtimes we had. Friendships were made and deepened. All in all, the Conference was very inspiring and enriching. There are plans to hold another similar one-day conference in Hamilton next year. We want to keep the fire of God burning in Full Gospel!

- Rod Bent

Waikato / BOP Regional Conference Photographs

