

# VISION

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## Second Chance

There were times during my childhood and teenage years when I felt my life was not worth living. Suicide was a thought that I entertained quite often because of the intense emotional pain I was enduring. At such times I felt that ending my life would be so much easier than enduring the pain of living. I felt that no one understood who I was. It was hard for me to deal with those kinds of thoughts – especially entering my teenage years. I cut my own wrists in the hope of finding someone to talk with, but no one came except the police, and I wasn't wanting their company.

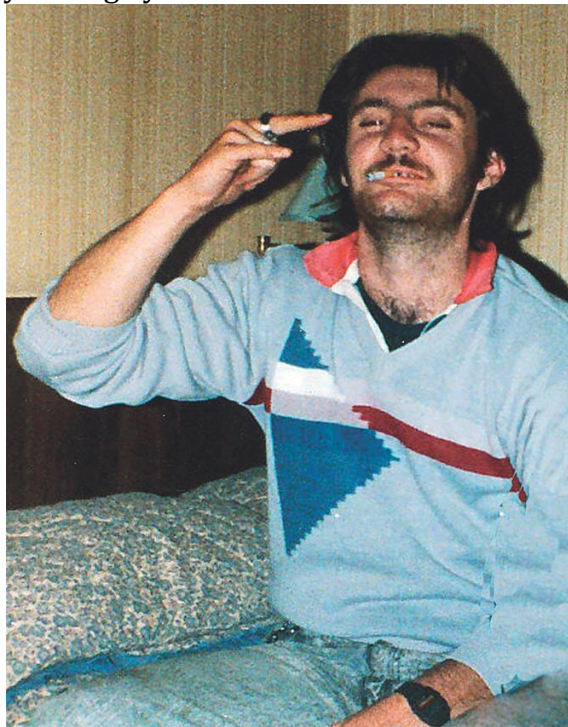
I always seemed to get in trouble both at school and home. Trouble was always tapping on my shoulder. Even as a kid, under ten years old, I would steal milk bottle money out of letter boxes. Those were the 'small' beginnings that would eventually lead me into bigger crimes.

In my younger years I indulged in pornography, lust, violence, alcohol and parties, all of which began to shape and mould my life, and I was not yet in my teens. My school education suffered along with my social skills. I found it difficult to connect with people.

Both my mother and father were very hard workers and provided well for our physical needs. Mum worked a lot of night shifts and worked most of the time during the day.

My relationship with my Dad wasn't flash and I didn't get much input from him. I was scared of my

father. I saw a lot of anger from him which made me feel helpless in approaching him for advice. I couldn't hang out with him like most children did, or go to the park, or have Dad read a story to me before I went to bed. My desire was to try and at least talk with him, as a son would do with a father, but I couldn't – I never knew how to approach him. I wasn't taught the basics of life by my Dad, so I learnt it on the streets.



My upbringing was impacting my life already. What I observed would set the example for my own life. I did feel as though my parents did try their best with the parenting skills they were taught.

On my sixteenth birthday my mother left my father. I came home from my friend's place and I saw a note to my Dad on the pool table. It was a note from Mum telling him she was walking out of the marriage.

I understand the pain children go through when their parents separate. I experienced it. It was devastating for me as my mother used to always be there for me. No matter what she was going through at the time, she still tried her best raising us.

Mum basically moved straight in with another guy in a different town. I didn't realise how big an impact her leaving had on me until I got older.

I was angry and confused at that time. I did not like my Dad and now Mum had left me. She did not say any goodbyes or anything, and I did not know

where she had gone. At that age I needed both my parents to help me find direction for my future. But that never happened.

When my father got home and found that note, he went crazy. Dad got more into drinking and more into women and didn't care about me. I was still living at home and I was left to fight for myself. I was now living a life of crime because I had no family, nothing to live for, I thought. I was given the option to leave high school or get kicked out, so I left.

I had travelling to Australia on my mind. I had no money. I was doing little crimes on the street, such as stealing bikes and stuff like that. But one day some friends and I set the Napier airport on fire. My friends all got caught the next day. I was still on the loose so I packed my bags and flew off to Australia. I did not want to be around my father or have anything to do with him. I landed in Australia with \$50 in my pocket and lived on the streets for six months. I got involved with the gang scene, drugs and prostitutes. I was using hard drugs, heroin and cocaine. I was spending \$1000 each week, which I got from stealing handbags from railway stations.

I was stabbed in the chest by a rival Comanchero gang member. Not long after that I flew back to New Zealand as a wanted criminal. My Australian trip was extremely hard and fast and now I was back in New Zealand, as a junkie and a wanted criminal. I was arrested at Wellington airport and charged with arson. I did not know where I was going and did not know where either Mum or Dad were. I had not had any contact with my family for over a year by that time. The police found my Mum living in Gisborne. That is where they flew me, handcuffed to a seat in the plane.

When I landed in Gisborne my mother did not even recognise me. I was so different and had an extremely high level of drug addiction. From the time I landed back in New Zealand my life went from bad to worse. I was 18 years old and had a \$1500 a week drug addiction and I needed to feed my addiction.



I was only back in New Zealand for eight months before I flew to the USA. I landed in Los Angeles as a 19-year-old druggie and walked the streets of Sunset and Hollywood Boulevard. I was hoping to become a rock star and get myself set up for the rest of my life. It never happened. I spent \$8000 on sex, drugs and rock n roll within a week and ended up flying back to New Zealand just about dead,

with needle marks all over my arm from the drug use. I was so wasted I had to be escorted onto the plane and back off the plane in New Zealand.

Once back in New Zealand I got involved with the underground criminal lifestyle. I started doing huge crimes, which made the news, resulting in me

becoming one of New Zealand's most wanted criminals. I jumped bail and was running from the police. I was doing armed robberies, leading to me being sentenced to 10 years in prison. I had no hope and no dream to live for. I was a junkie, a well-known criminal and now serving 10 years in prison. My life had stopped, I wanted to die at that moment.

In jail a guy came into my cell and invited me to a Bible study on Thursday nights. I thought this would be a good way to get me a Christian lady. The Christian lady never happened. But after three months I gave my heart to the Lord. It was powerful. I still had two years to serve on my sentence.



That was my most challenging time in prison. It was also the best foundation, learning about Jesus and the Bible. During this time, I saw people get saved, people healed, people delivered from demonic spirits and addictions broken. God was using me to bring freedom in other people's lives.

The test was when I was released from prison. I was disciplined and helped by a lovely couple, Kevin

and Christine. I was drug free, porn free and had no desire to do crime and get back into the gangs. Jesus set me free from that lifestyle.

Today I have been free from drug addiction for 18 years. I am married to Wendy and we have three

teenage daughters. I have had the privilege to be interviewed on television, talking about my life and helping the community keep safe. Today I am a committed member of Redemption Point Church in Havelock North. I help in churches and the community with life coaching, helping people to live free from addictions.

I have written a book of my story called 'Second Chance'. Over 2000 of my books have now gone into prisons around New Zealand.

**Adrian Pritchard**

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## Jack Davey: A Job Well-Done

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Jack has recently retired as Regional Director of the Central North Island/Taranaki/Wellington region.

To describe the work that Jack has done over the years, is not an easy task. Jack attended National Leadership Meetings, ensuring we were all kept in the loop. Tirelessly he attended as many outreach meetings in the lower North Island as possible, and at his own personal expense. He has been the listening ear to each Chapter member praying daily for them and their needs. He was the driving force behind restarting of the Tararua, Levin and the Otaki Chapters, the latter of which has become strong.

The Levin Chapter expressed their thoughts about Jack in this way: "It is his absolute devotion to FGBMFI and his Lord, that set him apart from others. His regular attendance at all of Levin's weekly prayer meetings is testimony to his devotion to Jesus Christ."

Jack's only regret was that the Tararua Chapter went back into recess due to a lack of leadership, when the President at the time became too ill to carry on.

Jack's weekly email: 'Thought of the Week', helped promote Chapters and their outreaches, which he and Wayne Stokes often attended. When Jack attended meetings in Stratford, a two and a half drive from Palmerston North, he would not hesitate to drive all the way there and back again, often not returning until 1am the next morning.

Jack is a former highly successful door to door salesman, selling vacuum cleaners and associated products regionally. Tom Auckram, Jack's former

sales boss, recently said that it was through Jack's dedication and encouragement that he remains a Christian to this day. Jack used every opportunity to share the good news with whoever was prepared to listen.

Jack chaired many of the Chapter AGM's each year, a task that involved significant travel. He could always be relied upon to give sound common sense advice when required at these and other meetings. He encouraged the men in struggling Chapters, and this had a positive impact upon them. Jack was the driving force behind the annual Central North

Island Camps at Ashhurst, near Palmerston North, which he organised single-handedly (we did as we were instructed!). He ensured we had a good camp speaker each year. Jimmy Njino from Towoomba, Australia, was one of our first international speakers. Without these camps, FGBMFI in the Central North Island would be so much the poorer and local Chapter numbers would have struggled.

Jack avoided the limelight but showed good leadership through his humility and his vision. One of the chapters

has said; "We will miss him terribly and feel out on a limb without his stabilising spirit".

Jack has reluctantly relinquished the reigns as the Regional Director due to ill-health over recent months. Tom Auckram has taken over from Jack as the acting Regional Director. Please continue to uphold Jack in your prayers in the coming months ahead.

**Trevor Hook, Regional Assistant**



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## Auckland Chapters of FGBMFI Indonesia

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On the weekend of 1-2 November, the Auckland chapters of FGBMFI Indonesia organised a regional convention for the Indonesian chapters in Australia and New Zealand.

These chapters are Indonesian speaking and are aimed at reaching Indonesian's who are living in Australia and N.Z. The Indonesians now have 4 chapters in the Auckland area, reporting to FGBMFI Indonesia. We will be working with them to assist in any way we can, it's all about building the Kingdom of God.

Graham Eagle, Graham Simpson and Steve Spring attended, representing FGBMFI N.Z. About 15 people came from Indonesia, including the National President Ardian Kristanto. In addition, a

good number came from the Australian Indonesian chapters.

Ardian Kristanto is the International Executive Vice President of FGBMFI globally, as well as the Indonesian National President. John Speirs and I had previously met Ardian at the Australian convention earlier this year in Brisbane.

It was a great weekend and an excellent opportunity to link up with our FGBMFI neighbours. (We are a Fellowship as well as an organisation)

Indonesia has more than 1000 chapters and 12,000 members.

**Graham Eagle, National President.**

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## Something New – Blenheim Chapter

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Blenheim is the most populous town in the Marlborough region, with a population of just over 30,000. We have a small FGBMFI chapter with seven members. We are isolated from other chapters, with the nearest chapters being Wellington to the north, on the other side of Cook Strait and Christchurch a four-and-a-half-hour drive to the south.

Recently our Blenheim chapter has experienced growth. We are having a meeting each Thursday afternoon which is attended by six to nine business owners and other men. We meet from 5.30pm till 7pm in the smoko room of a signwriting business.



L to R. Caleb Foreman, David Foreman, Laurie Stevenson, Graham Compton, Chris Dillon, Spencer White.

Absent Sheldan Heemi, Dillon Kerr

This came about after our member Sheldan Hemi gave his employer David a copy of the book 'The Happiest People On Earth.' David caught the vision of the Fellowship and he started getting together with other men for pray and fellowship. As business owners we are often struggling with issues each day that a business brings forth. We

have found this weekly meeting, and the support and advice we receive each week, a real blessing and encouragement.

God has not always worked how we expected, often teaching us to totally depend on him and worship him, no matter the staff or financial issues we have (not always easy). We thought praying for

and with each other and for our business would be good, but not that simple. Anyway we believe the group will grow to a point where we will then divide into 2 smaller groups then grow again.

I am really keen to work towards FGBMFI, making an impact in local business (as unqualified as I feel)

as other ministries are doing good work in many other areas of men's ministries here.

Graham Eagle recently came and shared with our group about some of his experiences in business and also shared his testimony at a well-attended outreach meeting.

**Spencer White, Blenheim Chapter**

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## Management Development Booklets

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Over the past 18 months the National Board with assistance from Regional Directors and those attending the twice yearly National Leadership Meetings have developed a series of A6 sized booklets along with other supporting materials.

Much discussion has taken place along with several useful workshops facilitated by National Director Hugh August.

The aim has been to break down a lot of material currently in the 'Action Manual' along with other guidance, into bite sized booklets to support those holding the various roles within the Fellowship. The following booklets have been prepared:

1. Guidelines for Recruiting an Effective Network
2. Effective Evangelism and Marketing
3. Planning and Goal Setting
4. Running Effective Chapter Meetings
5. Starting a New Chapter
6. The National Board & National Directors
7. Regional Directors & Regional Assistants
8. Chapter President
9. Chapter Vice-President

10. Chapter Secretary
11. Chapter Treasurer
12. Chapter Coach
13. The Chapter Member

Booklet 3. Planning and Goal Setting is still being edited, but will be available in February.

A range of new supporting booklets has also been produced, including:

- What is Christianity?
- Prayer and Fasting
- What is FGBMFI?
- Musicians Guidelines
- Catchers Guidelines
- Writing Your Short Story of Your Salvation

These resources along with other useful materials have been put into packs for those holding Chapter Executive roles 8 – 12 above. Our expectation is that these packs will assist the Chapter Executive in undertaking their roles.

These packs should have been distributed to chapters at the recent AGM's. If your chapter has not received their packs please contact your Regional Director or the National Office.

