

VISION

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Fully Surrendered

My name is Daniel Thompson. I am a self-employed mechanic living in Greytown with my wife Nerissa and two children Tana and Tyah.

I grew up in a stable Christian household with my mum, dad, three brothers and one sister. As a family we attended a good Christian church, and continue to do so.

Despite being surrounded by a caring family, I always felt alone and lost. I never seemed to fit in.

As a kid, I would tell on others when they did wrong. For this, I was persecuted and name called. As a result, seeds of rejection were planted in my life. I had a hard time keeping friends because they kept moving away. As a victim of bullying and belittlement, I found myself drawn to people who were picked on.

On the 24th of June 2000, I was taken to a show called 'Heaven's Gates, Hell's Flames'. In response to an altar call, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into my heart at the age of 13. I was so excited that I took my best friend along the next day. He also gave his heart to the Lord.

At 14-15 years old, I started to rebel. I was searching for love, validation and acceptance from friends and a girlfriend. I started getting caught up in bad crowds who introduced me to the party scene. Drinking and smoking cannabis became my addiction. My life started spiralling. I stopped

attending church, began wagging school and my grades started to suffer.

I had a job at a supermarket. My friend got caught stealing and I was fired by association. We were taken to the police station where our fingerprints were taken for the first time. That same day I was

kicked out of my home so the police dropped me off at my friend's house where I lived for a while. My drinking, smoking, and partying were out of control. My health suffered. I was not taking care of myself or my body. I ended up in the hospital where I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. From here my relationship with my parents began to reconcile and I started living back at home again.

In December 2004 I went to a party where I met Nerissa. The next day

was the beginning of our relationship. I found out she was a member of the youth group my Dad was running at church. I started going to church again, but still continued living a wayward life.

I moved in with Nerissa at her parents' house when she got pregnant with our son - Tana was born in 2006. After a year, we separated and I moved back home. Suddenly, God knocked and asked me where I wanted to go in life.



I enrolled in an NCEA course to complete schooling and achieved it. I got to a better place in my life and reconciled with Nerissa. She was on the verge of moving to Wanganui with her sister. I followed suit and moved with them. The two of them had moved to start a course together. I had no plans or goals. Sitting at home alone one day I picked up a newspaper. Inside the newspaper, God highlighted an advert for a pre-apprenticeship automotive course. The course had already started but I managed to get an interview with the tutor and enrolled ASAP. I completed the course with top marks.

Our daughter Tyah was born in Wanganui in 2008. We moved back to the Wairarapa a month later where I worked at a vineyard. God came knocking again "What are you doing with your life?"

I enrolled at Weltec, Petone to carry on with my apprenticeship. As part of the course, I started work experience at a local garage, Bruce Peterken Motors. The boss said there would never be a job there for me as he had enough workers. Three months later I was employed full-time by him and worked there for 7 – 8 years.

In 2013 Nerissa and I got married but navigating marriage was a struggle without Jesus at the centre of our lives.

In 2016 I re-enrolled to complete my automotive apprenticeship and became fully qualified. In 2017 Bruce Peterken retired and things transitioned from "there will never be a job here for you", to God helping us become the new owners of Bruce Peterken Motors (now Dan's Motors).



In 2018, after a night out celebrating my wife's 30th birthday, I was assaulted in the back of the head with an axe handle. I spent the next couple of weeks in and out of A&E and GPs being subject to all sorts of tests and scans. I was sent 3-4 times a week by ambulance to A&E as I was fitting uncontrollably. I had a slight dent in the back of my head and some wiring in my brain was severed. I suffered from a TBI/concussion and PTSD. I was unable to work for the next 3-4 months and spent the time in and out of appointments. This caused us to exhaust all our savings to make ends meet. I was slowly rehabilitated enough to return to work part-time, but physically and mentally overworked myself so much pushing full-time hours that my body could not cope. I began neuropuncture which helped relieve some pressure but I was still suffering and so was my family.

In 2020, we were hit with our first lockdown which meant I could not have treatment. I was suffering physically and mentally. I concluded that the world did not hold the answer to my healing and I could no longer do this alone. I sat in my garage and I cried out to Jesus Christ for help. I fully surrendered myself to Him.

I was healed immediately and fully restored mentally and physically. I had finally found the answer I had been searching for and I felt God's true love rest upon me. I spent 90% of the lockdown deep in my Bible, praying, praising, and worshipping Jesus. The words in the Bible came alive and I had a deep hunger for more.

Since fully surrendering to the Lord, my life has been filled with peace, love, and acceptance. We are blessed in every area of our lives.

God has restored me to perfect health. No brain injury or Crohn's disease.

This year I was appointed as a regional assistant for Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship and vice president of the Martinborough Chapter. This is proof that God can and will use anyone with a willing heart.

Our marriage is flourishing with Jesus at the centre of it and our business is highly successful.

Through our automotive workshop, we have seen many lives change for the better. God has given us that platform to minister to the broken and

lost. We are honoured that he has chosen us to lead customers to salvation at our reception desk and in our workshop.

We are committed to serving God's kingdom wherever he needs and leads us. We became children's church teachers and have since been called to youth ministry.

We started a youth group with 12 teens. 3 months later we had over 50, with continual growth every week. The local community have been enthusiastic supporters and cheerleaders of our group – we are given free food weekly to feed them. In addition, we have been gifted with sports equipment and an abundance of financial support. We needed a van and were given one free of charge. God continues to keep opening doors of blessings upon blessings to keep us growing, all for His glory.

For years we tried doing life on our own and filling our voids with things of the world. It never worked long-term.

We are thankful that Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sins on a cross; thankful that we are forgiven, set free of addiction, and fully restored.

He truly is the God of restoration. If you are struggling in any area of your life today, finances, worry, sickness, disease, or broken relationships, give it to Him. God can and will heal you, in Jesus' name.

He has a plan and a purpose for every one of you if you just let Him into your hearts.

Daniel Thompson, Martinborough Chapter

Top O'South Camp

During the last weekend in September a group of men met at the Blenheim railway station to travel to Bethany Park Camp in Kaiteriteri for a men's weekend. There were 19 of us, all believers in the name of Jesus, from various denominations and all expecting the great weekend it developed into. There were 2 van loads and 1 ute with the food (most important) that left Blenheim. We arrived at Bethany Park after an uneventful trip and settled in for the night after supper and prayer.

After breakfast on Saturday we had a time of sharing stories of what God had been doing in our lives. After lunch and a break, we carried on sharing, praying, worshiping and having a great time until it was time to eat again. After dinner we started again, this time with music, praying and worshiping. The Holy Spirit made His presence felt. Hugh August who came up from South Canterbury started to pray for us. There was a great time of deliverance, healing and renewal. It was brilliant. During the planning for this weekend we prayed



that none of us would return to Blenheim the same as we left. I am convinced that everyone was touched by the Spirit of God.

On Sunday morning after breakfast there were more testimonies, and more worship and prayer. Hugh spoke about the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. This was followed by a spectacular deliverance from a demonic spirit that had taken up residence in one of us. The spirit was not very

happy to be evicted. After lunch and a quick clean-up of our rooms we headed home again.

I have to confess that although we were a group of men, we had a young lady, the daughter of David, who was the main organiser for the weekend, cooking and preparing the meals for us. She was very good, Thank you Aleisha.

Laurie Stevenson, Blenheim Chapter

Asia Pacific Firewall

On Saturday 26th November 2022 I was privileged to represent our New Zealand National Board on the Asia Pacific Firewall Prayer Meeting which encompassed National Leadership Teams from across the region. The meeting was conducted by Zoom with representatives from 10 nations and 37 people present.

FGB Australia leaders were present. Rod Winter extended the invitation to NZ FGBMFI to join and participate in this special prayer time. It was good to make contact again with Rod as we have enjoyed good interaction in earlier years. The host nation was Indonesia who led us off with anointed prayer and worship. Following this, each nation was prayed for by another nation, for example, Indonesia prayed for Australia, and then Australia prayed for Japan all in ten minute segments.

It was very impacting when I prayed on behalf of New Zealand, with the assistance of Adam Tedja from Australia, for Hong Kong. When Psalm 133 was used as part of the prayer for Korea and Japan we sensed this was a key for all we do in the Full Gospel Fellowship.

When Dion Espiritu from the Philippines prayed for NZ, he commenced by saying, 'Let us approach the Throne of Grace with Mercy'. He went on to pray for the right atmosphere for revival in NZ and for prosperity. The revival would also include FGB, to encompass the ability to organise Chapters to bring in business men!

The prayer meeting for me commenced at 3.00pm NZ time, but many men who prayed had started the day very early. Countries represented were Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, NZ, Hong Kong, Fiji, and Vietnam. With this diverse range of countries Vietnam was the only country that did not pray in English, but the 10 minutes of their praying was absolutely anointed of God, even though I could not understand what they had said.

Prayer is an essential component for Christian's and for our Fellowship. I was honoured and encouraged to be able to join such an auspicious event, representing so many countries in the Asia Pacific region. God is good and His Banner Over Us is Love!

Keith Wooderson, National Board Member

