

VISION

Issue 78 - Dec 2023

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God is Amazing

My name is Allan Levi. My wife Ariana and I have 4 children. I am a qualified decorator with my own business.

My parents split up when I was one. I remember seeing my dad twice when I was little.

I was raised in the Waikato until I was seven, when my family moved in with my Mum's Uncle and Auntie in Lower Hutt.

After moving there, I started going to work with her uncle. The first time he took me to work he began sexually abusing me. The abuse continued for years before I gained the courage to speak up. It was embarrassing, and I was very young. Fortunately, I didn't have to see him again.

We moved a lot after that. My Mum had multiple relationships. I didn't view them as father figures. They were certainly not role models.

At 13 my little brother was born, requiring most of my Mum's attention.

With less attention I became more independent. In my first year at college I felt broken and lonely, trying to deal with what had happened to me.

I turned to cigarettes, marijuana and alcohol. By 14 I had basically stopped going to school. Mind altering substances sent me further off track.

At 15, I was sent to my nana and given 3 choices: school, course or a job.

I was too young for a job, so I started a carpentry course and gained work experience building.

Next, I worked at a holiday park for 2 years before being made redundant.

I then started my painting and decorating apprenticeship. I went to Christchurch after the

earthquakes in 2011 to help with the rebuild. I was drinking, started taking ecstasy, was still smoking a lot of marijuana and began smoking methamphetamine.

After the rebuild, I moved back to the Waikato and continued my apprenticeship while still heavily using mind-altering substances.

At 19 I was at my auntie's house when her friend's niece arrived to drop off some methamphetamine. I couldn't even look at her, I was too shy. She was a dealer, and I was an addict. A few days later I texted her

and we decided to meet.

Six months later I proposed. I was drinking less, had stopped taking ecstasy and smoking methamphetamine but hadn't stopped smoking marijuana.

One year after we met, we had an engagement party and 9 months later our eldest daughter Eva was born. Life felt good.



6 months after Eva was born, we found out we were expecting again. Ariana had started to seek the Lord by now so when doctors said our son would have birth defects, she refused to accept that. I struggled to relate to her faith. When our son, Mirraco was born without birth defects my wife proudly announced, "I told you so."

Two years later we finally married and Ariana became pregnant with our third child.

Doctors said she wasn't growing well and wouldn't make it full term. Again, Ariana refused to accept what the doctors were saying. Alicia was born full term and healthy too.

Life was going well until my addiction to marijuana took over. I was dependent, abusive and unreliable.



Our marriage started to fall apart. I would run from the problems I was causing and blame others.

At 3 months old Alicia suffered from reflux. We took her to hospital "just to be safe" but had no idea the turn our life was about to take.

Alicia was misdiagnosed and given many unnecessary medications. She suffered 3 cardiovascular collapses. She was ventilated incorrectly and had no oxygen for about an hour.

Alicia was flown to Starship Hospital in a coma. We had no idea she had been given an overdose. We were told that Alicia wouldn't survive and were pressured to donate her organs.

My wife's Auntie and Uncle came to the hospital and told her to pray in tongues. I had no idea why she was talking like that.

After 4 days Alicia was taken off life support. She started crying. It made us cry too.

On the 6th day, Ariana told me that the Lord said we had to take Alicia home. We were scared to take her against the doctor's wishes, so we didn't.

That night Ariana stopped a nurse giving Alicia the wrong medication.

On the 7th day she stopped a nurse from adding water into breastmilk to give to Alicia.

On the 8th day Alicia pulled the feeding tube out of her nose and my wife decided she was going to breastfeed her. Despite doctors' warnings that she would choke, Alicia did fine and the feeding tube was never put back in.

On the 9th day Ariana was woken in the early hours to find Alicia had a folded blanket placed over her head.

Ariana was determined to leave the hospital with Alicia. She asked the doctors what needed to be done to take her home. It was clear that they weren't going to discharge Alicia.

On the 10th day Ariana wrote a self-discharge letter, and we headed home. The doctors tried to get hospital social workers and security to stop us leaving. None of them were available.

Next morning Oranga Tamariki social workers came to our home. They had

received an urgent report that Alicia needed to be returned to Starship immediately by whatever means necessary. The case with Oranga Tamariki was closed suddenly 2 weeks later.

The Lord protected Alicia in every area and her health began to improve. But I wasn't ready to admit it was God at work restoring her. I used to mock God and Ariana whenever she would mention God.

One morning I had been fighting with Ariana before I left for work. I didn't make it far before I lost control of the vehicle, spun out, went through a telephone pole and rolled multiple times through a paddock before coming to a stop. God had His hand on my life. I wasn't wearing a seatbelt, but I had braced myself by holding the steering wheel and the grab handle above the driver's door. When I told Ariana what happened she said there was no handle above the door. Wanting to prove myself right I went to get my wallet out of the van later

that day. I checked and found that there was no door handle. Ariana said it was God's hand holding me. Looking back now, I can't deny it, but at the time I didn't want to accept God.

I was still an addict. I would be abusive when things didn't go my way. I decided to leave Ariana and my family. We didn't have a car, so I got on my bike and rode off, not knowing what I was going to do next. But God knew.

Six hours later I arrived at Manifest Love Church in Hamilton. There was nobody there, so I took the number off the door and asked someone off the street to call it for me.

Geoff Winter, the pastor of the church, answered: "How can I help?"

I asked if he could come and meet me. He told me it was his birthday so I said I would be fine, but he insisted that he would come.

After 2 hours of ministering to me I gave my heart to the Lord. Geoff offered to help pay for a motel for the night. I said I would bike back home, but my legs were so sore I decided to challenge God: "If you are real, the next car that goes past will pick me up."

Well, the next car was a little Mini Cooper, the driver offered me a ride. I didn't want to leave my bike, but he assured me it could fit. When he opened the boot, he already had a bike in there, but managed to fit my bike in as well. He asked where I had come from. I told him and he asked if I was a Christian. I thought for a second and then replied "Yes, I am". I had just given my heart to the Lord.

He was a Christian too. He was happy to give me a ride and I felt blessed.

For a while, I still wanted to live the best of both worlds. Then COVID hit and our family went to stay with my Ariana's Auntie and Uncle in Greytown. I went to a FGBMFI dinner meeting with her uncle. That night my wife urged me to join. I became a

member of the Martinborough Chapter.

Not long after that I went to my first FGBMFI convention. I was in the lobby when Geoff Winter walked in. It was the first time we had seen each other in a year. I felt embarrassed because I hadn't been back to church for a while.

After the convention we returned to Manifest Love Church where we are now firmly planted.

By the grace of God, with good teaching and guidance our marriage has been restored. I am free from addiction to marijuana, and now pursue God's will for me.



Our family is thriving now. I am willing to do God's work.

After 27 years I reconciled with my Dad.

We are out of debt by living for God and not by the desires of the flesh.

Whenever I am asked how our marriage was restored, I simply say that we stopped being the people we wanted to be and started being who God created us to be.

Allan Levi is President of the Hamilton Chapter.

From the National Presidents Pen

As we approach the end of the year, let us recall with thankfulness, some of its highlights: an outstanding national convention at New Plymouth, several successful regional conferences, seminars and camps, many excellent and effective chapter meetings, and new chapters being formed or in the process of being created.

A further development has been the appointment of Alvin Humm as new national administrator as from this month. John Speirs informed the Board early this year that he would be standing down from that job as soon as we had a replacement. It took us several months to identify the right candidate. John took up the role 7 years ago, shifted the National Office to Mosgiel, upgraded all our publications and transformed the office systems to a high level of efficiency. We are so grateful for his faithful and dedicated service to the Fellowship.

We are looking forward to Alvin picking up the role and serving the Fellowship well. His engineering and administrative background give him significant skills that will enable him to contribute to the well-being of the Fellowship in the years to come. Alvin was involved in the CBD chapter in Auckland for many years so is very familiar with the work of the Fellowship.

With Alvin's appointment having taken place so late in the year, the Board has decided to defer the next national conference to 2025. There are several reasons for that. Planning for a conference requires significant forward planning and experience in running conferences. It would be a formidable task to place on Alvin's shoulders as he will take some time to become fully conversant with his role.

We also need to locate a suitable South Island venue that meets our requirements for ease of

travel arrangements and accommodation. Conference facilities need to be booked a year or so in advance, so the board will be actively seeking to identify the right place early next year for 2025.

For 2024 the board will be exploring ways to ensure that regional conferences and camps are well supported. So much valuable ministry happens when we gather together for an extended period of time. We encourage each member to take advantage of the regional gatherings planned for your regions.

At the last national AGM a remit was proposed to create a new associate membership category with the aim of encouraging younger men to become members. That remit was left for the Board to consider and see if it was practical to introduce associate membership.

After much discussion, research and consultation with our IT provider, it is clear that there will be significant problems with the office software to amend our membership registration systems to introduce the additional class of membership. Taking into account the very cheap membership fee, and introducing a "second class" of member, we have decided not to introduce an associate membership. Instead we are encouraging local chapters to adopt a way, suitable to their circumstances, to subsidise young men into membership, if cost is a barrier.

We look forward to a New Year with great expectations of chapters growing in numbers and allowing God's Spirit to work among us, increasing in us a love for our fellow man by sharing our testimonies of God's goodness and grace.

Graham Simpson



Australian Convention

The FGBMFI & FGBA Australian National Convention for 2023 was held in Adelaide on September 14th to 16th 2023. This was a momentous occasion as it was a celebration of the union of the two distinct FGB organisations operating in Australia, FGBMFI and FGBA. They even had a unity cake, which was presented, then cut and eaten by all.

In addition to the Australians, there were representatives from the international directors (president and secretary), Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Fiji and New Zealand.

The theme of the convention was “It’s time to invest”. The theme was conveyed through the talks on investing financially in FGBMFI, investing in people via outreach, time and service.

The International President Francis Owusu spoke about how now was the time to go out and bring in the end times harvest of people. He shared about how God had spoken to multiple international directors to vote him into office, much to his disbelief (“who me?”)



In one of Francis’s talks, he was emphasising the need to worship God and while marching along the front of the room, he was slain in the spirit. This resulted in a spontaneous prayer and ministry time involving Jimmy Njino and the leaders of the multiple groups.

Multiple testimonies were shared, Francis Owusu (International President), Doug Woolley

(International Secretary), Daniel Wright (President FGBMFI Australia), George Perry (Chairman FGBA), Ardian Kristanto (International Director - Indonesia), Samuel Tan (Malaysian National Deputy President), Fong Hoong Heng (FGBMFI Malaysia National President), Anthony Putihrai (FGBMFI Regional Vice President of Asia Pacific).

Multiple speakers shared about their outreach programmes. My favourite, from the Philippines, was the drift racing team that they sponsored. The Malaysians shared about their 30,000+ attendees at open air tent meetings. These attendees were hungry for more of God and willing to stand in the rain.

David-John “Chief” MacKellar shared about “The School of the Vision”, a course designed to get people excited about the original FGBMFI vision that Demos Shakarian had.

At the City of Tea Tree Gully Prayer Breakfast, I was fascinated to see lots of attendees praying for their city and country. Senators, mayors and

influential business people in Adelaide got to hear Francis Owusu’s testimony.

There was an interest in FGBMFI New Zealand and I had five minutes to share some member and chapter statistics and

about what had been happening from my perspective (mainly Dunedin based).

I really enjoyed my time in Australia and I would like to make a special thanks to David-John “Chief” MacKellar, who made me feel welcome.

Michael Miller, President of Dunedin Chapter

Introducing Alvin Humm

I am Alvin Humm and I have been appointed to take over from John Speirs as the National Administrator for FGBMFI.

I grew up in Malaysia where I was trained as an engineer. I worked as a civil engineer in Malaysia before coming to New Zealand (Auckland) in 2006 with my wife Allison Wong. Allison and I have been married for 38 years.

While in Malaysia I was a practising Buddhist but shortly after I came to New Zealand a person reached out to me and I developed a relationship with Jesus Christ. Ever

since then I have gradually become more and more Christ-centric.

My involvement with FGBMFI has been in Auckland, especially the Auckland CBD Chapter. I have really enjoyed the fellowship of believers from many different churches.



We have moved to Dunedin this year to be close to family.

My heart is to see the Kingdom of God advance, for people to be saved and develop a strong relationship with Christ, for our members to edify one another.

If I can be of any help to you, please get in touch.