

Keith Wooderson

In September Graham, our National President was contacted by the Australian National President of FGBMFI and asked if someone from New Zealand would be available to share a seven-minute **Testimony on Work Life Balance**. I volunteered to do this for the Global Chapter Meeting on Zoom which covered the Asia and Pacific Region. I had joined their Zoom meeting a month before when 120 people participated online. What a tremendous privilege to join this International body of Christian men and be given the opportunity to share with so many. Here is the testimony that I shared that day.



Greetings from New Zealand! My name is Keith Wooderson. I live at Whale Bay in Raglan, a little sea side village in the North Island. I am married to Maureen, a very special and wonderful woman.

My early career life was that of a dairy farmer. My previous wife and I purchased and managed a dairy farm that required substantial investment of time energy and finance. Multiple mortgages required extra income to service the debt. My young wife worked evenings at the local tavern. Certainly not a positive environment for a couple struggling financially!

Work life balance was totally skewed. I worked exorbitantly long hours developing the run-down farm. The combination of balancing life with our 3 young children and a wife receiving adoring attention by alcohol influenced men, created a train crash that was waiting to happen. There were never enough hours in the day to achieve the

demands required of the farm. Milking and managing the dairy herd, establishing new fencing and roading left nothing to foster an appropriate intimacy and relationship in our marriage. Work life balance had been distorted and fragmented beyond repair. The marriage disintegrated and so did my family life.

With the realisation that the farm would return to its original state if I remained in business on my own, I sought and found a new vocation, that of custodial officer in the largest prison in New Zealand.



I needed to find, however, work life balance. It was after this move that I made a commitment to my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I was born again and baptised in the Holy Spirit. After seeking the Lord for His direction for my life, some years later I met and married my wife Maureen. God provided us a platform of a 300 percent marriage. 100 percent from God, 100 percent from me and 100 percent from Maureen! We have stood on this principle, with God's help, for our 36 years of happy married life.

Restructuring in my work meant redundancy and another new career, but God's peace and love allowed a seamless transition into our beach home. We commenced a new business of property maintenance. God provided surety of an appropriate work life balance with adequate finance, although substantially reduced from my previous managerial position. Praise God, He supplies all our needs.

The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship has been a huge part of both of our lives. Maureen has been a wonderful helpmate and supporter in the roles I have held in the Fellowship. She tells in her testimony that she married Full Gospel. I have now been a National Director for the Fellowship for 15 years. There was a gap, 3 years ago, for a period of 9 years. We choose to travel together, minister together and share the joys of our 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

We have both had health issues, my most recent being my third heart attack just 16 months ago, which took place, of all places, at the New Zealand National Full Gospel Business Men's Convention in June 2023. But by the grace of God, I was in the right place at the right time. Instant prayer and also speedy medical support!

But God is the restorer, as we have found, many times in our lives. The restorer of relationships, health and, most importantly work life balance. Prayer is the essential ingredient. I endeavour to spend one hour per day praying in the heavenly language, tongues, God has gifted me.

I will close with words from Proverbs 16: 1-3. "To man belongs the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue. All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord. **Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed.**"

This is the passage of scripture the Lord gave me when I gave my heart to Him, the Saviour, some 47 years ago. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity of sharing my 'work life balance' story with you today. In closing: The next National Convention for New Zealand will be held in Auckland at the Jet Park Hotel near the International Airport on 30 May to 02 June 2025. That is next year. It would be great to see some of you at this God glorifying, Holy Spirit empowered, event.



**Keith Wooderson, Te Awamutu Chapter,
National Director**

John Tan

We were born in Malaysia and travelled home to see family recently during August and September this year. We travel regularly back to Malaysia to do ministry. However, on this recent trip, we did one ministry meeting and spent more time with our families.

Except for the small Christian minority, it is common for Chinese in Malaysia to be involved in idolatry and ancestor worship. The non-believers often have huge idol altars that are almost as high as the ceiling inside their houses.

Apart from John and his niece, the rest of John's family are non-believers and involved in idolatry and ancestor worship in a big way. When we arrived in John's hometown, Penang, his older sister had just suffered a minor accident with her motorbike. It fell on her leg and cracked her femur. Thank God her leg was not broken. In John's previous visits, John had tried to share about Jesus with his sister, but she would not listen. She also told her Christian daughter not to attend her funeral because she knows that Christians do not worship their deceased ancestors.

We visited John's sister who was in hospital on her first night there. Her attitude towards Jesus had changed and she was hungry and eager for Christian prayers and blessings. We prayed for her speedy healing and recovery and that she would sleep well. On her second night at the hospital, we visited but did not pray for her. On the third day, she was keen to leave the hospital and return home. She told us that she had slept very well on her first night after our prayers. However, on her second night at the hospital, in the middle of the night, she heard her name being called (probably by demons) twice. When she turned round to see who was calling her, no one was around. She became very frightened and wanted to return home.

We visited her in her home and her attitude had changed. Because her heart was now open, Chooi shared the gospel to her, and she listened with interest. Her house was full of idols. I shared that when she accepted Jesus, she had to stop

worshipping the idols. However, she was not ready yet to relinquish the idols.



Chooi's sister-in-law had previously shaved her head and spent 10 years in a Buddhist monastery. She returned home to normal life about a year ago. While we were in Kuala Lumpur, she had a fall and broke her arm. A few days after that we were in the house where she was and when John saw her, God asked him to pray for her. John asked her whether he could pray for her, and she said yes. So, we went over to her side and prayed for her. This is the first time that we had ever prayed for her.

Chooi has an older brother in Singapore, and he travelled to Kuala Lumpur to meet up with us. I then had the opportunity to give him a copy of the bible, "Our Story", New Zealand Heritage, New Testament. He accepted the bible willingly. We are trusting God that he will read it.

Chooi's sister and her husband are both committed Christians in Kuala Lumpur. We went out for lunch together with them and had great fellowship. After that, they invited us to their house for further fellowship. We shared about the "Fire of God" and they understood better subsequently. Our brother-in-law had vertigo and John prayed for his

healing. Praise the Lord, for His healing power. He felt much better and lighter after John had prayed for him.

We have been praying for our family's salvation for more than 20 years and continue to trust in God's

promise in Acts 16:31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household".

John Tan, Auckland CBD Chapter

Upcoming Events

(1) The FGBMFI Auckland Regional Council is in the middle of organising the 2025 Convention from Friday 30th May to Monday 2nd June in JetPark Auckland Airport Hotel & Conference Centre.



Various logos for Covention promotion have been developed :



(2) The International body's Asia Pacific Global Outreach, held fortnightly, is open to everyone to join.

The date for the last meeting in 2024 : 14 December.

The meeting commences at 2.00pm New Zealand time and run for 1 hour.

It is well-structured, generally has 3 seven-minute testimonies then a longer speaker. Each meeting follows a stated theme, e.g. "Work Life Balance".

If you want to gain an International perspective of the Fellowship we are part of, this is a great experience from the comfort of your home. The link to join this event is : Zoom link :

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86222434472?pwd=ZkMvVTlXTFgzWlhySjVtUTkyRDJnQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 2243 4472

Passcode : FGBMFI

Cambridge – New Chapter Presentation



Hamilton Chapter – New Member Presentation

