

VISION

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National Convention – Hamilton 2017



From The National President's Desk

"We know that all things work together for the good of those that love God and are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

There are some verses in the bible that I just don't like. This is one of them!

I realised a long time ago that I am not called to suffer (because I don't like it and I am not good at it).

Doesn't it just annoy you so much, when well-meaning Christians, (who are not currently suffering like you are), tell you "All things work together for good.....etc etc."

Your world is coming to an end and you are in great distress, and they quote this!

The Lord clearly revealed to me some years ago, what to do when these people approach you. Stick your finger in their left eye, twist it left and right a couple of times, and then ask them to repeat the verse!

This last November through to March, was six months of the most difficult time I have been through in my business in the last 20 years.

A major machine breakdown, fourteen days lost production, \$8000 repair bill, customers shouting at us for being late.

Unrest and niggling by staff (most unusual for us). Five staff down at a time sick. Other machine breakdowns and all sorts of problems and extreme stress over these six months.

I prayed and came against it and all the stuff we Pentecostal's do, but it would not go away.

A verse in the bible says: "When you have done all things...stand" Ephesians 6:13 (and that's all I could do).

It would be true to say my faith was at a fairly low ebb.

I am a very sharing person, so when I suffer, I share it with all within hearing range. I want them to have the blessing too.



Over this last year, I had been reluctantly considering selling my business, which I started in 1983 and I love so much. It's my baby.

It's time to think about (semi) retirement, but I don't want to let it go.

I prayed, Lord take away my enthusiasm for this business, so I can let it go.

Guess what, over the last 6 months I have lost some of my enthusiasm for the business and now am going through the process of selling. (Be careful what you pray for, God just may answer it! And in a way you don't expect.)

[But wait! There's more:](#)

When we got the parts in from overseas to fix the machine, the engineers found a bolt had fallen down into the gears and caused all the damage.

This now meant it was an insurance claim! Yahoo! P.T.L.

The net result is, six months later, they not only paid all the costs to fix it, but paid out loss of profits and all sorts of costs associated with the breakdown.

This week I received \$64,000 into our company bank account from the insurance company. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Yea! (That's enough for an ice cream for Linda and I)

I am now a happy Christian again.

My Grandmother used to say: "Smile and the world smiles with you, frown and you frown alone."

Don't you just love that verse in Romans 8:28

"All things work together for the good of those that love God".

Just another life lesson from the Lord for Saint Graham of Taradale.

Peace and blessings in the day to day battle of life.

Blessings

Graham Eagle, National President

National Convention - Hamilton 2017



AGM Reflections - by Barry Magee

Once again the AGM was chaired by the National President, Graham Eagle.

Graham's usual humorous style was evident throughout and the agenda flowed efficiently under his chairmanship - Roll Call, Minutes of the last AGM, National President's report. A challenge was given to be non-churchy at meetings and also to encourage young people as the mean age of our membership is now 67.

The National Board remains the same and Graham Eagle was re-appointed as National President with spontaneous applause.

Financial report was presented by the National Secretary, John Speirs, who was highly commended for the huge task accomplished in changing Head Office to the South Island. John also presented the members with a "3 Year plan" to review administrative structures, make changes and then start looking beyond ourselves.

There were no remits this year.

Prison ministry reports highlighted increasing difficulties, with drastic changes happening in prison ministry. Not easy to get to prisoners in most prisons.

In the area of Communications, there was much vibrant discussion about the use of modern technology being used to advantage in the Kingdom of God and the Fellowship.

General Business also brought out passionate speeches about many areas in FGBMGFI.

To sum up – A good productive meeting held in good spirits and once again a mini highlight of a National Conference.

General Reflections

My feeling was that this National Conference was a fantastic weekend of teaching ministries directly from the heart, on God's explicit word in the Bible and translated into English/English and Scottish/English by the two main guest speakers.



It was direct, fundamental, challenging to all who were teachable and listening. Both Danny Smith and Steve Dunne were passionate in proclaiming what CHRISTIANITY today is all about and they held nothing back in stating the Truth of the "Word of God" and its message that nailed their colours to the mast of "TRUE CHRISTIANITY".

I thank God for men of this calibre.



This year we plan to produce four editions of the 'Vision.'

Articles, testimonies and reports on chapter or regional events are most welcome along with accompanying photos.

Danny Smith – comments by Keith Winstone

It is hard to do justice to Danny because he has an amazing ability to be able to teach hard lessons with great humour and to be able to get deep points across without being condemnatory or judgemental. Not only that but his wife Tracy had serious health issues and yet he was able to get up and speak as if the only cares or worries he had was to speak as God wished and led him to do.

Danny has an amazing testimony and it was a lesson to all of us to see how he has risen up out the difficulties of minimal education due to being brought up as a member of a show or carnival family who followed all the shows from place to place. Possibly a family that can probably be best described as “dysfunctional” and yet God reached out to him and changed him to become the dynamic man of God he is today.



Danny gave us many timely reminders, often in the form of bullet points, which was great as they are much more easily remembered. For me the following are among those I needed to hear and I am looking forward to listening to the DVD's from Convention to listen to his teaching a second time as there was a lot in these sessions that I need to take of board.

- We must trust in the Lord with all our heart and surrender all to Him as the areas we fail to yield

to God are the areas where the devil will attack us.

- Lucifer was in charge of worship and knows the power of music and that it has a huge impact on people; we need to remember this and listen to music that glorifies God.
- We need to remember that Jesus operated as a man when He was on earth so we can do what He did. The key is that He only did what the Father told Him to do and we must know and listen to the Holy Spirit as He will tell us what to do. He will reveal the Father to us and teach us.
- Before we go out we must pray and prepare and when we are speaking to others we must be sensitive and listen to them and the Holy Spirit. We only impact people because Jesus is in us.
- Christianity is not just a Sunday thing, it is a 24/7 commitment and we should be affecting people because it is meant to be a life of joy.
- Whatever the gifts, abilities and talents you have God wants to use you.
- We seek the anointing and enjoy the sensation but in fact God gives the anointing for a purpose and we need to seek Him to know what this purpose is instead of just sitting under it.

There is much more I could add but will leave it with one final thought that is particularly pertinent for us grey haired ones – we cannot stay where we are, we must keep moving on in God.



If you would like further teaching from Danny, he has produced a set of eight 90 minute videos titled 'New Creation Realities'. These are available from the National Office on a USB stick for \$80. Please place your order with the National Office and either send a cheque or place the money in our account: 03 0285 1017492 000, with your name and "USB" as your reference.

Steve Dunne – contribution by Ron Sinclair

As Steve shared his and Emma's life story, his style had you laughing almost uncontrollably and in a blink you would have tears in your eyes as you realised God's love was poured out on a couple who had been involved in drugs, pornography, you name it. Still in their teens they decided to tour America. It was there by divine intervention they met a spirit filled preacher and the love of God captured them.



I couldn't help feel the words of Jesus apply to Steve and Emma, "Where much has been forgiven much love is shown". Steve and Emma have eight children, three of whom are adopted. They have also fostered eleven children from time to time for varying lengths of time. Many who still keep in touch.

All of Steve's sessions were well prepared and presented. The session on Islam really impacted me. This was delivered with power and the love of the Holy Spirit. Steve has a great love for the Muslim people. He has seen many Muslims come into the Kingdom of God as he has shared the love of Jesus with them. He tells how the Muslim people have a hunger, that you and I know only Jesus can fill. Steve has prepared an excellent study book and memory stick on the Muslim faith that would be an excellent tool in church and home groups.

You can get in touch with Steve by email at: stevedunne33@icloud.com Steve's testimony tract would also be a great evangelical tool to give to people.

The convention for me was extremely faith building. Many stories shared on healings. People coming to a relationship with Jesus. Wow! And what about the visitations of angels we heard about? I just loved those stories.

May the blessing of God be upon you.



**If you didn't manage to get to Convention you can still watch or listen to the sessions.
Video DVD's or sound CD's can be ordered at: <http://www.faithnet.co.nz/media/fgb17.html>
DVD's are \$20 each and CD's \$9 each**

The Board would like to thank all who contributed to offerings taken at the convention.

The total convention offerings and pledges were \$40,675.40

Tracy Smith – by Lynette Speirs

The women at conference were blessed to be able to hear from a woman who was walking out her faith journey in front of them. Tracy is currently experiencing a challenge in her health and to be at the conference was a miracle in itself.

Tracy shared some of her testimony and how she came to faith, also some of her journey as she continues to trust God to guide her through her current situation.

She encouraged us to Praise God in whatever situation we find ourselves in, and to hold onto His promises. That our confession needs to be one of faith, to be careful of our words, to speak the word of God over ourselves, to trust in God and His love toward us.

How we need to strengthen ourselves through the word of God and getting into the secret place with Him, especially when things get tough. In these situations, find scriptures that are relevant to your situation – personalise them for yourself and pray and declare them over yourself – that your confession lines up with the word of God.

To hope in God – He can bring about the resurrection of lost or broken dreams and relationships etc. She exhorted us to remain thankful, to praise God to persevere. Count it all joy...



Tracy reminded us of the need to have and show more love towards each other in the body. As we love Jesus more, then the more we can love other people. That as we spend more time with Jesus filling ourselves each day, loving Jesus more, then the more our light will shine in the darkness.

She challenged us by asking, “What do people see and experience when they are around us?”

How bright is our “Wattage” or lightbulb for Jesus – it should be shining brightly before all men that God may be glorified.

It was very powerful to be reminded of these truths, not by someone who was merely sharing biblical principles, but by such a woman, who even in the midst of such a serious trial, was glowing with love for Jesus, was holding fast to His promises for her life, and inspired us to deepen our walk with Him and to find our strength and purpose in the one true God.

I left feeling challenged and with a great admiration for the way in which Tracy gave of herself, but more importantly to have witnessed such faith being demonstrated and lived out.

It’s actually quite difficult to put into words what you imparted, but want to say a very special Thank you Tracey.

Christchurch Training Workshop – Paul Davis

Our recent FGBMFI chapter training meeting on the 8th April, kindly held at Lois Barr’s was a time to refresh our minds on the vision given to its founder Demos Shakarian, which is why men from all walks of life and their incredibly supportive wives are a part of this amazing organisation.

Our meeting started off with a hearty breakfast served up by our new chapter president Kerry Andrell. Well done Kerry, we enjoyed some quality fellowship time. This was followed by opening prayers and worship led by the very capable and anointed Mike Foley.

At the commencement of the meeting Graham Eagle drew our attention to the vision and values of FGBMFI and shared regarding the very specific role that we can play. We can be the necessary link

that someone else may not be capable of fulfilling, this very much spoke to my heart and I can see how I have found God using me in this way in the past as I am sure other members can relate too as well. Another point that was raised was that it was not so much about meetings but how we relate to those that we invite along. Relationship building is a vital way that people can relate to those of us who have made the decision to make Jesus the Lord of their life with many of us testifying to the difference it has made to our lives. Sometimes just meeting up for a coffee is a way of getting to know other men, so well done Graham that was a good word worth sharing.

Mike Bunt shared how to tell our personal story, also expressing the desire that we remain as true

as possible to it, which in turn removes the burden of preaching. I found this to be a very liberating and releasing word. Thanks Mike we needed to hear that, perhaps we could encourage more members to share what the Lord has done in their lives.

We moved on to the necessity of prayer this was led by Noel Spiers who encouraged us to pray in the Spirit as the Lord leads for when you do so you edify yourselves. That praying in the Spirit was a much less daunting prospect than using mere words which can feel somewhat tiresome after a period of time. Praying in the Spirit was a much easier approach to contemplate altogether and the way to stay focused when seeking an answer from the Lord so thank you Noel for sharing your thoughts on this all important subject.

In 1 Thessalonians 5: 17 'We are exhorted to pray without ceasing'.

John Speirs finished up the morning by giving his outline on what makes for the smooth running of the chapters with an understanding that each chapter needed to seek the Lord as to the specific way it conducted its meetings.

John encouraged us to put ourselves in the shoes of the non-churched being mindful how our advertising flyers are received, i.e. not sounding too religious. Personally, I could heartily appreciate his point as I have raised the subject of the FGBMFI meetings at my work place and was told it is too religious. Let's look to see how we can advertise our meetings without the excessive use

of Christian references so that the non-churched are able to relate and respond to them. Perhaps a little more emphasises on the pre-conversion with less reverences to the post Christian position would capture their attention and secure their interest from the beginning, we would ask you to consider this.

Another point that John raised was that of praying for the guest speaker with the non-churched in attendance, this should be done prior to the commencement of the meeting. This point was taken on board and we will endeavour to heed your advice.

The various points raised in this planning meeting resonated in the hearts of all who were present and we were able to appreciate the value of all that was expressed by those in the FGBMFI leadership.

Now is the time to galvanise our efforts for those who God has appointed over us as He exhorts us to pray for those in authority. I believe this extends to not only those in government but all who are appointed to minister and lead others, it is God who raises up and it is God who sets those down according to His will and dominion over us as He purposes.

I exhort you all with Galatians' 6:9-10. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are the household of faith.

Gone to Glory

Trevor Smyth (79)

Trevor was a man who was always willing to "GO" when it involved ministry, or to help other people. He had a heart of gold.

He was involved with FGBMFI for over twenty-five years in the Otorohanga Chapter and was active on the committee, later became Chapter President.

Trevor and Colleen were also very involved in Ministry in Waikeria Prison.

Garth Taylor (62)

"A man of the land." From farming to soil fertility advising, he had the gifting to sow the "good seed" of the Word of God into so many people.

Even through pain and adversity, his love for Jesus was paramount.

Garth was an active member of FGBMFI, becoming President of the Dannevirke Chapter, before transferring to the Te Awamutu area.

Sel Phillips (95)

Sel was instrumental in forming the Otorohanga Chapter in 1979, and later the same year the Te Awamutu Chapter. He held all the positions within his chapter and spent many years as a Field Rep.

His love for the Lord, and his Christian witness, wisdom, compassion and help, was an inspiration to all. For all his dedication and ministry, he was awarded Life Membership.

Sel and Ngaere also spent many years ministering in Waikeria Prison.