

VISION

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Len Brijs



It is with sadness, yet with a note of triumph, that at this time we are remembering Len's passing. Sadness at the parting, but victory for Len as he is now with the Lord he loved and dedicated his life too.

As National President of FGBMFI, I want to honour Len, as a friend, a mentor and a great leader of the fellowship he loved. So much of what I have learned, has come from Len as a role model.

When I first became National President in 2005, it was Len who got alongside me, to guide and grow my confidence. It also was my privilege as National President to travel with Len to the Asian FGBMFI conference in Hong Kong, where we represented NZ on the Asian council for FGBMFI, we also travelled to the Australian FGB conference. During this time, his wisdom and love for the fellowship was evident to others.

Len never lost site of the core values of the fellowship, strongly influencing the steering of the ship for the best part of 40 years.

To many of us, he was "Mr. Full Gospel, N.Z." He lived it, he loved it and he encouraged others in it.

Men of such honesty and integrity and strong faith, are rare in this day and age. An era has passed for us at FGBMFI, but this fellowship is built on the foundation of Godly men, such as Len. Much of what we are, is a result of what others sow into us during our life time.

Let's continue the legacy of what Len has left us, building, encouraging and seeing others grow as people and in their faith in our Lord Jesus.

Blessings to you all.

Graham Eagle

National President FGBMFI NZ

A Wonderful Friend

Len Brijs, a man of many gifts and talents, a wonderful and faithful friend and a well-loved father in law. It is hard to do him justice in a few words but I will try.

I first met Len when a friend, Tony Gibson, moved into the FGBMFI offices in Takapuna. At the time I was going through a very difficult time and was not attending church because of the division that my becoming a Christian had caused at home. In addition to that I was trying to understand the fullness of God's calling me to be a prophet. I was struggling to say the least and Len took me under his wing and disciplined me. Under his tutelage my prophetic gifting was honed and I gained confidence to speak out as God was calling me to do. Not only that, Len had incredible patience with me and spoke into my life many times giving me the support and encouragement I needed so desperately. He put himself out many times to support me and always did so with a smile even when I must have been a dashed nuisance. He was a man of great wisdom and had a huge understanding of the scriptures and he gave me much help as I studied the Word.

During this time Len, Phyllis, Tony, Noeline (Tony's secretary) and I became a group of spirit filled intercessors who prayed prophetically and also with words of knowledge, at a depth I have never had the privilege to be a party to since. In fact, I really look forward to the day when the Lord will show me what was achieved through our prayers as I believe they were extremely important. This group met irregularly for well over ten years before it gradually broke up when Tony moved out to a new office and then, a bit later the FGBMFI office moved to Henderson.

Around about the same time I moved to Tolaga Bay and didn't see so much of Len until I married his daughter Adele. After that our relationship changed and we became great friends who chatted away happily for hours. Of course, in recent years, we both became profoundly deaf and there were times when we talking at cross purposes having failed to hear what the other was saying, which caused a few good laughs. To sum it up Len was a wonderful friend and a great man of God, a man who I will sadly miss.

Keith Winstone

Looking Back

This is a reprint of an article Len wrote at the time of his retirement, outlining some of his and Phyllis's story but also a history of the fellowship in New Zealand.

Len writes:

Life is exciting when you are caught up in something new that God is doing. That was certainly the case in 1969 when an airlift of men of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International from USA came to New Zealand, mainly in Auckland, to encourage men in NZ to pick up the challenge of reaching men for Jesus. They shared their testimony in many churches to wake up the "sleeping giant" as the founder, Demos Shakarian, called it. Several men, such as Wyn Fountain, Jack Jensen and a number of others set up the first chapter, "Auckland Chapter", with Jack as the President. It grew quite rapidly and by 1975 fourteen chapters were actively operating monthly with very good fruit coming from it.

I joined the Fellowship 1975 and was then baptised with the Holy Spirit at the first meeting I attended that transformed my life in a beautiful way, drinking in His grace, love and power. I immediately got involved in the Fellowship's activities and joined the National Board in 1977 (for 39 years) and as the full time National Secretary/Treasurer from 1980. In 1978 a prophesy by an overseas evangelist said that God would do a new thing in my life. Suddenly the shipyard was sold in 1980, which was quite a miracle, opening the door for moving in to the National Office with Phyllis and Bill Witstyn, setting up a new office system including an Apple computer and 5 1/4 floppy disks. David Edgar helping us to set up the computer software!

The membership grew to about 1800 members a total of 85 Chapters. Also the South Pacific VOICE was created and rapidly grew to at least 9 issues per year having up to 40,000 copies per issue with a long subscription list in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Islands. Ian Ralston and Kennedy Warne were the editors. Kennedy used to interview men in New Zealand and Australia Conventions, taking photographs at the same time. A team of volunteers from Hibiscus Coast led by Bob Leach came every month to pack and post the magazines. Also the American VOICE was imported with a long mailing list. We used to receive testimonies of people who were saved or blessed through the VOICE. We still stock twelve single testimony tracts available from the National Office.

God provided liberally including some surplus and no houses had to be sold. These crusades were repeated in 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1979. In February 1980 the crusade was extended to the whole nation called "Good News' 80". This was a mighty move of God in 21 NZ cities and towns where God poured out His blessings. I still meet people who were saved, healed or baptised with the Holy Spirit at one of these events.

In 1979 the National Convention was held in Christchurch for the first time. The men in Christchurch did a fantastic job and as a result the Christchurch Town Hall was full to overflowing with over 2000 people attending the public meetings.

Demos came to New Zealand again in 1980 to our



National Convention 2001, Len being presented with Life Membership. From left, Wally Harrington, Jack Jensen, Phyllis and Len, Ian James and Alex Moody.

In 1975 the Auckland chapters prayed and believed God for organising a crusade, committing themselves and guaranteeing to spend a large amount of money by faith. Some were prepared to put their house on the line. Demos Skakarian specially came over from California to attend and speak.

The crusade was called "Jesus 75", which I attended and was deeply touched by experiencing what God was doing in peoples' lives. I went to meet the organisers to obtain more information. When I confronted these men I knew that they had something that I desired, what I now know as the precious love of God the Father and his Son Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. "His Banner Over Us Is Love" is the message of FGBMFI. Thousands attended the weeklong meetings in Alexandra Park racecourse with many people being saved, delivered, baptised with the Holy Spirit and healed.

National Convention in Alexandra Park Racecourse, Auckland. We received a record amount of registrations. Demos spoke at the banquet held in the Showgrounds auditorium and this was attended by just over 1000 people. I still remember the frustrated faces of the caterers which had to cook the dinner far away and then keep it hot.

During the eighties many visits were made to the Pacific Islands, the first one being Tonga which had organised a dinner with many VIPs, cabinet ministers and local dignitaries attending. It was a successful event, with the bill presented to us, Bob Horton and I, after the meeting! Several more visits were made. Some of these airlifts included sharing in the prison which had dreadful conditions. One insane inmate was delivered and released out of his cell which consisted of a 1.5-meter-high concrete box, with no standing room. A chapter

was formed with Isileli Taukola as President which operated successfully for a number of years. A number of trips to Fiji resulted in the forming of three chapters there. After three trips to Samoa a chapter was set up in Apia. Two visits were made to New Caledonia starting the Noumea chapter. None of the Pacific Island Chapters lasted long due to a lack of local leadership and the moving of expatriates.

In 1985 the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International organised their world Convention for the first time outside the USA in Melbourne.

The Fellowship in Australia did a great job that resulted in 7000 people attending the public meetings. NZ organised a special tour with a group of 110 people flying to Melbourne. One of the speakers was Jack Hayford who presented a strong challenge to the leadership as Demos Shakarian had recently suffered a severe stroke which left him partly paralysed. We still have Jack's message on file. Phyllis and I went to



California in 1978 for the World Convention. We had a great time there and were spiritually much charged and encouraged. The indoor stadium was packed with 14,000 people at the evening meetings. Ian James and I travelled to Orlando in 1991 trying to warn the Americans unsuccessfully not to proceed with changing the By-Laws. A major split followed within the International movement. Later Phyllis and I also attended the Boston World Convention on our way to Europe and saw the damage that had been done by changing the rules.

It has been such a privilege to serve on the National Board since 1977 under five National Presidents, Jack Jensen, Ian James, Wally Harrington, Alex Moody and Graham Eagle. Great men of God, who have been trustworthy brothers and friends, who mentored me in many ways, always encouraging ready to help with whatever at any time, not afraid to make important steps of faith.

South Pacific Conventions were organised between NZ and Australia in the Gold Coast, Christchurch and Fiji. A group of men came from

Papua New Guinea to Christchurch and saw snow fall for the first time in their lives. We have always enjoyed a good relationship with Australia, attending and participating in one another's board meetings, conventions, seminars, etc.

All this has been possible because the leadership has always operated in unity and there the Lord commands a blessing, allowing the Holy Spirit to operate without restriction and to do His will as we stepped out in faith. Every year God has provided all the means and finance, never having to appeal for money. One year the Convention budget of offerings was \$10,000 short and then a week after the convention a cheque arrived in the mail for \$10,000. God's ways are not our ways!

A very important thing with the leadership is the Dominion Council meeting twice a year where critical issues are prayerfully discussed and planned not only concerning the Fellowship's mission, but also for personal ministry to each man attending.

Once, Phyllis and I experienced powerful intercession by the

Dominion Council when our son David was critically injured. A powerful spirit of death was discerned and defeated at the moment the accident occurred. Men's camps are another essential, powerful ministry events where so many good things happen.

It has been a rewarding journey seeing the lives of many people saved, healed, delivered, baptised with the Holy Spirit, families and marriages restored, even some water baptisms at the Invercargill convention by the speaker Tom Frew and at some men's camps.

We pray that the Fellowship will continue to operate in the vision of reaching men for Jesus Christ and to play a significant part in end-time revival.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Len & Phyllis Brijs

God's Flu Shot

As we experience challenging and exciting times a friend of April Bent shares this:

The testimony:

*"Since I was 52 years old and until now, over 21 years, I have never experienced any colds, coughs or flu. Why? Because as soon as I experienced any early symptoms like runny nose, sore throat, tickly cough etc. I took **God's Flu Shot!** Let me explain what I mean.*

At the first sign of any symptoms I laid hands on myself. I bound and broke the power of all viral infections, bacterial infections and fungal infections off myself.

I covered the spirits behind these things with the blood of Jesus Christ and commanded them to leave me, leave my house and go to the place God has appointed.

I forbade them never to return. Then I covered myself, my home and everything I have been given stewardship over with the cleansing protective blood.

Lastly I laid hands on myself and released healing into any cells where damage had already been done. The result was that any early symptoms were completely gone within two days."

Many Christians have turned to the promises of Psalm 91 and other scripture.

God's Flu Shot

"In the name of Jesus I bind and break the power of all viral infections, bacterial infections and fungal infections.

I cover myself (and.....) with the blood of Jesus Christ and command you leave my/our bodies right now in the name of Jesus.

I command in Jesus' name that you leave my house and go straight to the bottomless pit and I forbid you to return.

Father God, right now I cover myself, my home, and everything you have given me stewardship over with the precious, cleansing, protecting blood of Your Son Jesus Christ.

I thank you Father that any death angel or spirit sent against me will see the blood and fly over my house and all those in it.

I lay hands on myself and released healing into any cells where damage had already been done.

We will live and not die and declare the goodness of our God. Amen

Issuing of Tax Receipts for Donations

The fellowship at a National and Chapter level depends on the generous financial contributions made by members.

The National Office can issue a Tax Receipt for donations made, as long as the donation is paid through the National Account. Tax receipts will be issued in April each year.

Chapters and Regions cannot issue Tax Receipts for donations made at the chapter or regional level.

For those wishing to make a donation to their chapter or region:

- Either; make a bank transfer into the National Account 03 0285 0107492 00 stating as a reference, 1. your name; 2. the chapter or region the donation is for; 3. 'Tax receipt'.
- Or; send a cheque to the National Office, PO Box 2, Mosgiel 9053 with a covering note.
- A monthly payment will be made into the appropriate Chapter or Regional Account with donations received over the previous month.

If you have any queries, please contact the National Office.