

# VISION

Issue 79 - May 2024

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## From Fear To Freedom

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My father was a doctor. From a young age he wanted to be a doctor. His passion was to see sick people get well. On Sunday mornings and evenings, we would travel from Cambridge to Hamilton to attend church. When I was young, Dad would often read Bible stories to me before I went to sleep.

When I was seven Dad invited me to choose Jesus as my Lord. I had no problem saying yes and I meant it. My mother had a breakdown after losing a baby and our home life became somewhat tumultuous. I would hide behind the couch and read a book, trying not to be noticed. I didn't talk much. Sometimes I was allowed to go to a friend's place for between 30 minutes and an hour, so I would run as fast as my legs would allow me to. If I was five minutes late, I was often disciplined. I had 4 older siblings, 3 brothers and 1 sister. We all get on well together to this day. Dad's faith was real, and it made choosing Jesus an obvious choice. A couple of years later we moved to another church. I became insecure about my faith because I became aware that I didn't speak in tongues. Unlike the other children I didn't feel the presence of God, even though I knew in my head that God loved me and loved people. Until one day, when I was nine, a visiting speaker told me to stand up. I stood up in the middle of the church. His word was brief but helped settle me somewhat. All he

said was "The Holy Spirit is in you." Then he told me to sit down.

Apart from stealing cold custard from the fridge and biscuits from the pantry, I was a mostly compliant child. My siblings all played the piano, so I learnt to play the piano too although I'd rather have been singing. My next 2 older brothers played in a brass band, so I followed suit and played in the brass band even though I wanted to be next door doing athletics. I didn't voice my preferences. After



a friendship breakup at the age of 13, I suffered silently for several years with low self-esteem and lustful thoughts. I still attempted to follow God even though I didn't know how. I infrequently read the Bible but every time I did, I would find helpful correction and a sense of being closer to God. I started listening to a rock band called Petra because I liked the liveliness of the songs. It didn't leave me depressed as with other bands such as Pink Floyd. One of the songs called

"Kenaniah" (Chenaniah), told part of a Bible story, leaving me with an awe of God that somehow worked on my heart and convicted me at the same time. Dad and I used to run with the Cambridge harriers club. Around 14 or 15 years of age I started running more in the evenings. The more I ran and the further I went the more I became aware of an emptiness, a space, something missing inside. I became aware that running was not going

to satisfy my empty feeling or fulfil me. Something was missing.

I met my wife's youngest brother first. He used to help himself to plums from the plum tree in our front yard and we would chat. When I was 17 years of age and while I was visiting my brother in Roxburgh, my parents changed church again. This time to a church in our hometown of Cambridge. I was pretty upset about that to start with until we got invited to lunch at my wife's family house nearby. Sitting and listening to her talk from across the other side of their wooden picnic table, I knew Bernette was okay to get to know. I still didn't talk much. As I got to know Bernette, I observed how her mother would get up early in the mornings and spend time with God, worshipping him, praising him, and often reading the Bible. I also observed two of my brothers rising early in the morning to pray to Jesus and read their Bibles. Both were very real in that they gave of their time to worship the Lord in the early morning and to serve him during the daytime.

Bernette and I got married the day after my 21st birthday. I was religiously strong willed. The first two years of marriage were very hard, but we loved each other very much as best we knew. I would go to church feeling shameful, insecure, and guilty. I was working in Westpac at the time and would get mind blanks when on teller duty, was fearful and so began going from one workplace to another. While we were doing up our first old house my wife confronted me for looking at other women. I didn't know who to turn to or who to trust. Desperate for answers and a desire to change I turned to the Lord by rising at 4 am crying out to God in our little lounge. It was a desperate and quiet cry from deep within. I didn't want to wake my wife. God's love washed all over me and for the first time I felt the love of God. The next day I got up and cried out again. The same



presence of God came and washed over me. I started reading the Bible every day during my afternoon breaks and whenever I could. I felt compelled to share the love of God for others around me, often sharing out of the well-known passage of John 3:16. A group from church prayed for me. I felt like grave clothes being unravelled off me. God was setting me free from my bondages. I realise now that God was there all the time, just waiting for me to draw aside and draw near to him. The Bible says – Draw near to me and I will draw near to you. I hadn't felt worthy and certainly wasn't. But he loved me all the same and was waiting for me to draw near. I started to hear God's voice from time to time. He started teaching me about himself from his

word and stirring me with his gifts. During this time, I was still losing my cool regularly at home. We didn't understand each other yet. I didn't know how to love well. One day I picked up a pound of butter to throw across the room and suddenly it was as if something left me. I simply put down the butter – that was over. I could still get angry, but God was working on me. Looking back, I can see now that God has been helping me to speak what he wants me to say and to leave the results to him. He's teaching me not to overthink what people say or think and to be quick to forgive. I'm still learning how to be more loving, to forgive anyway and to let go of offences. Often, I have taken far too long to do this. I've learnt that receiving love and forgiving



others is a foundational part of our walk with Christ. Forgiving others as Christ has forgiven us is the way forward, the way to walking in freedom. It is also the way forward in our walk with the Lord. God helps us to forgive. I've found God to be so loving, so patient with us. His love hopes all things. I've found that even when we have given up on ourselves, God is still faithful. God is willing not only to forgive us our sins



but also to give us freedom from our sin. God's love is there for you. Call to him and he will answer you. I have found that wherever I have worked, God has been with me. I have only needed to turn my face and affections towards him. God has set me free from a broken heart, depression, and loneliness. I have found it helpful in my daily life to: (1) take time out to worship the Lord, at times with my face and hands turned upward toward him, and (2) read my Bible, pondering on passages slowly. These days the Lord is continuing to lead me on a

journey of shepherding people with a passion to share Jesus as the great shepherd. Like my father, I also have a strong desire to see people made well, healed, and living in freedom.

Bernette and I have been married 33 years this year. By the graciousness of God, we are happily married and more in love today than ever before. We have three lovely children and three delightful mokopuna (Grandchildren) to my daughter Anna and her lovely husband Damian.

**Crispin Bernard, Te Awamutu Chapter**

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## From the National President's Desk

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The How quickly time flies. In a blink of an eye, a quarter of 2024 is history. That shakes us up to realise that time is a precious gift to be treasured and used well. With hard economic times upon us, how vital it is to be messengers of hope to those hurting or anxious.

An excellent step of faith would be to introduce a friend or acquaintance to a group of men who have found new life, restoration, direction, faith and joy at a Full Gospel Businessmen's event. FGBMFI has never been more relevant or necessary than in times of need, such as right now, when business confidence is down and people are fearful of job losses or the cost of living.

I recommend bringing someone to the next FGB meeting near you to hear a fresh perspective on life, one based on Jesus and God's constant provision of goodness for all who trust in Him.

One encouraging sign has been a steady flow of new members over the past 3 years. I had the privilege of presenting membership packs to 2 new members at a dinner meeting a week ago. That stirred a deep sense of joy in me and in others as those members shared how much they had grown spiritually and benefitted greatly by attending FGB meetings.

As many of you are aware Alvin Humm has replaced John Speirs as National Administrator. We are blessed to have found a competent replacement for John ensuring continuity of the

very efficient and cost-effective national office operation providing support for the local chapters and regions.

In the process of making this new appointment, it has brought to light a significant concern. Membership fees and chapter promises provide only a part of the cost of running FGB. For many years we have relied on a small number of very generous donors to cover our costs. Many have now died or reached a stage in their lives that has brought those donations to an end.

Over the past couple of years, it has cost around \$10,000 per year more than we receive in income which has meant us relying on savings from earlier years. Those funds are now being depleted rapidly. We expect those funds to run out within a year unless our reserves are replenished.

In addition to the usual operational costs, we have also incurred a one-off extra cost of buying Alvin a new computer, plus paying an extra month of salary to John while he was training Alvin.

We ask you to consider making a donation to contribute towards covering these costs and so help FGB fulfil its vital ministry.

Many members are keen for us to hold a national conference. We are checking out venues right now in Christchurch to find a venue fit for our purposes in expectation of holding a conference there in



2025. These conferences are expensive to run. When we held the conference in New Plymouth last year we had a shortfall of over \$5000. In previous years, those same few generous donors ensured that the costs of running earlier conferences were usually covered. However, we can no longer rely on that level of financial support.

This means that if we are to hold a conference next year we need to have sufficient funds in reserve to commit to the cost of the conference. It would be irresponsible of us, and poor stewardship as a board, to enter into financial commitments beyond our means.

In short, to ensure both the ongoing work of the Fellowship and to consider running a conference for next year, will require us to receive a significant level of donations within the next month or so.

We continue to hear testimonies of incredible Holy Spirit ministry occurring at our national conferences and regional seminars. These are a large part of our identity. They provide great support and encouragement for local chapters who become involved in them.

Please consider giving generously over this coming month. Your response will make a massive difference in the board's ability to make healthy responsible decisions for the benefit of the Fellowship for the immediate future. The FGB bank account details are shown below :

03-0285-0107492-000

**Graham Simpson, National President**

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## Winning the War – Deliverance Seminar

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The FGBMFI Mount Albert chapter recently engaged Hugh August from the FGBMFI national board to commence deliverance instruction with demonstrations of healing following.

This came about as a direct result of a miracle healing by God experienced by one of the Mount Albert chapter members through the prayer and discernment of Hugh August.

The hospital had sent Barry Magee home diagnosed with CRPS syndrome, a complex regional pain syndrome for which there is no known cure. The miracle we are witnessing in Barry Magee is a dramatic improvement in his mobility and freedom from pain. Barry was in excruciating pain along with paralysis for which no medication could alleviate. To quote from Barry "The enemy is always looking for a chance to attack God's children and some of us are prime targets."

Hugh prayed over Barry to be delivered from spirit strongholds which Hugh identified as of death and hell, Ahab and Jezebel. The onset of CRPS was a spiritual attack by those spirits on Barry seeking to destroy his health and will to live. After deliverance, Barry received healing.

On the 27th of February a member only instruction class was held comprising a program of two closed session, at 3pm and 4.30pm. Since the timing of those sessions did not suit everyone, an open dinner (ready roasts) followed with an open healing meeting at 7 p.m. I cannot over emphasize what this means: CRPS is not curable, but spirit deliverance and healing on Barry Magee opened the way to dramatic improvement.

Hugh's teaching is to "know our enemy": how he functions and his structure.



Identification is a key. Hugh spoke of the four main strongholds, the four main creatures and their associated form of manifestations. He taught us: the entry points and the parts of the body that come under attack by these spirit creatures, and how to renounce things which curse.

He spoke on ancient kingdoms where these evil forces were dominant and the animal manifestations they hide in, and the body parts assigned for strongholds to ail. This is knowing our enemy; this is our counter offensive; this is winning the war to know and use this knowledge in spiritual deliverance.

Many were healed. One member said to me a great weight had lifted off his shoulders – “I feel lighter, I feel free”.

Maybe there is a question here?

What enemy stronghold is your sickness assigned to?

What evil spirit manifests this condition?

What body parts are affected and under what stronghold? Know our enemy and forge a counter-attack and win the war over: sickness, pain and symptoms.

Hugh August advises me that a one-day seminar events on deliverance and healing can be undertaken through the FGBMFI banner.

### **Amyas Story, Mt Albert Chapter**

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## **Gone To Glory**

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### **John Warwick (Auckland CBD)**

Went to be with the LORD JESUS CHRIST on 8th February 2024.

We met in Auckland in the year 2000.

It was not hard to recognise a gift of organizing was upon his life as well as the ministry of prophecy. He often went to Fiji and to other parts of the world. Korea was one place, there he was invited to share in Pastor Yonggi Cho's church.

He once helped Bill Subritzky's ministry as well as Derek Prince, Lester Sumrall and probably others. Some years ago he was invited to the CBD Chapter for a special meeting as it was heading for a recession. John refused to let that happen. At the meeting he boldly offered to keep the chapter

active and offered to lead it. The chapter appointed John to re-invigorate it. He did and soon after he handed the president's job to another man.

Over the years he experienced miracles, at least five of them, and for many of them he gave credit and thanks to praying men and women who supported FGBMFI. His most special miracle was being led to find his new wife in Vietnam. He was so happy, and thankful to his LORD Jesus Christ.

It was through the encouragement of a fellow FGBMFI man who lives in Hamilton that prompted John to follow Jesus.

- Herb Robertson

### **Erick Saunders (Te Awamutu)**

Erick (1937-2024) was farewelled from the Te Awamutu Baptist church on the 29th April, having lived a full life as a husband, father of four children, dairy farmer, a man of many interests, and above all, a man of God.

He got involved with FGBMFI not long after he was saved and baptised with the Holy Spirit in the mid-1980's when he was about fifty. That baptism changed his Christian life. Formerly he was involved with the Masonic Lodge. Once he started following Christ a spiritual battle took place when he renounced freemasonry. He became free at last and never looked back. Erick was a keen member of the Te Awamutu FGBMFI for nearly forty years.

In that time he was first the Secretary, and then the President for several years in the 1990's. Poor health prevented him from attending meetings in the last couple of years.

He was well known for his faith, his integrity, and his generosity. Everyone liked Erick, as he had a good sense of humour. He was a keen deer and pig hunter and, was a keen gardener as well, and in later years took up woodturning as a hobby, plus cross stitch pictures. He has gone to his reward from the Lord.

- Rod Bent



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## Upcoming Events

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(1) The FGBMFI Hamilton chapter is hosting a one-day Conference for the Waikato BOP region. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Allan Levi on 022 631 5541.

### Programme

Time	Function
7:30 - 8:00	Registrations
8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 11:00	Session One
11:00 - 11:30	Morning Tea
11:30 - 1:00	Session Two
1:00 - 2:00	Lunch
2:00 - 3:30	Session Three
3:30 - 4:00	Afternoon Tea
4:00 - 6:00	Session Four
6:00 - 7:00	Dinner
7:30pm	Public Meeting



**Full Gospel Business Men's  
Fellowship International  
ONE DAY CONFERENCE**  
Hosted by FGBMFI Hamilton Chapter

**29 June 2024**

**Registration costs: \$75**  
Registration includes:  
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Earlybird registrations: \$65**  
When you commit before April 20th 2024

**Guest Speaker - Joseph Wilson**



Joseph is a prophetic man of God with a great testimony of the transformation of his life as he became born again and learnt what it is truly to walk as a son of God.

For more information contact  
Allan Levi:  
022 631 5541  
hamiltonfullgospel@gmail.com

**Venue: Manifest Love Church  
191 Ellis Street, Frankton, Hamilton**

(2) Southern Region – En Hakkore Camp 6-8 September 2024

This is advanced notice to prepare to pack your bags for a trip to Central Otago to be refreshed,

encouraged, challenged, and enjoy fellowship with like-minded men seeking to go deeper with Jesus.

Geoff Winter from Hamilton will be our keynote speaker for the weekend.

Registration information will be circulated in July, so start saving now.



## Auckland Regional Conference Photographs

