

VISION

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www.fgbmfi.org.nz

My Story – Russell Burnett

It started for me when I was 10 years old. I asked my grandmother what happens when you die. She said there is a black hole and you fall into it. This did not satisfy me and I quickly realised that this was the dominant idea of my family. They were essentially materialistic, he who dies with the most stuff wins. This was a very dark belief and I rejected it.

At the age of ten I would go down the creek after school and talk to God. I was not sure if he was there but I hoped he was. So right from the start I was a boy alone, out of step with all the people around me. This went on for several years. Sometimes I would climb out the window at night and walk through the paddocks talking to God. I did not mention this to anybody, not my parents or my sister or anybody. This was because I knew nobody who was interested in God. In fact, my family was anti God.

In my dealings with my family I was a good boy working hard and enjoying sport. The materialistic yoke of my parents rested heavily on me.

To be continued next issue. Russell and his wife Mary live and farm near Kaikora, in coastal North Canterbury.

It was the rule that I was sent to bed at 7.30pm and could read until 8.15pm. One night when I was thirteen I was reading a Donald Duck comic. Suddenly a ball of light about the size of a basketball came through the wall without damaging the wall. The light was like liquid power and love. It was like a small sun. I knew this was God. He was outside me, not inside like the New Agers and Asian Religions believed. God was power and love and light.



I also had a vision of the future. I knew God had a purpose for me. I now knew for sure that my family were wrong. However, my dilemma now was which religion was God in. The vision I had didn't mention religion, but God. I now started reading difficult religious books trying to see where God was. To my surprise I kept coming back to the Bible. It and it alone fitted the vision I had had.

There I saw a God of love, power and light living outside of man. So I began a journey walking with God and working for my father on the farm. Sometimes I got distracted. Sometimes I reacted the wrong way. Sometimes I got it right.

From The National President's Desk

Who Sunk My Waka (Canoe) ?

We are rightly encouraged to run our FGBMFI meetings professionally and well. But what happens when it does not go as planned? **The boat starts to sink.** We have all had those days when our meeting just did not go like you wanted it to. To start my story :

My friend John

This December just gone, I had a visit from my friend John. Now, John is a Christian, but not a church goer!!!! (Now that's another story)

But for 20 years I have been trying to get him to attend church, he seems to love the Lord and shares his faith with others in the market place etc. We have great discussions regarding our faith.

He said to me: *"Do you remember that FGBMFI Napier meeting we invited my friend Warren to about 15 years ago? (I had got John and his friend Warren along) What a night that was."*

Brendan :

Brendan was our main speaker that night. Brendan is very well presented and shares very well. Well organised, courteous, opens the car door for your wife etc (30 years training to teach her how to do it for herself, destroyed in a few moments).

On the way home Linda said to me "That Brendan Mickelson, he's a gentleman, you could learn something from him". I am still trying to understand what she meant!

Anyway, on the night Brendan spoke, he brought with him a young farm hand about 26 years old, obviously discipling him and encouraging him. Brendan asked him to share for 10 to 15 minutes. This was a very painful experience.

"Well, like, um, its, wow, tough, like, man, hard as" etc. The long and short of it was: his business went bust, his marriage went bust, and then they put him in a mental institution. But he found Jesus as his saviour, and was slowly getting his life together.

I was somewhat embarrassed, by the amateur delivery of the testimony. Specially as I had brought two people along for the first time. Brendan carried on with his testimony, well presented, and closed the meeting with a salvation

call. Bless my soul: Warren raised his hand for salvation!

On the way home in the car we asked Warren, (about the same age as the farm hand) what he thought of Brendan's story.

He said, *" That guy was too polished for me, but that other young fella, everything that happened to him, has happened to me. (and it had). That really spoke to me."*

My friend John and I had many discussions with Warren over the next few months. Then suddenly one night, after hours of talking to John and baring his soul, Warren the ex-gang man who had been involved in a gang murder in Auckland years ago, went out at 11 pm and hanged himself.

Was he saved? John and I are confident he was. Who can fathom the complexities of the human mind when under extreme emotional pressure. This, I leave in the hands of my Lord, who knows far better than I do.

But wait there's more (back to last December)

Then my friend John said, *" But wait there's more. I just bumped into another friend, Ray, last week. He came that night too, intent on mocking it all. He said his life was totally transformed that night as well."* What a night Ray said, both Warren and I had a real spiritual encounter.

The Lesson

It's not about me, it's about thee !

I went along for a nice meal and to be entertained with a good testimony. But that night was for someone else. It was for Warren and Ray.

God had a plan and a purpose, by using the young farm hand's testimony. By prompting Brendan to bring him to share that night. How often do we say, we have heard that speaker before, or maybe I will stay home tonight. Who has the Lord put on your heart to bring along next meeting?

It's not about you and me, it's about the divine purposes God has, through FGBMFI, in reaching other men for the Kingdom. Be encouraged, God is at work through FGBMFI, yesterday, today and will be tomorrow.

Graham Eagle, National President



National Convention – Queenstown 2016



All sessions were recorded on DVDS and CDS and can be ordered from Noel Morris at:
www.faithnet.co.nz

“O give thanks to the Lord ... make known his deeds among the peoples ... tell of all his wonderful works ... Glory in his holy name. (Psalm 105: 1-3)

I always enjoy conventions: a time to get away from the routines of life, to meet up with old friends and make new ones, to get inspired and reinvigorated, to renew my faith and commitment to our Fellowship. This year, Queenstown was a challenge: it's a long way from Whakatane and very expensive to fly and nearly impossible to drive within the timeframe of the weekend. And then, there's the accommodation, koha and other associated costs. I can understand why so many men refrain from going. Yet, it was worth it. At Convention, the Lord is present in such a special way. The Holy Spirit permeates the atmosphere, the venue, the music, the hotel and the area. It's like living in the presence of God.

This year I had the pleasure of sharing a room with Mike Bunt – a long- time friend and associate in the Fellowship. We had some wonderful chats and sharing in the Lord of things important to us.

It was with great sadness that we farewelled Len Brijs and Phyllis from the National Board and Secretariat. Len and Phyllis have always inspired and encouraged me in my walk with God and in the Fellowship. I fondly remember enjoying Len's company when we roomed together in Singapore at a Convention some years ago.

As for the Convention itself, Jesse and Cookie Padayachee were not only inspiring speakers but I really enjoyed time with them in small groups and in prayer ministry. Jesse's stories about handling his finances and Cookie's story of her healing of an incurable brain tumour left me awe-struck at the providence and wonder of our God. Their stories have also inspired members of my prayer group through the audio records made by Noel Morris. Geoff Woodcock was an inspired speaker also – more teacher than evangelist – and a good foil to Jesse and Cookie. I was amazed at the things he showed us about his work for God. We are so blessed to be part of this wonderful fellowship.

Michael O'Loughlin, Field Representative



Plan NOW to attend Convention 2017 in Hamilton over Queen's Birthday Weekend, starting 10am Friday the 2nd of June and finishing 11.30am on Monday the 5th of June. This is for all people, men, women and families; members or non-members. Book your air travel EARLY!

The venue is the Distinction Hamilton Hotel and guest speakers will be Danny and Tracey Smith from Whakatane, and Steve Dunne, originally from the UK but now living in Auckland. More details in the next Vision.

Proverbs 3

¹³ Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,
¹⁴ for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand;

in her left hand are riches and honour.
¹⁷ Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who take hold of
her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed.

Regional Camps 2017

Lower North Island Camp

This was held in March and was attended by forty-eight men. Our camp venue was Highland Home Christian Camp in a beautiful rural setting in the Pohangina Valley, just north of Ashhurst.

This year we were blessed to have three main speakers, Graham Eagle our National President, Geoff Winter from Hamilton and Tom Auckram from Fielding.

On Friday evening Tom spoke about the importance of forgiveness and he continued this theme during his second session. We were delighted that Tom's grandson came forward for salvation during one of Tom's sessions.

Graham spoke about the importance of adopting 'Christian Business Practices'. These principles are relevant to our day to day affairs even if one is not involved in a business. Graham also spoke about prospecting for souls: contact ten people, ring three people, get one. He challenged us by asking, 'What are you doing for the Kingdom?' We need to invite more people into FGBMFI 'who are younger than I am,' said Graham. He stated that we urgently

need more leaders in our organisation. If we don't have leaders 'we (FGBMFI) will die,' said Graham.

Geoff spoke on entering into what God wants for our lives and into His blessings. Geoff shared with us many examples from his own personal experiences; starting a church in Te Aroha; the power of fasting and praying; how we can use everyday objects in people's homes such as pictures on the wall or a Bible on a book shelf, that can help start a conversation.

After each of the ministry times, the men were invited to come up for prayer, and many took that opportunity.

At each meal time, men shared their testimonies with amazing stories of God's grace. We were all greatly encouraged over the weekend and many of the men said it's the best camp they have ever been to.

Special thanks goes to each of the speakers who challenged us, encouraged us and prayed over us. Also to the music team and organisers Jack Davey and Wayne Stokes.

Trevor Hook, Field Representative

Waikato & Bay of Plenty Camp

Our thanks go to Owen Johnson for again arranging a great camp for us. A big thank you also to Geoff Winter and Rod Bent for providing music.

We had the whole National Board in attendance for the camp this year, this was a real encouragement to our region.

This year our camp speaker was Danny Smith, who originally hails from Scotland. He accepted Christ at 21 after a life of drug and alcohol addiction. He and his wife Tracey now live in Whakatane, running bible study courses.



Danny talked about hearing from God. He talked about our need for revelation from the word of God, this changes our lives.

He touched on many points including:

Faith moves God. Faith comes by hearing the word of God.

The Holy Spirit is waiting for us to confess with our mouth, then he can work on our behalf and accomplish it. Speak into your situation and then give thanks to God for what he will do.

Our weapons are powerful to the pulling down of strongholds, imaginations, spiritual wickedness, and every high thing that exalts itself above the knowledge of God. Awake to our righteousness and then we will not walk in sin. Our righteousness was given to us as a gift from Jesus.

Study and pray through the psalms, they include many declarations to encourage us. They help us to worship God for all he has done in our lives. Worship attracts the anointing of God in our lives.

Continue in our study of God's word as it brings light, it produces fruit, it builds our spirit, it builds our faith, it defeats the powers of darkness, it renews our minds, it gives us blessings from God.

Remember that Jesus is the way the truth and the life, nobody comes to the father except through him. In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. Jesus and the word are one in the same.

Ashley Hoskin,
Field Representative



South Island Camp

About 70 men met at En Hakkore Camp, a tranquil setting overlooking the Maniototo plain.

Our main speaker was Michael Livengood, an AOG evangelist from the USA, who spends half of each year in NZ. Michael's first session was a powerful sharing on prayer. Michael shared with us from his own experience of how he prays, involving sessions of praise and thanksgivings, as well as praying for our nation, the world and of course our cities etc. Michael started spending an hour a day with the Lord in prayer and this has grown. A copy of the notes is available from me at ronandhelen5@gmail.com

In another session Michael taught on having a veil, or even veils, which hinder us fully experiencing the Lord. For example; sin, unforgiveness, rejection etc. This session moved into some deep ministry time as the Holy Spirit lead.

Michael also taught on revival, he believes (through experience) there is a continuum. Firstly the anointing, then The Presence and finally the Glory. I feel we have experienced glimpses of The Glory at conventions or at a camp. When the Glory of God appears, revival can break out for weeks and in some cases can keep on going for years. Healings and continual new converts will be a manifestation at these meetings.

I strongly recommend you purchase Michael's book "The Glory Factor". A must read.



Michael is so easy to listen to. He is not just a teacher of the word, but he backs up his teaching with real life stories, which I believe makes the teaching come alive. Just as Jesus did. Thank you Michael.

After lunch on Saturday we had a quiet relaxing time (often called the grave yard session) which was popular. Many went for a walk or just sat around and had fellowship. It often happens at these times that people may start a "casual" conversation with someone which can lead into deep ministry.

I would also like to thank those that couldn't be at camp but who prayed for us. It certainly was an excellent camp. Great food, great weather and we come away feeling closer to Him. I finish with a quote from Smith Wigglesworth. "A man who is not hungry to receive more of God is out of order in any Christian conference."

Ron Sinclair, Field Representative

A web site worth taking a look at is: www.iamsecond.com

This site contains many well-presented testimonies of men and women.

Dominion Council

The Dominion Council consists of the National Directors of the fellowship along with the Regional Directors. They meet twice each year (March and October) at Willow Park Camp in Auckland to pray and worship together, to share information and experiences, and to make decisions about the future plans and direction of the fellowship.

Each meeting several observers are invited from around the country to attend the meeting as a way of getting to know the leadership and gain a better understanding of how the fellowship operates. At our October meeting we were joined by Kerry Andrell from Christchurch, Steve Blakemore-Terry from Timaru and Ron Sinclair from Waihola, south of Dunedin.



On the Saturday evening we were joined by Jim and Lilly Stinton. Jim shared with us stories of his life, including time with the British SAS Regiment, rescuing orphans from Rumania, pastoring in Huntly, surviving cancer and doing evening talkback on Radio Rhema with Bill Subritzky.

Jim then spoke to us from Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans I have for you....' We were challenged to; find the plan God has for us; to major on the good things happening in our lives; to show people we love them; to sacrifice to make others winners; and, realise it's time to fight. God will bring us out of captivity if we seek him.

New National Secretary

With Len Brijs retiring at the National Convention in June of this year, the National Board appointed John Speirs to be his replacement. John was appointed in February and was tasked with establishing a new National Office in Mosgiel, just south of Dunedin. John took over responsibility for finance and membership from 1 April and all other duties following Len's retirement.

John has been a member of the fellowship for the past five years (plus 10 years a number of years ago) and is the Regional Director for the lower South Island.

John's background is in the forest industry, having originally trained as a Forest Ranger with the NZ



Forest Service. In more recent times John has been in forest management and timber processing management roles in the Dunedin area.

John has been married to Lynette for 32 years and they have two grown up daughters.

John has a passion to see the local chapters of FGBMFI grow and for men to rise up in faith and to take strong leadership roles in their areas of influence.

John strongly feels God has called him into this ministry at this time and is expectant and excited for the future of the fellowship.

Donations Towards National Office Changes

A big thank you to all those who made donations towards the costs associated with the changes at the National Office. A total of \$13,106 was donated by members and covered the majority of the costs.

No Purpose of God Can be Thwarted! - Job 42:2.

On the train from Norwich to London I prayed as usual, "Lord, please send someone you are calling to sit next to me."

Promptly forgetting my prayer, I sat down and firmly placed my overnight bag on the seat beside me. There was plenty of room and there was no chance of my being disturbed. At Ipswich, however, despite a number of empty seats around me, a stranger asked if the seat occupied by my bag was taken. With some irritation I acknowledged that it was not as I put my bag on the rack and moved over to allow the stranger to squash himself in beside me.

At this point I remembered my prayer and laughed! Knowing the need to talk immediately before a wall of silence is built up I asked, as Wimbledon was in the news, "Are you a tennis player?" "No" he said, "I'm an oil tanker driver." I congratulated him on his skill in reversing a long articulated vehicle into small openings. "My tanker carries 350,000 tonnes and takes 11 miles to stop", he replied. I apologized as it became clear he was the Master of an Amoco Bulk Carrier! We introduced ourselves. His name was Peter.

"It must be exciting driving oil tankers but not as exciting as travelling on this train," I said. "Did you know that God does miracles on this train. Would you like to hear some adventure stories?" "Go on - try me," he replied with a smile. So I told him how the Holy Spirit had told me to give Psalm 62 to a lady having breakfast. It was just what she needed to hear and it moved her to tears.

My friend looked astonished. "That's amazing," he said. "I mean, you telling me a story about giving a Psalm to

someone. Last night I was staying with my Catholic cousin in Felixstowe and he gave me a Psalm." Immediately the Holy Spirit told me the Psalm Peter had been given so I said, "Would you like me to read to you the verses your cousin gave you last night? It's not going to be easy; there are one hundred and fifty Psalms!" Peter began to look worried, but invited me to have a go.

I opened my Bible at Psalm 107 and began to read verses 23-32. "Others went out on the sea in ships, they were merchants on the mighty waters ... He spoke and stirred up a tempest ... their courage melted away ... they were at their wits end ... then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble ... He stilled the storm to a whisper, He guided them to their desired haven ... let them give thanks to the Lord"

"Were those the verses your cousin gave you?" I asked. Peter nodded in some wonder at what had happened. "Do you know that God is speaking to you?" I asked. "Yes," He nodded.

I took out *Four Steps to New Life* from my wallet and we went through it together. I also gave him a Voice magazine for his journey back to Canada and promised him that he would receive an invitation for himself and his wife Françoise to a dinner of the Full Gospel Businessmen near his home in Canada.

When I telephoned Peter's cousin a few days later, that dear man said he had been praying for Peter every night for the last ten years!

From "**Shout It From The Housetops**" by John Wright. Available for free as a PDF from the National Office.

Gone to Glory

Peter Hulse (Hamilton)

Peter became involved in FGBMFI when the Cambridge Chapter was first formed in 1979. Over the years he held various positions on the committee, and was always willing to "go the extra mile" in service. Never without a smile, and a hand outstretched to support when required. Peter was a "soft and gentle giant" in the Lord. A faithful supporter to the end.

Jonathan Knoetze (Mt Albert)

Jonathan and Shiela came to NZ in 1998 from South Africa. He worked in the communications sector and then ventured into private contracting. He joined the East Auckland, later moving to the Mt Albert chapter. For over 8 years he prayed on the top of Mt Albert every Saturday with the team.

Jonathan will be sadly missed, being remembered for his sincerity and love in Jesus Christ.

Paul Hair (Mahurangi)

Paul has been a member since the seventies, being strong and active in leadership most of that time, including several periods as Regional Director for the Northland and Auckland regions.

Paul did excellent work with the chapters and members under his care and because of that, was rewarded with life-membership.

Brendan Mickleson (Taihape)

Brendan Mickelson was our chapter president for the Taihape Chapter for a number of years. During that time Brendan was an enthusiastic supporter of FGBMFI and a regular attendee at our National Conferences.

Brendan was highly respected in his community and his funeral was attended by many hundreds of people. A great man of God.
