

VISION

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From Orphan to Son

My birth mother was from Australia. She came to New Zealand on a working holiday and to study. She formed a relationship with my father and, as a result, I was conceived. My mother came from an observant catholic family and she could not bear to tell her own mother about the pregnancy. Instead, my mother arranged for me to be adopted.

My adoptive parents were good to me. However, I soon noticed that the relationship between my sister and my parents was different from my parents' relationship with me. They loved me and



cared for me and for that I am so grateful. We would go to Algies Bay in Warkworth at weekends and also during school holidays. We would play, go fishing, dive and sail. I grew up in that loving caring family and wanted for nothing; life was good.

In my late teenage years things went downhill. I developed anorexia, an illness that makes you very inward focused. Your reality changes and all you focus on is food, or rather avoiding it. It almost killed my parents, for they had just sold their business and were beginning their retirement. What should have been their best years were lost to the battle I was having.

I had just started studying at the Auckland Institute of Technology, doing a course in electronics. That went out the window and so did

my will to live. Not to the point of taking my life, although that was probably what it looked like. Looking back now, without help, it could have ended that way. I suffered for a couple of years, but with medication, a psychologist, family and a stranger (a man whose name I do not remember, he just showed up and was there to listen and help me) I got out the other side.

My focus changed, I became a body builder and was obsessed. Work outs, diets, girls and parties. A friend of mine who was training with me had become a Christian and asked if I would like to be water baptized. I said

yes, so we organized it at Long Bay beach. When I came up out of the water, I started speaking a weird language which I thought was strange, so I stopped speaking it. Later I found out it was called tongues, a spiritual gift from God.

I applied for and got a job selling encyclopaedias. It was a great job involving traveling the whole country. That was when I met Winnie, who later became my wife. We ended up traveling and working together.

When we left that job, the stress and pressure to make a decision of what to do next, combined with guilt of being unfaithful to Winnie through a one-night stand, resulted in anorexia raising its ugly head again. One night the anorexia was so bad I confessed to Winnie about my unfaithfulness and

the anorexia. She had guessed about the anorexia as I was only skin and bones. She was heartbroken about my unfaithfulness, but with her compassionate heart she said she would stay until I was well and then leave me. But through the months and years that followed she stayed with me.

I am very grateful she decided to stay and look after me. I can still remember that night, my stomach felt like it was all twisted to the point that a teaspoon of food would be enough to full me. I cried out for her to help and to pray for me. She lay hands on my stomach and started praying in a strange language she had never spoken before. It was her heavenly language. As she prayed, I could feel all my inside turning and loosening. That night I was healed and slowly began to eat.

I started a business selling cellphone accessories, an awesome business earning big money. I was able to buy flash toys like cars, boats, jewellery and enjoy travelling. We had three staff plus Winnie and myself. Life was great, until it all came crashing down through mismanagement and a bad accountant. Overnight we lost the business and all the money that we had worked for over the previous five years.

Winnie got a job and I started working on cars, installing hands free car kits, car stereos etc. I would never say no to a job, no matter how hard it was. This got me into a lot of trouble. With the help of a young man I had hired and a lot of internet research, we managed to come up with solutions we needed.

I got sick with chemical poisoning at a time when Auckland was aerial sprayed to control the painted apple moth. That was the end of working for a period. I lapsed into depression and found it hard to even leave the house. If I went where there were car fumes it would trigger the illness and I would need oxygen. I ended up carrying an oxygen bottle wherever I went.

I said to Winnie that we needed to get out of Auckland. She suggested we move to Warkworth. I found a house on a cliff in a bay called Martins Bay and we rented it.

Because I wasn't working I now had time for church. I invited a local pastor around for morning tea and the following Sunday headed to church. That day the preacher gave a call for those wanting to give their hearts to Jesus and Winnie and I committed our lives to God.

That is when my life changed. My best friend had an affair, lost his wife, fell into major depression to the point that he tried to take his life many times. I believed God was saying I was to pray and help him, so I did. I totally surrendered my life to help see him through this. Luckily I had support from Winnie, plus a men's prayer group that I had joined and our church. One night when he was very bad, I asked if could lay hands on him and pray for him. He agreed, I prayed, God turned up and things started to change for him. Overnight he changed and a short time later he gave his heart to God.

At this time, I joined the local Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship chapter. One morning as I got up the Lord said to me, "Start praying for men." So I sent out a text to all the guys I knew and asked if they or their friends needed prayer and if so, to send the prayer requests to me. To my surprise the prayer requests start flying in. So I sent out an invitation to these guys to come to a breakfast prayer meeting which I started the following week. Now the Lord began to set me free from my problems. He began by dealing with my relationship with Winnie. After I made a visit to Christchurch she collected me from the airport and challenged me that every time we had enough money to get married, I had instead brought cars, boats etc. I admitted she was right, asked her for forgiveness and within 3 months we got married. At the wedding we saw a miracle - that of food multiplying.

A short while later at a friend's place, I was sharing stories of what God had been doing, when he told me his cousin could do with healing. I asked why? He said his cousin was driving a motorcycle down the Western Motorway and got clipped by a truck, which sent him head first into a median barrier. It split his helmet from front to back. He told me that he was in a coma and they were about to turn the switch off on his life support. I said we should pray. My friend looked weirdly at me. I said: "It says in the Bible 'where two or more are gathered he will be there', so you just stand and I will pray."

Two weeks later my friend phoned me and all he could say was "You need to write this in your book." I asked what he was on. He explained that an hour after I had prayed for the guy in the coma, the guy woke up, got out of bed and had dinner. Every day since then he got stronger and stronger.

I started up another company and gave it to God. In a short time, I found myself working on some of the most expensive cars in the world, Aston Martins and Bentleys to name a few. Through this,

my relationship with my Dad became stronger, as he would help me by picking up and delivering the cars.

Our church asked Winnie and I to be Youth Pastors. There were only four youth in our church. To be honest, they knew more about the Bible than we did. But we prayed for more youth to come and for a venue. The Lord honoured both of our requests and He led us to a local ice cream parlour where we would meet.

God's presence was so real to us in our work as Youth Pastors. We started seeing community transformation. The youths we were dealing with were labelled the worst of the worst. Today over 90 % of them are on a path to a successful life, have careers and know the Lord. These youths were fearless in prayer and we saw remarkable things. Once we were teaching on the day of Pentecost. As I started I heard the voice of the Lord say, "Stop, I want you to pray and fast for two weeks then teach on this topic." So we explained this to the youth and asked them to fast one meal a day and to tell their parents.

During the coming days we heard stories of how these youths had started fasting in expectancy. Two weeks later we came together and I opened the Bible to Acts chapter 2 and preached. To my surprise, the message fell flat. No power, no encounter with God, in fact it seemed a waste of time. In frustration I put the Bible down, then I had an impression and acted on it. I declared that on the day of Pentecost there was a mighty wind. At that exact moment a strong wind blew through the ice cream parlour and blew everything off the

table, glasses, plates books. Many of the youth were filled with the Holy Spirit and others gave their hearts to Jesus. That day I remember saying to the Lord, "Lord I never want to preach again. I want to bring encounters like this."

Since that time we have been on a very interesting journey, seeing many signs and wonders. In Samoa we saw a baby being raised from the dead, a young man healed from leprosy, and a mute man speaking, just to name a few.



My understanding is that if it is in the Bible, then as the Lord is the same today as He was then. We can pray with confidence and signs and wonders will follow. The Lord has showed up time after time when we have prayed. We have seen food multiplied, the dead raised to life, people being healed, demons fleeing and people restored to their right mind, all in the name of Jesus.

In 2015 the Lord released us into an itinerant ministry. We speak, counsel, mentor and bring encounters in many churches, businesses, in schools and many individuals lives. What a challenge, but also great fun and very rewarding. God has always been faithful to show up and back His word with power, whether in a church, the marketplace or at a meeting.

Craig Patten, Mahurangi Chapter



From The National President's Desk

Hastings chapter had an amazing meeting night on Tuesday 20th August.

I was not going to go, as I had had the previous two weeks full of travel and had meetings on the next three nights. But at about 6.30pm (after a granddad nap) I got my energy level up again.

Due to business matters, Greg Stapleton from Te Awamutu had to cancel his engagement as speaker for Hastings.

The chapter president Steve Jeffers, stepped in and organised four local chapter guys to speak. This was one of the best meetings I have been to in years!

It's what FGBMFI is all about, ordinary guys, telling extra-ordinary stories of God's extra-ordinary intervention in their lives.

Phil: Spoke of Gods amazing provision as he travelled to Australia for 12 months, with little finance.

B.U.T. (*blessed, undeniable, truth*) he told us how God led him over the year, to where and who God wanted him to meet, and supplied the finances to do it.

Kevin: Successful, self-made business man, happy life, happy wife. One of life's winners. *Until*, at the age of 50, the police visited him and advised him his father was a paedophile and had molested his own daughter, as well as others.

Big brother failed to protect his little sister. Life comes crashing down and success means very little. Guilt sets in. Then to Napier to escape it all.

B.U.T. (*blessed, undeniable, truth*) one man keeps inviting him to church, where he hears the pastor speaking and gives his life to Christ. Game over, victory over generational curses, set free!

Steve: Incredible difficulties and hostilities in the work place in the meat industry. Steve has to honour his contract and commitment to his employer.

B.U.T. (*blessed, undeniable, truth*) he can't leave and join an opposition company. God honours his

integrity and cancels the written contract and brings about new employment with better pay.

Adrian: A psycho, violent drug addict, who just wanted to kill someone. (He was at one-time N.Z.'s most wanted man) I first met Adrian some years ago, while I was taking an FGB prison service, he was serving a 12-year sentence.

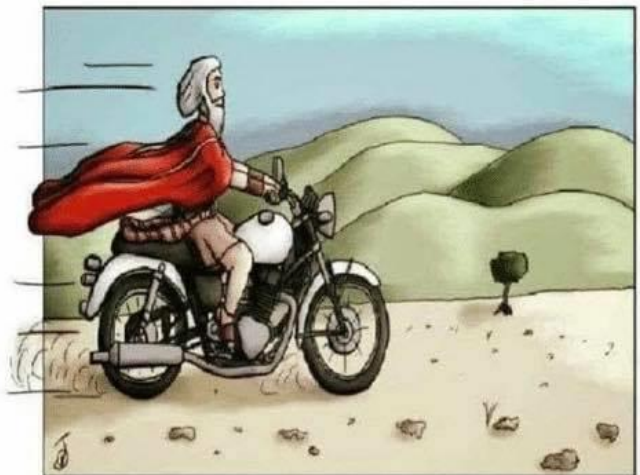
B.U.T. (*blessed, undeniable, truth*) through groups coming in for prison ministry, he found the Lord, turned his life around, is a full on evangelist, now married with three daughters, and has written two books about his change of life and why. He speaks in prisons and to gangs and anyone else who's ear he can get into! Three New Zealand prisons have now bought about 1100 copies of his book to give to inmates. That's the gospel, that's what we are all about.

It's your story and it can change someone's life, so be encouraged (no if's and no **but's!**).

Graham Eagle, National President



DID YOU KNOW THAT MOSES WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO RIDE A MOTORCYCLE?



IT'S IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THE ROAR OF MOSES'S TRIUMPH COULD BE HEARD ALL OVER ISRAEL.

Southern Regional Camp



Arriving at En Hakkore camp for tea on Friday night, it was so great meeting up with men we had not seen since last year. We all are really one big family, with one God our Father.

On the Friday evening I had the pleasure to share with the men my testimony and how the Lord has always been there with me. Even when I didn't realise it, his love was always with us through the ups and downs of life.

Saturday morning commenced with a prayer meeting at 7am in the laundry, one of the biggest gatherings in recent years.

Geoff Winter, our guest speaker, spoke on the Saturday morning. Geoff told us he saw a picture of an angel with bolt cutters, who was there with us for the weekend and was going to cut chains off us. Geoff encouraged us to speak to our day each day, make the first hour for God. The Holy Spirit moved miraculously and Geoff then prophesied over approximately forty of the men.

Geoff Woodcock then took a session on generational curses and barriers in our lives. Jesus took our sin and removed them from us, now He has exchanged the curses for blessings. This was followed by a wonderful time of prayer in smaller groups. Thank you Geoff.

In the Saturday evening session Geoff Winter spoke on Joy, telling his testimony of Faith and Joy. Key points and things to remember;

- In following the Lord, we need to be obedient
- Walking in faith is a walk of joy

- Step into faith, say yes and step over the scary line, you will be blessed.

Sunday morning Geoff spoke on 'Confronting Limitations.' He shared about his own life, if he wants to see the power of God move through him then he needs to be in the Word of God more and more, have a committed Prayer time and be fasting regularly. If we wish to impact our community we need to seek God's voice, then obey. He shared about writing his own prayers, as in Habakkuk 2:2, writing them out, claiming them as they are written. It is not negotiable to spend time with God.

Ministry time was a special time, many yokes lifted, with healings and deliverance, especially from generational curses. Men returning to their families, workplaces and churches were filled with the Holy Spirit, encouraged, empowered and filled with joy.

I'm already looking forward to next year, and encouraging all to ask another man along next year. The weather this year was simply beautiful, no frosts, rain or strong winds. As usual the meals were of exceptional quality and plenty for everyone. A huge thank you to the cooks, we really appreciate you all. Thank you Ron and John, for your massive input into the winter camp, all that hard work is really appreciated by all.

Tony Shaw, Timaru Chapter

The camp teaching sessions can be listened to online at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8i1yhy5tfvzx59n/AAb51BgkL9HfpmVogIH93ha?dl=0>

A Brief Testimony

I was very interested to hear Mark & Miriam Holloway at our convention in Invercargill. The Lord has been speaking to me for many years and I believe it is extremely important for all Christians to be able to hear God's voice.

I became a Christian in 1980 and was baptised in the Holy Spirit soon after, but didn't receive the fullness of tongues until being specifically prayed for a few months later. From this time forth I went into a season of very intense intercession praying in the Spirit until my jaw ached and I went hoarse. Then on evening of the 6th March 1982 my wife went out, I put our 5 children to bed and went up into my home office. I had no sooner sat down to pray when the presence of God filled the room and He said "I am calling you to be a prophet" and began to give me a precis of what lay ahead for me. Over the next few years He taught me from the scriptures saying: "Read these verses", and then explaining and giving me understanding of them. He also added details of what lay ahead and much of this has already occurred. The rest is, I believe, about to come to pass.

When that took place I didn't know God still spoke to His people like that even though He had given me specific directions on two occasions. One of these was a year or more before I became a Christian. Consequently, I fell into several traps and became very unsure that God was indeed calling me because of this. One trap was the devil speaking in a "honey sweet" voice trying to get me to doubt what God was saying. Occasionally the devil spoke directly, but mostly he tried to add specific details, which were not going to come to pass, to what God had said. For instance, the Lord would say something would happen and the devil would add "within the next two weeks". Of course when it didn't happen I would begin to wonder if indeed God had spoken to me. One day I was on the Auckland harbour bridge approaches, heading to the city and asking the Lord about this when He said "test the spirits." I began to do so by challenging them "Do you confess the Lord Jesus is the only Son of God and that He came in the flesh?" When I do this, if it is God's voice, He then always

answers. Any other spirit remains silent.

Another trap is something we will never be totally free of, namely hearing your own human spirit and mistaking it for God's voice. Our human spirit will always tell us what we want to hear and can be very difficult to discern because of this. I was caught out several times. This made me realize we need to exercise great wisdom and discernment if we are actively seeking an answer from God. In my experience if you are asking God for a specific answer, come humbly before Him, ask what you want and write your question down, expect Him to answer but realize that He doesn't always do so immediately. One day while waiting on God for an answer the Lord showed me a vision of a young girl rolling a Hula-hoop along a footpath using a rod to guide it. As I watched, the girl let it roll along without touching it until it either slowed down or needed directional guidance. The Lord then said that when we are on the path of His perfect will and doing what He wants, then we don't need frequent guidance and He won't necessarily give any words of guidance unless He feels we need it.

To summarise my experiences, I sincerely believe God wants us to hear His voice and He is pleased when we seek to do so. I also believe we need to be very cautious, particularly as we first learn how to do so. This is crucially important when we get a word about something we personally, desperately want to know or do. We don't always get the answer immediately and often it is some days or even weeks before we get one. If you do have an experience that shakes your faith remember this, God can be trusted, so don't throw the baby out with the bath water.

As many of you have experienced, I get a lot of prophetic words and words of knowledge for people and these words are generally very accurate. I speak out what I believe God is asking me to when I get the word. However, if it is for someone close to me I am very much more cautious and often "hang onto it" for a day or two before speaking.



Keith Winstone

Mt Albert Chapter

The Vision Intensified

The board would encourage you to read 'The Vision Intensified' by Demos Shakarian. This can be found on our website at: <https://www.fgbmfi.org.nz/resources/>

We believe we need to be preparing for a new wave of revival. The book concludes with this prayer.

"Heavenly Father,

"We thank You for all that You have done — through our lives, and through the ministry of the Fellowship. But whatever has been accomplished to date . . . we now know it is only a glimmer, a glimpse of the future, of what is STILL to be done through the power of Your Holy Spirit.

"Lord, we stand ready and willing to serve.

"We are willing to pray, to fast, and to seek Your will in our lives, no matter what the cost. You are Lord. You are Master, and it is YOU ALONE we shall serve.

"Heavenly Father, forgive us if sometimes our eyes have focused on men, on chapters, or on buildings.

"We ask that you will help us FOCUS ONLY ON YOU and Your mandates for our lives. We realise YOU

ALONE are our hope — and without the power of the Holy Spirit, nothing we can do will ever save one solitary soul.

"Lord, we ask that You use us as vessels to help fulfil your vision.

"Allow us to minister to those who are alone. Enable us to break the BONDAGE OF SIN in the lives of our neighbours, and in the lives of millions of people around the world. Help us to melt the ICE COLD death of Satan from lost souls, and transform them into children of LIGHT through Your saving grace.

"Lord, we give You ALL the Honour and the Glory for the revelations You have shown us, and thank You, in the name of Jesus Christ, for what You are about to do to change the face of this world.

Convention Healings

From Michael and Irene O'Loughlin

When we were at the Conference in Invercargill, we placed a prayer petition in the offering for our eldest daughter who had just discovered that she had an unknown mass on her kidney, as well as a cyst. The mass was 7.5 mm long and was a real concern. She has 9 children, 8 of whom are still at home.

Well, tonight she has just rung after getting home from the specialist and the scans cannot find the mass. It has just disappeared! The Specialist does not want to see her again. The cyst is still there, though, but is not of major concern.

She is praising God and so are we. Thank you to the National Board and all who prayed. We are so grateful. You were not the only ones who prayed, but you did pray. Praise God for His care for Sarah.

From Noreen How-Johns

In 2012 I had bowel surgery for ulcerative colitis and diverticulitis, with rectal bleeding, bloody diarrhoea, abdominal cramps and very much pain. The concern was that it could be cancerous. I had had diverticulitis for 25 years and managed it, sort of!

After surgery, my bowel continued to leak, which was embarrassing, debilitating and as a result I suffered loneliness and depression. I loathed leaving the house. I had prayer, claimed scriptures, but nothing happened.

My husband decided to attend the FGBMFI Convention in Invercargill this year and I went with him.

At the women's meeting I plucked up courage and asked for healing. They told me to keep going up to the altar calls until God healed me. God gave me a vision of the woman with the issue of blood – for twelve years she was desperate but nothing was going to prevent her touching the hem of Jesus garment. I saw myself like her. When Don McDonnell invited people to come forward for healing, up I went in desperation. I plucked up all my courage to ask Jesus to heal my bowel.

As I lay on the floor, I felt pain as I did after surgery, but a peace flooded my spirit and soul. It felt like a hand pulling – rearranging my abdomen. I tried to get up but couldn't, as if I was cemented to the floor. I heard a voice, 'I haven't finished with you yet.'

I cried with joy that this was my moment with my dear Lord. I was so desperate and he heard me.

After I got up I felt washed out. It felt as though I had gone through surgery all over again. That night I slept soundly. The next day I had such a normal result in the toilet, something that I had not seen in years. I said: "Good girl, Noreen."

That day I testified to God's healing hand on my bowel. Afterwards five women and a man said that had the same problem. This shouldn't be a secret. God says you haven't, because you have not asked. I saw a vision of a room in heaven full of boxes. I asked what they were. He said they were body parts that people have not asked for.

So from that day at Queen's birthday weekend I have enjoyed full good health. I am forever grateful and thankful. Prayer is on my lips daily and all day. Thank you for reading this and I ask that our Lord will respond to you. We are all his favourite children, not just me.

Australian FGBMFI Convention – Brisbane

In August, John Speirs and myself attended the Australian FGBMFI conference in Brisbane. It was a great time of fellowship, sharing in our faith and encouraging one another in the Lord.

The word says *"We are to encourage one another as we see the day of the Lord approaching"*.

We had four National presidents in attendance; from FGBMFI Australia Len Donaldson, from FGBA Australia George Perry, from FGBMFI Indonesia Ardian Kristanto and myself as National President NZ. There was also a good representation from the Malaysian chapters, and they also shared.

Unfortunately, the International President of FGBMFI, Mario Garcia, had to cancel his trip due to immigration issues.



We had sessions lead by Len Donaldson, Ardian Kristanto and others, including myself.

Ardian gave a presentation based on the seven strong keys to success for Indonesia. They have over 1000 chapters and 12,000 members. In Australia they have twelve Indonesian speaking

chapters and in Auckland one Indonesian speaking chapter (these come under the FGBMFI Indonesia leadership). Very focussed and disciplined for the gospel and for FGBMFI. (Wow, they are 'Hard out'.) Ardian talked about prayer, leadership, teamwork, strategy, partnership, finance and branding of FGBMFI. We need to be intentional and focussed in promoting and building the fellowship.

Great testimonies from the Australian guys and altogether a very encouraging time.

I believe with the new International leadership, and the new transparency within the organisation of FGBMFI International, a new era of freedom in the Holy Spirit is taking place.

We look forward to working with Mario and the team at the International office. We already sense a move in the spirit realm, due to these changes.

Graham Eagle, National President.

