
Murray Wellington

I am a standard sinner saved only by God's grace. I don't want to bore anyone with details of my past sinful activities, but I do remember standing around a BBQ with a few fellow learner pilots many years back, with the standard alcoholic beverages involved. One of our group with a happy somewhat inebriated grin said to me, "When I die, I want to be in hell because all my mates will be there."

I was a bit surprised by this statement, but then realised two things – an inner conviction told me he was right, if I died then, I would be in hell also.

I also realised I didn't want to end up there.

I didn't do anything about this conviction straightaway but after a couple of years, I began to feel very "empty" inside. Life seemed pointless. I thought if I disappeared off the face of the earth, what difference would it make to the universe?

Not that I was "suicidal", as whenever I got into serious trouble, I would be quick enough to call out to God to help me out of the situation.

I was in a job that meant overnights, and picked up the Gideon's Bible there in the motel and began to read it.

I was particularly drawn to verses that talked about "eternal life". I began to think that I would like to have that. I thought about being a Christian and realised I would have to stop doing some of the things I was doing but I wasn't ready to give these things up just yet. I believe it's called "enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season".

Anyhow, God was drawing me in. Easter back in 1982, I was watching a film on TV depicting the life of Jesus based on the Gospel of Luke. When Jesus said to the disciples, "Come and follow me", I had an inner conviction I needed to do the same. I said, "Lord, make me a disciple too."

Well, that little prayer had an amazing effect. I

encountered such peace and love, and felt forgiveness for past misdeeds.



I felt as if a weight was lifted off and realised it was guilt for past sins gone. Those things I didn't want to give up now seemed like rubbish. That began a great hunger for reading the Bible.

Shortly after this, one day while praying – the presence of the Lord was with me powerfully and wonderfully and a new language seemed to "bubble up" within me. I can still speak in it today; without understanding what it means. I now know God had baptised me in the Holy Spirit by His own initiative.

Soon after this, God led me to a church that seemed to be going through the Book of Acts – people

getting saved, baptised in the Spirit and delivered from the demonic, and the Bible was being taught enthusiastically.

The Importance of Being on the Right Track

So after some years, I was in an aviation job, flying a light aircraft in the South of Southern Alps of New Zealand. This was pre-GPS days, so navigating was by old fashioned map-reading.

As I headed up a mountainous valley, I suddenly got the impression that the terrain out the window wasn't matching what I should see on my map. I realised I was – lost – and heading up a blind mountain valley.

The mountains beside and in front were impossible to out-climb in my little Cessna and I had better turn back before I couldn't in the narrow valley. I did so and headed back to where I was last certain of where I actually was. Once there, I could see where I took a wrong turn. The valley I should have gone up was adjacent to the valley I had gone up. The main feeling to be back on the right track was a sense of relief.

I have also been lost briefly while on a tramp with my son Ethan out on the East Coast of the North Island, climbing Mt Hikurangi, to be specific.

It happened like this. While returning from the summit, the weather had turned to low cloud and visibility with misty rain. In the conditions, I took a wrong turn at a track intersection. Heading along through the bush, I realised our surroundings didn't match what I should be seeing on our map. That's when I realised I had gone off-track and was lost! I stopped and retraced our steps back to where I was last certain of where we were. Once again, the relief to be back on the right track was immense.

What about spiritually – am I certain I am on the right track? Is the Bible accurate? Self-study and investigation have satisfied me it is - Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and is alive today. To trust Him gives me the same sense of relief that I experienced after getting back on the right track after being lost in an aircraft and tramping.

Back in the year 1995 I had been feeling a push from the Lord about going to a Bible College for various reasons. Some well-meaning folks in my church said, "Why are you going to Bible College?" I just said, "To mind my own business". Actually, I

wasn't totally sure why myself. I thought maybe I would get a job "in ministry".

Well, as I said before, I am a taciturn character so that probably was never likely. I did meet my lovely wife-to-be Joyce there though, and we have been married ¼ plus century now. How kind the Lord is.

At the end of Bible College course, I had no job and thought, "What now?" The phone rang in February 1997 and it was a job offer – back flying. Well, when only one door is open to you, you better take it so I did.

Back to tramping, I and my sons Ethan and Jared have been on several tramps. Ethan and Jared both are now keen trampers themselves.

Ethan and I went on the Waikaremoana Great Walk several years ago. Multi-day tramps require endurance. Ethan was a trooper, putting in a 9-hour day without complaining. The last day as we reached the final pick-up point produced a feeling of exhilaration and joy! All the slogging was worth it.

Recently our youngest son Jared expressed a desire to climb Mt Fuji. I thought about it and thought – why not? So, in July 2024 we went off to Japan to do that. Mt Fuji turned out to be not too technically difficult to climb but was for me, a physiological challenge.



I came down with symptoms of altitude sickness. Headache, nausea and shortness of breath. I did think of giving up and heading back down the mountain.

Praying about it, I felt the Lord said, “Go up”, and that was all. Also, I didn’t really want to give up so close to the summit. Jared said he was fine, no symptoms at all. I must be getting older.

At the summit, there is an archway-gate structure and walking through, I felt the euphoria and the joy again of making it.

I also thought – this is what walking through the gates of heaven will be like – joy, euphoria, and excitement. You might say, settle down. Mt Fuji is not that big a deal – but there it is.



Along the way of life, there have been ups and downs. I was ‘let go’ from my last flying job. It was humbling to be out of work, and I prayed about it. The Scripture came to mind. “Seek the Lord while He may be found.” My dad also passed away the same year.

When one door closes, another opens, and the Lord had gone before us and provided for the lean

income years coming up. He has always been wonderfully kind and good to us, far more than I ever deserve, and has never left me or forsaken me.

An opportunity opened for me in the area of woodworking, a hobby of mine. This has now become a little business as a ‘sole trader’.

Back when I was flying, I was walking out to my airplane to fly a Gisborne-Wellington service. An elderly passenger was walking beside me and kept saying to me, “I’m going to heaven”- with a happy smile. I thought, “Not on this flight, I hope!” I looked at him and realised he was just a happy old believer nearing the end of his earthly journey, and quite happy about it. I thought, there – that’s the way to finish life, certain you’re going to heaven and being happy about it.

So, to anyone reading these jottings, please consider this – Heaven and hell are real. Choose heaven; walk closely with the Lord Jesus Christ. He is a true and close Friend.



Murray Wellington, Rose City Chapter

Don Simpson

True story. Grew up in a non-Christian home in the Oranga state housing area in Auckland.

I drifted through school. I enjoyed school sports, playing rugby at school and later at Te Papapa Rugby Club for many years.

After my time at Penrose High School I began an apprenticeship to become a panel beater _but left after six months the apprenticeship. I was told that I didn’t have the right feeling in my hands to be a panel beater. I drifted along and hung out in the poolrooms of Onehunga.

Being bored, one night I had a flagon of beer and took some pills. Next moment I found myself stepping out of my body and going into hell. I never called out to Jesus as I didn't know Him at that time. His grace and mercy brought me back into my body but I was sick for three days.

Not long after that my marriage broke up. Neither of us had any direction in life. I became a solo parent looking after my 2 year old daughter Christina, but still doing drugs, drinking alcohol and selling a bit of weed.



Eighteen months later I became a Christian. My neighbors were Youth With A Mission missionaries who invited me to a church camp. There people made me welcome and I sensed that I could trust them not to rip me off. I started thinking seriously about life for the first time.

God gave me insight into spiritual matters, soon becoming a born again believer in Jesus. I repented of my dark sin. I joined YWAM. When I told Christina that I loved her she replied: "Yes, I know, because Jesus told me".

Two years later when visiting One Tree Hill Park, God reminded me of the time I left my body and went to hell. God revealed to me that He had raised me up to be an evangelist for Him. I was to travel the towns and cities of New Zealand and overseas for Him. I followed God's teaching for the next 44 years. He satisfies me and has never let me down. I was able to kiss my mum and show my love for her.

God gave me the gift of evangelism and prayer so that I am able to share Jesus with others. I give Him all the glory. As I grew in the Lord, I never lost His

love for me. One way Jesus, that's me. The Lord Jesus is the only satisfying way in this life. I started taking children to Sunday school from non-Christian homes including 3 children from my street. 'You pray, then you go and ask the parents'. That ministry grew to around 60 children in a state housing area in Oranga, Onehunga. People from a local church donated their time to help us in this form of evangelism. I continued that ministry for six years.

God honours our prayers, when we ask in faith. He gave me and my daughter a state house back in the day in Onehunga in the neighborhood that I grew up in. Our God had a plan. From that ministry, doors opened up for me to attend Assemblies of God Bible College for two years. I set up a food bank in Onehunga with a medical centre, legal advice service, barber shop, and Bible study for ones that were interested. That ministry lasted for 2 1/2 years. God is no man's debtor.



God gave me the ability to ask people from the street to come to Bible study. Many came.

A few came to church, not many did. Later, I began healing meetings in Oranga and other places around Auckland. God raised up sponsors for that ministry, faithful people of God. I honour those people forever. I married my pen friend Diane from Canada, also an evangelist. God used Diane to shape my life. We had ten years together evangelising. Diane died of cancer.

Three decades later that ministry is still going on, with my new wife Christine and me. I founded Pray for Auckland, a city in darkness. We prayed four times a year all night for ten years at Greenlane Christian Centre.

I lost my daughter in a road accident up in Whangarei before Diane died, losing both my daughter and Diane in the space of three years. I

never took my eyes off God in those three years. I kept focused and kept witnessing, 24/7. Hallelujah.



I couldn't go back to the dark side once I had seen His glorious light. God was my friend and companion who will never leave me or you. Amen. God gave me a new life from sin to righteousness, born again. Living in the spirit and not the flesh. John 3-3-5.

I had been a welfare beneficiary for over 20 years. God is my schoolteacher. He has helped me to speak and read books, a long story of hope and forgiveness.

With my life, I have always done ministry for the Lord, including prison ministry for 23 years, having many teams travelling to prisons around the North Island. Covid stopped that ministry. I was able to visit drug rehab and prisons overseas, witnessing about our saviour Jesus Christ.

God brought Christine my wife into my life and within six weeks we were married. Together we have continued ministry in the Lord's service. We have been married for 21 years. We have travelled the world on cruise ships, running Bible Study and sharing Sunday morning services while at sea. We are doing land missions as well.

We are still continuing this lifestyle at my age of 71, going into third and first world countries.

I have led crusade ministries in India and in Asia many times and in the South Pacific Islands. We have seen many salvations and supernatural healings among people who came to our meetings. We live in the realm of the supernatural. It's part of God calling on our lives as followers of Christ. God

loves me and He rescued me from hell.

I serve Him now and not the darkness that controls this world. Ephesians 2-1-2.

Are you willing to come to Christ after reading this testimony? You will be a winner if you do.

Have been involved with FGBMFI? It's an honour to share this story with you. As a non-educated person being under the thumb of social welfare, I thank God for giving me peace and love and acceptance and freedom in His family, called the church. They are the best people on planet earth.

There is hope for all people to pick themselves up and follow God's teaching. God opened the door for me to be a manager of stores for a 24/7 company in Onehunga. At that company I witnessed six days a week for nine years. I moved on and we started planting churches. Relax dear ones and smell the coffee. You are worthy of His forgiveness, love and acceptance of Jesus Christ who isn't a swear word, dear friend.

I am blessed to be a blessing. He makes a nobody into a somebody. To know Christ is the ultimate. Go out and share your faith with others.



Don Simpson, Mt Albert Chapter

Upcoming Events



**National Leadership Meeting Dinner With
Guest Speaker**

Russell Ballantyne

The FGBMFI Board invites members and partners to join us for dinner followed by our guest speaker Russell Ballantyne with us.



Russell & Julie co-lead New Day Church Auckland for many years. Russell spoke at FGBMFI's Regional Conference in April this year that briefly touched on his work experience in turning loss into profit.

Saturday 12 October 2024

Willow Park Camp, 1 Hostel Access Rd, Eastern Beach

Dinner: 5.15pm - \$20pp Speaker: Start 7.00pm

Attending: Text Alvin on 021 0272 6770 by Wednesday 9th October to confirm your place for dinner, with your name and the number attending.

(1) The FGBMFI Auckland Regional Council is on course to organise the 2025 Convention from Friday 30th May to Monday 2nd June in JetPark Auckland Airport Hotel & Conference Centre.

Donations from appeal by Graham Simpson (Vision 79 - May 2024) has reached \$23,941 as at 01/10/2024.

(1) The FGBMFI national office is hosting a three-day National Leadership Meeting in Willow Park 11-13 October 2024. Russell Ballantyne from New Day Church Auckland will be our dinner speaker for the weekend.

Anyone is welcome to participate. For more information, please contact Alvin Humm on 0210 272 6770 by Wednesday 9th October.



Report on the En Hakkore Camp hosted by Southern Region on 6th - 8th September in Central Otago

Southern Region Camp 2024

Guests speaker Geoff Winter from Manifest Love Church in Hamilton

Camp started on the Friday night with Mike Bunt giving his testimony, he also encouraged us that God does speak to us and we have to be obedient, whether it is speaking to someone, or going to see someone with the word we have been given.

- Pray in tongues as much as you can.
- Be ready to speak with God anywhere.
- He has forgiven me, why should I not forgive myself.



Geoff spoke twice on Saturday and again on Sunday. Very encouraging. He challenged us to step over the line and get deeper and more hungry for God.

He challenged us to video our testimony, so it could be played at our funeral service, as a captive audience. That maybe the only time they hear the full gospel spoken.

Bruce Beckingsale led a wonderful workshop on writing our testimony. This was really well accepted.

- Life before Jesus
- Born again
- Life with Jesus
- Challenge, what will you do now



Allan Levi shared and encouraged us on running our FGBMFI meetings.

- Prayer always before meetings, have a list
- Write a running sheet for order of meetings so we cover everything.
- Follow up on anyone new to meetings

Saturday night started with wonderful praise and worship, as it was all weekend.

Reuben from Avodah in Kaikoura shared gave us a testimony from his heart. He then read the English translation of a haka which the Avodah team performed. Powerful time.

On Sunday morning there were two more testimonies from the team. Over the last two years Avodah has been such a blessing to us all.

We were blessed again this year with fellowship, ministry, teaching, and more than enough wonderful food.

- Tony Shaw



En Hakkore Camp (Southern Region) Photographs





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