

# VISION

Issue 67 - Sept 2020

[www.fgbmfi.org.nz](http://www.fgbmfi.org.nz)

## I Turned My Back On Principles

My parents taught me that there was a God. I learned that if I caused trouble, God would come and react. That was my way of thinking about God. If I did bad things; bad things would be returned unto me. I would go to church on Sundays, mainly because my mother and my father sent me there. But I did not feel anything in my heart.

I owned three companies, and the one that gave me the most profit was in the field of agriculture. I did a lot of travelling throughout Mexico. While traveling, I started talking about divorce to my wife.

My life was filled with problems; including my marriage. These problems caused me to turn my back on the people that I loved. In my zeal to earn a lot of money and social place in life, I disregarded my religious and moral principles. I was raised a good Catholic. No one, however, told me that I could have a personal relationship with God. Before I attended this Fellowship, no one ever told me that I could have God as my partner. Through the Full Gospel Fellowship, I learned that He could be my Friend, my Guide and much more. I did not know this truth until I became a part of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

In the past, my "god" was the desire to make more money. I was a billionaire who possessed everything, but happiness. This caused me to reflect upon my life and I wondered; if there was something else in this life, would I be able to have a better life? I thought I had everything.

Yet there was an emptiness within. This feeling probed me to have these questions. I had many businesses, so I was under a lot of stress. There were times when I had to travel the whole day just to reach certain areas. I was managing the seed department in this agricultural company and there were many workers under my command; it was very stressful.

I became an alcoholic and a heavy smoker. I was never sick, but always felt horrible. My wife and I

started considering about getting a divorce. We had three children at that time. My heart was hardened and I felt no emotion at all when discussing about the divorce.

One day, due to many circumstances, I went bankrupt. I returned to my home town and talked to a person about my problems. He said to

me, "I am going to invite you to a businessmen's dinner." In 1995, I attended my first FGBMFI meeting. I saw many businessmen in that meeting. One of them started giving testimony. He said these profound words, "I am going to invite you to meet the owner of gold and silver." Sure, I wanted to meet this guy. This meeting was free of charge anyway. He was talking about the Lord. He told me to repeat after him. It turned out to be a prayer of salvation. That day I started my new life!

I invited Jesus Christ into my life and my heart, and He began a new work in me immediately. Instantly, there was a change in the whole aspect of my life



including my marriage, family, and businesses. I received peace and began to experience true happiness. Jesus came and filled the void in my heart as I felt the strong presence of the Holy Spirit. My life was significantly changed.

Suddenly I was living a new life. Many good things began to take place in my businesses. One week after I received Jesus Christ in my heart, my wife, Sylvia, said to me, "You have changed! You are a completely changed man." I did not notice the changes, but my wife did. I invited my wife to this Fellowship where she also received the Lord. She is currently working with me in this Fellowship and is actively participating in the Ladies of the Fellowship.

We were both filled with the Holy Spirit in the FGBMFI meetings and our marriage was miraculously restored.

### **MY DAUGHTER'S HEALING**

When my first daughter was four and a half years old, she became very sick. I realized that the disease was the result of my actions. My daughter had epilepsy. Whenever I saw the convulsion in her body, I would feel tremendous guilt. The Lord told me that my money or my social status was not able to heal my daughter. For 5 – 6 years I took her

to many doctors for treatment. Finally, the Lord said, "Wait for your time!" That time came and He completely healed my daughter. My daughter became a new child!

Jesus Christ brought new things and genuine happiness to our lives. Now that my priorities in life have changed, I am spending more time with my wife and children.

My businesses are blessed by the Lord and miracles are happening in these businesses. I start many new businesses such as the consulting business for farming companies. This company generates good profit for us. I am grateful for the good things that God is doing in my life.

No words are enough to thank the Lord for what He has done in me. I desire to serve Him more by winning more souls to Christ.



God, through the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship has changed my life. I am grateful to this Fellowship and what they did to help turn my life around and to return to the basic principles that I once knew!

*In 2006, Mario Garcia was voted in as the National President of Mexico's FGBMFI. In 2018 Mario was voted in as the International President of FGBMFI.*

---

## **From The National President's Desk**

---

### **"Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled" .... John 14: 1**

I was zooming around my house on my "ride on mower" the other day. (As I zoom about, I tend to day dream a bit.)

I saw myself as a victorious, overcoming Christian. I stood there like Moses, hand and rod stretched out over the water, as the water parted way! I was leading thousands to the Lord, through my organisation, "Cutting Edge Ministries".



Then I realise my catcher is full and needs emptying!

I seem to have short moments of great spirituality, and much longer periods, of just being a mere mortal.

John Wimber, who started the Vineyard Church movement, summed life up when he said, "I'm just a fat man, trying to get into heaven".

Don't you wish you just had it all together as a

---

Christian. Never doubted, never got grumpy, just had this serene confidence that God was going to put everything right, just as you had planned it.

Then comes along Covid-19! 2020 has turned out to be a very difficult year to date. The world as we have known it, has changed.

I was looking through my notes, at a sermon I took at church in late February, based on John 14 :1- 3. "Let not your heart be troubled" ..... etc. (Great sermon, I felt so spiritual.)

Then came March, and we are at level 4 lockdown, Covid-19! People are sick, dying, afraid and losing their jobs.

Who preached that stupid sermon?

Who wrote that verse anyway? Bet he had no problems! (except he was about to die and he knew it.)

I had the year all planned out. At last, I was about to sell my business to an American company, at a great price and I organised the sale myself, so saved \$150k+ in brokers commission. I was a very happy man.

The CEO of the company came over from California early March, we confirmed the price and shook hands on the deal for 31 March.

When he got back home, he emailed, saying the deal was postponed until the end of June or September, or maybe the end of 2020 and could even be cancelled due to the virus.

I must admit, I was very frustrated, patience is not one of my giftings. Where was God in all this?

Does he not know that I am an amazing and incredible Christian and follower of Jesus! Why was he letting this happen to such a nice person as me?

Well the long and the short of it all, is that I persuaded the American's to use a local NZ accounting company to push the deal through on 30th June 2020.

While waiting the 3 months before this close off date, we hit 3 months of the highest sales in 37 years (during level 4).

We are an essential supplier of food packaging. Our sales were up about one third each month. (And the accrued profits Y.T.D, go to me, up to the company sale date.)

I had to apologise to God for my attitude and admit that I still had a few things to learn, and yes he is in control.

"Let not your heart be troubled..... " It's easily said, but takes some trust and faith to appropriate.

#### Some worthy quotes:

"Doubt is the darkroom, where negativity gets developed."

"Worry increases in direct proportion to the amount of time spent on it."



Fear, is a spirit, that can take hold of us and paralyse us. Prayer is a process that can break that fear and free us.

Proverbs 12:25, "Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down." And of course Romans 8:38, " I am persuaded, that nothing can separate us from the love of God..... " Hebrews 10: 35, " Do not throw away your confidence, it will be richly rewarded."

God's Grace: I quote from writer Anne Lamott:

*"I do not understand all the mysteries of Grace,*

*Only that it meets us where we are,*

*But does not leave us where it found us."*

So, do not be discouraged if you are not yet where you would like to be in your faith. We are W.I.P. = work in progress.

God is faithful and will walk with us through the journey. For our part, we just need to keep walking!

Blessings abundant and peace in the battle.

Graham Eagle

National President

---

## David Fraser Testimony – Part 2

---

Sometimes I had thoughts that seemed to me to be distractions or my mind straying but I later realised that these were thoughts God had put into my head.

As an example, I used to be the manager of all of the infrastructure at Hastings District Council: roads, water supply, storm water, wastewater, parks, buildings, and regional landfill. We had to apply for a consent for our wastewater discharge. At the time Hastings had the longest discharge into the ocean, two and a half kilometres long. It was the most monitored outfall in the country and it had been monitored for 30 years. Technically there was no “adverse” environmental impact, and everything was fine, so we applied for renewal of the consent.

The consent application went to a hearing. Maori appealed against it on the grounds that what we were doing was offensive to them on cultural grounds. This was because we were discharging raw human waste into the ocean. The commissioners at the hearing agreed with them and told us we had to try and sort something out. As a result, the whole process was put on hold.

We met with the leaders of the Maori community in Hawkes Bay and then went on a trip around the country with them looking at treatment plants. Through the process we got to know them pretty well. We visited a treatment plant near Papamoa. The Maoris called this the racetrack – it is technically known as an Oxidation Ditch. It has an elliptical channel. Fresh sewage is introduced at one point and then pushed around the channel where it is treated by naturally occurring bacteria within the waste stream. A portion is extracted as treated effluent at another part of the loop and would normally then go onto another treatment process. One of the Maori representatives who had worked at various treatment plants said something which astounded the Council’s technical experts. He declared: “I would be happy if that stuff there went straight out to sea.” We all looked at him and thought “This is mad!” “No” he responded, “it would be fine because from my perspective it is no longer human waste. By going through this process it has been transformed into bugs’ waste, it has no human element in it any more, it’s just like something that has gone in the long drop and had 6 months to decay and decompose. I don’t find that offensive.”

So, we then went through a process of looking at developing a plant. The Maori said, “We don’t want something that is really expensive, because if it was too expensive our people will not be able to afford to live in the suburbs. They will come back to the marae which can’t cope with so many people living there. We are sensible, but can you deal with the waste in a way that is no longer offensive?”

We looked for an affordable staged process. For sewage treatment you normally have a screening process, then a primary process, followed by a secondary process. At that point the sewage is pretty well treated. The Oxidation Ditch is a secondary process. Depending on where it is to be discharged you might require treatment to provide some final cleaning.

After talking it through we came to an agreement that we would build a primary process immediately and in 10 years’ time a secondary process similar to the oxidation ditch in Papamoa. Council passed a resolution to approve our agreement, so I thought we had solved it.

My staff member, Bob, who ran our wastewater treatment plant was a scientist and was always experimenting and thinking creatively. He came to me and said, “I don’t know why we are doing this.” He had been involved in the process all the way through and he suggested we should build a biological trickling filter plant, preceded by our existing milliscreen and without the primary treatment. His reason was that it uses the same bugs and produces the same result as the oxidation ditch but is much cheaper to run. I thought “I’m not going to open this up again – it’s taken us three years to get here, and I don’t want to go back there” so I dismissed it. Shortly afterwards I was having a quiet time with God and felt prompted to talk to Bob and get some more information. So I did. He said: “Yes, we could do that but it’s never been done at this scale before but there have been trials and theoretically it should work”. I talked to my lead consultant, a very experienced engineer. He said: “I’ve got an English PhD engineer in Dunedin, a real smart process guy, he will know if this will work or not.” So he talked to the process engineer in Dunedin who said: “Yes, it will work.” He had seen a study 10 years previously where they had modelled a similar process and had built a small plant somewhere in England. He suggested we could probably look at it to see if it works.

---

I advised the Council that we had come across something that might be cheaper, and would like to send Bob and the English engineer, Pete, across to England to have a look the working plant. So off they went. to the plant in England had worked really well for its first 6 months until an ice cream factory was built right next door to it. When the factory began producing the most popular ice cream in the UK, production quadrupled and the plant was overloaded, became full of flies and a shambles. But the company who had built the plant suggested there were some plants in Spain to consider. So, I said "Seeing you have already gone that far, you better go to Spain." The plant managers in Spain were really interested in the concept and gave the go ahead to reconfigure one of their plants and gave permission to monitor it electronically. We wanted to install some Austrian monitoring equipment. We phoned the Austrian supplier to ask them to install their equipment in the plant in Spain so that we could data log the technical information back to our expert in Dunedin.

This was leading edge stuff because the internet was not long available. The guys in Austria said the best person to install their equipment in the plant in Spain actually lived in Christchurch. We ended up sending a guy from Christchurch to install Austrian equipment in a plant in Spain to download information for an English PhD engineer in Dunedin. Over 9 months he monitored the info. Over that period Bob built a small scale biological trickling filter in Hastings so that the Maori could see how it worked and the end product.

The concept was interesting in that it did away with the primary treatment process, replacing it with what is called a milliscreen, a very fine metal screen which screens out the coarser solids (mainly grit and bits of plastic etc). The wastewater passes through the screen and then is pumped to the top of a biological trickling filter plant. It then trickles down through the filter. In the process the naturally occurring bacteria in the waste stream grows and eats the nutrients in the

wastewater as it passes through, converting to nontoxic by-products. A totally organic process and about \$2.5 million per year cheaper to run than the "racetrack" version because it does away with the primary treatment and you don't have the high energy costs of constantly pumping the wastewater around the ditch.

After 9 months of monitoring Pete in Dunedin said: "Yes, you can go ahead." We then got a consent to build the new plant. In operating costs alone, we were going to save \$1 million per year on what the primary treatment would have cost. Added to that, we were not going to have to spent \$40 million building a secondary treatment plant in ten years' time which was then going to cost \$2.5 million per year to operate. Over the 75-year life of that particular plant, the Hastings community will have saved about \$275 million. But it doesn't stop there. Napier were embarking on something similar, so they put their consent on hold while we built our plant. Over that 10-year period Napier saved \$35 million by not having to build and operate the plant they had planned and now they have a new plant up and running. So over the life of that plant they

will have saved about \$350 million. Also, Gisborne came to see what we were doing, and they will save about \$300 million over the life of their plant, totalling to nearly a billion dollars over the life of those three plants.

Spain had a string of plants along a river system. They modified their plants to do away with primary treatment and go straight to secondary treatment:

the same as the one they trialled for us. This will have also saved them a fortune.

When looking back at this, it was nothing to do with me, I wasn't the guy who had the smarts behind making this system work. My only involvement was, when I was praying one morning, God prompted me to do something. I did what he prompted me to do and God then used a string of situations to bless three communities in NZ. It made me realise how much God is interested in us, how much he is interested in our daily lives, and how much he is interested in our communities. He tells us we are the salt of the earth and that we



Hastings Waste Water Plant

have a role as salt to preserve, to encourage. I think it is really important for people in business not to see our work as being over there while our Christian life is over there. God really wants to mould our lives into one set of relationships He will use things we have never dreamed of or thought of to bless the community around us.

Sometimes, like climbing Mt Maunganui, when we reach the destination we will look back and see God's touch on our lives. But when you are going up you simply have to hang onto the tree and pull yourself up because you are not sure exactly where you are heading and what the final outcome will be.



---

---

## **A Challenge Regarding the Coming Revival**

---

---

***If not now. When?***  
***If not here. Where?***  
***If not you. Who?***