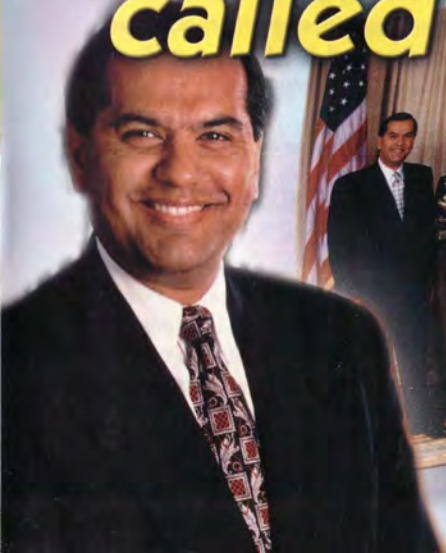


Full Gospel Business Men's

VOICE



**Who is this man
called Gaddi?**



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BAGS OF GOLD By Richard Shakarian

Did you ever wish you had bags of gold? I've known very wealthy people that have kept bags of gold or precious metal. But we believe that every person in the world is

endowed by the Creator with bags of gold they may not even realize they have them.

Our Lord asked, "How can I describe the kingdom of God? It is like a wealthy man who traveled to a far country. He gave one person five bags of gold and another two bags of gold, and to a third, one bag of gold. Later, when He returned, He demanded an accounting. The first said, 'I have multiplied your investment and here is double what you gave me.' The Master replied, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord, and the inheritance which I have prepared for you.' And He said the same to the second. But the third was fearful and he had hidden his golden talents in the ground. When his time of accounting came he said, 'Here is the gold You gave me. It has not been used, and it is preserved.' The Master responded, 'Depart from me, you evil and wicked servant.'"

What is the most valuable gold? Years ago a leader who controlled a nation buried bars of gold under his property. Some years afterward he died, and his family tried to dig up the gold. Much to their surprise, they discovered that, due to a geological abnormality, the gold had moved and, in fact, was now residing under their neighbor's property. They were forced to buy the additional property in order to reclaim the gold that was buried there.

In this world, as business persons, we are seeking gold, assets or value, but our Lord said that He has already given us the most precious gold - far more precious than the gold of this world. He's put it inside of us. After telling the story of the Bags of Gold, the Lord said that His kingdom was made up of people who visited those who were hungry and fed them, who clothed those who were naked, who helped those who were unfortunate. This is the work of the FGBMFI. With an outstretched hand, all over the world we are individually using the golden gifts that God has given - gifts of helps, gifts of healing, gifts of encouragement to lift up and help. These are Bags of Gold that will multiply forever.



Who is this man called Gaddi?



Gaddi Vasquez - California

Scheduled to have lunch with the Assistant Secretary of the Navy at the Pentagon, I was nervously waiting for the car to pick me up. After all, I was only sixteen years old. Who was I anyway? About that moment an official-looking car pulled up. The driver got out and announced in a very proper tone, "Looking for Mr. Vasquez." Hesitating for a moment, the thought went through my head, "I should be taking the metro. I'm just a kid." I pulled my courage together and said, "I am Mr. Vasquez." He took me to the car and I opened the door to get into the right front seat. "No, sir. Allow me," and he opened the door for me to climb into the

back of the chauffeur-driven limousine. There was the Wall Street Journal and Washington Post. I thought that was pretty good, so I made myself comfortable and played the role.

At the Pentagon I was escorted by military guard into a beautiful room with chandeliers, a mahogany table, and elegant china. "This is the life," I mused. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Johnny Johnson, came in and we were

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introduced. As we sat down, I noticed that there were four spoons and several forks. They were all different sizes and I didn't know where to begin. My family came from Mexico, and I was used to eating with my hands. Watching Mr. Johnson, I just copied whatever he did. Over the years since that day I have gotten to know Johnny Johnson and he has something I admire even more than all his accomplishments. That is the love and grace of God in his life.

Born into a very poor family in a migrant farm camp, my father blessed us by insisting that we be bilingual. His rule was that if we spoke to him in English, he would not respond, and if we could not identify the food in Spanish, we were not allowed to eat it. Since I enjoyed eating, needless to say I become fluently bilingual.

My name, Gaddi, always raises questions. I am now able to explain, "It is a Biblical name out of Numbers 13:11. Gaddi was sent by Moses to look over the land of Canaan to see what was there, and to bring back the fruit of the land. This has been the story of my life - to check out the land and bring back the good things of God to those in need." When you live in poverty, you learn to make the most of what you have. I have come to see that God works in the same way. He takes what - or should I say who - He has and makes big things out of insignificant ones.

In these days parents struggle to raise their children with the help of psychology. They seek counseling, read books, and then they negotiate with their kids to get them to do what they want them to do, like homework. My mom was not that kind of woman. She had no education, but she was determined about one thing. She would tell us, "You are not going to be a repeat of our

lives. You are going to know God as your Savior and come to terms with the fact that He can lead you out of poverty. And you are going to get an education.” When we didn’t want to do our homework, it was simple; there was no negotiation! She went out into the yard, grabbed a branch off the tree and came after us. Some might say, “You sound like an abused child!” My reply is, “No, I was a highly motivated child, because my mother still believed the Bible verse that says ‘He who loves his child does not spare the rod.’”

In Orange County, where I live, there is great affluence. Parents shower their children with gifts. Yet it is also a county with phenomenal



Gaddi speaking at the Republican National Convention



drug problems, overflowing jails, and a home for abused children, which is busting at the seams. One major cause is that people have tried to buy their way out of the problems of society. There is only one price that has ever been paid that can redeem mankind from his problems, and that is the price Jesus Christ paid when He shed his blood on the cross that we might have life and have it in abundance.

In my family, we grew up believing that God was to be the center of our focus. We were poverty stricken, but we were rich in love and in the con-



ourselves and mom is giving food to every hobo in town.” The word was soon out that we were the place to get a good meal. On one occasion, noticing my response to her generosity, my mother turned to me and said, “Gaddi, the Bible says that it is better to give than it is to receive.”

Some years ago I was swept into politics when the Governor of California asked me to assume responsibility on the Board of Supervisors. I came in as the county’s youngest Supervisor ever to serve in that office, facing the perils of politics. I was able to survive because every morning as I would warm up my car, I focused my attention on God, warming up my soul to His will. With good spiritual music in the background, I’d ask God to give me

Gaddi with former President Bush and (below) former President Ronald Reagan

confidence that if we put our faith in Jesus, we would grow up to be somebody in the sight of God. We grew up with a giving attitude. From time to time the homeless would knock on our door. Though we barely had enough to feed ourselves, my mom would cook up some burritos, wrap them and give them to them. When she did, it wasn’t long before several others would be knocking on our door. I would think, “Look at them. We are barely making it





Gaddi Vasquez

His wisdom, knowledge, and anointing – all of the ingredients I needed to survive in my shark-infested world. And I can tell you with confidence that God was with me every step of the way.

I also learned from Bible principles that work. In the Bible, Daniel was asked to compromise his loyalty and commitment to God; He refused. Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers, ultimately being raised into a high position in Egypt. When he faced his brothers, who had come to ask for help, rather than seek revenge, he showed them the love of God as he revealed his identity and gave them what they needed. Through both of these stories I came to understand that I was not in my position because of my own doing, but due to the grace of Almighty

God, who had opened the door of opportunity.

In the early '90s, I was sent by the United States government to the country of Armenia to be an official observer as the people of Armenia voted on whether or not to secede from what was then the Soviet Union. We could see the anticipation in the faces of the people as they prepared to become an independent state. One day I stopped a couple of women on the street and asked, "Why do you want to vote to secede?" They replied, "Because we want to be free to be able to worship God in any way we want to, and that will only happen if we become independent!"

**On election
day we
toured
the polling
stations.**

On election day we toured the polling stations. There was one scene I will never forget. An 85-year-old man, who was

Gaddi H. Vasquez

Gaddi Vasquez is a Division Vice President in the Public Affairs Department of the Southern California Edison Company. SCE is the second largest investor owned utility company in the United States and provides electric service to customers in a 50,000 square mile area in the southern part of California.

Prior to his current position, he was twice elected to the Board of Supervisors of Orange County where he represented the Third District. He has served in the administrations of former California Governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson. He was twice appointed by former U. S. President George Bush to federal commissions and served as an advisor to the former President.

He has represented the United States as a member of delegations to the countries of the People's Republic of China, Republic of Armenia, Israel, France, England, and Uruguay. Active in community affairs, he serves on the Advisory Boards of Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army. He also serves on the board of the Boy Scouts of America and Orange County Council, and is the national secretary for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials in the U. S.

He has been recognized by many organizations for outstanding leadership and service to the community. The awards include the Marine Corps Globe and Anchor Award, and the Coro Foundation Crystal Eagle Award for Leadership. The National Jewish Fund has awarded him the prestigious Tree of Life Award and the National Conference of Christians and Jews has bestowed its Humanitarian of the Year Award on Mr. Gaddi Vasquez. The Hispanic Business Magazine has named him one of the

100 Most Influential Hispanics in the United States six different times.

Gaddi is a long-time resident of the City of Orange, California, where he lives with his wife, Elaine. They have one son, Jason, who is in his junior year at a local college.



making his way to the ballot box with the help of his family's physical support, said, "Now I can go to my grave knowing that Armenia will be free and independent."

When the Queen of England came to the United States, she was scheduled to visit a woman who runs a home for children. They told her all about the protocol that she would be expected to observe, how she should not touch the Queen in any way, or even speak unless spoken to. She seemed to understand. The press were there as the secret service police arrived, and then the Queen's car pulled up. She went up the woman's walkway and approached that large African American woman. To the horror of the

secret service police, who went into immediate panic, the woman reached out with both her arms and hugged the Queen of England.

When the media asked why she had done that, especially when she had been instructed not to even touch her, the woman replied, "She may be the Queen in England, but in this house, I am the queen." I thought to myself, "Yes, this is what we should do as Christians. When we come into the presence of God because of Jesus, we should also reach out with both arms, coming as His children, and embrace Him with all our might." The Queen Mother was once asked, "If you met Jesus Christ, what would you say or do?" She was quoted as saying, "I would lay the crown of England at His feet."

I recognize that I am where I am today because God has opened doors to me that only He could open, and has raised me to high positions. My responsibility is to reciprocate that blessing with commitment and the spreading of God's Word. I traveled to China as part of an American delegation.

On a Sunday morning, following a tour as guests of the

Gaddi with Margaret Thatcher



People's Republic, I walked into the lobby of the Hotel. There at the piano, someone was playing 'Amazing Grace'.

This was an out-of-the-way area of China, and I was very surprised to hear that song being played. Going over to the woman at the piano, I introduced myself and asked her what she was doing in China. We talked for a while and finally she whispered to me, "We run a school, but really we are missionaries." I was moved in my heart to know that there are men and woman, who give up the luxury of successful careers to risk everything as they take the Good News of Jesus Christ




Gaddi with Mrs. King

Greeting a child



to the uttermost parts of the world. This deeply challenged me in my own life. I have come to believe that each and every person can make a difference to our world.

Recently I was reading the Bible where it tells the story of Jesus on the cross. When the thief hanging next to Him called out, Jesus could have focused on His own agony, but He put that aside and reached out to the thief in mercy, forgiving him. Then Jesus focused on His mother. He was in untold pain, but still wanted to be sure that His mother was entrusted to one of His disciples. Through those scriptures, I have come into a whole new understanding of giving. I am going into the new millennium, convinced that what God has given us needs to be shared with the whole world – from the north to the south, and from the east to the west, so that people will come to understand God for who He is: a kind, merciful, and generous God, who has unlimited love for them. 



Behind Bars

Michael Conte: Organized crime controlled our family for four generations. The TV show “Miami Vice” was a page out of our history. We were also involved in witchcraft. I served these things with all I had for most of my life until I landed in prison, where I spent six years. I had no compassion, and no feelings or emotions – I was a hard man!

Then one night Jesus Christ appeared in my prison cell. He filled the whole room with love in a way that I’d never experienced before in my life. He showed me the things that He had planned for me. They were good things. After this phenomenal experience, I committed my life to Jesus Christ. From then on God literally changed me from the inside out.

At the Jackson Penitentiary in Georgia several of us began to have vision for a prayer ministry. It was there in 1987 that I had my first encounter with the FGBMFI. Jackson was a receiving unit. This means that everyone entering the penal system in Georgia had to come through the Jackson centre.

God arranged for the associate warden to be a Full Gospel Business Man and he invited other FGBMFI men to do prison outreach there. Every Friday night we would get around 200 inmates out to a meeting. We had prayer teams in every cell block. It was during this time that God spoke to me about turning prison cell blocks into prayer command centers – to raise up a prayer army behind the prison walls. Our goal is to see one million men who are behind prison walls become prayer warriors. I feel this is very important because, in the absence of prayer, we give the devil freedom to steal, kill, and destroy.

Tom Allanson: As I shared in detail in last month’s VOICE magazine, I grew up in the church, but never had a real relationship with Jesus Christ. After a series of bad relationships, the last one

brought me to a place where I landed in prison for 16 years. By 1980 I'd been incarcerated for 8 years. That year, on July 30, 1980, the first Inmate Chapter of the FGBMFI was started in Buford. It was there that I committed my life to Jesus Christ and was turned around 180°. I then decided I would begin working for God while I was in prison.

There are a lot of people behind prison walls who have simply made bad choices. Most of them are not in there for singing too loudly in church. They need to hear the truth about the changing power of Jesus Christ. After committing my life to the Lord one of my most difficult problems was forgiving myself. I carried my guilt for many years after I knew God had forgiven me. Then, at one of those FGBMFI meetings, a man asked me, "Why are you carrying so much guilt?" I responded, "I can't shake it off." The man asked, "If God



can forgive you, who are you to carry a grudge longer than God?" After that I chose to forgive myself, and then I really got into the active work of being an FGBMFI man in jail. We began setting up Bible studies in the different dormitories. I was the president of the Buford Prison Chapter for several years. Then I got transferred and started an FGBMFI work in the transfer center.

I had two life sentences. This meant that they did not have to ever let me out. Most people thought I would be in prison for 15-20 years, but no one really knew. At that time, if we were not paroled when our cases came up for review, the parole board was telling people in my situation, "Your file will be reviewed in nine years. Don't write us or have anyone contact us until that time is up." I was reviewed each year for the next eight years. Nobody could understand why this happened, not even the parole board.

Like any Christian inmate would have done when he was good friends with an influential Full Gospel Business Man, I asked him to pray that I would be released from jail. He surprised

me when he said, "No, but I will pray that God does a work in your life while you are here and uses you where you are, here in the prison system. When He feels the time is right, God will open the doors for you to be set free."

This made sense to me, and each year when they said, "Your case will be put off for one year," I learned to thank God for what He was still going to teach me. It was so much easier to take one year at a time, rather than being put off by eight or nine years as was usual. During the last nine years I could have walked off any day because of the type of jobs I was given in the prisons, but I didn't because I knew that God had made a change in my life and had a direction for me to go. Two days after I got out of prison I was in an FGBMFI Chapter. In 1993 I became the FGBMFI Field Rep in the State of Georgia and now I have become a National Director.

People ask why I would go back into the prisons after finally getting out. The reason is simple: I have seen the lost look in men's eyes and have seen the transition that Jesus Christ can make in their lives. My goal is to get at least 30 bundles of VOICE per month into the Jackson Center. I tell the inmates, "I know exactly what you are feeling because I have sat right where you are sitting. I know those lonely days at 'mail call'. I also know Someone who can change your whole life." Only God's Holy Spirit can take the hate out of those boys and men.

John Robinson: At an early age I was in and out of juvenile hall. My grandmothers were Christians and prayed for me. By November 3rd, 1985, I had spent 28 years on drugs and alcohol. I was homeless, and a friend allowed me to come and sleep on his floor. Nobody wanted me in their house except this friend. By then I'd come to a place where I wanted so badly to get off drugs and clean up my life.

Previously, I had been involved in the





music business, but I had lost it all. I went from a \$300,000 home in Beverly Hills to the streets, totally strung out on drugs. That evening I was sitting out behind a liquor store, passing a bottle with a group of bums, when something clicked inside and said, "That's enough!" From there I went to my friend to see if I could stay at his house. When I got there, I turned on the TV. It was Sunday night and all that was on was Christian programs. The first show was about World Vision and starving children. Realizing how much I'd wasted

was so depressing that I changed the channel.

The next channel was the end of a program with Richard Roberts. He pointed straight at me and said, "You, right there in that room, don't turn the channel. You have been running from God." He said everything about me except for my name. That night I gave my life to Jesus. I was set free – "born again". I was so excited that I began jumping and shouting and running through the apartment. God totally changed my life that night, and I have never gone back.

Andrew Kaminski: Owning the controlling interest in three banks, I was a millionaire. While I was setting up a charter for the fourth bank, I had a battle with the Security and Exchange Commission. There was a five-count Grand Jury indictment against my partner and myself. At the advice of my lawyer, I pled guilty to the action,

but not the intent, to a \$7.12 mail fraud charge and was sentenced to prison for 42 months.

During my second week in the Federal Prison, I was invited to a Bible study. Afterwards, one man asked, "Do you know Jesus?" Astonished by the question, I said, "Do I know Jesus? I have been going to church all my life. I was an elder. I even raised \$240,000 for a new wing for our building. How can you ask me if I know Jesus?" The man was very calm and continued, "Andrew, if you died tonight, do you know for sure that you would be in heaven with Jesus?"

A few days prior to this, there had been a killing, and another man, who had been 'shanked', had almost died. I started thinking, "My goodness. What if I am next?" I answered the man, "Mister, how could I be sure?" He graciously opened his Bible to Romans 10, verses 9-10, and read, "... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved..." Being a businessman, I thought for a moment and responded, "It sounds like a good deal to me."

There in that Federal Prison, the decision I made to believe in

the Lord Jesus has stuck with me ever since, and I have been a "born-again Christian" for 22 years. From there I was transferred to a prison just outside Santa Barbara, California, and was invited to an FGBMFI meeting. The Santa Maria Chapter faithfully came in every Monday evening at 8 p.m., and I was there. At my first meeting, I did not know what to expect, and was scared. At one point I tried to go back to my barracks (it was a prison camp), but the big guard at the door said, "Nobody leaves until 10 p.m."

A few days prior to this, there had been a killing, and another man, who had been 'shanked'

2nd Annual Andrew Kaminski Golf Tournament. Andrew third from left.



The next morning I was walking around the track and said, "God, I am in a check-mate situation here. I don't know whether this FGBMFI is a good thing or not. If You will give me a sign before next Monday that it is a good thing, I will go back. Otherwise, I won't." The next two mornings I repeated the same prayer. I don't know what I was expecting or why I thought I would find it on that track, but on Thursday morning I was walking the track again. Two guys were sitting on the bleachers, smoking. I reminded God again that I needed a sign.

The next thing I knew I was about a foot off the ground. That was enough for me, and I said, "Okay, God, I get the message; I will go. Please put me down." It was so real to me! Still about a foot off the ground, I repeated, "God, I promise I will go to the next FGBMFI meeting. Please put me down." He put me down and I went to the next meeting. I started to get involved with the FGBMFI, received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and began to get really excited


about the things of God. I have been going strong ever since.

A few years ago Richard Shakarian asked me to be the Director of Prison Ministry for the FGBMFI World Wide. I had no idea what this would mean, but I keep trusting God, asking Him for direction, going step by step. We have seen some wonderful results on a very regular basis.

The VOICE magazine was an important part of my life in prison and is still an integral part of my outreach to prisons. The men read the testimonies and commit their lives to Jesus. We get letters from many of these prisoners, and I am able to connect them with FGBMFI men in their areas to "disciple" them for Jesus. In closing, I

would like to encourage you, if you can possibly afford it, to buy a bundle of VOICE magazines or encourage others to do so, to get those VOICE magazines to the city jails and prisons.

Jimmy Rogers: A couple of weeks ago a chaplain came to me and said, "I need 1,000 VOICE magazines a month." We are getting sponsors to meet this impor-

tant need. A man showed up at one of our lunch meetings. I asked him to introduce himself and tell his story. He began, "I was in prison for murder, and things were not going well for me. They put me in the 'hole'. After some time I was bored and asked for something to read. Someone finally passed me a VOICE magazine. I read it again and again." He opened his Bible and pulled out that ragged VOICE magazine. "Here it is." He continued, "It was through those testimonies that God changed my life." 

VOICE
magazine was
all I had to
read and it
changed my
life.



Arise and WALK

In romantic Paris, I spent my evenings in the city centre. As a rough, tough bloke working days in a junk yard, I felt the nights were to be enjoyed. What brought me to the Paris night life from my homeland of Wales? One time while on vacation in the south of France, I became friends with a man who was a policeman in Paris. He invited me to visit him there. He took me to see some guys who were getting ready for the Paris/Dakar rally. They were facing a deadline and I ended up in the garage helping them.

When they left for the rally, the garage was closed and at first I did not know what to do next. Then I started working with a junk yard. This turned out great because the junk business is basically a "cash business". Nobody paid with checks. Junk cars are useless to most people, but there is real money to be made out of their parts

– from things like the lights, windshields, motors, transmissions, and tires. Soon I had more money than I knew what to do with. I found myself drinking heavily and getting involved with drugs.

After about six years of this kind of living, I met Philip and Mary. I heard them singing at a café and invited them to my home. They shared with me how Jesus had changed their lives and told me that He could do the same for me. Before leaving, they gave me their address. The following Sunday



*John's miniature
railroad*

morning I woke up quite disturbed. I was not happy with the way my life was going. I was an alcoholic, a drug abuser and was living an immoral life. I decided to go and talk to Philip and Mary. They took me to church with them that morning. There I became aware that all the money in the world would not make me feel fulfilled. That morning I committed my life to Jesus Christ. For me, it was like a new birth – being given a fresh start.

Nobody there tried to manipulate me or hand me a list of do's and don'ts. If they had, I would have left immediately. Over the next

months God took away my desire for alcohol. To my amazement, there were no withdrawal symptoms. I prayed that God would take the drugs away as well. He took that away and then also healed me.

One beautiful evening some time later, while fishing for salmon in Wales, I sat down to smoke a cigar. When I blew the smoke away from my face, it made a big smoke screen. God spoke to me that night, "John, I can see you. I can lead you. However, one thing is between us stopping me from drawing you closer." I enjoyed smoking and did not really want to stop, but I prayed, "...if it is Your will, please deal with it." With time He took the desire away, and the years since then have been excellent. God has moved so much in my life. He is the most important thing in my life. He has also given me a beautiful wife and a wonderful family.





The Smith family

Although life is not always easy, it sure goes better with God's help.

On June 10th in 1993, I was paralyzed from the chest down and was confined to a wheelchair. I couldn't do anything for myself. People prayed for me, believing in faith that God was going to do a miracle. Only Jesus could have brought me through. One Sunday morning at church a woman said she had a word from God that the people should pray for me. Everyone came up to me and began praying. All I can say is that there was a release, and I just stood up. To take my first steps after such a long time was just unbelievable. That was in January 1996. It was absolutely marvelous! No words can express how I felt. It is terrible when you can not play with your children. That morning was the best morning of my life!

Though I do still suffer with lower back pain, especially when walking any distance, even that is slowly improving. As I focus my attention on

God, the pain decreases.

My hobby is model steam locomotives. We have a miniature railway in the yard, and try to go to as many steam shows as possible. It's such a blessing to be able to sit down on the grass and play with the children. I tell them that Jesus is on their side. The shows give me an opening to share about Jesus. I take copies of Voice Magazine everywhere I go. It's great to have such a range of great stories in those magazines. The Voice Magazine has something for everybody. After prayer, I find that the Holy Spirit shows me just the right copy to give to each person.



Shop Online!

The image shows a computer monitor displaying the FGBMFI online bookstore website. The website features a navigation menu with options like 'Home', 'Software', and 'Membership'. The main content area displays various products, including books, videos, and software, with a world map in the background. The text 'FGBMFI' is repeated across the top of the website. A mouse is positioned in the foreground, with its cord extending towards the monitor. Stacks of books are visible on the left side of the monitor, including titles like 'Developing the Leaders Around You', 'Benny Hinn Welcome Holy Spirit', 'Kingdom Power', 'Acts', 'The Biblical Road to Blessing', and 'The Road to Blessing'. The overall scene is set against a light blue background.

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The Joy OF the Holy Spirit

By Richard Shakarian

Today Japan is a powerhouse economy, built on exports. The ingenuity of the Japanese people is unparalleled. They have masterminded their financial, manufacturing and electronic rise even though they have almost no raw materials. Japan has no oil, no steel, and lacks many of the essential materials upon which a modern economy is built. All of these materials must be imported. At the same time this great historic nation is undergoing one of its biggest changes – in the opening up of the minds and hearts of its people. From 1192 AD until 1868 the Japanese people virtually lived as surfs, dom-

inated by the warlords and shoguns of the land. Since the rise of modern Japan and its evolution into today's strong economy, the Holy Spirit has moved upon the people. The FGBMFI is established in its cities, and there is the beginning of a spiritual awakening.

As we walked along the streets of Tokyo, the Holy Spirit revealed that among these 125 million people who



are shoved into a space smaller than California, there is a new openness of spirit and, surprisingly, it is with the young people. As our delegates to the Japanese National Convention witnessed to people, whether on the street or elsewhere, it almost always ended in the person receiving Jesus Christ as their Savior.

This new generation is complete with the latest fads, with every young person seemingly carrying a cell phone and, being interested in all the latest technology. This is the generation that the Holy Spirit will

fall upon. They are open to the Holy Spirit. We of the FGBMFI are believing God will use us to reach Japan.

The 10th Annual Japanese Convention, led by Ken Tsukamoto, the National President, and Tadashi Nakagawa, the Japanese National Secretary, was a tremendous success. There were about 600 people present. During this Convention in Tokyo many received Christ and are now filled with the Holy Spirit. There were tremendous healings also. The ministry team included Dave Duell from the USA, Dr. Steve Rider from Australia, and Richard Shakarian. In service after service many were touched by the power of the God's Spirit. The Christian newspapers reported our Convention. Now there is a new wave of cooperation between the Fellowship and the churches in Japan to the extent that

many of the great crusade and outreach efforts are being helped or coordinated by the FGBMFI and National President, Ken Tsukamoto.

The last day of the Convention ended with a great banquet. About the time the service would have normally been dismissed, the power of the Holy Spirit fell upon the people and there was joy all over the place. People were laughing. Some couldn't get off the floor. These were very dignified Japanese people with the glory upon them. Joy – Joy – Joy! It was just a time of tremendous joy.

All the members of the National Board are in their 40's and full of the power of the Holy Spirit. There's a tremendous combination in today's Japan. Everywhere you look Japan is a paradox – great wealth contrasted by great spiritual poverty. There is tremendous advertising and labeling – about three times as much in the way of signs and colors than we would find in America. Yet at the same time, their personal lives are so narrow and focused. Also, there are



electronics that we will not have in America for another year, which are commonly sold on the streets in Japan. Yet those who value communication so much are terribly lacking in communication with the Spirit of God. Japan is ready. You can sense it as you ride the train. You can sense it as you walk down the streets. The Holy Spirit is saying, "Japan is ready." It's ready for a move of the of God, beginning with the youth. Their music and their culture will be swept by the



Holy Spirit through on-fire young people of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

God is certainly shaking Japan, as we've seen through the earthquakes and typhoons, which hit Okinawa while we were there, but missed the main part of Japan. Being on the Pacific Rim of Fire, earthquakes are common. Recently



Top: Businessmen in Japan

Left: The Japanese National Board 1999.

Right: Dave Duell

Bottom: Dr. Steve Ryder



there was the uranium accident. You can hear the cry of the people even in the streets, including blaring loud speakers of those ultra extremists who are responsible for the death of so many. Yes, Japan is up for grabs. Competing forces are fighting to be heard in this atmosphere. The fresh testimonies, one after another, of those who have received Jesus Christ show that there are no cultural, economic, social or language barriers to the tremendous power of God. 



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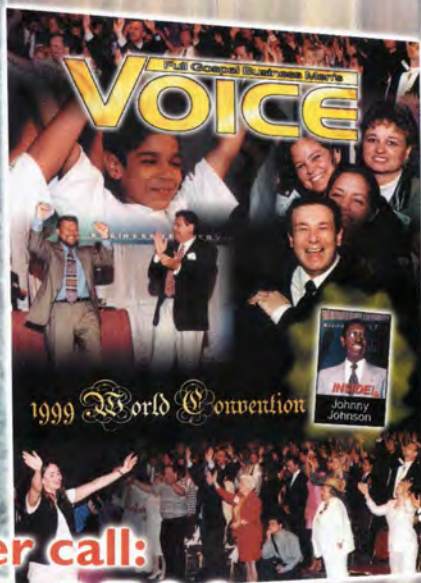
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GIVING THANKS AT YEAR-END

For many of us, the end of the year is the time during which we express our thanks for the blessings which we have received as we look ahead and plan the future. It is also a time during which we share with others and remember the good works of the organization we hold close to our hearts. As 1999 draws to a close, we trust this information will assist you in making your charitable gift plans.

REDUCE TAXES BY GIVING

Year-end charitable gifts can result in tax savings to you next spring. Your tax rate governs how much you save. The higher the tax rate, the more the tax savings. If you give \$1,000, and are in the 31% tax bracket, your savings are \$310. The higher the tax bracket, the more you save in this way. If your state levies a tax on income, there are even greater savings. In order to realize tax savings for 1999, your gift must be properly completed by midnight on December 31st, and itemized as deductions on your tax return.

SAVE EVEN MORE BY GIVING ASSETS

Giving appreciated assets, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds that you have owned longer than one year allows you to bypass the capital gains tax that would be due if you sold the assets. This may further reduce the after-tax cost of your gift by as much as one-third. Limits on deductions may sometimes apply. You may use gifts of cash to eliminate tax on up to 50% of your income. For gifts of most appreciated property, you may deduct up to 30% of your income. Any excess may be used to reduce your taxes for up to five future years. To learn more about the opportunities to save more by gifting stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other appreciated property, such as real estate, please contact us or your financial advisors for additional information.

"Grouping" deductible expenses affords savings....

The timing of making charitable gifts is something that we each control. If you do not have enough deductions to exceed the standard deduction, you may concentrate, or "group," your deductions in alternate years, thereby increasing your tax savings.

Consider making larger charitable gifts in the years when they will give you the greatest advantage.

It's easy to see, whether you decide to give cash, securities, or other types of property, a little time planning maximizes the benefits you receive.

PLAN NOW TO GIVE LATER

For many of us, the year-end is a time for reviewing our overall estate and financial planning. Remember that these plans, by simply including a charitable provision, may give you significant additional benefits. There are many meaningful ways and vehicles through which you may make charitable gifts. For example, you may wish to include your charitable interests for a specific amount, a percentage, or "what's left" after providing for heirs.

Life insurance policies and retirement plans are not only convenient, but they offer wonderful opportunities and benefits for charitable giving as well. (Plans also exist that can help in supplementing retirement income and achieving other goals.)

GIVING REMINDERS FOR 1999

Gifts made by December 31st are deductible in 1999 and can reduce taxes.

Gifts of long-term appreciated property instead of cash can often give you even greater tax savings.

Make plans to fulfill your charitable goals as 1999 draws to a close.

Please contact Ron Weinbender, Director of Planned Giving at (949) 260-0700.

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-  **Airlifts:** Bob Bignold, WA (425) 226-3522
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-  **Chapters:** Jim Priddy, MD (301) 863-5842
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-  **Chapter Training:** Roy Brian, TX (972) 418-2066
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-  **Voice Ministries:** Jimmy Rogers, GA (770) 621-3044
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-  **Youth Chapters:** Enrique Morales, HN (949) 260-0700

Fellowship Events

BAHAMAS CARRIBEAN CONV.

October 20-24, 1999

Paradise Island, Nassau

Contact: John Ellis 364-5151

MANITOBA MEN'S ADVANCE

October 22-24, 1999

Portage La Prairie, Manitoba

Contact: Peter Unrau
(204) 857-7031

EL SALVADOR NATIONAL CONVENTION

October 28-30, 1999

Presidente-Marriot Hotel

Contact: FGBMFI National Office
Tel. (503) 226-3050 or
Fax. (503) 225-1747

MEN'S CAMP

**LAKESIDE WINDERMERE,
NORTHWEST REGION, UK.**

October 29-31, 1999

Contact: +44-1565-632-667

FLORIDA MEN'S ADVANCE

October 29-31, 1999

Contact: Joe Shaia
Home: (407)682-3216 or
Work: (407)481-1035

QUEBEC MEN'S ADVANCE

October 29-31, 1999

Contact: Claude Delmaire
Tel: (514)376-4802

QUATEMALA NATIONAL CONVENTION

Nov. 3-6, 1999

Contact: Roberto Recinos
Tel: (502)471-0280
Fax: (502)471-6260 fax

SASKATCHEWAN MEN'S ADVANCE

Nov. 5-7, 1999

Yorkton, Saskatchewan

Contact: Frank Leier
Tel (306)245-3450
Fax (306)245-3481

CANADIAN NATIONAL CONV.

Nov. 11-13, 1999

Richmond, BC

Contact: Ken Scarrow
Tel: (604) 530-1831
Fax: (604) 530-0443

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEN'S ADVANCE

Nov. 12-14, 1999

Contact: Mike Galleher
(909) 845-2118

BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND Nov. 19-23

Contact Michael Peters
Tel: 011449736570
Fax: 011449737539
email: Michael@peters.keme.co.uk

SEATTLE REGIONAL CONV.

Nov. 25-27

Sea Tac Marriott Hotel

Contact: Bob Bognold
(425) 226-3522
(253) 631-8891

WESSEX CONVENTION, PORTLAND HEIGHTS ENGLAND

Nov. 26-28, 1999

Contact Roger McColm
Tel/Fax: 01144 1305 826 864

ANNUAL AREA WIDE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

December 11, 1999

**Radisson Hotel - 6:00 PM
Atlanta, GA**

Contact: Jimmy Rogers
770-621-3044 (office)
770-476-4088 (home) or
Email jmrwains@mindspring.com

GEORGIA MEN'S ADVANCE

January 21-23, 2000 &

January 28-30, 2000

Eatonton, GA

Contact: Jimmy Rogers
770-621-3044 (office)
770-476-4088 (home) or
Email jmrwains@mindspring.com

Send all your events info.
to the International H.Q.

6 Steps To Salvation

Men still cry, "What must I do to be saved?" The Bible provides a clear answer.

1

Acknowledge

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
"God, be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13)

2

Repent

"Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)
"Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19)

3

Confess

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." (Romans 10:9)

4

Forsake

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord...for He will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:7)

5

Believe

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)
"He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)

6

Receive

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to those that believe on His name." (John 1:11, 12)

Why not make your eternal decision now?

"Lord Jesus, I believe You died for my sins and I ask for Your forgiveness. I receive You now as my personal Savior and invite You to manage my life from this day forward. Amen."

Write us to tell of your decision. We'll send you a booklet, "Now That You've Received Christ."

Yes! I have made my eternal decision. I have read the Six Steps to Salvation and have asked Jesus to be my personal Savior.

Please send me the booklet "Now That You've Received Christ."

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Hear great testimonies from ordinary people who believe in an extraordinary God! It's a wonderful time to fellowship and network with other people, and a place to use and develop your gifts and talents. Our FGBMFI chapters are designed to help you become successful in every area of your life.

You will be enriched spiritually to become the champion God desires you to be. This is the time to participate in one of our many chapters that are meeting around the world. **You will be blessed.**



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