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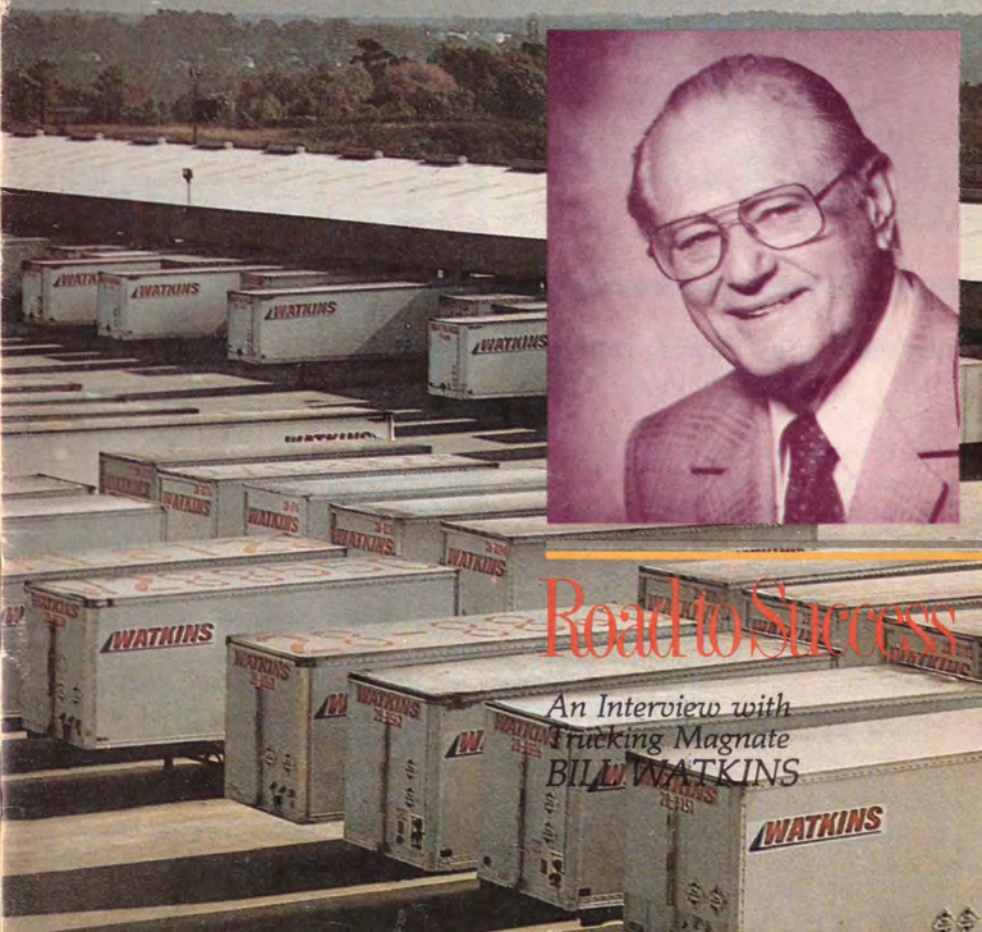
Full Gospel Business Men's

# VOICE



## Road to Success

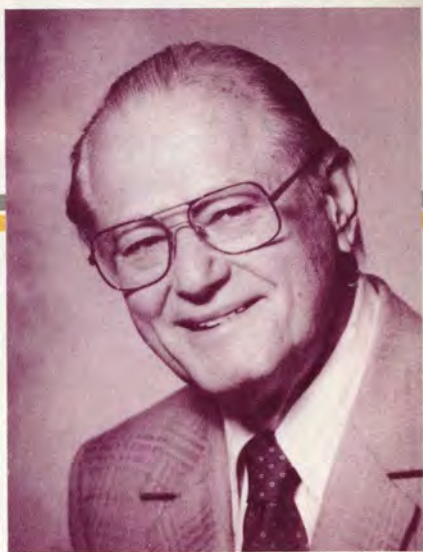
An Interview with  
Trucking Magnate  
**BILL WATKINS**





Interview with Trucking Magnate  
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# Road to Success



*Hard work, high motivation, and a sound Christian background took Bill Watkins to the top of his chosen profession, as the owner of one of the most successful trucking operations in the United States. But, it wasn't until he had a vision while driving eighty miles an hour that he began to experience and receive the real blessings that would change the rest of his life.*



**Q** *What are your major businesses right now?*

**A** My major business has always been trucking.

**Q** *What caused you to be success motivated?*

**A** My daddy was an aggressive farmer and we came right through the depres-

Georgia. It wasn't long before I decided to give up farming and just go to trucking. I was about 19 years old, had about six trucks and was terribly in debt.

**Q** *What changed that?*

**A** The war came along, and I quit hauling commercial stuff. I hauled for the military. I opened up a base at the Atlan-

sion. In fact, I didn't even know there was such a thing as a depression.

I was always highly motivated. When I got out of high school, I was already raising 2,000 to 3,000 chickens a week as a future farmer of America. I could do and buy what I wanted. Shortly after high school, I became more interested in trucking. I would accumulate a truckload of chickens and truck them to Jacksonville, but I would make more money, actual profit, hauling products for the feed stores and hardware stores from Jacksonville back to Thomasville,

ta Army Depot and at the Norfolk Naval Operation Base (NOB). We used money furnished by the government and rented the trailers, drivers and tractors from owner/operators. I would pay them by the mile or by a percentage of the revenue.

I was in a pretty good financial state in a small way.

**Q** *What was your spiritual life at that point?*

**A** I was raised in the Methodist church. My mother saw that I went to

Methodist Youth Foundation (MYF) meetings every Sunday night. If I didn't go to MYF, I lost all my privileges. I went to church every Sunday morning and to prayer meetings every Wednesday night. I did everything I was supposed to do. I was raised real strict. In fact, until I got married, I never had any extra-marital sexual relations. It didn't even cross my mind. I was just raised in that kind of an atmosphere.

**Q** *After the war, were the civilian trucking systems still in place?*

**A** Many of them were moth balled, others merged and a lot of them went bad financially.

**Q** *What did you use for capitol?*

**A** Well, I'd buy a lot of existing trucking companies on my own credit. But, that didn't turn out to be profitable for me. It was such a slow recovery that as I bought these things, I found out I needed to get rid of them. What saved my neck was mechanical refrigeration, that maintained constant temperatures and was highly dependable.

**Q** *How did you get rid of the trucks you used during the war?*

**A** I would swap them, trading with dealers, or with Great Dane Trailer Company, Fruhauf Trailer Company and Trail Mobile. Swapping trailers, was not a

*Bill Watkins and his wife Joyce have five grown children, ranging in ages from 26 to 52. They also have seven grandchildren. Bill Watkins is an elder and a member of the Mt. Paran Church of God in Atlanta, GA and a member of the First Assembly of God church in Lakeland, FL. He is also a life member of FGBMFI in Atlanta, GA. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of Christian Retreat in Bradenton, FL for fifteen years, as well as a member of the executive committee of Real Life Ministries, Inc. He is a native of Thomasville, GA and was recently given the Trailblazer Award by the Thomasville Chamber of Commerce. Bill and his wife Joyce split their time between their home in Atlanta, GA and their home in Lakeland, FL.*

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problem. In those days, there were so many boys back wanting jobs, so instead of having to raise capital to buy the power to pull, we would own the trailer, and the driver would own or lease the tractor.

We operated about 100 trucks in this matter for several years, from 1947 until about 1950, which was about the first year we got into the refrigerated business. I remember in 1950, when we crossed the 100 truck mark, from then on we kept going steadily.

*Q Did the large interstate highways, which came in in the 1950's, help your business?*

*A* Yes, long haul, which we were predominately in, and intercity costs dropped.

*Q Was your business taking business away from the trains?*

*A* No, we created a new business. Some was taken away from trains, but mostly, it was a commerce that hadn't existed prior to the interstate....

*Q Was it because of the technology of refrigeration?*

*A* That, and the diesel engine and the four-lane highways. All that came along in the late 50s and early 60s. By the early 60s, I was operating constantly between the southeast and California.

*Q Are the cities you serve, primarily from the south to the west?*

*A* Our network is sort of comprehensive. Our pre-deregulation days were between the southeast—the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida—those four states on one hand, and on the other, the state

of California. After deregulation, we opened up in Dallas and Houston, Texas. The state of Texas has been a good state for us. We have about eight terminals in Texas, Tulsa and Oklahoma City. We used to haul from those cities west to California and east to the eastern seaboard. We used to haul transcontinental only between the seaboard and California. Then, eventually we started opening up additional points. Next, we began operating out of Memphis all the way to California.

*Q What do you see as the future of the trucking business?*

*A* I see three separate phases, or segments. The first is the regular route package freight business. The second is factory freight hauling, which is part of this extension—assembly lines and manufacturing plants. The third is chemical tank lines.

*Q You mentioned that there was a situation that happened in your life that brought you to a full realization of the Lord. Maybe you could share that with us.*

*A* I was raised in the Methodist church and believed in prayer. My grandmother lived with us from the time I was about eight years of age until fifteen years of age. My grandmother had been a Methodist minister's wife. My father also loved the Lord, but not in a pentecostal way. When you opened the doors of the church, he was there. I was raised in that kind of an atmosphere.

At any rate, I was about 54 years old when I had this great experience with the Lord. Back in the 60s, I liked Bob

Schuller, and used to attend his church before it was called Crystal Cathedral.

**Q** *Did you ever go to Schuller's drive-in theater?*

**A** Yes, I've driven up in the car and hung the speaker inside my car. I was operating in California back that far. The Minute Maid Corporation was one of my major refrigerated trucking customers. So I hauled to California for them—between their plants in Florida and their plants in Southern California. At that time, Anaheim, California was just a village.

**Q** *What were you like before this time?*

**A** Well, I was like most ethical businessmen. I wasn't very spiritual, but I loved the church, and I really had a love for the Lord, but not an attachment. I was a steward in the Methodist church for at least 30 years. I moved from South Georgia to Atlanta in 1965. I started attending the Peach Tree Road Methodist Church in Atlanta, and shortly after, I joined the board. I was a regular attendee. But, I could sit there in church and listen to what was being preached and decide how I could apply that to a good maintenance program, or go to sleep, either one.

I also knew Norman Vincent Peale from back in the 50's. I liked him. I liked his positive books. They really had tremendous business application, as well as spiritual application. I was a member of the Atlanta Rotary Club, and I invited him to come and speak there in the mid sixties. It was at noon, and that evening I had a bunch of my executives from the

whole system fly into Atlanta, and we had a reception for Dr. Peale.

About 1969, Dr. Peale came out with a book titled *The Power of Prayer*. I got carried away, and believed every word that I read. In the book, he says that you need to set aside a specific time every day to pray. You just can't do it when you have time. You have to make time. He says that if you can't do it every day, you ought to set a good sizeable time aside at least once a week. It was easier for me to set aside a half a day, once a week. Let me tell you, if you pray half a day, things happen.

I had a little house down in Lakeland, Florida, because my truck line was headquartered there at that time. So, I would go down there once a week. It was out in the country, on a lake, couldn't hear any noises. It was absolutely tremendous for prayer; an orange grove, a beautiful lake out in front, a tremendous setup for getting close to the Lord. I had a house trailer off in the woods from the house, that my caretaker lived in. My wife didn't like to go down there, so I would always go by myself and stay all night, on Tuesday. Wednesday morning was my prayer time.

I started this process right after that book came out. It had about seven ways of praying. One said, the way to get close to the Lord is by praise. The Lord is just like a human parent. Just imagine a little girl who puts her arms around the knees of her mama, looks up in her face and says, I love you mama. That little girl doesn't ever have to ask her mama for anything. Anyhow, I kept on from September '79 through December, praying every Wednesday.



**Q** *Then you had a praying partner. After you got to praying, this caretaker came in and prayed with you as I understand it?*

**A** That's right. He was really a Pentecostal, he loved the Lord. I didn't know anything about Pentecostals. His name is Leo Parrish. He was my caretaker for several years. He used to really get carried away. Anyhow, I found out about this praying and what it would do

praising. Then I stopped singing and kept praising the Lord for letting me live at this point in time. I said Lord, I don't know how You managed putting me at this place in time, letting me live now while the quality of life is so great where I can drive by car from Atlanta to Greenville in just a few hours, or I can get on a plane and fly to California in 4 or 5 hours, or I can get on the phone and call all over the world.



*I was always highly motivated. When I got out of high school I was already raising 2,000 to 3,000 chickens a week...*

for me. I got so carried away with it, I forgot about all my troubles.

On December 4th, I was driving down the road. It was about 25 degrees, and I was going about 80 miles an hour. I was driving on I-85 from Atlanta to Greenville, South Carolina. I was singing and

I was praising the Lord for electricity. I was praising Him for the airplanes. I was praising Him for the wonderful revelations of everything that made life so good at 80 miles an hour. And I became drunk in the Spirit. I stopped and slipped over to the right-hand side of the seat and



opened the side door. I looked at my watch. It was five minutes after seven in the morning, and I was near the South Carolina line, and that's the last thing I remember. While I was out, it was as though I had drank a fifth of whiskey. My body was functioning all right, but I was still high. When I came to, I drove on to Greenville.

**Q** *What was going through your mind at that time?*

**A** I had a revelation that everything is from the Lord, and that's what changed my life.

**Q** *Was that when you were slain in the Spirit?*

**A** Yes. Arriving in Greenville, I was so elated and shocked that normally the meeting takes 4 to 7 hours, but we finished in about 3. I was so mentally and physically exhausted because of the experience, I had to go to a motel and rest. I even forgot about losing all the money in this side business I was in. I had a deal

with the bank, we were losing about \$85,000 a month, and the bank said that as long as you replace that \$85,000 a month to the surplus account, Herman Sausage Company, we won't foreclose your loan. So that went on for about a year. And for me at that time, that sort of loss was worse than it would be now. So, after this experience, about 2 or 3 weeks later, I said Lord all this is wonderful, but what are we going to do about that business that's losing money. And just as plain as any verbal language I've heard, He said close it up. And I said, Lord, what are we going to do about that money to pay off the debt? I have to pay off the bank unless we keep running. And He still said to close it up. He said, I will provide. So I closed it up. It cost about another million dollars to close it, get out, liquidate it, and sell all the inventory. This entire situation played a very significant part in my spiritual life. Ironically, we got the company closed up and still made money. I don't mean on that company, but overall. Where in contrast, the year



before it was eating up all we made.

**Q** *That's when you really started tithing?*

**A** That was my first year of tithing. I didn't hesitate. So the Lord just kept on blessing me and every year since then has been better, and better, and better. But you listen to the important thing about that. Along with tithing, the Lord became more important in my life. When you systematically take on a partner, He is part of your business. I was just having a lot of fun being partners with the Lord, and I hadn't really changed my church life, but I couldn't find anyone who could tell me what had happened to me on the road to Greenville.

**Q** *How did you find out?*

**A** A friend of mine, who was my lawyer, directed me to a church in Atlanta called the Mount Paran Church of God, which is Pentecostal. He said, "You go out there, you're going to find what you're looking for." So, I went out there, and I found just exactly what I was looking for. I just kept going and later I joined. I kept getting closer to the Lord and cleaning up my life along the way.

I was still messing up my life, however, with cocktail parties and all that kind of stuff, but in my heart I didn't want to get involved in it. It wasn't all of a sudden that I gave up going to cocktail parties. I didn't like living by myself. So, I started looking for a wife that I could have a good close relationship with and who had a good relationship with the Lord. I kept thinking that I needed a good wife to help me get closer to the Lord.

During this time, I became real good

friends with Gerald Derstine and started going to Hagin's camp meetings every year. I desired more and more of the Lord, but I couldn't find a wife. Then, I met this girl at Christian Retreat that I liked, nothing was wrong with her except I didn't want her for a wife. I invited her to go on a boat trip. I said we can't go by ourselves, you invite two or three other girls to go and I'll have my room and you all can take the other two rooms. She put the girls together and I stopped by in my plane down in Sarasota to pick the girls up. They were all sitting out there on a bench just outside. When I walked off the steps of the airplane, I saw these four girls sitting over there, and again, just as plain as the other voices I have heard from the Lord, the Holy Spirit said there is your wife, the one right on the end. It wasn't my friend. I had never seen this woman. We went on the trip and after we got back it was kind of hard to find her. But about a month later, she wrote me a letter thanking me for the trip, so I finally had her address. I contacted her and later we were married.

**Q** *Bill, how has your life changed since that revelation?*

**A** I keep trying to get closer to the Lord all the time. And, I am getting closer. I keep having the desire for a closer relationship with the Lord. Kenneth Copeland was having an East Coast seminar in April 1982, I was recovering from a bypass operation to my brain. I had vascular surgery, a corroded artery, so I was very sick, but I wanted to go hear John Osteen preach, because I had gotten to love John, and he was preaching that night, so I went.

During the meeting, I said, "Lord we've had a great relationship for 12 years. Many times you have blessed my business, and I want to renew our covenant." And He spoke to me real plain again, and He said "tithing is not the only part of you I want." He said, "I want all of you, and that includes your money." That didn't disturb me too much, because I really wanted to tithe a lot again. It was sure a nice comfortable relationship, feeling like the Lord and I were in business together. So, when He said that I want all of you, I'd been trying to find out how I can give all of it. In the last three weeks, I've had three, maybe four real good spiritual insights. The Lord showed me, I can't do it on my own. I've got to have faith enough in Him to turn my life over to Him completely. I just couldn't get a feeling that I was totally surrendered to the Lord. I love to pray and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in me, yet sometimes I can't do it. Sometimes I finish praying, and I don't feel like I've prayed. Then again, when you do it's a great feeling.

Three weeks ago, our church had a Wednesday night service called "Prayer and Praise." Our pastor brought Lynwood Maddox, a FGBMFI leader from Atlanta, in to speak. A lady was there who had a daughter who had been born defective, and her faith has kept that little girl alive for five years. She's still not well by a long shot, but I've never seen so much faith. Anyway, after she testified, Lynwood had a word of knowledge based on the Book of Joshua, where the Jews were told they would cross the Jordan in three days. Lynwood prophesied that many in the congregation were

waiting for more from the Lord, and she said that in three days they would have it. I said to myself, in three days it will be Saturday. My yearning was very strong for the Lord. And I wanted Him with me, so I claimed it, that that would happen to me by Saturday. Then that Friday night, Pat Robertson had a banquet in Atlanta, that I went to, and then I heard him speak at church, and I saw what faith had done for him. Then on Saturday morning, I had a great feeling that I had really reached that plateau of a close personal relationship. My wife has it. She has a wonderful relationship with the Lord.

**Q** *So now you're partners with the Lord.*

**A** Let me tell you what else. Former Governor Carroll was preaching, and I was almost slain in the Spirit sitting there listening to him. I haven't really been against abortion until now. The issue of abortion has not been a real spiritual matter with me. So that morning, I got straightened out on that. I went over, and met this fellow, and he prayed for me, and I had the greatest time you ever saw.

**Q** *Was that during the FGBMFI Orlando Convention?*

**A** Yes, this is about the third time that this has happened to me. I believe we are really going to have insight on things that we have never had before this conviction is over. Business has meant too much in my life, more than the spiritual, and I want to change that. One of the things that the Lord has said to me is that he doesn't want any more tithing on credit. He also told me to give my boat away.



**Q** *Was it taking too much of your time?*

**A** I've been getting too attached to the thing. It was taking me out of where I could have been of service to the Lord. Praise and worship is what draws you close to the Lord. Then the Lord told me that I had to turn that radio station into a Christian station. So, I got that done. He told me all three of these things within 20 minutes on Sunday morning while I was sitting in church, before the start of service. Another message said I had to get involved in Paul Walker's ministry. All three of them came to me one morning. I got all three of those things tended to. I took the money, I got out of the boat, and turned it into television equipment. We really have a tremendous setup.

**Q** *Tell us about the Christian radio station.*

**A** My first burden was radio. That happened early. I built a small station and gave it to Church of God, and then I bought a 100,000 watt commercial band station and converted it into a Christian station.

**Q** *God is your partner. What difference does that make?*

**A** It gives me a support feeling that I'm not in business by myself. Notwithstanding, I have already reorganized my company where 75 percent of the company belongs to my heirs now instead of the government taking it all. Then the other 25 percent goes to a Christian foundation.

**Q** *What do you feel are those success principles that are available to*

*us that perhaps you've learned that others haven't learned?*

**A** I'm not the most successful man in the world. But somehow my relationship with the Lord has led to an overall success in business. I've closed up several businesses. I just closed up a sizeable construction business two years ago, but I have never had to put one in bankruptcy and I have never had to just walk off and forget them.

**Q** *So you've been able to release businesses where before you weren't able to?*

**A** The first one was that sausage company that the Lord told me to close up. I can't tell you what happened to the other businesses, or why I was so successful in that one year, 1970. Our income overcame the cost of closing that one up. It also happened the same way two years ago. We closed up a business that cost over 5 million to close. But it really didn't effect that year's income. There was no way not to close that business up but the Lord provided the way to do it.

**Q** *Do you have any specific spiritual plans for the future?*

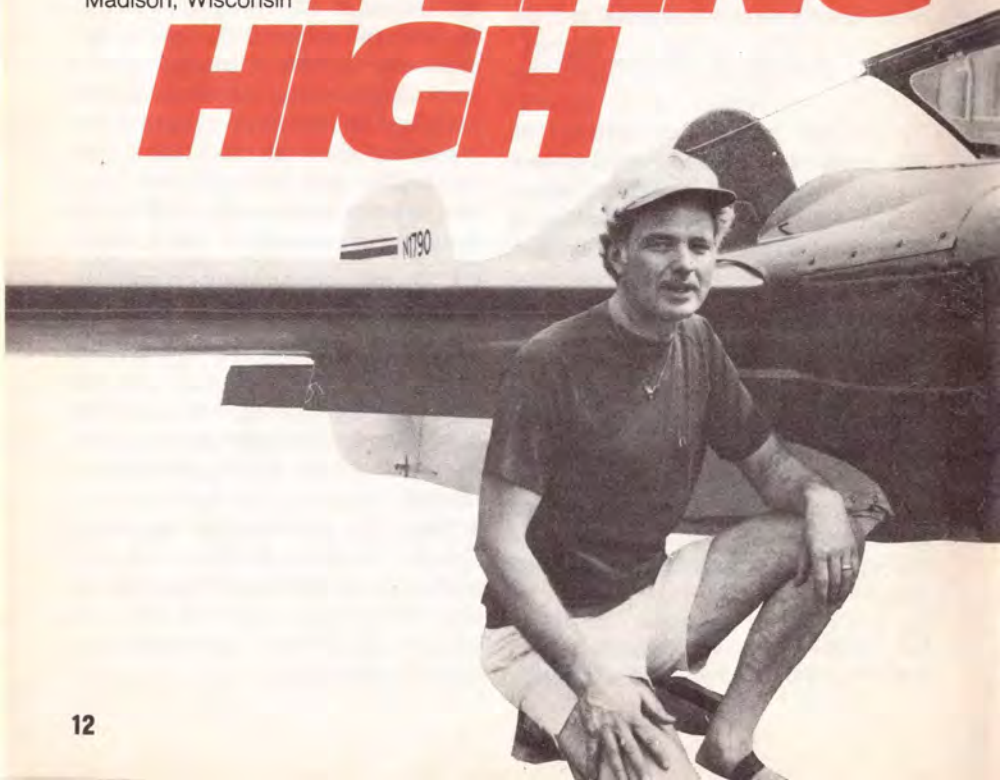
**A** I'm 73 years old, and I want to live as spiritually complete as I can, and close to the Lord where there is no difference between being alive or dead...that I just move on to eternity without any change in my spirit. That's pretty hard to achieve. As I mentioned to you earlier, I've been wanting it since the Lord said I want all of you and not just the tithe. I've been trying not to hold back, I've been trying to go forward. I just want to be complete in the Lord. □

Flying about 500 feet off the ground in my tiny home-built aircraft, I eased over the next ridge of mountains into a valley, hoping to find a safe place to land. Suddenly, I saw a high school with a football field in the middle of the valley. I lowered the nose of my aircraft to gain speed. Out of fuel and with my engine sputtering, I knew there was time for only one approach.

Although not sure how the plane would handle in this emergency, I felt confident.

John Rolfsmeyer  
Madison, Wisconsin

# FLYING HIGH





"Wait until I tell the guys when I get back home that I performed perfectly in an emergency," I mused.

With a firm grip on the controls and throttle, I set up for a perfect landing. Suddenly a towering power pole loomed on my right, and another on my left. Instinctively, I jerked my control stick back

and added power, narrowly missing the poles. Now, however, I had another critical problem. I was about a hundred feet up—too high for a normal landing midway down the field.

I quickly shut down the motor and pulled back on the stick. The plane dropped out of the sky onto the soft, marshy ground, bounced over a ditch, and skidded to a stop narrowly missing a goal line post.

Jean Cornielous, the football coach, who turned out to be a Christian, and about twenty kids came running onto the field to see if I was alright.

"I'm okay," I mumbled, jumping out of the cockpit, which was so small a person could barely squeeze into it. "I just ran out of gas."

I had gone to Florida to pick up this home-built aircraft. Called a "cassette" because of its tiny size, the plane was designed in the late 1930s for racing. It was built strong, and I felt pretty safe when I began my long flight home to Pennsylvania. I had tested everything, and another pilot had "rung it out" with absolutely every aerobatic routine under very stressful conditions. Everything worked.

Within the first fifty miles, however, I had noticed that the radio and the compass weren't functioning. Over the mountains, I became lost and was running out of fuel. I couldn't land on the highway because of traffic, and there were no fields in the mountains suitable for an emergency landing. In a panic, I had cried out to God for help. Looking back, I can see how God spared my life. I had not noticed the ditch in the football field from the air, and probably would



have been killed had I landed normally. Even so, I wasn't willing to give God the credit, not yet anyway.

Sometime later I flew my "cassette" to El Paso, Texas for my military reserves camp. On the flight back, trouble struck again. The mechanic, I learned later, had not tightened the oil plug in front of the motor and the plug came loose. Oil began to cover my windshield.

"Lord," I prayed, "just get me to an airport, please! That's my only wish on this one."

God granted my wish, just barely.

The oil on the windshield prevented me from seeing straight ahead and because the wings were so broad, I couldn't see the ground. I thank God for the aerobatic experience because this enabled me to fly on my side to see the ground. The Lord let me find the airport, but He made sure this time that I realized Who was really in control.

I had never landed blind before, and the runway turned out to be virtually the shortest country strip ever built. Nevertheless, the Lord lined me up with the center of the runway perfectly.

I was coming in too fast, however, and one wing lifted. The normal procedure in this event is to pull back on the control stick gently. But I must have pulled it a little too fast because the plane did a snap roll. A snap roll is exciting at 2,000 feet, but it's not something you want to do near the ground. The plane flipped over twice, ripping the tip off one wing and bending the tail section. Amazingly it landed upright, and I walked away without a scratch.

God certainly got my attention on that one. For the first time in my life I began to think of Him instead of thrills and success.

Although I was raised in church, I was never a committed Christian. Mom taught me to pray, and my father taught me that if you were going to get anywhere in life, you had to work hard for it and at an early age I was determined to achieve success.

After graduating from high school, I went to work as a salesman for a major department store. Within a few years, I was the top salesman in the store. Yet I wasn't satisfied. Others were making twice as much money as I was, and when my employer refused to give me a raise, I began pushing for a union. I quickly found myself out of a job.

This didn't seem to phase me because I felt pretty good about myself. As the top salesman, I had sold more goods than anybody else in the city, and I presumed other employers would be anxious to hire a salesman like me. But nobody needed my services.

To survive, I started selling used and repaired appliances out of my garage and quickly discovered that this was meeting a big need in the community. So many customers came to my weekend garage sales that they parked on the neighbors' lawns, on my lawn, in my driveway and across the street. Although my neighbors knew I was out of work, I wondered how long they would put up with that.

Finally I rented a store and within two years doubled my income. Even then I





(Above) John with his mother, Alma, and son, Mark, in front of Hoodloader division mural painted by a local FGBMFI chapter member. (Below) John Rolfsmeyer outside his company, Appliances Unlimited.



was not satisfied. With all my success and money, something was still missing.

My drive for excitement led me into flying. Soon, that became routine so I went to air shows looking to kill the boredom. Fascinated with aerobatics, I began taking aerobatic lessons. There seemed to be no end to the thrills. My thirst for new thrills drove me to become one of the best aerobatic pilots in the sky, and I envisioned my little "cassette" as the secret to my success.

Meanwhile, the Lord was dealing with me. One Sunday in church pastor Diemer read a Scripture verse from Revelation which particularly spoke to my heart. "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you

were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth" (Revelation 3:15, 16).

A church member all my life, I was on every committee and worked hard to do what I thought it took to be a Christian and get to Heaven. But I was lukewarm, doing it my way. I decided in my mind to get hot, but I didn't know what it took. However, I was determined to find out. So I started going to five Bible studies a week. I also began reading *Voice* magazine. Soon, my heart longed for the miracles others were experiencing.

My first contact with the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship came during a convention in Detroit a short time later. The thing that caught my eye the most was the motto on the front of the convention folder, "Expect the Miraculous." I hoped to tap into some of this power.

One speaker talked on the subject of our authority and this turned me on as well. That night, the altar call was given for those who wanted to stop running their own lives and let Jesus Christ become their Saviour and boss. I wasn't sure about that. Taking orders from Him scared me. I didn't want to become an evangelist, or a missionary to Africa, or go off to some seminary. Yet, to be a Christian, I had to surrender my life completely to Him. After a brief, but powerful inward struggle, I responded to the invitation and went to the front of the auditorium.

"Come into my life, Lord. You can be my boss, and I'll live for you," was my simple prayer.

I was also baptized in the Holy Spirit during the convention. From that time,



*On an African airlift, l. to r., Dale Lynch, Texas; Bal Davidson, Chapter President, Monrovia, Liberia; John Rolfsmeyer; Kwabena Darko, Ghana.*

my life began to change dramatically. ("I come that they might have life...life more abundantly"—John 10:10). Within four weeks, for example, I realized that I was no longer bound by a habit that I had been fighting for twenty years. Even the desire for it was gone.

My next Full Gospel convention was in Dallas where the emphasis was on telling others about Christ. This proved to be another growing experience. I can sell refrigerators to Eskimos, but I could not tell someone about Jesus. During that convention, I got down on my knees and asked God to give me whatever it took to be a soul winner. "You will be filled with power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be witnesses for me"—Acts 1:8).

One thing I learned there particularly sticks out in my mind. It was not my job to bring someone to Christ. My task was to share Christ, and the Holy Spirit would do the rest.

Challenged and encouraged by this, I prayed that God would lead me to someone "easy" on my flight home. God an-



swered my prayer by causing me to miss my plane. On the next available flight, I sat beside a very talkative woman. Finally, she ran out of things to say and fell silent for a moment. I felt nervous. Was she the one God had sent my way? Suddenly she asked, "What have you been doing?"

I just came from a Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship convention, and we believe in Matthew 18:19 which says, "If two or more agree on anything, God will do it," I blurted.

I told her about a miracle I had seen at the convention. "I know you think it's weird," I winced apologetically, "but I saw it, so all I can do is tell you."

She looked at me intently and asked, "Could you tell me how to pray like that?"

Talk about somebody who was easy! As I began to share Christ by reading from "His Voice" Bible format, stuttering and stumbling over my words, she read 50% of it and led herself to Christ.

From that time, God began to use me tremendously. Wherever I shared Christ, people came to the Lord and were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

While at the Dallas convention, I had signed up for a Full Gospel airlift to Africa. I was told it would change my life! I was scheduled to go with several others, but they all cancelled. So when the time came, I went alone. One of the planned stops was Monrovia, Liberia. A military coup took place the day after I arrived, closing all borders. Airplanes, buses, everything stopped. All around the missionary campus where I was staying, battles were being fought.

Unable to do anything else, I took my

Bible, walked a short distance to the beach and began witnessing to a security guard who was sitting on his motor scooter on the road. He said he was a Christian, so I asked, "Have you heard about the baptism in the Holy Spirit?"

"What's that?" he asked.

I explained it to him, and soon he was baptized in the Spirit and began speaking in tongues. Here was a guy, in the middle of a military coup, getting filled with the Spirit. It was unbelievable.

During my stay in Monrovia, I led many to the Lord and into the baptism in the Spirit, including some cannibals. On one occasion, I was telling the story of Jesus to twenty young people in a jungle village, and they all accepted the Lord and were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

God has established my store as a place where many customers receive salvation, prayer, healings and baptism in the Holy Spirit. We hold weekly Bible studies and put a *Voice* magazine in each appliance.

All my life I had searched for satisfaction in success and excitement. Now I had discovered that there was nothing more fulfilling or exciting than serving Jesus.

Can you think of any reason not to ask Jesus to be the Lord, "or Boss" of your life right now?...Turn to page 38 and follow the Six Steps to Salvation and pray right now. □

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*John Rolfsmeyer is owner operator of Appliances Unlimited and Hoodloader division in Madison, Wisconsin. Prior to going into business for himself he worked for Sears and Roebuck for 13 years in appliance and hardware sales. He is chairman of the Williamson Street Business Association and a life member and vice president of the Madison chapter of FGBMFI.*

Rep. Steve Fuhrman  
Kettle Falls, Washington

At age eleven, I had never attended church, never been told of God, and never prayed; yet the Spirit of God witnessed to me that there is a God. As I went about my childhood work and play on the farm, I instinctively asked God to help when a crisis arose (the serious illness of my heifer calf, "Lady"). I prayed for the first time and my calf recovered.

At age twenty-three in an empty army barracks I again called out to God. I was depressed. My pride was wounded. Having just completed six weeks of grueling US Army Ranger Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia, I had failed. I received the news of not being awarded the coveted Ranger Tab because of my directing mock artillery rounds too close to my training platoon. My career as an officer had just been set back. Again I prayed to a God I did not know.

Two years later, as Army Captain and Company Commander of a 125 man unit in Viet Nam, 26 of my men tested posi-

# A CLOSER WALK





tive in the heroin urinalysis test. At this time, attempts were taken on my life by some of these addicts in my unit because I was processing them through the Saigon Hospital and out of the army. One young heroin addict shot at me at pointblank range with an M-16 rifle. Somehow that bullet did not hit me. We struggled and the rifle fired several more times in the air before others came to my aid. Looking heavenward, I thanked a God I didn't really know for sparing my life.

In Viet Nam, a Lieutenant in my company gave me a book called *Good News for Modern Man*. I didn't realize it was a Bible and found it most interesting, but wondered why it repeated itself four times in books called Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

At age twenty-seven, having left the service and married Susan, we started a feed processing plant and farm supply business in my home town of Kettle Falls, a small farming community in eastern Washington with a population of a little over 1,000. God was far from my mind, and I was deeply involved in our business which was growing by leaps and bounds. The Fuhrman Feed Store

grossed \$3 million the 5th year after opening. Looking back now, I realize God was blessing the business due to dedicated Christians who made up a good part of the 20 employees working for us.

The first employee I hired remarked that "Jesus died for my sins". That sounded strange to me. Yet, I accepted an invitation from him to see a film and read a book called *The Late Great Planet Earth*. That book led me to God's forgiveness and to ask Jesus Christ into my heart, but I still lacked total commitment. A part-time farmer, part-time missionary by the name of Phil invited my wife and me to his Bible Study. Phil kept talking about God creating the earth and everything in it. He showed us a film on creation and read verses in the Bible on creation. It hit me suddenly that the Bible was a true history. I asked Phil if he was definitely saying that evolution did not exist. His answer was the turning point in my thinking. The Bible was real! It was true! Still it took a year of attending home Bible Studies before I finally publicly acknowledged that I had accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Susan and I took that step and reached out in hope to Jesus. We were baptized and began at-



tending a small church of 30 people. Each Sunday after the sermon I chose to leave immediately for I did not want to shake hands and have fellowship with the people. God still had a work to do in my heart.

To this point in my life, I had been shielded from hardship or sickness of those I loved. Things changed. My sister was tragically killed in a sleigh riding accident. Our six-month-old daughter began having seizures. Susan, my beautiful wife became sick, lost weight and worried of dying. The farm economy started slipping. The quiet order of my life was beginning to fractionate. Susan's sister sent us tapes and books by T. L. Osborn on the Holy Spirit and God's healing power. He told us how the Holy Spirit gives us power through Jesus. Searching for knowledge and answers, Susan and I flew to a convention in Los Angeles

where we heard T.L. Osborn, Morris Cerullo, Kenneth Copeland and Alex Ness tell us of truths in the Bible that were totally new to us. I still remember and feel the phrase in a song "Nothing but the blood of Jesus" cycling through my mind. For the first time God's Word was more than hope. It was more than truth. It was touchable. It became a part of my being. The Holy Spirit was not just something that existed in the Bible. The Holy Spirit was for us right now. I no longer felt insecure and afraid of talking with and shaking people's hands—I wanted that fellowship and reached out for it. God was preparing me for the plan he had for my life.

Soon after that, I had an issue forcefully presented to me which was going to lead me into the world of politics. I saw a film series about abortion and was alarmed that our nation was tearing itself

*(Front row)  
Steve and  
Susan; (back  
row) Christa,  
Brad,  
Carolyn*





apart by its immoral acts. One evening as I was lying in bed, half awake, mulling over our nation's insidious abortion policies, I had a dream and saw myself standing in our state capitol as a Christian legislator. I had no prior political involvement but I sensed God was speaking to me. He had been molding and making me into a vessel He could use. With God's help I was going to be that Christian legislator!

I purchased my first three-piece suit and began my campaign. Those ten months were a time of praying, listening and learning. By mentally taking my tasks and lifting them upward to God, He guided me through that first campaign statement, first press release, first public speech and first television interview. Ten months after declaration, I was elected as a Representative to the Washington State Legislature.

I personally had to respond to God's Word directing me to defend the innocent, to be "the salt of the earth". Over one million abortions were being committed in the United States each year and Washington State was one of the eleven states still funding abortions with taxpayer dollars. Abortions were killing God's children. Whether the child was 4 years old, 4 minutes old, 4 minutes before birth or 4 months after conception it was a living child of God. This driving conviction led me to talk to dozens of groups, address March for Life Rallies and picket in front of abortion clinics over the next few years. In 1985, I was arrested and jailed for standing against a judicial restraint order barring peaceful picketing on a public sidewalk in front of an abortion clinic. Because we were

peacefully and quietly walking on a public sidewalk, I and 27 others appealed this First Amendment case to the State Supreme Court where the ruling was 6-3 against us. The case is currently in petition for review at the United States Supreme Court level.

I know that God's Word has strengthened me and my family. I have been re-elected twice and am starting my third term in the state legislature. Susan's health requires that she continually lean on Jesus. We sold a portion of the business to the employees to eliminate business debt and to allow me more time with my family and my responsibility as a legislator. There is a beautiful peace that only God can give when you know you are following God's plan for your life.

I am learning every day. I still feel like a young kid in college. God is still teaching me to follow His Word and giving new insights to His marvelous workings. There is a difference between the God I pray to now and the God I prayed to when I was a young boy. Jesus is my link to God. Now the Holy Spirit guides me to stop and listen..."Be still and know I am God". God's Word is truth and it is alive. Its revelation is ours if we "ask" and "accept" in faith. ☐

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*Steve Fuhrman lives in Kettle Falls, Washington with his wife Susan and their three children Carolyn, 19, Christa, 9, and Brad, 13. He is a graduate of Washington State University, a Viet Nam veteran and retired Army Captain. He is currently serving his third term as State Representative, in the 7th District of the State of Washington. Prior to serving in the state legislature, he served seven years on the Stevens County Planning Commission. He is also the owner of a farm supply and grain elevator business in Colville Valley. Steve and his family attend the Kettle Falls Assembly of God church, and Steve attends the Colville chapter of FGBMFI.*

A photograph of a man and a young boy wading in a river. The man, wearing a light blue shirt and khaki pants, is holding the boy's hand. The boy is also wearing a light blue shirt. They are both facing away from the camera, looking towards the opposite bank. The water is calm, reflecting the warm light of the setting or rising sun. The background is a dense line of trees on the far bank.

Vain  
Striving



The magazine looked innocent enough. As I reached for it, I only saw *Voice* and an attention-grabbing picture. Had I noticed the small print announcing that *Voice* was from the Full Gospel Business Men, I probably would not have bothered to pick up "just another piece of twisted Christian garbage". After all, I was a card-carrying Temple Mormon, proven worthy to be exposed to "the fullness of the gospel", and certainly "enlightened" enough to know "truth" when I saw it. Many years of exposure to Mormon theology had taught me that printed truth was to be found only in those books, periodicals, and papers approved by the general authorities, or leaders, of the Latter-Day Saint church. Certainly *Voice* would never qualify as "worthy" of approval. Little did I know that I was about to experience the influence of a very anointed tool of the Lord.

That was in November 1983, in a quick-food restaurant. Having left my briefcase at home that day, I had nothing to read on my lunch hour, as was my practice. I took two separate issues of *Voice* from the rack and returned to the branch bank I managed. I had intended to eat lunch in our break room and enjoy some casual reading. And read I did! Each magazine! Twice! And I thought to myself, "That's how God is supposed to work when He comes into men's lives!" Immediately I knew I had to find out more about this organization with the long initials, FGBMFI, and why, or how, did

the miracle of permanent character change occur in men's lives—something I knew I desperately needed.

I had been schooled for nearly sixteen years in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons, that miracles were for today, but they were, more often than not, the reward for our personal good works. Man's efforts to obey a myriad of rules and regulations might allow him to become worthy for a miracle, provided it was in a problem area in which he could not work out his own solution.

I had been drawn into the Mormon cult in 1968, more through the appeal of the logical aspects of that church than through any deep spiritual considerations. My marriage relationship was very unstable, and the strong family unit orientation of so much of the missionaries' teaching was a great appeal. The missionaries, two handsome young men, presented themselves as very "put together" during a time of college campus unrest. They taught patriotism and upholding the Constitution of the United States as a God-inspired document while the American flag was being burned and desecrated. They talked about living the "golden rule" when you could just sense the ME mind set gaining momentum. They taught respect for authority while many radical groups were recruiting disciples for movements against the establishment and encouraging riots. In short, these young men looked, acted, talked, and even smelled like Christians—at least in my mind.

Please keep in mind that, even though some of the teachings I received about Joseph Smith, the "angel" Moroni, gold

plates hidden in the ground, and temples seemed to be far fetched, I always took subtle, if ignorant, comfort in the fact that we owned a Bible. However, being totally unfamiliar with God's Word, I did not think, nor knew how, to use it as a standard against which I could measure what I was being taught. Therefore, pushing anything out of my mind that caused doubt, I was "baptized by the proper priesthood authority into the only true and living church on the face of the earth today". That event was on August 30, 1968.

As happens with so many people who are drawn into cults, where promises may not be actualized, we became inactive—a condition we maintained for the next few years. We discovered how organized the Mormon bookkeeping system was through several long distance moves. It seemed that wherever we lived, within a few weeks a knock on the door would reveal two Mormons following up on the local church having received our records.

Unfortunately, during this time of inactivity, my marriage reached rock bottom due to unfaithfulness. In my mind, this was God's punishment for not being committed to "His church". Since our records were already in the local church, it was easy to make one phone call and "recommit" our lives to the LDS church. My hope was that this would solve our marital problems and alleviate our personal discontent.

Over the next several years I was to become extremely involved in the Mormon life style. I became an Elder in the Melchizedek priesthood, supposedly a mark of "spiritual" growth, but, in reality,

a subtle method of "stroking" egos without really realizing that you are starting to move into the Mormon methodology of lowering God and elevating man. I became "temple worthy" and attended to temple ordinances in the Cardston, Alberta, Canada, and Washington, D.C. temples, thus making a giant hurdle in my own efforts to eventually become a god: another great ego-builder and additional proof that man really doesn't need to depend on God. The variety of church jobs was great, including elders' quorum president (a men's spiritual and support group) and branch president (similar to a pastor over a local body of church members).

The many jobs and other things expected of me caused me to become bogged down in "works of righteousness" for the church, but for a few years the busyness masked the personal problems within my family and within me. The church was unable to provide the necessary character changes that would allow healings within personal and marital relationships. After years of devotion to Mormonism and support of their doctrine, we were still the same two people, still had the same problems and the same unstable attitudes upon which we tried to build a marriage.

The Mormon church tells you the proper way to live and teaches proper principles for family life that are taught in Christian circles. There is a major difference, however, within the Mormon church. It is all based on personal strength, and keeping hundreds of rules and regulations that leads to "happiness". The missing factor is Jesus and all He accomplished for us through





*Gary and Marilyn Archer*

His death and resurrection. There is very little accomplished in Mormonism through grace and mercy.

The very thing I had expected would improve my marriage only made it worse. I was given rules within which to live and build a marriage, all on personal strength without the influence of the Holy Spirit. The result was ultimately feelings of frustration, depression, and self-criticism when not "measuring up", and no basis for permanent character change. When seeking help within the Mormon church, one is not met with a Jesus-type of love and encouragement, instead

there are numerous subtleties that one should be trying harder to live up to all the proper standards.

Because no changes occurred that were of real consequences within my wife or me, we still were controlled by the flesh. When the opportunity presented itself for unfaithfulness, my wife again responded, and this time I lost a wife and my daughter through divorce. My finances were left in shambles. And even though life was a mess, I still tried for a while to continue to "work my way to godhood" within the church. I began to have some doubts about it, though.

Through these experiences God was preparing me for a greater mission. He was allowing me, firsthand, to witness the hopelessness of "working one's way to Heaven". He was gracious in showing me the feelings of inadequacy, guilt, despair, and failure resulting from a system based on bondage to rules and regulations. In some of the positions I held, I had responsibility to deal with life-and-death situations, to counsel for eternal decision making, to handle extremely diverse and complex personal and family problems while being a slave to anger, pride, cursing, lying, gossip, and lust. You see, I was living with the same hopelessness with which a very large number of Mormons constantly fight every day. And in my leadership position, without God's Spirit for guidance, I could only offer more rules and regulations as solutions. I knew about God, but I did not *know* God. I dealt only with the intellect, never using godly wisdom. I looked to the "approved standard works of the church" and other Mormon literature for answers, not to



*(Front row) Gary, Marilyn, Christian; (back row) Elsa, Jeremy, Cindy*

God's Word in its purity and completeness.

In my own strength I had devoted years to what I thought God wanted me to do for His kingdom. I blamed Him for the loss of my family and for the total wreck I felt my life had become. After all, I "measured up" to the expected, and, in the end, I felt He had let me down.

Feeling totally rejected and alone one night, I cried out to the Lord for more than three hours, asking Him to show me where He was and what He wanted of me. That was all He was waiting for—for me to allow Him to be Lord of my life. The Lord led me to a born again, Spirit-filled lady who became my wife. Marilyn led me ever so cautiously, always seek-

ing His guidance, into thinking more and more of allowing Jesus to control my life instead of me. As I relaxed in Jesus, I could feel the weight of years of bondage starting to slip away, even though I attended a local Mormon church.

It was at this point that I found the *Voice* magazines and started reading about God in action, not hampered by cultic systems and how He, not men, changed men's characters. My lovely wife hinted that perhaps I might enjoy a Full Gospel meeting. And I did! Two! At the second I requested prayer and immediately knew I could never stay a Mormon. The appeal of love was just too great.

In mid-December 1983, I announced



to the local branch president of the LDS church the following: Mormonism was not working, the church was built on lies, I could never work my way into Heaven, I *knew* I was saved, and I would never be back. Imagine his shock as I leaned over his desk, shaking his hand while reciting this, and telling him I would be praying to the real God for him and his church, and stating how much I loved him. He was shocked, my wife was elated, the Lord was smiling, and I was feeling free and clean! For the first time in years I was truly happy.

In January 1984, God miraculously provided the funds for me to take out a life time membership in Full Gospel. It was one of the better moves I made after accepting Jesus as my salvation and Lord. Shortly after that I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, both of our sons were saved and Spirit filled, and God began to heal us physically, emotionally, and financially. He continues to reveal to us a walk of power and victory. I am no longer controlled by fears, anger, frustrations, lust, pride, nor anything else of the old character. As a banker, I now pray for my customers, my bank, and its employees. My wife and I have helped families come out from the bondage of Mormonism and have seen them find their rightful relationship to the Lord. We can now be a blessing to those hurting from the sting of rules and regulations and the resultant lack of love.

I battled temper, defeatist attitudes, insecurity, pride, and the cult—all on my own strength—and lost. Jesus came into my life and gave me victory over all these obstacles. I now have the Lord to guide me and help me. I now fully appreciate

all that Jesus accomplished for us on the Cross and through His death and resurrection. I have made John 8:31-32, and Galatians 5:1, my theme for life, for God has shown me that when we abide in His Word, we will know the truth, the Truth will set us free, and we will never again be entangled in a yoke of bondage. Jesus is victory, I know His grace and love will work in your life, too. God bless you. □

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*Gary Archer is currently a Trust Officer in a local bank in Sturgis, Michigan. He and his wife Marilyn live in Sturgis with their four children, Elsa, 19, Christian, 18, Cynthia, 14, and Jeremy, 14. He and his family attend Evangel Temple in Sturgis, where Gary serves as an Elder and is presently studying to become a licensed pastor. Gary is also a life member of FGBMFI and is past treasurer of the Sturgis chapter. Prior to working in the banking field, Gary taught school.*

## OOPS!! Wrong Price!!

*The March issue of Voice **incorrectly** advertised Voice bundles at \$10 per 50 copies. The correct price is \$12.50 per 50. FGBMFI will honor all bundle orders placed from the March issue at the lower price, during the February/March timeframe; however, any subsequent orders must be placed at the 1987 price of \$12.50 per 50. We apologize if this has caused any inconvenience.*

# The 1987-88 FGBMFI Directory Offers You More



In addition to the most comprehensive listing of chapters throughout the world, the new 1987-88 FGBMFI Directory has become a guide for new and old members alike. Now, members can use the directory not only as a resource for names and phone numbers of chapter presidents, international directors and field representatives around the world, but also as a training manual and aid when developing programs, or ordering supplies. Listed below are just a few of the many worthwhile additions that have been incorporated into this year's directory.

- A convenient and easy to read 8½" x 11" format
- A comprehensive table of contents
- An easy to understand instruction page on uses for the directory
- A completely reorganized listing of chapters, alphabetically arranged by country and then by state
- More simplified listing for Regional and State offices
- A new section listing available chapter supplies and how to order them
- Voice magazine information including guidelines on how to submit a testimony, information on bundling, and a list of global editors
- A history of FGBMFI with current information on ministries and statistics
- Order blanks for membership, Voice bundles/subscriptions, directories, How to start a chapter information, change of address, airlift information and convention information
- An explanation of airlift policies and procedures
- An explanation of regional convention policies and procedures
- A guide on "How to start a chapter"
- A guide on "How to raise and maintain membership"
- A section on the world convention

All these and more are available in the new 1987-88 FGBMFI Directory, which is available now for \$9.95 plus 10% for handling (California residents add 6% sales tax). Make checks payable to FGBMFI, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ 1987-88  
FGBMFI Directory(ies) at \$9.95, plus 10%  
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I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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# The Shield of Faith

Donald Dinninger  
Saginaw, Michigan

Reviewing the last seventeen years as a Saginaw police sergeant, I find many tragic, exciting, and humorous situations. The first nine years of my career were not as pleasant as today. When I first joined the police department after returning from Viet Nam, my first reaction to the inner city was total shock. Even though I was raised in the inner city, I had never been exposed to the

conditions that my job forced me to deal with. Winos drinking their life away, sleeping any place they collapsed. Women selling their bodies on the street for \$10 or \$20. Whole families living in conditions I wouldn't expect people in Third World countries to live in. My initial reaction was, "No wonder crime and poverty seem to be self-perpetuating!"

The tragedies I witnessed and the subsequent trauma in my life were leading me down a road to becoming cynical and calloused.

After a couple weeks on the job I

found that I was supposed to be solving everyone else's problems, but was not allowed to have any of my own. All the training in the world could not equip a person to handle the things I was seeing.

I was on the department only three months, working all night alone in a patrol unit, when one evening three out of the twelve men on duty were shot, and one died.

Who do you share fears with, when you are not supposed to have them yourself?

You help carry a baby out of a burning house and she is burned to death. You want to cry and vomit at the same time, but seventy five spectators don't expect that from a policeman.

After seeing people under the worst possible conditions, and dealing mostly with the portion of society that ended up in jail time and time again, I became hardened to it. I resisted any signs of showing love or caring. I had placed a wall between myself and the people I had to deal with. I soon found out you don't turn in your feelings when you leave work. My reactions bled over into my personal and family life. I found myself, even with my family, sitting in the rear of a restaurant with my back to the wall, so no one could get behind me. I felt I had to build a wall around my heart to maintain my sanity.

I was on the job less than a year when I was in a position where I shot a man in a burglary. This experience was the final straw, as far as my feelings were concerned. The only way I could cope with almost taking a man's life was to harden even more. Regret and sorrow wanted to take control of me, and to maintain sani-

ty, more hardening had to take place.

After eight years on the job, I found myself with two lawsuits against me, shot at, run into and run over by automobiles, arrested for assault and battery while on the job, and having my life threatened numerous times. I had become a seasoned, hardened, cynical cop.

One night when I got home after work, there was something different about my wife. She told me that our neighbor had told her about Jesus Christ. My wife told me she was born again and I didn't really know what that meant but I didn't like it.

I have had contact with many people on my job who claimed to know God. Some even felt they were God. Many



*Don and Bonnie Dinninger with children Andrea and Don, Jr.*





who had to be restrained and taken to the mental hospital would talk about religion. I didn't want any part of that.

I knew better, but my wife didn't. She kept listening to this neighbor. The neighbors seemed to be very nice people other than that, but when they came around I made myself scarce.

I could see my wife changing right before my eyes; it made me feel very uncomfortable to be around her. She never wanted to do the things we used to do. I got to the point that I thought I was married to a saint or something.

One Friday night while working in the yard, this same neighbor asked me if he could treat me to breakfast Saturday morning. For some reason I accepted. Little did I know this was a Full Gospel Business Men's breakfast.

The next morning he picked me up

and took me to a local restaurant. When we arrived I found myself surrounded by men who acted like they really cared for me. The man conducting the meeting seemed to radiate something that I had never seen before. A small singing group began to sing and share with us. I felt weird and began to break down on the inside.

Unsure of what was happening, I slid my chair way back so that no one could see me. Tears flowed down my face. Nothing like this had ever happened to me before.

When the man leading the meeting began to talk again I realized what it was. Then and there, right in my seat, I did what my wife had done. I asked Jesus Christ to forgive me of my sins and to come into my life.

That day was the beginning of a whole

new life for me. I began to read about what I had experienced. My desire for the Bible was unquenchable. After reading the New Testament several times, I realized that I should spread the Good News.

I began with my fellow workers. It was exhilarating to be able to share words of life with my fellow officers.

Then the strangest thing happened. Many thought I was crazy. I had a hard time understanding how anyone could refuse the Gospel when it was laid out in a logical way.

Realizing that my knowledge was limited, I set a goal to grow in the Word of God. Years of college had given me a well-disciplined life for study. One of the greatest hurdles was the attitude that cops can't be too spiritual.

I became excessively concerned about being considered an oddball or religious fanatic by my fellow officers. Not long after that the Lord showed me that I was to do my job to the best of my ability and to live my faith in Him, regardless of what others may think.

Jesus caused many personal contacts and allowed numerous opportunities to share the Gospel with people. Eventually several officers accepted Christ as their Saviour also. God has allowed me to give the Good News to winos, prostitutes, criminals, to councilmen, mayors, city officials and prosecuting attorneys. Some of them have asked Jesus into their lives right before my eyes.

I have found that if God can use me, He can use anybody.

Standing up for God and the Christian way of life has not been easy, but it has been rewarding. I have heard some of

the men under my command talk about me behind my back, but when they have a problem they seek my advice.

Now I am a sergeant in charge of fifteen road patrol officers. We have encountered many difficult situations. While enroute to a dangerous call often I have time to pray for God's guidance. In other situations there is no time. But I know God's hand is upon me as a peace keeper.

One particular time, since becoming a Christian, I attempted to arrest a mentally disturbed man and he stabbed me twice with a Phillips-head screwdriver—once in the upper chest and the other time about an inch under my right eye.

The doctor told me I was a lucky man, as the screwdriver had missed my lung and the main artery of my neck moved over to let the screwdriver pass by. I assured the doctor it was not luck; it was the hand of my God protecting me.

My job as a Christian road patrol sergeant doesn't mean that I don't have difficulties in life. I encounter some people who are hostile to me, just because I am a police officer. There are times when I have to use force to apprehend someone whom I suspect of violating a law. But I know that God has established the police officer to protect all the people, and I am sworn to do that, with the help of God. □

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*Don Dinninger retired in 1985 to go into full time ministry. The year he retired as a police sergeant, he was awarded the "Policeman of the Year" award by the Saginaw Police Department. Don is now a pastor at the First Assembly of God church in Saginaw and lives in Saginaw with his wife Bonnie, his daughter Andrea, age 17, and his son Don Jr., age 15.*



# conventions

## LINCOLN SPRING RALLY

May 1-2, 1987

Holiday Inn  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
Contact: Eugene Dankert  
5934 La Salle  
Lincoln, NE 68516

## NORTHERN NEW YORK RALLY

May 1-2, 1987

Ramada Inn, Watertown  
Contact: John Barone  
1114 Boyd St.  
Watertown, NY 13601

## MISSOURI MEN'S STATEWIDE RALLY

May 1-3, 1987

Assembly of God Camp  
Rocky Mount  
Contact: Dennis Bouselli  
2921 Orton  
St. Charles, MO 63301

## NORTHERN INTERIOR MEN'S ADVANCE

May 1-3, 1987

Hudson Bay Motel  
Smithers, B.C.  
Contact: Peter Neave  
Box 325  
Smithers, B.C. V0J 2N0

## SAN ANGELO/ABILENE REGIONAL CONVENTION

May 14-16, 1987

Sheraton Hotel-Conv. Ctr.  
San Angelo, TX  
Contact: Col. Andy Anderson  
1501 Bryant Blvd.  
San Angelo, TX 76903

## NEW MEXICO MEN'S SPIRITUAL ADVANCE

May 14-17, 1987

Sacramento Methodist Assembly  
Contact: H.C. Godman  
1808 Hubbard Dr.  
Alamogordo, NM 88310

## NORTHERN CA. GREATER BAY AREA MEN'S CAMP

May 15-17, 1987

Woodleaf, Challenge, CA  
Contact: Mark Doughty  
1095 Stafford Way #E  
Yuba City, CA 95991

## INLAND EMPIRE MEN'S CAMP

May 15-17, 1987

Riverview Bible Camp  
Cusick, WA  
Contact: Leonard Sampson  
E. 15420 Second Ave.  
Veradale, WA 99037

## 29th ANNUAL MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION

May 20-23, 1987

American Baptist Assembly  
Green Bay, WI  
Contact: E.N. Bailey  
6801 N. Seeley  
Chicago, IL 60645

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION

May 21-23, 1987

Red Lion Inn, Portland, OR  
Contact: Art Evanson  
Box 244  
Vancouver, WA 98661

## CENTRAL CA. REGIONAL MEN'S ADVANCE

May 29-31, 1987

Camp Sugar Pine, Oakhurst  
Contact: Dean Whitlow  
2115 Merced St.  
Fresno, CA 93721

## 10th ANNUAL EAST TENNESSEE MEN'S ADVANCE

May 29-31, 1987

Westley Woods Methodist Camp  
Townsend  
Contact: Thomas Trout  
506 Sherwood Dr.  
Maryville, TN 37801

## KENTUCKY STATE CONVENTION MEN'S ADVANCE

June 4-6, 1987

Galt House  
Louisville  
Contact: Henry Bruins  
2817 Clays Mill Rd.  
Lexington, KY 40503

## KEYSTONE STATE MEN'S ADVANCE

June 4-6, 1987

Messiah College  
Grantham, PA  
Contact: Philip Cashman  
1247 Wiltshire Rd.  
York, PA 17403

## CAROLINAS MEN'S ADVANCE

June 12-14, 1987

Camp Lurecrest  
Lake Lure, NC  
Contact: Reidy Lawing  
Box 9027  
Charlotte, NC 28299

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEN'S ADVANCE

June 12-14, 1987

University of Redlands  
Contact: Albert Ballenger  
231 W. Linfield St.  
Glendora, CA 91740

## IOWA STATE REGIONAL CONVENTION

June 18-20, 1987

Howard Johnson's  
Des Moines  
Contact: Gene Walker  
Box 3805  
Des Moines, IA 50322

## FGBMFI WORLD CONVENTION

June 30-July 4, 1987

Anaheim Convention Center  
Anaheim, California  
Contact: FGBMFI HQ  
Attn: World Convention  
3150 Bear St.  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

CONVENTIONS PUBLISHED IN THIS ISSUE WERE APPROVED ON OR BEFORE MARCH 18, 1987.

**A NEW WAVE OF  
REVIVAL**

**ANAHEIM '87**

**YEAR OF  
THANKSGIVING**



**34TH WORLD CONVENTION OF FULL  
GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S  
FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL  
JUNE 30-JULY 4, 1987**

Our 34th World Convention to be held in Anaheim, California, June 30th to July 4th, 1987 is fast approaching. The convention will feature outstanding speakers such as: our own Founder/President Demos Shakarian, Pat Robertson, Father Ralph DiOrio, John Carrette of Guatemala, Rev. Kenneth Hagin, Charles and Frances Hunter, Allan C. Oggs, Sr., Sanford McDonnell of McDonnell Douglas Corp., John DeLorean, Allan Mayer of

Oscar Mayer Corp., Gene Ellerbe of Procter & Gamble, singer Mike Adkins and many others will be joining us.

Start making plans NOW! You won't want to miss this one. It's "A NEW WAVE OF REVIVAL."

Please fill out the coupons on the next page and send in your registration and housing requests as quickly as possible.

## **1987 WORLD CONVENTION HOTELS**

| <b>HOTEL</b>              | <b>SGL</b> | <b>DBL</b> | <b>TWIN</b> | <b>TRIPLE</b> | <b>QUAD</b> | <b>SUITES</b>  |                |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
|                           |            |            |             |               |             | <b>1 BDRM.</b> | <b>2 BDRM.</b> |
| 1. Marriott               | \$65       | \$65       | \$65        | \$65          | \$65        | \$165-635      | \$230-735      |
| 2. Inn At The Park        | \$59       | \$59       | \$59        | \$59          | \$59        | \$155-380      | \$230-290      |
| 3. Jolly Roger Inn        | \$52       | \$52       | \$52        | \$55          | \$55        | \$ 75-175      |                |
| 4. Quality                | \$59       | \$59       | \$59        | \$59          | \$59        | \$150          |                |
| <b>MOTEL</b>              |            |            |             |               |             |                |                |
| 5. Paul Bunyan Travelodge | \$50       | \$50       | \$50        | \$50          | \$50        | \$ 97          | \$127          |
| 6. Raffles                | \$52       | \$56       | \$56        | \$61          | \$66        | \$ 80          | \$100          |
| 7. Westward Ho            | \$46       | \$46       | \$46        | \$46          | \$46        |                |                |



## REGISTRATION APPLICATION.

Mail this coupon along with check or money order for total amount payable to: **FGBMFI / Anaheim World Convention / P.O. Box 5050 / Costa Mesa, CA 92628.**

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Address

City/State

Zip/Country

Phone Number

( )

Please attach separate sheet listing full names of all immediate household members included in your registration. List each name as you wish it to appear on name badge. **\$10 registration fee is required per household (or per single).**

## SPECIAL MEAL FUNCTIONS.

Fine food will be served at our 1987 World Convention breakfasts and banquets. You will enjoy the inspiring testimonies, singing and fellowship in the friendly banquet-style setting. Order now to assure your seats. **Fill out this coupon and mail by June 16, 1987.** Prices shown include tax and gratuity. Refunds available up to 48 hours before time of meal. Mail this coupon direct to FGBMFI International Headquarters along with your check or money order for meals and registration. **Mail to FGBMFI, Anaheim World Convention, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.**

**NOTE:** Application must be dated and postmarked no later than **June 2, 1987** to enable us to mail your name badges, meal tickets and discount coupons. **All applications postmarked after June 3, 1987** will be processed and materials available for pickup at FGBMFI registration counter, Marriott Hotel, from opening date.

## HOTEL RESERVATION REQUEST

To request reservations, please complete all information. All room-reservation requests must be made through FGBMFI Housing Bureau at address shown below. Placement will be made in order received. Your first choice will be honored if rooms are available. In order to be processed by the Housing Bureau, reservation request must be postmarked prior to June 1, 1987. (After this date all requests for reservations must be made directly to FGBMFI Housing at (714) 999-8939 only). Your hotel will confirm your reservations by mail. Thereafter, failure to notify assigned hotel directly of any changes in arrival dates, times and/or type of accommodations may result in cancellation of your reservation. **Please note: A \$65 deposit is required for each room reserved. Make checks payable to FGBMFI Housing Bureau. Mail coupon and deposit check to: FGBMFI Housing Bureau, P.O. Box 4270, Anaheim, CA 92803.**

Last Name

First Name

Initial

Address

City/State

Country/Zip

Phone Number

Total Number in  
Your Party

NO. OF  
TICKETS

MEAL  
COST

TOTAL  
AMOUNT

|                                                   |        |  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Wed., July 1<br>Breakfast—Z7091                   | X \$ 8 |  |
| Thur., July 2<br>Breakfast—Z7101                  | X \$ 8 |  |
| Fri., July 3<br>Breakfast—Z7111                   | X \$ 8 |  |
| Fri., July 3<br>Ladies' Luncheon—Z7112            | X \$13 |  |
| Fri., July 3<br>Men's Luncheon—Z7113              | X \$13 |  |
| Fri., July 3—Youth<br>Food, Fun & Fellowship—Z114 | X \$ 6 |  |
| Sat., July 4<br>Breakfast—Z7121                   | X \$ 8 |  |
| Sat., July 4<br>Noon Banquet—Z7124                | X \$15 |  |

Forward application (including family names, check or money order for entire amount) to: **FGBMFI, Anaheim World Convention, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.**

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FEE  
(Nonrefundable) 3204-05-7330 **\$10.00**

TOTAL MEAL COST  
(If any) 3201-05-7318 **\$**

TOTAL ENCLOSED **\$**

SIGNATURE

DATE

## 1987 FGBMFI WORLD CONVENTION

List names of those occupying regular accommodations:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Put bracket marks [ ] around those sharing.

List Hotel Preference: ☐ Proximity to Convention  
☐ Rate Preference

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Single ☐ Double ☐ Twin ☐ Triple ☐ Quad  
☐ Suite—(☐ 1 bdm. ☐ 2 bdm.)

Arrival Date ☐ AM ☐ PM Depart Date ☐ AM ☐ PM

Reservations cannot be guaranteed by mail unless received by June 1, 1987. After June 1, 1987 phone FGBMFI Housing Bureau (714) 999-8939. **MAIL THIS COUPON ALONG WITH YOUR DEPOSIT CHECK TO: FGBMFI HOUSING BUREAU, P.O. BOX 4270, ANAHEIM, CA 92803.**

# International Directors

*The international directors listed on these pages give direction to the multifaceted ministries of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in eighty-seven countries of the world. They also provide leadership in achieving the goals of the Fellowship.*

*Their names and addresses are provided as a point of contact for you to learn when and where chapters meet in your area, or to receive needed spiritual ministry.*

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**ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:** Nick Cardone, 1506 B Gregg St., Philadelphia PA 19115.

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**EXECUTIVE ADVISOR TO CONVENTIONS:** Arthur H. Evanson, Box 244, Vancouver, WA 98666.

#### HEADQUARTERS' MAILING ADDRESSES:

**World Headquarters:** Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. **Africa:** East Africa: Box 49578, Nairobi, Kenya. **South Africa:** FGBMFI National Administrative Centre, Box 4040, Durban 4000. **West Africa:** P.O. Box 10849, Accra-North, Ghana. **Nigeria:** P.O. Box 674, 24 Ikwerre Rd. Diobry, Port Harcourt R/s, Nigeria. **Asia:** 2 Finlayson Green #18-00, The Penthouse, Asia Ins. Bldg., Singapore 0140, Republic of Singapore. **Canada:** 190 Atwell Dr., Ste. 304, Rexdale, Ontario M9W 6H8. **Europe:** Ave. d'Italie #43, Box 25, Brussels, Belgium 1050. **Latin America / Caribbean:** 13401 S.W. Freeway, Ste. 207, Sugar Land, TX 77478. **South Pacific Region:** Australia: Box 67, Stones Corner, Brisbane 4120, Queensland. **New Zealand:** Box 33.424, Takapuna, Auckland 9.

# 6 STEPS TO SALVATION

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*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 ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). "Repent ye 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 thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt 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 believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth 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 them 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 Your forgiveness. I receive You now as my personal Saviour 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." Our mailing address: FGBMFI / Box 5050 / Costa Mesa, CA 92628.**

# CHAPTER OUTREACH

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Requests come in daily to start new chapters. If you have this burden laid on your heart and see the vision for your community, write for complete information to: Chapter Department / FGBMFI / P.O. Box 5050 / Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

As this issue was being prepared for publication, the following chapters were submitted as having been recently chartered. The president's name and telephone number are included for your information. Write for date and location details of a chapter meeting in your area.

**Canada:** East Interlake Chapter, President Henry Ter Mors, 204-642-5453; Eden Valley Chapter, President Ralph Newbold, 07683-71151; Red River Chapter, President Jack Wiens, 204-736-2808. **England:** Penzance Chapter, President E. John Bennetts, 0736-796968; Petersfield Chapter, President Peter Spreckley, 042876-250. **Korea:** Korea Seoul Chapter, President Chay Duck Shin, 353-6678. **Nigeria:** Ile-Ife Chapter, President Femi Soetan; Nnewi Chapter, President Dr. John N. Ifediora, 046-460-275; Orhionmwoh Chapter, President Isaac Edosomwan, 052-240-420.





# VOICE

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**WHO WE ARE** Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International was founded in 1952 by Demos Shakarian to reach men for Jesus. One year later, God gave him a vision of the people of every continent, revealing that the ministry of the Fellowship would result in people everywhere being brought to Jesus and linked in loving community.

That vision is becoming a reality through the Fellowship's ministries, now touching eighty-seven nations and transcending denominational, racial and cultural barriers. Men interested in participating in this exciting end-time ministry are invited to write: Chapter Department / FGBMFI / P.O. Box 5050 / Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

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## Vain Striving

*A committed Mormon, Gary Archer was certainly "enlightened" enough to know the "truth" when he saw it. Innocently—and skeptically—picking up a copy of Voice magazine was not where he expected to find it.*

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From: **FGBMFI**  
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