

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S

VOICE

SIGNALS FROM SPACE

09-81



SIGNALS FROM SPACE



John Argabright
Waterloo, IA

Slumped in his easy chair, the despondent man spoke softly to his reflection in the half-empty whiskey glass that rested precariously in his hand. "What's life all about, anyway?" he asked. But the distorted face peering back at him only mirrored his confusion.

Bill Morris had been trying to kill himself one way or another for years.

His alcoholism now ran unchecked. The deaths of three close friends, coupled with those of his wife's parents, had sent him into a deep depression. Now he had decided to end his life once and for all.

From the TV set across the room a voice announced, "Yes, it's Good News!...men searching for meaning in a confused world."

Deeply engrossed in his problems, Bill was hardly aware of the remainder of the program. Then sud-

are being captured in this Iowa cornfield by Channel 65's 100-watt satellite translator. Christian TV is now available 24 hours a day to well over 120,000 people in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area and by cable to three additional communities. This first use of the latest communication technology to bring the Gospel to rural America has been made possible through the vision, faith and cooperation of committed Christian men.



denly the gray-haired host spoke three words that cut through his preoccupation and drove straight and deep into his heart: "You need God."

Overcome with feelings he had never before experienced, Bill bolted from the room to conceal his tears and fled to the privacy of an upstairs bedroom, where he placed a telephone call to the number he had seen flashed on the screen.

That phone call was to forever change the direction of Bill Morris' life.

I was familiar with many stories just like Bill's. Over and over, the power and ability of television to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to formerly unreachable men and women had been proven to me through the ministry of FGBMFI's "Good News!" program. But I never dreamed that one day I would play an important role in bringing 24-hour Christian TV to my town of Waterloo, Iowa.

It all began in 1952 when I accepted Jesus as my Saviour during an Oral

Roberts crusade in Des Moines. A year later I received the infilling of the Holy Spirit and my heavenly prayer language. My wife and I began to pray that God would use us more fully to win men and women to Him and to minister to Him with our finances. I thought I would be able to do this if God would establish me in a business of my own, so that's how we prayed.

God moved on the heart of a contractor in a similar business. He provided the funds for us to begin our firm on a partnership basis. Five years later I bought him out and since that time I have been taking big jobs all over Iowa.

In addition to my work I was active in a full-gospel church. I longed for the people in my area of Iowa to be



Left: *Dr. Byron St. Clair, president of TV Technology, inspects the transmitter built by his company for the Waterloo station.* Right: *Discussing project details are planner/consultant George Metcalf; FGBMFI satellite translator department manager Claude Wehmeyer, and Maynard "Stormy" Weathers, president, U.S. Tower Corp., systems contractor.*

The Lord had blessed me in my work with a mechanical contracting firm, yet I desperately wanted to be on my own. That seemed an impossibility, as I did not have the capital to establish a commercial plumbing, heating, and air conditioning business (the type of work I desired).

But as my wife Sara and I prayed,

blessed by the supernatural moving of God's Spirit. Hearing about Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship in other areas, I inquired about beginning a chapter in Waterloo. Unknown to me, two other Spirit-filled men, Max Gassman and John Rider, had the same desire. As the Lord brought us together, we set up a meeting and I

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**Jesus, if it so please You,
bless Channel 65 and let this
ministry be duplicated in
hundreds of cities in America
and around the world. Let a
revival start right here.**

**Dedication prayer by
Demos Shakarian**



Some of the participants in the dedication ceremony.

was elected president of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls chapter.

My involvement with FGBMFI led to attending the 1978 World Convention in Anaheim. As our Iowa delegation sat around the table eating lunch, the Fellowship made a satellite translator presentation.

We learned that Demos Shakarian had earlier realized the potential of television and that the organization had hired George Metcalf, head of communications for the NASA space shuttle program, to formulate the planning and developmental stages for the Fellowship's translator program. Demos had contracted with the PTL network to be program source for an estimated 600 satellite-fed translator stations across the country.

The spokesman explained, "The translator picks up microwave frequencies from a satellite and translates them into UHF broadcast frequencies so that people in a local vicinity can receive them on their television sets."

"The cost is not prohibitive," he said. And as he continued our ears perked up. We were learning of a proj-

ect which was within the reach of local businessmen from all walks of life, a project we could undertake locally that would spread the good news of Jesus Christ to our friends and neighbors.

I became so excited I blurted out to the other men, "Waterloo could build a translator!" That thought remained, and when I returned home I brought up the subject at a local FGBMFI meeting. Others also became excited. I envisioned homes, nursing facilities and hospitals getting the full-gospel message.

My burden was confirmed by Ken LeHew, member of the Cedar Rapids chapter. He was riding home from work one evening with Duane McLean, also a Cedar Rapids member and an international director. As Duane shared about my interest in translators, Ken closed his eyes to thank the Lord for the blessings of the day. Suddenly he was seeing a spiritual vision of a translator station on a hill near the city. Above the station the figure of Jesus appeared in beautiful white garments; from Him a shining light flowed through the translator station

and covered the whole city. Ken envisioned translator stations springing up all over the nation.

Without too much difficulty our men raised the initial \$10,000, filing papers with the Federal Communications Commission for a license to set up the station which would pick up a full 24 hours of PTL programming.

The FCC permit was granted for building our station on the Jim Hamer farm near Hudson. The station broadcasts in a 90-degree northerly arc, taking in a 30-mile radius.

It took several months for all the legal work but, once it was settled, the station went up in short order.

On May 30, 1981 the Waterloo station was dedicated. For one half hour the entire nation heard Jim Bakker's message to us as it was telecast via

satellite.

By banding together, men like myself with a real concern for the lost have been able to make a far greater contribution to the building of the kingdom of God than any of us could have hoped to accomplish alone.

Bill Morris is no longer the distraught man whose story begins my testimony. Born again and Spirit-filled, he holds a position of responsibility and authority as assistant superintendent with the Department of Public Works, Watertown, New York, and is vice-president of the Watertown chapter of FGBMFI. I envision thousands of men just like him being won to the Lord Jesus through the television translator ministry. And just think—many of them will be from my own town, Waterloo. □



John Argabright was not alone in his vision for a satellite-fed translator station for his town. God was also moving in the hearts of Crowley (Louisiana) chapter officers Bill O'Leary and Myles Lilley. The Crowley application was actually first to arrive at FGBMFI headquarters—one day ahead of Waterloo's. The Crowley station is broadcasting now and five other chapters have their construction permits ready to go: Robinson, Illinois; Muncie, Indiana; Eugene and Salem, Oregon, and Lake Charles, Louisiana.



Helplessly I watched the empire I'd worked so hard to build collapse with the auctioneer's gavel. Outside the tents housing my office and construction equipment, the bitter wind howled plaintively. Inside, a small group of men with their heavy

coats still fastened tightly against the cold waited to bid on my trucks, bulldozers, desks and filing cabinets. Twelve years before, armed with an overabundance of self-confidence and \$800 in cash, I'd set out to develop my own petroleum engineering company. In a relentless search for new investment opportunities I traveled almost constantly. Money was all the god I wanted or thought I needed. Then one day I woke up to the dis-

covery that my family and business were no longer mine. I had spent so much time working and spending the money I made that I'd allowed all I had to get away from me. Unpaid bills mounted to a staggering, impossible figure.

NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE

Bill R. Weaver
International Director
Oklahoma City, OK

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Now I stood looking on as everything I owned was being sold to satisfy my creditors. Financially, I knew I was ruined. The only glimmer of hope in my bleak future was the decision I'd made just three weeks before. When a friend of mine had invited me to go to church with her and her daughter Linda, I had agreed to tag along. My mind was on Linda and I hadn't anticipated the miserable experience it turned out to be.



I took one look at the joyful freedom the people expressed and then shut my mind completely—I knew all that happiness had to be put on. With my arms belligerently crossed I slumped in my seat, silently criticizing the service, the preacher, even the songleader.

By the time I left the church that morning I had promised myself I would never go back again. But something started stirring deep inside of me—the memory of how it was, back when I was a kid.

Both of my parents had died by the time I was 11, leaving my grandmother to raise me. Although she was small in stature her generous love and enormous compassion had earned her the name “Big Mama.”

Big Mama taught me from the Bible and took me to church every time the doors were open. But her efforts had had no visible effect on me until now.

The following Sunday I found myself again in church. This time, almost overcome with the realization of my need for God’s intervention in my life, I reached out to Him for the help His Word promises. And He met me, exactly as the Bible verse Big Mama had made me memorize so many years before had said: “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev. 3:20). Now my future was entirely in His hands and I knew it.

When the auction receipts were tallied they were only a third of what I’d anticipated; I was still a quarter of a million dollars short.

With no one to turn to other than the Lord and plenty of time on my hands I began to study the Bible diligently, seeing example after example of God working His wonderful plan in



They said they had torn up the contract. I couldn't believe my ears.



the lives of men who would trust themselves to Him. I too would have to trust Him to help me put my life back together again.

A few days after the auction one of my creditors called and asked me to make the nine-hour drive to his office. His firm intended to make a final demand for \$75,000 which I owed them for research conducted for my company.

I drove the entire distance singing songs of praise and talking to Jesus. But when I arrived at my destination I struggled against the tears stinging my eyes, and the cold knife-edge of fear in my stomach.

Then a scripture came to mind: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Still anxious, I prayed, "Jesus, I don't know what to do or say but I'm trusting You to bring me through this."

I announced myself at the receptionist's desk and was ushered into the president's office. As the door swung open I found myself facing an army of company officers and advisers. Although they greeted me warmly I felt like running.

Just as I was about to speak the president interrupted me. "Mr. Weaver, we've been reviewing our contracts in light of a new IRS ruling. Because we are a nonprofit organization we find it would have been to our advantage not to have contracted with you in the beginning. We have torn up the contract." I couldn't believe my ears.

"You're in agreement with our assessment, aren't you?" he asked, smiling broadly.

You may be sure I agreed with them! I had been freed from a tremendous debt and now I knew that nothing was impossible with God. He wanted me to be free. God was turning a catastrophe to my good, solving a problem He did not create.

Shortly after the \$75,000 debt had been dissolved God opened the door for me to work with an independent oil

company. Although I was now living for God all my debts were not dissolved overnight. I still had to face a long series of legal conferences and court appearances. Many long hours were spent in prayer and study to determine how God would have me deal with what seemed to be overwhelming problems.

As I resisted the temptation to use part of my tithe money to pay legal fees, God made the little money I had stretch as if it were rubber. As He blessed me I increased the debt-repayment amounts until all the obligations were satisfied. During all this time I lacked nothing I needed.

Then the Lord led me to a Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship meeting where I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Filled with the same overflowing joy the disciples experienced on the first Pentecost, my zealousness to draw closer to the Lord only increased.

I had continued to see Linda, the girl who had been so instrumental in my salvation. She too was baptized in the Holy Spirit a few weeks after I was. Happily, a year later we were married.

After five years with the oil company, I was led into a totally different business venture. A close friend approached me about joining his wholesale plumbing, refrigeration and electrical business. Because I knew nothing about the products he was selling, at first I turned him down.

Even though it seemed illogical, when he asked me again my heart be-

gan to tell me, "Yes, yes!" For three days and nights I sought God in prayer before making a decision to join the new firm.

For three-and-one-half years I was executive vice-president of the new venture. My boss was also a Spirit-filled Christian and together we sought the Lord for guidance, moving in unison toward our goals. The company enjoys an enviable place in the industry of which it is a part and is strong and expanding because God has been given His rightful place as the Source and Giver of all good things.

My faith has been tested plenty of times. But as I have applied God's principles of faith, wisdom, diligence and integrity to my work, He has always come through. He has used each experience to show Himself ready and willing to bear my burdens.

On May 18 of this year I resigned my position with the wholesale plumbing business. God has given me the go-ahead to return to the work in which I had spent so many years of my life. Once again I head my own independent oil company. But this time I look to the Lord as the Supreme Leader of all my affairs; the Source of all I will ever need to accomplish the work He has chosen for me to do.

A few years back my world caved in. My inability to put it back together brought me to Jesus. Out of the ashes of my past He has created a new life. Today I am rich in all the things that have lasting value—fulfilled and whole in Jesus Christ. □



BREAK-IN

We've been robbed!" I shouted to my wife Martha as I unlocked the front door and walked into the house. She followed me into the living room and we stared in disbelief at the mess—drawers opened, contents spilled out. In every room we faced the same disarray.

The police arrived in quick response to my phone call, questioned us, took fingerprints and helped us itemize missing items. Within a few days they had apprehended two boys, ages 15 and 16, for the crime.

The case came up for trial; being a busy man, I wasn't looking forward to spending half a day in court. But as usual the Lord arranged circumstances so that I could witness to the boys. I did my best to see that the authorities didn't mete out punishment that would hurt the youths permanently. After the trial they waited in their car to thank me for the way I'd treated them.

As I handed each boy a copy of *Voice* magazine with Mr. Universe on the cover I silently prayed that God would use the testimonies inside to reach them for Jesus Christ.

"I don't want to preach to you," I said, "but you will find some pretty exciting things about life in here." As I watched them drive away I thanked God for the power His Holy Spirit had given me to witness for Him and the powerful tool *Voice* magazine was in sharing that witness.

But witnessing hadn't always been so natural for me. One might think

that since I was raised in a fundamental church it came with the package, but actually, belonging to a full-gospel church made taking a stand for Christ more difficult. Although my church enjoys the community's respect today, when I was a boy the intolerance we faced bordered on persecution.

I don't know how many Sunday nights I went to the altar to consecrate myself to the Lord. But the problem was that I had to go to school the next day where the kids would laugh at me for my religion. I just couldn't take the pressure.

In my 20s I left Charlotte, only to drift further from God. New Jersey, Myrtle Beach, Miami—nowhere could I find meaning for my life. Then, during what I'd intended to be a brief visit home before going on to Las Vegas, Martha came into my life. She was the first really good thing that had happened to me in a long time, and we've been married now for 29 years.

Shortly after our first child was born Martha and I joined some 12,000 others who packed the Charlotte coliseum to hear Billy Graham preach. On the second evening of the rally I looked up to heaven and introduced myself. "Lord, I am Reidy. It sure would be good if we could do this together." Apparently He agreed with me because with each day thereafter I was increasingly aware of His strengthening and leadership in my life.

Martha and I received the baptism

in the Holy Spirit at a Full Gospel Business Men's meeting, and with it came the enablement promised in Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...." Seldom a day passes without a chance to witness to several people. My position as Uniroyal service manager for three states has provided countless opportunities—such as the one that presented itself one



cold morning as I was headed for Burlington, North Carolina on business.

I'd noticed the young hitchhiker as I sped past him. Obviously I would have nothing in common with the long-haired kid clutching his pack of cigarettes in one cold hand. Yet the Holy Spirit was insistent that I back up the Olds wagon and offer a ride. I reminded the Lord that since I'd have to turn off the Interstate only a few miles down the road, if He had anything for me to say it would have to be soon.

We drove along pretty much in si-

lence until the Salisbury road sign announced my turnoff. Then for some unknown reason I heard myself say, "Have you ever been to Lamb's Chapel?" Surprised, he answered, "I gave my heart to the Lord there last night." Now it was my turn to be surprised. Out of more than 300,000 people in Charlotte, God had brought the two of us together! Hurriedly he shared with me that now, only one day later, he was on his way back to his old life—the girlfriend he'd been living with, and smoking dope.

I gave him a copy of *Voice*, promising, "If you're here when I get back I'll pick you up."

After completing my business I returned to the Interstate and saw him again. This time he was headed in the direction from which we had come. Curious, I stopped and offered to take him back to Burlington. "I'm not going back there after all. I'm going home." We kept in touch and later I found out he was attending church and FGBMFI chapter meetings and had married a Christian girl.

Another time, taking a wrong turn, I pulled into a church parking lot and decided to leave some copies of *Voice* if the church was unlocked. I mistakenly assumed by his dress that the only person nearby was a telephone repair man. Wrong. He was the pastor. When he learned I was a Spirit-filled Christian he assured me that my wrong turn was no mistake. He was heartbroken over problems with his young people and suffering from a hiatal hernia. We prayed right

there in the parking lot. (His healing was completed while he was attending the next regional convention.)

The sequel to this story challenged my faith. My brother and I visited that little church unannounced one Sunday evening. The pastor, still rejoicing over his healing, invited us to testify to his little noncharismatic congregation. Then without warning he positioned a piano stool at the front of the sanctuary and encouraged anyone who needed healing to come forward for prayer.

A woman with a noticeably short leg limped down the aisle. A few laymen were called to join in the laying on of hands. The congregation hushed. Suspense mounted. "Reidy, pray for her."

Fear strangled me. I wanted to answer, "Pastor, I have never done this in a denominational church." Inwardly I cried, "Lord, if she isn't healed what will these people think?" I prayed, hardly daring to open my eyes. But when I did I saw that God had responded to my mustard-seed faith.

God alone knows all that hinges on our obedience. As I was headed for Albemarle one morning, I was impressed to turn in the driveway to the Advent Christian headquarters. I'd never been there before and knew no one, although a friend had suggested that I meet Dr. Nelson Melvin. I could never have dreamed that moment would be significant in determining who would be the next editor of *Voice*. Yet God used the deep friendship born then and a series of circum-

stances that followed to reveal His choice of the man to continue the ministry when *Voice* editor Dr. Raymond Becker died suddenly.

As an international director I support all the ministries of the Fellowship enthusiastically, but in *Voice* God has given me a special evangelistic ministry. It began when my brother and I cautiously placed an order for a bundle of 100 each month, then worried about how we would get rid of them. Now I leave a *Voice* trail everywhere I go—in phone booths, restaurants, restrooms, and in the entertainment section of motel phone books.

More importantly, others in the Carolinas share my vision and are distributing thousands of the magazines in business establishments, churches, professional offices and cafeterias.

Soon I believe that God is going to arrange time for me to travel to conventions and to assist chapters in other areas of the country in expanding their *Voice* ministry. The possibilities are exciting.

Recently Dr. Melvin and I were rushing from the Toronto TV studios following a taping of "Good News!" Unless we hurried I would miss my plane, and the security officer was waiting with the motor running, but I had paused long enough to give him a *Voice* and a quick word of personal testimony. Scrambling into the car, I explained my delay: "I may never meet that man again. I want to see him in heaven."

A word of testimony and a copy of *Voice* could make the difference. □

WESTERN REGION CONVENTIONS

FORT DODGE, IOWA REGIONAL

September 2—5, 1981

Holiday Inn
Write: FGBMFI, P.O. Box 13
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

ALASKA RALLY

September 3—5, 1981

Travellers Inn
Write: Mr. Guy Whitney
P.O. Box 60489
Fairbanks, AK 99706

INLAND EMPIRE REGIONAL

September 3—5, 1981

Sheraton Hotel
Write: Mr. L.L. Fletcher
P.O. Box 13468
Spokane, WA 99213

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL RALLY

September 4—5, 1981

Fort Garry Hotel
Write: Mr. Dennis Wilson
14616—55th Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5A 2N4

NIAGARA FALLS REGIONAL

September 10—12, 1981

Write: Mr. Ernie Voth
Box 97, Thorold
Ontario, Canada L2V 3Y7

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA RALLY

September 11—12, 1981

Holiday Inn, Midtown
Write: Mr. Don Beason
Box 552
Grand Island, NE 68802

ALL-EUROPEAN CONVENTION

September 17—19, 1981

Hotel Scandinavia
Write: FGBMFI, Postbox 93
DK 8600 Silkeborg, Denmark

OREGON MEN'S CAMP ADVANCE

September 18—20, 1981

Aldersgate Camp
Write: Mr. Floyd Bennett
176 Liberty, Northeast
Salem, OR 97304

6TH ANNUAL MEN'S HILL COUNTRY ADVANCE

September 18—20, 1981

Mo Ranch
Write: Mr. Ralph Shriber, Jr.
325 Meadowbrook Drive
San Antonio, TX 78232

SAN JACINTO, TEXAS RALLY

September 18—19, 1981

Pasadena Neighborhood Center
Write: Mr. Bob Joyce
2712 Oaks Drive
Pasadena, TX 77502

PHOENIX, ARIZONA MEN'S SPIRITUAL ADVANCE

September 18—20, 1981

Camp Pinerock
Write: Mr. Paul Reynolds
411 West Cheery Lynn
Phoenix, AZ 85013

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL

September 23—26, 1981

Glenwood Manor
Write: Mr. Bill Norwood
11601 Oak Street
Kansas City, MO 64114

AUSTRIAN NATIONAL

September 24—26, 1981

Vienna
Write: Mr. Manfred Thonhauser
Friedhof Str. 20
2380 Perchtoldsdorf, Austria

MELBOURNE REGIONAL

September 24—26, 1981

Write: Mr. Bernie Gray
P.O. Box 67, Stones Corner
4120 Brisbane, Australia

PAN-AFRICAN CONVENTION

September 24—26, 1981

Durban
Write: Dr. John Hill
P.O. Box 578
Pietermaritzburg, S. Africa 3200

SWISS NATIONAL

September 24—26, 1981

Zurich
Write: FGBMFI European Office
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 214
1050 Brussels, Belgium

GREATER KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE RALLY

September 25—26, 1981

Holiday Inn
Write: FGBMFI, Box 1606
Kingsport, TN 37662

ONE-DAY ENGLAND CONVENTION

September 26, 1981

Nottingham
Write: Mr. Bob Spilman
'Elsterne,' Toft Road
Knutsford, Cheshire, England

GERMAN NATIONAL

October 1—3, 1981

Dusseldorf
Write: Mr. Eberhard Muhlan
Leipzigstr. 233
3300 Braunschweig/Stockheim,
Germany

SCOTTISH REGIONAL

October 1—3, 1981

Central Hotel
Write: Mr. Jim Faulds
19 Northpark Avenue
Girvan, Ayrshire, Scotland

SYDNEY REGIONAL

October 1—3, 1981

Write: Mr. Bernie Gray
P.O. Box 67, Stones Corner
4120 Brisbane, Australia

TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL

October 8—10, 1981

Queensland, Australia
Write: Mr. Bernie Gray
P.O. Box 67, Stones Corner
4120 Brisbane, Australia

KELOWNA REGIONAL

October 14—17, 1981

Capri Hotel
Write: Mr. Keith Davis
454 Barkley Road
Kelowna, British Columbia
Canada V1W 1E3

EASTERN OREGON REGIONAL

October 16—18, 1981

Red Lion Motor Inn
Write: Mr. Ed Sheets
190 Main
Hermiston, OR 97838

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA REGIONAL

October 29, 1981

Holiday Inn
Write: Mr. Cyril Houlihan
8712 N. Magnolia Ave. #245
Santee, CA 92077

ALL-IRELAND CONVENTION

October 29—31, 1981

Dublin
Write: Mr. Charles Lamb
1 Keadeen Avenue
Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Ireland

MONTANA STATE REGIONAL

October 29—31, 1981

Outlaw Inn
Write: Mr. Don Torgenrud
East Shore
Polson, MT 59860

THE NEW 1981-82 WORLD CHAPTER DIRECTORY



An invaluable pocket-sized tool for every member and friend of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

Lists each of the 2,408 chapters around the world—by city, chapter name and number, meeting time and place. Also lists each chapter president's name and telephone number.

The value of the Directory to chapter officers is obvious...but how does it benefit members and friends? The Directory is a must for those who travel and who desire fellowship with Spirit-filled Christians....It provides you with a worldwide network of prayer partners who stand ready to serve God and you.

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NASHVILLE CENTRAL- SOUTH REGIONAL October 29—31, 1981

Hilton Airport Inn
Write: Mr. Hoyt Elliott
P.O. Box 24096
Nashville, TN 37202

GERMAN REGIONAL October 31, 1981

Munich
Write: Mr. Eberhard Muhlan
Leipzigerstr. 233
3300 Braunschweig/Stockheim,
Germany

ONTARIO REGIONAL October 29—31, 1981

Inn on the Park
Write: Mr. Jim McEwan
104 Burbank Dr., Willowdale
Ontario, Canada M2K 1N4

WISCONSIN REGIONAL October 29—31, 1981

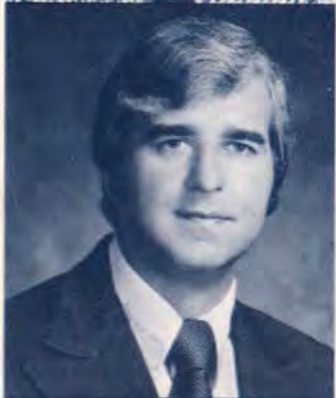
Ramada Sands Motel
Write: FGBMFI
c/o Mr. Merlyn Peters
Box 20741
Milwaukee, WI 53220

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Enriched by Their Lives

Demos Shakarian
President/Founder, Full Gospel
Business Men's Fellowship
International



Easter—a day of special celebration of our Lord's resurrection—I flew to Toronto, Canada to share in the memorial service of my dear friend and coworker Stewart Berlett, Canadian president of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

Two months earlier, February 23, Joe and Dan Ninowski and their pilot Dean Spencer made an unsuccessful attempt to land their jet at a fogbound airport. I was called to Troy, Michigan and participated in the service honoring their memory. Joe Ninowski served as an international director of the Fellowship, and both he and Dan were gifted Bible teachers ministering in this country and overseas. All three of these men were active in the Fellowship.

Even though Stew Berlett and the Ninowski brothers were well known in our organization, I am aware that possibly a million readers of *Voice* magazine have not had the privilege of being enriched by their lives and ministries. Therefore I have asked God to let me express a few thoughts that would continue to extend the influence of their days on this earth.

I feel that God wants to speak to us through the loss of these dear friends.



JOSEPH NINOWSKI
DANIEL NINOWSKI, SR.
STEWART C. BERLETT

Death is as much a part of life as is birth. Unless Jesus returns in our lifetime we will all experience it and we need to be prepared for it. The truth is that only when a man is ready for the end of life is he prepared to live life to the fullest.

The loss of a loved one often raises the question "Why?" News of the Michigan plane crash stunned us all. We don't understand why these men should be removed from the scene when they were so sold out for God and accomplishing so much for Him. To be honest, I don't know why, and if I did it wouldn't change anything. The more important question is not "Why?" but "Who?" And I can answer that without the slightest hesitation. The answer is God. God is in control; He has all power—and He is love. His Word declares that "...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

One of Stew Berlett's former pastors said something profound at that memorial service held the day after Easter. He said, "We could have chosen something different for Stew. We could have chosen that God would raise him up, but the fact that the Lord has chosen to call him home rather than raise him up is no justification for our disbelief. We do not disbelieve because God did not heal him; rather, we believe because God raised Jesus from the dead." That rockbed truth gives me a solid place to stand when assailed by life's storms.

Each of the men I mentioned filled

an important place. In a very real sense, no other human being can fill the emptiness their passing leaves behind for family and friends. Only a few weeks before his homegoing I visited Stew in the hospital. When I approached the bed he opened his arms and as I bent down he wrapped them around me, pressed my face against his and held me there, then released me. We visited about 10 minutes, and again before I left he opened his arms and we embraced as though saying goodbye for the last time. He held me close in that last moment, just as we had been close friends for 23 years serving Jesus together.

Eighteen-year-old Joey Ninowski, Joe's and Linda's son, spoke at the memorial service in Troy, giving one of the most inspiring tributes I have ever heard. He spoke of the love and complete dedication of Dean Spencer, his uncle Dan, and his dad, and how much each of them had influenced his life. Then with considerable detail he recited the many ways his father had been a great example. Joe Ninowski's consideration and respect for his wife had deeply impressed his son. In Joe, although he was an extremely busy man, Joey had a father who always found time for his son. He admired his dad as a man who excelled as worship leader and gifted expositor of the Word, and was impressed most of all by having often seen his father on his knees. As I listened to this remarkable young man speaking I yearned for every Christian father to bequeath to his

children the same beautiful memories to cherish.

They gave leadership to FGBMFI chapter work and to the Michigan regional convention which draws crowds upward of 10,000. The Ninowski Auditorium at World Laymen's Headquarters, Costa Mesa (given in memory of their parents) stands as a monument to their generosity.

Stew Berlett too had a sense of mission. He had a great vision for Toronto and for Canada, but he was not provincial. His vision included all of North America—and the world.

God gave Stew's pastor a word of prophecy at the beginning of the memorial service. These are his words as excerpted from a recording: "I would have you know that his life's work is finished and I have taken him unto Myself, but out of his devoted ministry there shall spring forth many seeds. There shall yet be a harvest in which men and women shall be brought to Me because of the ministry of My servant."

I witness that to be true. There will be millions in heaven because of Stew Berlett, many from far-off places whom he has never known personally but who have received Jesus because of his vision and faithfulness.

When my book *The Happiest People on Earth* was first published Stew said, "Demos, that must be translated in the Russian, Hungarian and Rumanian languages." The dream has become a reality through his leadership and strong support. I understand that the last 50,000 copies have been

delivered behind the Iron Curtain. The love of Christ through a Canadian Christian is reaching Communists halfway around the world.

A few years ago, critically needed financial support threatened the continuance of the television program "Good News!" Unwilling for this testimony to millions in Canada and the United States to be silenced, the Canadian president of FGBMFI inspired his men to raise the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed to produce the programs. Every soul responding to these television messages is part of the harvest springing from seeds Stew Berlett sowed.

A final thought: the death of these four men causes you and me to think soberly about eternity. Each of them loved Jesus. He had forgiven their sins and filled them with His precious Holy Spirit. We know that they are in heaven with Him.

But how is it with you? Are you ready to stand before God? You can be. At the close of the service in Toronto two persons accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. If you have not put your life in the hands of Jesus Christ, as lovingly as I know how I invite you to do so now. He will give you peace and joy and purpose in this life and you will live with Him throughout eternity.

Turn to the Six Steps to Salvation on page 31, pray a prayer of commitment, and then write me so that I can pray for you and give you some helpful guidance in your new walk with Christ. □

Make VOICE Your Christmas Greeting

Will the greeting cards you mail this year help your friends and loved ones to know the Saviour? Voice magazine offers an unusual spiritual alternative to the usual Christmas wish for cheer and happiness.

The 32-page December Voice features a fascinating story of the Santa to presidents, including his recent miraculous healing. Santa's testimony, along with others, introduces Jesus to the reader not just as the Babe of Bethlehem but as Saviour, Healer and Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.

Letters received from some of the more than 100,000 who received Voice as a Christmas greeting last year prove the effectiveness of this witness. The potential for reaching others is limitless.

The magazine requires no envelope for mailing.

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Please add special handling fee \$1 for each 50 magazines. California residents add 6% sales tax. My check, payable to FGBMFI in the amount of \$ _____, is enclosed. (Mail to: FGBMFI, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.) 2801-18-9999.

Offer expires October 15, 1981.

Season's Greetings from
Full Gospel Business Men's Voice

The Miracle of the
White House Santa

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The Three-fold Purpose of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship

1. *To witness to God's presence and power in the world today through the message of the total Gospel for the total man, and by this to reach men for Jesus Christ, especially those having the same social, cultural or business interests as the person doing the witnessing.*

2. *To provide a basis of Christian fellowship among all men everywhere through an organism not directly associated with any specific church but cooperating with all those of like mind, and to inspire its members to be active in their respective churches.*

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International does not start churches. Rather, we desire solely to be a service arm to existing ones.

3. *To bring about a greater measure of unity and spirit of harmony in the body of Christ, where members are united in a common effort for the good of the whole body.*

HOW TO START A FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S CHAPTER

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 92626



Different — after 28 years the 1981 World Convention of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship was unlike any preceding it. God moved extraordinarily through ordinary men to fulfill His purpose.

There was a sense of continuity without sameness. Great men of God who have spoken often in the past were back — Kenneth Hagin, Oral Roberts, Pat Robertson — but these were not reruns. Each man had a fresh word from God, no two nights the same. The response to Kenneth Hagin's invitation filled the counseling room with seekers for salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. At the conclusion of Oral Roberts' message hundreds throughout the auditorium were baptized in the Holy Spirit as they stood by their seats. At the final meeting Pat Robertson called out healings and miracles as he received a word of knowledge. And the new





Bridges, Not Barriers



dimensions of this convention were not limited to these.

Stability, Not Stagnation

The convention's historical setting in Philadelphia, America's birthplace, as the nation observed its 205th anniversary (June 30-July 4) provided an appropriate background for a laymen's movement which has grown from a handful of men in Los Angeles, California to a dynamic spiritual force for God making an impact in 76 countries.

As Fellowship founder and president Demos Shakarian stood before the TV cameras he witnessed convincing evidence that the only vision he ever received is being fulfilled.

On December 29, 1952, after an unsuccessful year-long effort to launch the fledgling laymen's group, Demos had spent the night alone in prayer. In the early morning hours he seemed to

be lifted above the farmhouse in Downey, California, where he was praying. He could see millions of lifeless, lonely faces on the continents of the world — brown faces, black faces, white faces — every one of them rigid and wretched.

Demos describes the next scene briefly: "The earth turned a second time. Beneath me again were those millions upon millions of men. But what a difference this time! Heads were raised. Eyes shone with joy. Hands were lifted toward heaven. These men who had been so isolated, each in his prison of self, were now linked in the community of love and adoration."

Now, less than three decades later, as his eyes scanned the thousands gathered to worship and fellowship at Philadelphia, Demos rejoiced to see people from 35 nations, including 36 men from Nigeria dressed in the



[See captions, opposite page.]

1

colorful attire of their homeland.

"Come and Be Loved"

The invitation had been trumpeted throughout the world: "Come and Be Loved." They came to give and to receive the love of Jesus. They heard delegates declare that the Fellowship, perhaps more than any other instrument, is being used to bridge differences between races, cultures, denominations and nations. Their presence provided proof.

Astronaut Charles Duke's voice broke as he confessed that in the small southern South Carolinian town where he grew up they had not always treated their black brothers right. Bishop O. T. Jones, Church of God in Christ, received a standing ovation from whites and blacks following his electrifying message.

4

5

The long and meaningful relationship between the Fellowship and Roman Catholic believers was expressed anew in greetings from a representative of the most Reverend John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, in Father Dean Braun's role as main speaker, and in the impressive number of Catholic laymen from the Philadelphia area.

Other bridges — the booths for Cops for Christ and Jim Tucker's prison ministry — were side-by-side; an LAPD officer and an ex-convict — both saved by Jesus — are now on the same side . . . A dignified gentleman chatted warmly with his unkempt guest whom he had brought in off the street to the men's luncheon. . . . An older man in the counseling room could be seen leading two little girls to Jesus.





Bridges Everywhere

2

Herbert Ellingwood, an FGBMFI member and counsel to our United States president, brought greetings from President Reagan and requested prayer for him.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Naoroji were present. Daniel, in the import/export business, is a chapter president. Mrs. Naoroji is secretary to the congress party, state of Tamil, Nadu, (Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's party and the ruling party of India).

Bill Subritzky, international director from New Zealand, reported that three prime ministers in the South Pacific islands had been saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit through FGBMFI ministry.

Newman Peyton, Glenn and Norman Norwood, all international directors from Texas, along with other

[Cont'd., next page.]

6

3

(1) Hundreds were baptized in the Holy Spirit as the president/founder of Oral Roberts University ministered.

(2) Father Dean Braun, charismatic priest, and Thomas J. Ritter, assistant director, O.I.C., with Demos Shakarian and I.D. Earl Prickett.

(3) God gave Pat Robertson, CBN founder/president, a word of knowledge enabling him to announce miraculous healings.

(4) Seekers responding to Kenneth Hagin's invitation to receive Christ filled the counseling room. Hagin is founder of Rhema Bible Institute, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

(5) Rosey Grier testified of an experience with Jesus that put his home back together—an experience more meaningful to him than his professional football fame.

(6) Differences were distinctive, not divisive, for Christ has made us one.

(7) Calling it "God's bankbook," Bishop O.T. Jones shows I.D. Robert Harvey a treasured New Testament promise.

7





members of the Fellowship, have walked through doors God has opened to the highest offices in Central American nations. They have presented Jesus Christ as the only answer to personal and national problems, and have been privileged to bring leaders of five countries to a personal relationship with the Lord.

Dr. Antonio Morales Ehrlich, member of El Salvador's junta del gobierno, spoke of a relationship with Christ when he addressed the convention. Jose Maria Alvarado, comandante of Nicaraguan prisons, addressed the 1,200 attending the men's banquet, holding high one of the 100,000 New Testaments provided by the Fellowship for distribution to prisoners in his country.

A Permeating Work

Not all bridges were to far-off places or high government offices. Hundreds reached out in love wherever they went. The response was predictable. They came — security guards, street vendors, hotel employees, taxi drivers and a host of men and women who found Jesus as "the way, the truth and the life."

The convention closed July 4, but it is not over. The new lives in Christ as they blossom will be an incalculable part of the Kingdom. Delegates who are newly empowered to witness will continue to experience the joy of bringing others to the Saviour. Airlifts will establish spiritual beachheads in other lands. The love felt in Philadelphia will be interknit in growing chapters around the world. □

(1, opposite) Herb Ellingwood (center), FGBMFI member and counsel to the president of the United States, brings greetings from President Reagan.

(2) Newman Peyton, I.D. for South and Central America; Antonio Morales Ehrlich, junta member from El Salvador; Dr. Jonas Gonzales, coordinator for Latin America, and Voice editor, Dr. Nelson Melvin.

(3) Astronaut Charles Duke undergirds speaker with prayer.



(4) Comandante of Nicaraguan prisons Jose Maria Alvarado displays one of the New Testaments FGBMFI provides for distribution to prisoners. Buddy Roberts, Costa Rica, interprets.

(5) Certificates of achievement are presented to officers representing 86 chapters who have met or exceeded membership goals.

(6) Bill Subritzky's family stands with him as a testimony that the Holy Spirit heals family relationships.

(7) Inspiring music by combined Philadelphia choirs, Andrae Crouch, Evelyn Simpson, the Happy Goodmans, Roger Cooper, Colleen Murray and Bill Robinson filled the civic center with vibrant sounds of joyful praise.

(8) Her face reflecting the joy of her salvation, convention center security guard Loretta Foster represents hundreds more brought to Christ through the witness of FGBMFI World Convention attendees.

(9) Former mayor of Turlock, California, I.D. Enoch Christoffersen ministers the baptism of the Holy Spirit.



BRING SOME OF THE FINEST TEACHERS IN THE CHRISTIAN



WORLD INTO YOUR HOME!

Now you too can be part of the tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit as Father Dean Braun, astronaut Charles Duke, Kenneth Hagin, Demos Shakarian, Oral Roberts, Pat Robertson, and other internationally-known

speakers share the excitement and spiritual fervor of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International World Convention '81 on tape. Three tape packages are offered:

- 1981 Convention Package #4242** \$64.95 \$ _____
 16 Adult Sessions in vinyl album—Rosey Grier, Charles Duke, Fr. Dean Braun, Demos Shakarian—Sir Lionel Luckhoo—Kenneth Hagin (Teaching session, July 1—General meeting, July 1—Teaching session, July 4)—Bill Subritzky—Newman Peyton, Glenn Norwood, Demos Shakarian—Charles Duke—Anne Gimenez—Bob Trench—Jim Tucker—Oral Roberts—O. T. Jones—Pat Robertson
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- 1981 World Convention Highlights Tape #4252** \$ 4.50 \$ _____
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Make checks payable to FGBMFI, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. Offer expires December 31, 1981.

SIX SCRIPTURAL 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 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" (Rom. 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 right 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 us of your decision. We'll send you a booklet, "Now That You've Received Christ." Our mailing address: Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

Full Gospel Business Men's

VOICE

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The foundation of Channel 65, Waterloo, is stronger than the concrete on which the 300-foot tower stands; it is built on faith in God.

A few men of vision—farmers, businessmen and engineers—joined forces to put Channel 65 on the air. Today they are reaching over 120,000 people in their community with Christian television 24 hours a day.

From the station's first day on the air, the anointing of God was evident. Souls were saved at the dedication ceremony, firstfruits of the thousands who will follow.

What happened in Waterloo can happen in your own community. When God's people unite in faith, miracles can happen. You may be God's person to blanket your community with the Gospel through Christian television.

For more information on translator/receiver stations, write to: Demos Shakarian, Translator Dept., Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.



From: FGBMFI, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626