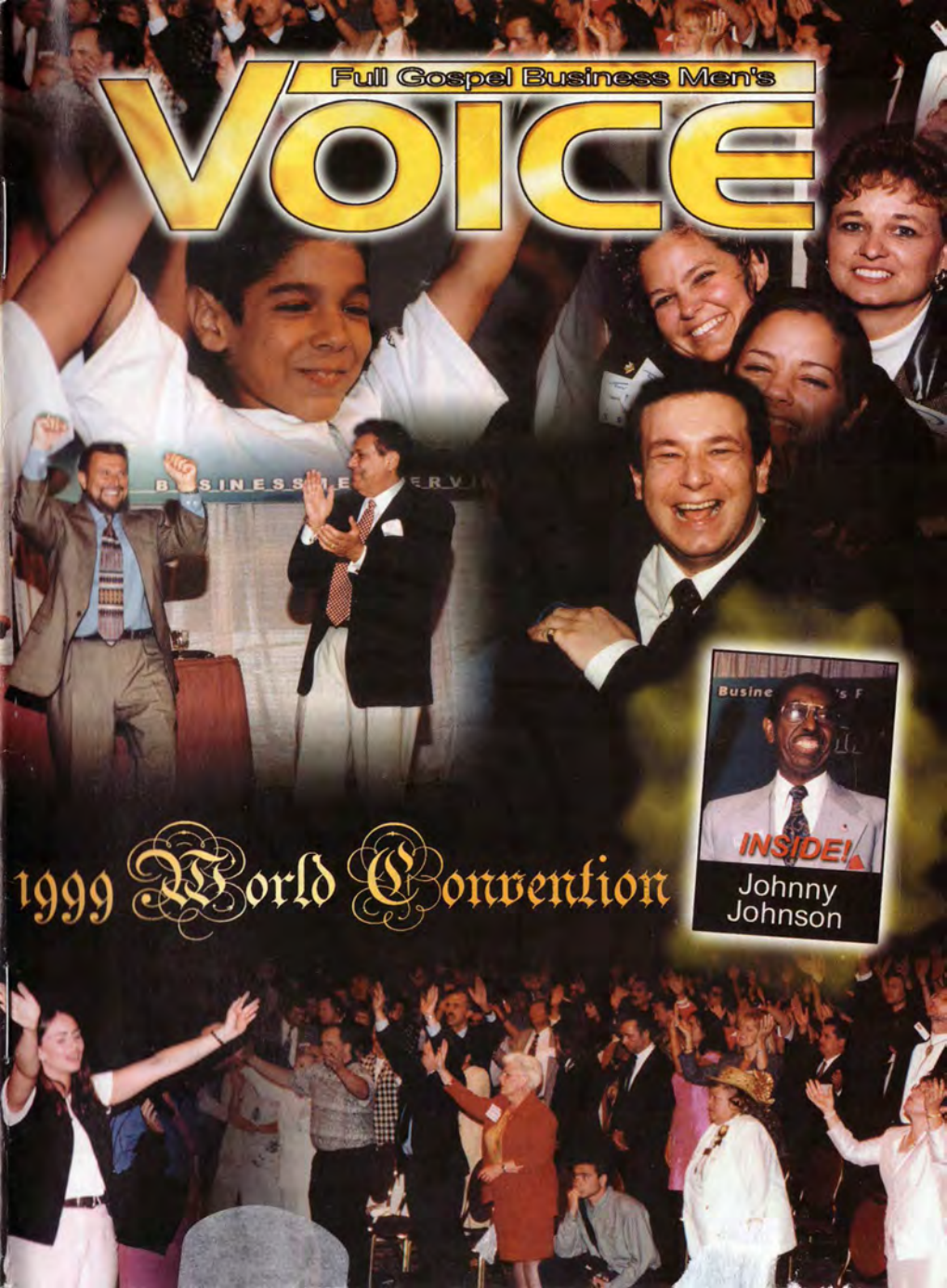


Full Gospel Business Men's

# VOICE



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**INSIDE!**

Johnny Johnson

1999 World Convention

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## 10x Better

By Richard Shakarian

**H**ow would you like to improve your efficiency? Would you like it to be 10 times better? Let me tell you my personal story.

I believed God wanted to improve my life and business. Then I read Daniel 1: 20, "In all matters that the king inquired of them, he found them 10 times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in his realm."

Many years ago I was in the real estate business and was selling land for developmental properties. The properties were in the range of \$500,000 up to one million dollars. A friend of mine came by and said, "Richard, you're working too hard. You should be selling properties 10 times bigger, and you will discover that it is much easier to sell a bigger deal than it is the small one. I questioned, "How can that be? How can I do that? I can barely sell the ones I'm doing now! I don't know what to do to get 10 times bigger or better!"

So I took the matter to God in prayer. As I prayed to Him, I didn't get an immediate answer. However, as I continued to lay the matter before the Lord, continued to sow my seed, continued to believe, before long I found myself selling properties that were more than 10 times bigger.

We must remember that God is no respecter of persons. He wants to bless you, too, and not according to the limits you put upon yourself - for His vision of us is not limited to what we see or understand. If you want to be 10 times better, then continue planting your seed; continue praising God; continue looking up, for the Bible says, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." And now can I say a prayer for you?

"Dear Lord, open up incredible and awesome doors of blessing to every person reading this prayer, for it is You that gave the covenant to each of us. Now bless each one who is seeking Your way to be 10 times better. In Christ's name. Amen."





Johnny Johnson - Lake Havasu City, AZ

# THE IMPORTANT THING

**A** couple of years ago we stopped at a traffic light on our way to church. When it turned green I started to cross the intersection, but never made it. A sixteen-year-old girl, driving a car at about 60 mph, hit us broadside. Our van went up in the air, spun around, flipped again, and left us hanging upside-down. At that moment I blacked out.

When I woke up an hour later the firemen were spraying foam on the road because gasoline was leaking out. The police were there, and lots of people were standing around. Then I heard the most beautiful voice in the world. It was my wife, who I had thought must be dead, saying, "Darling, I am all right."

I told her, "I'll get you out of here." She reminded me that I couldn't even get myself out.

I began to fight to get loose, but I couldn't. Finally someone cut the belt, set me free, and pulled me out. My wife's head was down in the glass and they were unable to free her. They cut the doors off and put a rubber protector over her face so she wouldn't get cut. It took an hour and forty-seven minutes to get her out.

They had to hold me back because I kept trying to get back to help her. They kept saying, "It is going to blow any time; let us do our job. We will cuff you if we have to. It is our

# Voice

Vol. 47/ No. 8 August 99

**FOUNDER:** Demos Shakarian; **OFFICERS:** International President, Richard Shakarian; International Executive Vice-President, John Carrette; USA Executive Vice-President, James Priddy; International Secretary, Kwabena Darko; Assistant Secretary, Bruno Caamano; International Treasurer, Tom Leding.

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**WHO WE ARE:** Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International are businessmen, men of high status, as well as ordinary men, and our vision is that the light of Jesus shall shine forth from each of our men into every culture, nation, race, language, and creed. That vision is becoming a reality through the Fellowship's ministries, now touching 150 nations and transcending denominational, racial and cultural barriers. Men interested in participating in this exciting end-time ministry are invited to write.

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VOICE (ISSN0042-8264) is published monthly for \$10.00 per year by FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL, Incorporated January 2, 1953, as a nonprofit religious corporation. Periodicals postage paid at Irvine, California, and at additional mailing offices. All rights reserved. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Voice, at:

**20 Corporate Park Dr,  
3rd Floor,  
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responsibility to get her out." They finally put her into the ambulance, I got in beside her, and we were taken to hospital. I was so thankful to God. It was a miracle. A policeman told me, "In my 27 years on the force I have never seen anyone come out of an accident like this alive." We did not have one broken bone.

The young man in the back riding with us looked at my wife and said, "I know you." With a puzzled look my wife responded, "You do?" He went on, "Yes, I've been to your house." He was so kind and reassuring. When we arrived at the hospital, I asked the other two men who'd been riding up front where the young man had gone. I wanted to thank him and ask when he'd been to our house. They did not know what I was talking about. "There was nobody in the back except you and your wife," they insisted.

I said to my wife, "Tell them. Was there someone back here?" She confirmed my story and I went into the hospital to try to find the man. The nurse explained that they only send two out and that there was no third man in the ambulance. It was then that I realized he must have been an angel. God is so good and He is love.

This reminds me of how I became involved with the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. It was not because they were great speakers, or that there were so many affluent businessmen there. There was only one thing that impressed me. It was the love. I have traveled all over the world; I have been to over 140 nations and I have found one thing – we all speak the same language in love. Love never fails. It is the one thing that transcends all national barriers.

Love changes everything in ways that people do not even recognize, and there is nothing more powerful than God's love. Some years ago a professor at the university in Chicago, Illinois, told an all-white class, "Go into the worst ghetto and find some black youths, follow them, and in nine months write a report on their prospects."

At the end of the school year all their reports concluded, "This boy doesn't have a chance." Thirty years later another class was asked to find those same boys and report on what had transpired. To their amazement, they found most of them. They had become lawyers, doctors, teachers, professors, policemen and one even made it to the White House. When they were asked what had happened, each gave the same answer, "It

was that blond blue-eyed school teacher we had." Seeking out this amazing teacher, they found her in a nursing home and asked if she remembered a class she'd taught all those years ago. "Yes, what about my boys?" she asked.

"What did you do to make them all succeed?" the professor probed. She answered, "Nothing, I just loved them." Every morning as the other boys and I would walk through the door to go home she would hug us and say, "I love you and

I love you..."

Her desk was loaded with apples. That school teacher made a life-long impression on me.

Nevertheless, when I first

came in contact with the FGBMFI, like many men, I did not know how to receive love from other men. One man, seeking to explain the importance of brotherly love, asked, "Don't you love you own natural brother."

"No!" I replied. Then the most beautiful thing happened

---

*Johnny with two former  
United States Presidents*

*(R) Richard Nixon  
(Below) Ronald Regan*



to me. Someone introduced me to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. I found myself down on the floor under the power of God in my \$500 suit. When I got up I could not see any more people that I couldn't love. I immediately went around to everyone I saw, giving them a hug and asking them, "Can you forgive me for my stupidity?" God has placed inside of me the love that passes all understanding. Love is the answer.

The first thing I learned from all this was that if I wanted to love others, I had to be ready to forgive them "right now". For me this was an important key because an offense is like a seed. When it is fully grown, it produces "hate".

My wife came to me one day and said, "Darling, I am pregnant." This seemed impossible. She wasn't supposed to get pregnant anymore. The doctor told us there was no way to carry the baby to full term. He insisted that the baby would be deformed and my wife would have a 40% chance to live unless we did an abortion. My wife insisted, "No, I made a commitment the moment I discovered I was pregnant that if it



*Johnny Johnson with Billy Graham*

ever came to a choice between my life or the baby's, I would give mine. So, no abortion." She insisted on a second opinion, which we did get.

After a whole day of tests they came back with sad news, "Mrs. Johnson, there is no possible way you are going to have this baby and you only have a 30% chance of living. During the next nine months, every time she would make the slightest groan I'd rush to her side to see if she was alright. Finally the day came, I arrived home and she was waiting with her bag. I put her in the car and rushed her to hospital. I went through the first red light and nothing happened. I went through the next and waved for a policemen to follow. He just waved back. When we got to the hospital, I got a wheelchair and rushed her into the building.

I introduced myself and shouted, "Nurse, nurse, hurry! This woman is going to have a baby any minute." They showed me the delivery room and asked, "Dr. Johnson, what size gloves do you wear?" Puzzled I said, "You don't understand,

this is my wife, I am not delivering the baby.”

They sent me out of the room and five minutes later I heard a baby's cry. I ran back in asking, “How many fingers does he have?” “...five... on each hand!” came the reply. “This baby is perfect in every respect.” My wife was smiling, “If you only trust God and let Him do the work, things will always work out this way.” Today that boy they said would have no legs is 6' 6" tall. One day he was being interviewed on TV and they asked about his brother who almost went pro-football and about his sister. When they got to his mother he said, with tears in his eyes, “She is everything.” He knew that she had made a commitment and he was only there because she had refused to abort him despite the odds.

One day I asked him, “What would you do if someone gave you a million dollars.” He thought for a moment and said, “That's easy Dad. I would use it in the same way as I use love. I would just give it all away.” If a farmer hangs onto his seed he will keep it, but he will never get a harvest. He has to give it away to get a crop. I have

***The Honorable James E. “Johnny” Johnson...** was born in Madison, Illinois, and grew up in the city of Chicago, Illinois.*

*As a youth in a Chicago ghetto, Dr. Johnson led a “Boy Scout war,” peacefully deterring his peers from submitting to the pressure of street gangs. During twenty-one years in the United States Marine Corps and subsequent years in Pentagon administration, Johnson helped break the bonds of racial segregation in the U.S. military.*


*Such years enabled Dr. Johnson to make significant contributions, both professionally and spiritually, to the administrations of Governor Ronald Reagan and Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.*

*Although during Dr. Johnson's career he has worked to serve Americans of all racial backgrounds, he has achieved nearly a hundred “firsts” for the African American heritage. Some are:*

*First member of the African American race to become the Assistant Secretary of the United States Navy. First member of his race to become a Commissioner and Vice Chairman of the United States Civil Service Commission. First member of his race to receive four presidential appointments. First member of his race to receive an appointment to a state government office.*

*Dr. Johnson is most widely known as the founder of the Washington, D.C. Prayer Breakfast movement, which profoundly influenced the lives of national leaders such as former White House aide, Charles “Chuck,” Colson, and former Senator Harold Hughes. Dr. Johnson reaffirms one's belief that, with the LOVE OF GOD'S help, ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.*

learned that if we do not give away our love, we will never get a harvest back. Love is the answer to most problems.

My father taught me that love is, "Giving without any thought of getting. It is forgiving without further thought of the thing forgiven. It is understanding. It is not just giving, but giving willingly. It is quiet in the midst of turmoil. It is trusting God with no thought of self. It is the ability to look past one another's faults to find the good. The more love you give away, the more it grows." I believe that God wants to change everyone's life and enable them to forgive others around them. 



# CONVENTION TAPES

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990726A3	Tue. PM	Night Rally - Peter Gammons
990727A4	Wed. AM	Breakfast - Johnny Johnson
990727A5	Wed. Noon	President's Luncheon - Richard Shakarian
990727A6	Wed. PM	Prophetic Ministry - Chuck Flynn
990727A7	Wed. PM	Prophetic Ministry - Jose Rivera
990727A8	Wed. PM	Night Rally - Andre Crouch & R. Shakarian
990728A9	Thu. AM	Breakfast - Spanish Countries
990728A10	Thu. Noon	Men's Luncheon - Al Kasha
990728A11	Thu. PM	Prophetic Ministry - Chuck Flynn
990728A12	Thu. PM	Prophetic Ministry - Jose Rivera
990728A13	Thu. PM	Night Rally - Daniel Ponce
990729A14	Fri. AM	Breakfast - Tom Leding
990729A15	Fri. Noon	Ladies Luncheon - Bengi Mallory
990729A16	Fri. PM	Night Rally - Tim Story
990730A17	Sat. AM	Breakfast - Gaddi Vasquez
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# beat of a different drum



Al Kasha - New York

**M**usic is an amazing thing, I write a song at home and somehow it goes around the world and I hear it being sung even in other languages. I am from Brooklyn, N.Y. My mother was Jewish, from Russia, and my father was a Jew from Poland. I have a rags to riches story. Even poor people used to call us poor. My grandfather was a rabbi. When I was growing up my mother used to say, "Eat for the kids in Europe who are starving."

By the time I was 15, I had eaten for so many kids that I was 215 lbs. My father was a violent

alcoholic. The only way I could see an escape from his house was through my music. We lived across the street from what is now the NBC studios. I used to hang out there and sing. One man thought I had talent and gave me a chance.

Normally Jewish boys can become one of five things: a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, an accountant, or a dentist. It is

expected that you are very well educated. An uncle saw to it that I got music lessons and, by the time I was seven, I was already performing on Broadway. At this time my father was beating up my mother, my brother, and I every single day. The police came many times, but in those days there was little they could do. My one dream in life was to help my mother escape.

She was always pushing us to do well, but no matter what we did, it was never good enough. My life was based on what I could do rather than on who I was as a person. Finally one night I was in the Broadway play "Oklahoma"

when my father came in drunk and broke up the whole performance. Under the duress of that experience I left home and went out into the world. I was nineteen years old at the time.

I moved in with my brother and started writing songs. I went to school in the morning, worked at Howard Johnson's Hotel in the afternoon and wrote songs at night. A friend and I would go up to an old gospel church in Harlem. It was not because I had any sort of Christian faith; I just loved the music. My friend encouraged me to write words to the music we were hearing. When I complained that they weren't my songs he insisted, "Don't worry about it. Only us black folks know where they come from." With that influence I wrote, "I can't do nothin' with the blues I've got, but sing, sing, sing..." and for Jackie Wilson "Talk, that Talk..."

My grandfather used to tell me about God all the time. There was a Mr. Schneidermann from Russia who had made a vow, that if he could get



out of Russia in time, he would give his whole life to God. He moved to the Lower East Side and opened a store dealing in whatever he could get. He named it God & Schneidermann. When he began to prosper, he moved to 14th Street. Everyone insisted that he would have to change the name or nobody would come.

A few years later he purchased an entire block on 5th Avenue in New York City. People told him he would lose everything if he named his store "God & Schneidermann". He told them that he had promised to always put God first so, after thinking about it for a time, since Schneidermann means tailor, he name the store "Lord & Tailor" and it was enormously successful. Because of that I always believed that God was important, but I did not know God in any personal way.

All I knew was to do, do, do... there was no grace in my life. I lived on pills. It was all "sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll". However, there was a tremendous emptiness in my heart. When I told my Jewish mother I was becoming a song writer, she almost fell over. Well, you can imagine how she responded, when I announced I was going to marry a Catholic girl. To satisfy my mother, my wife went through a course and became Jewish. When we sat down after this and my wife ordered bacon and eggs, my mother stated, "She'll never be Jewish!"

At that point my publishing company brought me to California to write music for their movie pictures and TV. I was still very unhappy, and had discovered that money was not the answer. That is not to say that *money* makes you unhappy; it is what you do with it that does this.

It seemed I could never measure up. For example the day I won an Academy Award for the

song, "Morning After" for the "Poseidon Adventure" my mother said, "When you have won a Tony on Broadway like your brother I will know you have been successful."

When my daughter was four and a half my father, who I had so wanted to impress, was drunk and beat her up. I realized then that I had nothing. I was falling apart. At that time no one ever spoke to me about Jesus Christ.

In 1978, even though I'd won two Oscars, my life was empty. I was impossible to live with. I was an Agoraphobic, which means I could not leave my home. When I did I would get panic attacks. While flipping through the channels one day, I came across a TV show with Demos Shakarian and Robert Schuller. They said one thing that struck home, "God's perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:19 Something in me said, "Fear casts out love." I got down on my knees alone in my apartment and gave my life to Jesus Christ.

This was Oct. 8th, 1978, and right after that I got in the car to go and visit my wife. Along the way I repeated, "God's perfect love casts out fear" and

"Your grace is sufficient for me." Suddenly I realized I was not having my usual panic attack. While visiting my wife, a girl I'd taught at University showed up out of the blue and knocked on the door. At the time my wife and I were hardly speaking to each other. She asked if I had listened to the Christian recording which she'd left with me and then asked if we would go to church with her.

When I agreed, my wife spun around, "First of all, we are Jewish. And the church is in the Valley, so how are you going to get there with your Agoraphobia." I insisted, so the three of us got in the car and went. The pastor spoke on marriage and on John 4, about how you must be saved by water and the Spirit. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came over me and I walked down one aisle while my wife walked down another. God healed our marriage that morning and everything began going wonderfully. Since then, even in tough times God has always been there to help us through.

We met a couple who invited us to a Bible study in Beverly Hills. "What a wonderful idea," we thought. Sadly, it

was announced that night that the couple hosting the evening were getting married and they would not be able to continue the regular study. They asked around and, since we were living on the same road, we agreed to host it despite the fact we had no idea how to run a Bible study.

It was so successful that the police even came to find out what was going on. There were a lot of famous people who attended. All I knew was that I loved God and wanted to be a man after His heart. The first thing I did was confirm everyone's worst fears. Now I was a winner of Academy Awards, platinum records, and all kinds of other coveted awards going to studios, telling everyone about Jesus.

As a result, for a period of about two years, nobody wanted to hire me, but I had so much income from the music I'd written that it didn't really matter. They could stop me, but not my music. I even kept getting hits. "Yes," I believe Christians belong in Hollywood as long as there is not too much "Hollywood" in the Christian. We need to affect our world and not be affected by it. If you want to change the message, you have to first change the one sending the message. We need Christians to buy studios and use them for good.

It is not just a matter of starting Christian radio and television stations, it is a matter of influencing the secular market for Jesus. God has given me favor in high places, but we need more people that will step up and say, "I want my children to listen to good music and watch TV with a positive message." We need to get together as Christians and make a specific plan as to what it will take to change the world around us.

God has freed me from the need to always perform. John 3:17 is an important Bible verse to

*Al was the speaker for the Presidents' Luncheon at the 1999 World Convention*

me, "Jesus did not come into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

My brother was a homosexual and died in 1991 of AIDS. He came to Christ before he died, and my mother also gave her life to Christ – all because they saw love and not condemnation. We must be one in Jesus Christ. For there to be all kinds of conflicting Christian groups is a strange idea for me as a Jewish believer in Jesus.

One time I met Billy Graham and asked him why so many people come to hear him. He replied, "The greatest witnesses are those who people want to be with. You have to be a walking witness for Christ." When the Holy Spirit is powerful in our lives, we don't have to say anything. All God needs from us is to be people who are willing to be used. When people can see the Holy Spirit in us miracles happen and they praise God.

I have been healed, as has my wife and my daughter, and thousands have been influenced for God's kingdom. Why? Because a Jewish man in the entertainment industry came to the end of himself and gave his heart to Jesus. God wants our hearts – not in theory, but in fact. You might ask me what I know about challenges. Well, even in Hollywood there are mountains to climb. I am

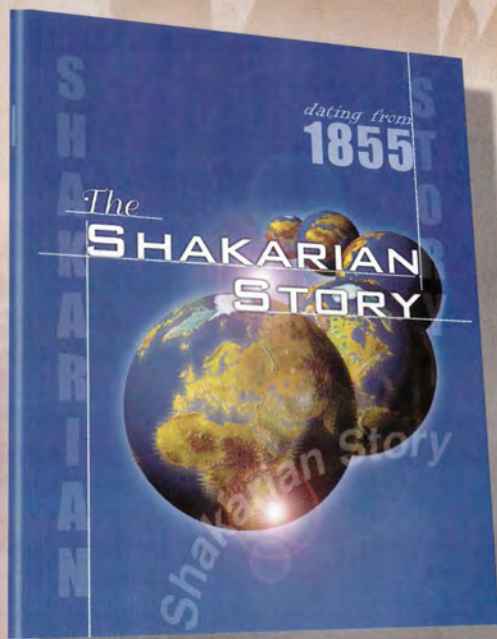


currently working on a musical animation about the life of Christ. The studios said, "What!?" But, I knew it would be something that would reach the hearts of young people. I believe God is looking for a man like King David in the Bible – a man after His own heart.

When I was sitting there in 1978, crazed and drugged out of my mind, I said, "God, I will give it all to you." God told Abraham to give up the thing he loved the most, which was Isaac, and he was willing. It was at this point God stepped in and provided the sacrifice. It is not enough to know the 23rd Psalm; what is really important is to know the Shepherd.



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# 1999 World Convention

This millenium is closing with the beginnings of new waves of transformed lives. One of our directors, who just arrived back home from the World Convention writes, "My wife and I were so extremely blessed and impregnated with new visions and expectancy of what God desires in us for the very near future. We came home from the World Convention on Sunday, arriving late,

*International Officers: Right: John Carrette;  
Bottom: Kwabena Darko; Below from left: Tom  
Leding and Bruno Caamano*



## The Ministry

(Next page - Top row L-R) Dave Duell; Daniel Ponce; Tim Storey.

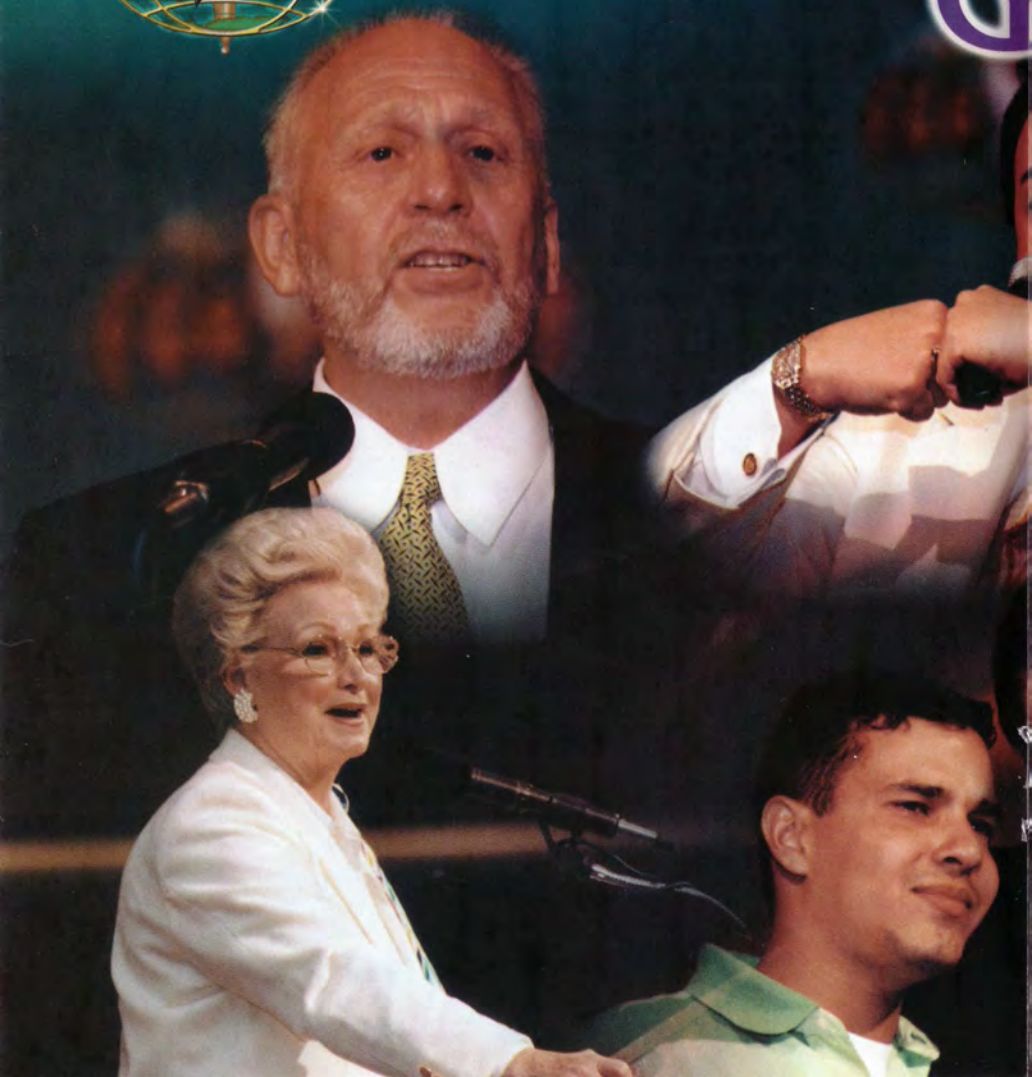
(Bottom row L-R) Benji; Richard Shakarian and the Fire Teams; Peter Gammons.



Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship



Know  
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International - 1999 World Convention

# The Glory





and we had a phone call from our eldest son, Adam. Before the call was over, when my wife asked him if he was ready for total surrender to Jesus, his answer was 'yes, yes!' And with that cry of his heart Adam surrendered all he had – and received all that God had in His hands. When he asked Jesus to fill him with the Holy Spirit and fire, Adam was baptized fresh and new in the Holy Spirit, and he burst forth in a heavenly language. Once again, Jesus won. Now God has all four of our children on fire for Him, and we are rejoicing and ready. God has united us all and we are blessed, blessed, blessed!" *Singing His praises, Bob Nations, USA Director.*

The last World Convention of the FGBMFI of this millenium has just concluded in Anaheim, California. The Lord is showing something great

as we prepare to start into the year 2000. We must consider the last 49 years as days of preparation. This is the beginning. Get ready. There is a fresh wind from God which is just starting to blow.

The Desert Sun, a secular newspaper, which covers about 450,000 people in the Palm Springs and Palm Desert area, carried a wonderful, almost full page, of pictures and stories from the Convention, and also about the tremendous outreach in Nicaragua.

*Richard Shakarian:* "The Spirit of God was poured out in a special way to the nation of Nicaragua. I believe this was the beginning of the vision God showed me of the end of time and His coming glory. We have to mobilize this tremendous army of Full Gospel Business Men and women to touch entire cities – yes, entire nations throughout the world."

This was not in a Christian newspaper, but in a commercial one. It also showed a picture of Richard and Vangie and witnessing to former Nicaragua President, Daniel Ortega. 

*Richard Shakarian,  
International President*

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## The Music

There was some of the best christian music in the world at the convention. (Clockwise from top left) Chris Falson flew in from the revival meeting in Madison Square Gardens to bless us for the crescendo night of this great convention. Maria and her group delivered the most cutting edge music available, in the Spanish language. Donny Perkins from T.D. Jakes Ministry sang and played piano all week. Marianne blessed us once again this year. Everyone's favorite, Roger McDuff, a frequent on TBN, once again delivered the goods. Christian music pioneer, Andre Crouch, brought the house down with tremendously anointed Praise and Worship. (Center) Donna amazed the audience with her incredible vocal dexterity.



Tom Allanson - Cumming, GA

**H**ave you ever thought what it would be like to view a video of your own life? Would it be exciting or boring, or perhaps a drama that no one would believe, or would it scare you to death to see how many times God had to have an angel to step in to save your life?

As I sit back and watch this story unfold I see a young South Georgia boy who loved horses so very much that he made them his life. That boy was me. I started training and showing horses at a very early age and then became a blacksmith (farrier). After spending nine years at Georgia Military Academy, and graduating, I also graduated from the University of Georgia (in 1966) where I played football and studied to become a veterinarian. While in college my horse showing

changed to rodeoing. At this time God's angels had to work overtime to keep me alive. I was thrown up on a bull's head face first and they didn't know if I was going to live or die for about 7 days. God and his angels brought me through.

In the last quarter of my senior year I got married. That lasted for about three years. My rodeoing changed to horses and cattle ranching on the Beaver Dam Angus Farm in Colbert, GA, where I became a workaholic.

About that time I remarried, had two children, and went back into the horse business. That marriage was not working because my wife was an alcoholic and I did not drink. She was a violent type of person when she was drinking, which was all of the time. The angels spared my life several times, such as when I was being stabbed or shot at from too close a range.

When I decided that my life was in too much danger to continue in that marriage, I attempted to get a divorce, but since my father was her divorce lawyer, the divorce was dragged out for nearly two years.

This brought my world down around my neck. I was kicked out of my family and disowned by my parents. Be-

cause I had two young children, my parents would not hear of a divorce, but I knew that if I did not get out of that marriage, sooner or later my drunken wife would have gotten lucky and hit her mark.

All of my life I had longed for someone to love me and to put their arms around me and let me know that I meant something to them. Now I was disowned by my family, kicked out and completely on my own, feeling very much like the Prodigal Son must have felt in the pig pen. Now, in this condition, Satan saw my weakness and came to me with what I saw as a blessing in a very pretty single horse woman that was looking for a man with all my qualifications (blacksmith/horse trainer/feed salesman/ big and strong). Here is where my life started in a spiral straight to hell. This woman, along with Satan, began to destroy my life and the remnants of my family.

Ann Rule, a noted author, of true murder mysteries, wrote a best seller about this woman and what she did to my life as well as several others.



She named the book "Everything She Ever Wanted" because this is the way she lived. Ann is quoted, "that this woman defiles (I THINK THAT THE WORD SHOULD BE DEFIES) the imagination, a sociopath whose evil is cloaked in soft words and gentle manners, yet who is capable of heartless manipulation, murder, and even self-mutilation."

This woman's cold-hearted actions put my family and me into a deadly situation where I was supposed to have been killed, which would have allowed her to inherit our newly-purchased dream farm and also collect on my life insurance. God spared me once again and I was not killed. Unfortunately my parents did lose their lives, and I was blamed and went to prison for two life sentences.

Until that day I had never been in any kind of trouble, did not smoke or drink or do any kind of drugs, and had tried to treat everyone right and fair. I was still a workaholic and really felt in my own heart that I was a good person. The MAIN thing missing was that I was

not a Christian and I did not attend church because I didn't have time. With all of the many times that the angels had saved my life, I had never recognized it nor had I given God any credit or thanks.

To show how cold hearted this woman was, during the first couple of years I was in prison, she moved into my grandparent's lives, claiming to look after them for me because I loved them so much. My grandmother was three-fourths paralyzed and my grandfather was very old. She began her manipulations and had their wills changed several times to where she was the executor of their estate and everything they had, and then began poisoning them with arsenic.

Before they became very ill and died, she was caught by my aunt and she went to prison for nearly four years. Upon parole she went to work in a nursing home. After awhile she and her youngest daughter posed as nurses and they began taking care of a very rich family in Atlanta. The elderly man died very soon afterwards and was cremated immediately. The ailing wife was kept segregated from the family because she was also being poisoned. My ex-wife's older daughter turned her mother and younger sister in to the police. Her younger daughter has disappeared, saying her mother has ruined her life. Her son had very little, if anything, to do with his mother after she was locked up. He was too busy doing all the mean things his mother had taught him to do. During my first eight years in prison, I managed to get a divorce from that woman.

While I was in prison, my alcoholic ex-wife had my two children taken away from her and

that was the last I would see them for approximately 20 years. I lost all track of them because they were adopted out of the state.

What few friends I had left gave up on me with the exception of one, Liz, now my wife of 10 years. She stood by me through all my difficulties because God told her that there was something good in me that was worth saving. Liz and I had known each other for as long as I had been in the horse business. She was also a professional equitation teacher and showed many of the horses that she trained in championship classes. She encouraged me to get my life right with God, and I accepted Jesus into my life in July of 1980, while still in prison.



Finally I was able to forgive myself for what I had done because I knew that God had forgiven my sins with Jesus on the cross. Although forgiven, I still had to pay the consequences for my actions and I stayed in prison for another eight years. The last eight years were spent serving the Lord and doing His work behind bars. I was a Charter Member, and later became the chapter president of the first "Set Free Chapter" of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International established inside a prison in the United States. I held this office for four years.

On October 25, 1989, I was released from prison. Liz was there waiting for me at the front door of Macon, GA, Transitional Center. From there we went to Sparta, GA, to Bethlehem Baptist Church, built in 1848. A retired prison chaplain, who had helped me receive Christ as my Savior and Lord, married us.

In the last year before I was released from prison, a man who I did not know (he was a Full Gospel Business Man) came to the prison and interviewed me for a job as a

Wastewater Plant Operator. This was a new trade that I had learned while incarcerated. I missed parole that year but he held the job for me. After working for him for a few years, he bought a pick-up truck for me. Unfortunately I totaled it 2 months later.

I nearly died 3 times while in the hospital, but come home without complications. Once again thanks to God's guardian angels, I walked away from that accident. I am glad to say that I am still very happily working with this man and his company and I have grown a great deal. Yes, God is even in the employment business.

Four days after coming home from sixteen years of incarceration, my wife and I were at our local FGBMFI banquet in Cumming, GA, where I was welcomed in with open arms and lots of love. I went on to serve as president of this chapter for four years.

In 1993, FGBMFI International Director, Jimmy Rogers, appointed me as a Field Representative in charge of Prison Ministry for Georgia. You would think that after sixteen years of being behind

those bars, I would not want to go back, but this was the calling that God had laid on my heart, to go back and show these guys that are beaten down, depressed and lost that God still loves them, and they can still have JOY through Jesus Christ even while incarcerated.

Remember I mentioned that my children were adopted away from me. Well, God saw my obedience to Him and heard the thousands of prayers I had sent up, asking to have my children restored to me. When my son turned 18 years old, he came to visit me while I was still in prison. Now my son and I have a beautiful relationship with each other and I was privileged to be at his wedding. Just a few years ago my daughter sent me a Christmas card with her return address on





it. I wrote her back with my phone number and asked her to call me.

She did call me from Denver, CO, and we talked for hours. We have visited back and forth several times since then and have become very close. Also, I have three grandchildren by her and three grandchildren from Liz's daughter. Yes, God has really blessed me and given me a bunch of little arms to hug my neck and tell me how much Papa Tom is loved.

I spoke about my love for horses and rodeos. Well, God has directed my path to cross with a lady that organized a Christian ministry team on horseback that performs at the beginnings of rodeos. Liz and I were invited to become a part of this riding ministry team based in Denison, Texas, called the Glory Riders. I had the opportunity to get back on a horse after so many years and ride in the rodeo performance inside the prison walls of Oklahoma State Prison and then speak at the cowboy church service held in the prison the following Sunday.

In December, 1998, I was appointed as a National Director and I am very proud to be given the opportunity to do even more for my Lord. One of my most memorable highlights of my FGBMFI life was in 1986 while I was an inmate. I was given the opportunity to attend the Georgia Men's Advance and give a short testimony in front of 100's of men on two weekends at Rock Eagle, in Eatonton, GA. During this weekend I sat next to Demos Shakarian on stage.

After I was finished speaking he hugged me and prayed for me. It felt just like being blessed by Moses. I know that God was right there with us and my life has never been the same. I was



*Liz visiting Tom in prison*

allowed to come back the next year (as an inmate) and I have not missed one of those meetings since. For the past 3 years I have been teaching on Prison Ministry at both week-ends of the Men's Advance.

Now as my video winds down I thank God for all the angels he has sent to spare my life. I thank God for all the times He wouldn't let me mess up so badly that He couldn't fix it. I thank God for all of the instruments He used, like the Voice Magazine, which meant so much to me while I was incarcerated, and now as a tool we use to get the attention of the lost.

What does your video look like so far?



## Your footprints

Everyone leaves footprints on the sands of time. Our prints are made by the imprints of our lives on others. A person is remembered for the weight of his or her character, for marks of accomplishment, for length of compassion, for width of personal warmth, for kindness, for generosity, and for values.

When we leave positive impressions behind, we enhance the lives of our friends and loved ones. We give them footprints to follow.

Thoughtful estate planning is one means we have to make a print in the sand, to help others recall our priorities. For example, consider the effect of a plan that includes provision for family members and resources for charitable organizations like Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

### **An estate gift makes a positive statement.**

When you include Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in the final disposition of your estate, you declare to your family and friends that you believe in and care about the mission of the FGBMFI. Your parting gift becomes a clear declaration of your values.

### **An estate gift provides needed funding.**

Estate gifts are especially valuable, not only because they tend to be larger than annual gifts, but because they often come at critical times. They provide that extra boost to the budget that can make the difference between program advancement and program retrenchment.

Estate gifts can be designated for a specific purpose or they can be unrestricted for use where needed most. They can fund endowments that perpetually provide ongoing witness to your friends and loved ones that you believe in the work of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

### **An estate gift encourages imitation.**

There's something about a well-planned estate gift that influences others to "go and do likewise." As friends and family members plan their own estates, they may recall your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Ron Weinbender, FGBMFI's Director of Planned Giving, is available to provide you, confidentially, with the information and materials you need to include charitable giving in your overall estate plan.

To find out more about estate gifts, arrange for a personal visit, or to simply request complimentary material, call Ron Weinbender at (949) 260-0700.

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-  **Prayer:** Terry Peters, TX (210) 927-2095
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-  **Airlifts:** Bob Bignold, WA (425) 226-3522
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-  **Chapters:** Jim Priddy, MD (301) 863-5842
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-  **Chapter Training:** Roy Brian, TX (972) 418-2066
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-  **Christian Business Network:**  
Headquarters (949) 260-0700
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-  **Godmobile:** Paul Jenkins, OR (541) 994-9328
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-  **Holy Spirit Power Team:**  
Bruno Caamano, CA (310) 446-6170  
Bob Nations, MO (573) 334-2632  
Dave MacBurnie, IL (708) 239-5464  
Gene Arnold, PA (717) 731-1478
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-  **Humanitarian Efforts:**  
Daniel Caamano, FL (954) 674-9888  
Harry Bourassa, FL (352) 326-5989
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-  **Ladies of the Fellowship:**  
Vangie Shakarian (949) 260-0700
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-  **Member's Benefits:** Gil Markarian, TX (713) 686-7746  
Mike Neal, IN (219) 234-4900
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-  **Prison Ministries:** Andrew Kaminski, CO (303) 343-8907
- 
-  **Voice Ministries:** Jimmy Rogers, GA (770) 621-3044
- 
-  **Youth Chapters:** Enrique Morales, HN (949) 260-0700

# Fellowship Events

## **ARIZONA MEN'S ADVANCE**

**Sept. 17-19, 1999**

**Prescott, Arizona**

Contact: John Brimmer

(602)242-5271 or

Gary Cline (520)445-7727 or

Rhuno Nelson (602)585-5225

## **ALDERGATE ADVANCE**

**(MEN'S CAMP)**

**Sept. 24-26, 1999**

Contact: Peter Reding

(503)292-2161

## **FALL CAROLINA'S**

**MEN'S ADVANCE**

**Sept. 24-26, 1999**

Contact: Harry Feller

(843)571-6767

## **GERMAN NATIONAL CONV.**

**KIRCHHEIM/HESSEN**

**Sept. 24-26, 1999**

Contact: +49 9921/2728

## **CENTRAL INDIANA RALLY**

**Oct. 8-9, 1999**

Contact: Stan Lay (765) 649-6852

or (765) 354-4943

## **14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COLUMBIA**

**GORGE CONVENTION**

**Oct. 14-16, 1999**

Contact: Gary Dunning

(541)296-2275 or

John Fagan (541)296-1123

tel./fax (541)296-1173

email: solomon@netenet.net

## **COLORADO FAMILY ADVANCE**

**Oct. 15-17, 1999**

Contact: Vernon Murrow

(719)564-3611

## **BAHAMAS CARRIBEAN CONV.**

**October 20-24, 1999**

**Paradise Island, Nassau**

Contact: John Ellis 364-5151

## **MANITOBA MEN'S ADVANCE**

**October 22-24, 1999**

**Portage La Prairie, Manitoba**

Contact: Peter Unrau

(204) 857-7031

## **MEN'S CAMP**

**LAKESIDE WINDERMERE,**

**NORTHWEST REGION, UK.**

**October 29-31, 1999**

Contact: +44-1565-632-667

## **FLORIDA MEN'S ADVANCE**

**October 29-31, 1999**

Contact: Joe Shaia

Home: (407)682-3216 or

Work: (407)481-1035

## **QUEBEC MEN'S ADVANCE**

**October 29-31, 1999**

Contact: Claude Delmaire

Tel: (514)376-4802

## **SASKATCHEWAN MEN'S**

**ADVANCE**

**Nov. 5-7, 1999**

**Yorkton, Saskatchewan**

Contact: Frank Leier

Tel (306)245-3450

Fax (306)245-3481

## **CANADIAN NATIONAL CONV.**

**Nov. 11-13, 1999**

**Richmond, BC**

Contact: Ken Scarrow

(604) 530-1831

Fax: (604) 530-0443

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MEN'S ADVANCE**

**Nov. 12-14, 1999**

Contact: Mike Galleher

(909) 845-2118

## **BURY ST. EDMUNDS,**

**SUFFOLK, ENGLAND**

**Nov. 19-23**

Contact Michael Peters

Tel: 01449736570

Fax: 01449737539

email: Michael@peters.keme.co.uk

## **SEATTLE REGIONAL CONV.**

**Nov. 25-27**

Contact: Bob Bignold

(425) 226-3522

## **WESSEX CONVENTION,**

**PORTLAND HEIGHTS**

**ENGLAND**

**Nov. 26-28, 1999**

Contact Roger McColm

Tel/Fax: 01305 826 864

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

# 6 Steps To Salvation

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

- 1 Acknowledge**  
"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)  
"God, be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13)
- 2 Repent**  
"Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)  
"Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19)
- 3 Confess**  
"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." (Romans 10:9)
- 4 Forsake**  
"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord...for He will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:7)
- 5 Believe**  
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)  
"He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)
- 6 Receive**  
"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to those that believe on His name." (John 1:11, 12)

## Why not make your eternal decision now?

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

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Clip and mail to: FGBMFI, P.O. Box 19714, Irvine, CA 92623; ph. (949) 260-0700**

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

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



*A Great place to be*

Voice  
FGBMFI P.O. Box 19714  
Irvine, CA 92623  
ISSN: 42-8264

Periodicals  
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And Additional Offices