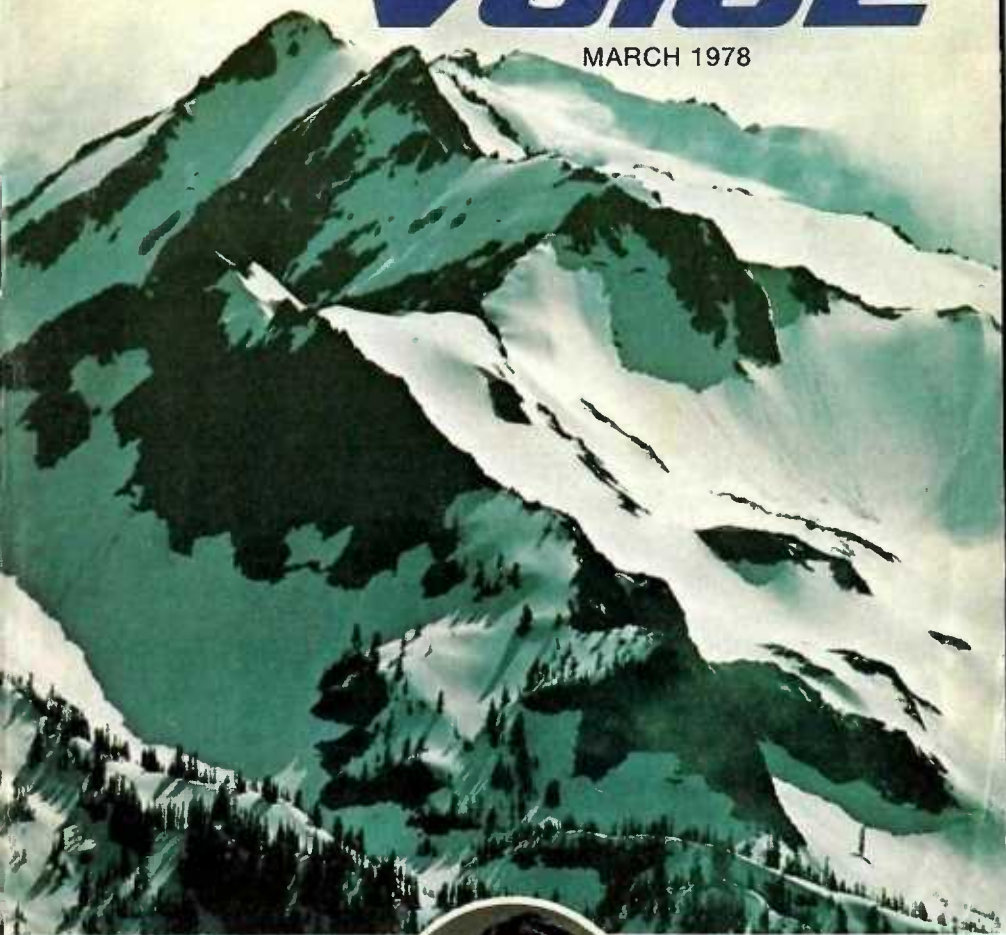


FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S

VOICE

MARCH 1978



THE
BOTTOM
LINE



The WENDELL WATKINS Story

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God said, "This is your last chance to get right with me!"

THE BOTTOM LINE

by WENDELL WATKINS

Real Estate and Insurance Broker,
Durant, Oklahoma; International Director,
Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship



I HAD NO PLACE for God. Making money with my insurance and real estate business was really my god. I didn't know about "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." I had been raised in the Church of Christ but nothing spiritually attracted me.


My wife, Corinne, and our daughter, Donna, then thirteen, were saved at this time and prayed without ceasing that I would surrender my life to Jesus. But I was stubborn, rebellious and running from God. And that's a dangerous situation to be in. Then one day everything seemed to crash down upon me. I thought all hope was gone for my home, my business and for my life.

Donna had been going to a Pentecostal church against my will, but through curiosity I went to this church one Sunday night. The service had already started. When I got to the front door, the singing and music was so loud I ran

back across the street to get in my car and leave. God spoke to me and said, "This is your last chance to get right with me." But as I was returning to the church, Satan said, "If you go in there, your home, business and prestige will be ruined." *I was at the bottom line!*

Having been a successful businessman I certainly didn't want anything to happen to my prestige. After crossing the street several more times, finally I pushed the door open just enough to see in. The people were dancing in the aisles, shouting and singing, "I'll Fly Away"—and it looked as if they might indeed do so at any minute. The pastor was on the platform waving his arms in the air, praising the Lord. Thinking that he was waving for me to come in, I took a back seat and tried to be as inconspicuous as possible. When things quieted down and everyone had returned to his place, the pastor asked all

**“The singing was so loud,
I ran back across the street
to get in my car and leave!”**



the saints to come to the altar and pray. Donna was on the front row and was the first to run to the altar and fall on her knees. I knew she was praying for her lost daddy.

At that moment something turned over within me and I, too, fell on my knees and cried out to God for mercy, thereby opening the door to my heart and allowing Jesus to enter and deliver me out of all my troubles. That's when He restored my home and my business completely. Jesus is now the head of my fast growing business and it prospers daily.

God then called me to take membership with the Gideons in order to win souls for Jesus. But I knew my witness was weak. I needed power to reach more men with the Gospel. At this time God sent two Spirit-filled Baptist women to point me to the first two chapters of Acts, the tenth chapter of Acts and I Corinthians 12-14. After a complete study of these six chapters I

was gloriously baptized in the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave me utterance.

After this my witnessing for Jesus took on power. Now businessmen, preachers and alcoholics come to my office for spiritual food, guidance and counseling. Many of them are saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, healed and delivered. And they usually leave my office with a supply of VOICE magazines and Gospel tracts.

A Nazarene preacher came to my office one day, gripped my hand and said, "Brother Watkins, I've just got to have the baptism in the Holy Spirit." I said, "What for?" He said, "To give me power in my preaching." By that I knew he meant business with God. So we got in my car to drive out to my house where it would be quiet. On the way I planned how I would counsel with him and carefully instruct him on just how to receive this blessed experience.

We pulled into the driveway, got out



and went in the front door of my house. My Nazarene brother walked to the middle of the living room, fell on his knees, threw his hands toward heaven and began speaking in tongues. I never was so disappointed in all my life! There he was under the power and gift of God and I didn't get to say one word to him. The lesson learned that day was that we don't need to say anything when the Holy Spirit's power is being manifested.

It was about 1960 when our Durant, Oklahoma chapter was started after sixteen of us men attended the Tulsa meeting where John Osteen was the main speaker. You only need to hear Brother Osteen one time and you want to organize a chapter in every village, town and city around the world. We have had over 900 in attendance in a single monthly chapter meeting.

The following year at the Full Gospel Business Men's World Convention in Miami, I was elected to the international board of directors and have enjoyed

every minute since then working in and through the Fellowship, winning men and women to Jesus, establishing chapters in Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Texas. God goes before me in these activities, accomplishing His divine purpose for which I give Him all the glory. When I'm asked the reason for my membership in the FGBMFI, I answer, "It gives me an opportunity to serve God through one of the most active, fastest growing soul winning organizations in the world."

Our Durant chapter has sponsored the GOOD NEWS telecast over KXII-TV in Sherman, Texas for more than four years, touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of souls every week. Pete Earles, one of our successful businessmen, has made this possible.

One Sunday after the telecast a lady called me on the telephone and said, "I've been watching the GOOD NEWS program. I wish you men would come and pray for my husband. He's lost." I

called a Christian brother and we drove to their home, introduced ourselves, and were invited in. I immediately asked the man his relationship to Jesus. He said, "I don't want to be saved now, I'm going to live to be 100 years old."

Counseling with the man, we assured him no person has promise of life even one minute from now, much less to the age of 100 years. When he heard this he slid out of his chair and onto his knees, weeping. The wife commenced to weep also, kneeling and putting her arms around him as she did so. The Holy Spirit spoke to me and I said, "Lady, you need to get right with God, too." She said, "That's true, I want to be saved also." We heard them both as they received Jesus in saying the sinner's prayer. When the tears ceased flowing, I asked the man, "How old are you?" He answered, "Eighty-four."

It was at a cottage prayer meeting last year that a lady made this request, "Please pray for my brother who is in the Veterans Hospital at Sulphur, Oklahoma; he is very sick and spiritually lost." This brought to my remembrance the words of Jesus, "I was sick . . . and ye visited me not" (Matthew 25:43).

The following Sunday God spoke to me and said, "You go." So, one hour later and sixty miles away, I walked in the hospital room of the sick man. His name was Keith, and there he lay, no color, throat and neck swollen, and very sick. I asked, "Keith, do you know Jesus as your personal Saviour?" Tears filled his eyes as he answered, "No, I don't know Him that way."

I asked him to pray the sinner's prayer with me and he said he would. So I began: "God, be merciful to me a sinner. . . ." Before he could repeat after me the first sentence, however, a small man in a bathrobe burst in the door and said, "I'm a patient two doors down the hall and I tell Keith jokes." Well, he had to tell one, then went out. Again I asked the sick man if he was ready to pray. He said, "Yes, I'm ready." We started, and again the little man returned to tell another joke, and then left. When this same man returned for the fifth time, I picked up a hospital Gideon New Testament from a table, turned to Romans 10:9,10 and said to this man, "Our sick friend here is about to be born again; will you receive Christ also?" After a brief counseling he signified his desire to do so.

Taking both men by the hand, I had them repeat after me a confession of sins and a receiving of Christ as their personal Saviour. I then laid hands on Keith and asked God for complete healing. One week later his sister reported at prayer meeting that her brother was sitting up, his color had returned, the swelling had disappeared and the doctor had taken him off all medication. He told her he was happy to be born again.

It's an everyday experience for me to pray in the Spirit. Each day I'm either winning or planning to win some souls for Jesus. These and hundreds more experiences have all been accomplished since I heard God tell me it was my last chance to get right with Him. ■

Through an open tomb,
there is still . . .



an open invitation

by DEMOS SHAKARIAN

President, Full Gospel Business Men's
Fellowship International

WHAT DOES EASTER mean to you? To me it is more than a sunrise service, the banks of dew-fresh lillies, vested choirs, and the clear notes of silver trumpets on the hilltop announcing the dawn.

It is even deeper than just rejoicing to remember that Christ arose—victorious over death and the grave.

Easter means resurrection and resurrection means a new beginning. It typifies the new birth through the power of the living God that raised up Jesus from the dead in spite of all human opposition and all the efforts of hell to prevent it. Christ arose by the same power whereby old things pass away and all things become new when we accept Jesus as our Saviour.

Because of Easter—because of the resurrection—we have an eternal, living hope. When the angels rolled that stone away from the tomb, God opened a door of hope to a condemned world. He is opening that same door today to a world that is trying to destroy itself! The hope is there! The door is there! The eternal riches of glory that fade not away are there! And the invitation is still open to whosoever will!

All of these things Christ's resurrection meant to His followers two thousand years ago—and its meaning has never changed or dimmed. We can still today shout triumphantly with the Apostle Peter: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."



When the pastor invited those seeking salvation to come forward, I knew . . .

I Didn't Have To

by **HENRIK FRIIS LARSEN**

**Manager of Smyrnacentralen, Inc., Christian Book and Music Shop, Bergen, Norway;
Secretary of the Bergen Chapter, FGBMFI.**

IF ANYONE thirty-nine years ago had suggested that someday I would be standing behind a counter in a Christian book and music store selling Bibles and other books, and Gospel records and cassettes, I would have taken it for a good joke or that he or she had a "screw loose."

My job was in the field of office equipment. In my free time my world had to do with skiing and other sports, especially football. I was both an active participant and a spectator reporting sports events for radio and the press. During vacations my all-consuming interest was fishing with flies for trout and salmon.

Then came April 9, 1940 and Norway became an occupied country. All sporting events were forbidden, and as a good Norwegian I joined the resistance movement doing minor jobs. Many of my friends ended up in prison and concentration camps—and five long years passed by until war's end. Even during these difficult times I never had any

concern for the Christian faith or going to church. Every time I passed a certain church near where I used to live, I thought, "These poor, innocent people."

Then on a cold winter day in February 1945 I had made an appointment with a young lady to meet her outside a church after service. I was very early and it was terribly cold, so to avoid freezing I

Please turn to page 12



Mrs. Larsen recommends Norwegian translation of VOICE and Norwegian translation of Demos Shakarian's book, "The Happiest People On Earth," to an interested customer.

from Norway

*Realizing these people
had something I didn't have,
I began seeking . . .*

A Deeper Experience



by BERNHARD R. TYNES

Furniture Manufacturer, Sykkylven, Norway

MY PARENTS are from Sykkylven, Norway but when they were married they settled in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They were both believers and participated actively in the Lutheran Church. Father served on the council and Mother became involved in mission work. When she inherited a farm in Sykkylven they returned to Norway to become farmers, and it was here that I was born and raised.

As children we had to help with the farming, but by the time I was twelve I started making buttons which I sold to seamstresses for use in coats and dresses. Later I made some small furniture items such as flower tables and the like. Following primary school, I studied carpentry and soon afterwards obtained some machines (partly made by myself) adequate for sawing, drilling, tapping and finishing.

In 1927 I opened a small factory, expanded into a larger building in 1930 and again in 1934, and at that time bought a lot of new machinery. My


employees numbered about fifty, and with some good fortune the company continued to expand.

When I was twenty, God spoke to me through the sudden death of a friend. Even while working I would start crying when I thought about it. There was something in my heart crying for more than riches and gold.

On May 4, 1931, I went to a Christian retreat in one of our villages. Rev. Ludvig Hope was the speaker and the Spirit of God was present. Something happened within me and I made my decision to surrender to God. "All those who believe in me shall have everlasting life," were the words that brought about this surrender. I returned home in the late hours and the next morning enrolled in the military service.

Temptation came to me the very first night, when a roommate asked me to attend a dance with him. He knew the entrance guard and could "fix it," he said. However, in that moment I re-

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FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Dateline: Media Report



LIFT UP JESUS! Theme of New Media Thrust

WE BELIEVE in a very simple and very effective secret for successful world evangelism. Jesus stated it in these words:

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."
John 12:32.

The purpose of our media outreach is to lift up our wonderful Saviour so that millions can behold Him and find in Him new life, peace and joy.

One of the most effective ways of lifting up Jesus before millions of people has been our five-hour TV telethon, GOOD NEWS TONIGHT.

Wonderful experiences have happened over and over again as Jesus has been lifted up through this program. A young wife and mother, finding life hopeless, sat alone in a motel room, gun in hand. She was ready to take her life. But she switched on the TV set and saw GOOD NEWS TONIGHT. Instead of death, she found life—eternal life in Christ.

In Seattle a man phoned in to our telethon counselors four times. The first time he received Jesus Christ as his Saviour. The second time he received baptism in the Holy Spirit. The third time he received healing from muscular dystrophy which had left him a cripple for 20 years. The fourth time he called to express his joy and to give a donation to our Fellowship!

Over and over again, thrilling experiences like these assure us that GOOD NEWS TONIGHT is doing the work God intended it to do.

We began GOOD NEWS TONIGHT three years ago. The message it contains is as fresh and vital as when the apostles first preached it at Pentecost. For five hours businessmen and celebrities share their testimonies. Telephone lines become jammed with requests for prayer, for help, for literature, and with responses to our request for financial help.

As good and as effective as GOOD NEWS TONIGHT is at present, we also realize that we can make it better. We must keep up with technical changes in television if we are to continue to grip the attention of millions as effectively as possible.

In the next few months we need to produce a brand new GOOD NEWS



TONIGHT program. We are making plans to do so already. And the Lord is leading.

Our Canadian office has donated the video equipment we need to go "on location" almost anywhere—businesses, homes, overseas, outdoors, etc. This will help to make our GOOD NEWS TONIGHT program eye-appealing and relevant.

We have developed the staff needed to write and produce this new program.

God has expanded our vision and the vision of our Fellowship friends around the world: *Reach out to more and more cities with the best presentation of God's love that is possible!* LIFT UP JESUS!

LIFT UP JESUS! Before the discouraged, lost millions. Reach out to desperate, sin-weary people with Christ's love and compassion.

LIFT UP JESUS! Offer thousands of viewers immediate help through the telephone and through prayer. Follow up with VOICE and other life-sharing literature. Develop a program to work with local chapters in effective and consistent follow up.

Because God has brought together a dedicated, qualified staff, and because of our commitment to use every dollar to its full potential, we feel we will be able to *completely* update GOOD NEWS TONIGHT for under \$100,000. We are also praying that God will enable us to present this new program in over 50 major cities in the first year.

That means a cost of just \$2,000 for production for each of those cities or about 16¢ per actual viewing family—less than the price of a candy bar to reach a family for Christ.

A gift of \$15 will lift up Jesus before 90 families. A gift of \$50 will lift Him up before 300 families.

Please pray with us and for us that a new GOOD NEWS TONIGHT will be ready in as short a time as possible. If you wish more information and how you can help, send your request to **GOOD NEWS TONIGHT, Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.**

HELP US TO LIFT UP JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD!

I DIDN'T HAVE TO

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sneaked into the church and sat down on one of the benches at the back. A large group of young people was singing some beautiful songs. When the pastor started to speak, he read from the Bible, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms . . ." (Deuteronomy 33:27).

During the sermon it seemed as if I was taken by two mighty arms under my armpits and lifted out of my former life and placed into a completely new environment. It appeared a bit confusing and unreal, but when the pastor invited those seeking salvation to come forward, I knew I didn't have to. God had saved me while I was sitting on the bench!

Later on I joined the activities in the church and the young people's group, participating in conventions and annuals. I found this new life in Christ exciting and it was here that I met the girl who became my wife after an eighteen-month engagement. A son and a daughter were born to us, and we were a happy family, eager churchgoers, and active workers among children. We didn't have too much of this world's goods, but no one suffered. Then I changed to another job, with more pay and more responsible work to do in the same field of selling office equipment. The first years of electronic calculators were a golden age in the field of office equipment. It was lucrative but demanding.

About this time my dear wife and I,

through reading Mark 16 and the first few chapters of Acts, realized that there must be a more real fellowship with Jesus. Our children chose Him at an early age and were praying to Him as their Lord and Saviour. Our son committed his life to total service to Christ, graduated from a theological seminary, and is today a traveling evangelist for the Pentecostal movement and is married to one of Scandinavia's most popular Gospel singers. Also our daughter decided very early to live for God and is today a happily married mother of two children.

My wife began attending some special prayer meetings for women. Although I warned her against fanaticism in all forms, I secretly envied the joy she seemed to get from these meetings. At this same time we went to some large conventions in Sweden and were exposed to spiritual experiences that were not taught in our church. There was prayer for healing of the sick as well as speaking in tongues with interpretation. This created a hunger and thirst in our hearts for a deeper experience in our spiritual walk.

Back home my wife continued going to the women's prayer meetings. Then one day—with both joy and anxiety in her voice—she told me that she had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I think I reacted quite calmly, probably because I did not fully understand what this meant. After her experience my wife became even more caring about her family, and her renewed joy and commitment in prayer made me increasingly

hungry and thirsty for what she had. A short time later we went to a charismatic meeting and I too received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Our two children also received the Baptism at about the same time. Our daughter was at a Bible school in Sweden and our son was at a meeting in Bergen. It was at this time that he was called to the ministry.

All four of us have been baptized in water as believers. For my wife and me this was one of the most meaningful experiences in our lives.

Shortly after this I was introduced to the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship when Simon Vikse, Harald Bredesen, Bill Wilson and Arne Dahl spoke in Norway. From this beginning, prayer meetings were started in Sophus Schanche's home and I experienced a fellowship of love that made a great impact on me. Schanche is now international director of the FGBMFI in Norway.

Since that time God has let us work in the movement later organized as a chapter of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship in Bergen. In November 1972 we sent our children to New York to attend the regional convention in the Americana Hotel. They returned to Norway full of excitement and stories that made us want to go to the USA too. The following year, my wife and I joined a party of sixty others from Norway who attended the World Convention in New York. The natural openness and attitude of the Americans inspired us and their

singing, testimonies and sermons went straight to our hearts. It was a fantastic experience, making the initial words of Demos Shakarian come true, "After this convention, you will never be the same."

Four years ago I quit the office equipment business to join with my wife who for years had managed a little Christian book store and later became owner of it. In this shop equipped only with Christian literature, records, cassettes and a minor selection of musical instruments and stationery, we believe we are fulfilling a ministry for the Lord. Many times we have prayed for people with needs, invited a good number to the FGBMFI Monday meetings, and given many further instructions and guidance. Especially young people seem to understand and take advantage of the possibilities of evangelization with books, songs and music.

It is with great joy we serve in the ministry of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship and the activities of the local Pentecostal Assembly in Bergen, partaking in conventions and executive work. At our latest convention in Bergen, we once again had the opportunity to meet the representatives of the European headquarters, Steve Lightle and Fred Ladenius, and together with them we rejoice over what God is doing throughout the world. These are exciting times, and the opportunities are many. God help us to be ready and available where He wants us. ■

For latest news of what God is doing through the FGBMFI in Norway, please turn to page 19.

A DEEPER EXPERIENCE

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ceived power to give my first testimony and from then on felt a wonderful boldness to witness for Christ during my stay in the military. My roommate showed me respect for my stand. It was good to be saved and witness to my fellowmen.

During a journey to Sweden shortly thereafter, I visited a Pentecostal meeting. For the first time I heard someone speak in other tongues, realized these people had something I didn't have, and immediately began praying for a deeper experience with God.

Then at a meeting in a Pentecostal church in Oslo on February 17, 1935 I surrendered my life afresh to God and asked that His will be done in me. After praying a little while together with others, I felt a wonderful power go through me, causing me to fall prostrate and giving me the feeling of being clothed in a shining garment and of being separated from my physical body. I was extremely happy and began speaking in tongues. Returning to my hotel, it felt as though I were walking on air.

This was a grand experience, but in all the busy work I had to do, Satan tried to disturb the new inner peace and joy I had experienced, but to no avail. How beautiful it was then to come to Jesus and receive new power and guidance from the Holy Spirit. And so it has been since that day.

A couple of years ago I met Sophus Schanche, international director of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship

in Norway. This man has been a great help and encouragement to me. He has shown a love and burden for the salvation of his fellowmen that inspires me.

I also had the privilege to be in the FGBMFI convention in Bergen in 1976, and likewise in several meetings of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship in Bergen. I have felt the unity there from the beginning. What sets these men apart, irrespective of their denomination, is the spirit of love. The Holy Spirit has called me to work for this vessel being used so effectively by God. Last Christmas I bought over 200 copies of the Norwegian translation of Demos Shakarian's book, "The Happiest People on Earth," which I mailed to my business partners and friends. This book has been a blessing to many, and they have become aware of the importance the power of God has for His children when they open themselves to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

In 1928 I was married to Jenny Solheim from Skien. She has the same experience as I have and we live happily together. We have four children—two of whom are married—and we have also become grandparents. Our prayer is that all of them will join us on the road that leads to heaven. ■

DO YOU HAVE A VOICE?

We are in need of a copy of the April 1955 issue to give us a complete set for our Headquarters Research Library, and are willing to pay \$10.00 to the first person sending us such a copy in good condition for binding. Address: VOICE EDITOR, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. Thank You!

**"In thy presence there is fullness of joy,
in thy right hand are pleasures
forevermore" (Psalm 15:11).**

"HOW SWEET IT IS!"

by C. C. CRIBB

**President, Evangelical Ministries, Inc.,
Raleigh, North Carolina**

**Publisher (Manhattan, Ltd.) and author of A DOUBLE MIRACLE,
FROM NOW TILL ETERNITY and other evangelical books.**



THE SECOND divine shaft of light in long months of utter darkness came on the night of February 21, 1974. With a holy calm akin to heaven, I was awakened in the night with the scripture burning like fire in my mind, repeated many times over as if there were no other thought in all the world, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jeremiah 33:3). A few days earlier, God had spoken to my understanding His first message with the suddenness and force of thunder, "*I will heal thee because I need thee!*"

Severe depression, into which I had tumbled uncontrollably about a year-and-a-half earlier, is impossible to de-

scribe. Spiritual frustration, for many months slowly engulfing my mind and spirit like a giant octopus deliberately devouring its helpless prey, exploded into a malicious climax. I became completely emotionless—no smile, no laughter, no joy, no tears, no affection. My lifetime ability as a strong and positive leader had vanished months previously; my ability to make necessary decisions had abandoned me. My physical energy was so utterly drained away that almost superhuman effort was required even to get out of bed or to take a single step. I greatly preferred being asleep, and for weeks slept at least eighteen hours daily. When awake, my mind was in a maddening whirl, defying concentration. For long months I could

hardly force myself to speak and even then my voice was strangely unnatural, lacking depth or expression.

More than a year passed before I even attempted to preach again—and even then due to necessity and duty rather than that inner compulsion of the spirit known to all God-anointed ministers. For weeks and weeks I cried out, even in preaching, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46). Sacred music and inspired singing have for many years filled my whole

into my innermost being. The Holy Spirit irresistibly and wonderfully directed me into marvelous spiritual truths never before explored—truths which overwhelmed my mind and spirit. Faith burst inside my spirit into a new dimension so that I found it expressibly easier simply to believe God. Preaching took on a new anointing which continues to amaze even me. And God, on a level never known previously, began communicating with my mind and spirit. Frequently, the Word

I ceased to pray for healing

being with spiritual ecstasy; however, during all this prolonged period my heart was completely untouched, as if I were some kind of mechanical robot. Everything I did was by memory and force of habit; certainly not from inspiration. For a year and a half the only glimmer of light was God's assurance to my dear wife that He was going to heal me.

Immediately after my profound experience with the scripture on the night of February 21, a strangely remarkable change enveloped me. Certain vitally important passages of scripture suddenly came alive in my spirit as if they were dazzling gems just discovered. Indeed, the entire Holy Bible seemed strangely illuminated to my understanding as though some heavenly light of great magnitude shone upon it and reflected its glories and wonders back

universal was made to me the Word personal—the message of the very Lord God Almighty to me.

On Tuesday, February 26, 1974, I was suddenly aware of a wonderfully different feeling. No longer was my mind cloudy and depressed. No longer was the world dark and gloomy. This continued the following two days on an ever-increasing scale. By Friday, March 1, my spirit was filled to the utmost capacity with perfect assurance of healing from every vestige of depression.

That night, immediately after retiring, another remarkable spiritual experience took place. The scripture, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10), literally burst inside me so that I spoke it out, loudly, into the darkness. Nothing even slightly comparable to this had ever happened to me. I reveled in the sheer rapture and majesty and grandeur

of that mighty word from God! Then I entered into an intimacy of spiritual fellowship with the Lord never known in all my thirty-one years as a Christian or twenty-eight years as a minister. So inexpressibly intense was this experience that I have made it the foundation upon which the rest of my life must be built. For God further said to me, "He doeth according to his will . . . and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Daniel 4:35). He works through men to accomplish His

actually worse that day in my symptoms of severe depression than I had been since being reduced to total incapacity many months previously. Yet, that night, following intense prayer, the Holy Spirit poured my whole spiritual being full of divine glory in listening to God's people sing. And as I preached—I was determined to preach or die trying—on the soon coming again of our Lord Jesus, maximum weariness and unutterable peace permeated my whole being. Upon retiring for the night I went

and sought God for Himself alone

purposes; yet, it is He who does the work and provides the power!

The following Sunday—March 3—was a great test of faith, indescribable for satanic intensity. I include it to demonstrate that healing, like salvation, is satanically resisted. I had not slept a single wink the preceding night, my mind being a battleground in full and furious action between Almighty God and a determined devil. I preached that morning, but with unbelievable effort, feeling that my very mind was in some sort of weird world, unreal and detached. Of all the difficult sermons of my lifetime combined, this exceeded them all by ten thousand times. The "Gospel Gems" about which I preached were hurled back into my face by the devil.

I left the church that morning in a daze, almost too weak to walk. I was

instantly to sleep and awoke late the following morning feeling like ten million dollars drawing ten percent interest, compounded twice daily! And the glory grows ever more glorious until this very day.

By a divinely-ordained arrangement, I assuredly believe, W. K. (Billy) Crowder of Raleigh, North Carolina, a dedicated man of God whom I had known for some fourteen years, came to my home that night—Monday, March 4. Neither of us had any way of knowing what God was about to do. After a lengthy discussion, we began to pray. Shortly thereafter, I was impelled to lift my face and hands toward heaven. The Holy Spirit instantly came upon me in a language and a sense of worship never before experienced. After several minutes, I was so overwhelmed that I fell from my knees to the floor on my back,

the mighty power of the Spirit surging through my whole being. My hands pulsed with what felt like a flowing electrical current, I could not move. This continued for more than two hours until past midnight.

I had decided that Monday afternoon to see my physician the following day. For some weeks, and getting noticeably worse daily, I had developed sharp, jabbing pains in both hips; a deep ache, sometimes throbbing, in my back; and severe pains in my stomach area. Such intensifying pains frequently kept me awake much of the night or awakened me and sleep would not return. Yet, strangely, I had not once prayed about this. In actual fact—exactly when I do not know—I had virtually ceased to pray for healing. As best I could, I was seeking God for Himself alone, utterly abandoned to Him. When I went to my physician's office, I felt the greatest and strangest divine restraint ever encountered in my entire life. I *could not*, and *did not*, even mention my acute problems just described. I left his office by saying that the previous night I had experienced an encounter with God of the most significant proportions.

After seeing my doctor I went to pray for my brother-in-law who had deteriorated to a wheelchair with a deadly, incurable disease. When I knelt before his wheelchair and laid my hands on him, I felt the electric-like power of the Spirit in my hands and such "praying in the Holy Ghost" (Jude 20) as never experienced in my lifetime, was expressed through me. I was overcome

with a sense of absolute nothingness, and yet of God's almightiness. I spoke a few words in the Spirit which I had never spoken or heard before. My words in prayer seemed to come from somewhere deep inside my spirit rather than from my mind—words of great faith and power. I soon fell to my knees beside the bed, overcome with praises indescribable. Suddenly I felt my entire back area vibrating strangely and strongly. This continued for several minutes. Somehow I knew this was the healing power of God. I felt that He was somehow either completing or confirming my physical healing of the preceding night. I flung myself on my face on the floor, utterly overwhelmed with the wonder and glory of His mighty power. I have been wonderfully blessed by the Spirit many times, but I then knew for the first time—though not the last—what the famed evangelist Charles G. Finney meant when he cried out to God to shut off the power and glory which in the physical he could no longer endure!

I had sustained a severe back injury about two years previously—an injury which had inflicted untold agony. I did not realize at that time what God had in reality done. From that Tuesday afternoon, March 5, 1974, until this very moment, I have not had another twinge of back pain whatever. My brother-in-law was not healed although greatly blessed.

The following night, as I fully expected by revelation of the Spirit and as I had told my daughter the preceding

day, there began a thirty-day expelling of a massive intestinal malignancy, a malignancy that I know had been divinely killed. Finally, all pain diminished to the vanishing point. It was April 9 when my digestive system showed evidence of having returned to normalcy. What a wonderful healing!

My whole life has been revolutionized, physically, mentally, and especially spiritually. As indicated earlier, the dear Lord has brought me into a wholly new spiritual dimension. I preach with my heart aglow and afire. And there is a wonderful response from both saint and sinner. The Spirit has led me into new and glorious areas of spiritual truth wherein I have experienced revelations precious and meaningful. The eyes of my understanding have been enlightened (Ephesians 1:18). I have experienced prolonged intercessory prayer on a level totally dif-

ferent. I have witnessed repeatedly the mighty power of God present to heal. I have lost all desire "to appear good, or great, or wise in any but my Saviour's eyes."

Friday, March 8, 1974, will forever burn shinningly in my memory. That day, beyond all others, I was truly "in the Spirit" (Revelation 1:10) in such a manner that I simply could not long endure such "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (II Corinthians 4:17). Even now the glorious reality of such vast miracles leaves me with such reverential awe that I find myself saying in profound worship and praise, sometimes even in the night, "Mighty God" (Psalm 50:1).

How sweet it is to have experienced the "fulness of joy" that is to be found in His presence, and the "pleasures forevermore" to be received from His bountiful right hand! ■

AN ENCOURAGING NOTE concerning the FGBMFI in Norway comes from Simon Vikse, our man on Staten Island. He writes:

"Austin Miles, Clinton Utterbach and I spent two days with Sophus Schanche in Bergen, during which we held two meetings, one a banquet. Capacity audiences were in attendance at both meetings.

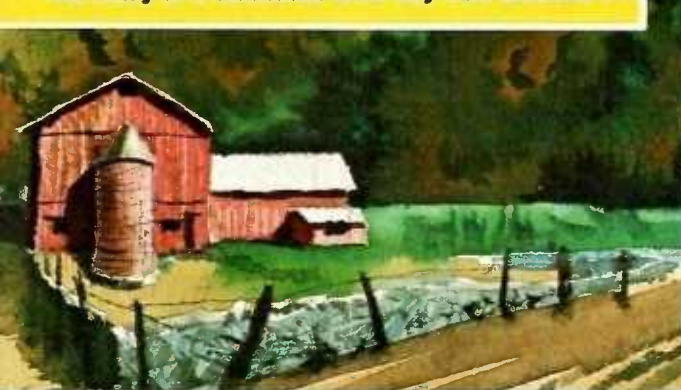
"We also visited Koppervik, where a chapter is already in operation, and Haugesund, where a chapter will soon be started. Kaare Nordlie is doing a great job in Oslo and we had a good meeting with him.

"Arendal, a city on the southern coast of Norway was our next stop. Tore Marcussen, a friend of mine from the States who has moved to Norway to live, had arranged a meeting, and a chapter will be started there soon.

"Next morning we attended a breakfast in Tonsberg. It was the first meeting of the Tonsbert chapter and some 100 persons were present.

"We feel much good was accomplished on this trip, and that the men in Norway and ourselves as well were greatly encouraged to press on toward a more extensive outreach than ever before." ■

The story of a Canadian farm boy who became . . .



Three of the Royal Heirs musical

A ROYAL HEIR

by JIM THIRSK Land Developer

I WAS BORN in a small farming community of Wetaskawin, Alberta, Canada, the second youngest in a family of six. My father was the first in the family to be converted. Mother used to enjoy playing the piano for the local country dances, but she soon followed Dad in committing her life to the Lord, and then became just as zealous in playing for church services. My earliest recollections are of church and house meetings that lasted until midnight, and where the power of the Holy Spirit was very much in evidence. I am thankful for Christian parents who taught me in the ways of the Lord from the time I was a small child.

Our family lived on a farm during the early years of my life, and I have memories of a lot of hard work and cold prairie winters. We all had to do our part, and I started milking cows at the age of six. But what might have been lacking in the way of material luxuries was compensated for by the love and Christian concern of my parents.

As a young child, one day the Lord spoke to me and convicted me of the need to commit my life to Him. Mother was out in the barn milking the cows and I told her I wanted to give my heart to the Lord. She said she would come in as soon as she was done, but I insisted it had to be "right now," so she put the

JIM THIRSK is a businessman with a wide range of experience in the aviation industry with C.P. Air, as well as in finance and land development. Not only is he president of Sharon Properties Ltd. and holder of directorial positions in a number of other companies, he is also a musician and recording artist.

Last year Jim was appointed Executive Secretary of the British Columbia Board of FGBMF and a field representative for the Lower Mainland.



up (Jim Thirsk, center); offices of Sharon Properties, Ltd. in Vancouver, B.C. Canada.

nd Contractor; President of Sharon Properties Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.

milk pail down and came into the house to pray with me. I accepted Christ into my life at that time, and was filled with the Spirit shortly after, with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

In 1948 our family moved from Alberta to Vancouver, British Columbia. Although my parents both worked, money was never very plentiful, so I took part time jobs mornings and afternoons while attending school.

As a young person I was active in church youth groups and, being musically inclined, learned to play the saxophone and the bass fiddle and joined the church band.

In 1962, three of my friends and I formed an instrumental musical group consisting of three saxophones and a piano. This type of sound was unique at that time in Gospel music and we received many invitations to give church concerts. The name chosen for the

group was The Royal Heirs, taken from the scripture in Romans 8:17, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ . . ."

Since that time some of the personnel in the group has changed and additional instruments and members added, so that we now consist of three saxophones, one trumpet, piano, bass guitar, drums and a soloist. During the past sixteen years we have ministered in churches of almost every denomination, at concerts and conventions, and on radio and television throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Washington and Oregon, and have recorded seven albums under the WORD label. Last year we performed at a Youth For Christ rally in Vancouver, B.C. with Eldridge Cleaver. Because all of the fellows in the group are employed in full-time occupations, most of our ministry is on the weekends. We represent a wide range

of employment, from a school teacher and barber to a land developer, and have often found this a real asset to communicating our faith in Christ to others because we are able to relate to people in all walks of life. Our group has no leader but the Lord, and as we have allowed Him to minister through our music, we have been thrilled to see many lives touched by the Holy Spirit.

Early hard times made me very ambitious and determined to be successful and have financial security for myself and family. I took a number of courses in business administration, including economics, business law and general finance, and in 1966, although employed by C.P. Air, one of Canada's major airlines, I invested in a number of revenue producing properties across the street from our family home in Vancouver. Eventually the area was rezoned for commercial development, increasing the value of the properties considerably, and I was able to develop a number of commercial-residential complexes in the area. Since that time the Lord has blessed my endeavors and I have been able to establish a successful land development business. At present I am working with our church, Glad Tidings Temple, in the planning of a new church building complex to accommodate 2,000 to 3,000 people, as well as a Christian school for 300 students.

The Lord has also blessed my personal life with a beautiful family, consisting of my wife Sharon and four lovely, healthy children, Randy, Kristy

Lee, Natasha and Jamie.

About three years ago the Lord allowed me to go through a period of real testing. Following a bad case of the flu, I seemed to fall into a very depressed state, was full of fear, and lost all confidence in myself. Tranquilizers were prescribed to help me overcome the problem, and as a result I became very dependent on them. This condition lasted for about six months, but through much prayer and the support of many Christian friends, Satan's power was broken and I was delivered.

It was shortly after this that I attended my first FGBMFI convention in Portland, Oregon and was thrilled with the testimonies of how the Holy Spirit was moving throughout the world, and impressed by the love that was shown. Consequently, I became involved in our local Vancouver chapter, of which Don Low is president, and was honored to be chosen to act as coordinator for the first Western Canada Convention held in Vancouver at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, March 16-19, 1977. It was a time of tremendous spiritual blessing, and many lives were touched that will never be the same again. We seated over 2,000 at our Saturday evening banquet when Demos Shakarian and others ministered to us.

I am deeply thankful to the Lord for His presence in my daily walk and His hand upon every area of my life. One of my favorite Bible verses is, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). ■

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Number Twelve in the Series:
"Victorious Living"

Can Christians Handle Prosperity?



by REV. DICK MILLS

A popular Bible teacher and charismatic leader from Southern California, Rev. Mills is affiliated with Melodyland Christian Center. His ministry includes an unusual prophetic gift of quoting Scripture verses to exhort and encourage those with personal needs. He is author of the book **HE SPOKE AND I WAS STRENGTHENED**. This article is a condensation of a message in our tape library.

WHEN I WAS a young man I firmly believed in the poverty concept of Christianity. Most of the Christians I knew lived in Starvation Acres and Poverty Flats. They kind of gloried in poverty, as though it was a blessing of the Lord. The Christian life consisted of "hanging in there" from trauma to trauma, from one financial emergency to the next.

The theory was that Christians just couldn't handle prosperity. It would destroy them. If God let a man get prosperous he would stop serving Him. So God just kept everybody poor so they would stay on their knees in prayer.

Some Christians still believe that poverty is a blessing. *But it's really an insult to the keeping power of Jesus Christ to believe that the only way He can keep us close to Him is to keep us poor.* One

of the most beautiful benedictions in the New Testament talks about God's keeping power. "Now to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen" (Jude 24).

When Jesus prayed for His disciples, He prayed that God would keep them (and us too!) in His name—in other words, in His power—and that He would keep them from evil (John 17:11 and 15). The Apostle Paul said, referring to Jesus, "But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from evil" (II Thess. 3:3). And in the Old Testament, Psalm 121 could be entitled, "The Lord Is My Keeper," for all eight

verses talk about the help and the keeping power of the Lord. Verse 7 says, "The Lord will keep you from evil; he will keep your life."

In all of these verses—in fact, in all of Scripture—we're never told anything about poverty being our keeper. The power of God, the power we have through Christ, is all that we need to keep us serving the Lord.

The thing that really got me to thinking that God does not keep us poor but instead is a God who meets every one of our needs and who often gives to us in abundance, was when my brother-in-law told me that God wanted him to have a swimming pool for His glory. I thought, *is he going to backslide? We'll never see him in church again!*

But when the Lord provided the money through a financial miracle and the pool was built, the first thing my brother-in-law did was invite all the young people in the church to a swimming party. I still didn't think much of his pool, but I went. And pretty soon a young man came up to me and said, "I know this is a party, but I want to get filled with the Holy Spirit. Could we pray?" So there we were, praying at the poolside, and the Lord baptized him in the Holy Spirit!

Then another boy said, "I've had a wonderful time here, but I've really been cold in my soul. I want to get closer to the Lord." Before I knew it, the swimming party ended up in a prayer meeting!

Now I'm not saying that God would give every Christian family a swimming

pool if they would just believe Him for it. God blesses us in varying ways according to our ministries of service. What I am saying is that the poverty concept of the Christian life is based on negative thinking. The Bible says nothing about poverty being a blessing from the Lord.

On the other hand, the word "prosperity" is mentioned *eighty-eight* times in the Scriptures. Of course, we need to be aware of the fact that *prosperity is conditional, not automatic*. The Bible plainly tells us that *we must seek the Lord, meditate in His Word, and trust and obey Him to prosper*.

Furthermore, God doesn't prosper us so that we can accumulate material blessings unto ourselves. That's *materialism*, the world's concept of prosperity, which springs from greed, covetousness, and a self-love. Unfortunately, in opposition to the poverty concept of Christianity, some people think Christianity is a "bless me" religion. But a "bless me" Christian is like the Dead Sea. Water flows in but it can't flow out. The result is that it's brackish, has an aroma, and fish swimming into it die when they hit the saline water. It's little more than a cesspool, a collecting basin for salts and minerals.

By way of contrast, the Sea of Galilee to the north is a fresh and beautiful body of water because the Jordan River flows both in and out. The lake is teeming with fish, and it's recreational and refreshing. God wants us to be Sea of Galilee Christians, not Dead Sea Christians. Let the blessings flow in from

God, but let them flow out again. The happiest people are those from whom the blessings are flowing out.

J. B. Phillips has translated 2 Cor. 9:11 in a way that captures the meaning of true Christian prosperity. "The more you are enriched by God, the more scope will there be for generous giving."

We need to really start believing that God is not a God of poverty, but of surplus blessing. When Jesus changed the water into wine they had more wine

than ten wedding parties could have used! And after He multiplied the fish and the loaves of bread to feed the hungry, the disciples picked up twelve baskets, not of inedible garbage, but of *surplus food*! That's the kind of God we serve. Not only does He meet our needs, but He enables us to be generous with others.

Here is the real meaning of Christian prosperity. Let us believe God so that we might be His channels of blessings to a needy world. ■

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S CHAPTER OUTREACH

As this issue was prepared for publication, the following chapters were submitted as having been recently chartered. Hopefully, one is in YOUR area! The president's name and telephone number has been included in this list for your information.

CALIFORNIA: Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin, Ed Hutka, (415) 447-3235; Pasadena-Rose Bowl, LaVere Huff, (213) 351-8464; **COLORADO:** Yampa Valley Chapter, Steamboat Springs, Alfred S. Grinkewich, (303) 879-2892; **GEORGIA:** Washington County Chapter, Sandersville, Bennie Walters, Jr., (912) 552-7138; **ILLINOIS:** Naperville, Jerry McMahon, (312) 420-2025; **WOODFORD COUNTY CHAPTER, Metamora,** George Asal, (309) 467-2253; **INDIANA:** Wabash County Chapter, Wabash, Robert L. Shewman, (219) 563-7893; **MARYLAND:** Oakland, Sam Wilson, (301) 334-4829; **MASSACHUSETTS:** Merrimack Valley Chapter, North Andover, Walter Ross, (603) 893-6302; **MICHIGAN:** Mid-Michigan Chapter, Gladwin, Donald A. Hagoort, (517) 426-5470; **MONTANA:** Livingston, Richard Lundgren, (406) 222-0308; **LEWISTOWN,** Jacob Stelzer, (406) 538-9327; **NEVADA:** Carson City, Ed Liggett, (702) 883-4262; **NEW JERSEY:** Essex County Chapter, East Orange, Peter Heath, (201) 228-4561; **OHIO:** Bowling Green, Rob Harms, (no phone); **OKLAHOMA:** Ada, Robert Garner, (405) 332-6673; **PENNSYLVANIA:** Huntingdon County Chapter, Shirleysburg, Ken Scott, (814) 447-3346; **TEXAS:** Killeen, Douglas Schuster, (817) 547-9208; **UTAH:** Metro Chapter, Salt Lake City, James Watson, (no phone); **VIRGINIA:** Richmond West End, Robert B. Howell, (no phone);

FOREIGN: **AUSTRALIA:** South Australia, Regency Chapter, Adelaide, Bertram Emmanuel Halley, 332-1675; **CANADA:** Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, David H. Funk, (no phone); **Pictou County, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia,** Tom Cheverie, (no phone); **NEW ZEALAND:** Dunedin, David Patterson, (no phone); **WEST INDIES:** Roseau, Dominica, Charles Maynard, 1152-phone.

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, California 92626.

THE VALUE OF A LEG

by OTIS G. JONES

(A "Letter to the Editor," October 9, 1977)



I HAVE WANTED to write you for a long time, to thank you for printing my testimony in the February 1977 issue of VOICE. As a result, many opportunities have come my way to witness for Jesus—in person and also by phone. I want to tell you about a call I received just this week.

The young lady on the other end of the line was terribly troubled. Fear seemed to have taken over complete control. I invited her to our home, and she and her sister came yesterday. This young lady, about 25 years of age, was very fearful of death and was almost sure she had a brain tumor. Two years previously she had accepted Jesus as her Saviour, but could not feel His presence in her life. What a privilege it was to tell her of His love and that He did care for her.

The home in which she had grown up was one of terrific superstition. We talked of the continued protection of our Saviour and the fact that He was always with us. After referring to His Word many times, we had prayer, asking Jesus to put His loving arms around her and let her feel the Saviour nearer—closer than her very breath. She rose

from our time of prayer with a wonderful smile on her face and a look of contentment, apparently completely delivered from the spirit of depression and oppression that had held her captive for so long.

If nothing else had resulted from the publishing of my testimony (and by the way, this young lady had picked up VOICE while in another city) the touching of this one soul would be sufficient.

And now may I tell you what has happened to me since February 1977?

In 1972, surgery was performed on my left leg, consisting of artery by-pass. In April 1977 this by-pass broke down, causing almost unbearable pain. I was rushed to the hospital and my doctor, to whom I had witnessed several times, came into my room with three of his associates and told me my leg would have to be amputated. I replied that my leg belonged to Jesus and that if it was His will that it be taken off, He would be with me through the operation and the after effects of it. With tears in their eyes, the doctors told me they had never seen a man with such faith. One of them was with me at the time of my heart attack to which I referred in the

February 1977 issue of VOICE.

On May 2 my leg was taken off below the knee but gangrene set in and on May 12 the leg was amputated above the knee. The pain was so bad that I asked the Lord to take me home.

During my first stay in the hospital, I won only one nurse to the Lord, a fact that was disappointing to me. But the second time, after forty days of hospitalization, on the last day about a dozen nurses came into my room and asked me to have prayer with them because they sensed the presence of God in my room.

After ten days at home the pain became so intense that I was again hospitalized for seventeen more days. During this time I had the privilege of leading fourteen nurses to Christ. Also a young man, brought into my room one night

due to an accident in which a young lady died, heard about Jesus and accepted Him as his Saviour. This young man's father, a well known real estate man in the area, came into our room just after his son had been born again. After talking to his son, he turned to me and said, "I'd like to know about this Jesus, too." A few minutes later, he also accepted Christ.

Wouldn't you say that all of this is of more value than one leg!

I got my new leg (artificial) this past week, and I'm happy to report that Jesus is walking with me and helping me to adjust to my new circumstances. I hope someday to visit California and meet you personally and again say thank you for printing my testimony and giving me so many wonderful opportunities to witness for Jesus. ■



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LETTER FROM A PRISONER: "A story in VOICE changed my life . . ."

"I am in prison and I read VOICE magazine whenever the chaplain hands them out. You don't know how much just reading people's stories has changed my life. I was ready to end it all, but it was a story in VOICE that made me want to go on in life. Now I live for Jesus Christ.

"I haven't had a chance to learn much about Him. I saw your Correspondence Course advertisement and feel I could benefit a lot from it but am sad because they won't let us send money out. Do you have similar courses offered to prisoners? Anything would be truly appreciated and well studied.

"Thank you for putting out VOICE for us."

—D.Y., Buena Vista, Colorado.

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" (Romans 10:9).

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

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

6. **RECEIVE:** "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11,12).

Why not make your eternal decision right now: "I am convinced by God's Word that I am a lost sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died for sinners and shed His blood to put away my sins. I NOW receive Him as my personal Lord and Saviour and will by His help, confess Him before men."

When you have made this greatest of all decisions, please let us know so that we may send you a booklet, NOW THAT YOU'VE RECEIVED CHRIST.

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"A Willing Vessel"

A Memorial Tribute to Howard Alexander

by **DON RAWLINGS**

Chandler, Arizona Businessman; Former President of the Fairbanks FGBMFI Chapter, Fairbanks, Alaska

ON THE EVENING of December 2, 1977 Howard Alexander, international director of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship in Fairbanks, Alaska went to be with the Lord.

Howard and I went through the school of the Spirit together in the early 1960's. His background was Baptist and mine Episcopalian. The turning point in both our lives was hearing the good news of a God who loves and cares for His children in an experiential way. This news was through Dennis Bennett of Seattle, Washington as he gave his testimony to our newly formed chapter in Fairbanks. Shortly thereafter I surrendered my life to Jesus and He became my Saviour, Lord and Baptizer.

I became acquainted with Howard Alexander through his car dealership business. After hearing his testimony of being baptized in the Holy Spirit while driving his car to Clear, Alaska and the joy he received on that trip praising His Lord in unknown tongues, I invited him to become a member of our fellowship. The day I walked into his office and handed him the membership applica-

tion, denominational differences melted due to our common denominator, Jesus Christ.

The early days of our chapter growth were exciting as men from all denominational and occupational backgrounds began to hear the Master's voice to unite for service. It was not easy. One of the biggest tests in my Christian experience came when I had to yield the presidency of the chapter to Howard. That night I cried out to God, asking Him why I was not allowed to fill that role any longer. But God had a different job for me, and I have learned through the years to trust in His judgment for my well being.

Several years later God gave me the privilege as chapter secretary of placing Howard's name in nomination for the position of international director. For some reason we received the application after the deadline for submitting names had passed. However, although personal pride attempted to influence me to forget the entire matter that year (it being too late anyway) in the hopes that next year my own name might be



International Director Howard Alexander, from Fairbanks, Alaska, at the FGBMFI World Convention in Chicago, July 1977.

offered as a candidate, I called a meeting, submitted Howard's name, and agreed with the other men that if this be of God our nomination would be accepted, late or not. God's timing is always perfect, and Howard became Alaska's first international director. That was in July 1972.

Howard always had a zeal for lost souls and folks who needed to return to the arms of a loving Lord. Daily, someone would be in his office—a pipeline worker, mechanic or pastor—and their

need would be met by prayer. I often would visit Howard at his business and we would praise God together for what He was doing in Alaska.

In 1976 we were thrilled to have Demos Shakarian visit our town and appear on television with our officers and chapter men, explaining the work of the Fellowship and in particular the GOOD NEWS television program. It was particularly thrilling for Howard and me to see the development of our chapter, from a few men asking God to unite them for a witness in our community to the time when Demos addressed approximately 500 people at our evening banquet.

It is true that we are to give all glory to our Lord Jesus Christ, but without a willing vessel God will not act. Because Howard Alexander had made the choice to be a servant of our King, many chapters have started in Alaska. Best of all, many souls will be with Howard in heaven due to his witnessing for his Lord while on earth. ■

MARCH TAPE MINISTRY

—check desired tapes—

☐ 6B5, Fr. John Bertolucci, "Personal Pentecost"; ☐ 8P6, Rev. Jack Hayford, "The Grace of God"; ☐ 7WDC6, Dr. Robert Frost, "Love of the Father", ☐ 1RAP6, Dr. Gene Wiesner, "God's Psychology," Part I; ☐ 13COL6, Bill and Elaine Keith, "God's Plan for Marriage"; ☐ 3PH07, Rev. Kenneth Hagin, "The Principles of Faith."

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FGBMFI Airlifters prove once again that with God . . .



Nothing is Impossible

EACH YEAR there are Full Gospel Business Men's airlifts to various parts of the world. Last spring one such airlift took in Hawaii, Fiji Islands and New Zealand, and was headed up by Enoch S. Christoffersen, International Director, FGBMFI and mayor of Turlock, California.

Christoffersen reports that in Honolulu a Buddhist found Christ as his Saviour, others were baptized in the Holy Spirit and still others were healed as Clifton Powell of Redding, California prayed for them. In Fiji on Sunday morning the Christoffersens and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Pieratt and daughter Jeanne of Issaquah, Washington minis-

tered at the Jordan Assembly of God Church. Three men were born again, twenty-four were refilled with the Holy Spirit and twenty were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Another thirty dedicated themselves to letting God use them to win at least one person for Christ during the coming year. Many said they had never seen such a spiritual meeting. The church was really revived. The pastor of the church, Gideon Nair, had them back in the evening and nine accepted the Lord as personal Saviour, twenty-five were refilled with the Holy Spirit and twenty-eight were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Don Skidmore of Yakima, Wash-

ington reported: "In Lautoka, Fiji my wife and I spent a lot of time with a businessman by the name of Vijen P. Chaudhary, branch manager of Millers Motors there. We left him with chapter starter kits and other material and he said he would give it his earnest consideration. I believe he can and will do the job."

David Soleim of Issaquah, Washington said, "It is amazing how God could take a group of uniquely different people on this airlift and have them knitted together in such a close way. This time spent together sharing with one another and ministering will never be forgotten or any less appreciated as the years pass. We definitely believe the airlift was God's plan for my wife Jackie, our son Jon and myself. We gained experience on this trip that might have taken us years to acquire at home."

Mrs. Soleim reports of the healing of a six-year-old child of friends they made in New Zealand: "David prayed and through Isaiah 58 he was led to fast for the child when we returned home. He fasted for twenty-two days and on the twenty-third day the Lord spoke to us that the light was breaking through the darkness. We had been in telephone contact with our friends during the fast and Satan was raging a fierce battle for that child. But in the end we received the wonderful news that the child had been healed."

Lloyd Pieratt reports, "It was wonderful to get to know all the team members and to learn to work and pray together. It was very gratifying to watch the

growth of each family, the seasoned ones and the green apples. I felt even as green as we were that some ripples were made and only the Lord knows how big the circle of ripples will become."

Airlift director Enoch Christoffersen was delighted over the fact that while the group was in New Zealand, ten new areas expressed a desire to form FGBMFI chapters, and our men helped as much as possible while in that area.

God also provided a way for the Christoffersens to leave Nelson, New Zealand in time for him to arrive home in Turlock for the regular Tuesday night city council meeting, which he has never missed in over twenty-seven years. Their regular flight had been cancelled, but in returning to the airport to pick up some baggage, they met a man in charge of renting out charter planes and were able to charter one for the next morning to take them to Auckland where they then made connection with their regularly scheduled flight home.

Dr. John Meyer of Canyonville, Oregon summed up the airlift: "What a beautiful trip. I feel like the seventy who came back and were praising and rejoicing for the wonders they performed in their Master's name. I saw our brothers change from insecure, unsure, hesitant Christians as the twelve apostles must have been, into the confident, assured, anointed men the apostles became on Pentecost day. Surely this airlift to our new brothers was a reanointing, a rebirth of their being. I do believe this because I saw it in each one." ■

FGBMFI 25th ANNIVERSARY WORLD CONVENTION

July 3-8, 1978, Anaheim Convention Center



This summer plan a vacation with a purpose, combining a week of unprecedented spiritual blessings with an exciting vacation in sunny Southern California. The Anaheim Convention Center is convenient to air, bus and train terminals, and all hotels (see February issue) are within walking distance to the Center. Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and other points of interest are within easy driving distance.

Enjoy the ministry of Demos Shakarian, Oral Roberts, Jim Bakker, Pat Robertson, Fr. John Bertolucci, "Pastor Chuck" Smith of Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, and a host of other dynamic speakers, plus noted singers and musicians.

MEALS AND REGISTRATION (For hotel rate information and location map, see February issue of VOICE)

	No. of Tickets	Total Cost		No. of Tickets	Total Cost
Tuesday, July 4			Friday, July 7		
Breakfast	_____ at \$3.75 each	\$ _____	Breakfast	_____ at \$3.75 each	\$ _____
Wednesday, July 5			Saturday, July 8		
Breakfast	_____ at \$3.75 each	\$ _____	Breakfast	_____ at \$3.75 each	\$ _____
Thursday, July 6			Youth Banquet	_____ at \$4.50 each	\$ _____
Breakfast	_____ at \$3.75 each	\$ _____	Adult Banquet	_____ at \$8.50 each	\$ _____
Ladies' Luncheon	_____ at \$6.75 each	\$ _____	Add Registration Fee of \$5.00		\$ <u>5.00</u>
Men's Luncheon	_____ at \$6.75 each	\$ _____	per person or family		
			TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$ _____

Fill out, clip and mail to: FGBMFI, Convention Department, Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

Payment must accompany meal and registration reservations. Make checks payable to: FGBMFI.

(please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Code # 05-8003

Meal tickets and registration packet will be held in your name at the registration desk at the Convention Center Grand Lobby.

For more information, write or call: Richard Minasian, World Convention Coordinator, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; (714) 751-3900.



Conventions in Color

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Some of the participants who shared their testimonies were: **1. Demos Shakarian**, FGBMFI President/Founder. **2. Sen. John Young**, Oklahoma State. **3. Doug Mobley**, former bank chairman now in healing ministry, and **Bill R. Weaver** (seated) FGBMFI director, Oklahoma City, and convention co-chairman. **4. Dr. Lloyd Huneryager**, FGBMFI director and convention co-chairman. **5. Lawrence D. Harvey**, FGBMFI director and warden of Texas Dept. of Corrections, Huntsville. **6. Linda (Mrs. Bill) Weaver** (left), ladies' luncheon hostess and convention soloist introducing **Carolyn Savelle**, guest speaker. **7. Dr. James E. Johnson**, FGBMFI director and banquet speaker. **8. Kenneth Jagd**, OKC west chapter president.



Macon, Georgia (Central South)



Some of the participants who shared their testimonies were: **1. Floyd E. Crowson**, FGBMFI director from Columbus (Ga.) and convention chairman. **2. W. M. (Mac) Watson**, president of the Macon chapter and convention co-chairman. **3. Ralph Marinacci**, FGBMFI director and guest speaker from Pittman, N.J. **4. Jerry and Jan Ireland**, from Columbus, who led convention song services. **5. Bill Basansky**, former ORU professor, guest speaker. **6. Charles Capp**, Bible teacher from England, Arkansas. **7. Convention audience** believing God to meet needs.





Edmonton, Alberta, Canada



Some of the participants who shared their testimonies were: **1. Ken McAmmond**, St. Albert chapter president and convention chairman. **2. Stewart Berlett**, President of the Canadian FGBMFI with headquarters in Toronto. **3. Bill Tanasiuk**, Edmonton chapter president. **4. Dennis Wilson**, Canadian FGBMFI director serving in Lloydminster, Alberta. **5. Bill Scott**, FGBMFI director and piano/organ dealer in Victoria, B.C. **6. Jessie (Mrs. Stewart) Berlett**, ministering in ladies luncheon. **7. Norm Roberts**, Canadian director and Executive Secretary, Toronto. **8. Earl Prickett**, Executive Vice President, FGBMFI, and guest speaker from Hurttville, N.J. **9. Jim Jarvis**, FGBMFI director and businessman in Westlock, Alberta. **10. Mrs. Phil Doan**, who came to the convention on crutches, appears with her family to testify that she had been healed by God in one of the meetings. Her husband is a champion cowboy in Canada.

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MODESTO/TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA May 4-6, 1978

Turlock War Memorial
Address: James W.B. Shade, 215 N. Thor, P.O. Box J,
Turlock, CA 95380

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL (Saskatoon) April 6-8, 1978

Bessborough Hotel
Address: Ken Bayly, P.O. Box 7074,
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SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO, CANADA May 11-13, 1978

Holiday Inn
Address: J.C. Elliott, R.R. #1,
Sault Ste. Marie, ONT P6A 5K6

ABILENE, TEXAS April 19-22, 1978

Abilene Civic Center
Address: Roy Mauldin, P.O. Box 1034,
Abilene, TX 79604

18th MIDWEST (Green Lake, Wisconsin) May 24-27, 1978

American Baptist Campgrounds
Address: Henry Carlson, 564 W. Fulton, Chicago, IL 60606

PIEDMONT-WINSTON SALEM, N.C. April 27-29, 1978

Winston Salem Convention Center
Address: Ogburn Yates, P.O. Box 100,
Asheboro, N.C. 27203

NORTHWEST (Portland, Oregon) May 24-27, 1978

Hilton Hotel
Address: FGBMFI Convention, P.O. Box 02085,
Portland, OR 97202

GULF COAST (Beaumont, Texas) April 20-22, 1978

Red Carpet Inn. Address: Bob Barnett, 310 N. 11th St., Beaumont, TX 77701

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