

### Welcome to the

## **VOICE Magazine ONLINE**

I welcome you with open arms with all who love the Lord and who want to be used for the kingdom of God.

Globally, FGBMFI is meeting in over 8,000 chapters every week in 150 nations. This means that over 8,000 times a week, someone is standing before their peers letting them know about their personal reality story of a better life through

Christ.



Richard and Vangie Shakarian

In special outreaches in the marketplace, praying with 2-3 million people every year just through our "Fire Team" ministries. Several million people are receiving spiritual help every year.

Our members are from all walks of life: every race, every culture, and every continent. Some come from churches and some do not. We are a cross section of the business world, which includes people of all or even no religious background; Catholic, Protestant, Charismatic and Orthodox.

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI) is the largest Christian business organization in the world.

We commit ourselves to personal and business excellence, honesty and integrity. To our Lord, our families, and our Fellowship brothers we pledge transparency, accountability and faithfulness. These are our core principles and values.

In the last three years, worldwide, we have personally brought the love of our Savior to over four million people. If you have not been able to connect with this new powerful flow of God's love and successful destiny, please contact me or our international headquarters. We will work with you to bring about all these blessings in YOUR life!

Welcome to your "voice" – VOICE Magazine ONLINE.

Richard Shakarian
International President

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# I ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS!

# NASCAR CHAMPION DARRELL WALTRIP

y wife, Stevie, is my best friend. We've lived together for over 45 years. She's not just my mate, my wife, or my kid's mother. With that friendship comes true commitment. Racing makes one realize a lot about commitment. In the beginning, all NASCAR married couples are in the same boat, trying to make a living out of a racing career.

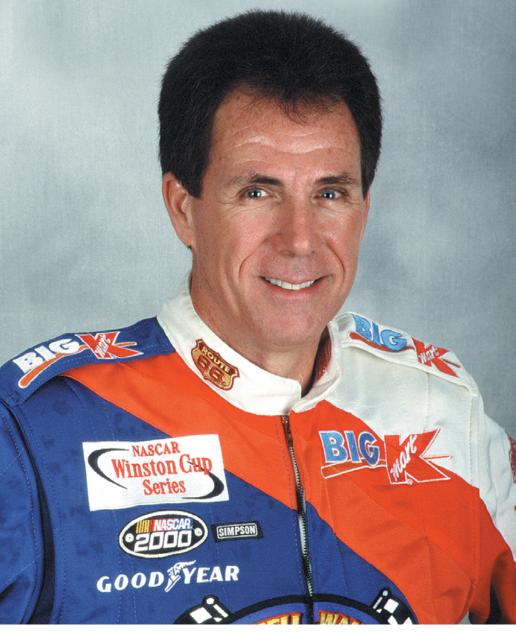
Years ago, I had accomplished a lot of things that I wanted to accomplish. I said to myself, "Is this all there is?"

I've done all these things. I've been to all these places.

I've met presidents. I've had dinner in the White House. Is that all there is? I started to realize that winning races is not all there is, it is your relationships; and your relationship with your wife is the most important relationship you have here on earth.

Then comes my relationship with my two children. We did not have children for 18 years. There is a greater appreciation for those children, than if we would have had them right after we got married. Having children caused a big change in our life.

There are times I have a miserable day. I am a



Nascar Champion, Darrell Waltrip



NASCAR Champion Darrell Waltrip and his wife, Stevie.

performer; and if I do not perform well, I've had a bad day. If it wasn't for Stevie coming to my car, putting that scripture on the dashboard, and telling me, "You can do it. You can do it! You show those young kids that you are as good as they are!"

That is the kind of encouragement it takes to win. We learned how to talk to each other. That is very important. We actually went to a Christian counselor. The Bible tells us to seek Godly counsel. One can seek bad counsel and get bad advice. But we found a Christian counselor. It's been one of the best things we ever did.

Over 35 years ago, my nickname was "Jaws". I had a love/hate relationship with the fans. They booed me. It went off the (boo) meter in the late 70's and early 80's. I kind of promoted that. It did

not really bother me that much. My mind set was: "Hey, they are making noise, that's all I care. When they mention my name, something happens." So that was a part of who I was.

What I did not realize was how damaging it was to my future and also to my family. Stevie was standing on the sideline in tears. It was painful to her. In the middle 1980's I made an absolute commitment to change that image. I saw how much it was hurting my mom, my dad and my wife. Believe me, that was hard to do.

By that time, my relationship with the Lord had changed, too. That had a lot to do with it. I didn't want to be known just as the guy who used to drive the Budweiser car.

I'll never forget one Saturday I was sitting in my den at home. I was drinking a beer, watching a football game. All of sudden, I looked out the window, and I saw my preacher and two deacons walking up the sidewalk. I ran

into the kitchen and covered up all the beer, and got out a Pepsi and ran back to the couch and greeted them, "Oh, hi, how are you doing today?"

At that point in time I had made a huge commitment to my church. I prayed with my pastor and the Lord that He would come into my life and He would be Lord of my life. I was trying to change my life. But I really wasn't trying too hard.

I was driving the Budweiser car for Junior Johnson; and I was winning races, making money hand over fist. I had won many championships. I had it all!

These guys (the preacher and deacons) had the nerve to come to my house on Saturday afternoon. The preacher, who really liked me, said, "You know, you say one thing, but you are doing something else." He knew my heart. He continued, "In order for you to get where you want to go, you are going to have to make some big changes

in your life. You are going to have to give up some things."

I asked, "Well, like what?"

He said, "Like that Budweiser beer sponsorship. You have to quit driving that car."

I immediately reacted. "Man, you don't know what you are talking about? That is the best sponsorship in racing. And besides, I don't make those decisions. It is Junior Johnson's car. I drive his car. Whatever he puts on his car, that is what I drive. I can't do that. That would be impossible."

His reply, "Well, we need to pray about that."

He prayed me right out of that car! Do you know what he prayed me in to? The Tide sponsorship to help me "clean up my act."

All of a sudden, it was not what Darrell Waltrip had done for Darrell Waltrip. It's what the Lord had done for Darrell Waltrip! All of a sudden, the picture changed. The vision changed. The relationship with the fans changed. Everything changed!

In the early years, drivers didn't spend a lot of time together. We saw each other on Sunday at the driver's meeting. You put on your helmet, get into your cars, and really and truly, you didn't really get to know the guy. You knew them by their number. I used to pray, "Lord, you know it's me, number 17!" At the time, that's how He knew who I was; at least, that's what I thought.

There have always been those times that drivers cannot stand each other when we bang into each other. Grudges used to go on for a long period of time, week-after-week. The biggest thing that I have learned is that you've just got to go to the other driver and say, "I'm sorry! I made a mistake." The guys that will do that are the guys that I really respect. This is a tough guy's sport. We are on the track going 190 mph, risking our lives. It is a tough



NASCAR Champion Darrell Waltrip racing around the track.

guy image. So you keep a lot of feelings and hurts buried inside. It is good to have somewhere to go with those feelings, whether it be your wife, or a chaplain.

I remember one race Ricky Cravens hit me on the last lap of the race and spun me out. I jumped out of my race car. I was really looking for him. I got to Ricky Cravens' car and I jerked his window net down. I was doing everything, but smacking him. He was sitting there and was devastated that Darrell Waltrip was acting this way. This was the supposed "new" Darrell Waltrip. I was acting like a big fool. We went to the next race in Phoenix, where my brother Michael had been asked to pray at the Sunday morning church service. Michael couldn't make it so he asked me to pray. I assured him, "Yeah, I guess so."

I was sitting on the front row. It came time to pray. I stood

up and turned around, and who am I looking at dead in the eye—Ricky Cravens!

There I am, trying to get up and pray for this crowd, a "man of God". and yet I have this broken relationship. I had to ask him, right there in front of all those drivers, to forgive me. I admitted, "I can't pray because I have something in my heart against Ricky Cravens." Then I asked Ricky to come up to the front. Ricky sheepishly walked forward, not sure what was going to happen. I asked him for forgiveness. I put my arm around him,



(Right) Darrell Waltrip talks with racing legend, the late Dale Earnhardt, during the NASCAR 1998 NAPA AutoCare 500.

and held him in my arms; and then I could pray. When I finished there was not a dry eye there. These tough competitors were crying underneath their sun visors. It was an incredible experience that really impacted me.

We're thankful for the assistance with Motor Racing Outreach (www.go2mro.com) as well as the use of copyrighted photographs throughout, courtesy of www.ciastockphoto.com.



# We Are "Still The Happiest People"

By Igor Soloviov, Ukraine

just turned 12 years old when my Dad deserted my Mother and me. That day, my happy childhood days were over. We were very poor. I spent a lot of time out with my friends on the streets. At the age of 14, I started drinking, smoking and using light drugs. My mother's salary was very low, but I needed pocket money. So I would get together with friends and went to the main roads to steal goods from the trucks at night. Sometimes we were arrested by the police, sometimes punished by the drivers of the trucks, but we never thought of the danger since we often did it in a drunken state.



Igor Soloviov

I was 17 years old when I heard the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, and both my girlfriend and I gave our lives to God. We left our former lifestyles and trusted God for our future. We were married at 18 and learned to love each other.

The Lord met all our needs as we learned to see the needs of the people around us. At the age of 20, I met my father and told him about God's love; this brought exceedingly great joy into my heart. I told my father that just as God has forgiven me, I too, have forgiven him and was willing to help him any way I could. My father gave his life to God.

The Lord Jesus became my best Friend who never forsook me and was always by my side. Over time, we established our own companies with many employees, customers and good friends. We would tell people about our Friend, Jesus.

In addition to my family and business, I was also involved in

politics which took a lot of my time and physical strength. Much work needed to be done as my team and I upheld the law and justice in politics. It seemed to me at that time that I was going to be a great politician. I had good friends, relationships, and great expectations.

I read the "The Happiest People on Earth" book. I realized that God was preparing something new for Ukraine! It seemed to me that I could contribute more to my country through my political career, but at the same time I realized the huge potential God laid upon the Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship.

In June 2011, my wife and I attended a FGBMFI conference in Moscow. We met Richard Shakarian and his wife Vangie who prayed for God's will to be done in our lives. We returned to Ukraine and continued to work with the Fellowship. Not long after, we had a miracle. We sold the company that had given us problems. When we concern



Igor Soloviov and family.

ourselves with His work, He will take care of our affairs!

I soon realized the most important task of a businessman is to be involved in God's most important business - saving the souls of men. Many businessmen who went through crisis in their companies began to realize the importance of people working for them. Souls become priority for people who joined the Fellowship to God - we are "Still the Happiest People."

# JESUS CHRIST Changed My Life!

### Ardian Kristanto, Indonesia

y name is Ardian Kristanto. I was born in 1956 in a very small village called Kokas, West Papua, Indonesia. When I was 6 years old, my father passed away and my family became one of the poorest in the village.

Since I was a small boy, I know what poverty means. Not long after my father passed away, I was struck with a sickness in which there was no cure nor medical person can help. My family was just waiting for me to die because I was just lying on the bed for many weeks.

One day, an old missionary woman got stranded in our village. My grandma heard that this woman can heal any sickness, so we invited her to come to our home. She said she can't heal any sickness, but her God, whose name is Jesus, can. She stayed a few days in our house praying and fasting for me. After a week, I can finally start to eat, and in the following week, I was completely healed. I became the first Christian in the village, soon after, my whole family became Christian, and slowly people in my village follows. Since then I became a devoted Christian.

I grew up very tough because I did not have a father figure. I became a tough man at work and without realizing, a tough man to my family also.



Ardian Kristanto

It was not until 1986 my wife brought me to FGBMFI that my life was changed, and the relationship with my family was changed.

At first, I was very skeptical about it, because I always believed that Christian businessmen are the biggest hypocrites because they cheat people in the weekdays and cheat God in the weekend.

But slowly, God changed my life through FGBMFI. Since then, I have served God

30+ years faithfully through FGBMFI, and God have never owed me anything because He has returned and given me a life I, so much more than I could ever imagined. He gave me a loving wife, three wonderful children. two children in law, and two grandchildren. He has blessed us with 16 companies moving in manufacturing, construction and trade. Everything that I am that I have, I owe it all to our Lord Jesus Christ.



Ardian Kristanto and family.



# I Turned My Back On Principles

## Mario Garcia, Mexico

owned three companies, and one that gave me the most profit was in the field of agriculture. My life was filled with problems; including my marriage. These problems caused me to turn my back on the people that I loved. In my zeal to earn a lot of money and social place in life, I disregarded my religious and moral principles that my parents taught me.

Before I attended this Fellowship, no one ever told me that I could have God as my partner. Through FGBMFI, I learned that He could be my



Mario Garcia

friend, my guide, and much more.

In the past, my "god" was the desire to make more money. I was a billionaire who possessed everything, but happiness. This caused me to reflect upon my life and wondered; if there was something else in this life, would I be able to have a better life? I thought I had everything.

Yet there was an emptiness within. I had many businesses, so I was under a lot of stress.

I became an alcoholic and

a heavy smoker. My wife and I started considering about getting a divorce. My heart was hardened and I felt no emotion at all when discussing about the divorce.

One day, due to many circumstances, I went bankrupt. I returned to my home town and talked to a person about my problems. He said to me, "I am going to invite you to a businessmen's dinner." In 1995, I attended my first FGBMFI meeting. One businessman gave his testimony. He said these profound words, "I am going to invite you to meet the owner of gold and silver." Sure, I wanted to meet this guy. He was talking about the Lord. He told me to repeat after him. It turned out to be a prayer of salvation.

I invited Jesus Christ into my life and my heart, and He began a new work in me immediately. Instantly, there was a change in the whole aspect of my life including my marriage, family, and businesses. I received peace and began to experience true happiness. Jesus came and filled the void in my heart as I felt the strong presence of the Holy Spirit. My life was significantly changed.

One week after I received Jesus Christ into my heart, my wife, Sylvia, said to me, "You have changed! You are a completely changed man!" I invited my wife to this Fellowship where she also received the Lord. We were both filled with the Holy Spirit in the FGBMFI meetings and our marriage was miraculously restored.

Jesus Christ brought new things and genuine happiness to our lives, and the businesses, including the supernatural healing of our daughter from epilepsy.

No words are enough to thank the Lord for what He has done in me. I am also grateful to FGBMFI and what they did to help turn my life around and to return to the basic principles that I once knew!





# I Never Looked Back!

## Danny Mawuenya, Ghana



Danny Mawuenya

y father was a prominent person in society. He married many women, and where he was from, wealthy men had many wives. My maternal family could be described as poor and humble.

In 1991, I decided to venture out on my own. I started my own company from nothing.

I started farming pineapples in a village outside Accra, Ghana. We had no income then, because a large amount of money was needed to start the business. This did not deter me. We totally depended upon God as our Provider.

Around that time, a friend entrusted his business in my care while he traveled abroad; this kept me occupied.

The farm was bearing fruits, but very slowly. The villagers at the farm were not optimistic of pineapples growing in that area; they made fun of us. Two years later, I started to harvest the produce. I would sell my fruits at the market after the harvest. One day, I met some foreigners who were interested in the pineapples, so we started exporting abroad. Money was coming in and I went back to my old ways, though it was not as bad since I had no cash to spend.

We expanded our business and started farming seafood and exporting them on a large scale, while still doing the pineapples at the same time. God was good.

By now I had three children. Then one misfortune after another happened. One shipment of the seafood was missing, and the sawmill factory was giving us problems that we had to sell our refrigerated truck to solve some of our monetary situation. Soon, our debts in the banks grew substantially.

My life was a living hell. Excessive drinking could not help me forget my debts. God, however, was preparing me for a greater purpose,

One day, I received an invitation to the FGBMFI meeting. After much consideration, I decided to attend the meeting, although quite reluctantly. I was a failed businessman and a farmer; I had not place among those men but I had to honor the invitation.

At the meeting the speaker gave a testimony which was exactly the reflection of my life. That morning in August, 1994, I could not move when the altar call was made. I felt



Danny Mawuenyaand family.

a sudden chill on my back and I forced myself out of my chair, all the way down the aisle; I was in tears. That day, I received Jesus as my Savior. My company which was virtually bankrupt and was in debt to two banks was miraculously positioned to negotiate a contract on behalf of my country. Twenty-four months later, I was blessed with money I had never seen in my coffers before. I never looked back since then. I have worked hard and God has blessed my honest efforts

My old habits which were

smoking, drinking, lying and being unfaithful were very difficult to overcome. The Lord, however, by the power of the Holy Spirit and through prayer and fasting, has helped me to become more than a conqueror!

If you think that God does not answer prayers, I challenge you to count your many blessings and name each one of them and it will surprise you what God is doing in your life. I can testify to the many times in my life when God has been real to me and my family. It is all by the grace of God!

# The Story of 60 Years of FGBMFI – A Powerful Movement That Is Transforming Nations!

## **Still The Happiest People**

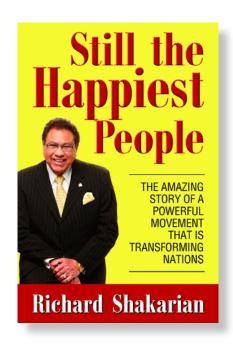
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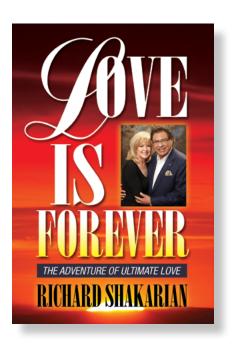


# Powerful stories of signs, wonders and miracles throughout the nations!

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the remarkable journey of Richard and Vangie Shakarian beginning with the history of the birthing of the Fellowship. Experience God's ultimate love through the pages of this book. Inspiring stories of how the Holy Spirit is moving throughout Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International.

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#### **JULY 12-16**

FGBMFI WORLD CONVENTION San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Copantl Convention Center

#### **AUGUST 7-10**

SPANISH CHAPTERS IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA Miami, Florida USA

#### **AUGUST 16-19**

**BURKINA FASO** 

#### **AUGUST 25-26**

NORTH EAST REGIONAL CONVENTION Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA

#### **LATE AUGUST**

SOUTH TEXAS REGIONAL CONVENTION
McAllen, Texas USA

#### SEPTEMBER 21-23

GHANA NATIONAL CONVENTION

#### **OCTOBER 27-29**

MARRIAGE COUPLES RETREAT

Camp Dogwood, Lake Norman outside of Charlotte, North Carolina USA Jdeberry05@gmail.com

#### **NOVEMBER 2-4**

2017 TOGO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Visit FGBMFI.org for additional or updated information on FGBMFI Events and Conventions.



2017 FGBMFI WORLD CONVENTION Copantl Convention Center, San Pedro Sula, Honduras

#### 8-9 SEPTIEMBRE

TRIFINIO (SAN SALVADOR)
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#### 15-16 SEPTIEMBRE

CONVENCIÓN NACIONAL PANAMÁ www.fihnecpanama.net

#### **12-14 OCTUBRE**

CONVENCIÓN NACIONAL EL SALVADOR (SAN SALVADOR)

Hotel Crowne Plaza

jorgealvarado14@hotmail.com

#### 20-21 OCTUBRE

CUMBRE SUDAMERICANA DE LÍDERES (BOGOTÁ)

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#### **23-28 OCTUBRE**

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#### 24-25 NOVIEMBRE

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#### **2 DICIEMBRE**

CONVENCIÓN NACIONAL NICARAGUA

tel. +50588514101 gevisa1@gmail.com



### HOW TO HAVE PEACE WITH GOD

- 1. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believers in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
- 2. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
- 3. But the choice is YOURS!
- 4. "But God demonstrates his own love for us is this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
- 5. We must receive Him by personal invitation. "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)
- 6. Receive Christ into your life this very instant:
  - a. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
  - b. Be willing to turn away from your sins (repent).
  - c. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and ross from the grave.
  - d. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit (Receive Him as Lord and Savior).

#### WHY NOT MAKE YOUR ETERNAL DECISION NOW?

Pray this prayer from your heart:

"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."

If you prayed to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, please **email us now** to let us know, so we can be a source of spiritual encouragment to you.