

voice
to empower
men for life



Flying High

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International



Peace in the Heavens

**Captain Ches Clark
(Army Air Corps)**



I never remember a time in my life when the concept of a creator God was not a present reality. But it was not until I was away at Stowe School, that I was able to make a true commitment to God at the age of thirteen at our school Christian Union.

Church seemed of no relevance

Early on in my life I had wanted to be in the military and to fly helicopters. This passion grew through my late teenage years and has never left me. After leaving school I decided that a deeper exploration of God's reality was necessary and went up to Oxford University to study Theology. This was to prove life transforming in

more ways than one. Theology within the academic confines of Oxford challenged me to the extreme and by the end of year two I had in many ways lost my way and found myself living for myself. I became unwell following a rugby accident and a deep depression set in. There followed a long period of inner sadness and a discontentment with life. I pretty much gave up on the conservative church I had been

used to – it seemed of no relevance to my life. At the start of my third year a dear friend invited me along to a different church service in Oxford. It was there, for the first time, that I experienced the presence of God and a spirit filled faith amongst the congregation. I was baptised in water and the Holy Spirit that summer.

God took second place in my life

After a short time of working in London, the army once again beckoned and I found myself at Sandhurst now trying to figure out where God could use me within a military context. I qualified as a Lynx helicopter pilot and went on operations in Iraq in 2005. My time away in Iraq gave me a renewed heart for God. I sensed his protection, his care and his grace even when I was walking a different path from the one that brings peace and wholeness. There were numerous 'hairy' moments over Basra. One night involved a successful effort to rescue two British SAS soldiers held captive in an Iraqi prison. It was a six hour operation in tracer filled skies. I remember asking for forgiveness and been confident that God was watching over me, whichever way the night ended. Despite God's faithfulness, I guess I was more concerned with proving myself as a

pilot, and forging a career within the army. God still took second place in my life.

For a while, after my return from Iraq, I was able to ignore God by being busy. Yet a constant knocking on my heart remained. I kept feeling a loving God say:

**I realised that the
issues and hurt
of the past could no
longer be ignored.
They had to be dealt
with there and then.**

"Ches, I have given you all of these opportunities, all of these qualifications,

and you continue to walk your own path. When are you going to follow me and allow me to bring you the deep peace that you are searching for?"

The deep peace I so dearly wanted

The third turning point in my life came in 2007. My unit was on a five month tour of Afghanistan where my lack of peace continued. Here God finally got hold of me. Rather than filling my life with alcohol, flying and socialising with the wrong people, I found myself with periods of quiet and even boredom. I realised that the issues and hurt of the past could no longer be ignored. They had to be dealt with there and then. Presented with a very real danger on a daily basis I knew I wanted to be right with God. So I started to read my bible again, to pray and to confess to God my



failures and selfishness of the past few years. There, with no alcohol, no girls to distract, I found myself in the small chapel at Kandahar airfield praying to God for a new start. He met me there. I realised that no amount of flying, womanising or running away could bring the deep peace I so dearly wanted. I also realised that I was still battling with depression.

On my return from Afghanistan I went to see our medical staff and had an honest discussion with how

I felt. I received treatment and although it has been a long walk I have begun to recover, to get stronger. The flying has finally taken second place. God, family and church are now the focus of my life. It is so good to be home at last in the arms of a loving Father.

I leave you with words from St Augustine that says it more clearly than I can:

“O Lord you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you”.

Captain Ches Clark is currently Adjutant of 2 Regt, Army Air Corps, at Middle Wallop, Hampshire.

Saved from the Gallows!

Angus Ogston

I was born in Madrid in 1976 to a Spanish mother and a British father. We came back to London but my parents split up with all the sad consequences that divorce inflicts upon the children of a marriage.

A life of crime

I quickly graduated into a life of crime as a member of a street gang in the East End of London. We did robberies, drove around in stolen cars, mugged people etc. I was filled with hatred.

Then one day, when I was seventeen, I got caught by another gang. They grabbed me, tied my hands behind my back, blindfolded me and put a rope around my neck. They were going to hang me from a tree and make it look as if I had committed suicide.

God saved me from the gallows

I knew I was going to die. I saw my whole life flash before me like someone had been watching me since I was a little kid. So I cried out in my mind to see if there was a God who would come and help me.

Then one of the gang said, “Leave him alone, he is only a kid.” They let me go. I knew then there was a God who had helped me. I had had people preach at me, but had never understood. I thought God was for good people and old grannies.



someone had sprayed on it with white paint, "God loves you." I ran on but round the next corner someone had sprayed on another wall, "Jesus loves you!"

A powerful sensation of being loved

So I said, "OK, I will go and check this Christian thing out." I was invited to a church by Kate, a young lady I had met, who was a Christian. When people began to worship God I felt a powerful sensation inside of being loved. I had never felt anything like it before. It was different to what anyone or anything could give me.

Kate explained to me that I had to repent which means to turn away from my old life of crime and to ask God to forgive me and give me a new start. As I did this the Holy Spirit touched me, took away all my hatred and delivered me from drug addiction. I left my gang who all ended up in prison for attempted murder.

Today I travel the world as an Ambassador for Jesus. I love to tell people my story of how He has set me free. Salvation from sin and the gift of eternal life is a free gift for those who humble themselves and ask, no matter what you have done. Try it, and see for yourself!

Until one day me and my mate Colin were out to mug some of the commuters that came off the train at Kings Cross station. We hid in some bushes, waiting to mug someone, but things went wrong, and we got chased ourselves.

I climbed over a wall and saw

Angus Ogston is now an itinerant Evangelist and can be contacted through www.angusministries.org

Healing and Happiness



Dr Robert Hardie MB FRCS

I grew up in Ware, Hertfordshire where as a child I had always been mesmerised by the local butcher's shop. My father was a Mechanical Handling Consultant. Although we went regularly to church that was as far as the day to day practise of Christianity went for my parents at that time. I was all set to study architecture when, at the eleventh hour, one of our dogs cut his front leg tendons on glass. I was bowled over by the repair done by our local vet, and immediately jettisoned an architectural career. Within months I found myself studying medicine at the Middlesex Hospital in London.

The best decision of my life

It was all too good to be true and we giggled our way through almost six years of endless 'Doctor in the House' fun, from rats' tails in female students' handbags to rounding up all the prettiest nurses to join us in Christmas shows. But sadly there is almost always a price to be paid for self-indulgent fun. The cost was a baby, lost in tragic circumstances. Sometime later I went to a church service in Dorset staying with my uncle and aunt who were committed Christians. There I made the best decision of my life and committed myself to follow Jesus whatever the cost. But there was still a burden of sin to be dealt with.

Peace at last

I had been baptised as a baby into the Church of England for which I owe a debt of gratitude to my parents. Confirmation followed at school under the enthusiastic influence of the school chaplain. Later, when I had found Clare, the girl of my dreams, my future father in law, being a Catholic, would only agree to hand over his eldest daughter if I attended a course of instruction from a Jesuit friend. This remarkable man seemed to sense my past as the Holy Spirit revealed it to him. He offered me Absolution for my former sins. What prophetic power! I had never encountered anything like this in my cosy country



Robert and Clare on Mount Tabor, Israel

village church, which I had started to re-attend. Peace at last prevailed!

Was my faith real or not?

It was not long before I was received into the Catholic Church. Two children had been born and baptised and I was beginning to feel the odd man out. I also left the nomadic life of a junior hospital doctor when I entered General Practice in March 1980. This presented me with a problem. What about the Pill? Partners and patients were keen to know my position. Well, I had to admit I wasn't too sure. I realised that this was a test. Was my faith real or not? An old parish priest came to my rescue by telling me I had to make my own mind up and not be too influenced by the Church's teaching! Nevertheless it was there that I discovered

the profound wisdom that each created human person is sacred. Inevitably we are bound to offer each life our complete protection from conception until death. So I followed my conscience and left prescribing the Pill to others, supported by the staggering fact that a sizeable percentage of all Pill users may be inducing the loss of their very early embryos.

Wonderful and unexpected healings

I weaved my way through another 27 years as a GP, eventually starting my own practice. One day a representative of a drug company called wearing a dove as a lapel badge. This led to a conversation about the Baptism with the Holy Spirit as described in the Book of Acts when the disciples spoke

supernaturally in languages they had never learnt. This released the power of the Holy Spirit that they needed to continue the miracles that Jesus did. He prayed for me and I, too, received the gift of tongues, as it is called. As a result I began praying for some of my patients and saw slowly over the years some wonderful and unexpected healings with the help of our enthusiastic Christian receptionist. A very bad ear infection was healed within days after all else had failed. Cellulitis, gangrene from a blackthorn wound, heart disease, chronic neck pain etc. all responded to prayer.

Enthusiasm for witnessing

During a weekend in a Franciscan friary, I made a resolution to tell everyone I met how great the Lord is. But I found myself unable to fulfil this promise. I tried hard, in filling stations and outpatients' clinics, to say, "God is great" but found it just too difficult. Then, on my retirement, we moved to Norfolk where I came into contact with the Full Gospel Business Men (FGBMFI). They prayed for me, casting out the spirit of fear, since when my enthusiasm for witnessing has blossomed, greatly assisted by their excellent *Voice* magazines. I have once more started to praise God in tongues and to pray for the sick. I have begun to learn to trust the

Holy Spirit and I have also restarted attempts to tell those I meet how great God is.

Ecstatic love

Recently I was invited to give my testimony at an FGBMFI lunch. There seemed so much to cram in, it became impossible to prepare. That night I was wakened at 5a.m. I became aware that all the people who had taught and helped me had been put purposefully and specifically into my life by God to guide me and heal me. The weaving was being done by Him and not by me.

"Why?" I asked incredulously. "Because I love you" was the answer. I asked why other things in my life were still a bit hard to bear. Before I could finish the question God simply said "The Cross". This left me in a state of hard to describe, almost ecstatic, love. "You are very fortunate to have had such an experience," said my wife the next day.

This is my story so far. As I have learnt to go God's way and not my way I have found myself becoming increasingly happy and contented, despite the normal ups and downs of life. I have been born, as my granddaughter says, "again, again". It is wonderful because Jesus is wonderful!

Dr Hardie is now retired but busier than ever in the Lord's business.

Delivered from Drugs

David Payne



I grew up as a good Catholic kid in a middle class family in Hertfordshire. I did well at school and my future seemed bright. But at the age of fourteen everything started to change. Trying to find something that would make me bigger and better than others, I drifted into the wrong set. Smoking behind the bike sheds led on to girls and loveless sex. Soon I was introduced to smoking cannabis which led to shoplifting and stealing money from my parent's shop. I was listening to the music that went with it – Black Sabbath and Johnny Rotten. My parents were horrified!

Then I met a beautiful girl called Ruth and we fell in love. But to keep her I knew that I would have to sort myself out, get free from drugs and earn a living. I worked hard and by the age of twenty one I was a rich young man having set up my own employment agency in the City of London. I lived with Ruth in a posh Hampstead flat, drove a fast red Italian sports car and hosted extravagant parties.

I had tried everything

Then the inevitable happened. I discovered that Ruth was sleeping with one of my best friends. I felt utterly betrayed and crushed. I tried to commit suicide with sleeping pills but made a bad job of it and woke up. I had tried everything. I had made money but it left me strangely dissatisfied; I had found romance but had been betrayed. The result was that I started on methadone, a

heroin substitute, to numb the pain. Within months I was a total addict, using cocaine, speed and anything else that was going.

During this time my mother, a good church going Catholic, had a kind of weird, religious experience. She told me she had experienced the power of God who would set me free from the prison I was living in. Jesus was alive and wanted to have a relationship with me. I thought she was on LSD too!

Maybe God does exist?

But then she began to give me books. 'Run, Baby Run' by an American gangster, which described people like myself on heavy drugs. Amazingly they all became Christians and were set free from drugs. Then came another book, Chasing the Dragon, about an English girl in Hong Kong. She prayed for lifelong drug addicts who came off their addiction overnight with no cold turkey or withdrawal symptoms.

Deep down came a distant thought, 'Maybe God does exist after all?'

Soon afterwards I was at a big party with speed, LSD and magic mushrooms. There I got the shock of my life when I experienced an evil presence in the room. I had flirted with death, using David Bowie's song, 'Who wants to be alive when you're twenty five?' as my personal anthem. Now I had a revelation that



it was not just a big sleep. The hell I was living in would continue after death. This terrified me.

The story of my life

I went home to my mother and asked about this God of hers. "I need to try him out," I said. It so happened that there was an ex-Hell's Angel speaking at a dinner of the Full Gospel Business Men the next week. He was a giant of a man, with a big beard and a hook for a left hand he had lost in a gang fight. He had come from a good Christian family in the Midwest, but his girlfriend betrayed him and he had turned to drugs. Finally, in big debt, addicted to drugs, he planned suicide. Until his mother gave him a cassette that he listened to driving down Route 55. He heard the Gospel that God could change his life. He stopped the car, got on his knees on the tarmac, and cried out to God for



forgiveness. I could not believe it. I was hearing the story of my life.

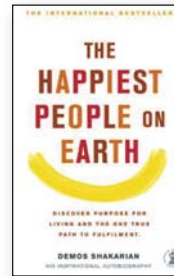
A miracle of undeserved kindness

As I listened hope began to stir in me. Then he said that there was someone who needed to meet God that night or it would be too late. He said this person had to stand up in front of 100 people. I found myself slowly standing to my feet. It was the most courageous thing I have ever done. The ex-Hell's Angel led me in a prayer. I told God I was sorry

for all the bad things I had done. I begged him to come into my heart, to take control of my burnt out life and to forgive me.

A few days later I was prayed for to be baptised with the Holy Spirit and to be set free from drug addiction. I began to speak in a language I had never learnt and over the next few days I found I no longer needed drugs and had no withdrawal symptoms. It was a miracle of God's undeserved kindness. Since then I have never looked back.

David is now married to Giovanna and they have three children. David is Director of CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) and has published his full, thrilling story 'Alive', which can be obtained from www.faithcafe.org



The Happiest People On Earth

This book contains the remarkable story of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International and its founder Demos Shakarian.

What began as a vision given to Demos, a business man, has spread to over 160 countries with almost 5,000 Chapters meeting in every continent of the world.

The most challenging feature is how God put His seal on the Fellowship, after early efforts to launch it failed.

It is a story to make you both laugh and cry but above all, build your faith in God and all He can do through dedicated men who love and serve Him. You will see God really does use ordinary men in the most surprising ways. To obtain a copy please contact the Office at Knutsford, address on the back cover.

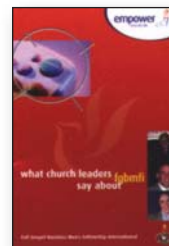


empower
men for life

What Church Leaders say about FGBMFI

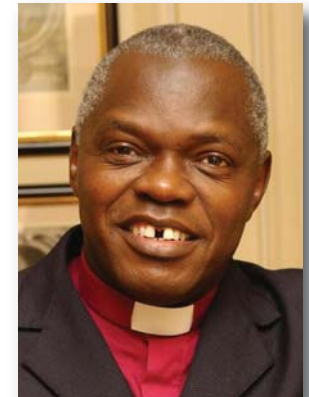
In this booklet church leaders, from a wide range of Christian denominations, affirm their support for Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. They highlight its effectiveness in reaching men, usually outside the church, with the message of God's love.

The Fellowship works as an arm of the church, revealing the power of Christ to men. The result is that God changes even the roughest diamonds into men of God.



"Here are men who take seriously Christ's command to preach the good news. They have found the will and the words to witness to God's deeds of power, Acts 2.11. We need more men like them who not only share what Jesus has done for them, but also practice what they preach in their work places."

The Most Rev and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York



Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

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 Lambeth & Southwark 0208 653 5294
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 Hitchin & District 01462 616185
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 Milton Keynes 01908 521751
 Northampton/Kettering 01604 700521
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 Port Talbot/Bridgend 01639 897993
 Presteigne 01544 267378
 Swansea 01792 893445

If you have been challenged by the life stories in this Voice you may be asking, "How can I become a Christian?"

A Christian is someone who has a personal relationship with God by inviting Jesus to become their Lord and Saviour.

God loves and accepts you just as you are. He is able to turn any mess into something marvellous! To become a Christian and to receive the gift of Eternal Life there are three steps to take:

- Step 1** **Admit** that you have sinned and need a Saviour to deal with your past and assure your future.
- Step 2** **Believe** that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the Cross to pay the penalty for your sins.
- Step 3** **Receive** Jesus as Saviour and Lord of your life by personal invitation and ask His forgiveness for your sins.

Why not pray this simple prayer NOW to invite Jesus into your life

Heavenly Father, I confess that I have sinned and am separated from you. But I believe you showed your love for me by sending your Son Jesus to die on the Cross for my sins. So I turn to you, Lord Jesus, with great thankfulness. I surrender my life to you.

I ask you to forgive me for all my sins, to cleanse me from all unrighteousness and to send the Holy Spirit to live in me as my friend, my teacher and my comforter.

I reject Satan and every evil spirit in the name of Jesus Christ and I declare the Word of God, "If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed". I declare that Jesus has set me free from all my sins and from every bondage of Satan. I have been born again, I am a child of God, I am a new creation, I have eternal life, in Jesus' mighty name.

Please let us know of your decision so that we can send you helpful information to "empower you for Life".

- Please send me details of Chapter meetings in my area.
- Please send me "New Life in Christ" booklet.

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

.....

Postcode: Tel:

E-mail:

Data information will only be used to send you details of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International information. (Full address details overleaf.)

If you have a testimony please send it to the Editor with jpeg photos at info@branchpress.com

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