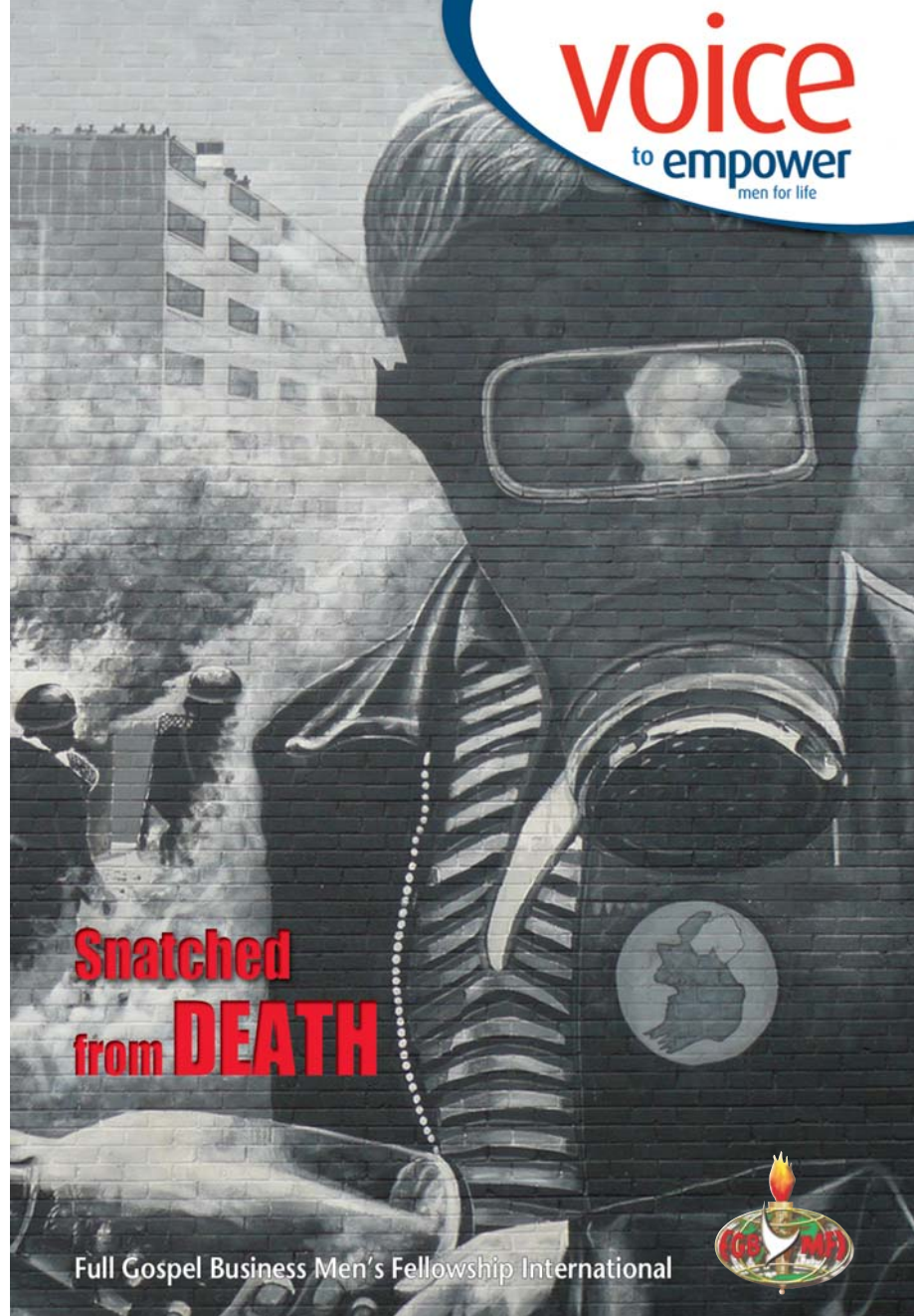


**voice**  
to empower  
men for life



**Snatched  
from DEATH**

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International



# Snatched from DEATH

## David Williamson

I was born in 1961, in a Christian home, but moved to Coleraine on the north coast of Ireland. I joined the Police in Ireland in 1982 as a young man who wanted to make a difference in people's lives. My Christian outlook was guided by grace, forgiveness and love – things that were going to be severely tested.

I found the job so different from my expectations. I was not helping an old woman across the road, or chasing crooks in a high speed chase. No, I was a soldier in a policeman's uniform. Guns, body protection and armoured vehicles were a far cry from the helpful bobby on the street.

### A very violent place

Londonderry, or Derry as it is known, was a very violent place. Every day my life was at risk. As you can imagine, thanks were given to God at the end of the day for a safe return. I had times of going out with colleagues who never made it back. With all this stress, my relationship with God began to be strained. Failure before God was something I condemned myself for far too often. Wanting to be accepted by colleagues put a huge



pressure on things I would or would not do.

Bombs also, were a big part of a policeman's life in Derry. By the grace of God I walked away from two explosions, seeing friends left behind. Then came the third and last bomb blast. We were on our way back from a call when there was a tremendous explosion.

### Snatched from death

We had been hit by an anti-armour bomb, known as a drogue. The full force of the explosion enveloped me. My rifle was in two pieces. I had been hit by flying metal, from my head to my knee along my right hand side.

I clambered out the back. Stumbling around the corner, I leaned against a wall and slid to the ground. I was

expecting to die. Yes, I was in incredible pain. But as I lay there. I asked God for one thing. "Father, I am ashamed of my life. Please give me another chance, and all I am is yours."

God gave me another chance. His grace to me was incredible. My right arm was to be amputated at two hospitals, but God healed it to medical amazement. My femoral artery was pierced, but I survived. My God snatched me from death and gave me LIFE.

### A good life

I was released from the Police Force due to my injuries. I got married and had a good life with two young children – fishing and water skiing from my boat. One day we took the children to a friend's birthday party for their little girl. On the way home we were involved in a horrendous car accident. My wife and youngest daughter were both killed.

My eldest girl and myself were rushed to the hospital. I was told that I died twice on the way. I was flown by helicopter to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast where I lay in a coma. My daughter was paralysed down the left side of her body. My eye socket was broken and my left eye hung loose. My shoulder was broken. Ribs were snapped off the sternum and my left lung punctured.

### Jesus entered the room

My coma was extended by the doctors, in order to give my brain time

to reduce the swelling. The first memory I have was within the coma. I found myself waking up in a bright room. As I sat there, Jesus entered the room.

WOW, is all I can say. The love and peace that saturated the room was beyond description. If this is a foretaste of the love I will experience in heaven, then all I can say is, "YES, PLEASE." Jesus came to my side and spoke to me, preparing me for the shock I was about to receive.

"Wake up," He told me. I opened my eyes to an intensive

care room. My mother spoke to me, telling me the terrible news about the loss of my family. I turned my face away, asking Jesus to take me home. I just wanted to go back to the place of peace and incredible love.

Despite the terrible injuries my daughter and I suffered, my news to you about the God I serve is this. I was out of hospital two and a half weeks after the accident. My daughter was going for walks with me five weeks after the accident. God did what was impossible for man. I was healed in an incredible way physically but not emotionally.

### The power of praise

I think the final part of the story is possibly the greatest healing I experienced. I went into an incredibly low place. My life had no purpose. One evening, after I put my little girl

My right arm was to be amputated at two hospitals, but God healed it to medical amazement.



David with his wife Sandy and children Bekki, Jared, Abigail and Ryan.

to bed, I was coming down the stairs. As I did, I felt the presence of God and felt Him say to me, "Praise me." How could God want me to start praising Him?

"Why should I praise you?" I said, thinking God would bring up my healing. God simply said, "because of who I am." I put on a worship tape and I began to sing – praising God.

As I did, the effect was incredible. God

**God seemed to come and fill the place. It was as if He reached down and lifted me out of a hole and held me.**

seemed to come and fill the place. It was as if He reached down and lifted me out of a hole and held me. I started

to see that I was still alive and had a future. He gave me hope.

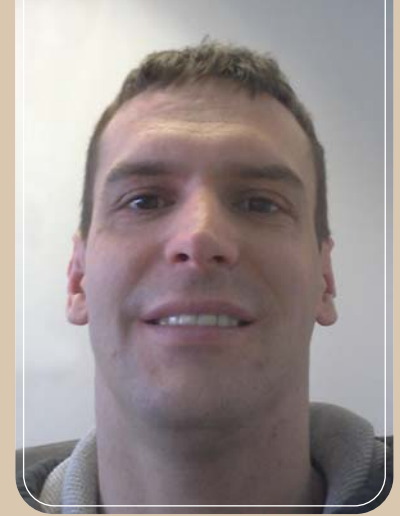
Over that year, I had incredibly hard times. But then I married Sandy and family life re-started

with more children. I hope people will be touched by the work God has done in my life, and give them a fresh hope of their own.

Dave Williamson has been involved in pioneering Christian Radio in Dublin and can be contacted at [sandave20@gmail.com](mailto:sandave20@gmail.com)

# Sailing too Close to the Wind

Rob Joy



I grew up in North Hertfordshire on a council estate in Letchworth. My family was very dysfunctional, as most families on my estate were. It seemed to me, back then, that everyone was arguing, fighting, drinking and taking drugs. I remember feeling the need to prove myself from a very early age. Always striving to perform and receive some kind of attention. I believe now this was largely down to a lack of affirmation from my father and a desperate desire to please him.

## I wanted to be a real gangster

My father was a recovering alcoholic and I had seen the devastating effects this had on his health. Despite this, it was not long before I was also drinking far too much at a very early age. I was even rushed to hospital at fourteen with suspected alcohol poisoning. By seventeen I was completely hooked on speed and had begun taking cocaine as well. Drink, drugs and violence completely consumed my life for the next ten years. I was sent to a young offenders prison at nineteen for GBH, ABH and carrying an offensive weapon. Prison did not really bother me. I saw it as

another way of receiving the attention and status I desired. I wanted to be a real gangster, so I watched all the films and read all the books

## Sailing too close to the wind

I came out of prison on tag and was soon back to my old ways. Always drunk, always high, always fighting. I was becoming a very lethal weapon. Paranoia started to take over my life. Sometimes I would go to sleep crying, feeling the pressure of my lifestyle. I did not like what I was becoming but I was unaware of any alternative life for a man like me. I was really lost and sailing too close to the wind.



When I was twenty-one I was working for my dad at his roofing company and trying to make him proud of me. I remember the day in July 2000 when we had the most horrific of arguments which resulted in him calling me some horrible names. I vowed there and then never to talk to him again. That night my dad had a massive heart attack and died. I never got to make things right between us. This messed me up so badly that I threw myself deep into the world of addiction and crime. I was sentenced to another two years in prison for beating a man with a gun.

**I was nicknamed 'Bobby the gun' because I would carry a gun around for intimidation purposes.**

### **I was a very scared young man**

I was nicknamed 'Bobby the gun' because I would carry a gun around for intimidation purposes. I loved this title. It made me feel big and scary and powerful. What I was, though, was a very scared young man, crying out for help, and not knowing how to change or who to turn to. I hated who I really was and became very depressed as a result. I was very mentally unwell and even took two of my closest friends hostage believing they were going to kill me.

My family were devastated by my lifestyle and had no choice but to keep their distance. My mum and two sisters were Christians and prayed for me all the time. They talked to me about Jesus and how He could save me but I hated God, hated the Church

and hated the idea of being a Christian. I clung to the drugs. It was all I knew.

### **My addiction continued to beat me**

One day I received a phone call from my girlfriend. She had just left me due to my habit. She told me she was pregnant with my child. This gave me so much hope and a real determination to overcome my addiction and violence. I tried absolutely everything but my addiction continued to beat me. The fact

that I was not strong enough really hurt my pride. I was not only lost but also unable to find my own way again. I needed to ask for help but everyone refused. They had had enough of me. My family were now very weary of my behaviour and offered only to pray.

### **God heard their prayers**

I believe with all my heart that God heard their prayers and had compassion on me, even though I was a very evil man. I was convinced I would die soon. I was not only suicidal but there were a lot of bad people whom I had upset. I lived in constant fear every single day and night.

One evening I was in my drug den flat surrounded by a gun, a knife, a crack cocaine pipe and pornographic material. Suddenly I dropped to my knees and asked Jesus to forgive me and to heal me. I had a radical, overnight healing and deliverance.

*Rob with his wife Lydia.*



I became a new person. I learnt to overcome my addiction and mental health very quickly, although I did have to make some very tough decisions and fully commit to the process of healing. My family and friends were amazed at my transformation and there has been a great restoration between many of us as a result.

### **The hope I had been given**

After making a firm decision to follow Christ I immediately joined a small but very passionate local Church. The Pastor there, Mike Parkyn really did lay his own life down to help me. His family welcomed me and so did the church members. I began to grow in

faith and relationship with Jesus. I soon discovered a passion to reach out to those from my background and offer them the same hope I had been given.

It was during an Easter service event in 2009 that I met Lydia who was singing in the band. We hit it off straight away and very quickly realised that God had a plan for us to spend our lives together. We were married in 2010 and now both head up a charity called *Storming the Nations* in which we travel the UK and overseas serving God.

Amazingly God loves us all. He sees our potential. He can restore any life, however far we have fallen. He did it for me. He can do it for you too.

**Rob's book 'Internal Revolution' is available on Amazon and from [www.stormingthenations.net](http://www.stormingthenations.net). Rob can be contacted on 07921 521569.**

# Angels on Guard

## Steve Mills

I was born in Manchester in 1955. I had a happy childhood with a lot of freedom to find outdoor adventure. At the age of eleven I started racing cycle speedway and competed at county and international level. When I was fifteen I left school, having taken no exams. I wanted to start racing on motorcycle speedway, which I did with a little success only. I was also keen on football but turned down a trial with Crystal Palace football club.

### Happily married

In 1974 I was married for the first time with a baby due to arrive two months later. Four years later, I returned home from my work as a bus driver to find my wife had run off. I got custody of our son through the courts. For six months I was a bit wild and very promiscuous until my sister introduced me to a friend of hers called Lesley. At first sight I knew this was the girl for me. After five years together, during which time Lesley was a true mother to my young son, we married and had a second son and a daughter. We are today very happily married and have two granddaughters.

Many people say that Christians are weak and find religion to use as a crutch. This was not the case with me. I qualified as a driving instructor and



started my own business. The business grew rapidly and we had a lot of disposable income.

### I thought I was going mad!

One day, I was driving down a road that I travelled almost daily when a voice in my head said "Stephen, go in this place." It looked like a run down school. I just continued driving, but the next day the same thing happened and again I just drove on. The next day it happened yet again. I thought I was going mad! This time though, I turned around and entered the car park. There was a metal chimney with a red cross. I entered what turned out to be a reception area. There were three young men who ignored me. I asked if this was a Church. They said 'yes'. I thought, 'Huh', if that's church, you can keep it.

The next Sunday morning I was having a lie in. At 09.20 the same voice in my head told me to get up and go to that church. I didn't go. The next Sunday morning I had the same message, but again did not go. On the third week, I got up on the Sunday morning and went to the church. Nobody spoke to me that day or the following two weeks. I made up my mind to never bother again with church. But an announcement was made that some Dutch guy would be visiting midweek to give a testimony. Against my instincts, I went to see what it was all about.

### Stephen, come to me!

Now I don't remember this Dutch guy talking about Jesus. But what happened next is one hundred per cent real and true. I saw Jesus Christ standing in front of me with his arms outstretched. He said "Stephen, come to me." He was standing on top of a 15 to 20 foot high dome of jet black smooth glass.

"Lord, I can't reach you," I said. Then again "Stephen, come to me." I made the same reply. Then Jesus called me again. Suddenly I was on top of the dome and face to face with Him. At this point I asked Jesus Christ into my life as Lord and Saviour. Then Jesus was gone and I made my way towards the exit with tears streaming down my face.

### Expect spiritual warfare

A short, silver haired man opened the door for me. As he did so he took a step forward and shouted "expect spiritual warfare." What a nutter, I thought, as I left. All the way home

I cried and had to sit in the car for quite some time to compose myself before going into our house. When I went in Lesley asked where I had been. I told her that I had met Jesus and I was now born again by the Spirit of God. In that exact moment started four years of extreme spiritual warfare, but that is another story for another time. Thanks be to God, Lesley and our three children have all now been born again too.

### God had saved my life

What Jesus has done in my life includes many occasions of provision and protection. In January 2001, whilst on a visit to India and Pakistan, I was in Gujarat for what was planned to be three days. But on the second day The Holy Spirit told me by His inner voice to leave as it was not safe to stay. Having learned to recognise and obey The Holy Spirit, I left early and arrived in New Delhi to be met by Pastor Samson Nath. He showed me newspapers depicting pictures of the aftermath of a massive earthquake which had killed thousands of people in Gujarat. God had saved my life.

### Angels on guard!

We emigrated to Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands in 2004 where we ran a bar cafeteria and I pastored a small church. One day I was alone at our bar getting some darts practice on the terrace. Then a car pulled up and five very rough looking men split into two groups and approached me from my left and right. They were obviously meaning me harm. I thanked Jesus for the promise of the Bible that no



Steve with his wife Lesley and their granddaughter Olivia.

weapon formed against me shall prosper. The Holy Spirit told me, as an inner thought, to stay on the terrace and brandish six darts. Then to step forward and shout at them in English that I had nothing for them. They stopped dead in their tracks with confusion and uncertainty on their faces. I took another step forward and they got in the car and left.

But you see, when we opened the bar and held a celebration party, a Christian lady saw two angels. She told me that they were standing guard at the two columns just outside the bar doors. Nobody else saw them, nor did I, but I believe they were there. I am sure that the five thugs saw the angels behind me and took off in

some terror. All this was perhaps because, a few weeks before this incident, I had handed information about drug dealers to the Guardia Civil at a public meeting.

### Blind until we seek Jesus

We are all blind to the things of God until we seek Jesus, as I did. Then our eyes are opened to understand the Bible and to recognise God's creation of the wonderful world we live in. We also inherit His blessing and protection through all the ups and downs of life as we develop a relationship with Him. Jesus has never let me down. He will never let you down because it is the will of God to prosper you in the end, not to harm you. Why not look for Him and prove it for yourself?

Steve and Lesley Mills have now returned to England and can be contacted at [millsy1066@hotmail.com](mailto:millsy1066@hotmail.com)

## Faith in politics

### Tim Curry

I had a good upbringing in Plymouth. However my exposure to Christian faith was a very mixed affair. My mother was a Christian and took both my brother and I to church. My father was not a Christian. He was an enthusiastic scientist, which created some tension. I started playing a guitar at the age of thirteen and this proved to be a blessing later on.

However, after some difficult times at school with bullying, I gradually drifted away from church. When our family left Plymouth, I rejected regular Sunday worship. During my early 20's I started a career in Nursing and qualified as a Registered Nurse in 1994.

### Lots of questions

Despite the fact that I was in such a compassionate role, I became increasingly cynical about life and death. Nothing in my upbringing helped me deal with the pain and suffering I saw every day. I had been there at the start and end of so many lives and could see no rhyme or reason for any of it. Just questions... lots of questions.

I was a fairly selfish person despite being a nurse. Whilst I gave my patients all that I could, I was less generous with those closest to me. But then I met Theresa who is now my wife. From this point there began a slow climb back to an encounter with God.



Tim with his wife Theresa.

### 'Keep you both before Him'

A Methodist minister, Peter Hatton, agreed to marry us, but only if we attended pre-marriage classes. We discussed many things about living together – love, sex, money and everything in between! On our wedding day I was very nervous about making a public commitment to spending my life with one woman. But those nerves disappeared when I saw Theresa coming down the aisle. I remember particularly during the prayers that Peter said "may God write your names on his Right hand and forever keep you both before Him." Even now those words move me.

### Connecting with God

Some weeks later Peter called to introduce me to the Alpha Course. After the first night of the course, Theresa decided not to go back. I didn't feel like I could carry on without her, so I stopped too. But after a year I felt the urge to return and complete the course alone.



On March 3rd 2001 I committed my life to following Jesus. That day broke so much of the hardness that surrounded my heart. Jesus' forgiveness of my past was truly evident and I found myself 'feeling' for the first time in many years. Ironically I also picked up my guitar and soon found myself leading worship in our local church.

### The love and power of Christ

However, while I was ecstatic with my encounter with Christ, Theresa was less than pleased. It was the beginning of a very difficult few years in our marriage, but I was now able to love Theresa more and more. This was the best testimony I could have given to my wife about the love of Jesus. Theresa eventually came to faith herself. Since then she has become a great support and an encouragement for me.

### A property crash

A few years later Theresa set up a property company. However, local house prices plummeted. We had to pay a mortgage on two properties. All of our savings went into the company. We shared this situation with a few close friends at Church. Our big concern was that a family holiday couldn't go ahead. The children were devastated.

A few weeks went by and we were on the verge of cancelling the holiday. One day I heard the letter box go and there on the door mat I found an envelope... with £1000 cash in it! I have no doubt that someone in our

church family decided to bless us in a beautiful way. The week before the holiday, the new house finally sold. It was a good lesson in trusting God's promise to meet our needs.

### Faith in a political world

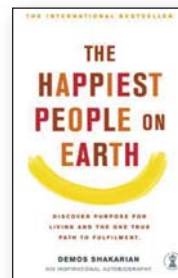
I left clinical practice in 1999 and started working for the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) as a Regional Officer on the national Policy Unit of the RCN. There I found that living my faith at work was going to be harder than I thought.

During my time as an adviser to the RCN, I have worked on a range of contentious issues such as abortion, end of life care, assisted dying. The way that Christ taught us to look at life was often not compatible with the prevailing view. Sometimes I was given the courage to stand firm and advocate a Christian perspective. At other times I felt that wisdom suggested careful conversation and respectful listening. At the end of the day, I knew I just had to leave things in God's hands.

Now I try to demonstrate to those at work what I believe Jesus taught us. To love, to be generous, and to forgive and to bless difficult people. Despite how it might appear, God is in control. Theresa and I know that if we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God has a good plan for our lives. Though He promises afflictions, we know that at the end everything will have worked together for good.

It is the same for all who seek Him.

Tim Curry works for the Royal College of Nursing and can be contacted on [timcurry@btinternet.com](mailto:timcurry@btinternet.com)



## 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.

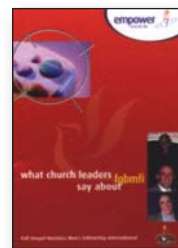


**empower**  
men for life

## What Church Leaders say about FGBMFI

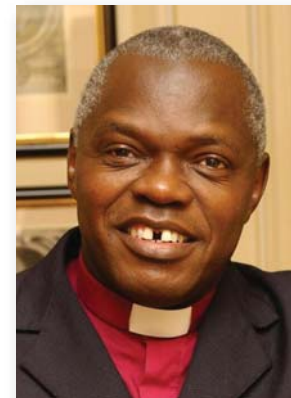
In this booklet church leaders, from a wide range of Christian denominations, affirm their support for Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. They highlight its effectiveness in reaching men, usually outside the church, with the message of God's love.

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

Local Chapter contact telephone numbers

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 Enniskillen 028 6773 8346  
 Killarney 00 353 66 714 7327  
 Limerick 00 353 61 312 924  
 Port Laoise 00 353 87 910 6766  
 Tralee 00 353 68 23511  
 Wexford 00 353 53 917 0078

## SCOTLAND

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 Glasgow 0141 404 6221

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 East London International 020 8934 8643  
 Lambeth & Southwark 020 8653 5294  
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 Gravesend 01474 356427  
 Horsham 07779 328 599  
 Maidstone 01622 743134  
 Medway 01634 377965  
 New Ash Green 01322 863171  
 Royal Tunbridge Wells 01732 822713  
 Sevenoaks/Weald 01732 832079  
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## ENGLAND – NORTH EAST

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 East Riding (Driffield) 01482 860043  
 Goole 01405 760116  
 Grimsby 01472 884311  
 Halifax 07812 939336  
 Hope Valley/Sheffield 0114 463601  
 Hull & District 01482 817724  
 Morpeth 01670 737311  
 Ripon 01765 606133  
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 Derby 0115 928 4869  
 Forest & Wye 01989 720393  
 Gloucester 01452 529465  
 Hitchin & Letchworth 07828 048 400  
 Milton Keynes 01908 521751  
 Northampton/Kettering 01604 700521  
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 Shrewsbury 01691 653008  
 Stafford 01785 714290  
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 Eden Valley 01833 637035  
 Liverpool City 07958 781 229  
 Liverpool University 07505 462 093  
 Manchester 0161 684 7486  
 Northwich (North Cheshire)  
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 Salford 0161 291 0438  
 South Cheshire 01270 650424  
 Standish 01942 245266  
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 Norwich 01603 898289  
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 Newton Abbot/Torbay 01803 404772  
 St Austell 01726 75776  
 Street/Glastonbury 01458 210367  
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 fgbmfi.uk@ntlbusiness.com

**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](mailto:info@branchpress.com)



**Snatched  
from Death**

David Williamson



**Sailing too Close  
to the Wind**

Rob Joy

**Angels  
on Guard**

Steve Mills



**Faith in  
Politics**

Tim Curry

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