

Full Gospel Business Men's

# Voice



# Golf

## *A Slice Of Life*

The Ed Allen Story



# Golf A Slice Of Life

Ed Allen, West Virginia

I was startled when the man I considered a good buddy glared at me like I was his worst enemy.

“Money changes people,” he sneered. Whirling around, he stomped out of the clubhouse and rarely returned. Soon he left to play at another golf club and tried to convince all his friends to follow.

These gamblers were friends, so I thought they would understand my change of heart. Instead, many treated it like a personal attack.

I saw that taking a stand for the Lord wouldn't be popular with everyone. That is why it takes commitment. In the past, mine wavered like a slice off the first tee.

I grew up in a modest area of

southern West Virginia known as Gimlet Hollow. A gimlet is a mixed drink, and liquor came to symbolize my golfing.

As a youngster we occasionally attended church. But I spent most Sundays on the course. Caddying from the time I turned eight, the game grew on me.

Golf pros always dressed sharp, drove fancy cars and attracted attention. As one of ten children, I thought they were all rich. So I set my sight on becoming a pro and joining the Professional Golfers Association (PGA)

After high school I enlisted in the Air Force. Afterwards, the course where I caddied as a youngster hired me as an assistant pro. I also married

that year and set out to enjoy the “good life.”

A year later a friend asked me to join him at a country club in Akron, Ohio, where he was the pro. I spent four years there and also realized my dream of playing in a PGA tournament.

The old American Golf Classic at the Firestone Country Club reserved four spots every summer for local pros. One summer I qualified and quickly learned the toughness of the pro tour.

Large galleries watching your every move created intense pressure. So did playing with fabled pros like Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino and others. I failed to make the cut.

Soon after, I became the pro at a new country club. A major change occurred in my life. A minister visiting families in our neighborhood invited us to church. I felt a need to accept Jesus as my Savior and be baptized.

Our two children and I were “sprinkled” at a special service one Sunday.

I felt cleansed and often talked to people about the Lord, However in order to remain spiritually strong, you must eat spiritual food. Feed the fleshly man and he'll overcome the spiritual man. As soon as spring arrived, Sundays found me greeting folks on the greens instead of in church. Wanting to please customers I found it

hard to turn down the offer of a drink...or two, or three.

The slide took four years. The first time I compromised, my conscience nagged me. The second became easier. By the end of this downward turn I quit church altogether.

A year later my wife divorced me. We remarried a year later, but four years down the road Trish divorced me a second time. In spite of the pain I shrugged it off. I couldn't let my personal

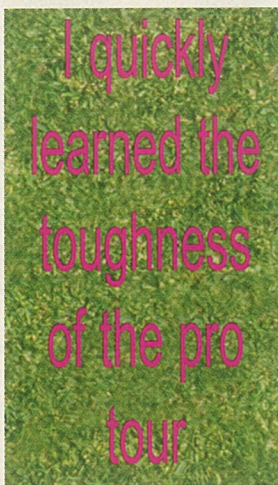
problems interfere with my job. I blamed my wife for our problems.

It never occurred to me that I shared any blame. I worked six days a week, from early morning till past sundown. When the club closed on Mondays I played in tournaments with area pros. Every January I left my family at home for a month to golf in Florida.

I know now how tough it must be to be married to a golf pro. More than my wife's patience, though, I appreciate her perseverance in bringing me back to the Lord.

In spite of my misgivings Trish agreed to marry me a third time before we moved back to West Virginia. I learned of an opportunity to operate a public course, Sugarwood Golf Club.

There we were much closer to work. Our apartment sat directly over the clubhouse. Yet I wasn't home any



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more.

Trish was again nearing the end of her rope in the late 1980's when she talked me into attending a funny new church she had found.

I could understand at a football game clapping my hands and jumping around. I had never seen people do that on Sunday morning!

I would go just enough to keep Trish off my back. Then they scheduled a four-night family life seminar.

"We certainly need to go to this," Trish said when she told me about it.

She was right. We were a couple in name only.

Reluctantly, I agreed to go. If you haven't turned your life over to Christ I challenge you to visit a church four consecutive nights and then say "no" to Him. You can run pretty good when you're only there once in awhile.

I can't pinpoint anything the pastor said that touched me. Yet my hardened heart softened. I saw how many of our family's problems originated with me.

The third night of the seminar I went to the altar during a time of prayer.

"Lord, here I am," I whispered. "I've put You off long enough," I continued. "I've messed my life up and I'm ready to come home. I ask Your forgiveness. Jesus, I pledge to live my

life for You."

The final night everyone repeated their marital vows. My heart soared as God moved to the center of our marriage.

Entering the baptismal pool, I symbolically buried myself with Christ.

From then on I feel like God has been chipping away at my rough spots. He helps me grow stronger.

Yet God had more for me. During the next year I kept noticing Trish was on fire for God, often witnessing and always studying the Bible. I wanted that kind of hunger.

One Sunday night I walked forward and the pastor explained it came through a gift known as the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

"All we do is receive it," he said. "Just open your mouth and drink in and start speaking whatever pours forth. Don't worry about what it sounds like."

I did that and couldn't understand a word I was saying. This was an add-on to my Christian walk. It made it easier to stand, witness, study the Word and faithfully attend church.

It also prodded me to take a closer look at my business. I soon decided to quit selling tobacco. The smokers did not like it but they didn't complain.

Six months later my conscience

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started bothering me. How could the clubhouse card games continue? I had quit playing long before but hadn't explained why. Now I searched the Bible, trying to justify their existence.

I figured "little" games of chance were okay if nobody got hurt. But this poker was getting out of hand. Some people blew their entire paycheck during heated rounds.

Admitting the ugly reality of what was happening, one day I announced in the clubhouse that the games were forbidden.

A funny thing happened. The guys who were always losing quietly thanked me.

Despite that, the sudden changes among those I thought were friends really hurt. And the critics found things to pick at, particularly our clubhouse beer sales. It quietly filtered back to me that I was a hypocrite.

I wrestled many a night with the dilemma. Satan fought me constantly, whispering things like, "Ed, you remember how it was with the cards? It's going to be just as bad this time. And it'll cost. You're going to lose \$100,000 a year." I vowed the beer would go.

About 30 days before our beer license expired, I warned my customers of the decision.

"You're crazy," an employee said. "You'll lose \$150,000. Just lease me the business and I'll sell it."

I held my ground. Interestingly,

there was hardly a peep. Only one golfer moaned, "It's a sad day at Sugarwood."

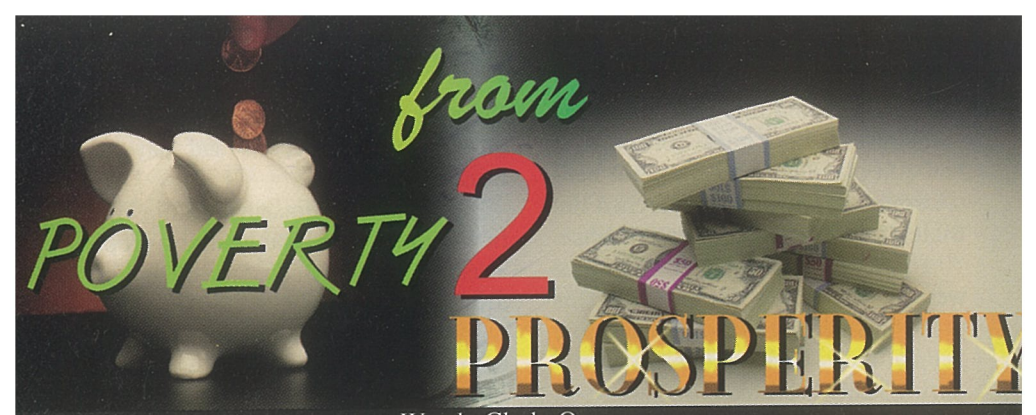
God proved Himself faithful. The first month there was a slight drop. Then golfers started showing up in droves.

As word spread, people came in with comments like, "Our preacher said if you want to play golf, go to Sugarwood because that man's made a stand for the Lord."

A year later, business was 19 percent higher. That is what's so wonderful about our Lord Jesus Christ. He blesses everyone who obeys Him.



**Ed Allen is the owner and golf pro at Sugarwood Golf Club. He and his wife, Patricia, live in a home on the course property down the road from the clubhouse. They are the parents of son Vince and daughter Yenus, now both grown, and have one grandchild. The Allens are members of New Life Victory Center in Huntington, West Virginia.**



from  
**POVERTY** 2  
**PROSPERITY**

Woody Clark, Oregon.

**G**od loves every one of us. He wants you filled with the Holy Spirit. He wants your body healed. And He wants to bless you financially. Why? He wants to bless you so that you can be a blessing. There are so many Christians who don't really, truly believe or understand how much God wants to bless them. There is a hurting world out there and missionaries are going to have to go. It costs money. A lot of people are willing to go and can't go. Why? They don't have the finances.

God wants His people blessed. All God asks you to do is trust Him with your finances. You will be tested to see if He can trust you. If you pass the test with a small amount then He will increase your stewardship.

I was born again in 1975 at the Seattle FGBMFI Convention. Thank God for Full Gospel Business Men. I had gone to church for a long time but I was never born again until I went to Seattle and saw those people who had something that I didn't have

and, praise God, I got it before I left there. But God totally changed my life.

I went back in 1978 to celebrate my third birthday. They decided to take up an offering to translate the book, "The Happiest People On Earth", into the French language. I had just finished reading it and I got so blessed. I thought, what a wonderful idea. Yes, I'm going to give to that offering. So I got my checkbook out and I started to write that check for \$1,000.

A little voice inside of me said, that's not the right amount. It startled me. I thought, that's not too bad of an amount. Then I stood there for a minute and that same little voice told me how much to make it for. He said, make it for \$10,000. Immediately a great big argument started. I said, Lord, you remember what I did three weeks ago. And besides that, Lord, I've been doing all these things. I was really giving a good argument and thought I was winning. The same little voice said, who do you think you're

arguing with? I said, forgive me, Lord. I'm sorry. I wrote that check for \$10,000. I folded it and put it into an envelope and was sitting there waiting for them to pick up the envelope. Up at the head table, a person, right in the middle, got up, went and picked up the mic and said, I just had a strange thing happen. The Lord just spoke to me and told me that there was a man in this audience that just wrote a check for \$10,000. I looked around and all of a sudden it dawned on me, the only person besides me that knew I wrote that check was God. Thank God He told that man so he could get up there and let me know that it was Him. The next Wednesday there was an auction sale over in Weiser, Idaho. They had some trucks in that auction. I told one of my men to go with me, because I wanted him to get some experience. We went and looked at the trucks that were to be auctioned. We found one truck that was a real special. I said to the man with me, "Bob, I'd sure like to buy that truck for about \$15,000". He looked at me, laughed and said, "yea, and you'd like to buy it for \$20,000, too, wouldn't you?" I said, "yes, but look how much more fun it would be to buy it for \$15,000."

There were about 200 people at that auction and they were talking

**When I did  
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and moving around. Finally it came down to that truck. The auctioneer tried to get somebody to open the bidding. I thought, I'm not going to open the bidding I'm just going to wait and see what happens and if it goes reasonably I'll buy it. But he kept begging and begging for somebody to open the bidding. Finally I said, \$10,000. When I did the 200 people became motionless and speechless. He began to beg, and beg. He said, "will anybody bid \$10,100?" Nobody moved or said a word. Finally he just pointed at me and said, "sold to the man right over there for \$10,000." I was stunned. A guy walked up to me and said, "I don't understand this. I came here to buy that truck and I just stood there and couldn't open my mouth." What a perfect chance to witness and tell him why. But I'm so stunned that I just stood there with my mouth open. I didn't say a word. Finally I got my senses and turned around to my man and said, "Bob, go over there and check the fuel in that truck and see if there is enough to get it home with us. He opened the fuel cap. It was a hot day and it expanded a little bit and the diesel ran out on the ground. It was full. He got into the truck and took off and I took the car. When we got to Pendleton, which is about 200 miles, we drove in the yard and I said,

Bob, have you figured out what we are going to have to do to that truck to get it ready to put on the front line and sell. He said, Woody, there is nothing you can do to that truck. It's ready for the front line right now. I said, well then drive it up and put it on the front line.

In a couple of days a guy came in and looked at the truck. He said, "what do you want for that truck out there?" I said, "\$23,750." He said, "what's wrong with it?" I said, "nothing." He said, "why is it so cheap?" I said, "I bought it cheap." He bought the truck for \$23,750. I got my \$10,000 back, plus a lot of interest.

People have their money in banks, C.D.'s, all kinds of things. There is not one of them that pays the dividends that God pays. I get phone calls all the time from people wanting to sell me stocks, or bonds, or something like that, and tell me that this is a good one, this will pay you a lot. I always say, I'm sorry, I'm not interested. Don't you buy any stocks or bonds? No. Well we have you on a list here. I said, I know you do because you've got me checked out as having a good income, and I do. God blesses me. But I have no interest in buying stocks or bonds. I'm interested in getting the gospel out to

this world. I'm interested in investing in God's bank. You cannot find any place in this world to invest your money that will bring you the money back that God will give you if you will invest it in His work. I went through poverty for 36 years. I went through prosperity for 36 years, too. I got news for you, prosperity is better. God wants you to have it so you can be a blessing. So we can get the gospel out and Jesus can come back. You know that what you do for Jesus is all that's going to

count. I'll guarantee you that if He can find somebody He can trust with finances, that will be a good steward, He'll just pour them through you. I'm living proof. I started out giving

\$1.00. God blessed me and I started giving \$2.00. He blessed me then I was giving \$5. He blessed me some more and I was giving \$10. Finally I started giving \$20, then I just kept right on.

The pastor of the church came to me. He said, "Woody, I have got to talk to you." He said, "there are a lot of rich people that come to this church, people who own sawmills, cattle ranches, wheat ranches." He said, "you're giving more than any of them. You can't afford to give what you're giving." I said, "I'm sorry but you're wrong. I can't afford to not."

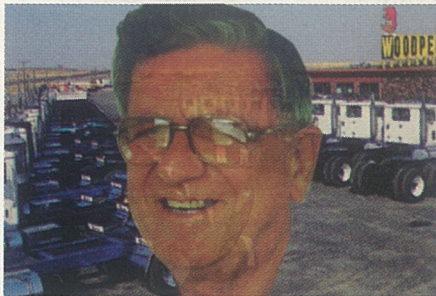




God's never going to be obligated to you. Never. If God hasn't got your pocketbook He probably hasn't got all your heart. Wherever your treasure is there your heart will be also.

I told you that if you want everything that you set your hand to be blessed. In Deut. 28, the very first words say, now it shall come to pass. If God says something shall come to pass, it will come to pass and no man can stop it. And no devil can stop it. It says, now it shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God to observe carefully all his commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you on high above all people. Verse 8 says, the Lord will command the blessings on you in your storehouses

and in all that you set your hand to. Now is that the truth? Well what does God tell you to do? Does God tell you to give so you can get the gospel out? It's up to you if you're going to be obedient to Him or not. It's up to you whether you're going to be a good steward or not.



*Woody Clark is President of Woodpecker Truck and can be contacted at P.O. Box 1306, Pendleton, Oregon 97801*

# Voice

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P.O. Box 5050  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628  
(714) 754-1400



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**WHO WE ARE:** Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International was founded in 1952 by Demos Shakarian to reach men for Jesus. One year later, God gave him a vision of the people of every continent, revealing that the ministry of the Fellowship would result in people everywhere being brought to Jesus and linked in loving community. That vision is becoming a reality through the Fellowship's ministries, now touching 132 nations and transcending denominational, racial and cultural barriers. Men interested in participating in this exciting end-time ministry are invited to write: Chapter Department/FGBMFI/P. O. Box 5050/Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

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If you have a testimony that will glorify God and bring others to Jesus through Voice, you are invited to request guidelines from the Publications Department, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

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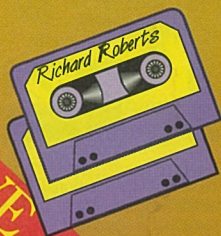
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## The 42nd World Convention Dallas, Texas

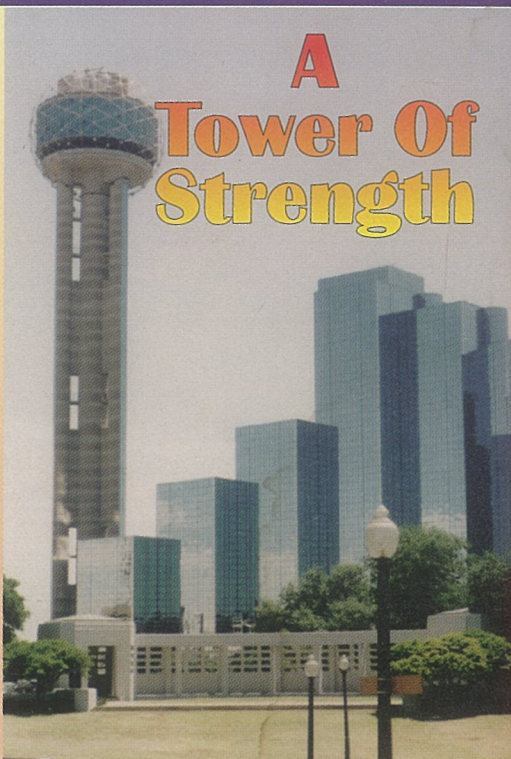
**H**ighlighting the Dallas, Texas skyline is the famous 50 story Reunion Tower. It marks the location of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, site of the 42nd World Convention of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

Like the biblical pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night that led the children of Israel, the tower became the source of spiritual strength to our convention. Each day the convention began at 7 a.m. with a powerful prayer time on the observation deck of the tower.

God heard and answered prayer as people from many nations were saved, healed, set free and filled with the Holy Spirit.

We were so blessed by the attendance of the brethren from Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa. They are living proof of the vision given to Demos Shakarian at the birth of this great Fellowship.

God promised to sweep over us with His waves of glory, and He did just that. It began Tuesday evening, July 4, with an exciting musical extravaganza by Calvary Temple of Irving, Texas and the powerfully

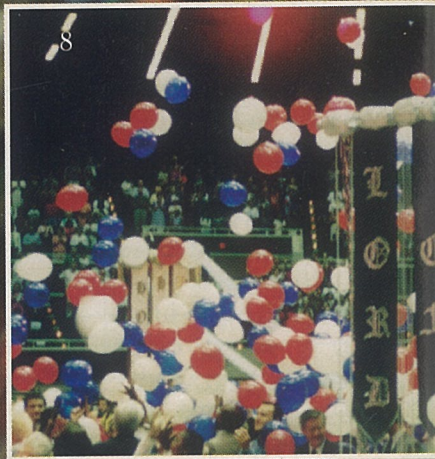


## A Tower Of Strength

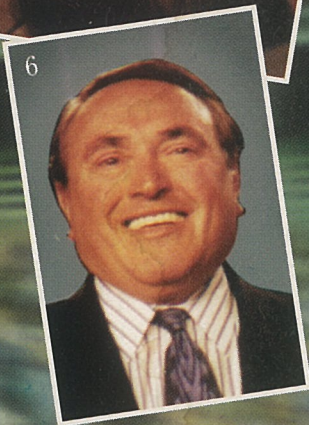
anointed ministry of Benny Hinn when literally hundreds of people were healed.

Night after night waves of glory continued to roll. Wednesday night International President Richard Shakarian shared his vision of the seven pillars in a powerful challenge to the Fellowship. Joining him, Phil Driscoll ministered in song and prophecy and declared that "the strife is broken and that henceforth God will provide all the Fellowship's needs and that never again would the Fellowship have financial problems."

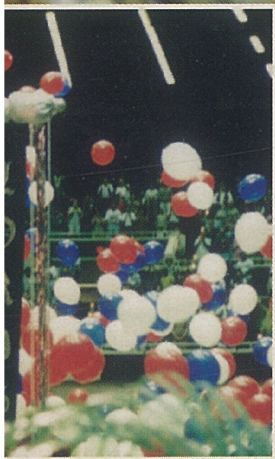
God gave evidence of this after Morris Cerullo spoke on God's eternal provision



WAVES O



GLORY



and Friday night Richard Roberts shared the financial miracles God has brought to O.R.U. The Spirit of God began to minister to the people and one of the largest cash and pledge offerings was received for the Fellowship.

Waves of glory continued to roll on the final night as Rodney Howard-Browne ministered on "How to Receive the Anointing" and thousands of people were touched by the power of God.

The day sessions were equally as challenging. The morning breakfast meetings featured testimonies of businessmen from around the world, and highlighted Bob Harrison sharing strategies for increase and God's blessing on your business; and Duncan Williams of Ghana sharing a powerful message on prayer.

Afternoon teaching sessions featured Chuck Flynn and Jim Maloney teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and Jerry Barnard and Richard Maiden teaching on releasing the prophetic.

Special training sessions were conducted on secrets of the anointing by

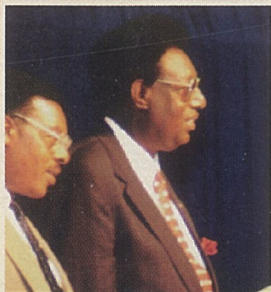
Bob Bignold, Kwabena Darko and Duncan Williams; leadership by Jose Pascua and Prison Ministries by Andrew Kaminski. Two special guests



Trumpeter Phil Driscoll leads Praise & Worship

were King Kigali V of Rwanda and Frederick Chiluba, president of Zambia.

For years to come the Reunion Tower will highlight our memory. It will remind us of the waves of glory that filled this anointed week. It will remind us of the reunion of FGBMFI when men of the Fellowship were brought together in perfect unity and purpose. Its observation tower will help us to see the needs of the world and its striking global light will remind us that He is with us night and day...until He comes!



His Majesty King Kigali V of Rwanda

### Photos From Pages 12-13

1. Convention Co-Chairmen Si Rickman and Richard Shakarian
2. Benny Hinn prays for Convention Delegate
3. Richard Roberts ministers to International President Richard Shakarian
4. Rodney Howard-Browne speaking
5. International Officers pray for African leaders
6. Guest speaker Morris Cerullo
7. Horse rider presents American flag
8. Banners and balloons highlight Fourth of July celebration
9. Calvary Temple choir



# GREATER WORKS

Bob Bignold,  
Renton, Washington

The speaker at the Full Gospel Business Men's meeting had just finished his testimony and invited those who wanted prayer for healing to come to the front of the Hiroshima Hotel ballroom. I said to the man sitting next to me "let's go up and pray for the sick." As we approached a man sitting in a wheel chair, he related in broken English that he had Parkinson's disease and muscular dystrophy. I said to the disease "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, come out of him!" Immediately the man's facial features contorted into ugly features resembling the gargoyles of a heathen temple and a sinister personality said in a bitter angry voice "I'm going to kill this man."

For three years I had been traveling and speaking in the Orient but that was the first time I came face to face with the devil. Now nearly everywhere I went these demons would

manifest, throwing the person to the floor or crying out in a loud voice. I began to wonder what had happened to me. What change had taken place that caused those devils to manifest when I prayed.

I thought back over my life and marveled that I was even in the Orient, and that I was leading people to Christ and praying for their needs.

At the age of 43 years I was the average American businessman, working to make my Seattle architecture business a success. As a single parent, I attended church occasionally more out of habit than anything else. After all, it was good that my children learn proper moral values. Up to this time, I had no personal knowledge of spiritual things. Certainly there must be a God, I thought, but how to contact Him or how to hear His voice I had not the slightest idea. After all if there were a God who was good and He rewarded people because they were good then I was in trouble.

Someday, I reasoned, I would start living a better life than maybe God would make Himself known to me. In fact, I didn't think about such things - they were simply too uncomfortable to contemplate.

One day I noticed a book entitled "Power and Praise" left on the living room table by my born again mother-in-law, who wasn't too sure about me, her new son-in-law! The book was written by Merlin Carothers, a Lt. Colonel in the United States Army. I thought it was another success motivation book (of which I had read many!) so I picked it up and began to read. Something the author said hit me right between the eyes.

He alluded that many churchgoing people think of God's gift of eternal life as a ten cent gift. It means going to church on Sunday, staying away from things that might be fun and putting their hard earned money into the offering plate.

Well, that was certainly what it looked like to me! As I continued to read, I began to see that being born again was something God did to you,

on the inside. The Bible says if you ask Him, He comes into your life and makes you a new person. As I continued to read, faith began to build inside of me. So one Sunday afternoon I asked Jesus to come into my heart.

Seven months later, while reading the same book, I began to see that the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the subsequent experience of speaking in tongues is another free gift from God. One evening in the living room of my home I knelt down to ask Jesus to fill me with His Holy Spirit. As I sat quietly before the Lord some strange words began to float up out of my spirit. Hesitantly, I spoke them out. It was very slowly at first, then faster and faster until I was sure my mind could not have thought up that language. Very soon my wife, Barbara, had also received this

gift of the Holy Spirit. Within several months our daughters Kristine and Christina and our youngest son Timothy had received Jesus as their Savior. Our oldest son, Michael, would not come to know Jesus as his Savior until some six years later.

**I picked  
it up  
and began  
to read.  
Something  
the author  
said hit  
me right  
between  
the eyes.**



God's faithful!

After I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit I had such a hunger for the things of God. I was reading the Bible and Christian books continuously. As far as my wife Barbara and I knew, we and the fellow who wrote that book were the only ones who had the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We knew no one personally who had the same experience. But it seemed like in every Christian book we read people were talking about a group called Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. We found a chapter in our area of Seattle and began to attend. What exciting meetings they were! Men would share how God had healed their bodies, had helped them in their business, healed their marriages, etc. We could hardly wait for the next month's meeting. These meetings inspired faith in us. They brought us into relationship with good teachers of the Word of God, they taught us how to apply our faith to the everyday situations of life. It was wonderful!

Soon I was secretary of the Greater Seattle Chapter, then the vice-president and then the president. I began to go on airlifts (trips to other nations to share the gospel

to Europe, Honduras and then Ireland.

I began to experience an anointing of God's power as I prayed for people. One night in British Columbia when I was speaking for an FGBMFI meeting the glory of God came down so strong that everyone I prayed with fell to the floor. That anointing seemed to stay with me as I ministered in other meetings and in other areas.

In the fall of 1984 the Spirit of God began to speak to my spirit about leading an airlift to the Orient to start chapters for the Fellowship.



In June of 1985 Paul Crawford, and I made our first trip to Japan. I had no understanding of the Oriental culture, if I had I might not have gone. I did not

understand that without developing relationships there would be no Fellowship in Japan. It took two years, seven trips, and twelve weeks in Japan before the first Japanese men would step forward to help start chapters.

About that time a nationally known speaker came to our Pacific Northwest FGBMFI Men's Camp and made the statement that was to dramatically change my life. He said that Jesus came and sat in his car one day and said "if My people would only

worship Me they could have whatever they asked." That statement went into my spirit like a two edged sword. As he taught on the importance of worshipping God I devoured it as a thirsty deer pants after water.

Several weeks later I covenanted with myself that I would rise each morning to worship the Lord. I would just worship Him for who He is, to thank Him for the things He has done for me and to pray and intercede for the things He has set in my heart.

There has never been a morning since that day in 1986 that I haven't gotten out of bed to pray and worship Him. Sometimes it is for forty-five minutes to an hour, sometimes for several hours at a time. (Nothing else has so changed my life like this time I spend with Jesus.) It has brought a quiet confidence to my spirit, and a deep unshakable faith. It has made me slower to speak, slower to judge, and it is easier to walk in love. It has brought a holy calmness to my spirit. So often now as I seek God in the early hours of the morning, He will speak to me a scripture, a word of direction to guide and comfort me in the affairs of life.

It was only a year or so after I began to worship God, in my private time, that I had that experience in the Hiroshima ballroom. Now I know why the anointing began to manifest nearly everywhere I went. Jesus is the Anointed One. As I spent

time with Him, to worship Him and pray, His anointing seemed to come on me in a stronger way. It seemed like more people with whom I prayed were healed and delivered.

If you will make it your habit to spend time with Jesus, getting to know Him better, you will find it easier to trust Him and like me, the Holy Spirit will begin to manifest the gifts of the Spirit through you to heal the sick and set the captives free!



*Bob and his wife Barbara live in Renton, Washington. They have 4 children, Michael, Kristine, Christina and Timothy. Bob is a National Director and has been with the Fellowship since 1978. He may be contacted at 607 S.W. Grady Way, Renton, WA 98055.*



# DISCOVERED DESTINY

Rick Osborne, BC Canada

I was almost nineteen on May 10, 1980 when my mother and stepfather, Harold, ushered me into the businessmen's meeting. I was furious!

Eager to learn all I could about business, I had promised to go. I found out shortly before it started it was a Full Gospel Business Men's meeting, so I went with an attitude the size of Texas and didn't care who knew it!

As I looked around the room I was struck by the obvious happiness and camaraderie of the several hundred people in attendance. "This is too bizarre," I thought. "They're faking it. Could Mom have put them up to this to convince me what she's been saying is the truth?" My mother, I believed, was being led astray and was taking my youngest siblings with her. She had

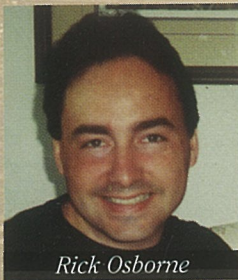
raised me in the doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG). How could she stray?

Years earlier as a young boy at the WCG's Sabbath service I often paused while passing notes to my friends to look at the speaker. Several times the strong thought came to me, "That's what you're going to do one day." It scared me, yet I knew from an early age that there was a purpose for my life, something I was supposed to do.

Later, as a young teen, I rebelled. At 12 I took drugs for the first time and got drunk. My life was one big party until my teenage years were a blur. Mother had had enough and kicked me out of the house. Soon after, she began attending church on

Sunday. This was the worst offense, according to the WCG. I knew she was being led astray and I was furious! I went over there one night to talk about it and the dinner table that night was silent. Everyone knew how upset I was and expected a huge argument. "Why are you being led astray by the devil and taking the kids to church on Sunday?" I demanded. "What is going on?" The room cleared immediately. After a long pointless argument she pulled out her Bible. "Do you mind if I show you some things in the Bible?" "Of course not," I said. She opened to Galatians 3 and other passages that clearly showed we are no longer under the law but grace. Now I was confused.

A few weeks later Harold invited my girlfriend, Elaine, and I to a movie with him and Mom. The movie was "Jesus of Nazareth". Sitting in the theater one question was indelibly imprinted on my heart. "Jesus did all that for me. What am I doing for Him?" The answer was clear. "Nothing. I am going the other way." I never cried, but that night I couldn't stop for I felt such incredible conviction. Embarrassed and confused, the movie ended, I pushed past them and literally ran away, covering close to three miles before stopping. Putting my head down on a large concrete fence post I



*Rick Osborne*

cried out to God with all my heart.

"God, I know You are real. I know I can pray to You. But I don't know what You expect of me. I don't know which is the right way: how I was raised, or what Mom is saying now? I'm so confused I can't figure it out. In the next two weeks show me the truth. Show me what You want from me. If You do, I'll give you my whole life. I'll do whatever, and go wherever You want. If you don't, You can kiss me good-bye because I can't take this." I prayed without bravado or challenge, only a sincere desperation. An incredible peace came over me as I leaned

against the post and walked the rest of the way home. The peace was so great I even forgot I had prayed that prayer.

Then Harold invited me to this Full Gospel Business Men's banquet, and here I was. As I sat and listened I realized the movie and prayer had been exactly two weeks before. "OK God, this is it," I prayed. "You can show me tonight." The speaker had been calling people out in the meeting and giving them Bible verses that spoke directly into their lives. "God," I said, "You can get that man to call me out and give me a verse. Here's your chance, God." The speaker concluded his speech and sat down.

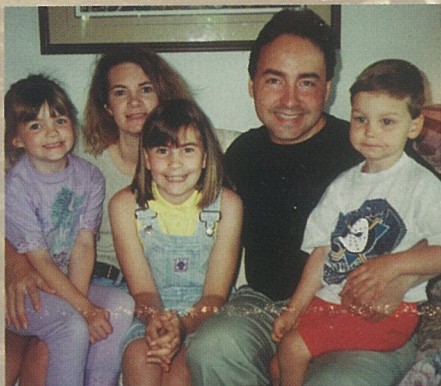
Then I said what I thought was my last prayer. "You blew it, God." A

man asked everyone to stand, bow their heads and close their eyes. "If you are here and have never made Jesus the Lord of your life and want to, come up and stand here." I made no decision to go forward. I did not choose to put one foot in front of the other. But suddenly I found myself at the front of the room. The man asked me if I wanted to make Jesus my Lord and I heard myself say, "Yes." To this day I have no idea how I got to the front or answered that question.

Immediately a 2000 pound weight lifted off me and I felt like I was floating. I knew that I had been forgiven and taken into God's family. "God, whatever You want me to do with my life I will do it," I prayed. "Wherever You want me to go, I will go. No matter what, I will follow and obey You." I turned and saw my mother coming toward me across the room. For the first time in my entire life, I knew what it was to love someone. That was the beginning! God began to lead me into the incredible future He had prepared for me and to show me the purpose for my life. I threw myself into my new life. I began praying and reading the Bible daily. I was in church seven nights a week, learning, growing, and changing.

Elaine became a Christian a week after me and we married a year later. We felt called to business early in our marriage, but I was ill-equipped. I knew nothing about business and had

only a twelfth grade education. That didn't stop God. Elaine and I prayed daily, "God, we'll go wherever You want us to go and we'll do whatever You want us to do." As we followed Him day by day, God began to birth in us ideas for Christian products for kids. Everything God gave us to do started with prayer, a practice we continue to this day. On June 1, 1984, less than three years after God called us to business, I left my job and Elaine and I started Lightwave Publishing. Lightwave Publishing together with Bible publishers: Zondervan, Word and Tyndale House has been successfully producing high quality Christian books, music and games for over 11 years. Lightwave products have been endorsed by ministries such as: Focus on the Family, The 700 Club, Josh McDowell Ministry, Bibles International and others.



**Rick with wife, Elaine and children.**

*Rick is founder and president of Lightwave Publishing and can be contacted at 1-800-588-7463*

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# DESTINY... THE GREAT MYSTERY

Greatness usually begins in crisis. The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International was no exception. As a dairyman, my father, Demos Shakarian, had sponsored many great evangelistic outreaches...but destiny called. Could ordinary men release their talents and help other men receive a life-changing experience?

After a frustrating year of small chapter meetings...the moment of crisis. No, he could not go any further in his own strength. But in the middle of the night, in deep prayer...destiny...arrived. It was in the form of a vision.

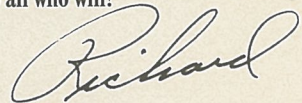
A vision is an insight given from the heart of God, by the Holy Spirit. In the middle of the night, while deep in prayer, God supernaturally lifted him from the living room floor, through the ceiling, and like a satellite he circled the earth. As he passed over each nation, he saw the people dressed in their native clothing. There they were by the hundreds of millions, standing shoulder to shoulder, in chains of bondage from sin, in frozen positions of agony. Then the Lord took him the second time around the world and he saw the breakthrough of the Holy Spirit in power. The agony changed to joy, as chains fell from their hands and legs. Hundreds of millions around the world raised their hands and rejoiced in the name of Jesus.

This was the humble beginning of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. It has since circled the world. Today we are in 132 nations of the world, with tens of thousands of members, men of destiny, full of the Holy Spirit.

Our ranks know no prejudice. We are privileged to embrace every nation, every color of skin, every language spoken, and every culture in the world, because we are all made in the image of God. We are glad to embrace Protestants, Catholics, charismatics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Pentecostals, Baptists, Anglicans, Lutherans, and every person that names the name of Jesus Christ.

We focus on that which unites us. That which creates our destiny...both personally and as a Fellowship. It is God our Heavenly Father, the Creator of mankind; Jesus Christ His only begotten Son; and the precious Holy Spirit.

About one million men each year are completely changed, through the Fellowship, even their families, businesses, and personal relationships. Changed completely as they discover their destiny. Yes, greatness is not limited to a few...but to all who will!



Richard Shakarian,  
International President

# Worldwide, Day & Night, FGBMFI is a Light.



## One million men receiving Christ each year

The men of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International are ordinary men who have made a personal commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are from 132 nations of the world with 70 International Directors, approximately 400 National Directors serving the nations and approximately 20,000 chapter officers throughout the world.

We are of all races, many languages of high and low stature. Some of our members are Presidents of their nations. One member serves on the World Court. There are Prime Ministers, Ambassadors, Senators, Congressmen as well as businessmen, factory workers, professionals and young men getting started in life. We have no church or denomination rather we are of almost every denomination. We believe in God our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ His Son, and the Precious Holy Spirit.

Join with us and become a part of the victorious army that the Lord is raising up for these last days, who are seeing over one million men won to Christ each year.

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