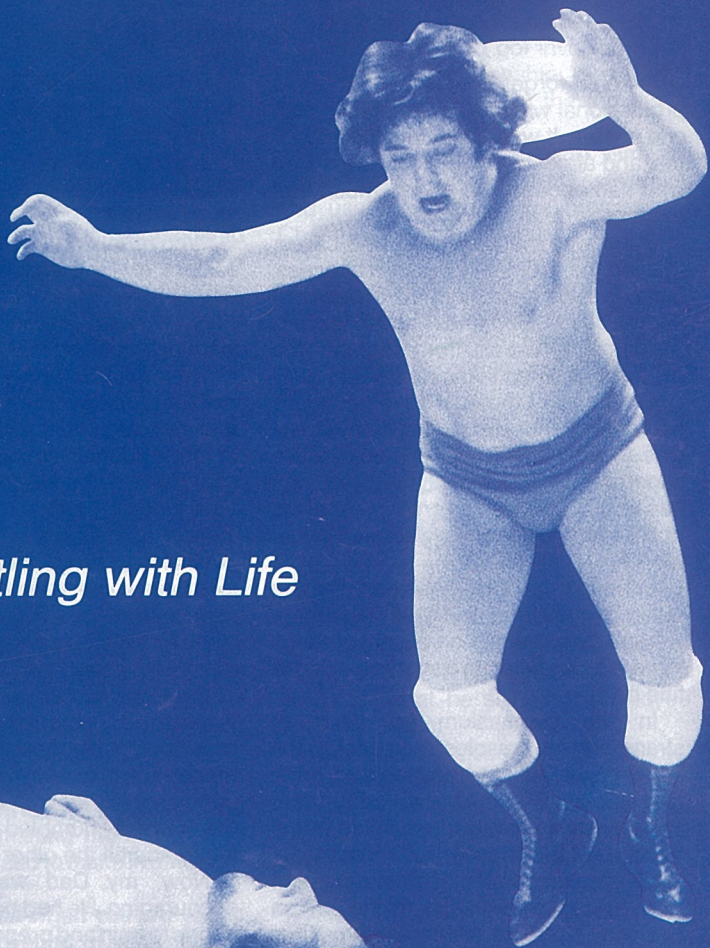


AUSTRALIAN

NUMBER 4

VOICE



Wrestling with Life

See page 2

WRESTLING WITH LIFE

By Johnny Gray

Former World Championship Wrestler

I won't forget my first bout as a professional wrestler. It lasted less than one minute. It was utterly humiliating for me, and almost as bad for my dear Dad who had encouraged me so much and expressed such faith in my ability.

But it was the beginning of a career that led me eventually through success, fame, wealth and finally to a personal knowledge of God and his plan for me.

I came to Australia from England with my parents when I was nine years old.

On the day I turned 14 I left school. I had several short-term jobs, then, when I was 18, I became a trainee manager in a supermarket. My job at the start was packing goods onto shelves but I knew I could work my way up in that job.

From the age of 12 I had been working out in gymnasiums. In those days there weren't gymnasiums on every corner as there is today. I had to travel to the city to find one.

In the gymnasium I'd work to strengthen my muscles, then back in the supermarket I'd eat bananas and drink cream to build up my body. Today, there is a real science to body building but in those days it was more rudimentary.

Like thousands of other Melburnians, I would go to Festival Hall in the city on Saturday nights to watch the wrestling.

One day, I saw a fellow who was lifting heavy oxy-acetylene tanks off the back of the truck with no trouble at all. I recognised him as a local wrestler. I asked him where I could learn to wrestle.

"You're talking to the right man," he said. "I run a gymnasium and I teach wrestling."

So I began attending the gym and learning wrestling.

Then, one Saturday afternoon, I was training in the gym when a man came up and introduced himself as the organiser of professional wrestling matches, he said to me, "I can use you at Festival Hall next week", I assured him I would be there.

I'll always remember my introduction to professional wrestling. Festival Hall was packed out. It gave me a thrill to climb into the ring and hear the swelling roar of the crowd as I was introduced.

But I was no sooner in the ring than I was out of it. The match lasted less than a minute. My opponent seemed to be embarrassed to be in the ring with such a comparatively inexperienced person like me. He really humbled me in front of my father and all the other wrestling fans.

Now, my Dad was usually most encouraging. He had been behind all my efforts to train and prepare for a wrestling

career. But after my first big match he looked me in the eye and said, "Son, I'll give you some advice. Give it away. You're hopeless!"

But his words only acted as a spur and I determined to go on and stick to wrestling.

Several months later, after a few more matches at Festival Hall, the promoter said to me, "Johnny, I'd like to offer you a full-time position with World Championship Wrestling."

It sounded like a great offer. In the supermarket I was working 60 hours a week in an effort to get somewhere in life. This alternative seemed too good to miss. I didn't hesitate.

Almost overnight I went from being a nobody in a supermarket to being well-known, with national exposure. I was on national television twice a week.

At that time, World Championship Wrestling was the highest rating sports show on TV, seen by millions of people every week throughout Australia, Hong Kong and other Asian countries.

So virtually overnight I went from one lifestyle to another, flying first class all over Australia almost every day.

and go into the world, you are exposed to a lot of worldly influences.

I found it was a shallow and lonely life. I started drinking, at first only a little but it gradually increased. At times, I'd drink all night.

While I was in the U.S., I began experimenting with drugs. I never had to buy them. They were always freely available. I got caught up with marijuana and other soft drugs, then steroids and LSD.

Finally, after a number of years of international travel, I came back to Australia to live and got involved again with World Championship Wrestling. I was the third man from the top in the organisation.

One of my jobs was to film the Saturday night main event at Festival Hall and use it as part of the program on Channel 9 the next morning.

I would go to Channel 9 studios early on the Sunday and edit the film for use in the day's show. I usually had it finished by about 8 a.m., which allowed me time to have a cup of coffee by myself before the program began.

There was a fellow on television in

"Son, I'll give you some advice. Give it away, You're hopeless!"

The travelling was a strain. We travelled all the time.

After a few years of experience in Australia, I went to the United States and lived in Florida. Then I went to Japan a couple of times, then back to the U.S. and lived there for a while with my wife, Margaret.

I lived in the fast lane as a sporting and TV personality, making more money in one night than I used to make in a week at the supermarket.

But I found that when you are young and leave the covering of your parents

those days named Rex Humbard. While I drank my coffee I would enjoy watching his show, which was a presentation of the gospel. I don't know that I took much notice of what he said, but I enjoyed listening to him.

That was as close as I got to real Christianity during my wrestling life.

After all these years of travelling about and living in the fast lane, I got to the stage where I was tired and bored with travel.

After 14 years of living out of a suitcase I decided I'd had enough and I



Margaret and Johnny Gray, with Nicholas and Katie

longed for a more meaningful life.

I didn't want to give up wrestling but I wanted to spend more time at home with my wife. So, about 1980, I decided to settle down.

Because of my wrestling and my association with gymnasiums all over the world, I decided I would open a gymnasium in Melbourne. There still were not a lot around then.

From day one, the gym boomed. Running the business still allowed me to wrestle four nights each week but I would be away from home only one night each week.

On Friday afternoon, I'd fly to Sydney, wrestle, and then catch a late flight back to Melbourne, so I was home that night.

On Saturday night I'd do Festival Hall in Melbourne, Sunday I'd do the Channel 9 TV show, then on Monday I'd fly to Adelaide. That was the only time I couldn't get home the same evening. It was an ideal set-up.

So there we were, my wife, Margaret, and I, going along quite nicely. We were a successful couple, I had my wrestling income, some income from the promotion of World Championship

Wrestling and from my gymnasium. Margaret was also working, so we had four incomes.

We could afford a new car, a nice home, trips overseas, all the luxuries we wanted. I was having a great time in life.

Then, almost overnight, my world collapsed. I had no problems with my marriage and my business affairs were booming. What happened was that my younger brother was diagnosed as having a terminal disease.

It was a devastating blow to my entire family. I would have given away my wrestling career and my business if it would have helped my brother. I couldn't think straight!

I was at my business one day when a fellow walked in and enrolled in my gym. His name was Paul and he was to play a very significant part in my future life.

He was a paramedic at Pentridge Prison, he was a Christian and he was planning to give up his job and enrol in a theological college to train as a minister.

Out of respect for him, I immediately abandoned my habit of swearing. I used

some foul language in those days and I think the first thing God healed me of was my swearing.

It wasn't long before several more Christians enrolled for training in my gym. Gradually, they affected my lifestyle and my outlook.

One day, I mentioned to Paul about my brother's illness. He said, "John, we have a good God and he is able to heal".

This made me think about a few things. I'd always had a concept of God

Then Leighton Ford went on to talk about sin. Now, I had led a fairly wild life and I thought it would be impossible for God to forgive me for the things I'd done.

But the speaker claimed that it was possible for everybody to receive forgiveness. "God wants to forgive you," he said, "He has made a way. All you need to do is accept the way and follow it."

About 400 people rose from their seats and moved forward. I was one of them.

that didn't include a real knowledge of God or any realisation that God cared about me personally.

Then one day Paul said, "John, there's a good speaker on tonight. Why don't you come and hear him". He said the speaker was a man named Leighton Ford.

When Paul and I got to the Dallas Brooks Hall, I found a crowd as big as the ones that come to watch me wrestle at Festival Hall.

And because my face was still on television it wasn't long before people began to recognise me. I felt embarrassed at being seen at a religious meeting but eventually we got into the hall and sat down.

I listened carefully to what Leighton Ford was saying, and it seemed to me to make sense. He talked about inviting Jesus to come into your life. "The only way to God is through his son, Jesus", he said.

Until that time, my concept of God was of someone rather like Father Christmas. If I wanted something I'd ask him for it and maybe he would give it to me. At that stage I didn't feel I needed God in my life.

Suddenly, it all made sense. Then at the end of the night, Leighton Ford said, "Those who want to receive Jesus into their lives and have their sins forgiven, just come to the front of the hall."

About 400 people rose from their seats and moved forward and I was one of them. At this point, I didn't care what people would think of me. I wanted Jesus in my life.

I didn't have a thunder and lighting experience but I know that, after I became a Christian, there was something different about my life.

One of the things I admired about my friend, Paul, was that after I became a Christian, he didn't take me to his church. He took me to a church where he knew I would fit in. It was the Moonee Ponds Uniting Church.

I found that this church had a ministry of healing. It was then under the leadership of the Rev. John Blacker and God used him to help me in my life.

So I began attending regularly and, because the church had a healing ministry, it gave me hope that maybe God could intervene in my brother's situation and make him better.

It was about two years later that Margaret came back to the Lord. We had been childhood sweethearts. We met when she was 15 and I was 16 and at that time she was involved with the church. I was the reason she went away from the church and then, praise the Lord, I was the reason she went back to it.

It was easy for me to be a public Christian to others but to my own family it was difficult. I didn't even talk to Margaret about my faith. I left her out of it all.

One of the things I've learned is that you should never push anybody. Jesus never pushed anybody, so we shouldn't either.

However, she soon came through to a new commitment to Jesus Christ. It was a tremendous time for both of us. We stayed at the Moonee Ponds Uniting Church and we've been there ever since.

Together, we began to discover the principles of God through John Blacker's teaching. It was all based on God's promise that if we obey him, then he would bless us.

My business continued to grow and there are 14 people who came to know the Lord through our ministry at the gymnasium.

After running the gym for a number of years I reached the stage where I decided to sell the business.

By this time I was an elder at the church and I went on a trip to the U.S.A. The trip was partly to look into the health club industry in that country and partly to find out what was happening in the churches there.

Now, you hear some people knock what is happening in the U.S., but I saw things that God was doing there that really blessed me.

For instance, I went to one church where the pastor preached a very simple message. Basically, what he said was

that God would use anybody who is available.

The simple truth inspired me because, until that time, I had been content to be just a spectator in the church.

When I returned to Melbourne, our minister, Rev. Bert Hibberd, began preaching messages along much the same line — that God will use anybody who is available.

Soon after this. I went to a conference and saw a visitation of God, much the same as I'd seen in churches in the U.S. There was no hard push, no emotion, just a sovereign move of God.

I thought about these things for a while and then I was moved to say to God, "Lord, if you want to use me, I'm available!"

Soon afterwards, I had the opportunity to speak at a meeting of the Full Gospel Businessmen. At that meeting, I saw a visitation of God fall on the people and I thought, "God, we've broken through!"

Since then, I've had the privilege of speaking to people from all denominations. In these meetings, I've seen people saved, healed, blessed, delivered.

So in recent years, God has given me the opportunity of telling people what he has done in my life.

Since the evening I went forward in the Dallas Brooks Hall and gave my life to Jesus, God has blessed me abundantly. It hasn't all been easy. There have been ups and downs but God has been faithful at all times.

If God has given me any ministry at all, I think it is to encourage other people — to tell the message that challenged me — if you are available, God will use you!

John and Margaret Gray live in the Melbourne suburb of Oak Park and worship at the Moonee Ponds Uniting Church. They have two children, Nicholas and Katie

Why aren't you helping me?

By Bill White

It was not a reverent prayer. It was a case of really ripping into God and telling him what I thought of him. I felt he had let me down.

That was a crisis point in my life. Years of struggle and tough times seemed to have led to nothing. I had tried all my life to do the right thing by God and this was the result.

My business was on the verge of ruin. I was not only broke but deeply in debt. I'd just lost the big order that I thought was going to save everything.

And here I was, driving to a meeting that I didn't want to attend, coerced into going by a persistent friend. I knew the meeting would be packed with people praising God. Well, I had nothing to praise God about. He had let me down!

As I drove along, my mind was full of anger. So I spoke my mind to God in no uncertain manner. I didn't know if he could hear me, and I didn't really care. I just let my feelings loose in a torrent of abuse and frustration.

But God did hear me, and in the end I was glad that he did. I had been brought up in a formal church situation. I knew about God, about Jesus Christ and about the Trinity. I'd been baptised as a baby.

I prayed in a formal way and I did all the right things to the best of my ability. But I didn't have a personal relationship with Jesus.

I graduated from Swinburne Technical College with a diploma in mechanical engineering, then I became a cadet engineer and draftsman for a rubber components manufacturer.

In the early 1960s, when I was in my twenties, I began working for a firm that specialised in materials handling equipment. It was an interesting and fulfilling time in my life. Part of my work was to travel about in Australia, visiting various clients on behalf of my employers.

After several years, during which time I had married, the company transferred me to South Africa for three and a half years and I established a new company in that country.

We returned to Australia in early 1980 and I became contract Sales Manager of the company. In due course I was promoted to the position of General Sales Manager. My work included travel to other countries including Canada, the U.S.A., South-East Asia and occasionally Europe.

By 1983 I had about 70 people working under me, but then business activities began to decline. Matters soon reached the stage where we were forced to start putting people off.

I found this to be rather soul-destroying, knowing that when you laid off a worker, you also took away a family's income. They were tough days.

Things continued to get worse until, in mid-1984, the company offered me retrenchment. Although I had expected it, it was hard to take. I'd finally lost my security.

But it was through this experience that I learned, in hind-sight, something of the wisdom of God.

In the years that followed, God moved in number of ways, setting things into place that were to surface much later in new opportunities.

During these years also, I had a Christian friend who began to witness to me persistently about my need for a personal relationship with Jesus. No matter what subject I discussed with him — business, football, family, whatever — he produced a passage from the Bible that dealt with it in some way and pointed me towards Jesus.

I kept telling him that I was alright. I went to church regularly. I lived a good life. I didn't need all that stuff. But he kept right on witnessing to me and challenging me. Gradually, without me realising it, what he was saying began to have an effect on me.

I began reading my Bible regularly and seeking God in a personal way. I found a lot of strength through this. I felt that God knew all about my situation and had everything under control.

After being retrenched, I started my own business. I obtained the Australian agency for a firm in Finland which made materials handling machinery for mining companies.

I added two rooms to the back of my house to use as offices and for months I travelled about Australia, visiting mining firms and expounding the benefits of the machinery.

Several times, I came close to closing a deal, but they never came to anything. After 18 months, I still had not sold anything.

Then I landed what looked like a firm order. I had everything sewn up and it looked as though all I had to do was call on the company and collect the official order.

An executive from the Finnish company arranged to come to Australia to be with me in finalising the order. I was understandably very excited.

Then I made a final phone call to the company, only to be told apologetically that on the previous day the order had been given to another firm.

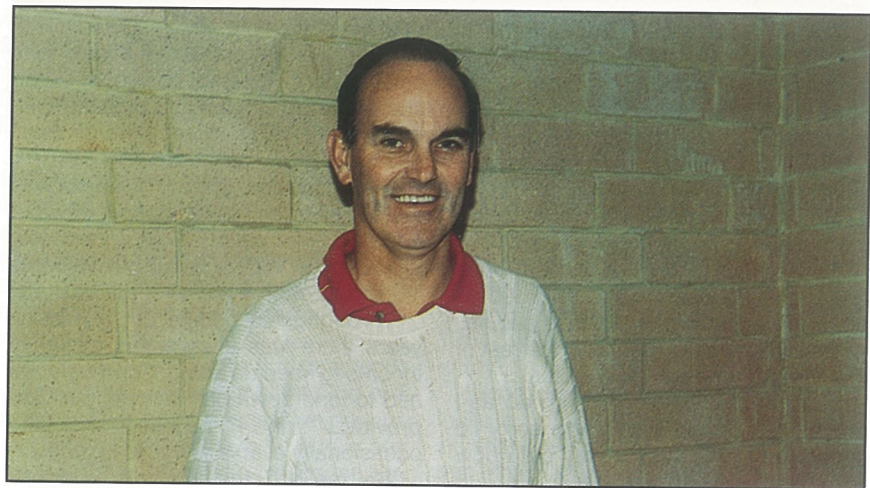
I was absolutely devastated! After 18 months of toil, selling the benefits of this equipment, the shock of the loss was almost too much for me to bear.

I didn't know what to do. My faith in God wavered. I thought, "What's all this stuff in the Bible about God taking care of us and meeting our needs? Look at my situation now, God has let me down!

Not long before this, I had gone forward at an FGB meeting and accepted Jesus into my life. I'd been baptised by immersion, I thought I'd done the right things for God.

But I'd lost this big order. I had a company man flying here from Finland but I now had nothing to show him. I felt devastated!

During the previous three weeks, my evangelistic friend had been really pestering me to come to a meeting at his home on a particular Wednesday night. I kept making excuses for not wanting to go, but he was persistent and there seemed to be some urgency.



Bill White

Then 24 hours before this big night I'd had the trauma of losing this big order. I was in no mood to be sociable.

Finally, I decided to go to the meeting, if only to get my friend off my back.

He lived about 20 minutes drive from my home and I was feeling very dejected as I got in my car that evening. As I drove, I began thinking about the coming meeting and all the happy Christians who would spend the evening singing praises to a God who loved them.

That wasn't my mood at all. I was angry with God, so I began to tell him exactly what I thought of him. It was no reverent prayer, I really ripped into God and told him exactly what I thought of him and the way he had let me down.

I spoke frankly and bitterly. He obviously hadn't heard the many prayers I had lifted up to him about my business and I didn't imagine that he was bothering to listen to me now.

I was out of money, out of patience, out of everything, I didn't know where to go next.

At this stage, my three children were all in secondary school. It was the most expensive period of our lives and I was

broke. We'd been almost two years without any income at all. Where was God in all this?

So I arrived at the meeting and found everyone singing all those happy songs, but I was feeling anything but happy and I couldn't be bothered singing, anyway!

There were 50 or 60 people there and I sat at the back feeling miserable and resenting the joy the others were expressing.

A couple of people stood up and gave testimonies and then a merchant banker stood up to give his testimony. He spoke for only about half a minute and then he picked me out of the crowd and asked me my name. "It's Bill," I answered rather grumpily.

He said, "Bill, I want you to come here. I've got a word for you."

Then he gave me a prophetic word that covered my work, my family and my ministry. He went on to tell me what was going to happen in my life.

He said all these areas were going to take off like an escalator. An escalator goes along flat for a while but then it begins to climb rapidly. That's how it will be in my life, he said.

The message could only have been from God because that man didn't know me from a bar of soap. Nobody could have told him so much about me because nobody in that room knew that much about me or how I felt at that time.

I felt sure it was God's way of telling me that he had heard the torrent of abuse I'd poured out in my car. I could have cried, except that I was too proud to break down in front of all those people.

I went back to my seat and the rest of that evening passed by in a blur.

I had a lot of apologising to do as I drove home. I told God I was sorry I'd spoken to him in such a way but I now know that he had heard me.

When I opened my office the next morning I still had no money, no orders,

In her spare time, Helen started a little business, initially entailing the making of patchwork quilts and cushions. Later, she moved into packing baskets with various little items to sell through retail outlets as gifts.

During the time that my business was making no money at all, indeed, we were \$30,000 in debt. God graciously provided us with a small but valuable income through the sale of gift baskets.

Throughout a couple of very tough years there was always this trickle of income to keep us going. Obviously, we had to tone down our lifestyle, but God provided the necessities, and occasionally even a few little luxuries.

We realised that Helen's business could be built up. At first she was packing three baskets in a day but over the years

After six months I had orders worth in total some \$750,000!

no prospects, but I knew that God had heard me and that was a major turning point in my life.

Shortly after that I got my first major order, from Mount Isa Mines. This was followed soon afterwards by an order from Roxby Downs Mines. Within six months I had orders worth in total some \$750,000.

I have said that my business had not provided me with any income for almost two years, and that is true, but while I had been struggling to get orders, God had met our needs in an interesting way.

My wife Helen is a trained nurse and continued working for a while after our marriage. But she decided to give up full-time employment to remain at home. This was partly to be with our children at an important time in their lives and partly to act as my secretary and look after the office side of my affairs.

the business expanded and now, with a small staff, she can pack up to 2000 baskets a day.

The baskets are distributed by the container load to retailers all over Australia and to Japan.

The engineering business continued to grow. About four years ago we moved to a factory in Bayswater, with about 8500 square feet of office and warehouse space. Both Helen and I work under the one roof, using the one office facility.

In 1991, the combined companies had a turnover exceeding \$4.5 million and in spite of the present difficult times we have sold more than 100 pieces of machinery throughout Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Malaysia.

What I would like to emphasise is that, although I knew about God in my

younger days and went to church and did all the right things, it was not until I made a personal commitment to Jesus that God really began to move in my life.

My spiritual life began to go ahead when I started to really study the Bible and stand on God's promises. Just as a machinery manufacturer puts out a manual on his product, I believe that God has given us an operating and maintenance manual on how to live. It is called the Bible.

In the gospel of Matthew, in chapter 6, verses 24-34, Jesus says that God will provide all our basic needs if we put our trust in him. I found this to be true in our lives. God has blessed us because we have sought to put him first.

Verse 34 advises that we should take no thought for tomorrow. We should be anxious for nothing, but by prayer and application make our needs known to God, who will meet our needs.

I learned to use these promises and this helped us to understand what God has planned for our lives.

We are told also, in Romans 5:1-5, that we should glory in tribulations because God uses them to build our character, I found this promise to be a comfort when I was going through difficulties.

Another thing Helen and I have learned is the importance of having the right partner in business. God gave us each other as partners. We are joint directors of our companies.

The Bible tells us that when two people get married, the two become one. If you are going into business, I advise that the only partner you should have is your wife.

God has certainly blessed us in our joint businesses. Despite this present economic situation, we are putting on extra staff and planning expansion.

I hope my experience is an encouragement to others in similar circumstances. If I had not lost my job in 1984, who knows what I'd be doing today?

Being forced to change your direction in life is not a disaster in itself. In every situation we have been in, we have found that it has turned out well in the end.

God has not only blessed us financially and materially. Both our eldest daughter and our son have been healed from serious illnesses as a result of God's intervention in their lives. But those are separate testimonies.

So I would encourage everyone to put their lives into God's hands, because he is faithful. We have proved this in our own lives and we are sure it will be true in the lives of all who trust him for everything.

Bill and Helen White worship at the Richmond A.O.G. church in Melbourne. They have two daughters and a son. Bill is past president of the Doncaster/ Templestowe chapter of FGBMFI and is currently a regional director of the Fellowship.

Epilepsy Eliminated

By Robert Negus

Many people believe in God but not many believe in a living God. Because they don't believe that God lives in the world today, they lack the faith to know that He still works today as He did in the past.

I was born in England and brought up in an Anglican home where I was taught about God. My early schooling was in a convent where my understanding of God was further increased and my faith strengthened.

But for my secondary education, I went to a school where things were looked at rather differently. I was now told that God lived far away, watching us from a distance and recording our good and bad deeds in a big book.

One day, I was told, we would meet Him face to face, but in the meantime we had to get on with our lives without any help from Him.

I was confused by this new teaching. I had been brought up to believe that God was very personal and loving. Now I was told that He was distant and uncaring.

Then I went to university and my uncertainty continued. In my search for the truth I read books on philosophy and theology but found they only added to

my confusion. My faith wandered about, according to whichever book I was reading at the time.

I didn't realise it then, but there is only one way to find God. The Bible says "taste and see that the Lord is good", I didn't know this verse of scripture so I just prayed, "God, if you are real, please let me know". I prayed this for 20 years before the answer came.

During my last year at high school I had suffered a head injury while playing football. I spent three days in hospital but eventually seemed to recover. Several years later, I began to have epileptic fits.

By this time I had finished my medical studies and was a doctor. I went back to my medical school and they carried out tests and told me that I had some scar tissue on my brain above my right ear. The scar tissue was causing the turns I was having.

I was given some treatment which made the attacks less severe but didn't stop them.

Regularly every 10 to 14 days I would get one of these epileptic turns. For several hours after an attack I had difficulty thinking straight or



Dr Robert Negus and his wife Amy.

remembering things. I had to take tablets to calm down.

That's how things were when I came to Australia in 1967. I used to go to church once or twice a month but I still hadn't straightened out my confused thoughts about God.

Then my wife, Amy, became involved with the Catholic charismatic renewal. She would come home and say to me, 'Robert, do you know that Jesus isn't stuck up there in heaven, He is down here with us?'

I replied, "I don't think so, darling. I've never met Him".

Then she came home and said, 'Robert, do you know that God heals people today just as He did 2000 years ago?'

I said, "I don't think so, darling. I'm a doctor. I know about these things. He doesn't do that now".

I have to admit that Amy by nature was always a nervous person but she now had new peace with all this teaching. My condescending reaction was "That's alright for Amy, but it's not for people like me. I understand these things better than she does."

One day, Amy asked, "Robert, are you doing anything on Saturday afternoon?"

I knew she had something up her sleeve and I knew I didn't want to have anything to do with it, but I couldn't think of an excuse on the spur of the moment.

Next Saturday afternoon I was in the Catholic Hall in Griffith and Father Luke was there. He was a Catholic priest from Sydney and had a healing ministry.

We sat in the back row because I didn't want to be there at all, but God had everything under control. Halfway through the meeting a lady in the audience collapsed and, because I was a doctor, I went to her and found that she had just fainted. I said, "She's alright, it's just a simple faint."

In the tea break, Father Luke came to me to express his thanks for my help. Amy saw her chance and she said to him, "Father, my husband has a problem. Can you help him, please?"

I felt embarrassed but Father Luke was very gracious and we went into a back room.

He looked at me and said, "Doctor, I

can see where your trouble is. It's above your right ear, isn't it?"

I thought Amy must have told him, but she assured me later that she had not. Obviously, he had had a word of knowledge.

Father Luke prayed for my healing and then we left. Amy was happy. She went home with a big smile on her face.

Next day at lunch time I suffered the biggest fit I had ever experienced in my life. I wasn't surprised as I was not expecting to be healed but Amy was confused.

She went straight to her bedroom, locked herself in and began to have it out with Jesus.

She said, "I don't understand it, Lord, I was sure you were going to heal my husband. I was convinced he was going

I had suffered these fits every 10 to 14 days for 15 years, then I had been prayed for. After the prayer I had one big fit and since then I had no turns at all.

By this time I had read more of the Bible and I came to the part where Jesus encountered a man who had an epileptic son. Jesus had commanded the spirit to come out of the boy and it came out, but as it did so it threw the child to the ground in one final spasm.

I believe that was what had happened to me. As I was healed, there was one final attack and then this thing came out of me and I was healed.

That was 14 years ago now, I've had no medication for 14 years and I praise the Lord for that.

I then realised that God had done two things at once. He had not only healed

“Doctor, I can see where you're trouble is. It's above your right ear, isn't it?”

to be alright. Now I don't know where I am. I'm confused.

She went on like that for a long while, sometimes with tears, then suddenly she had the feeling that Jesus was standing behind her.

She could not look, but from that moment she was at peace and she knew that whatever happened, she could trust Jesus. She said, "Lord, I still don't know what you're playing at, I don't understand but you are my Lord and I put my trust in you". Then she dried her eyes and came out of the room.

A fortnight went by and I didn't have a fit in that time. I thought it was just a coincidence. Then another fortnight went by and I still didn't have a fit.

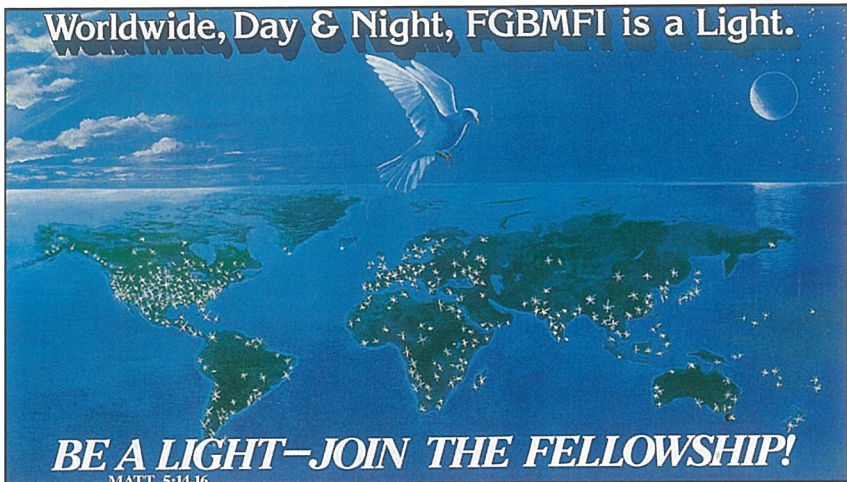
I was not yet convinced that I was healed, but as another six months passed without a fit I had to admit that something had happened.

my epilepsy but He had also let me know that He was real and that what He had done for that child in the time of Jesus He still does today. God never changes. We can see the Holy Spirit today doing the same things that happened in Biblical times.

This knowledge completely changed my life, because once you know who God is and have experienced His love and His power in your own life, you have no option but to give yourself fully to Him and serve Him seven days a week.

Robert Negus is president of the Griffith (NSW) chapter and worships at the One in Christ Church. Robert and Amy have four children, three boys and a girl.

Worldwide, Day & Night, FGBMFI is a Light.



Why should a believer join the Fellowship?

Because the fellowship is a vehicle to help him obey Jesus' command to us in Matthew, 5: 14-16, "Let your light shine, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven".

In more than 120 countries, day and night, God is using the FGBMFI to reach out to a hurting world.

Why not join us? We would be delighted to welcome you if you if you can subscribe to our doctrinal statement inside the back cover.

For more information contact the chapter nearest you or write to the National Office of FGBMFI,

PO Box 67, Stones Corner, Queensland 4120.

Phone: (07) 397 3557 or Fax (07) 394 1049.



DIRECTORY

National & State Offices

National Office	(07) 397 3557
	(07) 397 3130
New South Wales	(02) 906 6106
Victoria	(03) 557 2237
South Australia	(08) 270 2173
Western Australia	(099) 21 4122

CHAPTER

President

Secretary

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra	(06) 249 6667	(06) 254 1490
North Canberra	(06) 247 5106	(06) 249 7873

New South Wales

Sydney Central

Martin Place	(02) 971 2439	(02) 649 6606
Sydney Chinatown	(02) 445 412	—
Wynyard	(02) 798 9715	—

Sydney Metropolitan

Blacktown	(02) 891 2465	(02) 626 8752
Dural	(02) 484 0237	(02) 484 7462
Hornsby	(02) 482 2754	(02) 484 1734
Liverpool	(02) 821 3045	—
Nepean	(047) 54 2256	—
Parramatta	(02) 749 4241	(02) 631 8829
Pittwater	—	(02) 918 6502
St George	(02) 527 4581	(02) 521 1535
Sutherland	(02) 521 4192	(02) 587 1476
Sydney Hills	(02) 899 7245	(02) 674 6075
Sydney Southwest	(02) 603 3952	(046) 285 555

Country

Albury/Wodonga	(069) 202 287	(060) 59 3807
Ballina	(066) 862 888	(066) 867 890
Central Coast	(043) 33 1036	—
Cessnock	—	(049) 905 692
Cooma	(064) 522 240	(064) 542 367
Coonabarabran	(068) 42 1734	(068) 42 2795
Deniliquin	—	(058) 81 2493
Dubbo	(068) 821 025	(068) 82 5348

Eurobodalla	(044) 742 263	(044) 711 862
Gilgandra	(068) 472 541	—
Goulburn/Crookwell	(02) 21 8865	(048) 21 4215
Griffith	(069) 62 6419	(069) 681 464
Inverell	(067) 224 934	—
Manning/Great Lakes	(065) 59 2781	(065) 52 5296
Mudgee	(063) 722 187	(063) 733 920
Newcastle/Lake Macquarie	(049) 436 367	(049) 51 3908
Queanbeyan	(06) 297 4103	(06) 286 2780
Shoalhaven	(044) 215 396	(044) 430 264
Tamworth	—	(067) 661 375
Tumbarumba	(069) 482 435	(069) 289 226
Tweed Heads	(066) 761 192	(075) 34 2401
Wagga Wagga	(069) 33 1071	(069) 224 783
Wauchope/Port Macquarie	(065) 834 278	(065) 83 4276
Wollongong	(042) 842 672	(02) 284 594

Northern Territory

Alice Springs	(089) 522 451	(089) 531 113
Darwin	(089) 27 2024	(089) 831 628
Gove	(089) 87 1033	(089) 872 882
Tennant Creek	(089) 621 323	—

Queensland

Aspley	(07) 263 5056	(07) 888 0222
Bayside	(07) 206 3109	(07) 824 0393
Beenleigh	(07) 287 1164	(07) 221 5683
Bowen	(077) 862 801	—
Brisbane	(07) 848 5647	(07) 262 3320
Brisbane West	(07) 366 2822	(07) 394 1934
Browns Plains	(07) 800 5184	(07) 803 5011
Cairns	(070) 547 127	(070) 576 459
Caloundra	(074) 912 840	(074) 914 288
Cardinal	(07) 849 4929	(07) 209 3617
Central Highlands	—	(079) 841 160
Chinchilla	(076) 628 004	(076) 628 210
Clermont	(079) 84 9285	—
Cloncurry	—	(077) 421 179
Gladstone	(079) 782 042	(079) 737 254
Gold Coast	(075) 30 5438	(075) 727 079
Granite Belt	(076) 841 126	(076) 811 197

Yympie	(074) 821 769	(074) 821 758
Hervey Bay	(071) 25 2418	(071) 212 123
Ingham	(077) 762 993	(077) 777 289
Mackay	—	(079) 53 2067
Mareeba	—	(070) 93 2560
Mossman	(070) 987 621	—
Noosa District	(074) 424 294	(074) 498 646
Rockhampton	(079) 283 603	(079) 288 912
Springwood	(07) 341 9882	(075) 78 1460
Sunshine Coast	(074) 452 312	(074) 436 134
Toowoomba	—	Fax (076) 301 311
Townsville	(077) 790 424	(077) 755 297
Whitsunday	(079) 452 670	(079) 451 785

South Australia

Adelaide Eastern	(08) 297 9032	(08) 331 0468
Adelaide Hills	(08) 389 3017	(08) 389 7502
Adelaide North	(08) 250 5003	(08) 281 3589
Adelaide South	(08) 278 8891	(08) 317 197
Flinders Ranges & Districts	(088) 621 681	(088) 62 1761
Flinders Peninsula	(086) 258 031	(086) 818 100
Flinders Ranges	(087) 254 310	(087) 399 203
Flinders Ranges	(08) 293 4350	(08) 277 0233
Flinders Peninsula	(086) 864 224	(086) 873 011
Flinders Ranges	(087) 363 215	—
Flinders Ranges Loxton	(085) 846 551	(085) 846 090

Tasmania

Hobart	(002) 252 416	(002) 293 576
Launceston	(003) 98 2760	(003) 431 647
North West Coast	(004) 252 500	(004) 241 145

Victoria

Alexandra	(057) 72 1420	(057) 721 501
Banambon	(03) 580 5158	(03) 798 4727
Boncaston Templestowe	(03) 846 2060	(03) 846 2426
East Gippsland	(051) 456 434	(051) 447 212
Geelong	(054) 84 1075	(054) 89 7249
Geelong	(059) 78 6278	(03) 786 4189
Geelong	(052) 29 8549	(052) 411 443
Geelong Valley	(03) 546 424	(058) 546 341
Geelong	(053) 821 004	(053) 824 748
Geelong	(03) 729 7911	(03) 801 3457
Geelong Valley	(051) 278 819	(051) 27 1365

Maroondah	(03) 722 1577	(03) 879 3474
Moorabbin	—	(03) 543 7346
Mountain Districts	(03) 722 1076	—
Northern Suburbs	(03) 383 4375	(03) 460 6454
Pakenham	(059) 971 413	(059) 428 328
Sunbury	(03) 744 4029	(03) 744 1864
Traralgon	(051) 346 683	(051) 743 110
Waverley	(03) 807 8304	(03) 882 0508
Werrimbee	(03) 748 6882	(03) 741 4950
Whittlesea	(03) 716 2215	(03) 716 2863
Wonthaggi	(056) 722 772	(03) 721 255

Western Australia

Bunbury	—	(097) 212 673
Central South	(098) 871 375	(098) 836 059
Geraldton	(099) 231 819	(099) 232 393
Gosnells City	(09) 417 2496	—
Melville	(09) 330 7863	(09) 310 2196
North Midlands	(099) 54 5023	(099) 531 109
Perth CBD	—	(09) 574 6363
Stirling	(09) 447 0967	(09) 447 7443

Overseas

The F.G.B.M.F.I. currently operates in over 106 countries of the world. For specific details contact our National Office on (07) 397 3557.

Restoration

By David Martin

My marriage problems really started long before I got married.

I was the sort of fellow who played around a lot and did things I shouldn't have done. I had my own panel-beating business and it provided me with enough money to do all I wanted to do.

But it wasn't until I got married that the problems I'd set in motion over the past ten years or so really became obvious.

Bernadette and I had lived together before we got married. I owned three houses at the time and she was in a rented place so we decided that she should move in with me.

During the day we would get along well. We'd go boating or skiing and would be happy enough together, but at night I'd be faced with areas I just couldn't confront.

When I got close to someone I'd become uptight and nervous and unable to relate in a normal way. For four or five nights a week, Bernadette would go to bed in another room of the house, and cry herself to sleep.

We began attending a Pentacostal church and became very friendly with one of the several pastors there. After a while I began attending a Bible study class that he was leading.

This pastor was not employed fulltime by the church but ran his own business. Often, before he went to work, he would come to my home, sometimes at 6 a.m., and we would do some Bible study together.

Nobody at the church criticised Bernadette and me for living together. If they had, we probably would have left it.

But our friend the pastor said to us, "God can't bless what you are doing and obviously there are pressures on your relationship because it isn't what God would want it." We thought that made sense.

He then suggested that Bernadette live with him and his wife for a time while we conducted a normal relationship. That worked alright and she lived at the pastor's home for about six months. That took the pressure off me.

Then the pastor suggested that we should get married. After some discussion we agreed that the marriage would be held at the church on a weekday, because I didn't want a lot of spectators to attend.

So about nine weeks later we got married. The pastor, who had now become a very good friend, gave us our honeymoon in Tasmania, which was nice of him, considering the problems we had brought to him.

But as we were flying back to Melbourne I realised that the marriage was a mistake and would not work out. All the problems we had before the marriage were still there. I still had all my hangups and I still couldn't relate to Bernadette.

I was furious. I thought, "I've done things God's way and it hasn't worked!"

Everyone thought our marriage was successful, but really it was hell on earth.

For the next five years, Bernadette and I continued in our strained relationship. Everyone thought the marriage was successful but really it was hell on earth.

Outwardly, things did seem alright. My business was successful. We had a beautiful home and drove expensive cars. We had all the appearances of success. We continued our involvement with the church and attended Bible studies regularly.

But our home life was not successful. I had many hours of counselling, trying to sort out my problems, but nothing seemed to work.

Our friend the pastor took me to a psychiatrist. I went to about ten weekly sessions but, if anything, the results were worse. The psychiatrist's advice boiled down to "whatever you feel like doing, just do it!"

As a result, I became even more confused and Bernadette became even more concerned. Our prayers seemed to be hitting a blank wall.

Then one day, I was working in my panel-beating workshop when I got a phone call from a prospective client. He said his car had been involved in an accident and, as I had been recommended to him, he asked me if I would do the repairs for him.

I said I would, then I asked him if it was an insurance job or private. He said his daughter had damaged the car while she was learning to drive and, since it was insured only when he was the driver, he would have to pay for the repairs himself.

I was impressed by his willingness to accept the cost and not try and cheat the insurance company.

He brought the car to my workshop and I looked it over. The damage seemed rather complicated and I said, "I'll give you a quote on it." But he said, "No, just do the work and send me a bill." I thought that was most unusual. It doesn't often happen in the panel-beating business.

I had his car for about a week and every day he would call in, with his Bible in his hand, and would talk about things in general. Then he would read out parts of the Bible that I'd read before but I'd never had them explained as he explained them.

His faith in God's Word impressed me a lot. He took the attitude, "God says it, so that's it. There's no compromise!"

Then one day he read me Mark 11:23-24, "*Whoever shall say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and shall not doubt in his heart but shall believe those things which he says shall come to pass, he shall have whatever he says. Therefore, whatever you desire, believe that you will receive them and you will have them.*"

He said to me, "Words create". I remembered my attitude to my marriage. Many times I'd said "This isn't going to work, it's hopeless!" and that's the way I'd been talking for years. I realised that you get whatever you say.

That evening, I told Bernadette what this man had said and what I had come to understand. She was not enthusiastic. We'd had so many letdowns over the years.

A few nights later, the man came to our home. He stayed about four hours and really went through everything, talking about the scriptural basis of marriage and that God had joined us together.

He quoted the scriptures. "What God

has joined together, let no man put asunder.” “God will give you the desires of your heart. “Seek first the kingdom of God.” “No good thing will God withhold from those who walk uprightly.”

About two days after his visit, Bernadette left our home and went to live with a girl friend.

I prayed once that God would restore our marriage but within me I realised that I didn't want her back because I couldn't stand her. We hated each other, really.

But I knew that if I didn't make a stand against Satan when I had everything at my fingertips, one day he was going to hit other things besides my family, my finances and my health.

I argued that, if I had any feelings for Bernadette, it would be easier to fight for our marriage, but I was told, “No! You fight first and the feelings will follow!”

So I prayed once that God would restore our marriage and I stood on God's word that says, “When you pray, believe that you have received.” So from that day on, dozens of times daily, I confessed out loud, “Thank you, Lord, for the love, joy, peace and happiness in our home.”

The Bible says to call things that are not as though they are. That 's what I did.

I had just sold my business, so I spent six or eight hours each day listening to tapes by people like Kenneth Hagan, Kenneth Copeland, Oral Roberts and Norval Hayes, taking notes and continually calling things that are not as though they are.

From time to time I would ring Bernadette and tell her I believed we would soon be back together. She would say, “Don't be ridiculous!”

This went on for seven or eight months. Two or three times I felt like giving it away but my Christian client continued to give me encouragement.

He would say, “The Bible says it, so you believe it!”

At church, I kept telling the pastors that Bernadette was coming back.

Bernadette continued to go to the pastor's Bible study each Tuesday evening. Every now and then he would ask her, “Have you got the divorce under way yet?” He gave her the address of a solicitor and she sent me settlement papers.

When they arrived, my client said, “Just ignore them, You've got God's word. God will give you your heart's desire.”

I knew that you need to get so much of God's Word inside you that you believe his promise rather than the circumstances. So I spent hours each day getting the Word settled into my heart.

Than one evening, my client and his wife invited Bernadette to their home for tea. They pointed out that she had always said negative things and that is what she always got.

“Do you believe that if you said the opposite, it would happen?” they asked. She just laughed and didn't comment.

But driving home from their place, she came close to having an accident. Normally, she is a good driver and she thought it was strange that she almost ran off the road. She began to think about her negative attitudes, so for a few days she changed to being positive about things.

One night my pastor friend and his wife took Bernadette and me to dinner. It was a disastrous evening!

When I got home, my client rang me to ask, “How did it go?” I told him it was no good. He asked, “Was there anything at all that was good about the evening?” I said, “I thought she looked nice.” He said, “Well, ring her and tell her that.” So about midnight I rang Bernadette and said “You looked nice tonight.” She was



David Martin, with Bernadette, Kristy and Kelly

surprised, because I'd never said anything like that to her before.

A little later, I heard that a hotel in Queenscliff was being reopened after renovations so on the spur of the moment I rang Bernadette and asked if she would go down there with me for the weekend.

She said she would, though afterwards she told me she didn't know why she had agreed.

After that weekend, she came home with me and things began to go very well!

I continued to stand on God's promises in regard to my marriage, my health and my business, but my Christian friend pointed out that there was a command in the Bible that said, "Be fruitful and multiply."

I had never liked children. I had a low opinion of myself and I had no desire to produce a child that might be anything like me.

But he showed me that the Bible describes children as a blessing. I found it difficult to accept this but I'd seen the statement in the Bible and I said, "Well,

Lord, if you say they are a blessing, I believe it."

We prayed once for a girl and that Bernadette would conceive immediately, which she did. For the next nine months we thanked God each day for giving us a beautiful, healthy little girl.

We told everyone at our church that we were going to have a girl. She would be blonde and her name would be Kelly. They laughed at our confidence.

When we prepared the nursery, everything was pink. The Bible says that when you pray for something you act as though you have already received it.

In due time, we got our little girl. You can say it was coincidence. I once heard a preacher say that coincidence is the name God uses when he wants to remain anonymous.

Since then, God has blessed us twofold. We've had another little girl, Kristy.

Panel beaters often get bad backs. There have been times when I haven't been able to roll over in bed. I've been so bad that people have had to almost carry me to chiropractors.

I've had chiropractic treatment a number of times. A few visits to one and I've been alright again for a while.

One of the last times my back gave out, I could hardly move. I went to my Bible and asked, "What do the scriptures say about this?"

In the book of Exodus, God said to Moses, "I am the God that healeth thee."

Coincidence is the name God uses when he wants to remain anonymous

Isaiah reminds us, "Jesus took our sicknesses and infirmities on himself. By his stripes you are healed." God also said through Isaiah, "Put me in remembrance of my word."

So I quoted the word of God back to him and I spoke to my back and said, "In Jesus' name, I command you to be well." I rebuked Satan for what he had done, then I started thanking God for my strong, healthy back.

There was no immediate change. The pain was still there but I believed the word of God more than I believed the circumstances. Within days, the pain was gone and my back was healed.

I've had other instances of pain and sickness being completely eliminated by speaking God's promises to him and then thanking him for his healing.

We run our business on the same lines. I'm still panel-beating but now I operate from my home workshop. I'm not

listed in the Yellow Pages and I don't go out canvassing for work.

The Bible says, "With prayer and supplication, let your requests be made known unto God." That's the way I operate. If I have a need, I let this be known to God and then I thank him for the answer he has provided, even before it comes.

When I need more work, I thank God for the abundance of business he is providing.

You call into being things that are not as though they are. This lines up with the Word of God.

Over the years, as we've put our faith into practice, we've found that God has taken care of all our needs. He cares for our health, our safety, our finances and our prosperity. My business has grown. The present depression hasn't affected me at all.

Of course, we've had our highs and our lows but you soon come to realise that there is really no other way to live, I wouldn't have it any other way.

David and Bernadette and their family live at Chirnside Park, Melbourne, and attend the Knox Community Church. David is a member of the Maroonda chapter of the FGBMFI.

SIX SCRIPTURAL STEPS TO SALVATION

Men still cry, "What must I do to be saved?"
The Bible provides a clear answer.

1. ACKNOWLEDGE: "For all have sinned and fell short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23

"God have mercy on me, a sinner" Luke 18:13.

2. REPENT: Unless you repent, you too will all perish" Luke 13:3. "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out" Acts 3:19.

3. CONFESS: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:19. "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" Romans 10:9.

4. FORSAKE: "Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him . . . for He will freely pardon" Isaiah 55:7.

5. BELIEVE: "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16. "Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" Mark 16:16.

6. RECEIVE: "To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" John 1:12.

Why not make your eternal decision right now?

I am convinced by God's word that I am a lost sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died for sinners and shed His blood to take away my sins. I now receive Him as Lord and Saviour of my life and will, by His help, announce that fact to others."

When you have made this greatest of all decisions, please let us know so that we may send you further information. Mail the adjacent coupon now.

AUSTRALIAN
VOICE

Editor: Allan Ash
Production: Ellikon Printers
324 Napier St., Fitzroy, Vic. 3065



The Threefold Purpose of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship

1. To witness to God's presence and power in the world today through the message of the total Gospel for the total man, and by this to reach men for Jesus Christ, especially those having the same social, cultural or business interests as the person doing the witnessing.
2. To provide a basis of Christian Fellowship among all men everywhere through an organism not directly associated with any specific church but cooperating with all those of like mind, and to inspire its members to be active in their respective churches.

The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International does not start churches. Rather, we desire solely to be a service arm to existing ones.

3. To bring about a greater measure of unity and spirit of harmony in the body of Christ, where members are united in a common effort for the good of the whole body.



FULL GOSPEL
BUSINESS MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP
INTERNATIONAL

P.O. Box 87, Stones Corner, 4120, Brisbane.

- Please send me information on how to be a Christian
- Please send me further details on membership
- Please send me further general information about FGBMFI.

NAME (print clearly)

ADDRESS

Phone

In this issue ...

Wrestling with Life 2

Johnny Gray is today the successful manager of a large fitness centre in Melbourne. For years he trod the stage as a professional wrestler, enjoying the highs and lows of the profession, but there was still an emptiness within him which he sought to fulfil.

Why aren't you helping me? 8

From manager to unemployed in one jump! Bill White needed direction and he needed it fast. Starting his own business nothing seemed to go right until he was shown the answer.

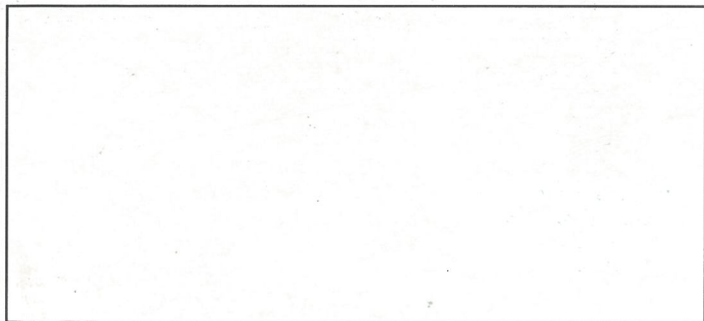
Epilepsy Eliminated 12

A football injury led to epileptic fits. A doctor faces a problem that medical treatment could not overcome. Robert Negus finds healing through an unexpected experience.

Restoration 18

A clash of personalities. A broken marriage. It seemed impossible that it should be mended. But David Martin was determined to achieve the seemingly impossible.

For Further Information contact



**or write to FGBMFI, P.O. Box 67,
Stones Corner, Brisbane, Queensland 4120**