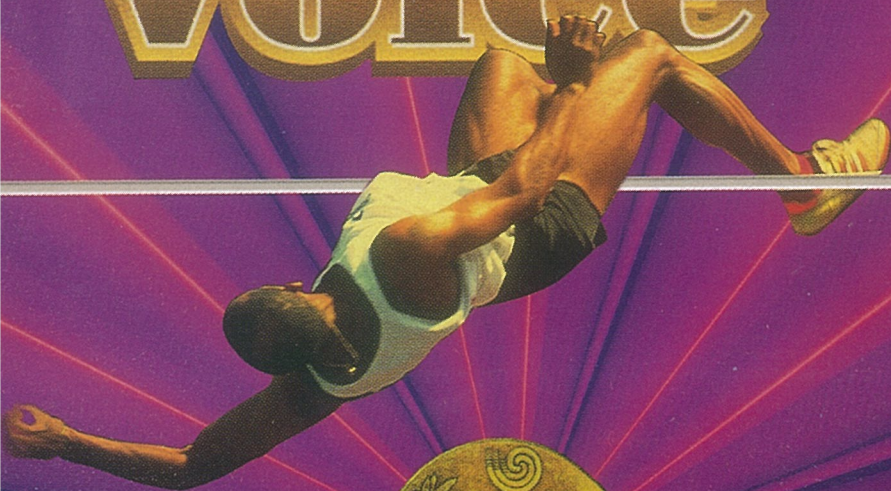


Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

Voice

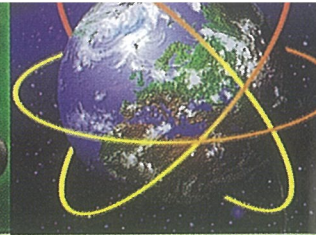


Going
For The
GOLD



Networking

WE ARE MEN WITHOUT BOUNDARIES



As a member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, you are a person of destiny...a man without boundaries. Through the humble gift of helps and encouragement, caring and uplifting, millions of lives have been completely changed by our men. Now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are actually seeing nations change.

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. In addition there are Prime Ministers, Ambassadors, Senators, Congressmen as well as businessmen, factory workers, professionals and young men getting started in life. We have no single 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.

It is our destiny to lift up Christ in every business center, every market place, every government center and university, every nation, city, town and crossroads of the world. Men of faith, shining with His glory, bringing the uplifting message of Christ in power. Reaching out, helping, encouraging and lifting. Today, through these efforts, we believe one million men come to Christ each year. So guard your heart... so that Satan cannot divide this great anointed army.

Our Vision: We see millions of men on every continent set free by the power of Christ.

Our Goal: To take the message of Christ to every man in the world with His anointing power.

Our Destiny: To live in the time foretold by prophets as the most challenging time in history.

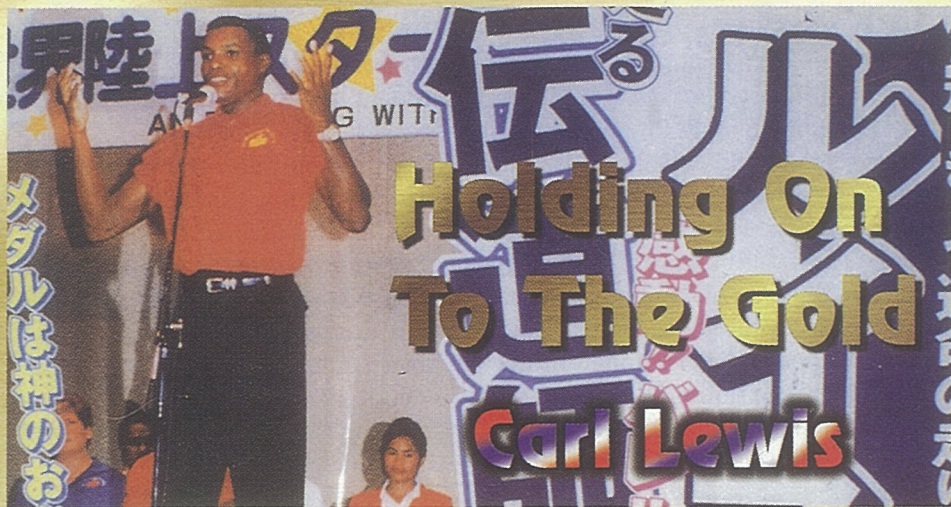
Our Faith: We believe in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God, by the sacrifice of His blood there is forgiveness for men and a new life of joy through Christ. We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit, His gifts and the anointing He gives.

Our God-given Responsibilities: Calling all men to God—Teaching men to walk in the Spirit—Preparing and releasing men's gifts and talents—Inspiring spiritual activity—Touching today's generation—Reaching leaders of nations.

We are grateful for the dedicated men and wives around the world who serve God through the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

Your Friend,

RICHARD SHAKARIAN
International President



I have not always been a top athlete. In fact, I struggled in my early school days. Although my two older

brothers excelled in athletics, everyone in the Lewis family considered me the runt. I was little, scrawny and not very fast. I was looked down upon quite a bit... I had so many injury problems that my sister Carol used to beat me in races in junior high school I'll never forget the soccer coach who told me after the first season that I would never be anything. He said I was a disgrace, a nobody, and would never be good at

Perhaps more than any other athlete in history, Carl Lewis has had more long-standing, more brilliant success in track and field. And now, at the age of 35, when critics believed he would be finished, "King Carl" is attempting to stay in the race, competing stronger than ever in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic games. But overcoming obstacles to success is nothing new to Carl. He and his Lord have leaped many a hurdle since his humble beginning in track and field more than 25 years ago, and many believe he will come home with gold yet again this summer. (Picture at top: Carl Lewis on cover of Japanese Newspaper.)

anything in athletics, as a person, or anything else in life. I was 15 at the time, and this coach was someone I

had come to admire very much. But I think that I took his comment in a positive way. I could have had a temper tantrum, but I thanked him and said, 'now I have one person's opinion.' I always had faith in what I could do.

I began working from an early age to improve my athletic ability. In

fact, I started long jumping at nine years of age. My father was building a

patio in the back of our family's home. The sand he poured as a foundation became the "pit," and I jumped to my heart's content. Everyone joked about it, but I took it seriously and worked hard. Over the years, I accumulated a vast internal library of knowledge about technique. Many long jumpers start late in their teens, after they've spent most of their time in track events, like sprinting. But I learned it all early and later developed my own variation called the "double-hitch kick."

I have tremendous respect for my parents. They played an important part in my life both athletically and spiritually. They taught me to believe in personal goals and to try hard to achieve those goals. The goals I set might not have been as high as other athletes, but once I attained them, I felt as good as anybody else that won... My family also took time out at the beginning of my career to start a track club that enabled my sister, Carol, and me to be involved in the sport. That was extremely important to us.

When the tragedy of my father's death struck several years later, our family grew even closer together, thriving on the spiritual wisdom my father left behind. Just a month before my

father died, we gathered together at the family home in New Jersey. He told us that he often wondered why he had to suffer with the cancer that had eaten him up. But I'll never forget what he told us. He said that the Lord gives us the strength and comfort for whatever we face. No matter how difficult it may seem to be, His grace and love is sufficient. Now I know without a doubt that whatever I face, God will allow me to go through only what I can handle with His help.

Over time, the seeds of hard work and determination, my family's love and encouragement, and God's special enabling began to bloom. When it came time to attend college, there was only one place I wanted to go---- the University of Houston. That was largely due to the university's coach, Tom Tellez, already known as a nurturer of great athletes. My first year there, I began to receive national recognition when I won the long jump in the NCAA outdoor Track and Field Championships. From that point on is history.

In 1980, my sister, Carol, who also excelled in the long jump, and I both made the Olympic team. However, the U.S. boycotted the Olympics that year, and we were unable to compete. The

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following year, I won the 1981 Sullivan Award as the United States' greatest amateur athlete and the Jesse Owens Award for the outstanding track and field athlete (1982).

In the U.S. National Championships, I competed and won in three events: the 100, the 200, and the long jump. No one had achieved a triple victory like that since the 1880's.

In 1984 in Los Angeles, I was blessed by having the strength of Jesus to compete in four events and win four gold medals, something only one other man, Jesse Owens, had accomplished. When I look back to that Olympics, I feel good about it because throughout my career I've gone through a lot of different situations. But the Lord has enabled me to have the confidence, the strength and the drive to be the best.

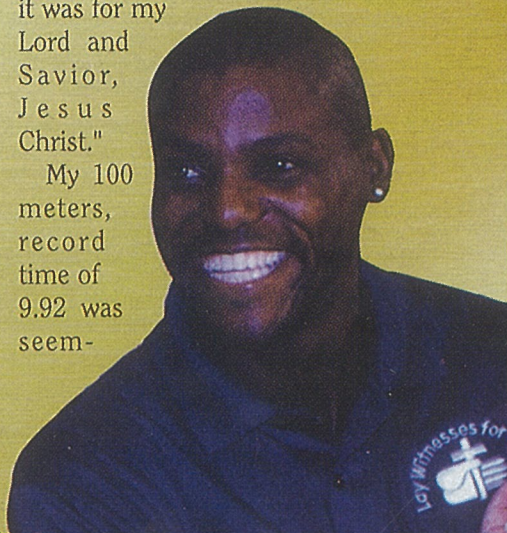
Many people did not understand why I stopped competing in the long jump after my first jump. I knew that the jump would probably win the competition and instead of going for Bob Beamon's record, I decided to rest and save my strength for the other events that I would have to face in the coming days. It had taken more energy out of me than I expected in the preliminaries of my events. But I was in the Olympics to win gold medals not set world records.

Confidence in sports is a misconception for most fans. Anyone who is successful in anything has to believe that they are the best at it. I have a lot

of confidence because I believe I have both the best coaching in the world and a God-given talent. Since my talent comes from the best source in the world, there is no way I can waste it. I want to perfect it. Confidence is also something I feel I have because I've worked so hard to get myself to a high level in world class competition. Some people may think this is conceited, but I feel it's just the simple confidence that comes with loving your sport. You work hard for a position, and once you get there, you want to work hard to get even better. I know that I can accomplish much through Jesus. He is the power behind my strength.

Then, in 1988, "as the starter called us to the line in Seoul, Korea, for the 1988 Olympics, I again faced some of the top athletes in the world. I was running, not only for myself and my country, but also it was for my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

My 100 meters, record time of 9.92 was seem-



ingly beaten by Ben Johnson of Canada. But Johnson's tests for drugs revealed that he had been using illegal steroids. He was disqualified; and I received the gold. I also won the long jump with a leap of 28 feet, 7 inches. It was my 56th straight victory in the long jump, a consecutive record of wins that no one has duplicated before or since. Lastly, in the 200 meters, Joe DeLoach, a close friend and training partner, competed against me and won the gold. I earned six gold medals and one silver during my competitions in the Olympics, more than any other track and field athlete.

In the 1991 World Championships

in Tokyo, Japan, I jumped 29 feet, my best jump ever. And I competed in what some have called the greatest 100 meters ever raced, when Leroy Burrell and I ran neck and neck. In the end, my height gave me the advantage, and I broke the world record with a time of 9.86 seconds.

And now in 1996, after five years of being unable to break the 10-second barrier in the 100 meters, it appears at the age of 35, I am back in the race. For at the Atlanta Grand Prix Competition on May 18, 1996, I ran a 9.94-second 100 meters, coming in a close second behind Dennis Mitchell.

While the world applies superhuman

Voice

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P.O. Box 19714
Irvine, CA 92623
(714) 260-0700



FOUNDER: Demos Shakarian; **OFFICERS:** International President, Richard Shakarian; International Executive Vice-President, John Carrette; United States Executive Vice-President, Ralph Marinacci; International Secretary, Kwabena Darko; International Treasurer, Tom Leding; International Regional Vice-Presidents, Komol Antakon, Kwabena Darko, Humberto Lotilla, Douglas Lyew-Ayee, Talas Sianturi, Jaime Enrique Sol, Urs Kaesermann, Daniel Wahlstrom, Pertti Jopuni, Isae Matsumoto, Sam Mbata, Michael Kayembe, John Njau, Bernard Gray.

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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 141 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 19714/Irvine, CA 92623.

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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 19714, Irvine, CA 92623.



labels I know to whom the credit is due. Long before winning my first gold medal, I committed my life to Jesus Christ. Psalms 103:5 says “God satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” He says we live in a very natural world, and sometimes we think it is through our work that we achieve what we do when in fact it is God’s grace and protection that enables us.

Jesus is number one, and I am prepared to stand up and say so. I have had a very good career, but not without its challenges and difficulties. It has been in those times that I’ve realized how important Jesus Christ is in my life and how much I need Him. Athletes are often looked upon as role models. As such, it is my desire to point people to Christ.

In June of 1981, I was at the NCAA Track and Field Championships in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, when a close friend of mine, Willie Gault, then a

world class hurdler, invited me to a chapel service. He wanted me to hear a man who had recently made a big impact on his life.

When I sat down in the hotel meeting room, I thought I was a Christian. After all, my parents had taken me to church all my life and I was an American. I, like so many people, didn’t understand what being a Christian really meant. Willie’s friend, Sam Mings, talked about the love of Jesus for man. He shared how Jesus had come to earth, lived a sinless life, died on the cross and rose again. Sam told how we needed to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Everything he shared seemed to fit in with what I believed, yet I knew that something in my life wasn’t quite right.

That afternoon, I won the long jump competition and went back to the next chapel service. At that meeting the Spirit of the Lord convicted me when Sam asked, “Have you invited Jesus Christ into your life? Has He changed your life? If you were to die today are you sure you would go to Heaven?” I knew that I really was not a Christian and I needed to get right with the Lord. Inviting Jesus Christ into my heart was a turning point in both my career and (more importantly) my spiritual life.

I shared with my family what had happened in that meeting. My brothers literally ran to the next chapel service where they prayed to receive Christ.

Then came my sister and my parents. I think that was the final link to bringing our family to such a special closeness that there was no way we could be broken apart.

Christ has also brought me closer to people. With God's help, I am now more comfortable with them. I don't have to constantly worry about beating everybody else. I just need to concentrate on doing my best and serving the Lord. I have achieved a much greater peace through the love of Jesus Christ... I also found that I had many Christian friends to support me. In the hard times these friends have been there to lift me up and encourage me, pointing me in the right direction.

Knowing I have the Lord within me, I feel that there is no greater strength that I could have going into a competition. When I run, I have peace of mind. I feel like there is nothing else in the world at that time.

God has so richly blessed me in my lifetime, it is sometimes hard to share all that He has done for me. Winning four gold medals in the 1984 Olympics, two in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, two more in 1992 and setting the world record in the 100 meters, is truly a testimony to the Lord's love and graciousness to me... I know that God has allowed me to be fast, but I think there are hundreds of people walking the streets who can run as fast as I do. I am just trying to use the God-given talent to the best of my ability. I know I can

accomplish much through Jesus. He is the power behind my strength.

If you have never had the experience I described, just pray the simple prayer with me below:

"Lord Jesus, I admit I am a sinner. Alone I can never be close to Your righteousness. I want to change and turn from my sin, and I know that only You can help me do that. Lord Jesus, please come into my heart right now. Take control of my life. Let the blood You shed for me on Calvary cover me and wash me white as snow. I know that Your word says that You came to Earth to save mankind. I know that once I ask you into my heart, nothing can pluck me from Your hands. Thank You for this free gift of salvation. I desire to serve You as You lead. I ask that You empower me to share with people I come in contact with the good news of what You have done for me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

If you have prayed this simple prayer, I would like to know. Please write to me or Larry Burrell or Joe DeLoach at Lay Witnesses for Christ, PO Box 127, Hurst, Texas, USA 76053-0127.

Carl is still a part of the ministry that helped lead him and his family to a personal relationship with Christ 15 years ago. He speaks frequently for Lay Witnesses for Christ, an evangelistic organization that uses top athletes to spread the Good News of Christ, in meetings all over the world.

Gaining On The Gold

Leroy Burrell

For Leroy Burrell, the 1996 Olympic Games represent another chance for him to defend his title as the world's fastest human and to grasp that long-awaited gold medal in the 100 meters. But because Christ reigns in his life, Burrell will be able to handle the competition, whatever the outcome. He understands from past experience with failure that his Jesus is in control of all situations, even the disappointing ones.

I had my share of disappointments while growing up. I was a shy young man with a disorder that kept me from being able to participate in the sports I enjoyed. The problem was my right eye. I had severe myopia from birth. As a kid, I was supposed to wear a patch over my left eye to make the right one stronger. But that made it impossible to do the things a normal kid can do. I couldn't go outside, couldn't watch TV. I'd bump into walls.

I tried out for the baseball team in junior high in seventh, eighth and ninth grades. Each year I was cut. My coach told me, "Leroy, you're a good kid, and I'd love to have you on the

team, but you can't hit anything and you can't catch. You're passing people on the base paths. Why don't you go out for track?"

I did and was instantly the top sprinter on the team. First, I determined that I would be the fastest runner at my school. When I achieved that, I shot for the best in the area, followed by the best in the state.

Running wasn't the only thing that got my attention during those years. From an early age, I was well aware of the influence God had in my life. As a youngster, I wasn't too eager to climb out of bed when my grandmother showed up to take me, my two broth-



ers and two sisters to church. But soon I was also going to Sunday school. At age 12, I was baptized. The trouble was I didn't really understand what accepting Jesus as my Savior meant.

And though I still wasn't a Christian, I continued with church activities and re-dedicated my life to Christ every summer at camp. Eventually, however, track, not Jesus, took first place in my heart. While my affections were centered on sports, the Lord still had me on His mind. He followed me South.

I kept running and training hard... Houston has long been known for its excellence in track and I wanted to be the cream of the crop on the Cougar squad... When I earned a scholarship to the University of Houston in 1985, some observers ranked me among the best in the nation.

But the Lord continued to water the seeds of faith planted in my heart during childhood. One afternoon, a man with a campus ministry showed up at my dorm room and started explaining salvation. For the first time, I understood what a personal relationship with Jesus Christ meant. Nonetheless, I brushed him off, promising to study some scriptures.

In 1986, a severe ligament tear in my left knee threatened the very existence of the track career I had worked so hard to build.

In 1988, I failed to make the

Olympic team by two places -- a big disappointment. But I wasn't discouraged to the point of giving up. I was young, and I had a new motivation to continue my training to become not just one of the best, but the best.

Then, at the 1989 NCAA Track Meet in Provo, Utah, after failing to place when I expected to win this event, something changed in my commitment to track and field. I thought I could capture both events for the University of Houston track team, and hoped it would act as a symbolic springboard toward the 1992 Olympics... What I hadn't faced, though, was the truth: my track record was inconsistent. I made a decision that day to become the dedicated, hardworking, finely-tuned athlete I knew I could be. Three weeks later, I ran the 100 meters in what was the fourth fastest time in the world.

Without the Lord's strength I never would have been able to follow through with my decision in '89 to be thoroughly devoted to training and competition... It was the start of a new level of performance that boosted me toward the upcoming Olympics, where I hoped to capture my first gold medal.

I knew the only way to keep this new commitment and reach the goals was to train with the best. Nearly every day for years, I took my mark in practices against Carl Lewis.

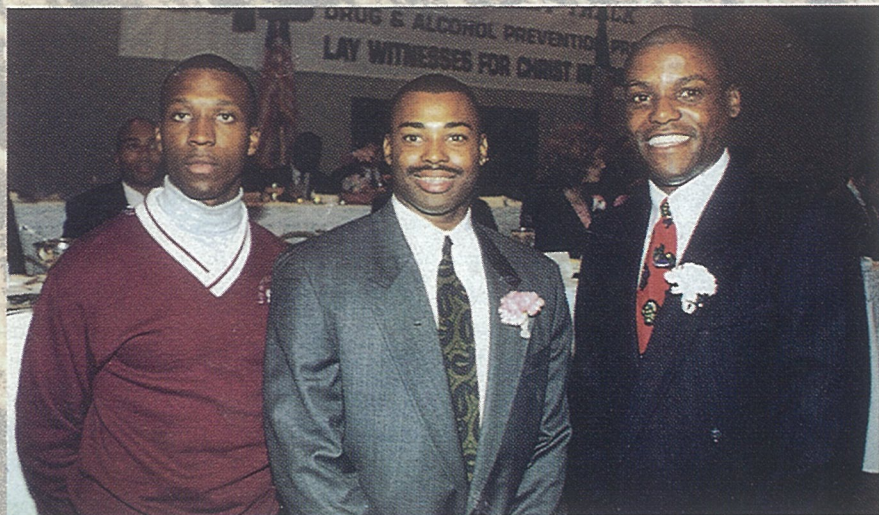
Finally, the work paid off. I beat Carl Lewis in the 1990 Goodwill

Games in Seattle. I was the fastest in the world in 1990 and 1991. At the TAC Championships in 1991, I set a world record in the 100 meters at 9.90, again out-leaning Carl at the finish line.

In Tokyo, at the 1991 World Championships, I faced Carl Lewis in another showdown. Both of our mothers were sitting in the stands together.

1/100ths of a second off my world record—good enough for... second place!

Yes, my friend Carl Lewis had done it again. Carl's time: 9.86! It was the greatest 100 meter race in the history of sprinting. But once again, my name wasn't at the top of the list. My goal was the record. And I got it. Somebody just broke it a little ahead of me. Who better



(From left) Joe DeLoach, Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis

Carl hadn't raced well in the 100 meters in over a year. Many were wondering if his dominance was over. The conditions that September night were perfect. I got a good start and took an early lead. I thought I had the race under control, but couldn't be sure because of the blindness in my right eye (Lewis was two lanes to my right). I crossed the finish, looked up at the clock and saw that my time was 9.88! I had shaved two

to lose the record to than a friend you know you can race again?

Besides my usual prayer for safe, clean competition, I had asked the Lord something else before losing that razor-close race in Tokyo. Since I knew there couldn't be two winners, I asked my Father to give me the strength to understand the things I couldn't control, the wisdom to understand the things I could, and the knowledge to

distinguish between the two. That's how I was able to bear the disappointment of losing both my world record and the 100-meter race in Tokyo. I remained at ease because I was in line with my Father.

However, I did get a consolation prize a short time later. I joined Carl, Dennis Mitchell and André Cason (all four Christians) in setting the world record in the 4x100 meter relay with a time of 37.50 seconds.

Something equally important happened off the field that week in Tokyo, though. A group of world-class athletes, including Carl and myself, shared our testimony in a public auditorium on the outskirts of Tokyo. Sponsored by Lay Witnesses for Christ International and hosted by the Tokyo chapter of FGBMFI, the event generated headlines in newspapers around Japan. Dozens of other news media from around the world were also there, spreading the gospel far and wide.

Later, I regained the title of the World's fastest human by running the 100 meters in 9.85, breaking Carl Lewis' world record set in 1991 at the Tokyo World Championships.

All together, I have been in on 10 world record-breaking performances, not only in the 100 meters, but also in the 60 meter dash, the 4x100 relay, and the 4x200 relay.

When a lifelong dream culminates, you don't know what to think. You imagine yourself feeling very happy,

but that isn't exactly what you feel. It's very humbling.

It took years of commitment to attain my goal of being the world's fastest human. But in world-class track competition, there's not much time to savor a big victory. There's always another meet, where your records and titles can be erased.

When all these worldly achievements I so avidly sought hadn't resulted in the fulfillment I thought they would. I was finally ready to listen to the Lord. Looking back, I can see that my coming to Christ was a process. As like in track, it was a decision made up of small steps that eventually led me to pursue my faith 100 percent. The Word talks about people who plant seeds, others who water that seed and those who help harvest what others have sown. I could see the truth of that in my own life. The seeds of salvation were planted in my childhood. The stranger who came to my dormitory watered them. Then Sam Mings harvested them.

Sam, whose Lay Witnesses for Christ International touches so many men and women on the track circuit, spoke to me in Indianapolis during the 1988 Olympic trials... So many times we look for special methods or plans of leading people to salvation. Sam simply asked me if I were to die that day, was I absolutely, positively sure that I would go to heaven. I couldn't answer "Yes." I wanted to be certain. So, right there in

a hotel room, I prayed to receive Christ as my Savior.

From that moment on, I was a man on a mission. But the mission wasn't just world records and world fame, the mission was to be the best- for Jesus. By determining I would follow Him,



Leroy with wife, Michelle

His Word came alive to me. While there are many inspirational scriptures, Philippians 4:23 is especially meaningful: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." That verse really leaps out at me. If I am doing things for the Lord, I have a walk of power... Because you're a believer, you have access to His skill, insight and infinite wisdom. What better source of potential exists?

That step of faith also gave me a trust in the Lord's ability to make things go the way He wants them to go... Because I trust in God to work in my life. No matter what comes, I can say "That's the way it's supposed to

be." Some might see that as an excuse, that if something doesn't go right, I can push it off on the Lord.

However, this outlook has provided me with emotional stability, an important quality in international competition... Faith helps keep me on a steady plane. Without it, the outcome of meets would form my whole basis of existence.

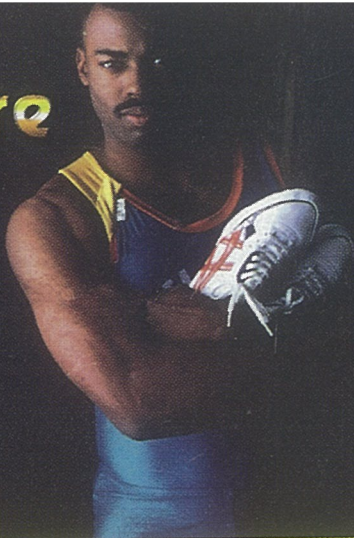
Being a world champion has been a lifelong dream... But the true test of what being a Christian is all about in the track world is how you respond to a competitor, whether it's a teammate or someone from another country. I ask God to give me the strength, will and desire to do my best. I also ask Him to allow me and my competitors to represent Him as best as possible.

Life has often been compared to a race. The crown waiting at the end is spending eternity with God. If you desire that, turn to page 23 and follow the Six Steps To Salvation. You won't be giving up anything. You'll be gaining something worth more than gold.

Leroy Burrell currently resides in Houston, Texas with his wife Michelle Finn, 1992 4x100 relay gold medalist, and their two sons Cameron and Joshua. He remains active in Lay Witnesses for Christ, sharing his testimony with as many people as will listen. He also speaks in schools with The Right Track Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program whenever his schedule allows.

Proclaiming More Than Gold

Joe DeLoach



Growing up, I was the "caboose" of the family. With eleven sisters and one brother, all older than I. When I was young, I ran. I always had someone after me -- a brother, a sister. I learned to run early. And I was good at it.

I ran track in school and played baseball and football. I usually won the foot races because I was so fast. When we would have field days in elementary school I would win the short events. I was always the fastest kid on the block, fastest kid in school. In high school I took the honors in our district and posted many meet

Although his career as a track and field athlete is not as extensive as that of Carl Lewis or Leroy Burrell due to injuries, Joe DeLoach knows that all God has brought him through points to where he is today. This year, Joe will be unable to compete on the track, but the race he'll run off the track will be worth far more than gold.

records. I was named All American both in my junior and senior years. But running wasn't my chief interest. My goal was to be a pro football player. I was a wide receiver. I didn't have the greatest hands, but I could outrun the opponents.

However, my high school coach told me I could make a career out of running. That year, 1984, I went to the Bahamas in the Junior Olympics. I won three gold medals in the 100

meters, 200 meters, and 4x100 relay. Returning home, I was full of faith in my abilities. People began to compare me to Carl Lewis, saying I would be the next one to beat that great track

star. I wasn't sure I believed it, but I liked the idea. I told my friends on the track team that I'd be the next guy to beat Carl Lewis. What a big mistake! Some of those guys already thought I was crazy for the church I attended.

During my senior year, I had an amazing streak of answered prayers. I broke so many records at meets, it was amazing. I got to be a celebrity in town. Kids would ask me for my autograph. I had a dream of winning a gold medal. So I would write autographs that read "Joe DeLoach, Seoul, '88." When people would ask, I told them it meant I'd be in the 1988 Olympics and I'd win the gold. I guess I was really sticking my neck out, but a lot of those people remembered.

As you can imagine, in a family with 13 children, money didn't spread too far when it came to fancy clothes and other luxuries. But the church I grew up in had taught me many things about Christ. I really believed if we asked God for something, He would do it. So I asked God to use my talents in track and field. There were three things I wanted: to see the world, to get a college degree, and to win an Olympic gold medal. So I began praying for those three things in high school... It was interesting to see how God would use apparent setbacks in my future to answer this prayer.

Without even realizing it, I had wandered from the Lord, my first love. Though I had been saved as a young

teenager during a revival and remained involved in my church as the praise band drummer, my love of football and track had gradually eroded both my church attendance and study of scripture.

But following the death of a close family member and a disappointing performance in a track meet, my heart was broken by the Lord. The events had humbled me considerably. When they issued a call for prayer that night at church, I rushed to the front. Without knowing what was happening, I found myself lying on the floor, hands raised above my head and praying in a new language. When I arose, I knew that God had to be the focus of my life. Sports and music were good activities, but I could never again allow them to overshadow my relationship with the One who truly mattered.

As I prepared to enter college, God again chose to use unusual, unexpected circumstances to achieve His will in my life. Because I admired past Houston star sprinters like Stanley Floyd and loved going to the city on church youth trips, the University of Houston was my first choice for college. However due to a misunderstanding, track coach Tom Tellez thought I was going to play football, so he never contacted me. Finally, I told Bay City's track coach, Marshall Brown, of my desires and he called Tellez, who showed up the next day at my house with Carl Lewis and Olympic silver

medalist Kirk Baptiste.

Everyone in my family showed up—cousins, aunts, uncles, to meet the famed duo of Lewis and Baptiste. I was amazed myself. They talked to me about the program. We were all crammed into our home and everyone met Carl. The thing that struck me about Carl was that he was so down to earth. He acted like he had known my family all his life. I started asking him questions about running fast. He told me I had the talent, and if I worked hard, I could accomplish the same things. How often do you get to train beside the greatest athlete in track and field history? I decided I wanted to come down to Houston.

What none of us realized is that, though he never graduated, Lewis was considered an alumnus of Houston, and his visit constituted a violation of NCAA recruiting rules. Thus, within two days my dream of running with the University of Houston track team turned to dust. First the Southwest Conference ruled me ineligible to compete there, to be followed by a permanent ban by the NCAA. I was devastated. My family could not afford to send me to college without a scholarship.

The strange thing was that I could go to any other school in the U.S. on a scholarship, and plenty wanted me, but no other school had Coach Tellez. I longed to go to Houston. So after much soul searching and prayer, I

decided to attend the school anyway, knowing if I wasn't happy it would ruin my academic and athletic performance.

I didn't realize what a struggle going to Houston would be. The NCAA prohibited me from even working out with the team. But God was working even in this difficult situation. As a result of my being prohibited from participating in team activities, I was given the opportunity to begin my collegiate running career training with the Houston Track Club, alongside greats like Calvin Smith and Carl Lewis. The training I received during that year of ineligibility proved to be a major impetus in my 1988 Olympic Gold Medal quest. In high school, I simply outran the competition. But with the Houston Track Club, I learned key principles, such as running with confidence, accelerating at certain points in a race, and how to maintain the pace when your body can't go any faster.

Not only did I learn many secrets of competition, but God also began to answer my prayer to see the world, as the team's first trip overseas that year was to Hungary. Instead of praising the Lord for enabling me to travel, I moaned about not being with the university team. I also did not appreciate the fact that with all the prize money I had won at meets, I could then start building a trust fund since I didn't have all the monetary restrictions placed on college athletes.

Eventually, the Lord worked it out so I could run for Houston on scholarship; my case was appealed and the NCAA reversed its original decision. With the Cougars, I ran the 100 meters, the 200 meters, and competed with the 4x100 meter relay team—the three events I was preparing to enter in the next Olympics.

By the time that the Olympic games of 1988 came around, I had learned a lot about living for the Lord.

To avoid the press, I was able to stay in a private home with Carl. I could ask Carl a lot of questions. It gave me an unprecedented amount of focus. We worked out. We did some things with Lay Witnesses for Christ, sharing our testimony, and so on. One night we gathered with a lot of the top athletes at the Olympics who were Christians and gave our testimonies at an event called 'An Evening With The Stars.' It was held in the Full Gospel Church, the largest church in Seoul, Korea, with 750,000 members. A lot of people were saved. God makes us celebrities to win people to the kingdom. These people were drawn to us. Many of them probably wanted to be like us.

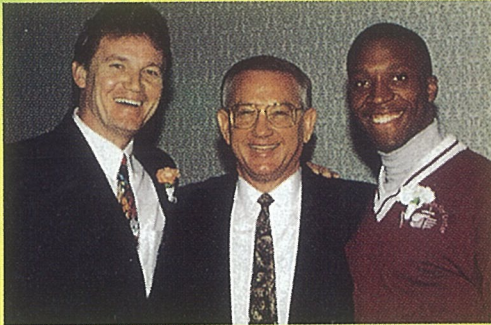
So, we told our stories. We told them how Jesus changed our lives and made the difference. It was beautiful.

As I prayed about the race and read the scriptures, I began to get a picture of what was going to happen. I saw the finish line and me crossing it. I wanted to run a 19.6. Finally the day of the race came. Carl was in about lane three; I was in lane six. I got a great

start out of the blocks and then Carl went past me in the turn. He was then about 10 meters ahead of me. Usually I would be getting a little bit worried about that, but I had this peace in my heart. I

knew it would be all right; I'd catch him. It was like I was just floating. I caught him about halfway through the race; I knew I would beat him then. I ran 19.75, an American and Olympic record, tying Carl's own record. Carl got the silver; I won the gold.

Carl was so caring and giving that he wished me luck before the 200 meters in the Olympics and hugged me afterwards, saying 'You ran a great race! I'm so proud of you!' In the past, even as a Christian, I never could have demonstrated such graciousness towards an opponent.



From left: Baseball Pitcher Dickie Moles, Sam Mings and Joe DeLoach

When I returned to my home town, there was a big homecoming called "Joe DeLoach Day" waiting for me. People lined up for autographs. The line went right out of the stadium. Back at the end of the line were three or four young people who came up to me all happy and excited. They had tears in their eyes. I was about to sign for them when they said, "We already have your autograph. We got it in 1985, when you were a senior in high school and you wrote 'Joe DeLoach, Seoul '88,' and now you've done it!"

I had forgotten about signing autographs that way. Suddenly I realized that God answered all three of the prayers I prayed back in high school. I asked that God let me see the world, go to college, and win a gold medal in the Olympics.

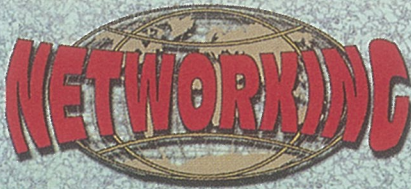
Today, I have been to over 20 countries. I have a college degree, and a gold medal, with a record. How did the Olympics affect my life? It gives you the feeling that you're special. People recognize the level of commitment it takes to win a gold medal. Since winning the gold medal, I began to speak at companies and schools that I'd never had a chance to before. I'm using it to change the lives of other people.

My athletic gifts have been given to me so I could draw others to the well of Jesus Christ... Nothing is more important than my faith. When I talk to crowds of young people, I tell them

that at that very moment my gold medal is lying on a shelf back in Houston, collecting dust. God has blessed me with great talent and I won a gold medal, but it really would mean nothing to me to go out and win three more, and then die and not go to Heaven. One's soul is the most important thing in life. As the Bible teaches, if a man gains the whole world and loses his soul, he has nothing.

If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, please see the article on page 8, where Carl Lewis asks you to repeat the prayer of salvation. Then you will receive a prize far more valuable than gold -- you will have the reward of eternal life with God.

Since his victory in 1988, Joe has had recurring health problems. He hasn't been able to run regularly and was unable to compete in the 1992 or 1996 Olympics. But he has a great peace about what he's accomplished because he's running for eternity, for more than gold. He accepted the position with Lay Witnesses for Christ, International as vice-chairman for athlete's involvement and will be sharing his faith in Christ at five telecasts from Atlanta during Lay Witnesses' Reach Out '96. Being Assistant Director for the event, Joe will be speaking out in Atlanta more often than any other gold medalist.



...The Good News

Now the **FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** has moved from one Chapter in Los Angeles to several thousand Chapters in almost every nation.

In Australia, it began with several earlier copies of "Voice" magazines being handed to men in several of our capital cities:

A plumber in Adelaide, an executive training officer of a large computer corporation in Sydney, a Government architect and motor industry company proprietor in Brisbane, a lawyer and secretary to the State Transport Department in Victoria in Melbourne, a telecom technician and a multinational business man in Perth.

This network has now covered every State and Territory in Australia and has grown successfully through New Zealand and other islands of the South Pacific.

The men in leadership in the nations interact on an international platform and assemble annually at the International Convention bringing reports and testimonials presented at their National Conventions and local events.

Airlifts are used to generate interest in nations not yet part of the international scene, parallel to the great London Airlift that introduced the Fellowship to the United Kingdom.

It all began when a literal vision unfolded to men in the USA by Demos Shakarian.

This vision has had a profound effect on leaders of nations around the world as a dimension of Christian living is presented through testimonials of men's lives. These men are from diverse backgrounds and walks of life.

Bernie Gray CEO FGBMFI

Chapter Newsbreak

Col. Armando Cifuentes, National President of Colombia, reports that from only six chapters in March of this year, the number of chapters has grown to a total of thirty chapters by spending time training their guys to bring a lost person to every meal!

A REFRESHING BREEZE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In April I was privileged to attend the FGBMFI National Convention in Parramatta, Sydney.

Delegates, members and their wives listened to some wonderful testimonies demonstrating the power and reality of God in our daily lives.

From what I heard, I believe a refreshing breeze of the Holy Spirit is blowing through the Fellowship. Superintendent Gary Raymond from NSW Police told us how God changed his life, softened his heart, filled him with the Holy Spirit and gave him love and compassion to carry on his difficult job. We heard about Christian principles and integrity in financial marketing and management from Hans Kunnen.

In the political arena, NSW State Member for Parramatta, Ross Cameron, told us about his walk with God. The Hon Bruce Baird, Federal Member for Cook, spoke at the concluding dinner, giving a powerful testimony to God's presence in all spheres of his life. He is more than convinced that Sydney is the chosen venue for the 2000 Olympics.

Another highlight for me was the inspirational challenge from Mel Tari: "Are

we ready to move forward and cross the Jordan?"

I close with Matthew 10:32, where Jesus said, "Whoever acknowledges Me before my Father in Heaven."

Hart Schroeder – North Canberra Chapter

Bart Dailey from San Antonio, Texas reports that more than 800 men have received Christ through FGBMFI on the military bases surrounding San Antonio.

GAMBIER CHAPTER

As President of the Gambier Chapter in the South East of South Australia, I find it an honour (to the glory of God) to take over the leadership of this Chapter from our National President, Fred Krueger. Fred is an articulate man and was prompted by the Holy Spirit, to make a baton to present to me to signify "a handing over the reigns" and for me to run the race and win, 1 Corinthians 9:24. He and I were seeking the Lord for direction for our Chapter and I have taken the step of faith to lead our Chapter (with apprehension of my abilities in this area).

I place my trust in the Lord to provide the vision, guidance and answer to prayers for our Chapter and the whole Fellowship in Australia. We are definitely in times of change in our national parliament. God is making his move in Australia and I believe FGBMFI will play a major part in this move of God as we commit ourselves to the anointed vision, our name and 3 fold purpose. God bless you all as you run the race to win.

Mark Parham – Chapter President

John Brimmer, our National Director from Arizona, has started three new chapters so far this year. Thankyou John, keep up the good work!

Eric Prittsler writes, Hello to all men in Chapters who are striving so diligently to fulfil the great commission. I have been receiving numerous phone calls everyday from chapter men telling me about their various chapter outreaches, and it's not only exciting to hear about what God is doing thru FGBMFI chapter outreaches, but encouraging as well. A chapter president here in California called me the other day and said that his wife and some other chapter men's wives took some chapter brochures and went through the neighborhood where the meeting was to be held passing out the brochures door to door

and 14 young people came to the meeting that night and 14 of them got saved!! Hallelujah! I guess sometimes our wives can make us look like good leaders. Moral of this story; let's get the ladies involved with our ministries.

Some of the chapter guys in Florida have a "bungee cord" ministry where they have made a huge plastic circle with the words "Jesus, do you know Him?" and placed it at the bottom of where the thousands of young people jump, and when the people look down they see the words "Jesus do you know Him?" looking back at them and hundreds of these young people are receiving Christ every year! What a ministry. Maybe they should play the song "Getting to know Him" while everyone is getting ready to jump.

Our e-mail address is:
Our website:

fgbmfi@ozemail.com.au
www.fgbmfi.org



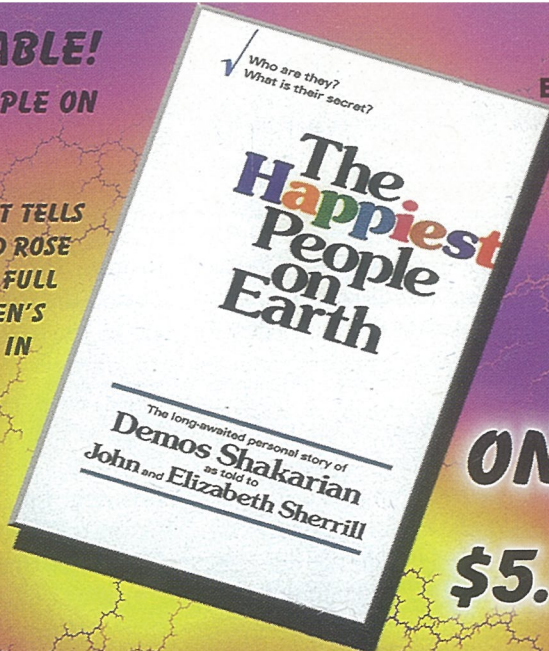
FGBMFI National Board and wives with International President, Richard Shakarian and his wife Vangie (centre).

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6 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 come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"God be merciful to me a sinner." (Luke 18:13)

2

Repent

"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19)

3

Confess

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1John 1:9)

4

Forsake

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord...for He will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:7)

5

Believe

"For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) And (Mark 16:16)

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

6

Receive

"He came unto His own, and His own received him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to those that believe on His name." (John 1:11, 12)

Why not make your eternal decision now?

"Lord Jesus, I believe You died for my sins and I ask Your forgiveness. I receive You now as my personal Saviour and invite You to manage my life from this day forward. Amen."

Write us to tell of your decision. We'll send you a booklet, "**Now That You've Received Christ.**"

Yes! I have made my eternal decision. I have read the Six Steps to Salvation and have asked Jesus to be my personal Saviour.

Please send me the booklet "**Now That You've Received Christ.**"

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Clip and mail to: P.O. Box 67, Stones Corner, 4120 Australia

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