



VOICE

A Celebrity's Life Has Challenges Too!

Many young people today look to those on the stage, having attained fame and fortune, as having all the answers. Yet does this lead them in a positive direction? Should we be blindly following people at the top? In this issue of Voice those who have tasted success share what they have learned...



For further information, please contact the above address. Don't let this magazine die... Pass it on to a friend.



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Eyes to See... Ears to Hear

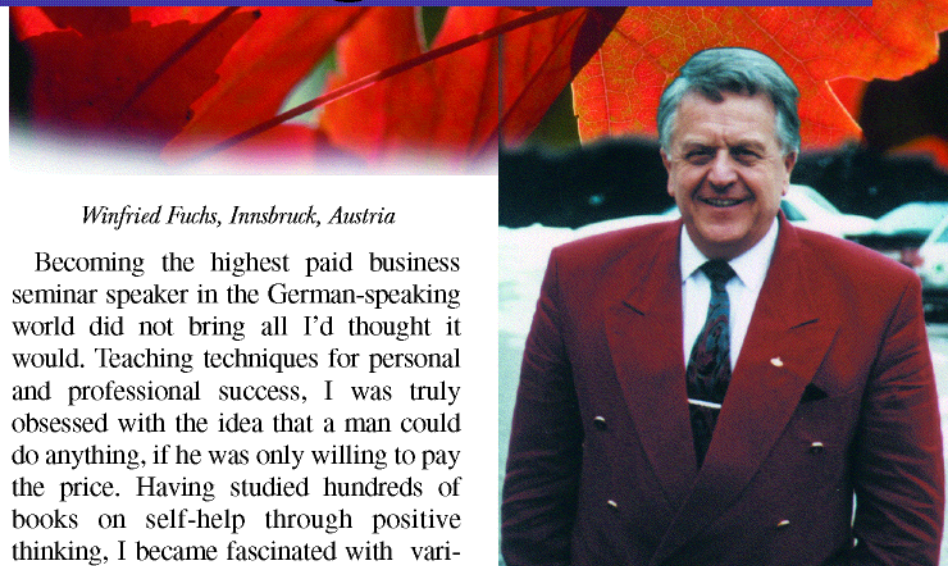
Florencio was born in Guatemala, the poorest of the poor. His family was slated for extinction. He was raised from a garbage pail. When he grew up he was still the poorest and stickiest. One day outside the fancy El Camino Hotel in Guatemala men dressed in fine business suits were going in for an important meeting. One stopped and invited Florencio to join them. It was an FGBMFI lunch. He did not even have shoes, but they brought him in with them anyway.

It was an important Fellowship lunch, with men from the American Embassy and the World Bank. Florencio sat next to an architect... That day Florencio prayed, "Dear Lord, if what I heard is true, if you could even heal Demos' cows, then perhaps you could change me."

Today Florencio is one of the National Directors for the FGBMFI in Guatemala. He heads up "Light the World" for Guatemala and has personally travelled to thirteen nations.

Richard Shakarian
International President

The Highest Paid!



Winfried Fuchs, Innsbruck, Austria

Becoming the highest paid business seminar speaker in the German-speaking world did not bring all I'd thought it would. Teaching techniques for personal and professional success, I was truly obsessed with the idea that a man could do anything, if he was only willing to pay the price. Having studied hundreds of books on self-help through positive thinking, I became fascinated with various philosophical points of view, especially those coming out of the Far East.

Professionally, everything was going great, but my personal life was in a crisis. Something had to break and it did – my health, that is. I developed an illness that caused blackouts. Sitting at my desk, I would suddenly be unable to see.

At this point I came in contact with another Management Consultant who, on seeing my condition, said, "Only Jesus can help you!" After telling me a bit about his personal experience with Jesus Christ, he suggested I go to a large conference called, 'Berlin '81'.

When I returned home my wife asked how it had gone. I simply answered, "Jesus is alive!" After this I began attending Christian seminars. Soon I had invited Jesus to be the Lord of my life, and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. My life truly began anew. God healed my body. There was a new joy and peace in

our marriage, which has not diminished over the years.

Today I have the privilege of standing before business men and sharing management techniques which are not based on man's ideas, but rather on God's love letter to mankind, the Bible. It has been wonderful to see how people have been healed in body, mind, soul, and spirit during these business seminars. Now success does not cost me everything; it is a gift of God as I put Him first in all things.

I have learned that, beyond any doubt, when a man invites Jesus Christ to be first in every area of his life, including his professional life, things start happening. Normally a business man has a good idea and it is only a matter of time before someone down the street copies it. The blessing of God, however, is not something that can be copied – or taken away – it is the result of a businessman putting his faith in the resurrected Christ. ●

CLIFF RICHARD

Pop Singer, England

Thinking about religion meant questions – awkward ones that I did not want to answer. Some of my family were Jehovah's Witnesses, something I could not reconcile with. Then a committed Christian persuaded me to read the Bible. I was about 21 at the time and was already heavily involved in show business.

Meeting those "traditional" Christians was something new for me. This was the

first time I heard Jesus talked about in such a personal manner. They told me that if I wanted a real experience of Christianity I would have to commit myself to Christ. They didn't give me a list of do's and don'ts. They suggested I read Revelation 3:20, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me." That really caught my attention. When you invite someone into your home it can be the beginning of a relationship.

That night, as I lay on my bed, I said to Jesus, "Right! I believe in You. I know You are there, but I don't know quite how to do this. I'm not good at praying." Not knowing what else to do, I simply said, "Jesus, I'd like You to be in my life." Looking back, I believe it was indeed at that time that Jesus came into my life, because it's from that moment on that things began to change, slowly at first.

One of the questions that I struggled with over those early years was how to understand what the church calls 'The Trinity', which means there is only one God but that He is in three persons. Because of my Jehovah's Witness background, with its emphasis on God as only one person and not three, it was hard for me to understand how the Bible also calls

Rock and Roll

I'm often asked how I cope with life as a Christian in the world of rock and roll. Well, it may surprise some young Christians to know that the temptations and challenges that confront me in show business are not much unlike those they face in school or at work. As Christians, with Christ's help, we can face those difficulties. At first many Christians criticized me for staying in show business and I found it hurtful. I can also understand how some of them felt because the rock and roll scene had a bad name. And, of course, within the rock and roll world there have been moves towards the occult. Some do dreadful things. People have made a mess of this world and that is for sure.



Jesus God.

About that time I had some big 'chats' with David Winter, who was later to become head of Religious Broadcasting for the BBC. David was especially helpful. He began saying things like, "My understanding is something like this. When Jesus was on the planet earth, are we supposed to believe that the heavens were devoid of God?" I had read quite a lot of the Gospels by this time, so replied, "No, because Jesus prayed to God as His Father." He suggested that I think of the Hebrew word 'JAHWEH' as being the

all-embracing title for the Godhead, meaning Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It was Jesus, the Son of God, who died on the cross and His death was followed by His resurrection. It all began to make sense. Jesus claimed to be God the Son, and that He and His Father and the Holy Spirit are one. Now I can openly say, "Yes, I believe that Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Father are One God."

I think back to those early days as a Christian, which I enjoyed so very much. I was discovering the differences, which began to mean a great deal to me, and I



started making new friends. They seemed to me to be heavily involved in Christian works. They were either teaching religion in schools, working for charitable organisations, or becoming missionaries, so I found myself thinking, "How dare I be this wealthy rock and roll singer! I can't seem to be a Christian where I am." And so I thought of leaving it all.

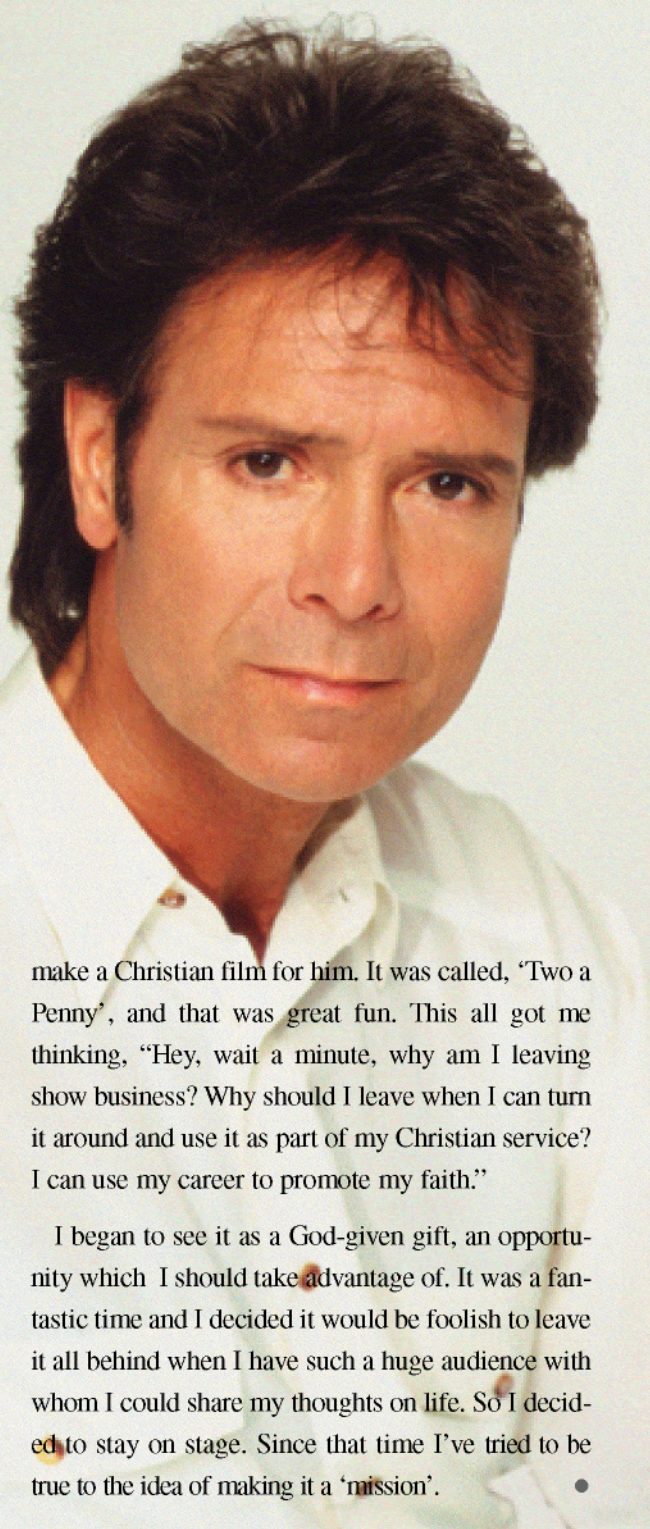
The big mistake I made was in telling the Press what I was thinking. Convinced I had to make some changes, I called the Press together and said, "It may take two years before I can fulfil all my professional commitments, after which I plan to become a teacher." I even went to teachers' training college, although I had no qualifications. I had just one 'O' level. The director maintained, "Your best qualification is that you want to be a teacher. Half of the people who come here don't really want to be teachers."

At that time it seemed to be the right decision. However, the reason I changed my mind – well it really was changed for me – was because I began to find myself being offered religious programmes on television. My late music director, Lorrie Paramour, asked me to make a gospel album. I was invited to do gospel concerts, and asked to present one of the BBC Sunday morning programmes on Radio 2. It was called, 'Music for Sunday'.

Also, around this time Billy Graham came back to London for a Crusade and asked me to

make a Christian film for him. It was called, 'Two a Penny', and that was great fun. This all got me thinking, "Hey, wait a minute, why am I leaving show business? Why should I leave when I can turn it around and use it as part of my Christian service? I can use my career to promote my faith."

I began to see it as a God-given gift, an opportunity which I should take advantage of. It was a fantastic time and I decided it would be foolish to leave it all behind when I have such a huge audience with whom I could share my thoughts on life. So I decided to stay on stage. Since that time I've tried to be true to the idea of making it a 'mission'.



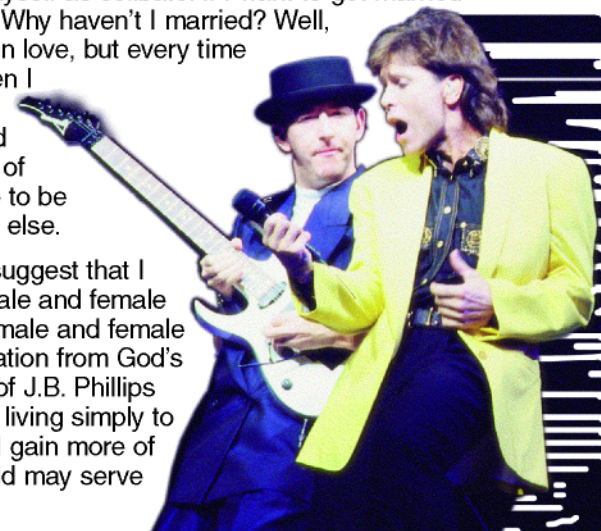
Budding Entertainers?

My advice to would-be entertainers is *first*, make sure your faith is intact – pray and read the Bible regularly. You've got to have integrity. You've got to want to be an artist. Remember, if you're going to be an actor, for example, it means people are going to pay money to see you. Commitment to the profession is a must. You have to recognize that once you've taken the step to be a dancer, singer, actor, guitarist, pianist, whatever, it's going to become the *second* most important demand on your attention. If you're prepared for that, then I say, 'Go for it!'

Cliff's Future?

What about my future? Well, I was once described as 'celibate' because I've never been married. I don't consider myself as celibate. If I want to get married tomorrow, there is nothing to stop me. Why haven't I married? Well, I've had a few false alarms! I've been in love, but every time I've thought, "Okay, is marriage it? Then I think I don't want to be married – not yet." Marriage is a big commitment and being an artist consumes a great deal of time. As a young man I was desperate to be married, I wanted to be like everybody else.

I am also asked if being single might suggest that I am gay. Well, I'm not. God made us male and female and there are obvious ways by which male and female interact. I think that 'gayness' is a deviation from God's original intention. I like the translation of J.B. Phillips for Paul's letter to the Philippians, "For living simply to me means 'Christ', and if I should die I gain more of Him. For me to go on living in this world may serve some good purpose."



Who is Cliff Richard?

Cliff Richard has been a leading star in the world of rock and roll for nearly forty years and is still going strong. He has produced 56 albums and 114 singles – many of these were number one on the charts. He has been featured in several movies and television productions, has produced tremendously effective stage shows, and travelling venues. His first decade was largely spent establishing himself as a singles artist and film star. During his second decade he emerged as a star in his own television shows and, for the first time, as a serious album artist.

In his third decade, while producing his biggest selling single ever, 'We Don't Talk Anymore', he developed his stage know-how to new spectacular dimensions. By his fourth decade he surprised everyone with 'The Event', his first stadium show, followed by his longest run at Wembley Stadium. It no longer seems out of place for Cliff to speak about his love for Jesus in the middle of a show. No journalist can now write a profile of him without mentioning the fact of his Christianity because it illustrates everything he does.

Running on Empty

Dr. Reginald Cherry, Houston, Texas

Money is an awful master, driving you and commanding your every move while promising ultimate fulfillment. After relying on a scholarship to attend college, I followed a fast track through medical school and into a job. I then moved to the Houston area to establish my own practice. Although we endured some struggles, our clinic finally thrived.

Soon I was jetting around the country to speak on preventative medicine and writing articles for national publications. The money was rolling in – all before I reached 30. My ego swelled along with my bank account.

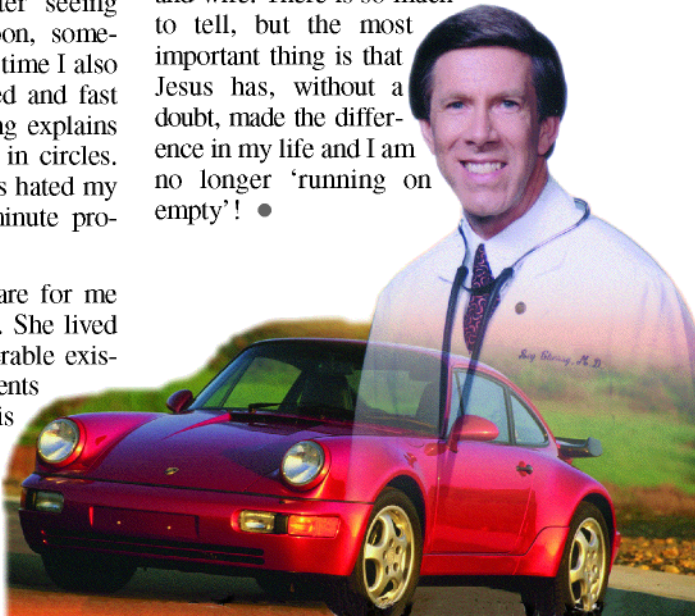
Then I took up running. Not just jogging; I ran marathons. After seeing patients, I ran every afternoon, sometimes for 20 miles. About this time I also became enamoured with speed and fast cars. My obsession with racing explains perfectly how I lived: Going in circles. Running on empty. Employees hated my hard-charging, timed-to-the-minute procedures.

One of those who didn't care for me was Linda, a registered nurse. She lived the same type of empty, miserable existence until one of our patients helped change her life. This man, a banker, was an FGBMFI chapter president. Each time he came for a check-up he would tell her about Jesus. Her best friend had also

accepted Christ. Linda saw the change and wanted that peace. One day he again asked if she wanted to invite the Lord into her life. She nodded yes and they prayed together.

She began praying for me and enlisting others to pray as well. Subtle changes took place. I found myself thinking about spiritual matters. Then one day God spoke. I couldn't have been more surprised if the President of the United States showed up for a physical. "I see your misery," He said. "And I see you are hungering for something more in your life," He continued, promising to give me peace and joy. All I had to do was give Him my life. At first it seemed like a high price, but then I realized that He would give real life back.

To make a long story short, God kept his word. Once I had committed my life to Jesus, He did fill it with joy and peace. When I had made that commitment and told Linda about it, we soon grew close together and ultimately became husband and wife. There is so much to tell, but the most important thing is that Jesus has, without a doubt, made the difference in my life and I am no longer 'running on empty'! •



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Other Nations

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New Confidence

Yannick Lefevre, Avrille, France

I BELONG!



War orphans were in abundance in France in the 1940s and while operating a home looking after these young people, my mother had an affair with a young man. I was the result. When I was born she was 39 and my father was 18. Of course he left straight away.

My mother didn't tell anyone what had happened and her family thought I was just another orphan at the home. On discovering the truth I felt like I was some sort of mistake. It caused a lot of anger throughout my teenage years and in into my adult life. It was in this state that I met Patricia. She had been born with a hip and back problem. Her parents had always tried to hide her handicap from the outside world. You could only see it when she walked. As she was growing up, Patricia had felt rejected by everyone.

By the time we had been married 15 years our communication had deteriorated to the point that it was practically non-existent. I felt empty and lonely. Another

woman came into my life and I left Patricia and our three daughters. I wasn't too proud of the situation, but it seemed beyond me.

A few months after our separation I became so sick that I couldn't even walk anymore. An artery was blocked in my leg causing paralysis. It was very painful – so bad that I wished they would amputate. While lying in hospital I had plenty of time to think over my life and felt there must be hope to accomplish something positive. About this same time a neighbour, listening to the very difficult situation Patricia was going through, said she was in a prayer group and that they would be praying for her.

Although Patricia had always said she was an atheist, she was so low that she was prepared to try anything that might help. They did pray for her and then invited her to an FGBMFI Dinner. Opening a Bible the neighbour had given to her, Patricia read, "Seek first the kingdom of

God and all the rest will be given to you as well." This hit her deep inside and she cried out, "Lord God, if you really exist, reveal Yourself to me." She started praying together with the neighbour with whom she had by now become friends. "They prayed for me."

It was at this same time that I realized that there might be some hope. Patricia came to see me in hospital and I asked her if we could get back together. She agreed, but said we still needed a few more months. There had been a lot of hurt and she needed time. When I arrived back home it seemed strange. It was like I was a guest rather than the husband and father. I saw how my wife was praying with others for me. It was all so difficult for me to understand, especially in light of the hurt I had inflicted upon her in the past.

When I came out of the hospital, the doctors told me that the blood clot was due to cardiac problems. What happened in the top of my leg, could have happened anywhere else in my body. It could have been a heart embolism as well. There was also a physical sensation of an irregular heart beat.

Patricia had not had an easy time of it and could not give me a lot of sympathy. She went to her friend to ask for prayer. She wanted a sign from God that I would be healed. Without knowing how I got there, I found myself at the neighbour's door. They were very surprised, but I felt a real peace there at the prayer meeting. Without trying to analyse everything, I simply fell to my knees and asked God to come into my life and forgive my sins. The peace I felt seemed to confirm that my prayers were heard.

Later I attended an FGBMFI dinner with our neighbour, where they were

talking about Jesus in a very new way for me. When they invited people forward for prayer, a battle began within. I knew it was a very important time. I was sweating and trembling with the decision I needed to make. Though it did not seem possible for me to stand up without falling down, I knew it was a rendez-vous that I couldn't miss. I went to the front, where the men prayed for me. There I sobbed, knowing what a mess I'd made of my life. As I released everything to God, I became a new man right there and then, completely freed from all my bondage.

Many things changed very quickly in our marriage. Within the next few weeks both Patricia and I received the Baptism

Our home is no longer broken... It is full of love!



of the Holy Spirit. We went through a lot of inner healing. Even the way we looked at each other changed. Confidence came back. We both knew that Jesus loved us. This gave us a new love for one another and an opportunity to rebuild our relationship.

Since then, even through our most difficult circumstances, we have always known things would work out alright. We were not alone anymore. The healing of our relationship was done by Jesus, not by us. We forgave each other and I once again took on the role of husband.

Regaining my place as father was still in question. Our younger girls accepted my being back home quickly enough, but it was not so easy for Sandra, our eldest. A year later she went to a Christian youth camp. There she committed her life to Jesus Christ. When she came home, she asked me for forgiveness as she had been quite hard towards me. We hugged and cried together. That's when I realized that only God can heal a family.

A few months after becoming a Christian, I was still taking blood thinners and had difficulties with nose bleeds. As the months passed I knew God was going to heal me. With that conviction, I

stopped my medicine. That was in 1988, and I have not had any problems since.

When Sandra was at the youth camp, Patricia and I were with Christian friends in Pont de Cé, close to Angers. We had been praying about Patricia's physical condition. One of the people there had a word from God for her. It said that she was beautiful, something she had never felt. They then prayed for her and she was completely healed. Afterwards she picked up our six-year-old. I warned, "Mind your back." She said, "Don't worry, I'm healed." Since then we have even been able to do long family trips, something previously impossible. Annabelle, our second daughter, who had cerebral convulsions, has also been healed. Laurence, our youngest daughter, gave her life to Jesus during an FGBMFI convention in Quiberon.

My life is no longer the same. Our family life has changed. His love has cast away the rejection. My inhibitions are gone and I have taken on management responsibilities at work. God has completely changed my life. It is simply wonderful! ●

A Thriving Practice

Dr. Reginald Cherry



As a doctor operating a thriving medical practice, my staff and patients could see the difference in my life after I had invited Jesus to be in control. It made some employees nervous. In the past I had fired those who hadn't agreed with my demands. Now some feared losing their jobs if they didn't "find religion," especially the other doctors who worked for me. One afternoon they came to see me, surprised when I invited them in instead of insisting they make an appointment. After some discussion they left, convinced business would evaporate when word got out that I was a "Jesus freak." It didn't. Business kept booming.

Over the years, incredible things have happened as we have mixed prayer with medicine. I don't pray with everyone. If someone isn't hungry for God, it's a waste of time. I try to be spiritually sensitive to those who want or need prayer. I open such discussions with a non-threatening question like where they attend church. If the conversation goes further, I'll ask if they would be offended if I prayed with them. Under these circumstances, no one has ever refused. I do believe in using the God-given knowledge of conventional medicine. Nevertheless, we have witnessed many miraculous healings following prayer. ●

It Really Works!

Grimsby Chapter, England

In the last two months we have been encouraged by the way VOICE magazine has spoken into people's lives. One lady picked up a VOICE Magazine from our dispenser in a book shop, and as a result of reading the articles, she attended our next dinner, then returned the following month, bringing her husband.

At our April dinner two people attended for the first time, both of them as a result of reading VOICE.



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A Choice

Karl Weir, Kent, England

My life was dynamically effected by a monumental choice which was thrust upon my mother. Should she turn her back on my father to stay with the Church, or turn her back on God to remain with my father? She was told there was no other choice. Dad had been married before. They had waited for his divorce to come through and then had been married by the state in a Registry Office.

Mother's strict religious upbringing played on her mind. She sought the council of her parish priest, who suggested they live as brother and sister or that they separate. This would enable her to again receive holy communion. It was an impossible choice! The situation proved too much for her and she went into clinical depression. Father, helpless to do anything, decided to return to his country of Belize, leaving the way

clear for my mother to follow her beliefs.

This left me, fourteen-years-old by then, with my life shattered in the name of God. My sister and I were looked after by friends. Try as I might, I could not understand why God had done this to me. I concluded that either God did not exist, or He was cruel and heartless. With this in mind, I pursued "sin" with a passion over the next thirty years.

My business in a mechanical services company did well, but life was empty. New cars and high life were meaningless. "There must be more to life," I constantly concluded. At forty years old, my life was a mess.

With alcohol having destroyed one relationship, a new girl-friend tried many things to take my mind off my self-pity, all to no avail. As a last resort, she gave me a book

which someone had given her during a crisis. Once I started reading, I was unable to put it down. It dealt with the "power of prayer" and told how many people with all sorts of problems had received answers. It said that prayer had changed their situations and lives.

On one page a scripture verse was quoted, "*If God is for us who can be against us?*" Romans 8:31. It seemed to stand out from the page. I read on. Then they quoted Matthew 7:7 "*Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you, for everyone who asks, receives. He who seeks, finds and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*" Mulling over these words, it occurred to me to try God one more time. In my logic, I decided that if the promises in these scriptures were not kept, it would show that the whole of the Bible was worthless and that there was no God.

So, alone in my home, I went and sat on the stairs. "*Seek and you will find.*" "Okay. I will seek!" I closed my eyes and imagined being on the edge of our solar system, looking out into the blackness of outer space. I cried out from the bottom of my heart, "Where are you? If you exist, please meet with me." With

Alcohol and Bright Lights

Checking out the local night clubs I met a new girl-friend and we entered into a vigorous relationship. Determined it would not fail, I laid off the alcohol and bright lights. It turned out this was not what she wanted and the friendship was ended, leaving me rejected and broken-hearted. As I renewed my heavy drinking, I felt even lower, till life became hell. In that state the thought struck me, "Why not try a prayer." I whispered, "Dear God, if you exist, reconcile me with my girl-friend. If You do, I will stop drinking." No sooner had I said the last word when the phone rang. It was my girl-friend saying that she missed me and that we should try again.

Although overjoyed at the result, deep down I believed it was coincidence. Nevertheless I stopped drinking – much to the surprise of my friends. However, when my buddy talked me into "just one" a few weeks later, I agreed and was soon back to my old ways. A year passed and things were not good with my girl-friend. We ended our relationship and she met someone else. Even when I did go out on dates, I could not get the failure and heartache out of my mind.



Karl Weir works as a Mechanical Contractor in the construction industry. He and his wife, Doreen, live in Welling, Kent. Karl is the Vice-President of the Seven Oaks Chapter of the FGBMFI.



that I felt the presence of God all around me, my eyes shut tight. "Why have I ended up feeling so desperate again?" "Do you remember a year ago when you begged for a reconciliation, saying that if this prayer was answered you would stop drinking? Did you keep your promise?" "No," I replied, "I just kept on drinking." He went on, "Your throat is sore due to cigarettes. So that you will know that this encounter is not just your imagination, I will heal your throat." And He was gone.

I stood to my feet and clutched my throat. Sure enough, the pain was gone! I was astonished and bewildered. I got together all the rubbish that was in my life – booze, pornography, cigarettes, etc. and threw them in the garbage. I did not leave the house for the next two days, waiting for the phone to ring because "God was going to answer my prayer." When nothing happen by the second night, I gave up, concluding that not only had I lost my girl-friend, but I was also hearing voices. "It must be all those years of heavy drinking," I concluded. "I had better make an appointment to see a doc-



tor."

In the meantime I had procured a bottle of scotch to get me through the night. When my secretary, Pat, arrived early the next morning, she said, "I've been praying for you and the Lord has spoken to me about your situation." She could not help noticing my sad state. She was one of those "born again" Christians. She told me that I had made certain promises to God and had failed to keep them, and that when the Lord had spoken, I had rejected it, reasoning it to be delusion.

From that moment my doubt was gone and I knew God was real. The presence of God filled the room. Pat and I were overcome with the moment. With that I asked Jesus to come into my life and take control.

Six years have passed since then and my life has totally changed. My wrong business practices are finished, and so is the heavy drinking. I no longer smoke, and would honestly rather go to a prayer meeting than a night club. The Lord has provided me with a lovely committed Christian wife. She and I attend a local church and I am a member of the FGBM-FI.

Our chapter meets for breakfasts every month at a country club. We have seen God move wonderfully, doing miracles and changing people's lives. I have come to know God, not as a demanding tyrant, but as a loving father, and look forward to the future and all He has in store. Now I, too, can truly say, "If God is for me, who can be against me?" ●

A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

While reading *VOICE* Magazine you may have wondered if you, too, could have the kind of relationship with God shared about here. For this to occur, take the following steps.



1 Acknowledge to God you have lived selfishly and that, in not honouring Him as Lord of your life, you have sinned and are separated from Him. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" Rom. 3:23.

2 Repent by turning to God and asking for His forgiveness of your past sins and for His help to live as He desires. "Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish" Luke 13:3.

3 Believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that, as He died on the cross, He took your sins upon Himself that you may obtain God's forgiveness. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16.

4 Confess that you wish to invite Jesus to be Saviour and Lord of your life. "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved" Rom. 10:9.

If, after careful thought you wish to make this important step, then pray the following out loud: "Dear God, I am convinced that I am a sinner and as such I am destined to perish. I believe in my heart that Jesus, your Son, died for all sinners, including me, and shed His blood to wash away my sins. I confess Jesus to be Saviour and Lord of my life and thank you for your gift of eternal life. I now trust You to help me to live as You desire."

Do not depend on feelings as proof of your acceptance by God. Feelings are changeable, but your new relationship with God is based on His promises (Rom. 10:13). Do not be ashamed to tell others about Jesus (Mat. 10:32). Take time daily for prayer and Bible reading (1 Pet. 2:2, Psalms 37:4, Rom. 8:14). When you have made this greatest of all decisions, please let us know.

☐ TO CONTACT THE VOICE TEAM ☐

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- I wish to inform you of my decision to follow Jesus Christ. Please send me the booklet 'Now You've Received Christ'.
- Please send me information about the FGBMFI.
- Please send me details on membership in the FGBMFI.

Name and address (print clearly):



Success Out of Failure

Colin Atkinson, Harrow, England

Success is often built upon the experience of failure – lessons learned in the school of hard knocks. None of my failures have been final; rather each has opened a new phase of life and drawn me into a closer relationship with God, the Father. My commitment to Jesus began in university. After preparing for work in accountancy and merchant banking in the field of mergers and acquisitions, I spent 14 years working at a leading UK Bank.

At times I wanted to leave, but each time God seemed to keep me where I was. For example, in 1986 I tried for what I thought was an excellent position, but it did not work out. Then I joined a department which analysed cash flow – working with deals using “What if?” techniques. This area expanded and the bank became a leader in providing major loans for “Management Buy Outs” (MBOs).

When a deal took off, I worked 16 hours a day, seven days a week. Near completion I worked around the clock until it was signed. I was involved in the MBOs of such household names as MFI, Kenwood, Hamleys, Allders and Del Monte. I had no social life and my wife saw little of me

As difficult as this schedule was, I never lost my strong faith in God, who gave me strength and wisdom to resolve problems. Reading my Bible and praying whenever I could enabled me to go on.

When work conflicted with my Christian principles, I refused the projects.

In 1988 I was working on a specific MBO, flat out for three weeks. By the summer I was getting tired and depressed. My doctor diagnosed post viral syndrome, a strain of M.E.. I believe God took care of me in that the condition was discovered before serious damage was done. Nevertheless, I was forced to adjust my life-style and rely more heavily upon Jesus for strength and insight.

A change of management in 1990 blocked promotion in my department, so I asked for a transfer. The next summer my position disappeared and I was left without a permanent job. Over the next months, through my Bible reading, God taught me that He was in control of the situation. He is steadfast and faithful, even when the circumstances would say otherwise

At that point I was called in for an interview in information technology, helping to develop a new computer system. Though I knew this would be difficult for me, there was no doubt that God was directing me to go. Selected for the job, I felt like a fish out of water, and though I did my best, I could not match up to the management’s expectations. When I returned from my Christmas holiday I found my job no longer existed. Despite losing a second job within six months, I still knew God was in full control. Within two weeks I was attached to

a new department, taking over PC spreadsheet training.

Then, at 9.20 p.m. on Friday, 10 April, 1992, the day after the General Election, while working away from my desk, there was a sudden bang, like a safe falling through the floor above. I stayed seated, feeling the total peace of God. It was a long time before anyone knew that a bomb had exploded 150 yards away in St. Mary Axe (in the City of London). As it turned out, had I been at my desk, I would have caught its full blast. Knowing Jesus as my friend has brought me comfort, peace, and protection.

Early in 1994, I was still suffering some effects of the ME. Whilst attending the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International (FGBMFI) annual conference, I was prayed for and completely healed. It felt like layers of heavy dead skin falling away.

In early 1996, the subsidiary company I was working for was involved in a reverse take-over, placing my job at risk. I felt at total peace with the situation. Seeking God’s guidance, I felt free to leave and join a leading global financial institution. I know from personal experience that Jesus always has the answer and will uphold me, guiding me in the right direction at the right time. ●



WHO ARE WE?

The Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International is an international fellowship of Christian business men whose purpose is:

1 To call men to God and into the church by witnessing to God’s presence and power in the world today through the message of the total Gospel for the total man.

2 To provide a basis for Christian fellowship among men everywhere under the single banner of their experiences in Jesus Christ and to strengthen them so that they can go back to their respective churches refreshed and renewed. The FGBMFI is not a church nor a sect. It has no priests nor pastors, and does not start churches.

3 To bring about a greater measure of unity among all Christians.



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